NMUN•DC

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL PLENARY

BACKGROUND GUIDE 2016

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2016 National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, DC (NMUN•DC)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the Economic and Social Council. This year's staff is: Director Emma Ogg and Assistant Director Simón Arias. Emma holds a B.A. in International Affairs and has worked for the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security for the last two years. She also has experience working in international education and refugee resettlement. This will be her third year on staff, and she is excited to return to NMUN•DC. Simón graduated with a B.A. in International Political Economy and Diplomacy, and Religion and Politics from the University of Bridgeport. He is currently enrolled in a Master's program in International Relations with a focus in Conflict Management at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington D.C. This will be his second year on staff, and he is excited to participate in this year's NMUN•DC conference.

The topics under discussion for ECOSOC are:

I.   Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery and Development
II.   Sustainable Use of Renewable Energy

The Economic and Social Council is a primary organ of the UN system, addressing cross-cutting issues relating to development, cooperation, and sustainability, as part of its mandate on economic and social matters. ECOSOC oversees specialized agencies and functional and regional commissions, and may initiate studies and convene international conferences. ECOSOC can also make recommendations and submit draft conventions to the General Assembly, along with its annual report. As the primary organ working on coordination, and its work with subsidiary bodies, ECOSOC's responsibility has grown to incorporate comprehensively implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, including renewable energy, and some areas once considered primarily peace and security work, like peacebuilding.

We hope you will find this Background Guide useful as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We highly encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in-depth and use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. 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-Secretary-General for the committee, Katrena Porter, or the Secretary-General for the conference, Lauren Shaw. You can reach either staff member by contacting them at: usgkat.dc@nmun.org or secgen.dc@nmun.org.

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

Sincerely,

Emma Ogg, Director
Simón Arias, Assistant Director

Committee Overview

Introduction

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations (UN) and was established through Chapter X of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945).[1] ECOSOC primarily serves as the main mechanism for deliberating and coordinating international economic, social, and development issues.[2] It does this by creating policy recommendations for all Member States and several agencies within the UN system.[3] The body oversees over 70% of UN human and financial resources through supervising 14 specialized agencies, 13 functional and regional commissions, and also receives reports from 11 UN funds and programs.[4] ECOSOC was originally composed of 18 Members, but was expanded to 27 in 1965 and to 54 in 1971.[5] This increase in membership allowed for greater representation from recently independent countries in the global south, particularly African nations.[6] This allowed ECOSOC to take on a more prominent role in eliminating underdevelopment, poverty, and inequality.[7]

ECOSOC is the primary body responsible for the coordination of development projects and initiatives.[8] General Assembly (GA) resolutions 50/227 (1995) and 57/270B (2002) were adopted to help clarify and improve ECOSOC's coordinating role within the UN system.[9] At the 2005 World Summit, ECOSOC was mandated to convene ministerial reviews, monitor progress on international development goals and create a biennial Development Cooperation Forum.[10] In 2007 and 2013, ECOSOC underwent a series of reforms through the adoption of GA resolutions 61/16 and 68/1.[11] These reforms were meant to allow ECOSOC to better address complex development challenges, such as gender equality, education, and sustainability.[12]

Governance, Structure and Membership

ECOSOC's 54 Member States are elected by the GA for three-year overlapping terms.[13] Members are elected from different geographical areas in order to promote equal representation between each region.[14] Currently 14 seats are allocated to African states, six to Eastern European states, 10 to Latin American and Caribbean states, and 13 to Western European and other states.[15] ECOSOC elects a President, Vice-Presidents, and a Rapporteur each July.[16] The Bureau provides guidance through setting the agenda for each new ECOSOC session.[17] ECOSOC also oversees 14 subsidiary bodies that are required to report annually to ECOSOC on their activities.[18] The subsidiary bodies hold their own sessions where recommendations and resolutions are produced and sent to the Council for consideration.[19] Currently, the two main types of subsidiary bodies are functional commissions and regional commissions, though expert bodies are formed when needed.[20] Examples of commissions under ECOSOC are the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (functional) and the Economic Commission for Africa (regional).[21]

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[1] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.
[2] Ibid.
[3] UN Elections, *Background*.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Rosenthal, *The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*, 2005.
[6] Ibid.
[7] Ibid.
[8] Ibid.
[9] New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2015-16*, 2015.
[10] Ibid.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Ibid.
[13] UN Elections, *Background*.
[14] New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2015-16*, 2015.
[15] Ibid.
[16] UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC Bureau*, 2016.
[17] Ibid.
[18] New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2015-16*, 2015.
[19] Ibid.
[20] UN DESA, *About ECOSOC and its Subsidiary Bodies*, 2016.
[21] UN Regional Commissions, *What we do*, 2016.

The five regional commissions aim to foster economic integration, oversee the implementation of regional sustainable development initiatives, and help address economic and social issues in sub-regions.[22] The nine functional commissions deliberate on issues in their areas of responsibility and expertise.[23] Functional commissions in particular have a responsibility to provide updates on their work at major UN conferences.[24] In order to carry out these objectives, the commissions promote dialogue, knowledge sharing, and networking, both among themselves and through collaboration with other regional organizations.[25] The functional commissions are focused on narrow topics that ECOSOC has identified as important and deserving of additional attention or particular expertise.[26] Such topics include crime and criminal justice and the status of women and gender.[27] These bodies consider issues falling within the scope of the commission's work in order to improve the information, guidance, policy, or regulations on the particular issue at hand.[28] The objective is to better understand the topic through consistently monitoring how it changes over time and can be applied to international governance.[29]

Mandate, Functions and Powers

ECOSOC's mandate is articulated in the *Charter of the United Nations* as:

> "The Economic and Social Council may make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters and may make recommendations with respect to any such matters to the General Assembly to the Members of the United Nations, and to the specialized agencies concerned. It may make recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all."[30]

ECOSOC underwent a variety of reforms in 2013 to help it better address international development issues.[31] This is in addition to the 2007 reforms, which granted ECOSOC the ability to better monitor the progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).[32] This was done through the creation of Annual Ministerial Reviews, which were used to assess the progress of MDGs and identify methods to improve their implementation at the national level.[33] In terms of cooperation, the creation of the biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) was meant to develop partnerships with civil society organizations and strengthen the role of the Council's commissions.[34] The DCF is a multi-stakeholder forum that focuses on trends and progress in international development to promote knowledge sharing and mutual learning while also encouraging coherence in policies between actors and activities.[35]

Much of ECOSOC's work is carried out through functional commissions on issues such as human rights, narcotics, gender issues, and science and technology.[36] ECOSOC also serves as the body that grants non-governmental organizations (NGOs) consultative status within the UN.[37] These organizations provide guidance on a number of important topics.[38] Thus, ECOSOC serves a crucial role in bridging civil society with the UN system as a whole.[39] One critical function of ECOSOC is the implementation and monitoring of the quadrennial comprehensive policy

[22] UN, Regional Commissions, *What we do*, 2016.
[23] NGO Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *About ECOSOC and its Subsidiary Bodies*, 2016.
[24] Ibid.
[25] UN, Regional Commissions, *What we do*, 2016.
[26] NGO Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *About ECOSOC and its Subsidiary Bodies*, 2016.
[27] Ibid.
[28] UN ECOSOC, *What does ECOSOC do?,* 2016.
[29] Ibid.
[30] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.
[31] UN ECOSOC, *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods,* 2014.
[32] Ibid.
[33] UN ECOSOC, *What is the Annual Ministerial Review*, 2016.
[34] New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2015-16*, 2015.
[35] UN ECOSOC, *About the DCF,* 2016.
[36] New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2015-16*, 2015.
[37] Ibid.
[38] UN ECOSOC, *Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2016 regular schedule*, 2016.
[39] NGO Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *About ECOSOC and its Subsidiary Bodies*, 2016.

review (QCPR).[40] The QCPR was created in 2013 and serves to highlight steps that have been taken within the UN system to improve efficiency and coherence.[41] Additionally, the Council has the ability to encourage other entities within the UN system to take action on an issue under ECOSOC's purview.[42] An example of such an action taken by ECOSOC is the designation of the UN Statistical Commission as the point of contact for information sharing on disability statistics.[43]

The Council's functions and powers were expanded with the adoption of the GA resolution 68/1 in 2013, which mandated the body to provide leadership to the UN system through the creation of an annual theme; organize thematic segments of the Council throughout the year; and convene an Integration Segment to monitor and promote the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in the work of the Council.[44] ECOSOC also uses major UN conferences and summits to review the provisions of any international agreed upon documents.[45]

Current Priorities and Recent Sessions

One of the highest of ECOSOC's priorities is the transitioning focus from the MDGs to the SDGs, as emphasized by ECOSOC President Oh Joon who stressed the importance in coordinating resources and capacities needed to achieve the SDGs.[46] Furthermore, ECOSOC has been strongly prioritizing the inclusion of youth into its international development framework.[47] This can be seen through the establishment of an ECOSOC Youth Forum which is held annually and focuses on youth's role in global development.[48] The 2016 Forum was held in February and focused on how youth can play a role in implementing the SDGs.[49] 2016 marks the 70th anniversary of ECOSOC, which underscores the need to achieve and implement the SDGs.[50] A special session was held on 22 January 2016 to emphasize the beginning of a new era in ECOSOC's work and discuss improvements to its future work.[51] The overarching theme for 2016 is "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results."[52] In addition to the SDGs, the work of ECOSOC in 2016 focuses particularly on combating poverty, fighting inequality, and combating climate change.[53]

The Council's biennial Development Cooperation Forum has prioritized other important issues, such as development assistance and accountability, as increasing numbers of NGOs have contributed to international cooperation.[54] The Forum plays a central role in monitoring trends in international development cooperation and streamlining operational activities and their delivery, which helps develop stronger policy integration between the work of the UN and variety of other development partners.[55]

Conclusion

As one of the six main organs of the UN, ECOSOC remains an instrumental body in streamlining efforts for international development.[56] It oversees a large portion of UN resources and has several bodies reporting to it,

[40] New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2015-16*, 2015.
[41] NGO Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *About ECOSOC and its Subsidiary Bodies*, 2016.
[42] Ibid.
[43] UN ECOSOC, *Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 development agenda (E/RES/2015/4)*, 2015
[44] UN General Assembly, *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/68/1)*, 2013.
[45] UN ECOSOC, *About Us,* 2016.
[46] UN DPI, *UN Development Cooperation Forum can contribute to advancing 2030 Agenda*, 2016.
[47] UN OSGEY, *Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth*, 2016.
[48] Ibid.
[49] Ibid.
[50] UN ECOSOC, *Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of ECOSOC: Concept Note,* 2016.
[51] Ibid.
[52] UN ECOSOC, *Informal Summary*, 2016.
[53] Ibid.
[54] UN DESA, *The role of partnerships beyond 2015*, 2014.
[55] UN ECOSOC, *2016 ECOSOC Partnership Forum 'From commitments to results: Leveraging partnerships for the 2030 Agenda*, 2016.
[56] UN ECOSOC, *About Us*, 2016.

including five regional commission and nine functional commissions.[57] ECOSOC's primary role is to serve as a forum for communication and cooperation where Member States are able to deliberate on matters of international development.[58] Since its creation, ECOSOC has undergone a wide variety of changes to its membership, powers, and mandate to enable ECOSOC's current focus on developmental issues, particularly those in the global south.[59] In its recent sessions, ECOSOC has been particularly focused on implementing the SDGs.[60] This was evidenced in the commemorative 70th anniversary session in January of 2016 where the body established the 2030 Agenda as the main theme of the year.[61] Given the growing need to address international challenges to development, it is important for ECOSOC to maintain its role in facilitating cooperation, information sharing, and guidance on social, economic and environmental policy.[62]

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[57] NGO Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *About ECOSOC and its Subsidiary Bodies*, 2016.
[58] Rosenthal, *The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*, 2005.
[59] Ibid.
[60] UN DPI, *UN Development Cooperation Forum can contribute to advancing 2030 Agenda*, 2016.
[61] UN ECOSOC, *Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of ECOSOC*, 2016.
[62] UN ECOSOC, *What does ECOSOC do*?, 2016.

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> *The Charter of the United Nations is the foundational document of the UN. It lays out the mandate and structure of not only the Economic and Social Council, but also the remaining five principle organs. Member States are obliged to uphold the Charter's articles and are to hold these articles above all other treaties. Delegates may find that it is an essential starting point in researching the UN. Chapter X, Articles 61-72, of the Charter describes ECOSOC's composition, functions and powers, voting, and rules of procedure. Understanding ECOSOC's mandate within the Charter of the UN is beneficial when trying to form actions that pertain to its mandate.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2016). *Provisional Agenda (E/2016/1)*. Retrieved 17 April 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2016/1

> *This document lists the provisional agenda items and work plan for ECOSOC in 2016, which also represents the expanded functions and powers of the body. It provides detailed information about the organization of the High-level Segment, identifies which key UN conferences, outcome documents, and agreements are planned to be reviewed and followed up on, as well as presents the main operational activities to strengthen development cooperation. Delegates are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the main priorities and themes of ECOSOC for 2016 and continue researching further how all these action items will be carried out next year.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013). *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/68/1)*. Retrieved 17 April 2016 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/1

> *This resolution presents the most recent reforms that the Council has undergone in order to strengthen its program of work and leading role in tackling challenges towards achieving sustainable development. It provides detailed recommendations how ECOSOC will reshape its operating procedures, working methods, and outlines the main priorities for its operational activities. Delegates are encouraged to familiarize with the suggested changes in the resolutions, and should also consider how ECOSOC can maintain its leadership and capacity to monitor the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.*

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https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/355639

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https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/about-the-dcf

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2016). *About us* [Website]. Retrieved 17 April 2016 from:
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United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013). *Review of the implementation of General Assembly
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I. Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery and Development

Introduction

Peacebuilding is a process that integrates security, political, economic, social, and human rights concerns to prevent a relapse into conflict by strengthening national capacities and laying the foundation for peace and development.[63] Peacebuilding strengthens a society's ability to manage conflict in non-violent ways and enhances trust in society and legitimacy of state institutions.[64] It includes processes that transform conflict to sustainable peace and support human security, defined as the interrelated threats to populations including civil war, genocide, and displacement.[65] While peacebuilding cannot be separated from conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacemaking, and humanitarian and development assistance, the United Nations (UN) defines peacebuilding as "action to solidify peace and avoid a relapse into conflict" and activities undertaken to reassemble the foundations of peace and build something more than the absence of war.[66] The UN and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) have played increasing roles in peacebuilding, as its definition and implementation in the UN system have expanded to become more inclusive.[67]

The essential features of peacebuilding are national ownership and capacity and a coordinated and flexible strategy among all actors.[68] The most frequent needs within these features are basic safety and security, basic services, restoring core government functions, political processes, and economic revitalization, all of which respect human rights and include minority groups and gender equality.[69] Further, anti-corruption; disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration; and de-mining programs are key peacebuilding activities to improve the rule of law and respect for human rights.[70] While most peacebuilding activities occur once conflict has ended, the scope of work has expanded to begin some tasks during conflict, such as supporting civil society organizations (CSOs) that promote conflict resolution.[71] The process in peacebuilding matters and contributes to its legitimacy, including diverse participants from all aspects of society and long-term commitments to prevent renewed violence, build trust, and promote moderation and compromise.[72] The early phases of peacebuilding are particularly important, as "people are ready for change, have high expectations and can easily revert to conflict if they do not feel tangible benefits from peace."[73]

International and Regional Framework

The term peacebuilding was first used in the UN in 1992 in Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's report "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277).[74] The report connects conflict and economic disparity, social injustice, and political oppression, and calls upon the UN to go beyond addressing military matters to build peace, security, and stability.[75] The report acknowledges that all principal organs of the UN share responsibility for peacebuilding and human security and specifically recommends ECOSOC begin reporting on economic and social developments that threaten international peace and security.[76] The UN General Assembly (GA) adopted resolution 47/120 incorporating the

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[63] UN PBSO, *UN Peacebuilding: An Orientation,* 2010, pp. 1 & 5.

[64] Interpeace, *What is Peacebuilding?*, 2016.

[65] Peacebuilding Initiative, *History*, 2007.

[66] UN General Assembly, *An Agenda for Peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/47/277)*, 1992; UN PBSO, *Peacebuilding and the United Nations*, 2016.

[67] UN ECOSOC, *Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery*, 2016; UN ECOSOC, *Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination*, 2016; UN PBSO, *UN Peacebuilding: An Orientation,* 2010.

[68] UN PBSO, *UN Peacebuilding: An Orientation,* 2010, pp. 5-6, 9, 29.

[69] Ibid, p. 12.

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

[71] UN General Assembly, *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305)*, 2000; UN PBSO, *UN Peacebuilding: An Orientation,* 2010, p. 6.

[72] Interpeace, *Long-term commitment*, 2016; Interpeace, *Process matters*, 2016; Interpeace, *Reaching out to all groups*, 2016.

[73] UN PBSO, *UN Peacebuilding: An Orientation,* 2010, p. 6

[74] UN General Assembly, *An Agenda for Peace: Preventative diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping: Report of the Secretary-General (A/47/277-S/24111)*, 1992.

[75] Ibid.

[76] Ibid.

recommendations, including the importance of all UN organs' and non-governmental organizations' (NGOs) work.[77]

Two and a half years later in 1995, the Secretary-General's Report "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace" (A/50/60) examined the increase in the UN's peacebuilding work in the context of the changing and more complex nature of conflict after the Cold War, including religious and ethnic intra-state wars, collapse of government institutions, and increased displacement.[78] The report also predicted the further increase in peacebuilding activities, as the validity of the concept had already gained wide-spread recognition.[79] In 2000, the "Report on the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations" (A/55/305), more commonly known as the Brahimi Report, offered the first recommendations on how to strengthen and improve development and implementation of peacebuilding strategies in the UN.[80] The report highlights not only the need to improve peacebuilding programs and coordination for the sake of sustaining peace but also to reduce the higher risks and cost associated with peacebuilding as opposed to traditional peacekeeping.[81]

"An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277) acknowledged that regional organizations should be utilized to contribute to decentralization, consensus, and democratization in peacebuilding work.[82] The role of regional organizations in peacebuilding has increased significantly, and, in 2014, the Security Council (SC) adopted resolution 2167 highlighting the importance of regional organizations.[83] The UN has partnered with both the African Union and European Union (EU) on peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region and the Sahel, emphasizing coordination.[84]

Role of the International System

The UN recognized the centrality and importance of peacebuilding with the establishment of the peacebuilding architecture in 2005.[85] The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is an intergovernmental body that coordinates actions, proposes and advises on reconstruction and institution-building strategies, and improves coordination through information-sharing.[86] The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) supports the PBC and oversees the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), the UN's donor fund for peacebuilding that supports early, high-risk peacebuilding work and promotes coherence in crisis situations among the UN system.[87] The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support oversees the PBSO, and several Special Representatives of the Secretary-General are charged with peacebuilding.[88]

While the SC is the most visible, and often the first, UN body working on peacebuilding through peacekeeping and political missions, there are many UN programs that contribute to peacebuilding.[89] The UN Development Programme (UNDP) institutionalizes mechanisms to resolve conflict and allow diverse groups to interact and address causes of tension, like political and ethnic differences and unequal resource distribution.[90] In Haiti in 2014, UNDP trained entrepreneurs and tracked agricultural products and investment opportunities to help address the high unemployment rate.[91] In 2014 and 2015, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees completed 100 initiatives in 25 communities in Kyrgyzstan with local partners during the last phase of work to rebuild trust after the 2010 inter-ethnic conflict, including ensuring drinking water and building houses and medical centers, in addition to

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[77] UN General Assembly, *An Agenda for Peace: Preventative diplomacy and related matters (A/RES/47/120)*, 1992.
[78] UN General Assembly, *Supplement to an Agenda for Peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/RES/50/60-S/1995/1)*, 1995.
[79] Ibid.
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[86] UN PBC, *Mandate of the Peacebuilding Commission*, 2016.
[87] UN General Assembly, *The Peacebuilding Fund: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/715)*, 2016; UN PBSO, *About PBSO*, 2016.
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[90] UNDP, *Dialogue and mediation*, 2016; UNDP, *Infrastructures for Peace*, 2016.
[91] UN ECOSOC, *Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/2015/84)*, 2015.

a legal project resolving land allocations.[92] The UN Children's Emergency Fund's "Learning for Peace" program taught conflict-sensitive education in 14 countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia between 2012 and 2015 to children, parents, and teachers on ways "to prevent, reduce, and cope with conflict and promote peace," including gender imbalance sensitization.[93] In 2009, the World Food Programme organized the first event on food and peacebuilding with ECOSOC and the PBC, incorporating food security into social and economic objectives.[94]

Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery and Development in ECOSOC

Historically, ECOSOC played an experimental but increasing role in the expansion of peacebuilding outside the peace and security architecture of the UN, beginning with the establishment of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Groups in 2002.[95] The GA subsequently affirmed the importance of value of ECOSOC's peacebuilding experience in 2005 and 2007.[96] Beginning in 2010, ECOSOC started hosting events with the PBC on topics including the Millennium Development Goals, peace and development in South Sudan, and job creation for youth.[97] In 2013, the GA adopted resolution 68/1, making ECOSOC a stronger principal organ of the UN to coordinate, review and discuss policies; make recommendations on economic and social development; and implement international development goals, including identifying challenges in sustainable development, which includes Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on promoting just, peaceful, and inclusive societies, working with NGOs, and coordinating with the PBC.[98] The Office for ECOSOC support and coordination is also charged with strengthening relations with the PBC and the SC and supporting the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti.[99]

Case Study: Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti
The advisory group on Haiti was created in 1999 at the request of the SC, requesting advice from ECOSOC per the Charter of the UN, but was re-activated by ECOSOC in 2004 to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction, and stability.[100] Peacebuilding offices in Haiti initially helped consolidate peace by working with the government and NGOs to address the sources of conflict.[101] However, relapse into violence after the intervention in Haiti "reinforced the need for carefully-planned, well-coordinated exit strategies to prevent relapses and to lay the foundations for sustainable peace."[102] The advisory group's mandate focuses on long-term development and coordination of peacebuilding activities to ensure sustainability reflects these concerns.[103] The last report of the group also addressed the cholera epidemic's link to lack of clean water and sanitation, two of the most highly valued dividends of peace in Haiti; deforestation and water management, which disproportionately impact women and poorer households; the weak judicial system; and lack of housing for internally displaced people, in the context of fragile economic and social progress since the 2010 earthquake and the military drawdown of the peacekeeping mission.[104] Additionally, the report highlighted the group's work with CSOs and on coordinating donors.[105]

Trends in Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding in the Sustainable Development Goals
In addition to working with the PBC, the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination also manages ECOSOC's work on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes peace as a cross-cutting issue and SDG 16,

[92] UNHCR, *Ambassadors of Germany, Japan and Turkey Review UNHCR's Peacebuilding Activities*, 2015; *A brief history of conflict in Kyrgyzstan,* Insight on Conflict, 2015.
[93] UNICEF, *Learning for Peace*, 2014; UNICEF, *Breaking Down Gender Stereotypes in Schools in Uganda*, 2016.
[94] Together for a Better Peace, *PBC, ECOSOC and WFP on Food Security and Peacebuilding*, 2009.
[95] UN ECOSOC, *Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery*, 2016.
[96] Ibid.
[97] UN PBC, *ECOSOC*, 2016.
[98] UN General Assembly, *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/68/1)*, 2013; UN, *Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies*, 2016.
[99] UN ECOSOC, *Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination*, 2016.
[100] UN ECOSOC, *Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti*, 2016; UN ECOSOC, *Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery*, 2016.
[101] UN General Assembly, *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305)*, 2000, p. 6.
[102] UN PBSO, *UN Peacebuilding: An Orientation,* 2010, p. 45.
[103] UN ECOSOC, *Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/RES/2015/18)*, 2015.
[104] UN ECOSOC, *Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/2015/84)*, 2015; UN PBSO, *UN Peacebuilding: An Orientation,* 2010, p. 14.
[105] UN ECOSOC, *Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/2015/84)*, 2015.

which links peacebuilding with sustainable development.[106] Recognizing the link between peace and development in the SDGs mobilizes the entire UN system, not just the SC, to work on peacebuilding, especially ECOSOC given its relationship with NGOs and the SDGs.[107] ECOSOC also oversees the Development Cooperation Forum that will review progress on the 2030 Agenda.[108] As NGOs and CSOs continue to track international implementation, advocate for, and work on peacebuilding elements in the SDGs, implementing the agenda will require a paradigm shift in development thinking.[109] Development, humanitarian, and peace and security pillars in the UN will need to work together, as development requires peacebuilding and peacebuilding requires development.[110]

Women and Peacebuilding
The idea that "neither the SDGs nor peace and security can be achieved in situations of persistent gross inequality, including gender inequality" has gained international recognition.[111] Women's participation and empowerment in peacemaking and recovery and development leads to agreements that are more likely to be implemented and faster poverty reduction.[112] Women peacebuilders play diverse roles and have different perspectives than men because conflict and peacebuilding impact them differently.[113] Igbo women in Nigeria have been active participants and leaders in peacebuilding and conflict-resolution since 1970 and continue to engage in community development projects and efforts to end violence against women.[114] NGOs brought together Syrian and Iraqi women activists to challenge the perception that they are solely victims of sexual violence and find actionable solutions for peace, including access to healthcare, legal aid, and economic independence for women.[115] The peace process in Colombia included an unprecedented gender perspective in terms of women's participation and sexual violence.[116] Yet, in spite of recent progress, the goal to allocate 15% of peacebuilding funds to gender equality and women's empowerment has only been met in the PBF, and patriarchal cultural attitudes preclude women's participation in peacebuilding.[117]

Youth and Peacebuilding
While youth have been seen as threats to global security as "cultural attitudes anticipate that young people cause violence, rather than participate in curbing it," and violence perpetrated by youth and recruitment of youth to violent extremist groups is publicized, there is growing recognition of young people's potential leadership and contributions in peacebuilding.[118] ECOSOC began holding the Youth Forum in 2012 to engage youth in development goals, and the SC adopted resolution 2250 (2015) calling for inclusive partnerships with youth in peacebuilding.[119] Recent analysis has shown that peacebuilding programs sensitive to local conflict dynamics that engage young people are more likely to be self-sustaining and produce social cohesion, like the Eastleighwood Youth Forum in Kenya.[120] Furthermore, a youth-led process in Puntland led to the resolution of a five year conflict, and an NGO is sharing their story with other youth in Somalia through film screenings.[121] However, youth are often seen as either the perpetrators of violent extremism or its victims and are often marginalized.[122] In Bangladesh, for example, youth

[106] UN ECOSOC, *Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination*, 2016; Safer World, *Peace and the 2030 Agenda*.
[107] Bellamy, Can New Sustainable Development Goals Add Firepower to the War on War?, *Global Observatory*, 2015; UN ECOSOC, *Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination*, 2016.
[108] UN ECOSOC, *5th Biennial High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum*, 2016.
[109] Safer World, *Peace and the 2030 Agenda*; UN ECOSOC, *Mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2015/55)*, 2015.
[110] UNDP, *Helen Clark: Statement at ECOSOC*, 2016.
[111] Insight on Conflict, *Peacebuilding and gender/women*; UNDP, *Helen Clark: Statement at ECOSOC*, 2016.
[112] Klausen, Gender equality and peace building, *World Bank*, 2016.
[113] Insight on Conflict, *Peacebuilding and gender/women*.
[114] Emeka-Nwobia, Women's Involvement in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution, *Kujenga Amani, 2015*.
[115] Ghazzawi, et al., *"Peacebuilding defines our futures now:" A study of women's peace activism in Syria,* 2015; Madre, *Incubating Solutions for Peace in Syria and Iraq*, 2015.
[116] UN Women, *Women take the reins to build peace in Colombia*, 2015.
[117] UN General Assembly, *The Peacebuilding Fund: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/715)*, 2016; UN News Centre, *At Security Council, UN Women chief urges greater input, visibility of women in peacebuilding*, 2016.
[118] Williams, Long Considered a Threat, Can Youth Take Lead in Peacebuilding?, *Global Observatory*, 2016; *Eliasson: End the Negative Narrative on Youth,* International Peace Institute, 2016.
[119] UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC Youth Forum*, 2016; UN Security Council, *Maintenance of International Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015))*, 2015.
[120] Williams, Long Considered a Threat, Can Youth Take Lead in Peacebuilding?, *Global Observatory*, 2016.
[121] *Five cities in 16 days: using mobile cinema to nurture youth peacebuilders in Puntland*, Interpeace, 2016.
[122] UN Security Council, *Summary record of 7573rd meeting (S/PV.7573)*, 2015.

have participated in programs addressing violence against women and developed a cross-cultural newsletter but are still not well integrated into the NGO structure.[123]

Peacebuilding Architecture Review
The 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, in addition to reviewing the PBC, PBSO, and PBF, did not limit the peacebuilding architecture to these entities and offered recommendations on addressing the misunderstanding of peacebuilding and the fragmentation of the broader UN system, including recommendations for ECOSOC.[124] It acknowledged that the SC is one peacebuilding actor in partnership with the GA and ECOSOC and recommended the PBC act as a bridge between those three organs.[125] Specifically, in considering Sierra Leone, the review recommended that ECOSOC should have been involved in peacebuilding to strengthen development and peacebuilding efforts.[126] It also recommended that ECOSOC should develop criteria for a special category of conflict-affected countries that would be eligible for special attention and funding for governance, human rights, and development work and develop a closer relationship with the PBC to coordinate development and peacebuilding.[127]

Conclusion

Peacebuilding has substantively evolved since "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277) to become the sum of all efforts to create foundations for sustained peace and hold a significant place in the UN system.[128] Evidence since the inception of peacebuilding in the UN system has found focusing on cessation of hostilities and unrealistic timelines can lead to a relapse into conflict, but addressing the root causes of conflict and including a wide spectrum of opinions in a coherent way can build sustainable peace.[129] Just as the scope of peacebuilding has expanded, so has ECOSOC's role in peacebuilding.[130] Given the recent trend of inclusion, especially of women and youth, link to development in peacebuilding, and ECOSOC's relationship with NGOs and the SDGs, ECOSOC is in a unique position to move the concept and implementation of peacebuilding forward.[131] The recommendations in the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture and ECOSOC's experience through the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups, give it the background and position to integrate peacebuilding more broadly into the UN's work in all thematic areas, not only peace and security.[132]

Further Research

In preparing for this topic, delegates should consider how ECOSOC can build on the peacebuilding work it has already done in the context of its increasing role. Questions for delegates to consider include: Given ECOSOC's relationship with NGOs and the increasing role NGOs and CSOs have played in peacebuilding, what can ECOSOC do to incorporate their work and experience into the UN's response to post-conflict recovery and development? How can ECOSOC's work on Agenda 2030 increase its presence in peacebuilding and include all the SDGs, including goal 5 on gender equality and goal 8 on economic growth, which includes youth in its targets?[133] How can ECOSOC respond to the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture Review, including its relationship with the PBC? How can ECOSOC use its experience with the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups to more systematically respond in other peacebuilding situations? These types of considerations require answers to frame potential action

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[123] *Young people in peacebuilding: unfulfilled potential?*, Insight on Conflict, 2015.

[124] UN Advisory Group of Experts, *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace*, 2015.

[125] Ibid., p. 47.

[126] Ibid., p. 28.

[127] Ibid., p. 49.

[128] UN General Assembly, *Peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict (A/69/399)*, 2014; UN PBSO, *UN Peacebuilding: An Orientation,* 2010.

[129] UN Advisory Group of Experts, *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace*, 2015, p. 8.

[130] UN ECOSOC, *Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery*, 2016.

[131] UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC Youth Forum*, 2016; UN ECOSOC, *Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination*, 2016; UN ECOSOC, *Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery*, 2016; UNDP, *Helen Clark: Statement at ECOSOC*, 2016.

[132] UN Advisory Group of Experts, *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace*, 2015; UN ECOSOC, *Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery*, 2016.

[133] UN DPI, *Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*, 2016; UN DPI, *Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all*, 2016.

by ECOSOC to expand and better integrate peacebuilding into all areas of its work and strengthen peacebuilding in the UN system.

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http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org/index9aa5.html?pageId=1959

> *The Peacebuilding Initiative was a project of the International Association for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, along with the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office and the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research at Harvard University. Although an older source, this Website should provide delegates with an excellent overview of the history of gender in peacebuilding, as a starting point for delegates who wish to gain an understanding of the critical link between gender equality and sustainable peace. The Website also examines gender as an analytical tool and explains what a gendered peacebuilding process looks like, in addition to highlighting the differentiated impacts of armed conflict on women. Delegates should thoroughly understand why gender is an important component of peacebuilding and its background and growth in peacebuilding work after reading this very useful and succinct source.*

United Nations, Advisory Group of Experts on the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. (2015). *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace* [Report]. Retrieved 11 April 2016 from:
http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pdf/150630%20Report%20of%20the%20AGE%20on%20the%202015%20Peacebuilding%20Review%20FINAL.pdf

> *This report was written by the Advisory Group of Experts on the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, at the same time as two other review processes on UN Peace Operations and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), as the first part of a two stage review of the Peacebuilding Commission, Peacebuilding Fund, and Peacebuilding Support Office. The report gives an in depth account of the current UN peacebuilding architecture, its weaknesses, and recommendations to improve peacebuilding within the United Nations. The report also highlights the current global context for peacebuilding, including the link between peace, development, and human rights, and the importance of integrating women and youth participation in peacebuilding. The assessment of peacebuilding activities stresses the fragmentation of peacebuilding in the UN system and offers a summary and ways to improve it as a conclusion. Delegates will find this source useful for in-depth research on recommendations from the UN on improving its work on peacebuilding and understanding how the UN peacebuilding architecture currently works.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Forty-seventh session. (1992). *An Agenda for Peace: Preventative diplomacy and related matters (A/RES/47/102)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 11 April 2016 from:
http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/47/102

> *This resolution was adopted by the General Assembly after receiving the Secretary-General's report, "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277). It lays out the foundation for peacebuilding work in the United Nations. Although it focuses on the General Assembly, Security Council, and Secretary-General, it also highlights the importance of strengthening the broader UN system to aid in peacebuilding and connects peacebuilding through peace operations with economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian work and development. Delegates wishing to learn about the origins of peacebuilding in the United Nations will find this resource helpful as they begin their research, especially section five on post-conflict peacebuilding.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Forty-seventh session. (1992). *An Agenda for Peace: Preventative diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping: Report of the Secretary-General (A/47/277-S/24111)*. Retrieved 11 April 2016 from: http://www.cfr.org/peacekeeping/report-un-secretary-general-agenda-peace/p23439

> *This report was written by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in response to a request by the Security Council for a report on preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, and peacekeeping, to which he added the concept of peacebuilding. Written at the end of the Cold War when the chance to fulfill the goals of the Charter of the UN seemed attainable, the report connects the concepts of conflict prevention, peacemaking, and peacekeeping, and new dimensions of insecurity, including economic stability, population growth, and climate change. The report is an invaluable resource for delegates to understand the foundation of peacebuilding in the United Nations, especially*

section two on definitions and section six on post-conflict peacebuilding. It defines peacebuilding for the first time in a United Nations document and foreshadows more recent recommendations of cohesion and cooperation within the United Nations system, including the Economic and Social Council, to effectively implement peacebuilding activities. The tone of this report is very accessible for readers, making it one of the first resources delegates should consult when beginning their research.

United Nations, Interagency Network on Youth Development & Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding. (2016). *Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding: A Practice Note.* Retrieved 16 April 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/Practice%20Note%20Youth%20&%20Peacebuilding%20-%20January%202016.pdf

The Interagency Network on Youth Development and the Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding released this report in January 2016 with support from the PeaceNexus Foundation on youth participation in peacebuilding. This practice note offers a comprehensive look at youth in peacebuilding, including intersectionality with gender, for those delegates wishing to fully understand the growth and importance of youth involvement in peacebuilding. Delegates should find the second chapter on the context of young people and conflict and peace, vulnerability and engagement in violence, and supporting youth to support reliance particularly helpful. Delegates can also get a sense of the types of programs and the varying evidence for their successes or challenges in many smaller thematic areas, including education, community building, media, religion, and countering violent extremism, in the second section of the third chapter.

United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office. (2010). *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation* [Report]. United Nations. Retrieved 11 April 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf

This report was written by the Peacebuilding Support Office, based on a 2009 report of the Secretary-General. It gives a good overview of what the UN considers to be the key aspects and elements of peacebuilding, including information on the importance of timing and flexibility in planning as well as main sources of funding for peacebuilding. Delegates should find this information useful when beginning research on what peacebuilding encompasses. The report also covers the evolution of peacebuilding and an overview of the funding architecture for peacebuilding. Delegates should find the table and summaries of important UN documentation on peacebuilding from 1992 to 2009 particularly helpful when researching the background and scope of peacebuilding.

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II. Sustainable Use of Renewable Energy

Sustainable Development is the imperative of the 21ˢᵗ century. Protecting our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth – these are different aspects of the same fight. We endeavor to create new business and market opportunities, new jobs, and new possibilities for human advancement. We will not achieve any of these goals without energy – sustainable energy for all.[134]

Introduction

In 2015 there were an estimated 2.8 billion people who did not have access to modern energy services and over 1.1 billion people who did not have access to electricity.[135] Without access to modern energy services and clean and safe, it is estimated 4.3 million people die prematurely every year due to indoor pollution resulting from cooking and heating using unsustainable sources of energy.[136] Nearly 40% of the world's population rely on outdated sources of energy for cooking, such as wood, coal, charcoal, or animal waste, which emit toxic smoke that causes lung disease.[137] With access to modern energy sources, social and economic development can offer greater opportunities to improve lives, such as utilizing electricity to study after dark, pumping water for crops, producing food, and refrigerating medicine.[138] Replacing outdated cook stoves and open fires with cleaner and more sustainable sources of energy can save the lives of 800,000 children who die each year as a result of exposure to indoor smoke.[139]

Work on sustainable development has sought to address these critical issues, beginning in 1987 when sustainable development was first identified in the *Brundtland Report* as "a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development; and institutional change are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations."[140] By meeting current needs without diminishing future potential of development, the concept of sustainable development has grown in the global agenda to incorporate the sustainable use of renewable resources through the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development: Earth Summit, known as Agenda 21, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[141]

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), renewable energy can be understood as, "a source of energy that can be replenished in a short period of time, as opposed to non-renewable sources of energy."[142] Renewable energy was first mentioned in the *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment*, also known as the *1972 Stockholm Declaration*.[143] Principles 3 and 5 recognize that non-renewable resources must be guarded against future exhaustion and that the Earth's capacity to produce such vital renewable resources must be maintained, restored, and improved.[144] The *Brundtland Report* then reviewed different resources such as wood, hydropower, solar, wind, plant-based, geothermal, and others, when the need for a steady transition to a broader and more sustainable use of energy was just beginning to be accepted.[145]

In September 2011, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon set a vision for making sustainable energy a reality by 2030 with the launch of his Sustainable Energy for All initiative.[146] Through this initiative, the

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[134] Ban, *Sustainable Energy for All*, 2011, p. 3.
[135] UN DESA, 2016.
[136] UN DESA, *Energy*, 2016; Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, International Energy Agency, *Modern Energy for All: Why It Matters*, 2016; UN Energy Knowledge Network, *Partnerships for Universal Access to Modern Energy Services*, 2016.
[137] Sustainable Energy for All, *Universal Energy Access*, 2016.
[138] Ibid.
[139] Ibid.
[140] UN General Assembly, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (A/42/427)*, 1987.
[141] UN DESA, *Agenda 21*, 2016; UN World Summit on Sustainable Development, *Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (A.CONF.199/20)*, 2002.
[142] UNEP, *Renewable Energy*, 2003.
[143] UNEP, *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment*, 2003
[144] Ibid.
[145] UN General Assembly, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (A/42/427)*, 1987.
[146] Sustainable Energy for All, *About Us*, 2016.

Secretary-General, along with the help of top-level leaders from governments, businesses, and civil society, aims to achieve three interlinked objectives: universal access to modern energy services, improving energy efficiency, and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy systems.[147] Through the initiative, many supporting and partner organizations, such as the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly (GA), have made strides towards achieving the three objectives.[148] In 2013 the adoption of GA resolution 67/215 reflected the need for renewable sources of energy and their contributions in the context of development goals, and called on governments to take further action regarding the implementation and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy.[149] The need for growth and broader work on sustainable development and renewable energy was enhanced with ECOSOC resolution 1998/46, which merged three committees on resources, renewable energy sources, and development into one overarching Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development.[150] Efforts on sustainable development and renewable energy have also been bolstered through ECOSOC resolution 2009/28, which recognized progress made in the UN system on cooperation and coordination on the energy agenda and called for further promotion of system-wide policies on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.[151]

International and Regional Framework

The *1987 Brundtland Report*, also known as *Our Common Future*, was the first time the need for the integration of economic development, national resource management and protection, social equity, and inclusion was acknowledged.[152] This integration became a central focus, setting up discussions for numerous UN conferences and endeavors focusing on the environment and sustainable development, including Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Goal 7 on Ensuring Environmental Sustainability, Target A on integrating principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reversing the loss of environmental resources.[153]

The post-2015 Development Agenda, established at the Rio+20 in June 2012, set guidelines on green economic policies, focusing on a political outcome document containing clear and practical measures for implementing sustainable development policy measures leading up to the SDGs.[154] Renewable energy was identified and highlighted in the outcome document as a contribution to sustainable development.[155] Following Rio+20, the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* aimed to promote investments in energy infrastructure for clean energy technologies and increase the share of renewable energy for everyone by 2030.[156] Most recently, in September 2015, the GA adopted *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which established the 17 SDGs to be reached by 2030.[157] SDG 7 concentrates heavily on renewable sources of energy, with targets 1, 2, and 3 addressing access to energy, quantity of energy, and improved efficiency of energy, with sub-targets focusing on enhancing international cooperation to better facilitate research and technology in addition to expanding infrastructure and technological efficiency for developing, least developed, and Small Island Developing States.[158]

Role of the International System

Through the MDGs and now the SDGs, the international system has pursued the sustainable use of renewable energy by hosting summits, conferences, and creating entities to work on sustainable development.[159] Following the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, The United Nations Energy Knowledge

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[147] Sustainable Energy for All, *About Us*, 2016.

[148] Ibid.

[149] UN General Assembly, *Promotion of New and Renewable Sources of Energy (A/RES/67/215)*, 2013.

[150] UN DESA, *Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy*, 2002.

[151] UN ECOSOC, *The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2008 (E/RES/2009/28)*, 2009.

[152] UN ECOSOC, *Sustainable Development*, 2016.

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

[154] UN DESA, *United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20*, 2016.

[155] UN General Assembly, *The Future We Want (A/RES/66/208)*, 2012.

[156] UN General Assembly, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda*, 2015.

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

[158] Ibid.

[159] UN DESA, *Energy*, 2016.

Network (UN-Energy) was one such entity created to serve as a mechanism for inter-agency collaboration in the field of energy, focusing on access to energy, renewable energy, and energy efficiency.[160] One of the three clusters that UN-Energy works on is that of renewable energy, as identified in SDG 7 target 7.2, ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all and significantly increasing shared renewable energy.[161]

ECOSOC has undergone many reforms in the last decade, with GA resolutions 61/16 and 68/1 strengthening its working methods and highlighting the integrated and coordinated implementation of sustainable development initiatives and many other outcomes from major UN conferences.[162] These reforms have built on ECOSOC's mandate to work on environmental issues and implement development goals, including coordinating the work of the UN and non-governmental organizations (NGO).[163] ECOSOC's annual program of work is based on a main theme, with the current cycle focused on achieving and financing sustainable development, as well as accelerating progress through partnerships and cooperation.[164] Alongside these goals, ECOSOC has also been tasked with promoting the integration of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions or pillars of sustainable development.[165]

Within the topic of renewable energy, ECOSOC focuses on Member State access to renewable energy technologies (RETs).[166] In July 2010, ECOSOC adopted "Science and Technology for Development," noting how the MDGs are highly dependent on energy services.[167] In the resolution, ECOSOC decided that RETs are a key component in enhancing the capabilities of national development agendas and encouraged governments to provide enabling environments for both private and public sector initiatives on new and emerging RETs.[168] Additionally, in July 2011, ECOSOC adopted resolution 2011/14, recognizing the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy.[169] Furthermore, the resolution called upon members to "cooperate proactively in the development and deployment of cost-effective new and renewable energy technologies and to promote cooperation increasing energy efficiency."[170]

Agencies, Civil Society Organizations, and Non-Governmental Organizations
ECOSOC works in tandem with NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs), which provide a direct approach in the field in terms of sustainable use of renewable energy.[171] One such example is the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), a policy multi-stakeholder network that facilitates knowledge exchange, policy development, and joint actions toward global transition to renewable energy.[172] REN21 aims to bring governments, NGOs, institutions, industries, and international organizations together to learn from each other and make advances in renewable energy through policy decision-making, access, and information sharing, and through thematic network exchanges.[173] Another example is the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) that invests in clean energy markets in developing countries to reduce carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions and aims to transform the marketplace to an enabling and sustainable environment for renewable energy and energy efficiency.[174] Investing in clean energy markets and using tools like RETs and REEEP helps developing countries expand on modern energy in order to improve lives through prosperity and economic revitalization while reducing CO_2 emissions, known as green growth.[175]

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[160] UN Energy Knowledge Network, *About UN-Energy*, 2016; UN, World Summit on Sustainable Development, *Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (A.CONF.199/20)*, 2002.
[161] UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Goal 7*, 2016.
[162] UN ECOSOC, *About ECOSOC*, 2016.
[163] Ibid.
[164] UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC and Integration for Sustainable Development,* 2016.
[165] Ibid.
[166] Ibid.
[167] UN ECOSOC, *Science and Technology for Development (E/RES/2010/3)*, 2010.
[168] Ibid.
[169] UN ECOSOC, *Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific (E/RES/2011/14)*, 2011.
[170] Ibid.
[171] UN ECOSOC, *About Us*, 2016.
[172] Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, *About Us*, 2015.
[173] Ibid.
[174] Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, *About REEEP*, 2015.
[175] Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, *What We Do*, 2015.

In Bonn in 2009, 75 Member States gathered at the Founding Conference of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to promote a rapid transition and sustainable use of renewable energy for both industrialized and developing states.[176] IRENA, an intergovernmental organization, works with governments and the private sector gathering case studies where states adopt enabling policies for renewable energy and investments for implementation of technological transfer, deployment, and knowledge sharing.[177] IRENA's work was highlighted in GA resolution 64/206, which calls upon Member States to incorporate the sustainable use of both traditional and renewable energy resources in order to meet growing energy needs for long term sustainable development.[178] IRENA also supports ECOSOC, contributing documents and information on Member State cases of renewable and sustainable resources in Renewables Readiness Assessments and the Director General of IRENA has acted as the Moderator for the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review Implementation Forum.[179]

Sustainable Uses of Renewable Energy in Relation to the Environment

When applied in a sustainable way, renewable energy resources have positive impacts on states' energy supply and conservation.[180] Renewable energy resources, while competing with current fossil fuels in the market, have great potential to reduce the risk to the environment and for climate change.[181] For example, IRENA identifies Fiji as one of 39 states that could meet electricity demands through only renewable energy from underground heat.[182] Fiji is located along the volcanic avenue known as the "Ring of Fire" and also has abundant hydropower resources.[183] The However, the country's prospects in energy security through renewable energy sources face numerous barriers such as a lack of investment, risk management in finances and execution of projects, and insufficient technological resources.[184] In order to address such barriers, Fiji drafted its National Energy Plan in 2014, creating a stronger institutional framework and reducing risk perception on renewable energy development for investors and lenders.[185] Together, Fiji and IRENA have developed an open, participatory process that has generated interest in renewable energy, creating investment opportunities for five areas of renewable energy resources, including geothermal energy grids, solar photovoltaic energy supply, biomass energy supply, and more efficient energy-consuming maritime transport vessels, thus being able to reduce dependency on energy sources that are harmful to the environment.[186]

Sustainable Uses of Renewable Energy for Vibrant Economies and Markets

The sustainable use of renewable energy has been shown to boost economies, contributing to vibrant and efficient markets.[187] As asserted in the Sustainable Energy for All initiative by the Secretary-General, renewable energy is becoming increasingly cost-competitive, as investments in electricity from wind, sun, wave, and biomass increased to $187 billion in 2015, compared to that of natural gas, oil, and coal which were at $157 billion.[188] According to the report by IRENA, "Contribution to the 2015 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Integration Segment," governments play an integral role in setting appropriate frameworks and policies on renewable energy job opportunities, in addition to promoting supporting environments for cluster operations and cooperation among technological-producing industries, markets, businesses, and energy production facilities.[189] In Ghana, in 2014, an

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[176] International Renewable Energy Agency, *Founding Conference*, 2015.
[177] International Renewable Energy Agency, *About IRENA*, 2015.
[178] UN General Assembly, *Promotion of New and Renewable Sources of Energy (A/RES/64/206)*, 2010.
[179] International Renewable Energy Agency, *Road Transport: Renewables set to be competitive with fossil fuels by 2020*, 2013; International Renewable Energy Agency, *Contribution to the 2015 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): Integration Segment,* 2015.
[180] UN, World Summit on Sustainable Development, *Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (A.CONF.199/20)*, 2002.
[181] Sustainable Energy for All, *Renewable Energy*, 2016.
[182] International Renewable Energy Agency, *Renewables Readiness Assessment: Fiji*, 2015.
[183] Ibid.
[184] International Renewable Energy Agency, *Fiji: Renewables Readiness Assessment*, 2015, pp. XII-28.
[185] International Renewable Energy Agency, *Renewables Readiness Assessment: Fiji*, 2015.
[186] International Renewable Energy Agency, *Fiji: Renewables Readiness Assessment*, 2015, p. III.
[187] Sustainable Energy for All, *Renewable Energy*, 2016.
[188] Ibid.
[189] International Renewable Energy Agency, *Contribution to the 2015 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): Integration Segment,* 2015.

estimated 72% of people had access to electricity, and the country exports power to neighboring states.[190] Although the energy sector faces institutional and policy issues hindering market development, Ghana has a rich array of renewable energy resources that can address potential energy insecurity as the demand on energy continues to rise annually by 10%.[191] In 2002, the Ghanaian Ministry of Energy completed its National Energy Policy, envisioning the development of an "Energy Economy" securing a reliable supply of environmentally sustainable energy and allowing the economy to be a major exporter of oil and electric power by 2012 and 2015 respectively, reducing poverty within the country and enhancing economic security through its market place, which adheres to ECOSOC's pillar of achieving financial sustainable development.[192] Furthermore, the IRENA RRA report lays out how renewable energy can enter the Ghanaian energy economy with frameworks and policies such as the National Energy Policy, with an objective to use renewable energy for 10% of total energy production by 2020, to which one of ECOSOC's objectives is to support states in financing sustainable development transition projects such as this.[193]

Conclusion

Renewable energy can be harnessed and used as a driving force in addressing many development challenges that persist in many communities, as well as some of the SDGs. Modern energy sources play a critical role in economic and social development, however, if not managed through sustainable use, they alone cannot resolve the issues communities face, such as poverty, clean water, health, and education.[194] It is imperative for the international community, international and regional organizations, NGOs, CSOs, and the private and public sector to work in unison.[195] ECOSOC can serve as a main base for dialogue, a global forum where parties can converge to collaborate, addressing challenges such as climate change, energy security, employment opportunity, and poverty eradication through policies and practical measures that focus on the sustainable use of renewable energy resources.[196]

Further Research

Delegates are encouraged to be creative as they conduct further research on the numerous sources of renewable energy that are currently available and that may be in the near future. What other sources of renewable energy exist? How can governments assist one another when it comes to technology-information sharing and RETs? What actions can ECOSOC take to improve access to renewable energies, and how can it maintain the sustainable use of these resources? What are some of the challenges that governments face in harnessing renewable energy sources? What barriers does ECOSOC face in helping governments harness renewable energy and maintain the sustainable use of energy resources? What can be done on the local, national, and international levels to overcome such barriers, and how does ECOSOC help governments address them? What is the role of the private sector in renewable energy, and how can ECOSOC encourage multinational corporations to pursue sustainable business practices?

[190] International Renewable Energy Agency, *Renewables Readiness Assessment: Ghana*, 2015.
[191] Ibid.
[192] International Renewable Energy Agency, *Ghana: Renewables Readiness Assessment*, 2015, p. 21.
[193] International Renewable Energy Agency, *Ghana: Renewables Readiness Assessment*, 2015, pp. XII–XIII; UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC and Integration for Sustainable Development,* 2016.
[194] Organization for the Economic Co-operation and Development, *OECD Contribution to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development 15: Energy for Sustainable Development*, 2007.
[195] Ibid., p. 45.
[196] UN ECOSOC, *About Us*, 2016.

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> *In September of 2011, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched his initiative called Sustainable Energy for All which brings together top-level leaders and numerous sectors of society, including governments, businesses, and civil society. This initiative aims to encourage collaboration among all actors to achieve the transition to renewable energy for the world's energy systems in order to build a more prosperous, healthier, cleaner, and safer world for future generations. Delegates are encouraged to use this source to see the outcomes expressed by the Secretary-General and supporting information, press releases and event records pertaining to sustainable energy and the Secretary-General's "Sustainable Energy for All" platform, that are provided on the page.*

Sustainable Energy for All. (2016). *Renewable Energy* [Website]. Retrieved 15 May 2016 from: http://www.se4all.org/our-vision_our-objectives_renewable-energy

> *Renewable energy resources are identified in this source as wind, water, sun, biomass, and geothermal, which are also inexhaustible and clean energy resources. This source provides information pertinent to understanding renewable energy, its influence in the economy and the environment, and the technologies and growth required to harness renewable energy resources that delegates will find particularly useful at the beginning of their research. Delegates are encouraged to review this source to understand the forms of renewable energy resources and the intricate web renewable energy has with the economy, the environment, technology, and development. Within this source, there are links with information from the Secretary-General's initiative and data on energy being harnessed from renewable resources.*

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2016). *United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20* [Website]. Retrieved 16 April 2016 from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/rio20.html

> *The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) that occurred in Brazil on 20-22 June 2012 addressed environmental concerns in tandem with sustainable development and economic policies. This source provides numerous resources on Rio+20, sustainable development, and specific targets and outcomes, such as increased multilateral participation in addressing environmental conservation and poverty. The conference focused on a political outcome document containing clear and practical measures for Member States to implement and adopt guidelines on green economic policies. Delegates will find this source useful when analyzing and reviewing which recommendations on renewable energy have been met or if more work can be done.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Forty-second session. (1987). *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: note by the Secretary-General (A/42/427)*. Retrieved 12 May 2016 from: http://undocs.org/A/42/427

> *The Secretary-General's report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (A/42/427) is where the concept of sustainable development emerged, and it laid the foundation for future events to build on, eventually leading to major international summits and outcome documents. In order to understand the foundation of sustainable development and renewable energy, delegates are encouraged to carefully review this document, assess the challenges observed, and analyze the descriptions and use of the resources and information mentioned throughout the report.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2015). *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/RES/69/313)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 16 April 2016 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/69/313

> *The Addis Ababa Action Agenda was adopted by the General Assembly in 2015 and recalls past resolutions on financing for development and transitioning this to the post-2015 Development Agenda. This document demonstrates the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing development and the importance of enabling environments for sustainable development through multilateral partnerships. Delegates should become familiar with the agenda because it conveys the need to incorporate sustainability in financing for development through the use of*

renewable energy resources in order to address numerous development challenges such as hunger and inclusive and sustainable industrialization, all while protecting the environment and generating employment and decent work for all.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 16 April 2016 from:
http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/70/1

> *This resolution moved the global agenda from the Millennium Development Goals to the newly-established Sustainable Development Goals. This resolution launched Agenda 2030, establishing 17 goals and 169 targets that seek to build upon and complete what was not achieved from the Millennium Development Goals. Delegates are encouraged to use this source to begin their research on Agenda 2030, in tandem with their respective Member State policy and position, and seriously consider the objectives outlined for the next 15 years. Delegates should find Goal 7 on renewable energy especially relevant and helpful in their research.*

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http://www.ren21.net/about-ren21/about-us/

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