



NEW YORK, NY

20 - 24 March – Conference A

27 - 31 March – Conference B

nmun.org/nmun_ny.html

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME BACKGROUND GUIDE 2016

Written By: Sean Brown, Nicholas Gachet Racines, Patrick Sandmann, Simon Arias



NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS





THE 2016 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

20-24 March (Conf. A) & 27-31 March (Conf. B) • www.nmun.org

Kristina Getty &
Beatrice Soler
Secretaries-General

Ardis Smith &
Cara Wagner
Deputy Secretaries-General

Doug Arseneault &
Sara Johnsson
Chiefs of Staff

Nguyen Cao &
Camille Ellison
Assistant Chiefs of Staff

Sonia Patel &
Felipe Ante
Assistant Secretaries-General

Sabrina Grover &
Patrick Parsons
Under-Secretaries-General
General Assembly

Dinah Douglas &
Lauren Shaw
Under-Secretaries-General
Economic and Social Council

Michael Buechl &
Andrea Wong
Under-Secretaries-General
Development

Moritz Müller &
Claudia Sanchez
Under-Secretaries-General
Human Rights and
Humanitarian Affairs

Allison Chandler &
Clarissa Manning
Under-Secretaries-General
Peace and Security

Markus Petermann &
Carl Dionne
Under-Secretaries-General
Conference Services

NCCA BOARD of DIRECTORS

Prof. Eric Cox
President

Prof. Kevin Grisham
Vice-President

Prof. Chaldeans Mensah
Treasurer

Prof. Pamela Chasek
Secretary

Jennifer Contreras

Raymond J. Freda

Rachel Holmes

Amierah Ismail

Prof. Markéta Židková

Members Ex-Officio

Michael Eaton
Executive Director

Prof. Richard Murgo
Past President

Prof. Richard Reitano
President Emeritus

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2016 National Model United Nations Conference in New York (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This year's staff are: Directors Sean Brown (Conference A) and Nicholas Gachet (Conference B), and Assistant Directors Patrick Sandmann (Conference A) and Simon Arias (Conference B). Sean received his M.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Riverside, and is currently completing a Ph.D. in Comparative Politics. This will be Sean's third year on staff. Nicholas received his B.A. in Economics (Minor Mathematics) from Universidad San Francisco de Quito in 2013. He is currently pursuing an M.Sc. in Economics and History at the London School of Economics and Political Science. This is his third year on staff. Patrick received his M.Sc. in Business Administration from the University of Bamberg in 2015. He currently works as an Advisor in Consultancy in international projects based in Munich, and this is his second year on staff. Simon is a senior at the University of Bridgeport, where he is completing a B.A. in International Political Economy and Diplomacy and a B.A. in Religion and Politics. This is his first year on staff.

The topics under discussion for UNDP are:

- I. Enhancing South-South Cooperation
- II. Empowering Youth for Development
- III. Ensuring Women's and Men's Equal Participation in Democratic Governance and Peacebuilding

UNDP plays a critical role in coordinating and funding development initiatives across the globe. It offers a forum for the international community to communicate, offer financial assistance, and share ideas on issues of development. Working closely with governments and other stakeholders, UNDP will be a crucial coordinator and facilitator for the implementation and monitoring of the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At NMUN•NY 2016, we are simulating the Executive Board of UNDP in terms of composition and size. However, during the conference, delegates are not limited to the strict mandate of the Executive Board as a budgetary and administrative body. For the purposes of NMUN•NY 2016, and corresponding with the educational mission of the conference, the committee has the ability to make programmatic and policy decisions on issues within the mandate of UNDP in line with the overall function of the organization.

We hope you will find this Background Guide useful as an introduction to the topics for this committee and as a source for further research. We highly encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and to produce creative and innovative proposals within the framework of the committee. In preparation for the conference, each delegation will submit a [position paper](#). Please take note of the [NMUN policies](#) on the website and in the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#) regarding plagiarism, codes of conduct, dress code, sexual harassment, and the awards philosophy and evaluation method. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

The [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) are available to download from the NMUN website. This document includes the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure. It is thus an essential instrument in preparing for the conference and a reference during committee.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the conference itself, feel free to contact the Under-Secretaries-General for the Development Department, Michael Buechl (Conference A) and Andrea Wong (Conference B). You can reach either USG at: usg.development@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,

Conference A

Sean Brown, *Director*
Patrick Sandmann, *Assistant Director*

Conference B

Nicholas Gachet, *Director*
Simon Arias, *Assistant Director*

The NCCA/NMUN is a Non-Governmental Organization associated with the UN Department of Public Information, a UN Academic Impact Member, and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of the United States.



Table of Contents

Abbreviations	3
United Nations System at NMUN·NY	5
Committee Overview	6
Introduction.....	6
Governance, Structure and Membership.....	6
Mandate, Functions and Powers.....	7
Recent Sessions and Current Priorities.....	8
Conclusion.....	9
Annotated Bibliography.....	10
Bibliography.....	10
I. Enhancement of South-South Cooperation	14
Introduction.....	14
International and Regional Framework.....	14
Role of the International System.....	16
Economic Development through South-South Cooperation and Opportunities to Further SSC.....	18
Conclusion.....	20
Further Research.....	20
Annotated Bibliography.....	21
Bibliography.....	22
II. Empowering Youth For Development	27
Introduction.....	27
International and Regional Framework.....	28
Role of the International System.....	29
Challenges and Opportunities.....	30
Conclusion.....	33
Further Research.....	34
Annotated Bibliography.....	35
Bibliography.....	37
III. Ensuring Women’s and Men’s Equal Participation in Democratic Governance and Peacebuilding	41
Introduction.....	41
International and Regional Framework.....	41
Role of the International System.....	43
Enhancing the Participation of Women in Peacebuilding.....	43
Empowering Women’s Participation in Democratic Governance.....	45
Conclusion.....	47
Further Research.....	47
Annotated Bibliography.....	48
Bibliography.....	50



Abbreviations

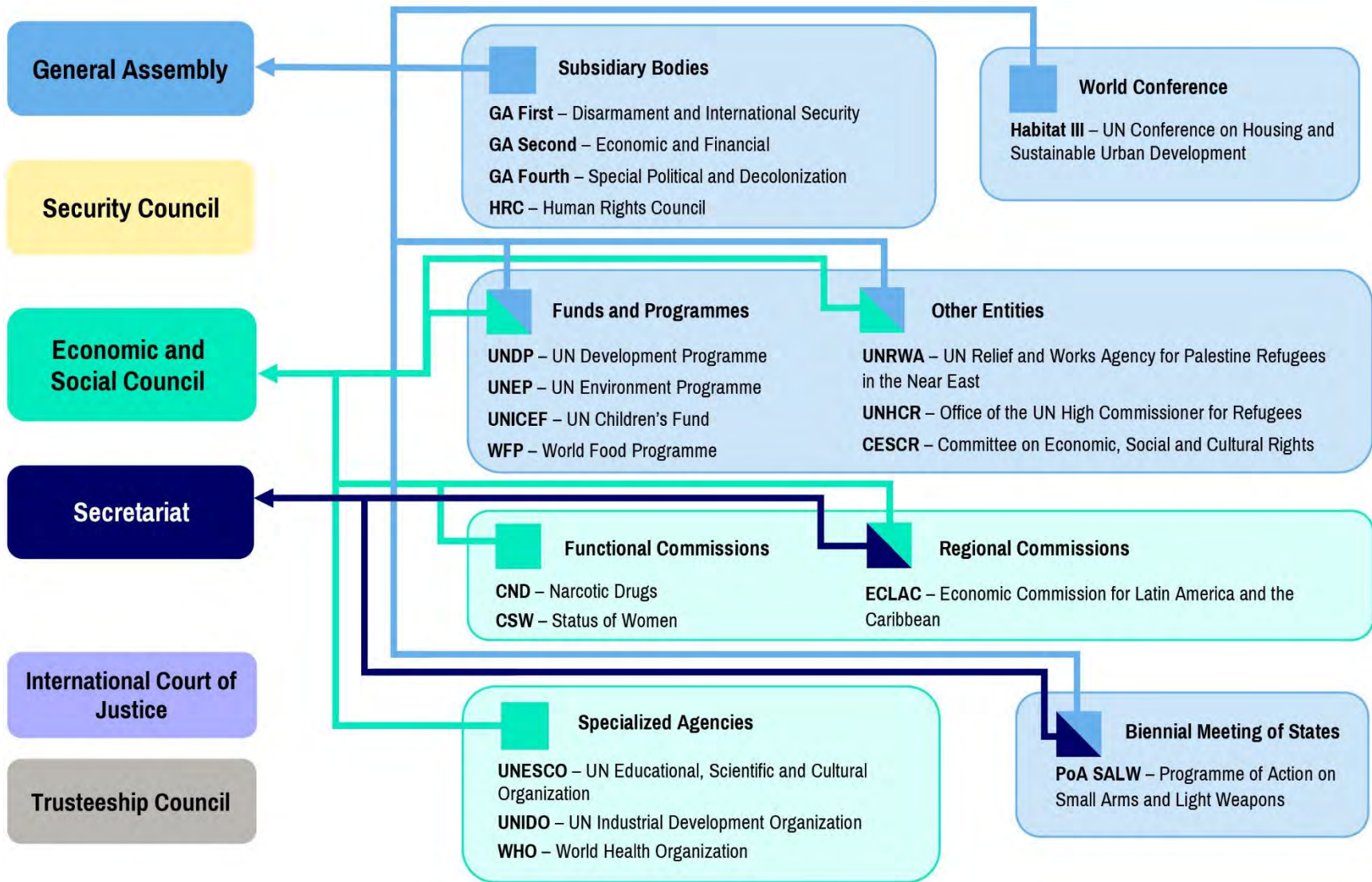
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BAPA	Buenos Aires Plan of Action
BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil society organization
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EPTA	United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FGM	Female genital mutilation
G-77	Group of 77
GA	General Assembly
GSSD	Global South-South Development Academy
GSSD Expo	Global South-South Development Expo
HLC	High-level Committee
IANYD	United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development
IBSA	India-Brazil-South Africa
IGO	Intergovernmental organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MERCOSUR	Common Market of the South
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OSGEY	Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
PBF	United Nations Peacebuilding Fund
PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office
RC	Resident Coordinator
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDG-F	Sustainable Development Goals Fund
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SS-GATE	South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange
SSC	South-South cooperation
SSEI	South-South Energy Initiative
SSTC-ADFS	South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security
SU/SSC	Special Unit for South-South Cooperation
SU/TCDC	Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
SE4All	Sustainable Energy for All
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial and Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSC	United Nations Security Council



UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
Youth-SWAP	United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth
WHO	World Health Organization
WPAY	World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY)

United Nations System at NMUN·NY

This diagram illustrates the UN System simulated at NMUN·NY. It shows where each committee “sits” within the system, to help understand the reportage and relationships between the entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose, and powers within the UN System.





Committee Overview

Introduction

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) embodies Article 55 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), which outlines the organization's responsibility to promote "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development" as prerequisites to peace.¹ Originally, development activities of the United Nations (UN) consisted largely of providing technical advice through the UN Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and support for pre-investment projects through the UN Special Fund, created in 1949 and 1958, respectively, for the benefit of less developed countries.² To streamline these assistance programs, General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX) consolidated the EPTA and the UN Special Fund to establish UNDP as of 1 January 1966.³ Today, as the UN's "global development network," UNDP promotes development in over 170 countries and territories by carrying out activities aimed at eliminating poverty, reducing inequalities, strengthening democratic governance, and supporting crisis prevention and recovery.⁴

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** is a programme and fund of the United Nations, reporting to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

At NMUN·NY 2016, we are simulating the **Executive Board of UNDP** in terms of composition and size; however, delegates are not limited to the strict mandate of the Executive Board, as a budgetary and administrative body, during the conference. For the purposes of NMUN·NY 2016, and corresponding with the educational mission of the conference, the committee has the ability to make programmatic and policy decisions on issues within the mandate of UNDP in line with the overall function of the organization.

Governance, Structure and Membership

Executive Board

UNDP is headed by an Executive Board that consists of 36 rotating members from five geographic groups: eight from the group of African States, seven from the group of Asian and Pacific States, four from the group of Eastern European States, five from the group of Latin America and the Caribbean States, and 12 from the group of Western European and Other States.⁵ Members typically serve three-year terms and are elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), but the group of Western European and Other States instead decides on its rotation internally.⁶

The Executive Board oversees all of UNDP's projects, ensuring that the projects adapt to changing situations, as well as the unique needs of each country, while following policy guidance provided by the General Assembly and ECOSOC.⁷ It holds three sessions each year: one annual session in either New York City or Geneva and two regular sessions in New York City.⁸ The Executive Board is under the authority of ECOSOC and reports annually on its program of work and recommendations for field-level improvement.⁹ The rules of procedure for the Executive Board aim for decision-making by consensus, but in cases where a vote is needed, the rules of procedure for ECOSOC are used.¹⁰ The Executive Board also serves as the governing body of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).¹¹

¹ UNDP JPO Service Centre, *UNDP for Beginners*, 2015, p. 4; *Charter of the United Nations* 1945, Art. 55.

² UN General Assembly, *Expanded programme of technical assistance for economic development of under-developed countries (A/RES/304 (IV))*, 1949; UN General Assembly, *Establishment of the Special Fund (A/RES/1240 (XIII))*, 1958.

³ UN General Assembly, *Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme (A/RES/2029 (XX))*, 1965.

⁴ UNDP, *About us*, 2014.

⁵ UNDP, *Information Note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS*, 2015.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ UNDP, *Executive Board*, 2014; Schoiswohl, *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*, 2013.

⁸ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2015-16*, 2015.

⁹ UNDP, *Information Note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS*, 2015.

¹⁰ UNDP, *The Executive Board Rules of Procedure*, 2011.

¹¹ UNDP, *Information Note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS*, 2015.

The Bureau of the Executive Board is responsible for the organization and preparation of meetings, and it supports transparency and dialogue in the decision-making of the Executive Board by organizing and coordinating their meetings and selecting teams for field visits.¹² The Bureau comprises one President and four Vice-Presidents elected annually at the first regular session according to geographic regions to assure equality.¹³

Budget

The Executive Board decides on budgets and financial plans.¹⁴ Consisting solely of voluntary contributions, UNDP's budget is supported largely by donor countries, international financial institutions, and the private sector.¹⁵ Additional funding for UNDP's individual projects and activities comes directly from organizations and governments, although UNDP remains the top source of funding.¹⁶

Mandate, Functions and Powers

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX), UNDP retained the “principles, procedures and provisions” of the EPTA and UN Special Fund following their consolidation.¹⁷ Having broadened in scope, UNDP's present mandate is “to empower lives and build resilient nations” for sustainable human development.¹⁸ As an assistance program, UNDP is “designed to support and supplement the national efforts of developing countries in solving the most important problems of their economic development, including industrial development.”¹⁹ Importantly, as emphasized by General Assembly resolution 59/250, national governments retain “primary responsibility” for development within their countries.²⁰

Through country offices, the work of UNDP is carried out all over the world, but it is especially important for countries emerging from conflicts.²¹ To assist in these efforts, the UNDP also administers and utilizes the United Nations Volunteers program, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.²² To function effectively across the globe, UNDP works to strengthen partnerships, build capacity, and coordinate the UN's development activities.

Partnerships

Partnerships are crucial to the work of UNDP.²³ Partnerships within the UN System and with the private sector, civil society organizations, financial institutions, and various foundations enable UNDP to finance its activities and carry out projects.²⁴ Concerning conflicts, UNDP works with governments and local communities to prevent violence by promoting dialogue and laws that uphold human rights.²⁵ Environment and energy constitute another area where partnerships are necessary, as the poorest are usually among those most affected by a lack of access to affordable energy, which inhibits sustainable environmental development and requires UNDP to focus on addressing this area on different levels.²⁶

Capacity Building

Building capacity is a focus area that allows UNDP to enhance the performance of different institutions and projects.²⁷ This is necessary so that programs or initiatives within countries can strengthen development, public

¹² UNDP, *Information Note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS*, 2015.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ UNDP, *The Executive Board Rules of Procedure*, 2011.

¹⁵ UNDP, *Our Partners*, 2015.

¹⁶ UNDP, *Our projects*, 2015.

¹⁷ UN General Assembly, *Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme (A/RES/2029 (XX))*, 1965.

¹⁸ UNDP JPO Service Centre, *UNDP for Beginners*, 2015, p. 4.

¹⁹ UN General Assembly, *Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme (A/RES/2029 (XX))*, 1965.

²⁰ UN General Assembly, *Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/59/250)*, 2005, p. 3.

²¹ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2015-16*, 2015.

²² Ibid.

²³ UNDP, *Our Partners*, 2015.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ UNDP, *Crisis Prevention & Recovery*, 2015.

²⁶ UNDP, *Environment and Energy*, 2015.

²⁷ UNDP, *Capacity Development*, 2015.

services, or aid.²⁸ For example, in the context of legal frameworks, UNDP, together with national partners, develops justice reforms and works on strategies to further access to legal aid services.²⁹ Another example is promoting domestic resources in combination with aid, supporting international development goals, and strengthening the private sector to create new jobs and promote infrastructure.³⁰

Coordination

With different organizations and entities involved in global development policies, it is important to coordinate their activities.³¹ To that end, UNDP leads the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), which is an inter-agency group that coordinates all UN entities with responsibilities related to development.³² Established in 1997 by the General Assembly, the UNDG brings together 32 UN funds, offices, programs, departments, and agencies to enhance coherence, efficiency, and effectiveness within the UN development system.³³ UNDP also manages the Resident Coordinator (RC) system, which encompasses all UN System entities that deal with operational activities for development.³⁴ The RC system brings together the “different UN agencies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operational activities at the country level.”³⁵ Together, UNDP and the RC system operationalize the development frameworks negotiated at the policy level and implement programs on the ground.³⁶

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

The 2015 annual session of the Executive Board was held in New York from 1-9 June 2015 and the second regular session was held 31 August to 4 September 2015.³⁷ Both sessions were divided into segments for UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS, along with a joint segment with a focus on country programs and the election of the President and four Vice-Presidents.³⁸ Further, the *UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017*, adopted in the second regular session from 9-13 September 2013, was discussed and evaluated.³⁹ Two topics of importance that were discussed in this session were gender equality and the human development report.⁴⁰ It was decided to revise the human development report in the forthcoming 2016 Global Forum on Human Development.⁴¹ It was also discussed how the *UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017* will contribute to reaching Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 by empowering women and protecting their rights in the development process to create a more resilient world.⁴² The strategy places special attention on women and girls facing various and multiple forms of discrimination due to disability, indigenous status, ethnicity, and more.⁴³

As set out in the *UNDP Strategic Plan: 2014-17*, UNDP has the overall goal of reducing inequalities and exclusions and eradicating poverty by working in three focus areas: sustainable development, building effective and inclusive democratic governance, and strengthening resilience.⁴⁴ To reduce poverty, UNDP acknowledges that human development needs to be promoted by combining economic growth with inclusive growth.⁴⁵ This work includes building access to justice, supporting electoral processes, and monitoring human rights protections.⁴⁶ Building access to justice on a basic level first means developing legal frameworks and promoting systems that are built on

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ UNDP, *Democratic Governance*, 2014.

³⁰ UNDP, *Poverty Reduction*, 2015.

³¹ UNDG, *UNDG Fact Sheet*, 2009.

³² UNDP, *Our Partners*, 2015.

³³ UNDG, *About UNDG*, 2014; New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2015-16*, 2015.

³⁴ UNDG, *Resident Coordinator System*.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ UNDP, *Annual Session 2015*, 2015.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² UNDP, *UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2014 – 2017*, 2014.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ UNDP, *UNDP Strategic Plan, 2014-2017*, 2014.

⁴⁵ UNDP, *Poverty Reduction*, 2015.

⁴⁶ UNDP, *Democratic Governance*, 2014.

laws as a foundation.⁴⁷ Another key area is crisis prevention and recovery, which includes addressing the consequences of natural disasters, conflicts, and humanitarian situations.⁴⁸

With projects in over 177 countries, the allocation of UNDP's \$5.3 billion budget for 2015 evinces current priorities.⁴⁹ 32% of the budget is assigned to responsive institutions, 28% to inclusive and sustainable growth, 14% to democratic governance, 8% to climate change and resilience, 8% to crisis prevention and recovery, 5% to development impact, 4% to South-South cooperation, and 1% to gender equality.⁵⁰ Depending on the project, UNDP works with state governments, political entities on a national and community level, and non-governmental organizations.⁵¹

The Post-2015 Development Agenda

On 25 September 2015, over 150 world leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will succeed the Millennium Development Goals and provide the framework for international development efforts for the next 15 years.⁵² Together with the undg, UNDP played a fundamental role in the determination of the post-2015 development agenda by leading the consultative processes and global dialogue that began in 2012 and ultimately resulted in the SDGs.⁵³ To support the implementation of the SDGs, the undg has formulated the "MAPS approach," which refers to mainstreaming, acceleration, and policy support.⁵⁴ According to this approach, UNDP will assist governments to ensure the SDGs are reflected in national policies, support countries to ensure the achievement of SDG targets by addressing specific barriers to progress, and provide policy expertise at every stage of implementation.⁵⁵ In 2014, UNDP created the Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDG-F) as a mechanism to coordinate global work on the post-2015 development agenda across three thematic areas: inclusive economic growth for the elimination of poverty, food security and nutrition, and water and sanitation.⁵⁶ UNDP will also continue monitoring and assessment efforts in the form of reports and analyses, such as the work provided with the Millennium Development Goals Reports.⁵⁷

Conclusion

The UNDP Executive Board's unique position atop three organizations, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS, as well as its cooperative function with the undg, positions itself to further development on all levels. With this wide range of work areas including crisis prevention, democratic governance, environment, and human rights, the most important aspects for a sustainable and equal human development can be targeted by one unified program. Furthermore, the Sustainable Development Goals are in place and UNDP is focusing on contributing to SDG 1 and 2 through its *Strategic Plan 2014-2017* and *Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017*. With UNDP's role as the predominant program working on development, its leadership in the undg, and its mandate, UNDP is uniquely positioned to take a strong role in developing the post-2015 development agenda.

⁴⁷ UNDP, *Democratic Governance*, 2014.

⁴⁸ UNDP, *Crisis Prevention & Recovery*, 2015.

⁴⁹ UNDP, *Our projects*, 2015.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² UNDP, *World leaders adopt Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ UNDP, *Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ UN SDG-F, *What We Do*.

⁵⁷ UNDP, *Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015.



Annotated Bibliography

New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2015). *United Nations Handbook 2015-16*. Retrieved 11 November 2015 from: http://www.mfat.govt.nz/UNHB2015/MFAT151%20UN%20Handbook_2015-16.pdf

The United Nations Handbook 2015-16 provides information not only on UNDP but also on the complete organization of the UN. Delegates can find basic information about all programs, committees, and funds within the UN System, including a quick overview of UNDP. Furthermore, it provides information on the involvement of UNDP with other programs, committees, and funds, providing the ability to gain an overall understanding of UNDP's role and position within the UN.

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *Human Development Index* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/HDR/2014HDR/HDR-2014-English.pdf>

The Human Development Report is one of the most important outcomes of UNDP's work. This report treats the issue of development through the most acceptable quantitative development approach. In this report, delegates will find why different countries are categorized as a developed or developing country in a multidimensional approach. Delegates will find this important because they will understand why some countries adjust their national policies in order to get better ranks on the Human Development Index.

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Executive Board* [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/executive_board/overview.html

This website explains the Executive Board of UNDP. The current membership is shown as well as the dates for each membership so delegates can see when it changes. Latest updates, session documents, and other key documents can be accessed here to follow and understand the work of the Executive Board. Delegates can access recent and older session reports to familiarize themselves with the decisions and work of UNDP. For a better understanding of the process during sessions, the rules of procedure for the Executive Board can also be accessed.

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Our projects* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://open.undp.org/#2015>

This source will show the different projects that UNDP is currently involved in. Delegates can search for particular projects by year or region and also get information on projects by general themes such as poverty reduction and achievement of the MDGs or democratic governance hence post 2015 agenda. This website provides the specific answer to development of projects and also the budget assigned to them.

United Nations Development Programme, Junior Professional Office Service Centre. (2015). *A Beginner's Guide to the United Nations Development Programme*. Retrieved 11 November 2015 from:

http://www.jposc.org/documents/UNDP%20for%20Beginners/UNDP_for_Beginners_en.pdf

This guide is a comprehensive introduction to UNDP that explains key aspects such as its structure, development, and function. Furthermore, basic questions such as what UNDP does, who does what, principles of UNDP, and funding are discussed and explained. This is a great starting point for delegates to gather basic information before dealing with more specific topics.

Bibliography

Charter of the United Nations. (1945). Retrieved 11 November 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/index.html>

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services. (2015). *Report of the Annual Session 2015*. Retrieved 23 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Executive%20Board/2015/Second-regular/English/dp2015-24e.pdf>

New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2015). *United Nations Handbook 2015-16*. Retrieved 11 November 2015 from: http://www.mfat.govt.nz/UNHB2015/MFAT151%20UN%20Handbook_2015-16.pdf

Schoiswohl, M. (2013). United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In: R. Wolfrum (Ed.), *Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

United Nations Development Group. (n.d.). *Resident Coordinator System* [Website]. Retrieved 25 October 2015 from: http://www.undg.org/content/resident_coordinator_system

United Nations Development Group. (2009). *UNDG Fact Sheet*. Retrieved 19 July 2015 from: http://www.undg.org/docs/10350/UNDGFactSheet_August2009.pdf

United Nations Development Group. (2009). *UNDP briefing notes*. Retrieved 25 October 2015 from: <http://rconline.undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/UNDP-Agency-information-package-for-RCs.-2012.pdf>

United Nations Development Group. (2014). *About UNDG* [Website]. Retrieved 25 October 2015 from: http://www.undg.org/content/about_the_undg

United Nations Development Group. (2014). *Delivering the post 2015 development agenda* [Report]. Retrieved 11 November 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/Post2015/UNDP-MDG-Delivering-Post-2015-Report-2014.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (2008). *The UNDP Accountability System*. Retrieved 25 October 2015 from: <http://web.undp.org/execbrd/pdf/dp08-16Rev1.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (2011). *The Executive Board Rules of Procedure*. Retrieved 25 October 2015 from: www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Executive Board/Rules_of_Procedure_E.pdf

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *Human Development Index* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/HDR/2014HDR/HDR-2014-English.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *About us* [Website]. Retrieved 19 July 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/about_us.html

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Capacity Development* [Website]. Retrieved 25 October 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/capacitybuilding/focus_areas/

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Crisis Prevention & Recovery* [Website]. Retrieved 25 October 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/focus_areas/

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Democratic Governance* [Website]. Retrieved 19 July 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/democraticgovernance/focus_areas/

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Environment and Energy* [Website]. Retrieved 25 October 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/overview/>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Executive Board* [Website]. Retrieved 19 July 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/executive_board/overview.html

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *HIV/AIDS* [Website]. Retrieved 25 October 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/hiv-aids/overview.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Income and Expenditures* [Website]. Retrieved 19 July 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/transparency/income_expenditures/

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Information Note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS* [Website]. Retrieved 19 July 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/executive_board/information_noteontheexecutiveboard/



United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Our Partners* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/partners.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Our projects* [Website]. Retrieved 25 July 2015 from: <http://open.undp.org/#2014>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Overview* [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/overview.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *The Millennium Development Goals* [Website]. Retrieved 26 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014* [Website]. Retrieved 25 September 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/mdg/the-millennium-development-goals-report-2014.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Post-2015 Development Agenda* [Website]. Retrieved September 25 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/mdg_goals/post-2015-development-agenda/

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Poverty Reduction* [Website]. Retrieved 25 September 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/povertyreduction/overview.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015) *Sustainable Development Goals*. Retrieved September 25 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/post-2015-development-agenda.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *UNDP Gender Equality Strategy, 2014-2017*. Retrieved 12 November 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/GenderEqualityStrategy2014-17.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *UNDP Strategic Plan, 2014-2017*. Retrieved 19 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Executive%20Board/2013/Second-regular-session/English/dp2013-40e.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Women's Empowerment* [Website]. Retrieved 19 September 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/womenempowerment/overview.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015, September 25). *World leaders adopt Sustainable Development Goals* [Press Release]. Retrieved 11 November 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/09/24/undp-welcomes-adoption-of-sustainable-development-goals-by-world-leaders.html>

United Nations Development Programme, Junior Professional Officer Service Centre. (2015). *A Beginner's Guide to the United Nations Development Programme*. Retrieved 11 November 2015 from: http://www.jposc.org/documents/UNDP%20for%20Beginners/UNDP_for_Beginners_en.pdf

United Nations, General Assembly, Fourth session. (1949). *Expanded programme of technical assistance for economic development of under-developed countries (A/RES/304 (IV))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 11 November 2015 from: [http://undocs.org/A/RES/304\(IV\)](http://undocs.org/A/RES/304(IV))

United Nations, General Assembly, Thirteenth session. (1958). *Establishment of the Special Fund (A/RES/1240 (XIII))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 11 November 2015 from: [http://undocs.org/A/RES/1240\(XIII\)](http://undocs.org/A/RES/1240(XIII))

United Nations, General Assembly, Twentieth session. (1965). *Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme (A/RES/2029 (XX))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 11 November 2015 from: [http://undocs.org/A/RES/2029\(XX\)](http://undocs.org/A/RES/2029(XX))



United Nations, General Assembly, Forty-eighth session. (1993). *Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (A/RES/48/162)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 25 October 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/48/162>

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-ninth session. (2005). *Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/59/250)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 25 October 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/59/250>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-second session. (2008). *Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/62/208)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 25 October 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/62/208>

United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals Fund. (n.d.). *About us* [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2015 from: <http://www.sdgfund.org/about-us>

I. Enhancing South-South Cooperation

Introduction

South-South cooperation (SSC) is the collaboration between countries in what is considered the “global South” within the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, and technical fields.⁵⁸ It helps developing countries find ways of cooperation to meet their development goals by sharing knowledge, skills, expertise, and resources among each other.⁵⁹ SSC intends to foster, promote, and strengthen self-reliance of developing countries.⁶⁰ The General Assembly (GA) describes it “as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South” and as a partnership among equals.⁶¹ SSC, however, is not official development assistance rather it is complementary to North-South cooperation.⁶² North-South cooperation describes the cooperation between developed countries and developing countries, while triangular cooperation reflects the idea of cooperation between developing countries and developed countries, or between developing countries and international organizations.⁶³

In its Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has placed SSC at the heart of its policies and programs “in order to leverage the rising volume of partnerships, technologies, networks and practical solutions found across the global South.”⁶⁴ The development of SSC is visible by simply looking at the economic growth of the countries of the global South; the value of SSC itself in 2011 ranged between \$16.1 billion and \$19 billion, while investment flows to developing countries reached \$759 billion and accounted for more than half of all foreign direct investments in 2013.⁶⁵ More and more developing countries are starting the process of industrial catch-up.⁶⁶ With their new economic power and influence they change the dynamics in international relations.⁶⁷ By 2020 it is expected that just China, Brazil, and India will account for more economic output than Canada, Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America together.⁶⁸ SSC is also considered a driving force in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁶⁹ Meanwhile, United Nations (UN) “agencies, funds and programmes have moved to strengthen their own capacities to support and to mainstream it in their policies, strategies, and programmes.”⁷⁰ Despite this progress, it is necessary to remember that millions of people in the South still suffer from a lack of food, inadequate access to water and sanitation, and many have fled their home countries to seek work.⁷¹

International and Regional Framework

In September 1978, the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-Operation among Developing Countries adopted the *Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-Operation* known as the “Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA)” as the first global framework related to SSC.⁷² The main focus of this plan is the building of institutional capacity in developing countries to “strengthen national and collective self-reliance”.⁷³ The aim has been to supplement cooperation with developed countries, not replace existing efforts.⁷⁴ Many countries that

⁵⁸ UNOSSC, *What Is South-South Cooperation?* 2015.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ UN General Assembly, *South-South cooperation (A/RES/69/239)*, 2015.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ UNOSSC, *South-South Cooperation Crucial in Addressing Climate Change*. 2014.

⁶⁴ UN UNDP, *Strategic framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, 2014-2017*, 2014.

⁶⁵ UN General Assembly, *State of South-South Cooperation: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/153)*, 2014; UNCTAD, *Global Investment Trends Monitor*, 2014.

⁶⁶ UNCTAD, *Technology and Innovation Report 2012: Innovation Technology and South-South Collaboration*, 2012.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ UN General Assembly, *State of South-South Cooperation: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/153)*, 2014.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ UN General Assembly, *Promotion of South-South Cooperation for development: a thirty-year perspective: Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/504)*, 2009.

⁷² UNOSSC, *The Buenos Aires Plan of Action*, 1994; UN General Assembly, *State of South-South Cooperation: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/153)*, 2014.

⁷³ UN General Assembly, *State of South-South Cooperation: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/153)*, 2014.

⁷⁴ UN General Assembly, *Promotion of South-South Cooperation for development: a thirty-year perspective: Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/504)*, 2009.

participated in the conference were members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), a group representing the interests and priorities of developing countries.⁷⁵ At the time, many countries were establishing cooperation independently from the global superpowers and took a stance, which showed this resistance against the superpowers as well as their support for developing countries' interests.⁷⁶ The Action Plan was introduced when substantial changes regarding the control and distribution of resources, effectuated by the process of decolonization, were taking place.⁷⁷ This resulted in the expansion of international relations, co-operation, and interdependences.⁷⁸ The document is a call to developed countries to recognize that concepts, political and economic positions, institutions, and relations had to be adjusted to reflect changing dynamics.⁷⁹ It demands that technical cooperation between developing and developed countries be based on strict observance of national sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs.⁸⁰ A high-level committee of the GA to monitor the implementation of the BAPA was founded.⁸¹ In 1989 the NAM founded the G-15, a group of developing countries whose aim is to facilitate efforts for development and economic progress.⁸² The intentions of developing countries were highlighted again in 2000 when the G-77 summit in Havana declared the need for "a new spirit of international cooperation based on the principle of shared benefits" and responsibilities between developing and industrialized countries.⁸³

In 2003, the *Marrakech Declaration* and the *Marrakech Framework for the Implementation of South-South Cooperation* called for specific efforts that can contribute to economic growth and sustainable development.⁸⁴ These developments came almost 10 years after the GA stated in resolution 50/119 of 1996 that SSC is "a means of promoting the integration of developing countries into the world economy."⁸⁵ The potential of SSC is further recognized by the *2005 World Summit Outcome*, which considers SSC "as a means to share best practices and provide enhanced technical cooperation."⁸⁶ A call to intensify efforts of strengthening SSC was made in the same year at the Second South Summit and outlined in the *Doha Declaration* and the *Doha Plan of Action*.⁸⁷

In 2009, the GA welcomed the occurrence of the High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation in Kenya.⁸⁸ The outcome document, the *Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation*, contributed considerably to strengthening and further invigorating SSC as well as promoting integrated policies to enable cooperation and development between states.⁸⁹ Firstly, the document notes increasing economic dynamism, such as regional common markets and customs unions, in some developing countries and the effects this has had on SSC.⁹⁰ Secondly, the document urges the UN development system and developed countries to mainstream South-South cooperation into their practices.⁹¹ It is argued that mainstreaming support helps developing countries to build capacities, which ensures effective coordination and consistency throughout the UN System.⁹² Moreover, it calls for broader, deeper partnerships between the private sector, civil

⁷⁵ Encyclopedia Britannica, *Non-Aligned Movement*, 2015.

⁷⁶ Strydom, *The Non-Aligned Movement and the Reform of International Relations*, 2007.

⁷⁷ UNOSSC, *The Buenos Aires Plan of Action*, 1994.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

⁸¹ UNOSSC, *What is the High-level Committee (HLC) on South-South Cooperation?* 2015.

⁸² Group of Fifteen, *Group of Fifteen: Historical Background*, 2015.

⁸³ G-77, *Declaration of the south summit*, 2000.

⁸⁴ UN General Assembly, *Letter dated 27 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/58/683)*, 2004.

⁸⁵ UN General Assembly, *Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation (A/RES/50/119)*, 1996.

⁸⁶ UN General Assembly, *2005 World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1)*, 2005, p. 10.

⁸⁷ UN General Assembly, *Letter dated 5 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/60/111)*, 2005.

⁸⁸ UN General Assembly, *High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/64/1)*, 2009.

⁸⁹ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation (A/65/39)*, 2010.

⁹⁰ UN General Assembly, *Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/64/222)*, 2009.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*

⁹² UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation (A/65/39)*, 2010.

society, as well as intergovernmental, regional, and multilateral organizations.⁹³ Overall, the document highlights the importance of SSC by recognizing its increasing power in the time since the Buenos Aires meeting.⁹⁴

SSC is central to the post-2015 development agenda, as stressed in GA resolution 68/230 of 2013.⁹⁵ In 2015, the 193 Member States of the UN adopted an agenda that features 17 SDGs that aim “to eradicate extreme poverty and promote prosperity [and] people's well-being.”⁹⁶ SSC is referenced in SDG 17: “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.”⁹⁷ For example, the goal promotes the enhancement of both North-South and South-South, as well as triangular cooperation to facilitate “access to science, technology, and innovation and knowledge sharing.”⁹⁸ The SDGs are challenging many countries and SSC will be a key element in ensuring they are met.⁹⁹ Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on the UN Day for SSC that “South-South cooperation can therefore play a key role in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”¹⁰⁰

Role of the International System

As the UN's global development network, UNDP plays a crucial role in applying South-South approaches through its global, regional, and country programs.¹⁰¹ It fulfills this role by overseeing the High-level Committee (HLC) on SSC and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.¹⁰² The HLC convenes every two years to review SSC at the UN and in the development system.¹⁰³ Participants include Member States of the UN, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs).¹⁰⁴ The Special Unit was created with resolution A/3251 (XXIX) in 1974 and focuses on promoting “technical cooperation among developing countries.”¹⁰⁵ The unit was given the task “to promote, coordinate, and support South-South and triangular cooperation globally and within the [UN] System.”¹⁰⁶ In 2003, GA resolution 58/220 supported the HLC's recommendation “to change the name of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (SU/TCDC) to Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU/SSC).”¹⁰⁷ It gained additional influence through the upgrade to “United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation” in 2013.¹⁰⁸

UNDP plays the role of a broker for the exchange of knowledge to facilitate partnerships and strengthen the capacities of countries to engage in South-South and triangular cooperation.¹⁰⁹ UNDP focuses its knowledge management efforts on topics covering sustainable development pathways and inclusive and effective democratic governance as stated in the *UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017*.¹¹⁰ Examples of UNDP helping to distribute knowledge related to SSC are the Global South-South Development Academy (GSSD), the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo), and the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange (SS-GATE).¹¹¹ Besides acting as a broker, UNDP is mandated to assist developing countries in implementing projects of SSC when requested.¹¹² The focus of the projects is on policy development and advocacy, coordination between agencies, supporting efforts to share knowledge, networking, and the exchange of best practices, as laid out in the *Strategic framework of the*

⁹³ UN DPI, *Adopting Nairobi Outcome Document, South-South Conference Encourages Developing Countries to Make Cooperative Efforts Work Better in Tackling Challenges*, 2009.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

⁹⁵ UN General Assembly, *South-South cooperation (A/RES/68/230)*, 2014.

⁹⁶ UN DPI, *Ban hails UN Member States' agreement on 'people's agenda' to end poverty, promote sustainability*, 2015.

⁹⁷ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 14.

⁹⁸ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

⁹⁹ UNOSSC, *High-Level Forum Urges Creation of Permanent South-South Expo in Macau*, 2015.

¹⁰⁰ UN DPI, *Ban highlights vital role of South-South cooperation in attaining Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015.

¹⁰¹ UNOSSC, *What is the role of UNDP in South-South Cooperation?* 2015.

¹⁰² UNOSSC, *The High-level Committee on SSC*, 2015.

¹⁰³ UNOSSC, *What is the High-level Committee (HLC) on South-South Cooperation?* 2015.

¹⁰⁴ UNOSSC, *The High-level Committee on SSC*, 2015.

¹⁰⁵ UN General Assembly, *Technical co-operation among developing countries (A/3251 (XXIX))*, 1974, p. 1.

¹⁰⁶ UNOSSC, *When and why was the Special Unit for TCDC created?* 2015.

¹⁰⁷ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (A/58/39)*, 2003, p. 38.

¹⁰⁸ UNOSSC, *State of South-South cooperation: Report of the General Secretary (A/69/153)*, 2014.

¹⁰⁹ UNDP, *Financing for development and UNDP*, 2015.

¹¹⁰ UNDP, *UNDP Knowledge Management*, 2015.

¹¹¹ UNDP, *Strategic framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, 2014-2017*, 2014.

¹¹² UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-Level committee on South-South cooperation (A/69/39)*, 2014.

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, 2014-2017.¹¹³ Furthermore, this framework is implemented practically by two UNDP-associated regional service centers in Asia and Africa, so-called South-South Units.¹¹⁴ They support SSC by pooling resources and offering advice, knowledge, and operational services.¹¹⁵

UNDP is not the only program that contributes to the work of SSC: of 20 UN entities 17 have legislative mandates about SSC.¹¹⁶ For example, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) supports economic cooperation between developing countries by “deepening research on and analysis of the synergies created by South-South trade, investment and finance” as well as “upgrading data and analytical tools on South-South flows and cooperation.”¹¹⁷ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is supporting SSC through its International Science, Technology and Innovation Center for SSC, which focuses on capacity-building in developing countries.¹¹⁸ Moreover, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is involved with SSC through the facilitation of South-South and triangular cooperation to achieve food security, poverty reduction, and sustainable agriculture.¹¹⁹

The development of the South and the increasing tendency to cooperate depends very much on the work of the Group of 77 (G-77).¹²⁰ This group is the largest coalition of developing countries in the UN and as such has become a forum for dialogue among countries of the South to highlight their own interests particularly as they relate to economics, common goals, and SSC.¹²¹ The group strongly supports the post-development agenda as seen at the G-77+China summit where members expressed their commitment to work jointly to reduce poverty and inequality and foster sustainable development.¹²² Many countries, such as Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, and Nigeria are also considered to be pivotal countries and because of their direct experiences as well as capacity they have become leaders in encouraging heightened SSC.¹²³

SSC is also a strong framework outside of the UN System.¹²⁴ For example, The Chiang Mai Initiative is a regional financial safety net consisting of members the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), including China, Japan, and Korea.¹²⁵ Another high-profile initiative is the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Facility for Hunger and Poverty Alleviation, which undertakes development projects to fight poverty and hunger in developing countries.¹²⁶ States in South and Latin America are organized in the Ibero-American Program for the strengthening of SSC, which gives them a platform to share knowledge and innovations.¹²⁷ Another very visible way of cooperation among countries of the South are regional integration efforts such as the Central American Common Market, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), which established institutional and regulatory frameworks for the facilitation of their linked transport networks.¹²⁸

Moreover, various non-governmental organizations such as ActionAid have undertaken efforts to support SSC, as seen through Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture, an initiative trying to alleviate the consequences caused by

¹¹³ UN UNDP, *Strategic framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, 2014-2017*, 2014.

¹¹⁴ UNOSSC, *Regional Services*, 2015.

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁶ UN ECOSOC, *Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/93-E/2012/79)*, 2012.

¹¹⁷ UNCTAD, *UNCTAD XII Accra Accord and the Accra Declaration*, 2008.

¹¹⁸ UNOSSC, *State of South-South cooperation: Report of the General Secretary (A/69/153)*, 2014.

¹¹⁹ UN FAO, *South-South Cooperation*, 2015.

¹²⁰ UN General Secretary, *Promotion of South-South Cooperation for development: a thirty-year perspective: Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/504)*, 2009.

¹²¹ G-77, *About the Group of 77*, 2015.

¹²² UN General Assembly, *State of South-South Cooperation: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/153)*, 2014.

¹²³ UNOSSC, *What are pivotal countries in the context of South-South Cooperation?* 2015.

¹²⁴ West, *Chiang Mai Initiative: an Asian IMF?* 2014.

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*

¹²⁶ UNOSSC, *The India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund) - IBSA Trust Fund*, 2015.

¹²⁷ Task Team on South-South Cooperation, *Ibero-American Program for the strengthening of South South Cooperation and Report on South South Cooperation in Ibero-America*, 2011.

¹²⁸ UN General Assembly, *Promotion of South-South Cooperation for development: a thirty-year perspective: Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/504)*, 2009.

climate change.¹²⁹ Through its Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development, The Aga Khan Development Network promotes entrepreneurship in countries that lack sufficient foreign direct investment.¹³⁰ World Vision in 2014 invested more than \$200 million in health and nutrition programs, mainly located in southern countries.¹³¹

Economic Development through South-South Cooperation and Opportunities to Further SSC

The last decade has been characterized by growth in “South-South trade, investment, and tourism” through policy reforms.¹³² These interactions between states are evident in regions where governments take on the challenge to collaborate on treaty-based agreements both regionally and sub-regionally “for the provision of public goods such as infrastructure, legal and regulatory frameworks that facilitate trade”.¹³³ The majority of SSC takes place under bilateral agreements.¹³⁴ Foremost, China plays a significant role in supporting SSC by lending “billions of dollars in commercial and concessional loans to African countries” to open access for agricultural and mineral goods to the market.¹³⁵ While cooperation is increasing, it is important to remember that many efforts by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation still lack financial and human resources.¹³⁶ The need for bilateral and multilateral funding is an issue of concern, as well.¹³⁷ Moreover, there is a need to extend collaborative and cooperative activities into fields such as science, technology, and energy.¹³⁸

SSC and Energy Technology

One of the largest current opportunities to foster further SSC is in the area of energy technologies and management, as energy is the cornerstone of human development.¹³⁹ A priority for many developing and middle-income countries in the global South is securing energy for basic human needs.¹⁴⁰ This has far-reaching consequences because without a good energy supply, competitive, productive trading activities are very difficult.¹⁴¹ Industrialized and emerging economies alike depend on access to energy, as it is a major driver of development.¹⁴² SDG 7 requests that states “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.”¹⁴³ The diffusion of technologies and energy technologies is encouraged by SSC through technical assistance, which provides a platform to supply developing countries with the expertise they need.¹⁴⁴ This was most prominently defined in the *Buenos Aires Plan for Action*, which included 38 recommendations to be implemented on a national, regional, and global level to foster cooperation.¹⁴⁵ In particular, it called for the increase of technological cooperation of developed countries “for the transfer of advanced technologies and other expertise” in which they have gained advantages.¹⁴⁶ Cooperation is meant to strengthen the capacity of developing countries around adaptation of such inputs.¹⁴⁷ In the *Nairobi Outcome Document* Member States again emphasized the need to promote access to, and the transfer of technologies as well as “broader technological developments such as technological management capabilities and information networks.”¹⁴⁸

¹²⁹ ActionAid International, *Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture: Experiences*, 2014.

¹³⁰ Aga Khan Development Network, *Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development*, 2015.

¹³¹ World Vision International, *Impact and Resilience: World Vision International Annual Review 2014*, 2014.

¹³² UN General Secretary, *Promotion of South-South Cooperation for development: a thirty-year perspective: Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/504)*, 2009.

¹³³ *Ibid.*

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*

¹³⁶ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-Level committee on South-South cooperation (A/69/39)*, 2014.

¹³⁷ *Ibid.*

¹³⁸ UN General Assembly, *Promotion of South-South Cooperation for development: a thirty-year perspective: Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/504)*, 2009.

¹³⁹ UNOSSC, *Energy in the global South*, 2015.

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁴¹ UNIDO, *Industrial development, Trade and Poverty Reduction through South-South Cooperation*, 2006, p. 4.

¹⁴² UN General Assembly, *United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/395)*, 2014.

¹⁴³ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p.14.

¹⁴⁴ UNOSSC, *The Buenos Aires Plan of Action*, 1994.

¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁸ UN General Assembly, *Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/64/222)*, 2010.

UNDP supports communities by facilitating access to renewable electricity installations on a local level, while engaging in multi-stakeholder initiatives like Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All).¹⁴⁹ UNOSSC is helping through the development of the South-South Energy Initiative (SSEI) which aims to access and share knowledge, experience, strategic intelligence, and research among emerging and traditional oil and gas producing countries.¹⁵⁰ Other types of cooperation include rural energy partnerships, which bring renewable energy into rural areas, presenting new business opportunities.¹⁵¹ The availability of non-polluting solar-LED lights gives energy access to millions of households in Africa.¹⁵² However, this field is still facing serious hurdles.¹⁵³ Though access is increasing, many people lack access to energy.¹⁵⁴ Only 290 million out of 915 million people in sub-Saharan Africa have access to electricity.¹⁵⁵ An estimated 2.6 billion people in “[developing] countries depend on traditional biomass” for cooking and heating, while millions of people lack the funds to pay for energy.¹⁵⁶ In General Assembly resolution 67/215 of 2012, the GA recognized that the lack of access to energy and modern energy services delays efforts to fight poverty.¹⁵⁷ Meanwhile, the energy demand in Southeast Asia alone is expected to rise over 80% by 2035.¹⁵⁸ This demand requires additional investments to ensure energy security and affordability, as well as measurements for improved energy efficiency to gain economic and environmental benefits.¹⁵⁹

SSC and Food Security

SSC is also critical for resolving matters related to food insecurity, including poverty, inequality, and volatile food prices.¹⁶⁰ These issues undermine the plans of developing countries to achieve food security.¹⁶¹ Developing regions are still heavily dependent on unprocessed food exports.¹⁶² African countries name a lack of funding and limited capacity to make national agriculture and food security investment plans as serious problems.¹⁶³ The volatility of food prices is strongly influenced by the boom in food prices caused “by the operations of hedge funds in commodities markets.”¹⁶⁴ Food security is reflected in SDG 2, which calls for states to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”.¹⁶⁵ The target of SDG 2 is to end hunger and guarantee people worldwide access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food, regardless of economic status.¹⁶⁶

The issue of food security can be tackled most efficiently by sharing knowledge and experience to match food production with rising global population growth, increasing agricultural production, decreasing malnutrition, and building resilience for times of crises.¹⁶⁷ Areas being supported by the UN System are “the facilitation for the uptake of development solutions, the promotion of knowledge networking platforms, providing upstream policy support and fostering an enabling environment for South-South cooperation.”¹⁶⁸ Such an environment is characterized by the creation of business opportunities and shared development knowledge.¹⁶⁹ This is realized in such initiatives as the “South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security (SSTC-

¹⁴⁹ UNDP, *Energy Access*, 2015.

¹⁵⁰ UNOSSC, *Towards a South-South Energy Initiative*, 2013, p. 2.

¹⁵¹ UNIDO, *Industrial development, Trade and Poverty Reduction through South-South Cooperation*, 2006.

¹⁵² Mills, *Can technology free developing countries from light poverty?* 2015.

¹⁵³ IEA, *Africa Energy Outlook: A focus on energy prospects in Sub-Saharan Africa*, 2014, p. 13.

¹⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁶ UN General Assembly, *Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/RES/67/215)*, 2013.

¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁸ IEA, *Southeast Asia Energy Outlook*, 2013, p. 11.

¹⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁰ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security (A/RES/67/228)*, 2013.

¹⁶¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁶² UNIDO, *Industrial development, Trade and Poverty Reduction through South-South Cooperation*, 2006.

¹⁶³ UN General Assembly, *New Partnership for Africa’s Development: eleventh consolidated progress report on implementation and international support: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/222)*, 2013.

¹⁶⁴ UNOSSC, *Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, taking into account the complementary role of South-South cooperation in the implementation of relevant major United Nations conferences in the social, economic and related field (SSC/18/1)*, 2014.

¹⁶⁵ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 14.

¹⁶⁶ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

¹⁶⁷ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation (A/69/39)*, 2014.

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

¹⁶⁹ UN Executive Board of UNDP and UNPF, *Third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (2005-2007) (DP/CF/SSC/3/Rev.1)*, 2005.

ADFS)” initiative, which supports the exchange of information on solutions in the area of management of farmer-based organizations and agricultural developments which support food security.¹⁷⁰ At the regional level, African countries have committed themselves to ensuring that agriculture receives at least 10% of national funds.¹⁷¹ In resolution 63/235 of 2008, the GA notes that integrated and sustainable agriculture are vital to achieve enhanced food security and food safety.¹⁷² An example of good cooperation is the IBSA Fund, which is a cooperation of three middle-income countries that work together through the UN System to help the least developed countries.¹⁷³ Areas that need further improvement include productivity-enhancing investments, nutrition-sensitive-agriculture, and the implementation of already existing technologies.¹⁷⁴ The challenges are also highlighted in the Zero Hunger Challenge, which calls for initiatives to ensure access to food all around the year and build sustainable food systems.¹⁷⁵

Conclusion

South-South cooperation is a core activity of UNDP and is improving as more countries contribute to these efforts. Actors inside and outside of the UN System are aligning their efforts to achieve greater results and generate visible outcomes. UNOSSC has laid out its plans for the next years in the *Strategic framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, 2014-2017*. Meanwhile, the introduction of the SDGs caters particularly to the improvement of living conditions in developing countries. Development depends greatly on access to energy and food security, a challenge for many countries. As new initiatives are being undertaken, serious obstacles still remain that require the global community to react. SSC provides the framework to establish and promote efforts to tackle these obstacles.

Further Research

Delegates should consider the important role South-South cooperation plays, not only in the work of UNDP, but in global efforts worldwide to improve development for developing countries. It is important to ask, how can South-South cooperation help to achieve minimum living standards for the poorest of the South? Are there ways to increase funding or use financial means available more efficiently? How can the work of the G-77 support South-South cooperation? Is UNDP fulfilling its role as a knowledge broker? Are UNDP initiatives focusing on the right issues? Are there better ways to align the efforts of the United Nations development system and its different actors? Also, it might be useful to think about other SDGs besides the ones referenced here and ask what can South-South cooperation contribute to help achieve the SDGs? Are there any SDGs that require SSC in particular? How can UNDP and, in particular, UNOSSC help here?

¹⁷⁰ UNOSSC, *Countries of the Middle East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia Discuss Food Security*, 2015.

¹⁷¹ UN General Assembly, *New Partnership for Africa’s Development: eleventh consolidated progress report on implementation and international support: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/222)*, 2013.

¹⁷² UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security (A/RES/63/235)*, 2009.

¹⁷³ UN General Assembly, *State of South-South Cooperation: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/153)*, 2014.

¹⁷⁴ G-20, *Opportunities for economic growth and job creation in relation to food security and nutrition*, 2014.

¹⁷⁵ UN DPI, *Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture*, 2015.

Annotated Bibliography

Executive Board of United Nations Development Programme, et al. (2013). *Strategic framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, 2014-2017* (DP/CF/SSC/5). Retrieved 14 September 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/DP/CF/SSC/5>

This is a collaborative document between UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund, and the United Nations Office for Project Services. It analyzes the economic situation in which SSC operates and describes lessons learned from the previous years. It also proposes programs to strengthen the work of SSC and names goals that SSC should strive to achieve. This is a very useful source, as it lays out what South-South cooperation needs to do to enhance development.

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *UNDP Knowledge Management Strategy Framework 2014-2017*. Retrieved 15 September 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/capacity-development/English/UNDP%20Knowledge%20Strategy%20Report%202502-2%20LR%202,7MB.pdf>

This document is the official strategy framework of UNDP for the management of knowledge. The framework describes the knowledge strategy UNDP is setting for the management of internal and external knowledge. This has become necessary after the publication of the UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017. The document contains valuable information about how UNDP organizes knowledge and applies it in the context of SSC. Examples include regional initiatives that help support South-South learning and the creation of networks.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixtieth session. (2005). *2005 World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1)* [Resolution]. Retrieved from 16 September 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/60/1>

This document is important for South-South cooperation, as it highlights the significance of the framework in the international community. It focuses on different areas of development and what efforts need to be undertaken to increase economic development. Many additional fields of interest, such as resource mobilization, trade, and investment are also covered in the document.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-fourth session. (2009). *Nairobi outcome document of the High level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/64/222)* [Resolution]. Without reference to a Main Committee. Retrieved 19 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/64/222>

This document includes many of the fundamental ideas South-South cooperation is built on and indicates the direction this movement is heading in. The document is the official outcome of the High level United Nations conference on South-South Cooperation in Nairobi 2009. The document reflects the growing power and strength of South-South cooperation in the decades since the Buenos Aires meeting in 1978. It lists reasons that made this progress possible, such as the economic growth of many developing countries and the establishment of regional common markets as well as customs unions, communications networks, and bilateral capacity-building projects involving developing countries. Moreover, the document calls on developed countries to increase their participation in triangular arrangements and to follow-up on their development assistance commitments.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-fourth session. (2009). *Promotion of South-South cooperation for development: a thirty-year perspective: Report of the Secretary General. (A/64/504)* [Report]. Retrieved 18 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/64/504>

This 30-year review of the work on South-South cooperation gives a great insight into what was achieved in three decades of support for developing countries. The report elaborates on South-South cooperation for development from the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in Buenos Aires in 1978 to the year 2008. It shows the development of countries located in different geographical regions and efforts undertaken by them to establish cooperation. Moreover, the role of the UN as a supporter of South-South cooperation is explained.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *South-South cooperation (A/RES/69/239)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 17 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/239>

This document is the latest resolution adopted by the General Assembly dealing with the topic of South-South cooperation. It acknowledges the initiatives of the past while also calling to increase existing efforts to increase cooperation. In particular, the resolution asks UNDP to undertake

additional efforts to mobilize resources. Delegates may find this resource useful to get a good overview of the topics currently being discussed through the lens of SSC.

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (1994). *Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC)*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://ssc.undp.org/content/dam/ssc/documents/Key%20Policy%20Documents/Buenos%20Aires%20Plan%20of%20Action.pdf>

This document represents the first and still one of the most influential agreements adopted by developing countries seeking to find ways to establish cooperation. Delegates will often be directed to this document because it lays out the basics of SSC. Understanding the principles of the action plan is essential for the preparation of proposals to enhance South-South cooperation.

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2014). *Report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation (A/69/39)* [Report]. Retrieved 18 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/69/39>

This report concentrates on information that can be used to understand the work of the HLC on South-South Cooperation. It includes decisions adopted at the 18th session, as well as a thematic discussion about the strategy of the United Nations development system to promote and strengthen South-South cooperation in the context of the evolving post 2015-development agenda. All these are highly important for the preparation of negotiations about strategies and ideas to enhance South-South cooperation.

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2014). *Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, taking into account the complementary role of South-South cooperation in the implementation of relevant major United Nations conferences in the social, economic and related fields (SSC/18/1)* [Report]. Retrieved 19 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/SSC/18/1>

This report published by UNOSSC takes a look at the trends and problems faced by SSC in the period 2012-2014. The report includes sections for the different regions including Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and also developed countries and the UN System itself. Further, it discusses efforts by the private sector and civil societies and gives recommendations for the future work of SSC. Delegates will find the information provided useful for their research, as the document gives an overview about the different regions involved in SSC. 1

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2014). *State of South-South cooperation: Report of the General Secretary (A/69/153)*. Retrieved 18 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/69/153>

This report is a rich source of information to help delegates generate ideas and create strategies. It describes the importance of the United Nations development system in focusing on improvements that support South-South cooperation. The report covers trends about knowledge sharing, capacity development, partnerships, innovative financing, monitoring, and evaluation. Furthermore, it describes the support structure for South-South cooperation at regional and sub-regional levels.

Bibliography

ActionAid International. (2014). *Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture: Experiences*. Retrieved 20 September 2015 from: http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/crsa_experiences_-_september_2014_0.pdf

Aga Khan Development Network. (2015). *Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development* [Website]. Retrieved 21 September 2015 from: <http://www.akdn.org/akfed.asp?type=p>

Encyclopedia Britannica. (n.d.). *Non-Aligned Movement* [Website]. Retrieved 18 September 2015 from: <http://www.britannica.com/topic/Non-Aligned-Movement>

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund. (2005). *Third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (2005-2007)* (DP/CF/SSC/3/Rev.1). Retrieved 20 October 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/DP/CF/SSC/3/Rev.1>

Executive Board of United Nations Development Programme, et al. (2013). *Strategic framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, 2014-2017* (DP/CF/SSC/5). Retrieved 14 September 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/DP/CF/SSC/5>

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *South-South Cooperation*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/themes/img/south-south_cooperation/SCC_brochure2014_EN.pdf

The Group of 77. (2015). *About the Group of 77* [Website]. Retrieved 8 August 2015 from: <http://www.g77.org/doc/index.html>

The Group of 77. (2015). *Declaration of the south summit* [Website]. Retrieved 17 October 2015 from: http://www.g77.org/summit/Declaration_G77Summit.htm

The Group of Fifteen. (2015). *Historical Background* [Website]. Retrieved 17 October from: <http://g15.org/member-countries-2/historical-background/>

The Group of Twenty. (2014). *Opportunities for economic growth and job creation in relation to food security and nutrition: Report to the G20 Development Working Group*. Retrieved 17 October 2015 from: https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/opportunities_economic_growth_job_creation_FSN.pdf

International Energy Agency. (2013). *Southeast Asia Energy Outlook*. Retrieved 20 September 2015 from: https://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/SoutheastAsiaEnergyOutlook_WEO2013SpecialReport.pdf

International Energy Agency. (2014). *Africa Energy Outlook: A focus on energy prospects in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Retrieved 20 September 2015 from: https://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/WEO2014_AfricaEnergyOutlook.pdf

Mills, E. (2015, July 30). *Can technology free developing countries from light poverty?*. The Guardian. Retrieved 17 September 2015 from: <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/jul/30/can-technology-free-developing-countries-from-light-poverty>

Strydom, H. (2007). *The Non-Aligned Movement and the Reform of International Relations*, *Max Planck Yearbook of United Nations Law*, Volume 11, pp. 1-46.

Task Team on South-South Cooperation. (2011). *Ibero-American Program for the strengthening of South South Cooperation and Report on South South Cooperation in Ibero-America* [Website]. Retrieved 16 September 2015 from: http://www.southsouthcases.info/pdf/lac15_en.pdf

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2008). *UNCTAD XII Accra Accord and the Accra Declaration (UNCTAD/IAOS/2008/2)* [Ministerial Declaration]. Retrieved 8 August 2015 from: http://unctad.org/es/Docs/iaos20082_en.pdf

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2012). *Technology and Innovation Report 2012: Innovation, Technology and South-South Collaboration*. Retrieved 16 August 2015 from: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/tir2012_en.pdf

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2014). *Global Investment Trends Monitor*. Retrieved 15 September 2015 from: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/webdiacia2014d1_en.pdf

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2009). *Adopting Nairobi Outcome Document, South-South Conference Encourages Developing Countries to Make Cooperative Efforts Work Better in Tackling Challenges* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 19 July 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2009/dev2781.doc.htm>



United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, August 2). *Ban hails UN Member States' agreement on 'people's agenda' to end poverty, promote sustainability* [News Article]. Retrieved 8 August 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51546#.VckDcvleqSo>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, September 12). *Ban highlights vital role of South-South cooperation in attaining Sustainable Development Goals* [News Article]. Retrieved 16 September 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51860#.VgBtEZdeqSo>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015). *Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture* [Website]. Retrieved 17 October 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/en/sustainablefuture/food.asp>

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *UNDP Knowledge Management*. Retrieved 17 September 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/capacity-development/English/UNDP%20Knowledge%20Strategy%20Report%202502-2%20LR%202.7MB.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Energy Access* [Website]. Retrieved 21 September 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/climate-and-disaster-resilience/sustainable-energy/energy-access/>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Financing for Development and UNDP*. Retrieved 8 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Sustainable%20Development/Financing%20-for-Development-and-UNDP.pdf>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2012). *Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational Activities for development of the United Nations system: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/93-E/2012/79)*. Retrieved 21 September 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/67/93-E/2012/79>

United Nations, General Assembly, Twenty-ninth session. (1974). *Technical Cooperation among developing countries (3251 (XXIX))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 August 2015 from: [http://undocs.org/A/Res/3251 \(XXIX\)](http://undocs.org/A/Res/3251 (XXIX))

United Nations, General Assembly, Fiftieth session. (1996). *Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation (A/RES/50/119)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/50/619). Retrieved 19 September 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/50/119>

United Nation, General Assembly. Fifty-eighth session. (2003). *Report of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation (A/58/39)*. Retrieved 15 August 2015 from: [http://undocs.org/A/58/39\(SUPP\)](http://undocs.org/A/58/39(SUPP))

United Nations, General Assembly. (2004). *Letter dated 27 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/58/683)*. Retrieved 19 September 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/58/683>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixtieth session. (2005). *2005 World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 16 September 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/Res/60/1>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixtieth session. (2005). *Letter dated 5 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/60/111)*. Retrieved 19 September 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/60/111>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-third session. (2009). *Agriculture development and food security (A/RES/63/235)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 19 September 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/63/235>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-fourth session. (2009). *High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/64/1)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 17 September 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/64/1>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-fourth session. (2009). *Nairobi outcome document of the High level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/64/222)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 19 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/64/222>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-fourth session. (2009). *Promotion of South-South cooperation for development: a thirty-year perspective: Report of the Secretary General. (A/64/504)*. Retrieved 18 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/64/504>

United Nations, General Assembly. Sixty-fifth session. (2010). *Report of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation (A/65/39)*. Retrieved 15 August 2015 from: [http://undocs.org/A/65/39\(SUPP\)](http://undocs.org/A/65/39(SUPP))

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-seventh session. (2012). *Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/RES/67/215)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 20 September 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/67/215>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-seventh session. (2013). *Agriculture development and food security (A/RES/67/228)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 20 September 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/67/228>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013). *New Partnership for Africa's Development: eleventh consolidated progress report on implementation and international support: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/222)*. Retrieved 20 September 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/68/222>

United Nations, General Assembly. (2014). *Report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. (A/69/39)*. Retrieved 18 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/69/39>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2014). *South-South Cooperation (A/RES/68/230)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 21 September 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/68/230>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *South-South cooperation (A/RES/69/239)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 17 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/239>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *State of South-South cooperation: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/153)*. Retrieved 18 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/69/153>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/395)*. Retrieved 17 September 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/69/395>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 2 November 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

United Nation Industrial Development Organization. (2006). *Industrial development, trade and poverty reduction through South-South cooperation*. Retrieved 7 August 2015 from: https://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media/Publications/Pub_free/Industrial_development_trade_and_poverty_reduction_through_south_south_cooperation.pdf

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (1994). *Buenos Aires Plan of Action*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://ssc.undp.org/content/dam/ssc/documents/Key%20Policy%20Documents/Buenos%20Aires%20Plan%20of%20Action.pdf>

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2013). *Towards a South-South Energy Initiative* [Newsletter]. Retrieved 18 September 2015 from: http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/partner/NewPartnershipOpportunities/_jcr_content/parmain/sscdownload_5/file.res/Southern%20Energy%20Solutions.pdf

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2014). *Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of*

the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, taking into account the complementary role of South-South cooperation in the implementation of relevant major United Nations conferences in the social, economic and related fields (SSC/18/1) [Report]. Retrieved 19 July 2015 from:

http://ssc.undp.org/content/dam/ssc/documents/HLC%20Reports/SSC_18_1/SSC_18_1_english.pdf

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2014). *South-South Cooperation Crucial in Addressing Climate Change*. Retrieved 7 July 2015 from:

http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/news/articles/2014/ssc_crucial_in_addressing_climate_change.html

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2015). *Countries of the Middle East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia Discuss Food Security*. Retrieved 20 September 2015 from:

http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/news/articles/2015/countries_discuss_food_security.html

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2015). *Energy in the global South* [Website]. Retrieved 15 August 2015 from: <http://ssei.org/energy-in-the-global-south>

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2015). *The High-level Committee on SSC* [Website]. Retrieved 16 September from: http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/services/policy/governing_bodies/high_level_committee.html

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2015). *High-Level Forum Urges Creation of Permanent South-South Expo in Macau*. Retrieved 17 September 2015 from:

http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/news/articles/2015/high-level_forum_urgues_permanent_south-south_expo_macau.html

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2015). *The India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund) - IBSA Trust Fund* [Website]. Retrieved 16 September 2015 from:

http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/library/solutions/partners/expo/The_India_Brazil_and_South_Africa_Facility_for_Poverty_and_Hunger_Alleviation_IBSA_Fund_IBSA_Trust_Fund.html

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2015). *Regional Services* [Website]. Retrieved 16 September 2015 from: http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/about/regional_services.html

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2015). *What are pivotal countries in the context of South-South Cooperation?* [Website]. Retrieved 19 September 2015 from: <http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/about/faq.html>

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2015). *What is the High-level Committee (HLC) on South-South Cooperation?* [Website]. Retrieved 17 September 2015 from: <http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/about/faq.html>

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2015). *What is the role of UNDP in South-South Cooperation?* [Website]. Retrieved 17 September 2015 from: <http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/about/faq.html>

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2015). *What Is South-South Cooperation?* [Website]. Retrieved 18 July 2015 from: http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/about/what_is_ssc.html

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2015). *When and why was the Special Unit for TCDC created?* [Website]. Retrieved 17 September 2015 from: <http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/about/faq.html>

West, J. (2014). *Chiang Mai Initiative: an Asian IMF?*. Retrieved 17 September 2015 from:

<http://asiancenturyinstitute.com/economy/248-chiang-mai-initiative-an-asian-imf>

World Vision International. (2014). *Impact and Resilience: World Vision International Annual Review 2014*.

Retrieved 21 September 2015 from: <http://www.wvi.org/international/publication/world-vision-international-annual-review-2014>

II. Empowering Youth For Development

“With the right skills, these young people are exactly the force we need to drive progress across the global agenda and build more inclusive and vibrant societies.”¹⁷⁶

Introduction

Today’s youth have incredible opportunities for vibrant growth; with the support of the international community and the Office of the Secretary-General, 2015 is a turning point for the engagement and empowerment of young people, and a chance to integrate youth more wholly into the international development agenda.¹⁷⁷ Furthermore, Madgy Martinez-Soliman, Director for the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support for the UN Development Programme (UNDP), emphasizes that youth have made it clear about the future they want with respect to education, jobs, responsible governments, and greater participation in decision-making.¹⁷⁸ Although young people want to have their voices heard, youth are still largely excluded from political, civic, economic, and social processes and institutions in local, regional, and international systems.¹⁷⁹ With the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the relationship between youth and development has gained increased attention.¹⁸⁰ The United Nations (UN) has played an important role in facilitating the integration of youth into the global agenda, and providing them with opportunities for effective engagement.¹⁸¹

The UN Secretariat recognizes the many different definitions that are associated with youth.¹⁸² The ages of 10 to 19 are classified as adolescent by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), while the ages of 15 to 35 are attributed to youth under the African Youth Charter.¹⁸³ Broadly, and for the purposes of data collection and analysis, the UN defines youth as persons aged 15 to 24, as first outlined in the Report of the Secretary-General, A/36/215 (1981).¹⁸⁴ For programmatic purposes, different definitions may be used, for instance the United Nations Educational, Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO) uses the broad UN definition for activities at international and regional levels, but may use more localized definitions of youth for national programs.¹⁸⁵ UNESCO notes the term youth “is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to the independency of adulthood with the awareness of ones interdependence as members of a community”; in particular UNESCO categorizes youth as those persons between the ages where they may be completed compulsory education, and where they find their first opportunity for employment.¹⁸⁶ The UNDP’s definition recognizes the broader range of socio-cultural issues that effect younger populations in different areas, from crisis to post-crisis settings, as mentioned in the *Youth Strategy for 2014-2017*.¹⁸⁷ The *UNDP Youth Strategy* utilizes the age limitations for data, and for more flexible definition of youth, referring to “young women and men, in all their diversity of experiences and contexts, taking into consideration the existing definitions of youth used at the country and/or regional level(s).”¹⁸⁸ Ultimately, while these age ranges provide organizations a foundation to compile research and data, these definitions are insufficient to fully addressing the issues associated with “youth,” such as poverty, employment, living conditions, education, and health.¹⁸⁹

According to UNDP, more than 600 million youth presently live in fragile and conflict-affected areas, where they face poverty and hunger, as well as limited and unequal access to education, health care, resources, and economic and political opportunities.¹⁹⁰ At the same time, they are exposed to discrimination and violence.¹⁹¹ The impact of

¹⁷⁶ OSGEY, *United Nations Secretary-General’s Ban Ki-moon message on World Youth Skills Day*, 2015.

¹⁷⁷ Richard, *Let’s make 2015 a turning point for youth participation*, 2015.

¹⁷⁸ UNDP, *UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017: Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future*, 2014, p. 1.

¹⁷⁹ Richard, *Let’s make 2015 a turning point for youth participation*, 2015.

¹⁸⁰ UNDP, *UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017: Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future*, 2014, p. 1.

¹⁸¹ UNDP, *UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017: Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future*, 2014.

¹⁸² *Ibid.*, p. 47, Annex 1.

¹⁸³ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁴ UNESCO, *What do we mean by “youth”?*, 2015.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁷ UNDP, *UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017: Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future*, 2014, p. 9.

¹⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

¹⁹¹ *Ibid.*

these hardships are cross cutting, and youth face considerable challenges to full participation in sustainable development opportunities within their local communities.¹⁹² The challenge is now for Member States and the global community to work together simultaneously on the endeavors outlined in the SDGs and the UN *World Programme of Action for Youth* (WPAY).¹⁹³ Engaging youth in the development agenda, and particularly within the targets of the SDGs, represents an intersectional opportunity within the UN and international community, and offers the chance for the creation of more robust, innovative local communities where youth are fully empowered participants at social, political, and economic levels.¹⁹⁴

International and Regional Framework

International frameworks are key to understanding the position of youth within the international system, and identify a broad cross-section of rights that are designed to protect young people. First and foremost are the rights of children, which are connected to family rights, as states have a responsibility to protect and care for their citizens, so do families have a responsibility to protect and care for their children.¹⁹⁵ Article 16 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948) states that “the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.”¹⁹⁶ The rights of the family mentioned are defined in the UDHR in respect to employment, health, and wellbeing of living, specifically in Articles 23 and 25, where the state is primarily responsible for upholding and protecting these rights.¹⁹⁷ These origins are important due to the position of youth in the family and community.¹⁹⁸ The rights of children are also directly considered in the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC), which builds on the UDHR to specify what the state and the community are responsible for.¹⁹⁹ The CRC details that all members of the human family are integral and that the family unit is a fundamental group in society, providing growth and well-being to all inhabitants, especially children.²⁰⁰ Beyond the UDHR and CRC, several other documents provide the framework for the responsibility of Member State and national governments within this topic.

The WPAY, first adopted by the GA in resolution 50/81 in 1996, and supplemented in GA resolution 62/156 (2008), provides the framework for priority areas and policy directives for Member States to fully integrate and empower youth as members of the community.²⁰¹ Further, WPAY stands as the first time the international community focused on youth as a group whose rights needed to be protected.²⁰² Prior to the introduction of the WPAY, the term “youth” was not well used within the international system; instead, the focus was on “children” as members of the family as explained in the UDHR.²⁰³ As such, the WPAY begins to acknowledge the contributions of young people outside of their familial role.²⁰⁴ The WPAY addresses the need for societies to incorporate the contribution and responsibility of youth in the construction of a better future.²⁰⁵ Providing support to the WPAY, the *Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes* (1998) recognizes that youth are a positive force in society and have enormous potential for contributing to development.²⁰⁶ Serving partially to help monitor the progress of the international community on the youth agenda and WPAY, the *World Youth Report*, published biennially by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs since 2003, outlines the present situation facing youth, and focuses on specific challenges and opportunities for the international community as well as trends in youth issues.²⁰⁷ Following the 2003 *World Youth Report*, the GA adopted resolution 58/133 recognizing the value of the 2003 report and acknowledging the participation of youth as an important objective for local, national, and international communities.²⁰⁸

¹⁹² UNDP, *UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017: Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future*, 2014.

¹⁹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁵ UN OHCHR, *Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/RES/44/25)*, 2015.

¹⁹⁶ UN General Assembly, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217A (III))*, 1948.

¹⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁹ UN OHCHR, *Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/RES/44/25)*, 1989.

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁰¹ UN DESA, *World Programme of Action for Youth*, 2010.

²⁰² UN General Assembly, *World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/RES/50/81)*, 1995.

²⁰³ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁶ UNESCO, *Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes*, 1998.

²⁰⁷ UN DESA, *World Youth Report 2005: Young People Today, and in 2015*, 2005.

²⁰⁸ UN General Assembly, *Policies and programmes involving youth (A/RES/58/133)*, 2003.

The MDGs, adopted under GA resolution 55/2 (2000), represented the first global, holistic, and targeted development agenda; the MDGs included a focus on youth and identified key indicators related to lifting youth out of poverty and integrating them into development activities.²⁰⁹ In the follow-up to the MDGs, the SDGs provide the framework for the post-2015 development agenda. Targets pertaining specifically to youth are found in the following SDGs: Goal 3 towards ensuring healthy lives, Goal 4 towards ensuring inclusive education, Goal 5 towards achieving gender equality and empowerment, Goal 8 to promote sustainable economic growth, and Goal 16 to provide justice for all.²¹⁰ It is noticeable that the focus on youth has gained significant international attention in areas pertaining to the eradication of poverty, promotion of education, equitable health care, and access to justice.²¹¹

Role of the International System

On 29 May 2015, at the GA event commemorating the 20th anniversary of the WPAY, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted that policies focused on youth in the post-2015 development agenda needed to be inclusive, gender-responsive, comprehensive, resourceful, and provide measures of accountability on the behalf of governments and Member States.²¹² Many different actors within the UN System and international community are implementing this goal. For example, as a precursor to this call to action, in January 2013, the Secretary-General, established the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY), led by Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, whose position is now entirely focused on representing youth and ensuring their voices are heard at the UN.²¹³

The UNDP serves as one of the key UN bodies focused on the programmatic implementation of policies and activities on the ground in Member States, including the development and execution of programs and strategies related to youth development.²¹⁴ The UNDP's *Youth Strategy 2014-2017* provides a framework for the organization's activities related to youth and sustainable development, and identifies three specific objectives where UNDP intends to focus: increased economic empowerment of youth; enhanced youth civic engagement and participation in decision-making and political processes and institutions; and strengthened youth engagement in resilience building.²¹⁵ The Strategy highlights the organization's four-pronged approach to development activities, which is to support, engage, influence, and sustain, and speaks to the need for outreach, effective advocacy, capacity development, and the support of national and local institutions to achieve development objectives.²¹⁶ Further the Strategy notes the importance of creating partnerships with civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for improving coordination of development activities, and for stronger implementation of programs at the local level.²¹⁷

In addition to its own work, UNDP serves as a co-chair of the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), focused on increasing coherence on youth development within the UN System, such as by creating the UN System-wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SWAP).²¹⁸ Youth-SWAP focuses on the themes of "employment, entrepreneurship, political inclusion, civic engagement and protection of rights, education, including comprehensive sexuality education, and health."²¹⁹ Further, Youth-SWAP is working to create and implement mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of youth development objectives, as well as reporting back to the international community on the progress of these objectives.²²⁰

The Youth-SWAP speaks to the collaboration and coordination between various UN bodies on this topic. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) serves as a hub for collaborative action across the UN System by

²⁰⁹ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000.

²¹⁰ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

²¹¹ *Ibid.*

²¹² UN OSGEY, *Remarks at General Assembly Event for the 20th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth*, 2015.

²¹³ UN OSGEY, *Meet the Envoy*, 2015.

²¹⁴ UNDP, *UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017: Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future*, 2014.

²¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 25.

²¹⁶ UNDP, *UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017: Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future*, 2014.

²¹⁷ *Ibid.*

²¹⁸ UN DESA, *About Youth-SWAP*, 2012.

²¹⁹ UN DESA, *United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Youth*. 2014; UN DESA, Youth Social Policy and Development Division, *United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development*, 2005.

²²⁰ UN DESA, *United Nations System – Wide Action Plan on Youth*, 2014.

preparing, monitoring, and implementing the development agenda.²²¹ Some of the key initiatives by UN bodies on youth development include: UNESCO, which formulates and reviews public policy and builds on improving educational and learning environment capacities for youth; UNFPA which enables evidence-based advocacy on policies and programmes, as well as promotes education and capacity-building on health services; UNICEF which works to protect the rights of the child and promotes gender equality and empowerment through life-skills education and participation; and the WHO, which develops supportive evidence-informed policies and uses strategic information to set up health services.²²²

Youth engagement in the international system has been incredibly powerful and effective in advancing the youth agenda.²²³ Youth delegates have contributed by adding their voices to the framework toward promoting youth empowerment. At the General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Youth in 2011, youth delegates from Germany and Sweden called for more promotion of youth organizations as they serve to empower youth through experience.²²⁴ This was in collaboration with Suriname speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) praising the work of CARICOM youth engagement on social and economic empowerment opportunities toward development, protection, leadership, participation, and health among participating Member States.²²⁵ These two remarks demonstrate how regional organizations can work alongside Member States in open forums where collaboration can take place on projects and policies that have shown promise on engaging young people towards sustainable growth.²²⁶

Civil Society Organizations and Community Involvement

Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a significant and imperative role in both empowering youth and promoting sustainable development in the community.²²⁷ In addition, CSOs are recognized by the IANYD to be at the forefront of youth advocacy, by providing youth with direct opportunities for participation in their communities as well as working to promote youth initiatives to local and national governments.²²⁸ The impact of civil society is highlighted in the UNDP Strategy on Civil Society and Civic Engagement, which notes that CSOs go beyond “project implementers,” to serve as important partners in moving policies through the political pipeline within the national scheme; this means CSOs are crucial to effective advocacy on social change, by serving a dual role as influencers and capacity-builders.²²⁹

Challenges and Opportunities

Youth face both challenges and opportunities with respect to development. One of the key struggles facing youth is limited education at all levels, which impacts young people’s ability for employment, and particularly prevents entry into the formal labour market.²³⁰ Promoting a sustainable environment through community involvement is hindered when youth are not actively involved, whether it is from scarcity in opportunity or education.²³¹ Some challenges and opportunities come from communities and social relations as they directly affect youth’s physical and psychological health.²³² Finally, when communities lack access to justice for young people, then the opportunities and infrastructure needed to empower youth fall apart and become dysfunctional.²³³

Youth Unemployment

As the number of youth continues to grow, UNDP studies since 2012 have noted a corresponding rise in unemployment and inactivity, furthered by the impacts of the 2008 financial crisis that saw economic ramifications

²²¹ ECOSOC, *Millennium Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2015.

²²² UN DESA, *Uniting 4 Development: The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development*, 2013, pp. 43-58.

²²³ UNDP, *Youth, Political Participation and Decision-Making*, 2015.

²²⁴ UN DPI, *Crowning High-Level Meeting of General Assembly on Youth, Outcome Document Urges Decisive Action to Overcome Young People’s Widespread Unemployment*, 2011.

²²⁵ *Ibid.*

²²⁶ *Ibid.*

²²⁷ UNDP, *UNDP Strategy on Civil Society and Civic Engagement*, 2012, p. 11.

²²⁸ UN DESA, *Uniting 4 Development: The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development*, 2013, p. 12.

²²⁹ UNDP, *UNDP Strategy on Civil Society and Civic Engagement*, 2012, p. 7.

²³⁰ *Ibid.*

²³¹ UNDP, *Youth, Political Participation and Decision-Making*, 2015.

²³² UN DESA, *Uniting 4 Development: The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development*, 2013, p. 51.

²³³ GSDRC Applied Knowledge Services, *Access to Justice and Legal Empowerment*, 2015.

across the spectrum.²³⁴ A recent International Labour Organization (ILO) report on global youth employment trends notes that current levels of youth unemployment are at 13% globally, still above the pre-financial crisis levels of 11.7%, but showing improvements over the last two years.²³⁵ Within lower-middle income and middle-income countries the number of youth within the workforce has shrunk as more and more youth are poised for secondary and post-secondary education, though this is not the case in lower income countries where millions of young people continue to abandon education to take jobs.²³⁶ The post-2015 agenda places a specific focus on the creation of decent work, that is jobs that promote personal dignity, family stability, and economic growth, grounded in sustainable, productive development.²³⁷ Education geared toward specific employment and market demands allow youth to harness their skills toward sustainable development for the benefit of their communities.²³⁸ For example, in 2006, UNDP collaborated with the Ministry of Education in Georgia to reform their professional education system to calibrate college education to meet the demands of the local labor market.²³⁹ Over 50 young women were the first to benefit from quality education through training and tailored workshops learning computer skills in order to sew and make clothes.²⁴⁰ Providing educational opportunities for youth that are focused on market demands helps empower youth by allowing them to meet the needs of employers.²⁴¹ Furthermore, this example also shows the influence of programs that support and engage students in skillful education and empowerment in their communities.²⁴²

In addition to UNDP, the UN Industrial Organization (UNIDO) works towards providing productive work for youth especially through development and economic growth driven by industrialization.²⁴³ UNIDO focuses its efforts on capacity-building and training within states, including providing vocational training and market-specific skills, as well as providing support for young entrepreneurs through their Entrepreneurship Curriculum Programme as well as their Productive Work for Youth program.²⁴⁴

Recognizing the growing challenges that face youth in regards to unemployment, UNDP works with Member States to develop and promote projects geared to address this dilemma.²⁴⁵ Projects that have proven to be effective in promoting career opportunities for youth have arisen from regional initiatives that pertain to youth empowerment and engagement and regional collaboration between individual Member States.²⁴⁶ A specific case presents itself in Guatemala, where young people, around the age of 20 years old, have obtained employment through bilingual skills and training.²⁴⁷ The project in use, Munijoven, trains students in English, where students are now employed in call centers in Guatemala City.²⁴⁸ As such, the Munijoven project aims to empower youth in underdeveloped areas and provide them with a chance to uplift themselves through education and employment.²⁴⁹ More projects like this, especially that empower youth in information and communication technology, can help improve the lives of youth and achieve the SDGs.

Youth Volunteerism

Beyond programs like Munijoven, engaging youth in volunteerism is one clear way the international community can empower youth to be involved in development.²⁵⁰ For some, educational opportunities do not provide the skills necessary or education is entirely absent for young people.²⁵¹ Therefore, it is through their experiences in volunteer

²³⁴ UNDP, *UNDP Strategy on Civil Society and Civic Engagement*, 2012, p. 7.

²³⁵ ILO, *Youth employment crisis easing but far from over*, 2015.

²³⁶ UN News Centre, *New UN report shows global youth unemployment rate still above financial crisis levels*, 2015.

²³⁷ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015; ILO, *Decent Work Agenda*, 2015.

²³⁸ UNDP, *UNDP Strategy on Civil Society and Civic Engagement*, 2012, p. 7.

²³⁹ UNDP, *In Georgia, Vocational Training Equips Youth for Job Market*, 2015.

²⁴⁰ Ibid.

²⁴¹ UNDP, *UNDP Strategy on Civil Society and Civic Engagement*, 2012, p. 7.

²⁴² Ibid.

²⁴³ UNIDO, *Youth in Productive Activities*, 2015.

²⁴⁴ Ibid.

²⁴⁵ UNDP, *UNDP Strategy on Civil Society and Civic Engagement*, 2012, p. 7.

²⁴⁶ Ibid., p. 22.

²⁴⁷ UNDP, *Broadening Career Opportunities in Guatemala*, 2015.

²⁴⁸ Ibid.

²⁴⁹ Ibid.

²⁵⁰ UN, *Youth and Volunteerism*, 2015.

²⁵¹ Ibid.

services where youth acquire the skills necessary for employment.²⁵² Opportunities that are presented to youth include volunteerism through NGOs and regional and international organizations, like the UN.²⁵³ According to United Nations Volunteers (UNV), youth volunteers contribute to over \$35 billion per year in service hours and are 27% more likely to find employment thereafter based upon their volunteer service.²⁵⁴ When a bottom-up approach is taken to empower youth participants in civil society, the quality of living is improved, having a sustainable impact on development in the community.²⁵⁵ One example is the establishment of a trust fund by the UN, UNDP, and UNV, designed to boost youth volunteerism and utilize youth to work towards achieving the SDGs.²⁵⁶ This trust fund, known as the UNV Youth Volunteering Trust Fund, provides financial support at the foundational level which continues to engage and assist programs that run into financial difficulty, a current problem for many organizations.²⁵⁷ Such programs include Advocating for Youth Volunteerism and Post-2015 in Bhutan, supported by UNDP Bhutan and UNV, which actively engaged approximately 470 Bhutanese youth in volunteer service to support the post-2015 development agenda, the MDGs, and sustainable development.²⁵⁸ Results from this program provided better access to education, health care, and job opportunities for youth, ranging from the ages of 16-30 years in Bhutan, as this provided both life-skills and educational experience which improve youth's employment opportunities.²⁵⁹

Community Involvement

Youth face issues in engaging in their communities due to constrictions on social development and policy decision-making. Social constrictions limit the influence that youth have, based on gender or even access to education.²⁶⁰ Youth are marginalized both when it comes to influencing decision-makers, and participating in the political process themselves, as young people, ages 15-25, constitute a fifth of the world's population but only 13.52% of parliamentarians are below the average age of 53.²⁶¹ With these limitations, Member States have used youth organizations and programmes in education as tools to assist in bringing up youth, where they continue to face political, socioeconomic, and cultural challenges.²⁶² Benefits from having youth involved in decision-making processes or getting involved in community initiatives leads to an overall improvement in community health and standard of living.²⁶³ Increased involvement of youth in their communities has created positive results toward achieving gender equality, which continues to be a pressing matter on the international agenda.²⁶⁴ Youth have the ability to influence policy-making and cultural norms to a point where a reversal in the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) can be observed.²⁶⁵ In Beir Anbar, a small village in the district of Keft, Egypt, both youth and elders in the community stood up against the "wrong and harmful" practice of FGM.²⁶⁶ The main drive to end this practice came from youth and civil society, and attention to the issue was amplified after a 13-year-old schoolgirl died as a result of the procedure.²⁶⁷ As this shows, when partnered with local authorities, youth can mobilize their peers and families, altering the tone of their environment and culture of their community.²⁶⁸ As a result, a five-year national strategy for FGM abandonment and family empowerment was developed by the Egyptian government, in partnership with CSOs and several UN agencies, which now serves as a testament to the influence of civil society and youth, encouraging similar programs.²⁶⁹

²⁵² UNDP, *In Georgia, Vocational Training Equips Youth for Job Market*, 2015.

²⁵³ UN, *Youth and Volunteerism*, 2015.

²⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁶ UNDP, *UN Establishes trust fund to support youth volunteerism*, 2013.

²⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁸ UNDP, *Advocating for Youth Volunteerism and Post-2015 in Bhutan*, 2014.

²⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁰ UNDP, *Youth, Political Participation and Decision-Making*, 2015.

²⁶¹ UNDP, *Youth Strategy 2014-2017*, 2014.

²⁶² *Ibid.*

²⁶³ UN DESA, *Uniting 4 Development: The United Nations Inter-agency Network on Youth Development*, 2013, p. 51.

²⁶⁴ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

²⁶⁵ UNDP, *From Tradition to Crime: The Changing Face of Female Genital Mutilation in Egypt*, 2015.

²⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

Health

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 2013 data report, statistics show that young people abuse illicit drugs more often than adults.²⁷⁰ The resultant psychological and physical effects negatively affect the user and his or her community, serving as a hindrance to youth empowerment and sustainable development.²⁷¹ In 2013, youth accounted for 41% of new HIV infections due to physical vulnerability of malnutrition and substance abuse, social inequality from poverty, and exclusion preventing access to health facilities.²⁷² Aside from the deterioration in one's health, individuals who are infected with HIV face marginalization due to stigma and physical inabilities.²⁷³ Youth continue to suffer from limited access to health care services, and it is particularly difficult for young women and youth with disabilities to get the necessary aid required.²⁷⁴ Without the ability to address deterioration in health and assist those who possess disabilities, the opportunity to improve quality of life in the community diminishes.²⁷⁵ This further leads to human rights violations and limits the ability of youth to participate in sustainable development.²⁷⁶ Because of the potential ways in which not addressing health needs can inhibit sustainable development, the international community has made it a priority to address physical, mental, and social health in SDGs 1, 2, and 3 as outlined in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.²⁷⁷ This has the potential to greatly improve the well-being of youth and their ability to participate in further sustainable development.

Access to Justice

Youth also are inhibited from experiencing and contributing to sustainable development due to a variety of limitations to have access to justice. In 2013, youth constituted over 60% of the total population of countries that are developing or have recently experienced conflict.²⁷⁸ In this environment, where access to justice for youth can already be difficult to acquire, as law and order deteriorates, access to justice for youth becomes even more challenging.²⁷⁹ Youth are also impacted by and instigators of crime, often due to social and economic exclusion.²⁸⁰ There is a strong trend demonstrating a reciprocal link on crime rates and social inclusion as policies provide programmes on educational support, early childhood intervention, community safety, and job and skills training on rehabilitation and reintegration programs.²⁸¹ Improving access to justice and legal empowerment of youth addresses discrepancies in the rule of law by extending legal provisions to those who are poor, and enables citizens to be proactive in utilizing the full extent of the law to satisfy their needs.²⁸² Ensuring access to justice, particularly for youth, is significantly important due to the ineffectiveness of the justice system to uphold and protect the rights and liberties of youth in their communities.²⁸³ In order to properly improve and ensure access to justice for youth, programs need to be developed to work on educating youth on their rights, allow youth to get involved in the system, and ensure universal access to justice and law without discrimination.²⁸⁴ One country example is the Greater Justice for Disadvantaged Groups from Moldova, where UNDP-supported projects are expanding legal aid and access to justice for youth groups that are vulnerable, including unemployed youth, residents in the Roma community, those living with HIV and AIDS, youth with disabilities, and youth migrants or refugees.²⁸⁵

Conclusion

Addressing the situation of today's youth is one of the main topics on the global agenda at this time. As one of the most important priorities of the Secretary-General, working with and for young people gives the international

²⁷⁰ UN DESA, *Uniting 4 Development: The United Nations Inter-agency Network on Youth Development*, 2013, p. 51.

²⁷¹ *Ibid.*

²⁷² UN General Assembly High Level Meeting On Youth, *Thematic Panel 2: Challenges to youth development and opportunities for poverty eradication, employment and sustainable development*, 2011, pp. 3-4.

²⁷³ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁷ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES//70/1)*, 2015.

²⁷⁸ UN Association-US, *The Role of Youth in Access to Justice*, 2013.

²⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁸¹ GSDRC Applied Knowledge Services, *Access to Justice and Legal Empowerment*, 2015.

²⁸² *Ibid.*

²⁸³ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁵ UNDP, *Youth, Political Participation and Decision-Making*, 2015.



community an opportunity to work towards sustainable development while addressing the needs of the largest generation that has ever been on the Earth.²⁸⁶ As the international community works to empower youth, both through and in sustainable development, it is important to understand the reciprocal relationship between the UN's impacts on young people across the world and how young people can return its impact on the global community. Member States must affirm their responsibilities to youth and the international community must continue to hold Member States accountable. Ultimately, young people and communities must continue to work together to improve the lives of youth everywhere, both now and in the future, for no task is insurmountable.

Further Research

Going forward, there is an opportunity to better understand how youth can substantially influence sustainable development and how important it is to establish a cohesive front within the UN System on maximizing youth engagement and participation. Delegates should consider: How can the UN System make programs, organizations, and policies on empowering youth for development more efficient? How can UNDP work more closely with CSOs and improve outreach to youth that encourages their participation in communities and sustainable development more broadly? What roles can Member States play and how can the UN System uphold state accountability, from actions engaging youth to access to justice? How can UNDP address the challenges presented to program funding and organizational outreach?

²⁸⁶ UN OSGEY, *Five-Year Action Agenda*, 2015.



Annotated Bibliography

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *Youth Resolutions* [Website]. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/ResourcesandPublications/Youthresolutions.aspx>

This website provides a list of resolutions pertaining specifically to youth from 1978 to the present. This source serves as a hub providing a timeline of resolution adoption that illustrates the momentum on addressing youth. For delegates, this source is very helpful for easily searching key words and topics among numerous resolutions, in addition to developing a better understanding of the evolution of youth development as a priority for the international community.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2010). *World Programme of Action for Youth*. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/wpay2010.pdf>

This Programme of Action is imperative to the research and understanding of the topic. The document provides numerous proposals and information on what work the international community does toward the topic of youth and empowerment. Within the text, 15 priorities have been identified, along with corresponding proposals that will instigate debate and analysis among delegates. This Programme of Action is important because it effectively and thoroughly communicates the importance of youth, the challenges they face, and the areas where progress needs to be made, which pertain directly to the SDGs and interact with all levels of government, national, regional, and international.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Youth Social Policy and Development Division. (2015). *United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development* [Website]. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/UNInterAgencyNetworkonYouthDevelopment.aspx>

This website provides a basic overview of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) and informs delegates on the objectives, composition, activities, and parties associated with the IANYD. With reference to the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), the IANYD is geared toward supporting and reviewing the progress of the WPAY and the implementation of numerous UN resolutions and affiliated projects in the field. The IANYD also engages in numerous sub-groups that address youth participation, environment, youth empowerment, and youth employment opportunities. Information on the composition of the agency and relevant programs can be found on this website. Delegates can use this information to gain foundational knowledge on the IANYD and associated projects. Furthermore, this site lists numerous thematic areas of work for delegates to connect previous principles and agendas to addressing the topic of empowering youth for development.

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2015). *2015 Time for Global Action for People and Planet: Sustainable Development Goals* [Website]. Retrieved 26 October 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/#prettyPhoto>

The Sustainable Development Goals are crucial to understanding the purpose of this topic. This website is the central location of all 17 SDGs and provides links and information to all of them; this website is important because students can utilize this as an essential source on the SDGs. Additionally, some projects highlight the works of the United Nations and its respective organizations toward addressing the SDG. This source contributes a large array of resources and can help delegates extend their research.

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017: Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future*. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Youth/UNDP_Youth-Strategy-2014-17_Web.pdf

This strategy, published by the UNDP, is indispensable for delegates writing on this topic. The strategy is a roadmap that consists of vital definitions and understandings pertaining to youth. The strategy also communicates the concept of sustainable development from the UNDP's standpoint. As UNDP engages youth for sustainable development, this source demonstrates analysis of the challenges to development, possible outcomes, objective goals, a plan to achieve these goals, and an evaluation study of the programmes. Additionally, delegates can use this source to improve their understanding of this topic and to supplement additional thoughts and sources to their papers.

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Youth Empowerment* [Website]. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/youth>

This website specifically discusses youth empowerment on what is empowerment for youth and how does the UNDP accomplish this task. This website is helpful and important because it provides the basic information on what delegates should be aware of in regards to the UNDP's influence and agenda points, the UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017, the post-2015 development agenda, and other endeavors by the organization. This website also consists of other links and attachments that may provide additional information and support to delegates while conducting their research.

United Nations, General Assembly High Level Meeting On Youth. (2011). *Thematic Panel 2: Challenges to Youth Development and Opportunities for Poverty Eradication, Employment and Sustainable Development* [Concept Note]. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/Concept%20Note%20Panel%202_Final.pdf

The 2011 High-Level Meeting on Youth focused on challenges to youth in development and the opportunities youth possess for poverty eradication, employment, and sustainable development. This document is important because the meeting discussed numerous aims and innovative solutions that target a wide array of topics that pertain to sustainable development and the empowerment of youth. With thought-provoking information and data, this source contributes a multitude of different concepts to promote delegate research to a deeper level. Furthermore, this source also touches upon the importance of youth's physical and psychological health.

United Nations, Office of the Secretary General Envoy on Youth. (2014). *Five-Year Action Agenda* [Website]. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/five-year-action-agenda/>

At the beginning of his second term, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon presented a Five-Year Action Agenda to the international community. This agenda identifies the Secretary-General's five targets, in addition to highlighting specific measures related to each priority. The fifth priority, working with and for women and young people, sets out four goals: deepen the UN campaign to end violence against women, promote women's political participation worldwide, develop an action agenda for ensuring the full participation of women in social and economic recovery, and address the needs of the largest generation of young people the world has ever known. Critically, this agenda will encourage and challenge delegates to brainstorm innovative approaches to issues involving youth.

United Nations, Office of the Secretary General Envoy on Youth. (2015). *Work Plan – Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY)-2015*. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/OSGEYs-Work-Plan_2015.pdf

Appointed in 2013, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, has developed four priority principles to support youth: participation, advocacy, partnerships, and harmonization. These goals and actions were constructed to further the Secretary-General's primary agenda of working with and for women and young people. The principles outlined by the Envoy on Youth provide a framework for research and ideas, as delegates consider how to apply innovation to the principles. It is important to keep in mind that the four principles are separate and target work in different areas. However, they each contribute to the Secretary-General's Five-Year Action Agenda's top priority of working with and for women and young people.

United Nations Programme on Youth. (2010). *Youth Participation in Development* [Report]. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: <http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/policy%20guide.pdf>

As research has demonstrated, participation among youth is essential to ensuring young people have the skills and tools necessary to improve living conditions among communities. This document provides delegates with the necessary information and resources to further the discussion and research in regards to the significance of youth participation. Additionally, this source provides data, case studies, definitions, explanations, and concluding results of relevant programs that have taken place.



Bibliography

- GSDRC Applied Knowledge Services. (2015). *Access to Justice and Legal Empowerment* [Website]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/topic-guides/safety/-security-and-justice/thematic-components/access-to-justice-and-legal-empowerment>
- International Labour Organization. (2015). *Decent Work Agenda* [Website]. Retrieved 13 November 2015 from: <http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/decent-work-agenda>
- Richard, N. (2015). *Let's make 2015 a turning point for youth participation!*. United Nations Development Programme. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2015/5/27/Let-s-make-2015-a-turning-point-for-youth-participation.html>
- Sandstrom, H. & S. Huerta. (2013). *The Negative Effects of Instability on Child Development: A Research Synthesis*. Urban Institute. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/alfresco/publication-pdfs/412899-The-Negative-Effects-of-Instability-on-Child-Development-A-Research-Synthesis.PDF>
- United Nations Association of the United States of America. (2013). *The Role of Youth in Access to Justice*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.unanca.org/news-events/past/174-the-role-of-youth-in-access-to-justice>
- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. (1992). *Agenda 21* [Outcome Document]. Retrieved 29 October 2015 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>
- United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. (n.d.). *About Rio+20 Conference* [Website]. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/about.html>
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *Youth, Political Participation and Decision-Making* [Fact Sheet]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-political-participation.pdf>
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *Youth Resolutions* [Website]. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/ResourcesandPublications/Youthresolutions.aspx>
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *Youth and Volunteerism* [Fact Sheet]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-volunteerism.pdf>
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2005). *World Youth Report 2005: Young People Today, and in 2015*. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/wyr05book.pdf>
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2010). *World Programme of Action for Youth*. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/wpay2010.pdf>
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2012). *About Youth-SWAP* [Website]. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: http://unyouthswap.org/about_youth_swap
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2013). *Uniting 4 Development, The United Nations Inter-agency Network on Youth Development* [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/un-ianydn.pdf>
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2014). *United Nations System – Wide Action Plan Report*. Retrieved 20 August 2015 from: http://www.unyouthswap.org/system/refinery/resources/2014/10/15/20_42_35_106_UN_Youth_SWAP_Report_2014.pdf

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Youth Social Policy and Development Division. (2015). *United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development* [Website]. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/UNInterAgencyNetworkonYouthDevelopment.aspx>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2011). *Crowning High-Level Meeting of General Assembly on youth, Outcome Document Urges Decisive Action to Overcome Young People's Widespread Unemployment* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2011/ga11119.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015). *2015 Time for Global Action for People and Planet: Sustainable Development Goals* [Website]. Retrieved 26 October 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/#prettyPhoto>

United Nations Development Programme. (2012). *Speech by Helen Clark: "What does Rio+20 mean for sustainable development?"* [Speech]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2012/08/20/helen-clark-what-does-rio-20-mean-for-sustainable-development-.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2012). *UNDP Strategy on Civil Society and Civic Engagement*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/documents/partners/civil_society/publications/2012_UNDP_Strategy-on-Civil-Society-and-Civic-Engagement_EN_final.pdf

United Nations Development Programme. (2013, January 25). *UN Establishes Trust Fund to Support Youth Volunteerism* [Press Release]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2013/01/25/un-establishes-trust-fund-to-support-youth-volunteerism.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2014, June 18). *Advocating for Youth Volunteerism and Post-2015 in Bhutan* [Press Release]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.pnud.org/content/bhutan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2014/06/18/advocating-for-youth-volunteerism-and-post-2015-in-bhutan.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Broadening Career Opportunities in Guatemala* [Website]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/ourstories/Ampliando-los-horizontes-laborales-en-Guatemala.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *From tradition to crime: The changing face of female genital mutilation in Egypt* [Website]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/ourstories/egypt--a-major-milestone-in-the-fight-against-fgm/>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *In Georgia, vocational training equips youth for job market* [Website]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/ourstories/in-georgia--vocational-training-equips-youth-for-careers.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017: Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future*. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Youth/UNDP_Youth-Strategy-2014-17_Web.pdf

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Youth Empowerment* [Website]. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/youth>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 Development Agenda* [Website]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/mdg.shtml>

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (1998). *Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.unesco.org/cpp/uk/declarations/lisbon.pdf>

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2012). *Empowering Youth for Peace and sustainable development: What role for UNESCO in 2014-2021* [Concept Note]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/BPI/EPA/images/media_services/Director-General/ConceptNoteEmpoweringYouth-for-Peace-and-SustainableDevelopmentEN.pdf

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2015). *Sustainable Development* [Website]. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/education-for-sustainable-development/sustainable-development/>

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2015). *What do we mean by “youth”?* [Website]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/youth/youth-definition/>

United Nations, General Assembly, Third session. (1948). *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217A (III))*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/

United Nations, General Assembly, Forty-second session. (1987). *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common World (A/42/427)*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/42/427>

United Nations, General Assembly, Forty-fourth session. (1989). *Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/RES/44/25)*. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/753). Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/44/25>

United Nations, General Assembly, Fiftieth session. (1995). *World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/RES/50/81)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/50/81>

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-fifth session. (2000). *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 9 November 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/55/2>

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-eighth session. (2003). *Policies and programmes involving youth (A/RES/58/133)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/58/497 Part II). Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/58/133>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 1 November 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

United Nations, General Assembly, High Level Meeting On Youth. (2011). *Thematic Panel 2: Challenges to Youth Development and Opportunities for Poverty Eradication, Employment and sustainable Development* [Concept Note]. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/Concept%20Note%20Panel%202020_Final.pdf

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (n.d.). *Youth in Productive Activities* [Website]. Retrieved 13 November from: <http://www.unido.org/youth.html>

United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth. (2015). *Five-Year Action Agenda* [website]. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/five-year-action-agenda/>

United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth. (2015). *Meet the Envoy* [website]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/about/>

United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth. (2015). *Remarks at General Assembly event for the 20th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon* [Speech]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2015/06/remarks-general-assembly-event-20th-anniversary-world-programme-action-youth/>



United Nations, Office of the Secretary General Envoy on Youth. (2015). *Work Plan – Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY)-2015*. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/OSGEYs-Work-Plan_2015.pdf

United Nations Program on Youth. (2010). *Youth Participation in Development*. Retrieved 22 July 2015 from: <http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/policy%20guide.pdf>

III. Ensuring Women’s and Men’s Equal Participation in Democratic Governance and Peacebuilding

“The world will never realize one hundred percent of its goals if fifty percent of its people cannot realize their full potential.”²⁸⁷

Introduction

The goal of improving equality between men and women is tied to both the idea that men and women are inherently equal, as well as that the exclusion of one group from participation in political life can often make a country more at risk for political and civil conflict.²⁸⁸ In many Member States, women are at a disadvantage when it comes to their participation in and ability to contribute towards a stable and productive society, especially in their ability to productively assist in the processes of peacebuilding and democratic governance.²⁸⁹ Indeed, these two issue areas are inextricably linked together.²⁹⁰ Gender equality and the ability of women to contribute to the process of peacebuilding can lead to more democratic inclusiveness, representative democratic governance, as well as overall improvements in a country’s social and economic development.²⁹¹ A cornerstone document in the effort to improve peacebuilding efforts, the “Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations” (A/55/305), known as the “Brahimi Report,” defines peacebuilding as “activities undertaken on the far side of conflict to reassemble the foundations of peace and provide the tools for building on those foundations something that is more than just the absence of war.”²⁹² Similarly, the term “democratic governance” refers to several issue areas, including electoral and legislative systems, access to justice and public administration services, and the provision of basic services such as health and education systems.²⁹³ Improving not only the ability of women to access these institutions, but also their ability to actively participate in their development and growth is a crucial and necessary aspect of the development goals outlined in the post-2015 development agenda by the United Nations (UN), the UN Development Programme’s (UNDP), the broader international community of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).²⁹⁴

International and Regional Framework

Efforts to improve gender equality and participation in the areas of peacebuilding and democratic governance have generally fallen within the umbrella of broader efforts to achieve gender equality in all areas of political, social, and economic life.²⁹⁵ One of the earliest efforts by the United Nations System to achieve gender equality is the 1979 *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*.²⁹⁶ CEDAW came out of the efforts of the UN System during a period in the 1960s and 1970s when the global community was becoming more cognizant of discrimination against women in many forms.²⁹⁷ The document provides the basis for many international efforts to improve the status of women, including calling on states to take measures establishing legal protection of the rights of women on equal basis with men, emphasizing the acceleration of efforts for de facto equality between men and women, and to take steps to increase the participation of women in political and public life on equal terms with men.²⁹⁸ Similarly, the 1995 *Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)* lays out critical steps and measures that states can adopt to further efforts to improve gender equality, including on the issues of peacebuilding and democratic governance.²⁹⁹ The *Beijing Platform for Action* reaffirms CEDAW, but also uniquely notes the important role women play in conflict resolution and nuclear disarmament.³⁰⁰ The BPfA also addresses and outlines

²⁸⁷ Commission on the Status of Women, *Secretary-General’s remarks at the opening session of the Commission on the Status of Women on 9 March 2015, in New York, 2015.*

²⁸⁸ IDEA, *Overcoming Political Exclusion*, 2013, p. 5.

²⁸⁹ Klot, *Women and Peacebuilding*, 2013, p. 1.

²⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

²⁹¹ *Ibid.*

²⁹² UN General Assembly, *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305)*, 2000.

²⁹³ UNDP, *Democratic Governance*.

²⁹⁴ Conciliation Resources, *Gender, Violence, and Peace: a post-2015 development agenda*, 2014.

²⁹⁵ UNDP, *Gender Equality Strategy, 2014-2017*, 2014, p. 8.

²⁹⁶ UN, General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979.

²⁹⁷ UN-Women, *Short History of CEDAW Convention*.

²⁹⁸ UN, General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979.

²⁹⁹ UN-Women, *Fourth World Conference on Women*, 1995.

³⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

solutions for the greater political participation and representation of women, including their role in decision-making process at all levels of government.³⁰¹ The recently established Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have also made gender equality a priority.³⁰² Specifically, Goal 5 seeks to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls through various efforts, including ensuring “full and effective” participation of women in all aspects of political, social, and economic life, and ensuring access to gender services such as reproductive health resources.³⁰³ Further, Goal 16 from the SDGs calls for the promotion of inclusive societies and the construction of inclusive institutions, noting the importance of equal access to justice and more responsive, inclusive representation.³⁰⁴ Indeed, the SDGs outline goals that seek to transform the way gender inequalities permeate society by addressing barriers that women face in meeting the challenges of participating in decision-making processes, governance, and peacebuilding.³⁰⁵

Several key documents provide the cornerstone for the role of women and gender equality in peacebuilding efforts, including UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution 1325 of 2000.³⁰⁶ As we approach the 15th anniversary of its adoption, resolution 1325 provides a framework and plan of action for addressing the role of women in peacebuilding efforts by calling for Member States to provide training guidelines, increase financial and technical assistance for these training efforts, and report on the impact of armed conflict on the gender dimension of peace processes and conflict resolution.³⁰⁷ Eight years later, in 2008, the UNSC adopted resolution 1820.³⁰⁸ Resolution 1820 contributes new dynamics to the framework on gender equality in peacebuilding by calling for the Secretary-General and other UN agencies to coordinate with women and women-led groups in developing methods of protection against gendered violence in conflict scenarios.³⁰⁹ Further, resolution 1820 goes on to reaffirm and support themes related to the participation of women in the decision-making process throughout post-conflict events.³¹⁰ Several other resolutions have been adopted in recent years that address the role of women in peace and security.³¹¹ Most notably, Security Council resolution 1889 of 2009 has begun to refine previous attempts at gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding by encouraging and urging Member States to be more rigorous in their collection of data regarding the needs of women and girls in these scenarios.³¹²

There are also several important documents that deal specifically with the issue of gender equality and democratic governance. Article 3 of the 1966 *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* specifically calls for State Parties to the covenant to “undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights.”³¹³ The Summit Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit, later adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 60/1, focused on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and called for increased representation of women in government decision-making bodies and “equal opportunity to participate fully in the political process.”³¹⁴ Further, during the 16th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, held in 1997, General Recommendation 23 was issued.³¹⁵ Article 7 of the recommendation (political and public life) calls upon State Parties to end discrimination against women in political and public spheres.³¹⁶ Specifically, it calls for women to gain suffrage rights, to gain the right to stand for office, to participate in the creation and formulation of public policy, and to participate in NGOs that have an impact on political life.³¹⁷

³⁰¹ UN-Women, *Fourth World Conference on Women*, 1995.

³⁰² UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

³⁰³ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁵ Gender, Violence, and Peace: a post-2015 development agenda, pp. 4-5.

³⁰⁶ UN Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1325 (2000))*, 2000.

³⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

³¹⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹¹ UNP, *Women, peace, and security*; UN General Assembly, *Revised draft outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly of September 2005 (A/59/HLPM/CRP.1/Rev.2)*, p. 13, 2005.

³¹² UN Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1889 (2009))*, 2009.

³¹³ *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, 1966.

³¹⁴ UN General Assembly, *2005 World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1)*, 2005.

³¹⁵ UN-Women, *General Recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*.

³¹⁶ *Ibid.*

³¹⁷ *Ibid.*

Role of the International System

UNDP is actively involved in projects that further both peacebuilding and women's participation in democratic governance.³¹⁸ For example, UNDP assisted Haiti in 2012 with the creation of work schemes that sought to train women so that they can gain experience in the areas of disaster management, recycling, earthquake resistant construction, riverbank protection, and watershed rehabilitation.³¹⁹ In addition, UNDP has supported efforts for helping to provide financial assistance for gender equality in post-conflict reconstruction.³²⁰ UNDP actively participates in growing donor participation to enable funding for gender mainstreaming projects, including projects in South Sudan and Timor-Leste that focus on employment and rehabilitation, as well as work in Sierra Leone to build capacity and good governance practices.³²¹ In terms of projects related to democratic governance, UNDP has actively participated in both local projects, including the Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund in South Sudan, and continent-wide projects in Africa.³²² For example, the Slum Women's Initiative for Development project focuses on access to justice for women who were disenfranchised by gender discrimination in regards to inheritances and land disputes.³²³ It primarily seeks to highlight issues women face in Africa regarding land ownership, seeking to influence legal frameworks to end discrimination against women and to insert the perspectives of women into the discourse on land and property.³²⁴

Other UN entities have done significant work linking gender equality with democratic governance and peacebuilding. The United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has engaged in several projects on this issue, largely related to building capacity to help aid in women's equal participation in elections and national dialogue and strengthening government capacity to address sexual and gender-based violence.³²⁵ The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) also does similar work, focusing on building national capacity through providing gender expertise to national governments.³²⁶ UN-Women has also provided local capacity-building support to NGOs such as The Women's Watch Groups in Tajikistan.³²⁷

NGOs also play a vital role on this topic by providing valuable research and awareness to this topic that is leveraged by policy makers and practitioners, including groups such as IDEA and MADRE.³²⁸

Enhancing the Participation of Women in Peacebuilding

The participation of women in the process of peacebuilding is of dire importance in societies that are emerging from conflict scenarios.³²⁹ Both men and women face challenges and hardship when emerging from a period of conflict, but women and girls are often significantly more disadvantaged than men.³³⁰ Not only do women face numerous hurdles related to the provision of health services and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), but they often are also unable to participate in the processes that can shape and resolve these issues going forward.³³¹ These problems often stem from prevailing social norms and physical insecurities that can prevent women from equal access to the resources the men often have.³³² According the UNDP, only 22% of peace agreements signed contained provisions that provide for the security of women.³³³ Further, only 8% of delegations taking part in UN-sponsored peace processes have been women.³³⁴ It is critical to develop ways to further improve the peacebuilding process by

³¹⁸ UNDP, *Gender in Crisis Countries*, 2013.

³¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

³²⁰ UNDP, *Price for Peace*, 2011.

³²¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 9, 14, 17, 21.

³²² UNDP, *Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund*.

³²³ UNDP, *Engendering Access to Justice*, 2014, p. 1.

³²⁴ *Ibid.*

³²⁵ PBF, *The PBF and Gender Equality*, 2015.

³²⁶ UN-Women, *Recovery and Peacebuilding*.

³²⁷ *Ibid.*

³²⁸ IDEA, *Areas of Expertise*, 2013; MADRE, *What we do*.

³²⁹ Gleanor, *Independent Thematic Review on Gender for UN Peacebuilding Support Office: final report*, 2014.

³³⁰ UNDP, *Fast Facts: Gender in Crisis Countries*, p. 1.

³³¹ Klot, *Women and Peacebuilding*, p. 1

³³² UN-Women, *Recovery and Peacebuilding*.

³³³ UNDP, *Fast Facts: Gender in Crisis Countries*, p. 1.

³³⁴ *Ibid.*

creating new and improved ways of integrating women into the process, which will help ensure commitments by governments towards these issue areas.³³⁵

The Role of Women in Countering Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

As countries emerge from conflict, women and girls remain at great risk for instances of SGBV.³³⁶ Some of this risk is institutionalized, as many peace agreements are framed in language that is gender neutral so as to project equal treatment to the needs of men and women.³³⁷ However, this language often fails to give recognition of the priorities and concerns that face women in post-conflict situations.³³⁸ Once infrastructure has collapsed during and after conflict, this can promote a continued level of hostility towards women and girls brought on by pervasive lawlessness.³³⁹ The primary problem that women face in resolving these issues is that attempts to engage in this process are often met with obstruction and backlash.³⁴⁰ Many frameworks, like Security Council resolution 1325, try to address this problem but typically fail to address the role and participation of women in solving issues that deeply affect them.³⁴¹ To combat this, women have often adopted gendered stereotypes to empower and strengthen their position in society.³⁴² For instance, women's natural position in society as nurturers and arbitrators has given them power at the local level through several different programs.³⁴³ In Liberia, the Women in Peace Building Network in concert with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) created what are known as "peace huts" where women regularly meet to share information on local problems in the community, namely issues related to SGBV, including sensitive issues such as rape and abuse.³⁴⁴ This tactic is particularly useful because while men often prefer to be engaged in discussing solutions to SGBV, it has been found that women prefer to address cases privately because of "a fear of abandonment, embarrassment of public disclosure, punishment of the perpetrator who is often a relative, as well as the perception that justice is not accessible through the legal and justice systems."³⁴⁵ Other efforts, including the Kosovo Small Arms Control Initiative and the Bougainville Women's Federation in Papua New Guinea have also worked extensively at the local village and community levels to ensure the participation of women and minorities in the creation of safer community plans.³⁴⁶

Ensuring that the voices of women are heard at the national level is important and likely provides the most glaring gap in responses to SGBV.³⁴⁷ While it is important to emphasize the role that women play at the local level, efforts to combat SGBV must also integrate gender considerations into national peacebuilding action plans.³⁴⁸ For example, efforts were made in Sierra Leone following its conflict to establish a national peacebuilding agenda for women.³⁴⁹ Still, gaps exist as these programs are few and far between.³⁵⁰ Programs tailored to the local needs of the population are necessary, as many psychological programs to help victims are tailored towards Western norms.³⁵¹ There must also be an increase in the provision of social protection for women through national programs, including social insurance programs that can prevent women from being forced into exploitative situations, many of whom have been victimized and then cast away from their families as a result of SGBV.³⁵²

³³⁵ UNDP, *Fast Facts: Gender in Crisis Countries*, p. 1.

³³⁶ Peacebuilding Initiative, *Empowerment: Women & Gender Issues: Women, Gender & Peacebuilding Processes*, 2009.

³³⁷ UN DAW, *Peace agreements as a means for promoting gender equality and ensuring participation of women: a framework of model provisions*, 2003, p. 11.

³³⁸ *Ibid.*

³³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 13.

³⁴⁰ UN-Women, *Women Building Peace and Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict-affected Contexts*, 2007, p. 4.

³⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

³⁴² *Ibid.*, p. 26.

³⁴³ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

³⁴⁵ Search for Common Ground, *Supporting Women's Engagement in Peacebuilding and Preventing Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Post Conflict: Community Led Approaches*, 2008, p. 11.

³⁴⁶ UNDP, *Strengthening the Rule of Law in Crisis-Affected and Fragile Situations*, 2014, pp. 67, 82.

³⁴⁷ United States Institute of Peace, *Gender, War & Peacebuilding*, 2012, p. 8.

³⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁹ Klot, *Women and Peacebuilding*, 2007, p. 3.

³⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

³⁵¹ *Ibid.*

³⁵² *Ibid.*

The Participation of Women in Peace Processes

Formulating strategies to increase the participation of women in communities emerging from conflict must be rooted in an increase in the number of voices of women in peace processes, which have largely been dominated by men.³⁵³ Indeed, there often exists a complete lack of gender expertise during the negotiation phases of peace processes, which is hampered by conflicting opinions in the international community on areas such as gender quotas and emergency reproductive health.³⁵⁴ What is referred to as “peace processes” is generally thought to include negotiations and agreements that shape the cessation and outcomes of conflict.³⁵⁵ Unfortunately, these processes are inherently gendered arenas where the primary belligerents of a conflict, often men, come together to resolve the causes of the conflict and work towards a resolution.³⁵⁶ Women are often structurally excluded from this process, as both domestic and international actors are all too eager to resolve general instances of violence in an effort to expedite the end of conflict with little attention paid to gender issues.³⁵⁷ Indeed, in 2008 it was found that only 4-11% of 280 negotiators were women, with women more commonly being featured on government delegations rather than combatant delegations.³⁵⁸ While the number of women in high positions (signatory, chief mediator) has generally remained unchanged, there has been an increase in the presence of women in mediation positions, particularly in UN-sponsored missions where seven of the 11 processes involved delegations with women.³⁵⁹ This means that while the likelihood of getting a higher number of women to the peace table has been difficult, it is not entirely dire.³⁶⁰

In order to rectify the absence of women in negotiations and peace process delegations, it is imperative that the UN and organs of the UN create standardized protocols that will ensure an inclusive process.³⁶¹ There was a high presence of women involved in the negotiations during the Mindanao peace process in 2014.³⁶² A cause of this was that themes of inclusiveness and engagement in civil society for women had been on the ascent in the Philippines leading up to the peace process, an area where increased international awareness campaigns can help.³⁶³ International support from the United Kingdom and other NGOs also provided access to the process for women’s groups, allowing them to participate in a greater role.³⁶⁴ Despite the success of Mindanao, challenges remain. Funding at the international level is still critically missing from support efforts for increased participation and Member States and the international community should make every effort to contribute towards this goal.³⁶⁵ International advisory bodies that are involved often lack gender expertise and women’s voices in their projects, which suggests that more effort should be made on the part of the international community to enhance their presence on such bodies.³⁶⁶

Empowering Women’s Participation in Democratic Governance

In addition to increasing the role of women in peacebuilding, it is important for the international community to ensure women play a pivotal role in governance after violence has ceased. According to UN-Women, as of 2015 only 22% of national parliamentarians globally were female.³⁶⁷ Further, nearly a fifth of the states in the international system have less than 10% of their legislatures composed of women.³⁶⁸ In addition, democratic governance also includes the ability of women to access institutions of the state, including justice institutions and women’s participation in justice institutions.³⁶⁹

³⁵³ Klot, *Women and Peacebuilding*, 2007, p. 2.

³⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵⁵ Bell, *Women and Peace processes, negotiations, and agreements: operational opportunities and challenges*, 2013.

³⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

³⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

³⁶⁰ UN-Women, *Women’s Participation in Peace Negotiations: Connections between Presence and Influence*, 2012.

³⁶¹ *Ibid.*, p. 25.

³⁶² Conciliation Resources. *Women’s participation and inclusive peace processes: lessons learned from Mindanao and beyond*, 2015.

³⁶³ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

³⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

³⁶⁵ UN-Women, *Women’s Participation in Peace Negotiations: Connections between Presence and Influence*, p. 25.

³⁶⁶ Bell, C. *Women and Peace processes, negotiations, and agreements: operational opportunities and challenges*, p. 8.

³⁶⁷ UN-Women, *Facts and Figures: Leadership and Political Participation*.

³⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁶⁹ UN-Women, *Strengthening Women’s Access to Justice*.

Increasing Women's Representation

The lack of women's representation at the national level has different causes, many associated with the institutions of government themselves, including political parties, legislatures, and electoral financing.³⁷⁰ In terms of political parties, women face numerous obstacles at all levels.³⁷¹ Women are particularly disadvantaged in scenarios where recruitment to political parties is informal, usually as a result of decisions on the issue commonly being vested in the power of a few elite party leaders, usually men.³⁷² Once election season has begun, women are often left unaware and untrained in skills necessary to obtain office, including message development, media relations, gaining media visibility, and communicating with voters.³⁷³ Finally, once elections have ceased, women can struggle to promote gender sensitive platforms and policy proposals, as well as promote gender sensitive party policy within the party itself.³⁷⁴ Additionally, women face significant hurdles in electoral financing laws and availability that often make obtaining positions of influence difficult.³⁷⁵ Specific barriers that women face in achieving electoral financing include patterns of gender discrimination related to the role of women in society and their effects on the potential perception of donors, psychological barriers for women themselves that have been ingrained as a result of social norms or customs, a lack of networks to draw assistance and funding from, and an uphill battle against incumbents, largely men, that usually hold significant advantages in all of these areas.³⁷⁶

The provision of grants to assist women once they have obtained political office has been an important tool to rectify some of the above constraints on women's participation in government.³⁷⁷ Such programs promote policy and legal initiatives that can improve the chances of women to obtain representation, but also to allow for a larger "buy-in" to women's representation where more women (and men) are inspired to support increased participation of women in political life.³⁷⁸ Programs that seek to offset power imbalances that exist in electoral politics, including those that give women heightened visibility in the media, have been effective to this end.³⁷⁹ But work still remains to be done. Electoral systems themselves must be adequately equipped to promote gender equality, and so debate on electoral reform that includes these issues is a necessity.³⁸⁰ Personnel and consultants from the international and domestic community must also be better trained and equipped to provide advice and information on promoting gender mainstreaming.³⁸¹ Domestically, national statistics and planning offices must also be trained and prepared to provide information that can then be used to further assess other avenues that can promote the participation of women in political life.³⁸²

Improving Women's Access to Justice

While one part of democratic governance is the participation of women in political office and positions of decision-making power, democratic governance also includes the ability of women to participate in the obtaining of justice from state institutions, including access to legal counsel and court systems.³⁸³ On 23 July 2015 CEDAW released General recommendation 33, which outlined several problem areas.³⁸⁴ The recommendation reaffirms many of the previously discussed challenges facing gender equality, including ending discrimination, resolving cases of SGBV, and others.³⁸⁵

UN-Women is in the process of hosting several events aimed at strengthening women's access to justice globally.³⁸⁶ Despite these efforts, challenges and gaps remain. States need to ensure that all court systems within its jurisdiction

³⁷⁰ UNDP, *Empowering Women for Stronger Political Parties*, 2012; UNDP, *Parliaments and Gender Equality*, 2013; UNDP, *Electoral Financing to Advance Women's Political Participation: A Guide for UNDP Support*, 2007.

³⁷¹ UNDP, *Empowering Women for Stronger Political Parties*, 2012, p. 4.

³⁷² *Ibid.*

³⁷³ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

³⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

³⁷⁵ UNDP, *Electoral Financing to Advance Women's Political Participation: A Guide for UNDP Support*, 2007.

³⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

³⁷⁷ UN-Women, *Democracy with Women, For Women*, 2010.

³⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

³⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

³⁸⁰ UNDP, *Quick Entry Points to Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality in Democratic Governance Clusters*, 2007, p. 13.

³⁸¹ *Ibid.*

³⁸² UNDP, *Fast Facts: Gender Equality and Democratic Governance*, 2011, p. 2.

³⁸³ UN-Women, *Strengthening Women's Access to Justice*.

³⁸⁴ CEDAW, *General Recommendation on women's access to justice (CEDAW/C/GC/33)*, 2015.

³⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁸⁶ UN-Women, *UN Women Events*.

adhere to international standards of independence and impartiality, including specialized judicial and quasi-judicial courts.³⁸⁷ Independent monitoring is also necessary going forward to ensure that reforms taken are implemented accordingly.³⁸⁸ NGOs and the international community can support such efforts through the financing and provision of monitoring missions to be deployed.³⁸⁹ Finally, every effort should be made by local governments to enact policies and reforms that allow for the equal participation of women in judicial roles at various levels.³⁹⁰ The more women that have access to judicial positions in lower courts, the more high level positions can be obtained over time as women are increasingly able to be promoted through the system.³⁹¹

Conclusion

The empowerment of women in peacebuilding and democratic governance is deeply layered and complex, intermingling various cross-cutting issues that often overlap and influence each other. Because of the complexity of these issues, there is still a significant amount of work to be done. Many of these issues face steep opposition from previously ingrained social norms and political elites who have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. Thus, it is important for delegates to use the framework outlined in this guide to find gaps and avenues of improvement that can be positively affected by international cooperation and coordination efforts through the work of UNDP, such as better mechanisms for coordinating funding, knowledge sharing, and project management.

Further Research

Delegates must think critically about how these two issues intersect and how improving participation in these areas can improve the lives of women more broadly in a post-conflict scenario. In addition, delegates should also think closely about how a country can better integrate the voices of women into democratic governance once conflict has settled. How can women overcome barriers to being elected into political office? What reforms must take place once in office to better reflect gender polices that benefit women more broadly? Delegates should also endeavor to think creatively about how barriers to justice can be removed so that women who experience SGBV and other issues can further participate in democratic governance institutions. Further, how can UNDP facilitate resolutions to these questions? What financing programs are most effective? How have previous donor programs been effective and how can such successful efforts be redeployed in other areas still facing challenges? How can UNDP further improve its efforts with local coordination and advocacy to improve the role of women in local politics? Is UNDP doing enough at the national level? If not, how can UNDP expand its reach to include national political resolutions for gender mainstreaming?

³⁸⁷ CEDAW, *General Recommendation on women's access to justice (CEDAW/C/GC/33)*, 2015.

³⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

³⁹¹ *Ibid.*

Annotated Bibliography

Conciliation Resources. (2014). *Gender, violence and peace: a post-2015 development agenda*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.c-r.org/sites/default/files/592%20CR-Saferworld%2012page%20Draft%2006%20pdf%20version.pdf>

This report produced by the NGO Conciliation Resources provides a look at how the post-2015 development agenda accords with the issues of gender, violence, and peacebuilding. The document provides a fantastic overview for the intersecting issues contained in this topic – gender, violence, and governance – but also situates those problems in the context of UNDP’s development agenda. It provides a wealth of facts and figures to draw from so that delegates can become better acquainted with the topic, as well as key gaps and areas where there are challenges facing gender equality. Delegates will find that this is a great starting document for framing the complex issues discussed in this topic. It will provide a good starting point for delegates to begin to analyze the major problems and begin to create their own unique solutions.

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. (2013). *Journeys from Exclusion to Inclusion: Marginalized women’s successes in overcoming political exclusion*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.idea.int/publications/overcoming-political-exclusion/index.cfm>

This is an in-depth look at the primary determinants of exclusion in the political sphere, as well as solutions to bring women into a more inclusive political process. It looks at various macro- and micro-level determinants and causes of exclusion, such as the role of the media, legal limits on participation, language barriers, the role of education, and other causal factors that make it difficult for women to enter the political process. Additionally, it provides a critical analysis of why these factors lead to exclusion. Then this source offers potential solutions that could resolve the difficulties women often face. This is the perfect source for delegates to understand the causal factors that lead to exclusion. Before delegates can formulate their own policy solutions, they must understand why exclusion occurs in the first place. The detail of this guide makes it an excellent resource for delegates to understand the problems associated with democratic governance.

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. (2013). *Overcoming Political Exclusion: Strategies for marginalized groups to successfully engage in political decision-making*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.idea.int/publications/overcoming-political-exclusion/index.cfm>

This detailed report deals broadly with how to integrate marginalized societal groups, such as women, into positions of political power and decision-making. It highlights how there can often be significant backlash when marginalized groups are introduced into such positions and provides 38 case studies as examples. Not only does this report deal specifically with women and gender equality, but it also deals with a wide variety of groups that also face similar disadvantages. Delegates can draw from other issue areas in order to come up with creative and new ideas for dealing with the issue of marginalized women in governance and peacebuilding.

Klot, J. (2007). *Women and Peacebuilding*. Social Science Research Council. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pdf/doc_wgll/wgll_backgroundpaper_29_01_08.pdf

This is an independent expert paper commissioned by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). It highlights the main challenges facing women in post-conflict situations and how their role in peacebuilding and conflict prevention is critical for states that have recently experienced violence. It provides a critical analysis for a variety of sub-issues related to women and peacebuilding, including gender-based violence and exploitation, judicial reform, social protection, and HIV/AIDS. Klot also outlines a series of recommendations for achieving many of the aforementioned reforms. Because of the academic nature of the article, delegates will find that it provides an incredibly useful critical analysis of the issue external to the UNDP. In addition, this source can help highlight gaps where delegates can be creative with their own recommendations.

United Nations Development Programme. (2011). *Price for Peace: Unlocking the peacebuilding potential*. [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/womens-empowerment/price-of-peace-financing-for-gender-equality-in-post-conflict-reconstruction/price-of-peace-financing-for-gender-equality-in-post-conflict-reconstruction.pdf>

This report by UNDP is a key report for understanding the dynamics of peacebuilding as it relates to gender equality and the increased participation of women. Specifically, it deals with a critical aspect that must be dealt with to promote this issue: funding. This is particularly useful because it focuses on the problem of funding, what needs to be funded, and what is currently being funded, as well as information on different projects. It also highlights how budgets are formed and how those budgets apply to specific cases. As a common hole in many working papers is often realistic funding proposals, this guide can provide a useful template for how funding can be applied to address the issue promoting women's participation in peacebuilding efforts. Delegates can draw from the examples and begin to formulate their own ideas.

United Nations Development Programme. (2013). *Gender Equality: Women's Participation and Leadership in Governments at the Local Level* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/dam/rbap/docs/Research%20&%20Publications/democratic_governance/RBAP-DG-2014-Gender-Equality.pdf

While this report deals specifically with Asia and the Pacific, it provides a fantastic look at UNDP's work on the integration of women into positions of political power and decision-making, specifically at the local level. It considers how the status of women in contexts and cultures can affect their ability to participate in government, especially at the local level. It also provides a wealth of statistics and information that can help delegates with background information and contextual details. It also deals with specific areas that must be addressed to further the issue, including institutional reform measures and capacity development. This report is the perfect primer for understanding UNDP's vision for greater women's participation in local government; it also provides delegates the tools to formulate their own ideas.

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *Engendering Access to Justice*. [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Access%20to%20Justice%20and%20Rule%20of%20Law/Engendering%20Access%20to%20Justice.pdf>

This report from the UNDP looks specifically at the topic of improving women's access to land rights, an issue that has consequences for democratic governance, as well as peacebuilding. The report covers the main challenges preventing women from having access to land rights in many cases, as well as survey and focus group discussions with women and men on how to better improve that access. The most useful part of this document is some of the survey data, as it provides the perceptions of men and women on the ground experiencing these issues. This document can be a great way for delegates to understand how these issues affect individuals and how policy can be formulated with their needs in mind.

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/GenderEqualityStrategy2014-17.pdf>

This report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provides a detailed and nuanced look at the committee's work in the area of gender equality. It takes aspects of the UNDP's 2014-2017 Strategic Plan and narrows the focus to its mission and approach for dealing with gender, specifically. It provides details regarding the committee's mandate in regards to gender equality, how this issue integrates with a variety of topic areas, and lists a variety of outcomes related to this issue in line with the UNDP strategic plan, 2014-2017. Delegates will find that this can not only help them situate UNDP's work on gender equality more broadly, but also provide extremely helpful information on the department's current plan of action when it comes to peacebuilding and democratic governance.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2010). *Democracy with women, for women*. [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2010/1/democracy-with-women-for-women#view>

This report by UN-Women provides seven in-depth case studies that the committee and organization has engaged in to improve the participation of women in democratic governance. Each case study goes over details such as funding, goals of the programs, outcomes, lessons learned, and potential solutions for issues that were confronted while conducting the program.

This report can be extremely useful for helping delegates understand what has been done to work towards the goal of increased participation, as well as understand the challenges that solutions are often fraught with. This is a fantastic resource for beginning to formulate and organize unique ideas for potential working papers on the subject of democratic governance.

United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. (1995). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

The mission statement of the Fourth World Conference for Women (FWCW) highlights that the Platform for Action serves as an expansion of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for The Advancement of Women in 1985. Taking place in 1995, the FWCW lays out what areas are of critical concern for the empowerment of women, including their role in democratic governance and peacebuilding, and lays out foundational steps and plans of action for achieving the resolution of the issues. This website is particularly useful because it not only provides the original Platform for Action, but also provides reviews that have occurred every five years since. This website is a necessity for delegates to understand the framework and role that the UN plays in resolving this issue and allows them to track how that progress has been achieved over time, including what problems still lie ahead.

Bibliography

Conciliation Resources. (2014). *Gender, violence and peace: a post-2015 development agenda*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.c-r.org/sites/default/files/592%20CR-Saferworld%2012page%20Draft%2006%20pdf%20version.pdf>

Conciliation Resources. (2015). *Women's participation and inclusive peace processes: lessons learned from Mindanao and beyond*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: http://www.peacewomen.org/system/files/global_study_submissions/47%20%7C%20Women%E2%80%99s%20participation%20and%20inclusive%20peace%20processes%3A%20lessons%20learned%20from%20Mindanao%20and%20beyond%20%7C%20Conciliation%20Resources.pdf

Consortium on Gender, Security & Human Rights. (n.d.). *Consortium Lectures*. [Website]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://genderandsecurity.org/projects-resources/consortium-lectures>

Gleanor, E. (2014). *Independent Thematic Review on Gender for the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO): Final Report*. United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/Final%20Report_Thematic%20Review%20on%20Gender%20&%20Peacebuilding.pdf

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. (1966). Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%20999/volume-999-I-14668-English.pdf>

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. (2012). *Ghana Declaration: Translating Women's Participation in Politics into Critical Actions and Influence*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.idea.int/publications/party-financing-equal-participation-kenya/>

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. (2013). *Democracy and Gender Equality: The Role of the UN*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.idea.int/publications/democracy-and-gender-equality/>

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. (2013). *Journeys from Exclusion to Inclusion: Marginalized women's successes in overcoming political exclusion*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.idea.int/publications/overcoming-political-exclusion/index.cfm>

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. (2013). *Overcoming Political Exclusion: Strategies for marginalized groups to successfully engage in political decision-making*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.idea.int/publications/overcoming-political-exclusion/index.cfm>



International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. (2014). *Atlas of Electoral Gender Quotas*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.idea.int/publications/from-exclusion-to-inclusion/index.cfm>

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. (2015). *Political party financing and equal participation of women in Kenyan electoral politics: A situation overview*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.idea.int/publications/party-financing-equal-participation-kenya/>

Klot, J. (2007). Women and Peacebuilding. *Social Science Research Council*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pdf/doc_wgll/wgll_backgroundpaper_29_01_08.pdf

Holmer, G. (2015). Resilience for Women Countering Violent Extremism. *United States Institute of Peace*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.usip.org/olivebranch/2015/03/06/resilience-women-countering-violent-extremism>

MADRE. (n.d.). *Our Projects and Partners*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.madre.org/page/our-projects-and-partners-463.html>

MADRE. (n.d.). *What we do*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.madre.org/page/what-we-do-461.html>

Marx, J. & J. Borner. (2011). *Gender Mainstreaming in Latin American Parliaments: A Work in Progress*. International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.idea.int/publications/parlamentos-sensibles-al-genero/en.cfm>

Peacebuilding Initiative. (2009). *Empowerment: Women & Gender Issues: Women, Gender & Peacebuilding Processes*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org/index9aa5.html?pageId=1959>

Search for Common Ground. (2008). *Supporting Women's Engagement in Peacebuilding and Preventing Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Post Conflict: Community Led Approaches*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/LBR_BL_Oct08_UNIFEM-Supporting-Womens-Engagement-in-Peacebuilding.pdf

United Nations, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. (2015) *General Recommendation on women's access to justice (CEDAW/C/GC/33)*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/1_Global/CEDAW_C_GC_33_7767_E.pdf

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2015). *The Millennium Development Goals Report: 2015*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/UNDP_MDG_Report_2015.pdf

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, March 9). *Secretary-General's remarks at the opening session of the Commission on the Status of Women on 9 March 2015, in New York*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8449>

United Nations Development Fund for Women. (2006). *Democracy: With Women, For Women* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/media/publications/unifem/undefoundievaluationweb1.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (n.d.). *Democratic Governance*. [Website]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/democraticgovernance/overview.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (n.d.). *Gender and Democratic Governance Publications*. [Website]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender_and_governance.html

United Nations Development Programme. (2006). *Measuring Democratic Governance* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/democratic-governance/oslo-governance-center/governance-assessments/measuring-democratic-governance/Framework%20paper%20-%20entire%20paper.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (2007). *Electoral Financing to Advance Women's Political Participation* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/electoral-financing-to-advance-womens-political-participation.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2007). *Quick Entry Points to Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality in Democratic Governance Clusters* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/primers-in-gender-and-democratic-governance-1.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2008). *Support for Local Governance and Gender Mainstreaming in South Sudan* [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/democratic-governance/dgttf/-support-for-local-governance-and-gender-mainstreaming-in-southern-sudan/DGTTF-SouthernSudan-1%20paper.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (2009). *Gender Responsive E-governance: Exploring the Transformative Potential* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/womens-empowerment/primers-in-gender-and-democratic-governance-4/f_GenderGovPr_eG_Web.pdf

United Nations Development Programme. (2011). *Fast Facts: Gender Equality and Democratic Governance* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/fast-facts/english/FF-Gender-and-Democratic-Governance.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (2011). *Price for Peace: Unlocking the peacebuilding potential* [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/womens-empowerment/price-of-peace-financing-for-gender-equality-in-post-conflict-reconstruction/price-of-peace-financing-for-gender-equality-in-post-conflict-reconstruction.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (2012). *Empowering Women for Stronger Political Parties* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/gender%20and%20governance/EmpoweringWomenFor%20StrongerPoliticalParties.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (2013). *Fast Facts: Gender in Crisis Countries* [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/fast-facts/english/FF_gender_08032013.pdf

United Nations Development Programme. (2013). *Gender Equality: Women's Participation and Leadership in Governments at the Local Level* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/dam/rbap/docs/Research%20&%20Publications/democratic_governance/RBAP-DG-2014-Gender-Equality.pdf

United Nations Development Programme. (2013). *Gender in crisis countries* [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/fast-facts/english/FF_gender_08032013.pdf

United Nations Development Programme. (2013). *Parliaments and Gender Equality: Gender Mainstreaming in Legislatures* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Inclusive%20Political%20Processes/parliaments-and-gender-equality--gender-mainstreaming-in-legislatures.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (2013). *Strengthening the Rule of Law in Crisis-Affected and Fragile Situations* [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Access%20to%20Justice%20and%20Rule%20of%20Law/Global_Programme_Rule_of_Law-Annual_Report_2014.pdf

United Nations Development Programme. (2013). *Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the peacebuilding potential* [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/crisis%20prevention/WomenNaturalResourcesPBreport2013.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *Changing the World: UNDP Strategic Plan, 2014-2017* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/UNDP_strategic-plan_14-17_v9_web.pdf

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *Democratic Governance and Diverging Pathways to More Inclusive Societies: 2013 Year in Review* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/2013-DG-Year-in-review.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *Engendering Access to Justice* [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Access%20to%20Justice%20and%20Rule%20of%20Law/Engendering%20Access%20to%20Justice.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *Improving Women's Access to Justice During and After Conflict: Mapping UN Rule of Law Engagement* [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/improving-women-s-access-to-justice.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/GenderEqualityStrategy2014-17.pdf>

United Nations, Division for the Advancement of Women. (2003). *Peace agreements as a means for promoting gender equality and ensuring participation of women: a framework of model provisions* [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/peace2003/reports/Finalreport.PDF>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (n.d.). *Strengthening Women's Access to Justice* [Website]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/strengthening-womens-access-to-justice>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (n.d.). *UN Women Events* [Website]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/strengthening-womens-access-to-justice/un-women-events>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2007). *Women Building Peace and Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict-affected Contexts* [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Media/Publications/UNIFEM/0202_WomenBuildingPeaceAndPreventingSexualViolence_en.pdf

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2010). *Democracy with women, for women* [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2010/1/democracy-with-women-for-women#view>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2012). *Women Building Peace and Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict-affected Contexts* [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/03AWomenPeaceNeg.pdf>



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2012). *Facts and Figures: Leadership and Political Participation* [Website]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures>

United Nations Environment Programme, et al. (2013). *Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/Women%20and%20NRM%20report.pdf>

United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. (1995). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>.

United Nations, General Assembly, Thirty-fourth session. (1981). *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/34/180>

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-fifth session. (2000). *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305)*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/55/305>

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-ninth session. (2005). *Revised draft outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly of September 2005 (A/59/HLP/CRP.1/Rev.2)*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: http://www.un.org/ga/59/hlpm_rev.2.pdf

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixtieth session. (2005). *2005 World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/60/1>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-fifth session. (2010). *Women's Participation in Peacebuilding: Report of the Secretary-General (A/65/354)*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/65/354>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/399)*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/69/399>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 1 November 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

United Nations Peacebuilding Fund. (2015). *The PBF and Gender Equality* [Website]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.unpbf.org/news/pbf-gender-promotion-initiative/>

United Nations Peacekeeping. (n.d.). *Women, peace and security* [Website]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/women/wps.shtml>

United Nations, Security Council, 4213th Meeting. (2000). *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1325 (2000))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/S/RES/1325>

United Nations, Security Council, 5916th Meeting. (2008). *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1820 (2008))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/1820 \(2008\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/1820 (2008))

United Nations, Security Council, 6196th Meeting. (2009). *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1889 (2009))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/1889 \(2009\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/1889 (2009))

United States Institute of Peace. (2012). *Gender, War & Peacebuilding*. Retrieved 22 August 2015 from: http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/NPECSG12_0.pdf