

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Introduction

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) did not meet in the last months of 2014, but UNEP remains proactive in implementing the direction of its substantial agenda. UNEP is currently holding a series of ongoing meeting meetings to help outline and structure the next formal meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) of the UNEP in March 2015.¹ There were also several recent conferences impacting work on UNEP's key thematic areas including the United Nations Climate Summit and the Lima Climate Change Conference that created substantial frameworks on issues ranging from carbon emissions to urbanization.² In the months ahead, UNEP's work in the areas of climate change and sustainable development will continue during the High-Level Event on Climate Change and High-Level Thematic Debate on Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda.³

Recent Activities

The UNEP released two recent reports on resource efficiency and climate change that continue to focus on the post-2015 development agenda.⁴ The *Emissions Gap Report* discusses the current level of emissions and greenhouse gases being produced and the amount of emissions the atmosphere is capable of absorbing without temperature or climate changes.⁵ This year's report is different from previous years because while it updates the long term 2020 global emissions outlook, its focus is on the goal of keeping the rise in global temperatures under a two-degree cap.⁶ The report pays special attention to the steps needed to establish energy efficiency, including greener business practices and emission caps, and frames the economic benefits gained by implementing those steps.⁷ The second report, *Measuring success: indicators for the regional seas conventions and action plans*, focuses on cross-border interactions of resources of the seas and oceans.⁸ This report seeks to create clear definitions for what constitutes a cross-border interaction, a definition that has never been clear in the past.⁹ *Measuring success* creates a system for linking the effects of emissions and pollution to the cause such as oil spills and acidification.¹⁰

During the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, several resolutions were adopted that directly impact UNEP and its agenda. General Assembly resolution 69/223 recognized the importance of technology in supporting developing countries' implementation of the *Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building*.¹¹ Noting UNEP's important work in achieving sustainable development, the resolution called on Member States and stakeholders to increase voluntary funding to the UNEP.¹² Resolution 69/223 also highlighted the importance of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and agreed to add agenda items for future meetings for the "*Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme*".¹³ In the UNEA's

¹ UNEP, *Calendar of Meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to UNEP during the Intersessional Period between UNEA-1 and UNEA-2*, 2015.

² International Institute for Sustainable Development, *Earth Negotiations Bulletin: Summary of the Lima Climate Change Conference 1-14 December 2014*, 2014.

³ UN General Assembly, *High-Level Thematic Debates and Events to be Convened by the President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly*, 2014.

⁴ UNEP, *Calendar of Meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to UNEP during the Intersessional Period between UNEA-1 and UNEA-2*, 2015.

⁵ UNEP, *The Emissions Gap Report*, 2014.

⁶ UNEP, *The Emissions Gap Report*, 2014.

⁷ UNEP, *The Emissions Gap Report*, 2014.

⁸ UNEP, *Measuring success: indicators for the regional seas conventions and action plans*, 2014.

⁹ UNEP, *Measuring success: indicators for the regional seas conventions and action plans*, 2014.

¹⁰ UNEP, *Measuring success: indicators for the regional seas conventions and action plans*, 2014.

¹¹ UN General Assembly, *Sustainable development: report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/RES/69/468/Add.7)*, 2014.

¹² UN General Assembly, *Sustainable development: report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/RES/69/468/Add.7)*, 2014.

¹³ UN General Assembly, *Sustainable development: report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/RES/69/468/Add.7)*, 2014.

current report to the General Assembly Second Committee, included in resolution 69/468, the UNEA outlined a plan for numerous UNEP CPR subcommittee meetings.¹⁴

Recent Policy Outcomes

Multiple events also led to further policy outcomes on UNEP's core theme of climate change. The UN Climate Summit 2014, held 23 September 2014, and the accompanying Climate Week addressed the urgency in combating climate change and creating a global agreement in 2015.¹⁵ Taking momentum and ideas from the UN Climate Summit, the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol met in Lima, Peru, from 1-14 December 2014.¹⁶ Three subsidiary bodies also met at the Lima Climate Change Conference including the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 41), which supports the work of the COP through information and advice on scientific and technology as they relate to the Kyoto Protocol; the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 41), which deals with organizational matters and the adoption of the agenda; and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP 2-7), which seeks to clarify what the new global climate agenda should be including whether to focus more on mitigation of climate change or adaptation to the effects of climate change.¹⁷ A main outcome of the Lima conference tasked Member States with submitting Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), which are the contribution amounts a country is willing to make to reduce and limit global temperature increases.¹⁸ The *Lima Call for Climate Action* outlined necessary steps that must be taken in preparation for the adoption of a legally-binding agreement at the December 2015 COP 21 in Paris, France.¹⁹

Implementation of Policy Outcomes

Recent UNEP actions demonstrate a focus on increased technology transfer, responsible and sustainable consumption and production (SCP), and increased funding to the UNEP.²⁰ These themes are strong fixtures for the post-2015 development agenda and indicate that (1) technology transfer requires Member States to create a mechanism for sharing information and helping developing states integrate new technologies into existing and developing frameworks, (2) when creating SCP patterns there needs to be a focus on implementing policies beyond the local and national level, and (3) technology and SCP require significant financial support.²¹ On the final point, UNEP has emphasized the need for Member States to increase their voluntary monetary contributions.²² The debate between climate change mitigation and adaptation has increased discussion on how to finance the framework for either direction. Many developing Member States promote mitigation, but would need increased financial help in doing so, while some western Member States insist adaptation is the proper policy.²³ Further showing the significance of finance mechanisms, UNEP held a preparatory session in January for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development that will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2015.²⁴ Many UN entities and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon have called for a stronger system of creating and recording financial data and implementation of directives to create a pathway for understanding the financial needs of programs.

¹⁴ UN General Assembly, *Sustainable development: report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/RES/69/468/Add.7)*, 2014; UNEP, *Calendar of Meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to UNEP during the Intersessional Period between UNEA-1 and UNEA-2*, 2015.

¹⁵ UN and Climate Change, *UN Climate Summit 2014*, 2014.

¹⁶ International Institute for Sustainable Development, *Earth Negotiations Bulletin: Summary of the Lima Climate Change Conference 1-14 December 2014*, 2014.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ UN General Assembly, *Sustainable development: report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/RES/69/468/Add.7)*, 2014.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ International Institute for Sustainable Development, *First Drafting Session on Outcome Document of Third Conference on FfD*, 2015.

²⁴ Ibid.

Conclusion

UNEP has become the cornerstone of the international community's discussion of sustainable development, and works not only on the large-scale issues including resource efficiency and climate change, but also serves as an expert body to create policy on detailed topics on a broad range of development issues. UNEP is a leader in the post-2015 development agenda, helping creating local and regional mechanisms for issues such as technology transfer and is pushing the importance of its key thematic areas for inclusion in the post-2015 development agenda.

Annotated Bibliography

International Institute for Sustainable Development. (2014). *Earth Negotiations Bulletin: Summary of the Lima Climate Change Conference 1-14 December 2014*. Retrieved 28 December 2014 from: <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb12619e.pdf>

The Lima Climate Change Conference focused furthering the agenda of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change and emissions. The UNFCCC met to discuss creating intended nationally determined contributions, which are Member States' pledged intentions on meeting specific emissions reductions. This is in preparation for the COP 21 conference in March 2015. This report outlines the progress of the Kyoto Protocol and subsequent conferences and frameworks. This conference sets the tone and framework for many of the future conferences dealing with climate change for the coming year.

United Nations and Climate Change. (2014). *UN Climate Summit 2014* [Website]. Retrieved 26 December 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit/>

The UN Climate Summit 2014 builds off of the post-2015 development agenda discussions of 2014. The UN Climate Summit allowed a multitude of UN bodies, Non-Governmental Organizations' (NGO's), Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO's), and the private and public sector to participate in discussions. The UN Climate Summit of 2014 is where a plan is formulated to spend 2015 discussing very specific sustainable development goals such as climate change, sustainable consumption and production (SCP), and the lowering of harmful emissions.

United Nations, General Assembly. (2014). *High-Level Thematic Debates and Events to be Convened by the President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly* [Background Note]. Retrieved 26 December 2014 from: http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2014/12/021214_hl-thematic-debates.pdf

This report gives details on the agenda the General Assembly will be discussing outside of formal session. It gives details of the number of high-level debates it will have and some of the specific goals of the debates. The details in this report will help delegates understand the work of the General Assembly on the issue, as well as work that will be integrated into the work of the body in the future.

United Nations, General Assembly. Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/RES/69/469)* [Resolution]. Report of the Second Committee. Retrieved 31 December 2014 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/469

This resolution goes over the actions taken in the Habitat II conference, which include urban development, suitable housing, and economic opportunity. This resolution establishes Habitat III to be held in Ecuador in 2016. Habitat III will continue the work done at the last Habitat conference held in Turkey, June 1996. This resolution will help delegates understand the work UN-Habitat and its partners (including UNEP) will undertake over the next year and the agenda of the Habitat III conference. There will be six main topics at the Habitat III conference including the effects of urbanization on the environment including land usage and pollution

United Nations, General Assembly. Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Sustainable development: report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/RES/69/468/Add.7)*. Report of the Second Committee. Retrieved 28 December 2014 from:

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/468/Add.7

This resolution creates UNEP's agenda for the upcoming year. It narrows UNEP's focus to issues of technology, finance and sustainable consumption and production. It outlines future conferences and work the body will be conducting and its hope for the implementation of the policies the committee is seeking to create. This helps create an idea of the goals the UNEP is looking to meet and the main focus in terms of the post-2015 development agenda.

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United Nations, General Assembly. (2014). *High-Level Thematic Debates and Events to be Convened by the President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly* [Background Note]. Retrieved 26 December 2014 from: http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2014/12/021214_hl-thematic-debates.pdf

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United Nations, General Assembly. Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Sustainable development: report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/RES/69/468/Add.7)*. Report of the Second Committee. Retrieved 28 December 2014 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/468/Add.7

United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. (2014). *Acting upon Recommendation by Second Committee, General Assembly Adopts 43 Texts, Defers Action on Sovereign Debt Restructuring Framework Draft* [Website]. Retrieved 31 December 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/ga11605.doc.htm>

I. Financing International Climate Change Technology Transfer

Introduction

At the end of 2015, the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) will be held in Paris, and be a turning point in the goal to reach a global climate change agreement.²⁵ According to experts, the success of the conference will depend on the agreement and the efficiency of climate finance.²⁶ Although there are still many issues that must be discussed on this topic, progress on the issue was made during the 20th session of the COP, where improving coordination and cooperation between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism was further discussed.²⁷

The General Assembly adopted resolutions 69/15 and 69/108 following the reports of the Third International Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing.²⁸ A report from the Secretary-General (A/69/700) entitled *The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet* was introduced before the General Assembly on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, and it included sub-topics on financing sustainable development and the role of science, technology, and innovation in the sustainable future.²⁹ Other important outcome documents emerged from regional organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank.³⁰

Several UN agencies and programs have discussed financing international climate change technology transfer in the previous months, including the UNEP Finance Initiative through their report *Demystifying Private Green Climate*.³¹ Important contributions on the issues were made during global and regional conferences, such as the Third International SIDS conference in Samoa, the Caring for Climate Business Forum, and the 20th session of the COP that took place in Lima, Peru.³²

Relevant documents include the UNFCCC, and more specifically, the Financial Mechanism (Article 11) portion of the UNFCCC, and the Technology Mechanism established in the *Cancun Agreements*.³³ Financial contributions and pledges were made mostly through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other regional funds in international conferences like the G20 summit, the High-Level Pledging Conference in Berlin, and the Lima Climate Change Conference.³⁴ Major discussions on the topic happened during the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties in Lima, Peru, where linkages between technology and financial mechanisms were further discussed.³⁵

Recent developments

Green Climate Fund

²⁵ Lövin, *Green Climate Fund is not a charity but investment in our future*, 2014.

²⁶ UNEP, *Demystifying Private Climate Finance*, 2014, p. 4.

²⁷ UNFCCC, *Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention: recommendations of the Technology Executive Committee*, 2014.

²⁸ UN General Assembly, *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Actions (SAMOA) Pathway* (A/RES/69/15) [Resolution], 2014; UN General Assembly, *Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/288* (A/RES/69/108) [Resolution], 2014.

²⁹ 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, p. 20-25.

³⁰ Inter-American Development Bank, *Climate Technology Transfer Mechanisms and Networks in Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2014.

³¹ UNEP, *Demystifying Private Climate Finance*, 2014.

³² UN Office for South-South Cooperation, *South-South Technology Transfer Facility for SIDS launched in Samoa*, 2014; UNEP, *Caring for Climate Business Forum Targets Increased Business Innovation*, 2014; UNFCCC, *Lima Call for Climate Action Puts World on Track to Paris 2015*, 2014.

³³ UN Framework on Climate Change, *Art. 11*, 1992; UNFCCC, *The Cancun Agreements: Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention* (Decision 1/CP.16) [Decision], 2011.

³⁴ Green Climate Fund, *Green Climate Fund High-Pledging Conference*, 2014; Hurst & Taylor, *Barack Obama tells G20 a global climate change deal is possible and vital*, 2014; UNFCCC, *Lima Call for Climate Action Puts World on Track to Paris 2015*, 2014.

³⁵ UNFCCC, *Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention: recommendations of the Technology Executive Committee*, 2014.

Since September 2014, the GCF has accomplished major changes in the implementation of its operation.³⁶ Notable progress includes the finalization of internal details, creation of an application pipeline for developing countries to help identify and prepare projects for funding, and the mobilization of operational resources (accrediting guidelines, initial investment, and management framework).³⁷

In August 2014, the First Conference on Initial Resources Mobilization (IRM) gave the opportunity for representatives of the Financial Mechanism, the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), and the executive board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) to discuss the linkages between climate technology and finance.³⁸ In September 2014, the second IRM meeting aimed to develop a policy framework for interested investors and mobilize resources for the Fund's initial capitalization.³⁹ In November 2014, Germany hosted the Green Climate Fund High-Level Pledging Conference in Berlin to invite governments to make formal contribution engagements to the Fund.⁴⁰ The United States of America and Japan promised contributions to the GCF during the 2014 Group of 20 (G20) meeting in Brisbane, Australia held on 15-16 November 2014.⁴¹ The United States of America pledged US \$3 billion and Japan pledged US \$1.5 billion.⁴²

On November 17, the GCF launched its accreditation platform and reached out to developing countries to encourage them to submit their projects and programs for funding.⁴³ Through the GCF Investment Readiness Program, UNEP played an important role in helping Member States that would benefit from the GCF subventions prepare their public institutions and corporations to implement the GCF.⁴⁴ UNEP, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), also worked on education, analysis, and capacity building in developing countries that would potentially receive assistance from the GCF.⁴⁵ The UNEP Finance Initiative, through its Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), collaborated with financial and banking institutions on dialogue between public and private institutions in investment strategies.⁴⁶ However, in reaching out to governments, the GCF raised concern with the criteria being used to define a developing country, and requested for further clarity from the COP on this manner.⁴⁷ The board of the GCF should start reviewing the projects in the first half of 2015, by no later than its 3rd meeting.⁴⁸ By the 20th session of the COP, in December 2014, the GCF announced that the previous mobilization for pledges had led to US \$10.2 billion.⁴⁹

The 20th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 20)

The 20th session of the COP to the UNFCCC took place in December 2014.⁵⁰ For the first time, at an international conference on climate change, transparency and confidence-building in reporting emissions targets were discussed, along with the need to add topics related to climate change and awareness to school curriculums.⁵¹ Progress was also made in the discussions on how to improve the green technology and financing mechanisms.⁵² Member States also discussed the importance of coordinating the different mechanisms of climate finance and the existing funds.⁵³ Other main issues discussed include adaptation to climate change, providing technology to developing countries, and

³⁶ Green Climate Fund, *Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 2014, p. 1.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ UNFCCC, *Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention: recommendations of the Technology Executive Committee*, 2014, p. 3-4

³⁹ Green Climate Fund, *Green Climate Fund Poised for Initial Capitalization*, 2014, p. 1

⁴⁰ Green Climate Fund, *Green Climate Fund High-Pledging Conference*, 2014.

⁴¹ Hurst & Taylor, *Barack Obama tells G20 a global climate change deal is possible and vital*, 2014; UNEP, *Now Japan Pledges 1.5 Billion to Green Climate Fund*, 2014.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Green Climate Fund, *Report on the Activities of the Secretariat*, 2014, p. 2

⁴⁴ UNEP, *Building Country Capacity to Access and Manage Climate Funds*.

⁴⁵ UNEP, *Funding the Future*, n.d.

⁴⁶ UNEP, *Work streams: Climate Change*, n.d.

⁴⁷ Green Climate Fund, *Report on the Activities of the Secretariat*, 2014, p. 2

⁴⁸ UNFCCC, *Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conferences of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund*, 2014.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ UNFCCC, *Lima Call for Climate Action Puts World on Track to Paris 2015*, 2014.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

providing more transparency in developed countries reporting and monitoring action.⁵⁴ Another pillar of the discussions during the 20th session of the COP was the improvement of the coordination of technology and financial mechanisms in order to improve climate technology transfer.⁵⁵

Recommendations for the improvement of coordination between both mechanisms were brought forward during the 20th session of the COP to the UNFCCC.⁵⁶ The collaboration between those mechanisms is crucial to ensure efficient resource mobilization and financial contributions.⁵⁷ Through the CCWG, UNEP ensured the input of the private financial sector on the issue during the last session of the COP of the UNFCCC.⁵⁸

One of the main suggestions is to have greater collaboration among stakeholders when implementing a project to make sure it respects the three dimensions of sustainable development: economy, environment, and society.⁵⁹ It was further recommend that the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) should provide expertise to the financial mechanisms on resources transfer, including technology, in developing countries.⁶⁰ Recommendations were made to improve the work between the technology mechanisms and financial mechanisms such as the SCF, the Global Environment Facility, and the GCF.⁶¹ Some issues will need to be further discussed to improve the financial mechanisms of climate technology transfer such as collaboration between stakeholders and coordination between technology and financial mechanisms.⁶²

Conclusion

Positive outcomes emerged from the Lima Climate Change Conference where the GCF reached US \$10.2 billion in pledges from developed countries.⁶³ The first project to receive funds from the Technology Mechanism was announced during the Lima Conference (a monitoring project to assess climate change's impact on biodiversity in Chile) and more will be announced in the first half of 2015.⁶⁴ 2015 will be a determining year for financing climate change technology as Member States, organizations, and corporations will multiply their efforts to reach a global agreement on climate change at the COP 21 to be held in Paris, France at the end of 2015.⁶⁵ Many specialists see the Paris conference as the last chance to develop an international agreement that will help to efficiently fight climate change.⁶⁶ Success and progress of the agreement will depend on the mobilization of technical and financial resources.⁶⁷

⁵⁴ UNFCCC, *Lima Call for Climate Action Puts World on Track to Paris 2015*, 2014.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ UNFCCC, *Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention: recommendations of the Technology Executive Committee*, 2014, p. 4

⁵⁷ UNFCCC, *Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conferences of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund*, 2014.

⁵⁸ UNEP, *Climate Change Working Group*, n.d.

⁵⁹ UNFCCC, *Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention: recommendations of the Technology Executive Committee*, 2014, p. 4

⁶⁰ Ibid., pp. 4-5

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² UNFCCC, *Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention: recommendations of the Technology Executive Committee*, 2014, pp. 3-5

⁶³ UNFCCC, *Lima Call for Climate Action Puts World on Track to Paris 2015*, 2014.

⁶⁴ Ibid; Green Climate Fund, *Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 2014, p. 1

⁶⁵ UNEP, *Demystifying Private Climate Finance*, 2014, p. 4

⁶⁶ Lövin, *Green Climate Fund is not a charity but investment in our future*, 2014.

⁶⁷ UNEP, *Demystifying Private Climate Finance*, 2014, p. 4

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This report provides a summary of the key activities and elements from the Green Climate Fund's Secretariat meeting. In its section "Outreach Activities", it describes the concrete steps taken by the GCF Secretariat on technology transfer and green finance. It also underlines the upcoming deadlines on projects accreditation and some issues faced by the GCF, notably on defining what a developing country is.

United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme. (2014). *Demystifying Private Climate Finance*. Retrieved 4 January 2015 from: <http://www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/DemystifyingPrivateClimateFinance.pdf>

Climate finance will play a crucial role in the success of the next global agreement on climate change. The private sector will have an important part to play in mobilizing resources and implementing projects. This document from the "Demystifying" series of UNEP aims to give a better comprehension on the nature and the role of private climate finance. It presents three different types of financing: large-scale renewable energy projects, energy efficiency improvements, and climate proofing of existing infrastructures.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2014). *Lima Call for Climate Action Puts World on Track to Paris 2015* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/lima/lima-call-for-climate-action-puts-world-on-track-to-paris-2015/>

This webpage gives a summary of the highlights and outcomes of the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties in Lima, Peru. Some statements from various Member States are included throughout the page. It briefly summarizes the important pledges that have been made by some Member States and the issues that were brought forward for the first time.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2014). *Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention: recommendations of the Technology Executive Committee (FCCC/CP/2014/6)*. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2014/cop20/eng/06.pdf>

Strong coordination between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism would be essential for effective climate change technology transfer. The topic had already been briefly discussed during previous sessions of the Conference of the Parties and was requested to be further discussed. This document submitted during the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties in Lima gives the outcome of the latest discussions on the topic and provides recommendations to improve the collaboration between those two mechanisms.

United Nations, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2014). *Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund (-/CP.20)* [Decision]. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv_cop20_gcf.pdf

This document outlines the work done by the UNFCCC over the last few months and the advancement of the Green Climate Fund towards technology transfer to developing countries. It also illustrates the next steps to be taken before the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties in Paris that will be held in 2015. Delegates who wish to have a better understanding of the 2014 latest development of the GCF should have an understanding of the information in this report.

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II. Sustainable Development in the Arctic

Introduction

The growing awareness of the imperative need for sustainable development has risen to prominence since the turn of the century by governments and civil society alike throughout the world. The Arctic, also known as one of the last frontiers, and one of the last largely untouched ecosystems of the earth, is no exception to this debate.⁶⁸ The insatiable need for energy in the modern world has sent many states into this remote region, following the promise of enormous energy reserves.⁶⁹ In addition to the increased human presence in the Arctic, climate change poses an exponential threat to the region.⁷⁰ Therefore it is a necessity, now more than ever, to find sustainable solutions in the development and management of the region to ensure its vitality for the generations to come.⁷¹

Recent Developments

Arctic Council

In October 2014, the Arctic Council's senior officials met to discuss progress on the priorities set under the Canadian chairmanship of the Council.⁷² The theme set forth by Canada when it assumed the role in 2013 focused on the development status of the people of the north.⁷³ This focused primarily on the 4 million people in indigenous groups living in the region.⁷⁴ During this meeting, Member States approved a report that provided recommendations for decreasing woodstove black carbon emissions.⁷⁵ The Council also approved a circumpolar youth art competition as a way to bring awareness to this demographic.⁷⁶ The body discussed the work of its six working groups and four task forces in preparation for the 2015 ministerial meeting.⁷⁷ Topics of discussion included oil pollution, conservation of Arctic migratory birds, reduction in black carbon and methane emissions, and the Arctic Marine Tourism Project.⁷⁸ Special workshops were also conducted in conjunction with indigenous groups to brainstorm ways to increase their involvement in the mechanisms of the Council.⁷⁹ With 2015, however, the chairmanship of the Arctic Council has changed.⁸⁰ The United States of America (USA) assumed the role of Chair for the Council as of 1 January 2015, taking the rotating position from Canada.⁸¹ In its leadership capacity, the USA has outlined its own set of priorities that it sees as being of vital importance for both cooperation, development, and environmental protection of the Arctic region.⁸² Those organizational themes are "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change in the Arctic; Stewardship of the Arctic Ocean; and Improving Economic and Living Conditions."⁸³ While the priorities are different from those of the previous chairmanship, they will be addressed by the existing structure of the council within existing working groups and taskforces.⁸⁴

Lima Climate Change Conference

In December 2014, ministers, scientists, civil society organizations, and other parties from around the world converged in Lima, Peru to discuss climate change as well as outline policies that should be adopted by all Member States.⁸⁵ The Lima Climate Change Conference served as a meeting point for two major mechanisms that are tasked with addressing climate change.⁸⁶ These include the 20th Conference of Parties (COP20) to the United Nations

⁶⁸ UNESCO, *Climate Change and Arctic Sustainable Development: scientific, social, cultural and educational challenges*, 2009.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ UNFCCC, *Abibimman Foundation: Arctic Methane Emergency*, 2014.

⁷¹ Dimick, *Earth's Dashboard is Flashing Red—Are Enough People Listening?*, 2015.

⁷² IISD, *News: Senior Arctic Officials Prepare for Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting*, 2014.

⁷³ Arctic Council, *Canadian Chairmanship Program 2013-2015*, 2013.

⁷⁴ IISD, *News: Senior Arctic Officials Prepare for Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting*, 2014.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Arctic Council, *Arctic Council SAO Meeting Yellowknife, Canada 22-23 October 2014 Final Draft Report*, 2014, p. 19.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ IISD, *News: Senior Arctic Officials Prepare for Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting*, 2014.

⁸⁰ SustainableBusiness.com, *US Promises Stewardship and Climate Change As Top Priorities for Arctic*, 2014.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Arctic Council, *Arctic Council SAO Meeting Yellowknife, Canada 22-23 October 2014 Final Draft Report*. 2014, p. 6.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ UNFCCC, *Meetings*, 2014.

⁸⁶ Climate Action Network International, *UN Lima Climate Change Conference - December 2014 - COP 20/CMP 10*, 2014.

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 10th Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP10).⁸⁷ Much of the emphasis placed on sustainable development was outlined in the *Lima Call for Climate Action*.⁸⁸ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also held its fifth annual Sustainable Innovation Forum in conjunction with the conference.⁸⁹ While most of the conference dealt with climate change as a whole, several sessions discussed the vital importance that the northern polar region plays in the larger context of climate change.⁹⁰ Of note, there was a session on the “Arctic Methane Emergency,” which was hosted by the Abibimman Foundation.⁹¹ The talks mainly discussed the potential crisis that could unfold in both the region and throughout the world if large amounts of methane gas currently locked within the frozen ice are released back into the atmosphere due to the melting ice caps and warming temperatures.⁹² Methane gas is a particularly important issue to climate change because it is 86 times more potent than normal greenhouse gases and poses a much larger threat to the acceleration of global warming.⁹³

While the goal of reaching a binding agreement between Member States on climate change did not occur in Lima, significant progress was made for the upcoming COP21 and CMP11 that will be held in Paris, France during late 2015.⁹⁴ The Paris Climate Change Conference is of paramount importance, as this has been the deadline set by COP17 for drafting a successor-agreement to the Kyoto Protocol.⁹⁵ Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon used the opening remarks of COP19 in Poland to remind Member States of their commitment under the Durban Platform of Enhanced Action to create a post-Kyoto agreement by 2015.⁹⁶

Territorial Disputes

While most of the race for the Arctic has been conducted through consensus building organizations like the Arctic Council, 2015 will be a significant year for territorial disputes that could ensue between Member States as they apply and lay claim to large portions of the North Pole.⁹⁷ States are filing these claims with the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.⁹⁸ Under the 1982 *Convention of the Law of the Sea*, a state is entitled to a territorial limit of 12 nautical miles, a 24 nautical mile contiguous zone, and a 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone.⁹⁹ Under these legal definitions, there are still some portions of the Arctic that remains to be claimed.¹⁰⁰ It is the duty of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf to review these claims and to apportion, in conjunction with Member States, the land accurately.¹⁰¹ The current claims are primarily motivated by the enormous potential of energy and mineral resources that lay under the ice sheets.¹⁰² At present, much of the Arctic and the North Pole are designated as international waters and territories.¹⁰³ However, each of the states that have a territorial presence in the region has been vying for further control.¹⁰⁴ While major territorial threats between states do not exist at the present, this particular environment may pose serious threats to the cooperation and sustainable development of the region in the future.¹⁰⁵ For example, in December 2014 Denmark released an aggressive bid that would claim one-third of the region, including the North Pole.¹⁰⁶ Canada is also preparing a bid

⁸⁷ Climate Action Network International, *UN Lima Climate Change Conference - December 2014 - COP 20/CMP 10*, 2014.

⁸⁸ UNFCCC, *Decision -/CP.20: Lima call for climate action*, 2014.

⁸⁹ UNEP, *Sustainable Innovation Forum 2014*, 2014.

⁹⁰ UNFCCC, *Abibimman Foundation: Arctic Methane Emergency*, 2014.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*

⁹² *Ibid.*

⁹³ *Ibid.*

⁹⁴ Green Alliance, *Paris 2015: Getting a global agreement on climate change*, 2014.

⁹⁵ UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session, held in Durban from 28 November to 11 December 2011 (FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1)*, 2012.

⁹⁶ Saxon, *Ban Ki-Moon At COP19: “We Must Lay Firm Foundations for the 2015 Agreement”*, 2013.

⁹⁷ Hopper, *A new cold war: Denmark gets aggressive, stakes huge claim in Race for Arctic*, 2014.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹⁹ International Association of Oil & Gas Producers, *OGP Environmental management in Arctic oil and gas operations: Good practice guide*, 2013. p. 14.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰² Hopper, *A new cold war: Denmark gets aggressive, stakes huge claim in Race for Arctic*, 2014.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁴ UNESCO, *Climate Change and Arctic Sustainable Development: scientific, social, cultural and educational challenges*, 2009, p. 235.

¹⁰⁵ Hopper, *A new cold war: Denmark gets aggressive, stakes huge claim in Race for Arctic*, 2014.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

that would allow them to claim large portions of the Arctic Sea.¹⁰⁷ Denmark's bid is particularly problematic because it claims large portions of land that are already claimed by the Russian Federation, another state that filing a territorial claim.¹⁰⁸ Russia has further complicated the matter by increasing its military presence in the region, with many states seeing this as an attempt control the region.¹⁰⁹

Arctic Biodiversity Congress

The Arctic Biodiversity Congress was held in December 2014 in Trondheim, Norway.¹¹⁰ This meeting was the first of its kind and set out to preserve the fragile ecosystems within the Arctic region.¹¹¹ The Congress set out several clear purposes.¹¹² It first aimed to present scientific findings from the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA).¹¹³ The ABA was commissioned in 2013 by the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), a working group of the Arctic Council.¹¹⁴ The ABA published nine key finding regarding the biodiversity and environmental status of the Arctic.¹¹⁵ These finding included sentiments regarding the threat of climate change, effects on migratory birds, pollution, and overharvesting.¹¹⁶ The assessment also included policy recommendations to each of the key findings in how to resolve the issues that were raised.¹¹⁷ It sought to advise the Arctic Council on the implementation of the ABA recommendations during the next ministerial meeting.¹¹⁸ The Congress also evaluated implementation mechanisms of the ABA recommendations in both the government and private sectors.¹¹⁹ UNEP secretariat members were present at the conference.¹²⁰ UNEP highlighted the diversity of both the people and the environment of the Arctic, and urged states to conduct an Economics of the Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB's) Scoping Study to place a valuation on the biodiversity of the Arctic.¹²¹ These outcomes will then be translated into national policies and programs.¹²² UNEP representatives also recommended further awareness campaigns, collaboration, and further participation in regional and international conventions related to the environment and climate change mitigation.¹²³

Arctic Frontiers Conference

Another high profile event was the Arctic Frontiers: Climate and Energy Conference in Tromsø, Norway in January 2015 is.¹²⁴ The conference attracted record participation, with a strong presence from environmental scientists, politicians, and energy companies.¹²⁵ Climate change was the major interest of the conference, especially with the potential access to resources a warmer Arctic allows.¹²⁶ At the same time, the drop in energy prices set a very different environment, with some at the conference discussing the economic viability of such operations with the lower market positions.¹²⁷ Many conference attendees also came to evaluate the political climate between Russia and the European Union over the problems in Ukraine.¹²⁸ At the moment, most Arctic states have chosen not to allow their standoff over Ukraine to spill over into Arctic relations.¹²⁹ There was also much talk by several states and non-governmental organizations over the upcoming Paris Climate Conference (COP21/CMP11).¹³⁰

¹⁰⁷ Hopper, *A new cold war: Denmark gets aggressive, stakes huge claim in Race for Arctic*, 2014.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Braw, *Putin Makes His First Move in Race to Control the Arctic*, 2015.

¹¹⁰ Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, *The Arctic Biodiversity Congress: Trondheim, Norway, December 2-4, 2014*, 2015.

¹¹¹ Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, *Purpose and goals*, 2015.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, *Arctic Biodiversity Assessment: Report for Policy Makers*, 2013.

¹¹⁵ Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, *Key findings*, 2015.

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, *Purpose and goals*, 2015.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ IISD, *Arctic Biodiversity Congress Bulletin: Summary of the Arctic Biodiversity Congress 2014*, 2014.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ Arctic Frontiers, *Arctic Frontiers 2015 Conference*.

¹²⁵ Duetsche Well, *Climate worry grows at Arctic Frontiers*, 2015.

¹²⁶ Quaille, *Arctic Frontiers*, 2015.

¹²⁷ Duetsche Well, *Climate worry grows at Arctic Frontiers*, 2015.

¹²⁸ Quaille, *Arctic Frontiers*, 2015.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

Conclusion

The past year was seen as a year filled with many initiatives regarding climate change. From the United Nations Climate Summit 2014 this past fall to the UNFCCC meetings that concluded in December, the world has been discussing and proposing solutions to the many facets of climate change and sustainable development. At both of these conferences the importance of the Arctic region and its fragility were highlighted. 2015 proves to be an even more event filled year for the region as Member States begin to lay legal claims to portions of the Arctic Sea and the North Pole.¹³¹ These moves may pose significant roadblocks to future cooperation within the region.¹³² Looking to the future, the Paris Climate Conference, and its deadline for reaching a binding agreement on climate change will no doubt involve the Arctic region and its sustainable development.¹³³ Management of these elements, as well as the projected increase in human presence and pollution is imperative to the future sustainability of the Arctic.¹³⁴

¹³¹ Hopper, *A new cold war: Denmark gets aggressive, stakes huge claim in Race for Arctic*, 2014.

¹³² *Ibid.*

¹³³ UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session, held in Durban from 28 November to 11 December 2011 (FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1)*, 2012.

¹³⁴ Dimick, *Earth's Dashboard is Flashing Red—Are Enough People Listening?*, 2015.

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Center for Strategic & International Studies. (2014). *Passing the Arctic Council Torch* [Website]. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: <http://csis.org/event/passing-arctic-council-torch>

The Arctic Council is the main intergovernmental body that discusses and deals with most issues related to the Arctic region. The head of the council is one of the eight states that have a territorial presence in the region. This video source has recorded one of the Council's meetings, and highlights the future policies and goals that the new chair, the United States of America, will pursue over the next two years as it takes the chair position from the Canadians. The Arctic Council is of paramount importance to all things related to the region, as this is the primary intergovernmental consensus building mechanism.

Hopper, T. (2014). A new cold war: Denmark gets aggressive, stakes huge claim in Race for Arctic. *National Post* Retrieved 1 January 2015 from: <http://news.nationalpost.com/2014/12/15/a-new-cold-war-denmark-gets-aggressive-stakes-huge-claim-in-race-for-the-arctic/>

This in-depth news article discusses several states' plans and intentions for claiming various portions of the Arctic region. It highlights various motives behind the land grabs and also shows the potential clash between states as each files for official recognition with the UN. The article is from a Canadian Source, and this perspective should be noted, especially since Canada has a large stake in this particular issue.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2009). *Climate Change and Arctic Sustainable Development: scientific, social, cultural and educational challenges* [Report]. Retrieved 1 January 2015 from: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001863/186364e.pdf>

This source contains a collection of various articles, many of which are narratives from various involved parties that discuss sustainable development within the Arctic. The document is quite lengthy, but serves as an excellent resource that will give a very in-depth perspective on the various social, cultural, educational and even some political issues that are being faced within the region. Indigenous people and their concerns are also presented. While the report is lengthy, the work is very well organized and clearly separated by topic. It is a good reference to look up information on particular issues.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2014). *Abibimman Foundation: Arctic Methane Emergency* [Website], Retrieved 9 January 2015 from: <http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/cop20/events/2014-12-06-12-00-abibimman-foundation-arctic-methane-emergency>

The amount of methane that has been trapped in the Arctic ice sheets is beginning to be released as the ice caps melt. This source is a media-related source that was recorded during the UNFCCC climate meeting in Lima in December 2014. The video highlights major research work related to methane release in the Arctic region and demonstrates to delegates the grave dangers it can potentially pose to both the surrounding environment and the world.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2014). *Decision -/CP.20: Lima call for climate action*. Retrieved 11 January 2015 from:

https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/application/pdf/auv_cop20_lima_call_for_climate_action.pdf

The UNFCCC conference in Lima concluded in December 2014. This source contains the Lima Call for Action that was adopted by the conference. The Decision set a lot of the ground work for the Paris Climate Conference, which is also the deadline set by the Durban Plan of Enhanced Action. The Arctic regions were of much importance, as was sustainable development. This source is important to climate change at large as it is the most recent internationally drafted document regarding the matter. The next conference will not be until December 2015 in Paris, France.

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III. Promoting Resource Efficiency in Urban Development

Introduction

In 1998, the director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was made the head of the Environmental Management Group (EMG), which officially committed UNEP to the cause of environmentally friendly urban development.¹³⁵ Since this time, UNEP has developed, overseen, and executed a variety of missions and projects to ensure resource efficiency and responsible urban development. Currently, 50% of the world population lives in an urban setting, and this number is expected to increase to 70% over the next few decades, making UNEP's efforts for sustainable urban development, including the promotion of resource efficiency, critical.¹³⁶

Urban development, resource efficiency, and sustainable development have been important topics for the United Nations (UN) over the past year. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme passed resolutions 24/2 and 24/3 which specifically call for a strengthening of responsible urban development practices.¹³⁷ Additionally, the Human Rights Council passed resolutions 24/4 and 24/11, which call for the participation of women and youth in economic and sustainable urban development.¹³⁸ Various other organizations have discussed urban development, resource efficiency, and climate change, including the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.¹³⁹ Throughout the year, UNEP has continued their commitment to ensuring environmentally sound practices are used in city planning and urban development.¹⁴⁰

Recent Developments

Throughout 2014, UNEP participated and engaged in a variety of regionally based conferences that were designed to plan and promote urban and economic development while promoting environmental sustainability and resource efficiency.

In September 2014, UNEP's Ozone Secretariat attended the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia, Samoa.¹⁴¹ The goal of the conference was to facilitate solutions and partnerships to ensure economic growth in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), while also ensuring environmental sustainability and quality of life improvements.¹⁴² Resource efficiency was a major topic of discussion not only because SIDS rely heavily on their natural resources for economic growth, but also due their small size results in limited resources.¹⁴³ The conference resulted in the creation of the Outcome document A/CONF.223/3, *Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway*.¹⁴⁴ The *SAMOA Pathway* outlines the need for environmental friendly technologies in SIDS and, because of their heavy reliance on tourism to create economic prosperity, the need to encourage responsible tourism that does not result in natural resource depletion.¹⁴⁵ Responsible tourism is a vital part of urban development in SIDS because it discourages the building a resort areas that can lead to environmental degradation, and encourages tourists visiting the islands to enjoy the natural beauty of the area instead of encouraging a demand for man-made attractions, which could potentially upset the ecosystem.¹⁴⁶ UNEP's involvement in the creation of the *SAMOA Pathway* was extensive because the economic and environmental prosperity of SIDS are currently a priority area of the organization and the United Nations as a whole.¹⁴⁷ UNEP's

¹³⁵ UN General Assembly, *Environment and Human Settlements: Report of the Secretary General (A/53/463)*, 1998.

¹³⁶ UN-HABITAT, *Post 2015-Agenda*, 2014.

¹³⁷ UN-HABITAT, *Decisions and Resolutions Adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme at its Twenty-fourth Session*, 2014.

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*

¹³⁹ Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Urbanization Prospects*, 2014.

¹⁴⁰ UNEP, *About Urban Environments*, 2014.

¹⁴¹ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States*, 2014.

¹⁴² *Ibid.*

¹⁴³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁴ UN General Assembly, *Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (A/CONF.223/3)*, 2014.

¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁶ Sustaining Tourism, *Sustainable Tourism Definitions*, 2014.

¹⁴⁷ UN Web TV, *UNEP: An Alternative Future for SIDS: New UNEP Report Outlines Blue-Green Economy Solutions - Press Conference*, 2014.

involvement in the implementation of the *SAMOA Pathway* will be wide over the coming years.¹⁴⁸ UNEP is named as the specific implementation organization in more than three-quarters of the *Pathway*'s projects and initiatives.¹⁴⁹

Also, in September of 2014, UNEP was a co-sponsor and participant of the Latin America and the Caribbean Carbon Forum held in Bogotá, Columbia.¹⁵⁰ UNEP's *The Emissions Gap Report 2014* was a guiding document of the Carbon Forum.¹⁵¹ *The Emissions Gap Report* outlines current carbon emissions rates globally, how close these are to the internationally agreed upon ideal (2°C higher than pre-industrial levels), and what needs to be done to reduce emissions to this level and eventually neutralize them.¹⁵² The link between carbon emissions and urban development is an important one; currently the majority of emissions come from city centers, and it is important to reduce these as much as possible in order to promote sustainability.¹⁵³

The Emissions Gap Report was also a guiding document later in September at the United Nations Climate Summit.¹⁵⁴ The purpose of the Climate Summit was to discuss the important components to climate change and ways to counteract them.¹⁵⁵ This included how sustainable urban development and resource efficiency factor into climate change, in preparation for Climate meetings in Lima, Peru and Paris, France in 2015.¹⁵⁶ In many of the official statements by world leaders, the information presented in UNEP's *The Emissions Gap Report* was reaffirmed and made part of their State's commitments to reducing emissions and promoting sustainable urban development (much of the *Report* was also confirmed as part of the agendas of the upcoming 2015 conferences).¹⁵⁷

UNEP has also recently partnered with The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate.¹⁵⁸ The Commission is a new organization made up of former heads of state; former finance, agriculture, and energy ministers; and various leaders in economics and business, with the goal of creating solutions to increase economic growth and decrease environmentally harmful actions in international economics and urban development.¹⁵⁹ The Commission's flagship project, and the one UNEP has taken the most interest in, is the New Climate Economy.¹⁶⁰ The project aims to provide independent, up-to-date information on best practices to ensure economic growth (on international, regional, and local levels) that will reduce the risk of climate change and resource waste.¹⁶¹ The Commission's first official report *Better Growth, Better Climate* outlines their current findings and suggestions.¹⁶² The report outlines ways in which economies and various industries can be stimulated while ensuring food security, resource efficiency, and responsible urban development and city planning, while reducing carbon emissions.¹⁶³ For example, in their report The Commission points out that in 300 major cities around the globe, their rapid rate of growth has led to poor urban planning or, in some cases, no planning at all, creating large urban sprawls that necessitate the use of cars, resulting in a decrease in construction efficiency because of the distance between job sites and transportation requirements.¹⁶⁴ Both of these situations have resulted in increased carbon emissions and decreased economic growth.¹⁶⁵ The Commission goes on to state that these factors can be reversed simply by urban planning (and re-planning) that prioritized compact cities, and thus will allow for more public and carbon-free transportation sources that also allow

¹⁴⁸ SIDS Action Platform, *UN Implementation Matrix*, 2014.

¹⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁰ Latin America Carbon Forum, *Objectives*, 2014.

¹⁵¹ UNEP, *UN Says Global Carbon Neutrality Should be reached by Second Half of Century, Demonstrates Pathways to Stay Under 2°C Limit*, 2014.

¹⁵² UNEP, *The Emissions Gap Report 2014*, 2014.

¹⁵³ Glaeser & Kahn, *The Greenness of Cities: Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Urban Development*, 2008.

¹⁵⁴ Climate Summit 2014, *2014 Climate Change Summary – Chair's Summary*, 2014.

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁸ UNEP, *New Report Aims to Drive Action by World Leaders, Business Executives and Investors Ahead of Major Summit on Climate Change*, 2014.

¹⁵⁹ The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, *About*, 2014.

¹⁶⁰ UNEP, *New Report Aims to Drive Action by World Leaders, Business Executives and Investors Ahead of Major Summit on Climate Change*, 2014.

¹⁶¹ The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, *About*, 2014.

¹⁶² *Ibid.*

¹⁶³ The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, *Better Growth, Better Climate*, 2014.

¹⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 28.

¹⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

for more efficient city wide construction projects.¹⁶⁶ While the initial cost of re-planning a city will be high, over the course of five to ten years, all 300 of these cities could see an economic growth of approximately US\$200 billion.¹⁶⁷ UNEP is an official partner of the project and will be in charge of the scientific data The Commission needs to operate effectively.¹⁶⁸

Conclusion

Resource efficiency, urban development, and economic growth are currently major areas of interest for the United Nations. With the projection that the majority of the world's population will be living in urban areas within the next few decades, it is important to promote sustainable urban development and resource efficiency to ensure that people and States can continue to prosper economically, and also live healthy lives and ensure that the environment is not depredated beyond repair. The connection between efficient resource use, sustainable development, and urban growth and prosperity is undeniable, and is the focus of many forums and meetings currently taking place at the United Nations and in the near future. As a result, options and ideas for action on this topic can be drawn from various sources, enabling future action on this topic to be concrete.

¹⁶⁶ The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, *Better Growth, Better Climate*, 2014, p. 29.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

¹⁶⁸ UNEP, *New Report Aims to Drive Action by World Leaders, Business Executives and Investors Ahead of Major Summit on Climate Change*, 2014

Annotated Bibliography

The Global Commission on Economy and Climate. (2014). *Better Growth, Better Climate*. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from: <http://newclimateeconomy.report/>

The Global Commissions first official report outlines current negative effects the industry is having on climate and resources. It goes on to suggest ways in which economic growth, urban development, and city planning can be furthered while using and promoting practices that are not degrading to the climate or natural resources. Delegates will find this resource useful because UNEP is currently a major organization in the implementation of the policy and practice suggestions in the report; therefore, reading the report will give delegates a very clear idea about UNEP's current plans surrounding urban development and efficient resource utilization.

United Nations Environmental Programme. (2014). *The Emissions Gap Report 2014*. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from:

http://www.unep.org/publications/ebooks/emissionsgapreport2014/portals/50268/pdf/EGR2014_LOWRES.pdf

This report, officially published by UNEP, was the guiding document at the 2014 United Nations Climate Summit. When discussing UN climate policy, how UNEP should implement them, and how the policy should be applied to international issues, it is vital to understand the contents of this report. This report will give delegates the UN's current climate expectations and their expectations through the year 2030. This, combined with the Climate Summit's outcome documents, will give a full picture of current and future climate policy and how they are related to a variety of topics.

UNEP News Centre. (16 September 2014). *New Report Aims to Drive Action by World Leaders, Business Executives and Investors Ahead of Major Summit on Climate Change* [Article]. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from:

<http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2796&ArticleID=10979&l=en>

This article clarifies UNEP (and various state and business actors) positions on urban development, resource usage, economic growth, and climate change pre-UN Climate Summit. It is important for delegates to understand what happened before the Climate Summit in order to fully participate in debates about resource efficiency because it gives a baseline for the debate. This article gives a clear a concise starting place for climate debate, which will help delegates fully appreciate what should be understood and, later discussed.

UNEP News Centre. (19 November 2014). *UN Says Global Carbon Neutrality Should be reached by Second Half of Century, Demonstrates Pathways to Stay Under 2°C Limit* [Article]. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from:

<http://www.unep.org/NewsCentre/default.aspx?DocumentID=2812&ArticleID=11082&l=en>

This article provides a summary of UNEP's priorities for urban and economic development that has a neutral or positive environmental impact. It is a concise article, but also provides sufficient details for a complete understanding of this issue. This article will give delegates a basic understanding of how industry, which is generally seen as not environmentally friendly, can be reorganized and reprioritized to better serve the environment and their States' economic interests.

United Nations General Assembly. (September 2014). *Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (A/CONF.223/3)*. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from:

<http://www.sids2014.org/content/documents/358A-CONF-223-5%20ENGLISH.pdf>

This document is the official plan to help SIDS' economic development, while maintaining their natural resources and promoting environmentally friendly practices. The document covers a variety of concerns for SIDS, like global climate change, tourism, and natural resource exploitation and preservation. Understanding this document will be useful to delegates because it is a real world example of how UNEP (and the UN as a whole) are working towards positive urban development and economic growth while promoting resource efficiency and environmentally friendly practices.

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UNEP News Centre. (16 September 2014). *New Report Aims to Drive Action by World Leaders, Business Executives and Investors Ahead of Major Summit on Climate Change* [Article]. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from: <http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2796&ArticleID=10979&l=en>

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