General Assembly Second Committee

The General Assembly Second Committee (GA2) is a sub-body of the General Assembly specializing in Economic and Financial issues. Aptly, the committee is often referred to as ECOFIN. The Committee is comprised of the 193 member states with permanent membership. The Second Committee also discusses matters dealing with groups of countries in special situations. This includes Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

Format: The Committee is a resolution writing committee.

Voting: In the Second Committee each member has one vote. The voting structure t does not afford special privileges, such as the veto power to any Member State. All decisions, both procedural and substantive, are decided by a simple majority vote of members present.

The Second Committee

During the first half of the 67th Session of the General Assembly Second Committee the assembly produced extensive work on the topics of sustainable development, climate change, and technology for development. The Second Committee had the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of UN operational activities for development at the top of its agenda. [1] The quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of UN Operational Activities for Development is a mechanism used by the General Assembly to track the progress of another sub-body, the UN Operational Systems for Development.[2] The QCPR establishes UN-wide policy for the cooperation of the UN and other bodies involved in the changing atmosphere of development around the world. The Second Assembly also has a focus on improving efficiency. Conversations about the UN's ability to properly allocate funds due to an outdated system have been a part of many reform discussions. A/Res/67/226 was seen as a first step in restructuring the UN program and its Secretariat funding to increase.[3]

Second Committee and Development

The Second Committee adopted 17 resolutions on sustainable development regarding the implementation of the outcome of the Rio +20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.[4] Many Assembly members drew from "The Future We Want" report, compiled from the Rio +20 Conference on Sustainable Development that took place in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil in June of 2012.[5] Members of the Assembly wanted to stress the common themes in the Rio +20 report including renewed political commitment, engaging major groups and their stakeholders and green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.[6] The committee looked to the post-2015 goals from Agenda 21 to help develop the ideas from the Rio +20 discussions.[7] Other resolutions were also voted on, including the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/67/437/Add.9), Harmony with Nature (A/67/437/Add.8) to create better strategies for protecting ecosystems and preventing climate change and the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).[8]

The General Assembly Second Committee discussed a report on "information and communications technologies for development." (Document A/67/434)[9] The Assembly adopted this draft resolution by acclamation.[10] The assembly

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[1] United Nations General Assembly. Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, Implementation of Rio+20 Outcome Draw Attention as General Assembly Takes up Second Committee Reports.

[2] United Nations General Assembly. A/Res/67/226, 2012.

[3] United Nations General Assembly. A/Res/67/226, 2012

[4] United Nations General Assembly. Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, Implementation of Rio+20 Outcome Draw Attention as General Assembly Takes up Second Committee Reports.

[5] United Nations General Assembly. Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, Implementation of Rio+20 Outcome Draw Attention as General Assembly Takes up Second Committee Reports.

[6] United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio +20. The Future We Want

[7] United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio +20. The Future We Want.

[8] United Nations General Assembly. Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, Implementation of Rio+20 Outcome Draw Attention as General Assembly Takes up Second Committee Reports.

[9] United Nations General Assembly. A/67/434, 2012

[10] United Nations General Assembly. A/67/434, 2012

deliberately stressed the importance of cooperation by including a text entitled "Building connectivity through the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway."[11] This resolution is a step towards fulfilling the promise of access to better technology, including technologies that deal specifically with information and communications. These steps are taken to help bridge the digital divide.[12]

Second Committee and other UN Bodies

A joint meeting with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the 2013 United Nation Global Economic Outlook was held.[13] It was hosted by the Development Policy Analysis Division and the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.[14] The participants discussed the economic issues from 2012 and mapped out a strategy for defining future goals and needs discussed in the Global Economic Outlook.[15] Topics of the joint session with ECOSOC included global economic outlook, international trade, international finance for development and regional developments and outlook.[16]

The General Assembly Third Committee held an informal session with GA 2nd to address Communication for Development: Using ICT and Broadband to Accelerate Social and Economic Development.[17] The multi-panel discussion promoted better integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT's) among levels of government and businesses and private sector and government partnerships to help developing countries establish equitable access to technology.[18] The primary focus of the dialogue was the use of ICT's among children. Deputy Executive Director of The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Martin Mogwanja, stated, "Communication for development (C4D) could play a significant role in enhancing access and utilization of public goods and services for all children, especially in marginalized communities."[19]

Conclusion

Due to Hurricane Sandy, The General Assembly Second Committee postponed many events and sessions scheduled for the end of 2012 including a joint session with ECOSOC, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agriculture Development and the World Food Programme, entitled "Food security and nutrition: scaling up the global response" . In the New Year the Committee will return to to the scheduled session and follow through with all postponed events.[20]

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[11] United Nations General Assembly. A/67/434, 2012
[12] United Nations General Assembly. A/67/434, 2012
[13] United Nations. World Economic Situation and Prospectus 2013.
[14] United Nations. World Economic Situation and Prospectus 2013.
[15] United Nations General Assembly. A/67/435/Add.3.
[16] United Nations General Assembly. A/67/439, 2012
[17] United Nations General Assembly. Joint Informal Meeting of Second and Third Committees. Communication for Development: Using ICT and Broadband to Accelerate Social and Economic Development.
[18] United Nations General Assembly. Joint Informal Meeting of Second and Third Committees. Communication for Development: Using ICT and Broadband to Accelerate Social and Economic Development.
[19] United Nations General Assembly. A/67/441, 2012
[20] United Nations News Center. The UN General Assembly's Second Committee – economic and financial issues.

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http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/727The%20Future%20We%20Want%2019%20June%201230pm.pdf
> *The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20 conference in June 2012 in Brazil dealt specifically with sustainable development issues including environmental issues including clean water access, and promoting greener economies to help sustain natural resources. This summit included sustainable development as a way to help eradicate poverty. From this conference a report entitled The Future We Want was produced. In this report it outlines all of the previous steps taken, current sustainable development issues, all consensus made about how to deal with sustainable development, and all future goals the UN hopes to meet in the near future.*

United Nations General Assembly Second Committee. *Macroeconomic policy questions: external debt sustainability and development. Report of the Second Committee.* Sixty-seventh session. A/67/435/Add.3. Retrieved January 8, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/435/Add.3
> *This resolution outlines ways governments and the private sector can better deal with the issues of debt, loans and development within a country. It discusses the need for governments to be better prepared when receiving aid of any form whether from a public institution, private, or other governments. That governments need to be better educated when taking on any debt or how to continue to help its country grow with existing debt. It implores private sector developers to help governments understand the financial undertaking when establishing and implementing development programs. That there needs to be better transparency among all parties involved when it comes to building sustainable economies.*

United Nations. *Report: World Economic Situation and Prospectus 2013*. Retrieved January 17, 2013 from:
http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_current/wesp2013.pdf
> *The World Economic Situation and Prospectus is an annual report complied by multiple UN bodies to provide information of the world and regional economies and their financial development. The report takes the economic indicators from the previous year and analysis them with economic indicators for the upcoming fiscal year to help predict what countries and regions will see increased GDP growth, in what areas of industry and how much. The report includes what regions it believes will see a decline in GDP and what areas of development these countries need in order to begin to see positive economic growth.*

United Nations General Assembly. *Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, Implementation of Rio+20 Outcome Draw Attention as General Assembly Takes up Second Committee Reports. 21 December 2012*. Retrieved January 14, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2012/ga11332.doc.htm
> *This report outlines the various issues the General Assembly Second Committee discussed and voted on during its 67th session. Topic on the agenda included streamlined United Nations operations programmes, development including increasing development to ICT's and building green economies to help eradicate poverty. The session also included reports on the future global economic outlook, environmental issues in the Middle East and promoting development among Small Island developing states.*

United Nations. *Quadrennial comprehensive policy review*. A/Res/67/226. Retrieved January 7, 2013 from:
http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/oesc/pdf/ga_resolution_a-res-67-226.pdf
> *This report outlines the various levels of reform to strengthen the efficiency of the General Assembly and all its bodies. Specifically when dealing with bodies that specialize in sustainable development goals. It urges to create a better transparency among UN bodies, private stakeholders, and governments to ensure that funds and resources are being used properly and appropriately.*

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United Nations General Assembly Second Committee. *Information and communications technologies for development. Report of the Second Committee Sixty-seventh session*. A/67/434. Retrieved January 7, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/434

United Nations General Assembly Second Committee. *Macroeconomic policy questions: external debt sustainability and development. Report of the Second Committee.* Sixty-seventh session. A/67/435/Add.3. Retrieved January 8, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/435/Add.3

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United Nations. *Quadrennial comprehensive policy review.* A/Res/67/226. Retrieved January 7, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/oesc/pdf/ga_resolution_a-res-67-226.pdf

United Nations. *Report: World Economic Situation and Prospectus 2013*. Retrieved January 17, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_current/wesp2013.pdf

I. The Impact of Climate Change on Sustainable Development

Recent Developments

In a Report of the Secretary-General, it explains that "there are many well-known aspects of humanity's influence on the environment, and among the most prominent is climate change."[21] The topic of climate change camehas come to the forefront of global priorities in comparison to the 1970's,. Nnow, however, the topic is now being addressed as part of a more comprehensive look at sustainable development and is grouped with other development issues such as energy, industrialization, competitiveness, food security and technology transfer just to name a few.[22] For example, during the 67th session, the General Assembly Second discussed the patents and countries that hold the patents for clean energy technologies that could help to slow climate change through lower emissions and which international policies related to climate change have furthered technology sharing.[23]

During November and December of 2012, the Second Committee discussed Climate Change and produced several documents reaffirming the committee's stance on the topic. In an effort to integrate climate change in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Second Committee made several recommendations to the General Assembly as it reviewed reports including the, Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review and Implementation of Rio+20. One strong recommendation was to increase Voluntary Funding for United Nations Environment Programme. ECOFIN also approved language which promotes sharing new energy sources.[24]

Implementation after Rio+20

With the conclusion of the Rio+ 20 conference, which the Second Committee referred to as 'A crucial milestone,' many states have initiated sustainable campaigns in the thematic areas discussed, including but not limited to energy, sustainable consumption and production and climate change.[25] A study conducted by an environmental group based in the European Union in conjunction with the London School of Economics reported that 32 out of 33 developed and emerging economies surveyed in different regions of the world are making significant strides in creating policy to combat climate change.[26] Though the policies sought and implemented vary from state to state, the progress measurable.[27] For example, the goal of Mexico's new climate change law is to reduce greenhouse gases by 30% by 2020, while China is in the processes of drafting legislation to limit emissions. Elsewhere in Asia, Bangladesh is implementing the Sustainable, Renewable Energy Act, and South Korea initiateds an emissions trading system.[28] In the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency has gained traction with emissions and greener energy sources, like natural gas.

In addition to discussions and reports on the conference that took place during the 67th session, on October 16th, 2012 the General Assembly Second Committee welcomed all member states to a special event to discuss the outcome document from the meeting in Rio and more specifically the development of the Sustainable Development Goals.[29] A panel of policy makers and scientists welcomed questions to provide insights to future discussions.[30] In addition to the summary document of the discussion on October 16th, the Secretary General of the United Nations issued several reports on climate change. The Secretary General described the relationship between social

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[21] United Nations, A/67/317, 2012

[22] United Nations, Secretary-General's Initial Input to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, 2012

[23] United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, The Future We Want - Rio+20 - highlighted the following thematic areas and cross-sectoral issues, 2012

[24] United Nations, The General Assembly Second Committee: Press Releases – 67th Session, 2013

[25] United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, The Future We Want - Rio+20 - highlighted the following thematic areas and cross-sectoral issues, 2012

[26] BBC News, Climate Change Measures: Report Praises Politicians, 2013

[27] BBC News, Climate Change Measures: Report Praises Politicians, 2013

[28] BBC News, Climate Change Measures: Report Praises Politicians, 2013

[29] United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Summary of the special event of the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly Conceptualizing a Set of Sustainable Development Goals, 2012

[30] United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Summary of the special event of the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly Conceptualizing a Set of Sustainable Development Goals, 2012

development, economic growth, and environmental issues as synergistic and intrinsically linked and pointed out that the most inter-related of these is climate change.

In August, the General Assembly discussed the topic in the context of the small island developing states. In the report of the Secretary General, climate change was tied to disaster preparedness. The scientific basis is work done by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) West Indies in conjunction with the Cuban Institute of Meteorology (INSMET), which has worked to model climate trends to project temperature and precipitation changes.[31] NSMET is now working on modeling changes in sea level.[32] Natural disaster, Hurricane Sandy swept across the east coast of North America and forced climate change into the spotlight in the United States in October. The storm reminded policy makers that atmospheric changes related to climate change provide ample fodder for the increased occurrence of conditions conducive to tropical storms.[33]

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[31] United Nations, A/67/313, 2012
[32] United Nations, A/67/313, 2012
[33] Kristof, N. D., Will Climate Get Some Respect Now? 2012

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BBC News. (2013, January 13). *Climate Change Measures: Report Praises Politicians.* Retrieved January 17, 2013 from http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-20983931

> *This article provided insight into the results of the country survey that explored the recent policy changes regarding climate change. Information regarding specific policies of states was also mentioned. This article offers a positive perspective on the work of policy makers, as the title suggest. The report outlines the strides several states have made toward a lower emissions.*

Kristoff, N.D. New York Times. (2012, October 31). *Will Climate Some Respect Now?* Retrieved January 17, 2013 from http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/01/opinion/kristof-will-climate-get-some-respect-now.html?_r=0

> *Though this article is an opinion blog, there is valuable scientific information regarding the relationship between tropical storms and climate change. The article raises the question of how hurricane Sandy might influence the political agenda as it pertains to climate change. I recommend delegates read this piece to better understand broader trends in climate change and the new perspective policy makers might adopt in its wake.*

United Nations. 2012. *Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations.* A/Res/67/313. Retrieved January 7, 2013 from http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/313

> *The report informs on current initiative and multi-lateral cooperation in the area of climate change, as it pertains to small and developing island states in particular. This article also complements the information on how climate change is related to tropical storms. It was written in response to a request by the Secretary General to investigate the financial implications of climate change for the Caribbean region.*

United Nations. 2012. *Sustainable development: Harmony with Nature.* A/Res/67/317. Retrieved January 7, 2013 from *http://earthlawcenter.org/static/uploads/documents/Harmony_with_Nature_Dec_2012_Final.pdf*

> *This report of the General Assembly Second Committee offers general information on the human impact on the environment. There are also good examples of how climate change is linked to other development and environmental issues. The report cites climate change as one of the most obvious areas of human impact.*

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. 2012. *Summary of the special event of the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly Conceptualizing a Set of Sustainable Development Goals.* Retrieved January 17, 2013 from http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/67/sdgsummary.pdf

> *This document summarizes the Sustainable Development Goals. It also explains the logic and strategy behind the selection. Delegates should read this document to gain a better understanding of the international sustainable development agenda such as how the Sustainable Development Goals could complement the Millennium Development Goals in the post-2015 agenda, how the goals could balance the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development and how to develop universally applicable goals that take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development.*

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II. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Development

There were several key resolutions on the topic of ICTs for development under consideration at the 67th session of the General Assembly within the Second Committee.[34] The Report of the Second Committee delivered on December 14, 2012 to the GA Plenary proposed three draft resolutions considered by the committee during its session.[35] Two of the draft resolutions were voted on and passed, the last was withdrawn to avoid overlap between the passed documents.[36] Resolution 67/194 entitled "Building Connectivity through the Trans Eurasian Information Super Highway" recognized the development of the Trans Eurasian Information Super Highway in 2011, and stressed the need for regional cooperation on overcoming the digital divide with the support of international stakeholders. The second resolution adopted, resolution 67/195, "Information and Communication Technologies for Development" was a more comprehensive address of the issue and touched on the objectives established by the Millennium Development Goals, the Rio+20 Conference and the 2012 World Summit on the Information Society. The resolution encouraged the development of partnerships between public and private organizations, and further requested a ten-year review conference to be held in 2015 on evaluating the successful implementation of the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society (Tunis Agenda) objectives.[37] Additionally, resolution 67/195 called on the Commission of Science and Technology Development (CSTD) to establish a working group focused on implementation of the World Summit through cooperation of both public and private groups within states.[38] The most recent session of the CSTD opened in January 2013 in Lima, Peru, with key topics on the agenda of sustainable development and access and development of broadband internet.[39] The Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation is expected to be established by February 15, 2013.[40]

Joint Meeting of the Second and Third Committees of the UNGA

On November 12, 2012, an informal meeting was held between the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Second and Third Committees on the topic of "Using ICT and Broadband to Accelerate Social and Economic Development."[41] The main focus of the meeting was to outline the role that ICTs play in creating social change and encourage discussion on improving access to technology.[42] Further, the meeting served to emphasize the role of access to ICTs in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), for example with reference to MDG 3 on Gender Equality and the ability for girls and women to utilize technology on the same level as their male counterparts.[43] One example of states promoting women's role in ICT and development came from Serbia which outlined a "Girls in ICT" day event held in 2012, designed to promote and encourage female careers in the ICT sector.[44] Several different international and regional groups presented at the meeting to open discussion on new ICT initiatives. One such presentation was from the United States Agency for International Development, which outlined some of its recent global initiatives in the area including the Global Broadband and Innovation program which is currently focused on expanding broadband networks in developing areas through new small cell technologies and use of unlicensed frequencies.[45] Another key point which was raised within the discussions was the specific purposes and utility value of ICTs in developed versus developing states.[46] While in many developed states, new technology development has moved toward a focus on creative and leisure purposes, in developing states ICTs are largely still being used for problem solving and economic advancement on an individual level.[47]

Mobile Learning Week 2013

[34] UN General Assembly, Information and Communications for Development, Report of the Second Committee, 2012.
[35] UN General Assembly, Information and Communications for Development, Report of the Second Committee, 2012.
[36] UN General Assembly, Information and Communications for Development, Report of the Second Committee, 2012.
[37] UN General Assembly, Information and Communications for Development, Report of the Second Committee, 2012.
[38] UN General Assembly, Information and Communications for Development, Report of the Second Committee, 2012.
[39] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Commission on Science and Technology Opens, 2013.
[40] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Establishment of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, 2013.
[41] UN General Assembly, Concept Note: Special Joint Meeting of the Second and Third Committees of the UNGA, 2012.
[42] United Nations Department for Social Affairs, Boosting Development with Broadband and ICT, 2012.
[43] UN General Assembly, Concept Note: Special Joint Meeting of the Second and Third Committees of the UNGA, 2012.
[44] UN General Assembly, Communication for Development: Using ICT and Broadband to Accelerate Social and Economic Development, 2012.
[45] Owen, Draft Remarks at the Special Joint Meeting of the Second and Third Committees of the UNGA, 2012.
[46] Owen, Draft Remarks at the Special Joint Meeting of the Second and Third Committees of the UNGA, 2012.
[47] United Nations General Assembly, Communication for Development: Using ICT and Broadband to Accelerate Social and Economic Development, 2012.

In July 2012, the Secretary General released a report indicating the need for Communications for Development programs broadly across the UN System, and with specific focus on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In support of its Education for All (EFA) Initiative, UNESCO is hosting its second Mobile Learning Week (MLW) in February 2013.[48] This year, the specific discussion items at MLW include using technology in enhancing literacy, technology and education and reinforcing the need for gender equality in access to ICTs.[49] In advance of the conference, UNESCO has released several working papers on Mobile Learning which underscore policy challenges and new initiatives.[50] One of the key issues for discussion is on how to change the negative perception of mobile technologies in some states such that they can be introduced into the classroom, and further to ensure that teachers are equipped with the appropriate tools and knowledge for implementation.[51] In these efforts, UNESCO together with Nokia has strategized in developing a set of Policy Guidelines for Mobile Learning to be released in 2013.[52] The guidelines are aimed at high level policy makers and are designed to inform and provide foundational base on implementing mobile learning.[53]

Regional Activities: Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Resolution 195 of the Second Committee noted that one of the most important steps to combating the digital divide was regional cooperation and private-public partnerships.[54] In light of this, November 2012 also marked the 12th Annual ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Minister (TELEMIN) meeting.[55] The TELEMIN meetings, and associated working groups have been poised primarily to focus on increasing ICT infrastructure in the region and enhancing technological competitiveness of the ASEAN states as well as a forum for policy discussions and development.[56]

The most recent meeting outlined the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 (AIM2015), focused on pushing ICT implementation and development through civic engagement, innovation and capital investments.[57] Also developed at the meeting were state specific plans of action for ICT partnerships and forums for cooperation including collaboration between ASEAN and Japan, the Republic of Korea and China.[58] One of the core strengths of the ASEAN initiative for ICT development is the partnerships between the private and public sector, which leverages financial capital and resources in a more efficient manner. With respect to this, the leaders committed to the MACTAN CEBU Declaration, which encouraged private sector participation and best practices to enhance ICT development with respect to the economic and business environment in individual states.[59] One of the unique aspects of the ASEAN initiatives is utilizing ICTs with respect to risk and disaster management such that natural disasters can be mitigated and prevented, but also efficiently responded to.[60]

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[48] UNESCO, UNESCO Mobile Learning Week 2013, 2012.
[49] UNESCO, UNESCO Mobile Learning Week 2013, 2012.
[50] UNESCO, Mobile Learning and Policies- Key issues to consider, 2012, p. 7.
[51] UNESCO, Mobile Learning and Policies- Key issues to consider, 2012, p. 7.
[52] UNESCO, Mobile Learning and Policies- Key issues to consider, 2012, p. 8.
[53] UNESCO, Policy guidelines for Mobile Learning (Draft 2.1), 2012.
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> *This statement outlines the basic undertakings and updates from ASEAN on the most recent TELEMIN meeting held in November 2012. Delegates will find this useful in getting an overview of upcoming initiatives in the region, and using these initiatives as a possible base for moving forward in the GA Second Committee. Additionally, the statement makes references to both past success and areas for improvement, which provides a historical framework to ASEAN's plans for development.*

Association of Southeast Asian Nations. (2012). MACTAN CEBU Declaration Connected ASEAN: Enabling Aspirations. *Retrieved January 15, 2013 from:* http://www.asean.org/news/asean-statement-communiques/item/mactan-cebu-declaration-connected-asean-enabling-aspirations

> *This is one of the most recent declarations following the ASEAN TELEMIN conference following on the heels of the CEBU and Singapore Declarations of 2007. It provides good insight into the commitments of the region, and provides an opportunity for delegates from outside the region to compare and contrast between SE Asian States and their own respective states. Additionally, the declaration provides a base for innovative ideas on moving forward on the topic, which will be useful to delegates in their own working papers.*

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2012). Mobile Learning and Policies: Key issues to consider. Retrieved January 13, 2013 from: http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002176/217638E.pdf

> *This is one of the papers from the Mobile Learning Week working paper series produced by UNESCO. The document provides insight from UNESCO on the utility of using mobile learning technologies in the classroom and as well outlines the basic infrastructure needs for implementation. Further the paper provides some insight into the costs of mobile learning, and pushes for global cooperation and best practices.*

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2012). Policy Guidelines for Mobile Learning (Draft 2.1). *Retrieved January 14, 2013 from:* http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/pdf/UNESCO_Policy_Guidelines_on_Mobile_Learning_DRAFT_v2_1_FINAL__2_.pdf

> *These guidelines are the second draft in the partnership document between UNESCO and Nokia for high level policy framework on mobile learning. This document is a unique foray into the public private partnership between an international organization and a private sector business, and delegates will find this useful in understanding how private-public cooperation can form. Additionally, there are several case studies outlined in the document which provides specific examples to draw from.*

UN General Assembly. (2012). *Concept Note: Communication for Development: Using ICT and Broadband to Accelerate Social and Economic Development*. Special Joint Meeting of the Second and Third Committees of the UNGA on "Communication for Development: Using ICT and Broadband to Accelerate Social and Economic Development." 12 November 2011, ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York. Retrieved January 14, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/67/com4devnote.pdf

> *On November 12, 2012 the UNGA second and third committees held a joint meeting on ICTs and development. This note provides an overview on what the issues were raised and what remains important in going forward. Additionally, the note provides detail on how the meeting was conducted, which may be useful for delegates wishing to continue with this work in their own working papers during the committee session.*

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III. A Fair Globalization for All: The Effect of Job Creation on Sustained, Inclusive, and Equitable Economic Growth

Since the beginning of its 67th session, the General Assembly (GA) Second Committee has extensively discussed the need to address the ongoing global financial crisis by introducing balanced and sustainable strategies to promote inclusive economic growth and prosperity.[61] Particular attention was given to the role of job creation as a possible strategy to bolster the economy, especially for those marginalized from employment such as women and youth.[62]

Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) and Job Creation

According to the World Bank, the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) industry represents a potential market of $800 billion globally, as well as a possible outlet for 20 million jobs.[63] ICT's positive impact on job creation is unqualified, as it contributes to the labor market directly through the growth of the ICT-sector, and indirectly as a multiplier on economic growth.[64] The General Assembly Second Committee debated on the use of ICTs as a necessary tool for development, economic growth and poverty-reduction, in November 2012 during its 67th Session.[65] The resulting resolutions, resolutions 67/194 and 67/195, highlighted the role ICTs have in transforming the nature of the global job market, first by increasing self-employment opportunities through direct contact with clients, and second by expanding innovative business' potential for outsourcing jobs towards developing countries.[66] While ICTs have been known to have a negative impact on unemployment rates by contributing to the substitution of labor for capital in some markets, these effects can be considerably outweighed by the positive boost ICT has on job creation.[67] Therefore, when discussing strategies to enhance job creation, Member States must consider the potential influence of ICT on the economy.[68] Key issue areas of focus are the necessity to ensure free and fair access to ICT resources for all, increase national and international investment in ICT infrastructures, as well as promote national e-strategies such as e-employment.[69] Additionally, the implementation of legal regulation on ICT and the training of an ICT-skilled labor workforce must be considered in order to improve the sector's efficiency and build trust within the industry regarding data protection and cyber security.[70]

Women's Economic Empowerment

Considering that women's fair participation in the labor market spurs economic growth, it is essential to foster women's economic empowerment and prosperity in order to bolster an inclusive, global and equitable economy.[71] Women, especially those who work in informal, hard-hit sectors of the economy, have been particularly vulnerable to the recent global financial crisis, losing an estimated 13 million jobs in 2012.[72] Moreover, fiscal austerity policies that were implemented recently had a negative impact on women and their households, as they are the main beneficiaries of public policies such as social welfare, education and health care.[73] Women's higher unemployment rates are due to the existing barriers preventing them from a full participation to the labor market, such as lower wages, poor working conditions, unequal divide of domestic work, or stereotypical responsibilities within the workplace.[74] The World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, submitted to the Second Committee in 2009, underlines specific recommendations in order to remove these barriers, including gender-sensitive labor

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[61] UN General Assembly, With World Beset by Unprecedented 'series of ruptures', General Assembly president Urges Member States to show 'Tenacity of purpose, will to overcome differences', 2013.

[62] UN General Assembly, With World Beset by Unprecedented 'series of ruptures', General Assembly president Urges Member States to show 'Tenacity of purpose, will to overcome differences', 2013.

[63] The World Bank Group, ICT for Greater Development Impact, 2012, p. 29.

[64] The World Bank Group, ICT for Greater Development Impact, 2012, p. 29.

[65] UN General Assembly, Information and Communication technologies for Development (A/67/434), 2012, p. 2.

[66] UN Department for Social Affairs, Boosting development with broadband and ICTs, 2012.

[67] UNCTAD, Measuring the Impacts of Information and Communication Technology for Development, 2011, p. 12.

[68] The World Bank Group, ICT for Greater Development Impact, 2012, p. 28.

[69] UNCTAD, Measuring the Impacts of Information and Communication Technology for Development, 2011, p. 12.

[70] UN General Assembly, Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/66/64), 2011, p. 20.

[71] Bachelet, M., Critical Perspectives on Financial and Economic Crises: Why Gender Matters, 2013.

[72] Bachelet, M., Critical Perspectives on Financial and Economic Crises: Why Gender Matters, 2013.

[73] Bachelet, M., Critical Perspectives on Financial and Economic Crises: Why Gender Matters, 2013.

[74] UN General Assembly, World Survey on the role of Women in Development, 2009, p. 28.

market regulations, training programs, quota strategies, legal provision of equal wages, entrepreneurship opportunities for women and implementation of childcare services.[75] Additionally, in order to empower women economically, deep-seated social factors may also be taken into account, as they can potentially contribute to the marginalization of women from decision-making positions.[76] Finally, women's equal access to infrastructures, resources and services is a fundamental component to women's economic empowerment as it can boost their contribution to income-generating activities and productivity.[77] For example, these include access to financial assets, along with other public facilities such as transports, ICT or health care.[78]

Youth Unemployment

One of the key topics for consideration during the 67th session for the Second Committee was item 24(B) on the provisional agenda: "Eradication of Poverty and Other Development Issues: industrial development cooperation."[79] In the August 2012 report submitted by the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to the Second Committee, one of the key focus areas within the topic was the issue of productive employment for youth.[80] The document highlighted specific areas of success with respect to encouraging enterprise development and focusing on technical training for youth through local business.[81] These initiatives are implemented by the UNIDO and supported by national governments.[82] The support for full and productive employment of youth across both the developed and developing states, broadly supports the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty adopted in 2007 by the GA.[83] The July 2012 report by the Secretary General on the Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (Item 24a of the provisional agenda) highlighted specific strategies for the committee to encourage amongst Member States.[84] One of the key recommendations from the report was for governments to focus on integration of the informal market which currently experiences a high level of youth engagement.[85] Additionally, the report encouraged the formation of effective national labor market policies to encourage education and technical training.[86] During its 67th Session, the Committee introduced draft resolution entitled "Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)" which broadly focused on sustainable economic growth strategies as well as a redoubled commitment to the MDGs, with specific references to combating the lack of productive jobs for young people.[87] The resolution moved forward to the GA Plenary during the session and was adopted as *A/Res/67/224* without a vote.[88]

[75] UNGA, World Survey on the role of Women in Development, 2009, p. 4.
[76] UNGA, World Survey on the role of Women in Development, 2009, p. 28.
[77] UNGA, World Survey on the role of Women in Development, 2009, p. 36.
[78] UNGA, World Survey on the role of Women in Development, 2009, p. 48.
[79] UNGA, Industrial Development Cooperation: Note by the Secretary General (A/267/223), 2012.
[80] UNGA, Industrial Development Cooperation: Note by the Secretary General (A/267/223), 2012.
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> *Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women gave this key speech highlighting the role of women in addressing the economic and financial prosperity within the economic crisis. The speech delves into the specificities of how women are particularly affected by low unemployment which provides delegates with context for addressing gender in their working papers. The speech opens the perspective to unique problems faced by women in the working world and further stresses the need for resolving both gender equality and unemployment in a single stride.*

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> *Every five year, the UN Division for the Advancement of Women presents a World Survey on the role of Women in Development to the General Assembly's Second Committee. This is the most recent report, which focuses on "Women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance". The survey provides an overview of the economic situation of women after the recent global crisis. Moreover, it offers different recommendations and guidelines that can be implemented in order to foster equal job opportunities for men and women, as well as increase women's access to the labor market, land rights, financials services, and decision-making positions.*

United Nations General Assembly. (2012, December 14). *Information and Communication technologies for Development (A/67/434).* Retrieved January 21, 2013, from http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/67/434

> *This report published specifically by the Second Committee of the General Assembly represents all the draft resolutions that were introduced during the Fifty-Seventh Session in November 2012 relating to ICTs for Development. It provides an understanding of the framework and initiatives that can be promoted regarding the use of ITCs in order to boost job creation and economic growth as well as sets a clear outline of the General Assembly's mandate. This is the most current and up-to-date document relating to the work of the United Nations General Assembly on ITCs.*

United Nations General Assembly. (2012, August 2). *Industrial Development Cooperation: Note by the Secretary General (A/267/223).* Retrieved January 23, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/67/223

> *This document provides useful insight to delegates in this committee on how external UN bodies are approaching the issue of employment as linked to industrial development and sets a stepping stone on addressing national development policies. Additionally, the report details innovative case studies from local regions in Africa and Asia which delegates will find useful in adapting their own working papers. The document also broadly covers the topics of sustainable development and information technologies, which will help delegates make connections across all of the committee items.*

United Nations General Assembly. (2012, July 25). *Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty: Report of the Secretary General (2008-2017).* Retrieved January 24, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=a/67/180

> *This is an excellent report by the Secretary General on one of the key goals for the General Assembly in the next decade, building on the millennium development goals from 2000. The report deals with both the crisis facing Member States and national governments as well as strategies for both the committee and individual governments to address the crises. Additionally, the report details joint activities between collaborating bodies of the UN which delegates will find helpful in drafting their own strategies and working papers.*

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