

United Nations Development Programme

Introduction

The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) governing body, referred to as, the Executive Board of the UNDP, holds and participates in 5 scheduled meetings each year, three of which have recently taken place in 2015.¹ These meetings are the election of the Bureau on 7 January; first regular session 26-30 January; and joint meetings of the Executive Boards of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women, and WFP on 2 February.² The UNDP is undergoing a quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development by the Economic and Social Council, its main UN oversight body.³ The UNDP has subsidiary and partner organizations, like the Global Environment Facility, whose meetings have significant relevance to the UNDP itself. Adopting amendments to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a shared responsibility between the UNDP, World Bank, and the UNEP.⁴

Recent Activities

The Executive Board of the UNDP has held three sessions since last fall.⁵ The second regular session of the Executive Board was held from the 2-5 September 2014, and issues discussed ranged from funding commitments to amendments to the Global Environment fund (GEF) instrument.⁶ The quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development was also discussed.⁷ The first regular session of the Executive Board is scheduled for 26-30 January, with an informal consultation on 12 January 2015.⁸ The advanced copies of preparatory documents for the first session are available on the UNDP website, and be updated with official copies, as well as any outcome documents, after the meeting has taken place. The current schedule includes several review documents for the conclusion of 2014, policy review and approval, financial concerns, as well as several other topics to be address throughout the year.⁹

Other relevant conferences and meetings that have taken place include: The UN Conference on Small Island Developing States took place from the 1-4 September 2014.¹⁰ The UN Secretary General hosted the UN Climate Summit on 23 September 2014 to engage leaders and advance climate action and ambition.¹¹ UNDP and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) held a workshop in Suva, Fiji to examine the experience gained from the MDGs over the last 14 years, and to prepare for the coming post-2015 development agenda.¹² The Economic and Social Council convened a Special Meeting on 5 December 2014 to discuss how the Ebola outbreak in West Africa will impact development efforts.¹³ The 20th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) was held in Lima, 1-12 December 2014.¹⁴

Recent Policy Outcomes

The Second regular session of the Executive Board agenda addressed funding commitments and the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development conducted by the General

¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Schedule of meetings in 2015*, 2015.

² Ibid.

³ Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, *Status of regular funding commitments to the United Nations Development Programme and its associated funds and programmes for 2014 and onward*, 2015, p. 12.

⁴ Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, *Global Environment Facility: amendments to GEF Instrument*, 2014, p. 8.

⁵ Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, *Decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2014*, 2014, p. 30.

⁶ Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, *Report of the second regular session 2014*, p. 30.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *Schedule of meetings in 2015*, 2015.

⁹ Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, *First Regular Session in 2015*, 2015.

¹⁰ United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States, *Our work with SIDS from Haiti to Fiji*, 2014.

¹¹ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, *Summary of Key outcomes*, 2015.

¹² United Nations Development Programme, *UNDP Innovation Summit: Updating Development in Asia-Pacific*, 2015.

¹³ Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC Special Meeting, Ebola, a Threat to Sustainable Development*, 2014.

¹⁴ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, *Summary of Key outcomes*, 2015.

Assembly (GA).¹⁵ The quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) is the primary policy mechanism of the GA and was most recently adopted as A/RES/67/226, in order to assess and improve efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, and the impact of the UN Development system.¹⁶ After a discussion addressing the QCPR and funding, the Executive Board adopted DP/2014/21 finalizing the status of regular funding commitments to the United Nations Development Programme and its associated funds and programmes for 2014 and onward.¹⁷ The report concluded that although the resources entrusted to the UNDP are significant, a lack of predictability and multi-year commitments from partners hinder the long term planning ability of the body.¹⁸ In order to improve and diversify the resources of the UNDP, efforts in 2015 will focus on exploiting and promoting public-private partnerships and on providing information, resources, and structure to development efforts with the specific intent to facilitate south-south and triangular cooperation.¹⁹

The “Innovation Summit” of October 2014, headed by UNDP, took on the challenge of accelerating the development process through innovative thinking.²⁰ Sixteen pilot initiatives in 13 countries across Asia-Pacific are exploring adaptive and innovative approaches to: challenge stereotypes, encourage youth engagement, address human trafficking, monitor for corruption, and crowd fund local conservation efforts.²¹ This is a small representation of the post-2015 policy objectives this summit focused on, along with how the UN Development system can evolve and utilize modern tools to empower individuals to contribute to development efforts.²² Empowering and involving local groups and individuals to create sustainable domestically driven development is one of the major policy focuses for the post-2015 agenda.²³

The Executive Board is also the oversight body of the GEF, and recently adopted DP/2014/28: Global Environment Facility: amendments to GEF Instrument.²⁴ The amendments address five matters, which are intended to improve and update the existing GEF structure.²⁵ The crucial outcomes from the board are that the GEF is confirmed as a participating entity of the financial mechanism for the *Minamata Convention on Mercury* providing guidance on financial resources.²⁶ Also included was an update of the eligibility criteria for countries to receive GEF funding.²⁷ This change instructs the GEF to follow eligibility requirements based off of criteria set by the World Bank and the UNDP.²⁸ As one of the largest funders of ecological preserves, environmental protection initiatives, and many other projects, the GEF plays a central role in the funding, implementation, and review of policies and programs that protect the environment.²⁹ The GEF functions as the environmental funding and policy wing of the UNDP in this regard.³⁰ The amendments made to the GEF are part of the efforts of the QCPR bringing coherency throughout the UN system, and as the oversight body of the GEF, the Executive Board is tasked with adopting and implementing these amendments.³¹

Implementation of United Nations Development Programmes Outcomes

As the final year of Millennium Development Goals has begun to unfold, the UNDP and its partners have wasted no time in electing new leadership and signing multilateral agreements. Ambassador Luis Fernando Carrera of Guatemala is the current president of the UNDP executive board, and he was elected to serve in this capacity on 7

¹⁵ United Nations General Assembly, *Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, 2012*.

¹⁶ Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, *2012-2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of the General Assembly of UN operational activities for development, 2015*.

¹⁷ Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, *Report of the second regular session 2014*, p. 30.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *UNDP Innovation Summit: Updating Development in Asia-Pacific, 2015*.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, *Global Environment Facility: amendments to GEF Instrument, 2014*, p. 8.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Global Environment Facility, *What is the GEF, 2015*.

³⁰ Global Environment Facility, *History of the GEF, 2015*.

³¹ Global Environment Facility, *What is the GEF, 2015*.

January 2015 during the UNDP's annual Election of the Bureau meeting.³² The regional bodies of the Executive Board have also elected their respective vice-presidents to represent their respective regions during executive board meetings.³³ These positions create preparatory documents and agenda's for the meetings of the Executive Bureau, and because the UNDP is the governing agency of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), these individuals have immense control over policies and issues addressed by the UN development system as a whole during their term.³⁴ The UNDP works to improve democratic governance, and to that end, has coordinated various international actors to enable the Zambian Government to hold a 2015 presidential election.³⁵ This cooperative agreement will go beyond simply holding a vote, by advancing innovative policies and programs the UNDP hopes to create a lasting impact on the Zambian Government and its citizens.³⁶ Their efforts will focus on providing resource and program support for educating the electorate on voting, directly working with local law enforcement to improve policing practices during elections, and the overall enhancement of the electoral process of the Zambian Government to ensure fair and open elections.³⁷

Conclusion

The UNDP is a focal point for development efforts in the UN system and is a central part of the governing structure of the UNDG where all UN development efforts are represented. The UNDP partners with many agencies to develop policy and program support, provide emergency relief, or even investment in infrastructure projects.³⁸ As the primary UN body for development, UNDP has organized its vast network of partners, resources, and influence with the intent to improve development efforts.³⁹ The progress made toward the completion of the MDGs by 2015 largely impacted and shaped the work of UNDP and the UN development system.⁴⁰ The 2015 deadline of the MDGs and the QCPR has enabled the UN development system to analyze their efforts, update new targets, and draft long-term strategies and solutions to address global development issues beyond 2015.⁴¹

³² Lowthian, *New leadership set for UNDP's governing body*, 2015.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *UNDP and Zambian Government sign multi-donor support for the 2015 presidential by-election*, 2015.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, *Summary of Key outcomes*, 2015.

³⁹ Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, *Report of the second regular session 2014*, p. 30.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, *2012-2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of the General Assembly of UN operational activities for development*, 2015.

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<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Executive%20Board/2015/English/dp2015-2e.pdf>

This document provides a concise overview of the issues addressed by the UNDP executive board during its 2014 sessions. This source provides a context for delegates to understand what issues the executive board addresses and how. It is important to remember that the simulated UNDP does not have all of the same topic restrictions and will be addressing substantive issues in more detail.

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *Global Environment Facility: amendments to GEF Instrument*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from:

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=DP/2014/23

This is an example of how the UNDP Executive Board addresses proposed amendments to one of its subsidiary bodies. Delegates may use this to improve their understanding of how the UNDP ensures that programs do not stray from their mandate, how amendments to UN agencies can occur, and the importance of checks and balances within the UN system. This is also a representation of the larger role that the UNDP plays in the UN development system, governing smaller finance based organization in its targets and regulation.

Lowthian, D. (News Article). (2015). *New leadership set for UNDP's governing body*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/01/07/new-leadership-set-for-undp-s-governing-body-/>

This resource will improve understanding of how leadership positions within the UN are filled and its importance. Delegates must understand how the committee is structured and operated in order to have a complete understanding of how to go about developing and implementing policies and programs. This brief will lead delegates to an understanding of committee structure and practices.

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Second regular session 2014 - Advance documentation*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from:

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/executive_board/documents_for_sessions/adv2014-second/

This webpage contains several links to the various preparatory documents that were drafted and published before the September 2014 second regular session of the UNDP executive board. These documents will help delegates understand the recent outcomes of those meetings, and their impact on future meetings. These documents will also give insight into the structure and writing style of UNDP documents.

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *UNDP and Zambian Government sign multi-donor support for the 2015 presidential by-election*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/01/05/undp-and-zambian-government-sign-multi-donor-support-for-the-2015-presidential-by-election/>

This press release is an example of how the UNDP brings resources from various organizations and its own budget to form a coalition to complete a task within that partnership. The UN system is very effective at coordinating resources into action plans for use, and in this case the effort is dedicated to democratic governance. This dynamic between topic, funding, and UN support is crucial to delegates understanding of the UN system.

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http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/executive_board/documents_for_sessions/adv2015-first.html

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *Global Environment Facility: amendments to GEF Instrument*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from:

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=DP/2014/23

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Report of the second regular session 2014*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from:

<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Executive%20Board/2015/English/dp2015-1e.pdf>

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Global Environment Facility. (2015). Website. *What is the GEF?* Retrieved on 29 January 2015 from:

<http://www.thegef.org/gef/whatisgef>

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Lowthian, D. (2015). *New leadership set for UNDP's governing body*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/01/07/new-leadership-set-for-undp-s-governing-body-/>

Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination. (2015). *2012-2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of the General Assembly of UN operational activities for development*. Retrieved 29 January 2015 from:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/oesc/qcpr.shtml>

United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States. (2014). *Our work with SIDS from Haiti to Fiji*.

Retrieved 5 January 2014. From:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/events/2014/september/smallislands2014.html>

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<http://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2014/10/30/undp-innovation-summit-updating-development-in-asia-pacific/>

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<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/01/05/undp-and-zambian-government-sign-multi-donor-support-for-the-2015-presidential-by-election/>

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http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/executive_board/session_dates/



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2014). *Summary of Key outcomes*. Retrieved 5 January 2015, from: URL <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/lima/lima-call-for-climate-action-puts-world-on-track-to-paris-2015/>

United Nations General Assembly. (2012). *Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review*. Retrieved 29 January 2015 from: http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/pdf/ga_resolution_a-res-67-226.pdf

I. Building Democratic Governance by Expanding Access to Justice

Introduction

Access to justice is an integral pillar to ensuring the provision of human rights and fundamental freedoms while promoting an equitable environment for development.⁴² This has been a clear viewpoint of the international community as the Secretary-General, the General Assembly, and the Security Council have all independently recognized the link between democratic governance and access to justice. In doing so, the Secretary-General developed a report on the post-2015 development agenda with special attention on justice and its impact on development.⁴³ Additionally, in September 2014, the General Assembly passed a number of resolutions on access to justice and the rule of law. The UN Security Council held discussions on the role of justice in post-conflict situations and its significance in improving development to maintain international peace and security.⁴⁴ The UNDP also facilitated the work of Member States by issuing reports on democratic governance in addition to providing case studies and updates on some of their ongoing projects.

Recent Developments

On 4 December 2014, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated that “Justice: to build safe and peaceful societies, and strong institutions” should be one of the six ‘Essential Elements’ to improve the organizational structure portion of the Sustainable Development Goals.⁴⁵ Within the report entitled “The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming all Lives and Protecting the Planet,” the Secretary-General elaborated on the importance of building democratic societies in post-conflict situations, increasing access to fair and equitable justice systems, and strengthening the rule of law at all levels.⁴⁶ The six-section document also includes substantive recommendations on funding, implementation, and transitional plans to ensure that the new development agenda yields positive results for the future.⁴⁷ These sentiments are felt across the international community as the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/195 on “Rule of Law, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the United Nations Development Agenda Beyond 2015,” which builds upon the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report by encouraging international cooperation and assistance to ensure that the steps necessary to build democratic societies are fulfilled.⁴⁸

General Assembly Resolution 69/172 on “Human Rights in the Administration of Justice” was passed to ensure that the rights of all peoples are upheld in creating and improving democratic societies, especially in post-conflict situations.⁴⁹ Additionally, the General Assembly passed resolution 69/123 on “The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels” to emphasize the growing importance of educating Member States on abiding by rule of law at all levels of the international system.⁵⁰ Furthermore, the UN Security Council echoed the sentiments of the General Assembly on 19 January 2015 during a meeting focused on, “maintenance of international peace and security: inclusive development for the maintenance of international peace and security.”⁵¹ Discussion included expanding the mandates of peacekeeping missions to include greater post-conflict involvement to facilitate tasks involving transitional justice, rule of law, and post-conflict development.⁵² Creating an environment that fosters a more cooperative approach to building democratic societies in post-conflict situations was another focal point during the

⁴² UN News Centre, *UN expert urges Member States to consider justice as pillar of development*, 2014.

⁴³ UN News Centre, *Speech by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Synthesis Report on the Post-2015 Agenda 4 December 2014, in New York*, 2015.

⁴⁴ UN Security Council, *Inclusive Development Critical for Preventing Conflict, Speakers Emphasize, as Security Council Debates Maintenance of International Peace, Security*, 2015.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ UN General Assembly, *The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet: Synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda (A/69/700)*, 2014.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ UN General Assembly, *Rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (A/Res/69/195)* [Resolution], 2014.

⁴⁹ UN General Assembly, *Human rights in the administration of justice (A/Res/69/172)*, 2014.

⁵⁰ UN General Assembly, *The rule of law at the national and international levels (A/Res/69/123)*, 2014.

⁵¹ UN Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/Prst2015/3)*, 2015.

⁵² *Ibid.*

UN Security Council discussions, with a conclusion that this fostering a more cooperative approach could lead to more democratic societies.⁵³

Beyond the work of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the UNDP has revealed two inclusive reports focused on democratic governance and justice. The first was released in October 2014 on “Democratic Governance and Diverging Pathways to More Inclusive Societies: 2013 Year in Review,” which synthesizes all of the UNDP’s projects from 2013 related to building democratic societies.⁵⁴ By highlighting lessons learned, major national success stories, and including new and innovative ideas, the report provides a detailed look at the UNDP’s capabilities to build democratic societies.⁵⁵ The second report released in December 2014 follows up on and explores the implementation process of anti-corruption strategies in fourteen countries in the Asia-Pacific region.⁵⁶ The creation of these anti-corruption strategies and their implementation in the Asia-Pacific region serves as a successful demonstration of how these strategies can benefit other regions facing political transition or post-conflict situations that may also be working toward building democratic societies.⁵⁷ Another major document released by the UNDP is an “Evaluation of UNDP’s Support to Mobile Courts in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Somalia,” to assess the progress and successes of utilizing mobile courts.⁵⁸ Mobile courts created and supported by the UNDP have seen success in other countries including Pakistan and Timor-Leste by reducing the amount of time people travel to reach courts and to improve access to justice in isolated communities.⁵⁹ Through the use of mobile courts, the UNDP is able to more adequately assess the effectiveness of transitional justice systems and the impact on local authorities including police, civil society organizations, and relevant international partners through the evaluation process.⁶⁰ Ultimately, each of the three countries examined have been exposed to extreme bouts of internal and external conflict with a noticeable lack of access to justice, yet the model has proven to help address the needs of vulnerable populations in post-conflict situations quite effectively.⁶¹

Conclusion

The multifaceted nature of this topic allows for a number of innovative solutions to be brought forth in an effort to create democratic societies by ensuring access to justice. While the international community continues to take progressive steps in that direction through its grass roots efforts and redirecting its focus to the post-2015 development agenda, the outcomes of the projects conducted by the UNDP display numerous successes in the right direction. The resolutions passed by the General Assembly during the 69th Session will be more effectively implemented with the assistance from Member States and the UNDP in their commitment to find solutions to improve access to the rule of law. Taking steps to expand the role of peacekeepers in facilitating a transitional development stage to include rule of law and access to justice could further the recommendations made by the Secretary General to improve development in its relation to peace and security.⁶² Lessons learned in both the evaluation report and the program review conducted by the UNDP only further the efforts of the international community to build democratic societies as a step toward ensuring the maintenance of international peace and security.

⁵³ UN Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/Prst2015/3)*, 2015.

⁵⁴ UN Development Programme, *Democratic governance and diverging pathways to more inclusive societies: 2013 year in review*, 2014.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ UN Development Programme, *Anti-Corruption Strategies: Understanding What Works, What Doesn't and Why?*, 2014.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ UN Development Programme, *Summary: Evaluation of UNDP's Support to Mobile Courts in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Somalia*, 2014.

⁵⁹ UN Development Programme, *Pakistan: Mobile Courts Bring Justice to Rural Areas*, 2012.

⁶⁰ UN Development Programme, *Evaluation of UNDP's Support to Mobile Courts in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Somalia*, 2014, p. 3.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² UN Security Council, *Inclusive Development Critical for Preventing Conflict, Speakers Emphasize, as Security Council Debates Maintenance of International Peace, Security*, 2015.

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http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5527SR_advance%20unedited_final.pdf

This recently released document is essentially a concise guide to the development of the post-2015 development agenda and the creation of the sustainable development goals. It will help guide delegates in understanding what role justice and creating democratic societies could evolve into as the international community focuses on improving global development. The Secretary-General presented this guide to help the international community organize the new goals, and, as a result, can help delegates organize their positions on those goals.

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *Democratic governance and diverging pathways to more inclusive societies: 2013 year in review*. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/2013-democratic-governance---year-in-review/>

As a UNDP report, this document provides great insight into a year's worth of programs and conferences working to improve democratic governance throughout the international community. This report is a review of the year 2013, but is detailed and contributes relevant examples of country projects organized and facilitated by the UNDP. These examples demonstrate lessons learned, which lead to new ideas on improving existing projects and programs and redirecting the necessary funding to ensure successful outcomes in Member States.

United Nations Development Programme. (2012). *Pakistan: Mobile Courts Bring Justice to Rural Areas*. Retrieved 29 January 2015 from:

<http://www.us.undp.org/content/washington/en/home/ourwork/democraticgovernance/successstories/mobile-courts-bring-justice-to-rural-pakistan/#>

The article provides a good description on the creation and use of mobile courts as a method of improving access to justice. Democratic societies require that the rule of law be upheld and this article demonstrates one of the UNDP's programs to fulfill that objective. The example of Pakistan, which has been frequently impacted by terrorism and illicit activities that threaten democratic societies, serves as a platform for delegates to further investigate the viability of these courts as a possible avenue to ensure access to justice in future post-conflict or post-crisis situations.

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *Anti-Corruption Strategies: Understanding What Works, What Doesn't and Why?* Retrieved 6 January 2015 from:

http://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/library/democratic_governance/anti-corruption-strategies.html

Providing a regional view of the successes and failures of anti-corruption strategies, this UNDP report gives a different perspective on ways to ensure justice and create democratic societies. Anti-corruption strategies are one way to introduce and encourage democratic practices. Delegates can use this report as an example of one potential solution to building democratic societies while adapting these strategies and introducing them to other regions of the world.

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *Evaluation of UNDP's Support to Mobile Courts in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Somalia*. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/crisis-prevention-and-recovery/evaluation-of-undp-s-support-to-mobile-courts-in-drc--sierra-leo/>

This report is a very focused report that utilizes three country cases to look at the potential usefulness of mobile courts to improve access to justice. Using three Member States that have been exposed to conflict and political turmoil gives a clear picture of how useful these resources are to people in post-conflict situations. Additionally, the report gives some examples of how mobile courts have been used in other instances of post-conflict situation around the world.

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http://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/library/democratic_governance/anti-corruption-strategies.html

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<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/crisis-prevention-and-recovery/evaluation-of-undp-s-support-to-mobile-courts-in-drc--sierra-leo/>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-Ninth Session. (2014). *The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet: Synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda (A/69/700)*, Retrieved 5 January 2015 from:

http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5527SR_advance%20unedited_final.pdf

United Nations General Assembly, Sixty-Ninth Session. (2014). *Rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (A/Res/69/195)*, Retrieved 6 January 2015 from:

<http://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/quick/regular/69>

United Nations General Assembly, Sixty-Ninth Session. (2014). *Human rights in the administration of justice (A/Res/69/172)*, Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: <http://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/quick/regular/69>

United Nations General Assembly, Sixty-Ninth Session. (2014). *The rule of law at the national and international levels (A/Res/69/123)*, Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: <http://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/quick/regular/69>

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<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49157&Kw1=justice&Kw2=democracy&Kw3=law>

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II. Fostering Developing Countries' Capacities for Climate Change Adaptation

Introduction

Climate change adaptation has become increasingly important as the impacts of climate change are felt worldwide and particularly acutely in developing countries. International agreements such as the *Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and *The Future We Want* outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development all acknowledge the need to not only address the causes of climate change but to also work towards adapting to changes in climate. Climate change adversely affects the international community's efforts to fulfill the MDGs of eradicating poverty, building sustainable development, and increasing food security.⁶³ The 2015 deadline for completing the goals is quickly approaching, but only three targets have been fulfilled.⁶⁴ In light of climate change's impact on development, adaptation thus becomes even more important for the success of the post-2015 development agenda.⁶⁵

The primary consequence of climate change, a rise in global temperature, is well known and an international agreement is indispensable to prevent a temperature rise of more than 2° Celsius and the detrimental impacts caused otherwise.⁶⁶ Climate change effects cannot be reversed in the near-term, making adaptation essential to minimize adverse impacts. Therefore governments, civil societies, and stakeholders need to work together to further climate change adaptation and limit emissions.⁶⁷ In addition to cooperation, “coherence across the poverty eradication, disaster reduction and climate agendas is essential for inclusive, low emission and climate-resilient development,” as United Nations Development Programme Administrator Helen Clark stated.⁶⁸ To facilitate that cooperation, a high-level event on climate change will be convened by the President of the General Assembly on 29 June 2015 at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters.⁶⁹ Following the UN Climate Summit on 23 September 2014, this event aims to continue negotiations and plans already discussed to continue work on a global climate change agreement.⁷⁰

Recent Developments

COP 20

In December 2014 the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 20) to the UNFCCC and the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 10), collectively referred to as the Lima Climate Change Conference, took place in Lima, Peru.⁷¹ During the two weeks of the conference more than 190 countries negotiated and discussed a new agreement on climate change to be finalized and agreed on during the COP 21 in Paris in December 2015 and to then come into effect in 2020.⁷² An important decision adopted by COP 20 was the Lima Call for Climate Action, which suggests actions and target areas that need specific attention to pave the way for a successful COP 21.⁷³ With the suggestions and decisions from COP 20, COP 21 will aim to achieve a universal, legally binding climate change agreement for the first time in 20 years.⁷⁴

During the conference both developed and developing countries agreed to contribute funding to the Green Climate Fund (GFC) to reach the target of \$10 billion.⁷⁵ This was a significant step forward in climate change adaptation because the GFC can now begin its support for programs, projects, policies, and other activities in developing countries that are party to the UNFCCC.⁷⁶ Furthermore decisions concerning national adaptation plans and financing

⁶³ The UN and Climate Change, *UN General Assembly President to convene high-level climate change event 29 June*, 2014.

⁶⁴ United Nations Development Programme, *Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2014.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, *Climate - Joint statement by Manuel Pulgar-Vidal and Laurent Fabius Chairs of COP20 in Lima and COP21 in Paris*, 2014.

⁶⁷ UN General Assembly, *With accomplishments in Peru, 'the stars are aligned' for action on climate change*, 2014.

⁶⁸ International Institute for Sustainable Development, *UNDP Administrator Calls for Synergy Among Development, Disaster and Climate Agreements*, 2014.

⁶⁹ UN General Assembly, *UN General Assembly President to convene high-level climate change event 29 June*, 2014.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ UNFCCC, *Lima Climate Change Conference – December 2014: Documents*, 2014.

⁷² UNFCCC, *Lima Call for Climate Action Puts World on Track to Paris 2015*, 2014.

⁷³ UNFCCC, *Lima Climate Change Conference – December 2014: Decisions*, 2014.

⁷⁴ Climate Action, *Find out more about COP 21*, 2015.

⁷⁵ UNFCCC, *Lima Call for Climate Action Puts World on Track to Paris 2015*, 2014.

⁷⁶ UNFCCC, *Green Climate Fund*, 2014.

mechanisms were adopted by COP 20.⁷⁷ This included a recommendation to raise awareness for national adaptation plans and the support that is available to formulate and review such plans.⁷⁸ Long-term financing mechanisms were also discussed with the result that developed country parties should focus a significant amount from public climate funds towards adaptation processes.⁷⁹ It was reiterated how important national adaptation plans are in decreasing the vulnerability and building adaptation capacities to climate change effects and concluded with an invitation to parties to put forward national adaptation plan outputs and outcomes.⁸⁰

Adaptation Fund

The Adaptation Fund was established in 2001 under the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC.⁸¹ This fund deals specifically with climate change adaptation projects in developing countries that are party of the Kyoto Protocol.⁸² It also focuses its support on countries that are vulnerable to climate change impacts such as countries that are greatly affected by desertification or weather catastrophes resulting in lack of fresh water and declining food security.⁸³ During the Lima Climate Change Conference the Adaptation Fund was supported by a pledge made by Germany of 55 million Euros.⁸⁴ CMP 10 adopted a decision on the second review of the Adaptation Fund where the importance of this fund is stated because it focuses on concrete adaptation projects in different countries in contrast to activities working on overall general ideas about adaptation possibilities on a global level.⁸⁵ CMP 10 also urged the Adaptation Fund Board to estimate the resources that are needed and review the status of projects it is supporting to strengthen cooperation, synergies, and good management of projects as well as resources.⁸⁶

Conclusion

The outcomes of the UN Climate Summit 2014 and the Lima Climate Change Conference highlighted the importance of adaptation to climate change as it affects both developing and developed countries. The need to develop adaptation strategies and plans and accomplish a global agreement at COP 21 demonstrates that much work remains for UN entities, governments, and other stakeholders. Parallel to the development of a new global agreement at COP21, global adaptation strategies and national adaptation plans must be formulated and implemented. The GFC and the Adaptation Fund are important entities to assist in crafting national adaptation plans. Both funds, with pledges to them continuously being made, have the means to support projects and activities that focus on climate change adaptation and building resilience. The year between COP 20 and COP 21 will require the collaboration of governments, the private sector and different UN entities to strengthen already existing structures such as the GFC and the Adaptation Fund, work towards a consensus on how to address climate change adaptation globally, and support development of national adaptation plans.

⁷⁷ UNFCCC, *Lima Climate Change Conference – December 2014: Decisions*, 2014.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ UNFCCC, *Adaptation Fund at a Glance*, 2014.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ UNFCCC, *Adaptation Fund*, 2014.

⁸⁴ UNFCCC, *Lima Call for Climate Action Puts World on Track to Paris 2015*, 2014.

⁸⁵ UNFCCC, *Lima Climate Change Conference – December 2014: Decisions*, 2014.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

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The Adaptation Fund. (2014). *About the Adaptation Fund* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/about>

This is a great source concerning climate change projects as the Fund supports specific climate change adaptation projects and programs especially in developing countries. Delegates can obtain information about the Fund itself such as its structure, governance, and resources as well as specific information on individual project performance and funding status. Delegates can read about proposals or concepts that are under review to gain insight into new ideas and projects concerning climate national climate change adaptation processes.

Climate Action. (2015). *Find out more about COP 21* [Website]. Retrieved 30 January 2015 from: <http://www.cop21paris.org/about/cop21/>

The website offers information about COP 21 which will be held in Paris in 2015. The aims of the conference are already outlined here as well as some of the events, dialogues and forums that will take place there. With the aim to achieve a legally binding agreement this will be a high-level conference of utmost importance. Information on the conference will continually be added so delegates should check the website regularly.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2014). *Green Climate Fund* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from:

http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/green_climate_fund/items/5869.php

Here delegates find an introduction to the Green Climate Fund. The decision that established the Fund can be found here and its background is explained. It can give delegates an understanding of what the fund can do and how it works. This website also offers an update on the fund especially stating changes and news that happened during COP 20. It is possible to read about meetings of the Board of the Green Climate Fund and access their decisions. This can help in tracking the contributions made to the fund and how they are used.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2014). *Lima Call for Climate Action Puts World on Track to Paris 2015* [Press Release]. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from: <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/lima/lima-call-for-climate-action-puts-world-on-track-to-paris-2015/>

This website gives a brief summary of key outcomes from COP 20. This is a good possibility to find areas of interest that were discussed and a short explanation of the outcome. It includes facts and figures from the conference and also incorporates statements from some of the speakers who were present at the conference. Furthermore it provides press releases and reports on adaptation activities as well as initiatives and resources for the time between COP 20 and COP 21.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2014) *Lima Climate Change Conference – December 2014: Decisions* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from:

http://unfccc.int/meetings/lima_dec_2014/meeting/8141/php/view/decisions.php

This contains the decisions adopted at the Lima Climate Change Conference by COP 20 and CMP 10. The Lima Call for Action, which is an important document leading up to COP 21, is available as well as decisions discussing funding and national adaptation plans. It further includes reports of the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund, which are the most important funds in climate change adaptation. The documents accessible here outline the direction climate change action needs to take in 2015 and can serve as a guideline for projects and activities to be established.

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III. Improving Access to Water and Sanitation for Socioeconomic Development

Introduction

2.5 billion people globally do not have access to the proper amenities to discard human waste and excrement.⁸⁷ Additionally, 1 billion individuals engage in open defecation exposing countless people to potentially hazardous risks to their health and environment.⁸⁸ In fact, in 2013, over 340,000 children died from diarrheal diseases as a result of inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene.⁸⁹ It is of notable concern that 80% of diseases in developing countries are caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation.⁹⁰

Improving access to water and sanitation is integral for socioeconomic development.⁹¹ Sanjay Wijesekera, head of the United Nations Children’s Fund’s (UNICEF’s) global Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Program, stated on 19 November 2014 that a “lack of sanitation is a reliable marker of how the poorest in a country are faring.”⁹² While it is primarily the impoverished without access to toilets, all human beings are affected by the contamination and other detrimental effects of open defecation, thus making this issue of the utmost importance to all.⁹³

There are significant global agreements governing policy regarding water and sanitation today. The 1977 Mar Del Plata Action Plan declared that despite an individual’s “stage of development and their social and economic conditions,” access to water and sanitation resources is imperative for all.⁹⁴ Subsequently, in 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) endorsed the right to an adequate standard of living, including access to water and sanitation.⁹⁵ Additionally, to improve water and sanitation awareness, the United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/217 dedicated a decade of action for water between 2005-2015.⁹⁶

In the past two decades roughly 1.9 billion people have obtained access to an improved sanitation facility.⁹⁷ Eastern Asia exhibited the strongest progress by increasing from a mere 27% in 1990 to over 67% to date.⁹⁸ Despite these improvements, current patterns demonstrate that Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia continue to struggle with low levels of sanitation coverage.⁹⁹ In those regions, only 44 % of the population utilizes either shared or unimproved facilities and 26% continue to practice open defecation.¹⁰⁰ Worldwide open defecation rates declined significantly from 24% in 1990 to 15% to date.¹⁰¹ Despite the overall decline in open defecation rates in Asia, its rates remain the highest among any region.¹⁰² Notably, Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region where open defecation continues to be on the rise.¹⁰³

Establishing adequate infrastructure for water and sanitation is a serious global challenge. Toilets, water treatment plants, and sewage systems require significant land and financial resources and can be costly in not only their creation but also their maintenance and daily operations.¹⁰⁴ This lack of infrastructure also affects other aspects of development, as children are often unable to attend school and exercise their right to education because schools lack sufficient sanitation facilities.¹⁰⁵ Better sanitation is directly related to socioeconomic development and the consequences of a lack of sanitation and access to water are widespread and negatively impact vulnerable

⁸⁷ United Nations Children’s Fund, *Lack of toilets dangerous for everyone, UNICEF says*, 2014.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’ 2005-2015*, 2014

⁹¹ United Nations Children’s Fund, *Lack of toilets dangerous for everyone, UNICEF says*, 2014.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ UN OHCHR, et al., *The Right to Water: Fact Sheet No. 35*, 2010.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ UN General Assembly, *International Decade for Action “Water for Life”, 2005-2015 (A/RES/58/217)*, 2003.

⁹⁷ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’ 2005-2015*, 2014.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, *What We Do: Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Strategy Overview*, 2015.

¹⁰⁵ United Nations Children’s Fund, *Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Annual Report 2013*, 2014.

populations pervasively.¹⁰⁶ For every \$1 invested there is roughly a \$5 return, manifested through increased individual productivity, reduced health care costs, and the prevention of illness, disability, and death.¹⁰⁷

Recent Developments

As the Millennium Development Goals come to a close, there are important events taking place globally in an effort to maximize goal achievement and establish the post-2015 development agenda. On 10 November 2014 UNICEF organized a conference in New Delhi, India, with the theme of “Stop Stunting” to highlight one of the many hazardous effects of open defecation.¹⁰⁸ The consumption of high amounts of fecal bacteria by infants and young children through household items or soiled fingers leads to intestinal infections along with additional detrimental nutrient losses resulting in stunted growth.¹⁰⁹ In fact, 26% of children under five years old globally have stunted growth.¹¹⁰ While open defecation is not the only cause of child stunting, there is a direct link between child growth and household sanitation.¹¹¹ Specifically, child stunting in South Asia is more prevalent than any other region, representing 40% of the total cases of child stunting worldwide.¹¹² Despite an overall improvement in sanitation in South Asia, the rate of improvement is challenged by the rapid rate of population growth.¹¹³ The “Stop Stunting” regional conference established a unified education-based platform where scientific findings, best practices, and technological innovations were discussed in order to accelerate the advancement of research and programs mitigating child stunting in South Asia.¹¹⁴

The Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed post-2015 goals include a target for achieving adequate and equal sanitation and hygiene for all and abolishing open defecation as a whole by 2030.¹¹⁵ Additionally, the proposed Sustainable Development Goals view water management as highly related to the overall success of the post-2015 development agenda, offering an opportunity to transform the management of critical water resources for years to come.¹¹⁶ Recent reports from scientists at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) advise against overly strict approaches to the achievement of SDGs.¹¹⁷ Noting that a restricted approach could severely inhibit development options for already impoverished countries by limiting their ability to manage critical water resources.¹¹⁸ Striking the balance between sustainable socioeconomic developments and providing access to water and sanitation services is an increasingly difficult task. In burgeoning economies development is critical, yet sustainable development can be costly and challenging.

With the exponential growth of global water use coupled with chronic water shortages, the management of water is more pressing than ever. IWMI Director-General Jeremy Bird recently stated that, “of all our natural resources, water underpins sustainable development perhaps more than any other.”¹¹⁹ In order to achieve the SDGs the international community has to recognize that water is the cornerstone to achieving goals ranging from poverty, health, energy, and the environment. Locally appropriate solutions to the proper management of water must be prioritized. One such effort is a joint UNICEF and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) two-year WASH initiative in South Sudan that was launched on 25 November 2014 and will invest \$14 million to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene services for vulnerable and displaced populations.¹²⁰ This program is projected to directly benefit over 130,000 people affected by crises by fostering access to safe water and

¹⁰⁶ Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, *What We Do: Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Strategy Overview*, 2015.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁸ United Nations Children’s Fund South Asia, *Stop stunting*, 2014.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹¹² *Ibid.*

¹¹³ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁶ International Water Management Institute, *On Target for People and Planet: Setting and Achieving Water-related Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014.

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹²⁰ United Nations Children’s Fund, *South Sudan, 25 November 2014: USAID and UNICEF launch initiative to provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene, and prevent gender-based violence*, 2014.

disseminating knowledge of better hygiene and sanitation practices.¹²¹ Additionally, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the social enterprise Sanergy collaborated in order to provide economical and sustainable solutions for addressing the sanitation issue in Africa.¹²² Sanergy committed to expand its operations network to over 2,000 Fresh Life Operators to oversee hygienic toilets in Kenya.¹²³ This initiative is projected to reach an estimated 300,000 people in Kenya's urban slums by 2020.¹²⁴

The establishment of the Food, Energy, Environment and Water Network (FE²W) in the latter part of 2014 was another milestone in bridging the gap between food security, water, and sustainable development.¹²⁵ FE²W, piloted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Australian National University, provides global leaders at all levels of decision-making with the information and tools to effectively manage the balance of food security, water, energy, and the environment through training and workshops.¹²⁶ While FE²W is only in its beginning stages, it is projected to mitigate systemic risks and problems across these systems that prove to be problematic worldwide.¹²⁷ Also, in late 2014, UNICEF and the governments of Australia and the United Kingdom reaffirmed their commitment to an ongoing WASH project to bring water to the rural areas of Binga, Zimbabwe.¹²⁸ The repairing and drilling of boreholes and establishing committees in those rural areas to manage these water projects has been integral in the process of expanding access to water and sanitation.¹²⁹ Despite efforts to include the communities in designing and managing the water projects, modernization has been difficult to sustain, as the people of Binga have been resistant to embrace the suggested practices.¹³⁰ In fact, 70% of the communities in Matabeleland North, Zimbabwe still practice open defecation.¹³¹ This challenge is not unique to Binga and challenges development efforts worldwide.

On a broader scale, there are also a multitude of global actions scheduled to take place in 2015 for the improvement of access to water and sanitation for socioeconomic development. For example, the Third Arab Water Week took place in January, which developed sustainable solutions to address water scarcity in a region where renewable fresh water resources are among the lowest in the world.¹³²

Conclusion

The management of water resources is more important than ever for inclusion in the post-2015 development agenda. It is critical to consider the challenges of meeting the demands of exponential population growth while still addressing water scarcity. Although open defecation rates are decreasing, achieving adequate and equal sanitation as well as hygiene for all and abolishing open defecation are proposed to be included into the SDGs show the continuous significance of this topic. Further, recognition of vulnerable populations and cultural differences in the implementation of vital technologies and advancements for water, sanitation, and hygiene practices is also crucial. Improving access to water and sanitation for socioeconomic development is dire and will require multilateral collaboration, advancing and sharing technological discoveries, and the dissemination of information to all affected populations. All aspects of socioeconomic development, environmental protection, financing mechanisms, and region specific issues such as conflicts or a lack of infrastructure and natural resources will need to be addressed further if access to water and sanitation is to be significantly improved.

¹²¹ United Nations Children's Fund, *South Sudan, 25 November 2014: USAID and UNICEF launch initiative to provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene, and prevent gender-based violence*, 2014.

¹²² United Nations Development Programme, *Sanergy brings sanitation to the forefront*, 2014.

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ UNESCO, *Launch of Food, Energy, Environment and Water (FE²W) Network*, 2014.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ United Nations Children's Fund, *Zimbabwe, December 2014: The burden of thirst: Rural water challenges increase inequality among women*, 2014.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² Arab Water Week, *Innovations and Sustainable Solutions for the Water Sector in the Arab Region*, 2015.

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This report discusses the implications of the Sustainable Development Goals that will become solidified in the next year. This report is highly important for ensuring the SDGs are both comprehensive and achievable. This leading NGO in water management seeks to weigh in on the challenges of managing a finite resource offering innovative ideas and policy recommendations that are worth further consideration when considering policy possibilities.

Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development. (n.d.). *Global Dialogue on Water Security and Sustainable Growth* [Report]. Retrieved 8 January 2015 from: <http://www.oecd.org/environment/resources/GWP-OECD-Global-Dialogue-on-Water-Security-and-Sustainable-Growth-flyer.pdf>

The Global Water Partnership in conjunction with the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development provides detailed information about water security worldwide. This global dialogue described will result in a detailed report on 'Water Security and Sustainable Growth', which will be presented, in the World Water Forum in South Korea in 2015. This provides sufficient background of the topic and explains the policy developments and challenges that are coming to fruition in the immediate future that need to be addressed.

United Nations Children's Fund and The World Health Organization. (2014). *Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation 2014 Update* [Report]. Retrieved 8 January 2015 from: http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/JMP_report_2014_webEng.pdf

This report, authored by the World Health Organization and UNICEF, underpins the present status of accessibility of safe drinking water and sanitation worldwide. It discusses the status of the Millennium Development Goals and the shortcomings of these goals that need to be addressed by the international community going forward. It has detailed country analysis and descriptions of the specific nature of the sanitation and water situation in each respective country. The main objective of this report is defining the Post-2015 development agenda as it pertains to water and sanitation. This report provides insight for addressing various countries policy needs.

United Nations Development Group. (2014). *Delivering the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Opportunities at the National and Local Levels* [Report]. Retrieved 8 January 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/Post2015/UNDP-MDG-Delivering-Post-2015-Report-2014.pdf>

The Post-2015 development agenda is of the utmost importance to the UNDP. This report highlights the direction that the international community will need to take in the immediate future in order to circumvent and minimize potential development challenges. This report also lays out the groundwork for the 2015 and beyond agenda that will be crucial looking forward in order to create a more sustainable and developed world. This will be the heart of discussions in the near future in the development community and is an outstanding resource for delegates to plan to address.

World Health Organization. (2014). *UN Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water* [Report]. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/glaas/2014/en/

This report provides the most comprehensive background information pertaining to water security and sanitation. It also describes what the water and sanitation agenda in the international community in upcoming months. This report discusses the benefits of investing in water and sanitation and the potential of reducing inequalities globally as a byproduct of development.

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