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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2015

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE association™

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2015 National Model United Nations Conference in Olomouc, Czech Republic (NMUN•Europe)! We would like to especially welcome you to the Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC). We hope that this conference will be an enriching and educational experience.

Yvonne Jeffery is serving as the Director for ECOSOC, and has been involved with NMUN for eight years. Yvonne has an MSc in International Public Policy from UCL, and has a special interest in development for youth and children. She has worked in the Middle East and Africa in youth and child-focused roles, and currently works for Save the Children in London. Bronislava Lehocká is serving as the Assistant Director for ECOSOC, and she is from Czech Republic. She is studying Political Science and hopes that one day she will use the knowledge gained during her studies for something useful. She enjoys travelling and exploring new places and reading books.

The topics under discussion for ECOSOC are:

I.   Empowering Women and Girls in the Post-2015 Development Agenda
II.   Energy Governance and the International Community

The Economic and Social Council Plenary plays a unique role within the United Nations as a primary organ tasked with discussing crosscutting issues related to development, cooperation, and international standard setting. In addressing these issues, ECOSOC may initiate studies, call international conferences, submit draft conventions to the General Assembly, and make recommendations. Through policy dialogue and oversight for specialized agencies, functional commissions, and regional commissions, ECOSOC's mandate allows for the responsibility to address problems with comprehensive approaches.

This Background Guide is a helpful resource to utilize as you begin your research on the topics for ECOSOC. It will introduce you to important issues related to these topics through the individual sections, Annotated Bibliography, and Bibliography, and we encourage you to use these resources as a starting point. However, please note that this Background Guide should only be one part of your research; we encourage you to think deeply about and research the different issues related to these topics and on your Member State's policies and about innovative solutions that can help address these topics throughout the world. Prior to the conference, each delegation will submit a position paper based on their preparation (due 1 November). Please also take note of the NMUN policies on the website and in the Delegate Preparation Guide regarding plagiarism, codes of conduct/dress code/sexual harassment, awards philosophy/evaluation method, etc. 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

Please let us know if we can assist with any questions as you prepare for participation in ECOSOC this fall. Our Deputy-Secretary-General, Thera Watson, is also an available resource on substantive staff; she can be reached at thera@nmun.org

Thank you in advance for your preparation for the upcoming conference, and we look forward to seeing you at NMUN•Europe 2015!

Sincerely,

Yvonne Jeffery, *Director*
Bronislava Lehocká, *Assistant Director*

Committee Overview

Introduction

Chapter X of the *Charter of the United Nations* established the
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a founding body and
one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN).[1]
ECOSOC indirectly oversees 70% of UN resources through its oversight
of 14 Specialized Agencies and thirteen functional and
regional commissions.[2] In 2013, ECOSOC underwent a series
of reforms which attempted to expand its functions and powers as:

> The **United Nations Economic and Social Council** (ECOSOC) is one of the six primary organs of the UN. Under the authority of the *Charter of the United Nations*, ECOSOC is mandated to address economic and social matters. It submits an annual report to the General Assembly

    I.   "A leadership forum for policy dialogue and recommendations;
    II.   The lead entity to address new and emerging challenges;
    III.   A forum for the balanced integration of sustainable development;
    IV.   An accountability platform for universal commitments, monitoring and reporting on progress at all levels."[3]

The Council is mandated to serve as a main body for policy dialogue; review and advise Member States and other UN entities on economic, social, cultural, educational, and health-related topics; as well as lead discussion on the implementation of the international development framework.[4] In the last decade, the General Assembly, in resolutions 61/16 of 9 January 2007 and 68/1 of 13 December 2013 called, to strengthen the working methods of the Council in two reforms.[5] The latter recognized the leading role of the Council in "identifying emerging challenges and promoting reflection, debate and innovative thinking on development, as well as in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development."[6] Therefore, with the expansion of its role and responsibilities, the work of the Council remains critical, especially in preparing, monitoring and implementing the post-2015 development agenda and facilitating global discussions around the sustainable development goals (SDGs).[7]

History

In the 1960s and 1970s, the number of subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC increased significantly due to the influence of developing countries that broadened the agenda of the UN. This group of Member States called for a stronger focus on urgent issues such as the elimination of underdevelopment, poverty, and the unequal position of their countries in the world economy.[8] Following this, the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/197 of 1977, on the "Restructuring of economic and social sectors of the United Nations System," which was the first attempt to make ECOSOC more effective through better coordination between ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies.[9] During that time, the Council also experienced changes in its membership. It originally had 18 members, increasing to 27 on 31 August 1965 under the GA resolution 1991B (XVIII).[10] In 1971, the membership was expanded again under the GA resolution 2847/XXVI and currently is 54 Member States.[11]

In the mid-1990s, the UN system faced significant duplication of work due to unclear mandates and overlapping operational activities of its various entities. As a result of this, General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 1995 tried to solve the problems arising from the shared responsibility between the Assembly and ECOSOC by "expressly the

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[1] UN ECOSOC, *About ECOSOC.*
[2] Public Broadcasting System, *Kofi Annan Center of the Storm: Who Does What?*
[3] UN ECOSOC, *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods*, 2014
[4] UN ECOSOC, *About ECOSOC.*
[5] UN ECOSOC, *About ECOSOC.*
[6] UN ECOSOC, *Further Review of the Implementation of Resolution 61/16 of the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.*
[7] UN ECOSOC, *Millennium Development Goals and post-2014 Development Agenda.*
[8] Rosenthal, *The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*, 2005, p. 20.
[9] Rosenthal, *The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*, 2005, p.19.
[10] *New Zealand, United Nations Handbook 2013-14, 2013, p. 12*8.
[11] *New Zealand, United Nations Handbook 2013-14, 2013, p. 12*8

policy guidance role to the General Assembly and putting emphasis on the coordination role of ECOSOC"[12] This interpretation was confirmed by the GA in resolution 57/270B of 2002.[13]

The Council's role as a coordinator of development activities has always been at the center of its mandate, and it is the only body within the UN system that issues consultative status to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to attend and participate in various UN meetings, conferences, and special sessions to voice their concerns to international community.[14] Consultative status is given by the standing committee on NGOs of ECOSOC, established in 1946 and comprising 19 Member States.[15] ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 of 24 July 1996 indicated the principles, eligibility requirements, rules, procedures, obligations and responsibilities for NGOs and the UN in granting the consultative relationship.[16] Currently, 3,900 NGOs hold consultative status with the Council.[17]

Mandate

The Economic and Social Council's mandate is articulated in the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) as follows:

"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."[18]

The Council fulfills its mandate under the overall authority of the General Assembly, and with the consultation of a broad range of civil society actors and in conjunction with the work completed by its subsidiary bodies.[19] In 2007, the Council's mandate was expanded under General Assembly resolution 61/16, to strengthen its leadership towards increasing international development cooperation, particularly on the outcomes of the main UN summits and tracking implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).[20] In particular, the Council was mandated to organize the biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), which would become part of Council's High-level segment; focus on developing partnerships with civil society and other organizations; and strengthen the role of the Council's functional commissions.[21] The resolution also requested ECOSOC to establish a multi-year program of work for Annual Ministerial Reviews (AMRs) where Member States could assess the progress on the MDGs and identify further work needed towards the full implementation of international development goals.[22] Such reform placed ECOSOC as a leading body in fostering cooperation among Member States towards sustainable development, and the General Assembly identified further ways to place ECOSOC as an action-oriented and effective coordinator of the UN system-wide international development agenda under the resolution 68/1(2013).[23] In particular, the resolution requested ECOSOC to prioritize thematic sessions such as the humanitarian segment; to regularly hold management and coordination meetings with the key stakeholders, and promote dialogue on financing for international development.[24]

Governance, Structure and Membership

The Economic and Social Council comprises 54 members, each elected by the General Assembly for overlapping

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[12] Rosenthal, *The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*, 2005, p. 20.
[13] Rosenthal, *The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*, 2005, p. 20.
[14] UN DESA NGO Branch, *Introduction to ECOSOC Consultative Status*.
[15] UN DESA NGO Branch, *The Committee On NGOs*.
[16] UN DESA NGO Branch, *Introduction to ECOSOC Consultative Status*; UN ECOSOC, *Consultative Relationship between the United Nations and Non-governmental Organizations* (E/1996/31), 1996, pp. 53-61.
[17] UN DESA NGO Branch, *Introduction to ECOSOC Consultative Status*.
[18] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Article 62.
[19] ECOSOC, *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council*, 1992, p. 4.
[20] UN ECOSOC, *About ECOSOC*.
[21] UN General Assembly, *Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council* (A/RES/61/16), 2007, p. 2.
[22] UN General Assembly, *Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council* (A/RES/61/16), 2007, p. 2.
[23] 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, p. 5.
[24] 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, p. 4-5.

three-year terms.[25] The members are distributed in accordance with the geographical position of the applicants to achieve equal representation from all continents: 14 seats are allocated to African States, 11 to Asian States, six to Eastern European States, ten to Latin American and Caribbean States, and 13 to Western European and other States.[26] Each member has one representative and one vote in the Council.[27] All decisions are made by a simple majority of those members present and voting.[28]

The Council holds two annual sessions, consisting of an organizational session when elections to the Bureau take place, and a substantive session, which is further divided into five "segments" focusing on separate thematic aspects of the Council's work.[29] The working method of the Council was further reformed under the GA resolution 68/1 in 2013, and its work is now organized as follows:

High-level Segment (HLS): For 2014 and 2015, the HLS includes an Annual Ministerial Review to review the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda.[30] The Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) will also continue to be held biennially in 2014.[31] In addition to this, the HLS entails ministerial-level meetings of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.[32]

Integration Segment: This segment aims to "make full use of its multidisciplinary network of specialized bodies," by monitoring and promoting "the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in the work of ECOSOC system," through the consolidation of "all the inputs of Member States, the subsidiary bodies of the Council, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders."[33] This segment consolidates important messages on primary themes and action-oriented recommendations from the Council system.[34]

Operational Activities for Development Segment: This segment monitors the follow-up to the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) recommendations, and alignment with the work of the Specialized Agencies.[35] It will help the Council to provide efficient coordination to the UN Programmes and Funds.[36]

Coordination and Management Meetings (CMM): CMMs are held regularly for the Council to "review the reports of its subsidiary bodies (functional commissions, regional commissions and committees of experts) and consider specific thematic issues for which the Council is expected to play a coordinating role, such as gender mainstreaming."[37] The Council works closely with the Secretariat of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) during these meetings.[38]

Humanitarian Affairs: This segment serves as a thematic forum for discussion on addressing operation challenges and normative progress on the humanitarian policy.[39] In June 2014, the segment focused on the future of humanitarian affairs and operation of the activities as well as addressed the importance of transitioning from relief to development.[40]

Governance
ECOSOC has its own rules of procedure that also administer the election process of the President, the Vice-President, and the Rapporteur, all elected for a one year term.[41] The Bureau provides a leadership role within

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[25] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Chapter X; UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC Members*.
[26] UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC Members*; *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Chapter X, Article 61.1-2.
[27] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Chapter X.
[28] UN ECOSOC, *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council*, 1992, p. 22; *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Chapter X.
[29] UN ECOSOC, *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council*, 1992, p. 8.
[30] UN ECOSOC, *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods,* 2014.
[31] UN ECOSOC, *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods,* 2014.
[32] UN ECOSOC, *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods,* 2014.
[33] UN ECOSOC, *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods,* 2014.
[34] UN ECOSOC, *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods,* 2014.
[35] UN ECOSOC, *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods,* 2014.
[36] UN ECOSOC, *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods,* 2014.
[37] UN ECOSOC, *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods,* 2014.
[38] UN ECOSOC, *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods,* 2014.
[39] UN ECOSOC, *2014 Humanitarian Affairs Segment*.
[40] UN ECOSOC, *2014 Humanitarian Affairs Segment*.
[41] UN ECOSOC, *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council*, 1992.

ECOSOC. It consists of five representatives, the President and four Vice-Presidents, who are elected to one-year terms at the outset of each annual session by the entire 54 members of the Council.[42] The Bureau assumes responsibility for setting the Council's agenda, devising an action plan and collaborating with the Secretariat on administrative duties.[43] Bureau membership rotates equally among regional blocs.[44] The current President of ECOSOC Plenary, Mr. Martin Sajdik, was elected on 14 January 2014.[45]

Subsidiary Bodies
ECOSOC oversees 14 subsidiary bodies that are "required to report annually to ECOSOC on their activities submitting draft resolutions and recommendations to the Council."[46] The Council's subsidiary bodies hold their own sessions and produce recommendations, and their work is assessed by ECOSOC during the substantive session.[47] The two most common types of subsidiary bodies are functional and regional commissions, and specific methods of work have been adopted within each subsidiary organ to align with the mandate of each entity:

Functional Commissions: The nine functional commissions are "deliberative bodies whose role is to consider and make recommendations on issues in their areas of responsibility and expertise."[48] Functional commissions in particular have a responsibility for following up to the major UN conferences, in accordance with the role of ECOSOC.[49]

Regional Commissions: The five regional commissions aim to foster economic integration, oversee the implementation of regional sustainable development initiatives, and help addressing economic and social issues in sub-regions.[50] In order to carry out these objectives, the commissions "promote multilateral dialogue, knowledge sharing and networking at the regional level, and work together to promote intra- regional and inter-regional cooperation, both among themselves and through collaboration with other regional organisations."[51] Regional commissions target problems and challenges within their geographical scope, while functional commissions deal with issues related to their constituting subject. Consequently, a member of a regional commission can only be a country from this region (with one exception: the United States is a member of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)).[52]

Expert Bodies composed of Governmental Experts: The seven bodies that fall into this category are focused on narrow topics that ECOSOC has identified as important and deserving of additional attention or particular expertise.[53] 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 issue, with a particular aim for coherence and consistency at the international level.[54]

Additional types of committees that report to ECOSOC include standing committees, ad-hoc bodies, and other related bodies.[55] Working methods and structural changes are made to subsidiary organs regularly; however, the most significant change of note is the establishment of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was abolished as of 20 September 2013, per ECOSOC resolution 2013/19, and replaced with the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), which convenes annually under the auspices of ECOSOC.[56]

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[42] UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC Bureau.*
[43] UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC Bureau.*
[44] UN ECOSOC, *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council*, 1992, p. 9.
[45] UN ECOSOC, *President.*
[46] UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Functional Commissions.*
[47] UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Functional Commissions.*
[48] UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Functional Commissions.*
[49] UN ECOSOC, *Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related field* (E/1998/46), 1998, p. 76.
[50] UN Regional Commissions, *About.*
[51] UN Regional Commissions, *About.*
[52] New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2013-14*, 2013, p. 161.
[53] UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names, *Overview.*
[54] UNCTAD, *About International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.*
[55] UN ECOSOC, *Subsidiary Bodies of ECOSOC.*
[56] UN General Assembly, *Format and Organizational Aspects of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (A/RES/67/290)*, 2013, p. 7.

Functions and Powers

The *Charter of the United Nations* indicates that ECOSOC "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 matters to the General Assembly [GA], to the Members of the United Nations, and to Specialized Agencies concerned."[57] It "may furnish information to the Security Council and shall assist [it] upon request."[58] In addition to this, the Council serves a critical role in providing coordination, monitoring and advice to the UN programs agencies, and funds on international development policies and their implementation.[59] In particular, it monitors and evaluates the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of UN operational activities for development, a policy mechanism, which was created under the GA landmark resolution 67/226 of 2013.[60]Other functions of the Council entail: encouraging Member States to implement relevant policies; providing financial resources; cooperating with relevant actors; mainstreaming and integrating good practice policy at a national level; strengthening national level responses and capacity on a certain issue; sharing information and good practice; appointing a national focal point; and providing support and better coordination with relevant entities of the UN system.[61]

The Council also requests entities within the UN system to take action. For example, it requested the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to provide "substantive contributions" to the development of guidelines on crime prevention in urban areas.[62] It also invited all entities within the UN system to contribute to the implementation of the *Istanbul Programme of Action* (2011), and requested that Specialized Agencies strengthen existing measures of support and appropriate programming responses.[63] Additionally, the Council urged UN agencies to strengthen humanitarian response capacity; provide technical cooperation for long-term partnerships; and recommended that the Emergency Relief Coordinator enhances coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response, especially through expertise and technology transfer to developing countries to build resilience.[64] The Council's functions and powers were further expanded with the adoption of the General Assembly resolution 68/1 in 2013 which mandated the body to provide leadership to the UN system through adoption 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.[65]

ECOSOC regularly requests the Secretary-General to follow-up on certain issues, and provide more concrete, formal support as well as the resources necessary from within the budget of a regional or functional commission to carry out certain activities.[66] In 1998, ECOSOC initiated a meeting with the heads of various economic institutions, such as state finance ministers, members of the World Bank and of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), leading to an

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[57] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Article 62.

[58] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Article s 62, 63, and 65.

[59] UN ECOSOC, *Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (E/RES/2013/5),* 2013, p. 1.
  UN General Assembly, *Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system (A/RES/67/226),* 2012, pp. 1, 18, 19.

[60] UN ECOSOC, *Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (E/RES/2013/5),* 2013, p. 1.
  UN General Assembly, *Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system (A/RES/67/226),* 2012, pp. 1, 18, 19.

[61] UN ECOSOC, *Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls (A/RES/2013/36)*, 2013, pp. 3-4;
  UN ECOSOC, *Model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice (A/RES/2013/34),* 2013, p. 3

[62] UN ECOSOC, *The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (A/RES/2013/33),* 2013, pp. 4-5.

[63] UN ECOSOC, *Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (A/RES/2013/46),* 2013, p.3

[64] UN ECOSOC, *Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (A/RES/2013/6),* 2013, p.2.

[65] 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, pp. 3-4.

[66] UN ECOSOC, *Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/RES/2013/43),* 2013, pp. 3-4.

increase in cooperation between these financial institutions.[67] Recently, both the General Assembly and the Council attempted to strengthen partnerships by launching a joint Assembly-ECOSOC meeting to "examine ways on which transformative post-2015 development agenda can best be supported by multi-stakeholder partnerships that responds to sustainable development and complement intergovernmental efforts to shape a renewed global partnership for development."[68]

The Council established a standing Committee on NGOs in 1946, which directly reports to ECOSOC on the procedural and substantive matters raised by civil society organizations.[69] In July 2010, ECOSOC granted consultative status to the tenth organization working internationally for the protection of sexual minority rights, a step that has led to an increase in the focus of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues in the international sphere.[70] This example shows the importance of collaboration across various organizations, which was identified as one the key reforms needed at the Council in order to strengthen economic, social, cultural development, and human rights across Member States. In the latest report in June 2014, the Committee granted consultative status to addition 158 NGOs, reviewed quadrennial reports and held informal consultations on improving working methods of the Committee to meet the needs of NGOs.[71]

Current Priorities

One of the key priorities of the Council currently is to manage the transition from the MDGs to the new development framework, and lead the discussion on monitoring and implementation of SDGs.[72] The President of ECOSOC stressed in his remarks at the General Assembly's High-level Event on the post-2015 development agenda that it is crucial to make the new development goals action-oriented by building national capacity and ensuring efficient review systems, like the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (QCPR), are in place to monitor impact.[73] The Council, therefore, serves an instrumental role in coordinating preparations, leading monitoring and implementation process through QCPR and Annual Ministerial Review, as well as fostering global partnerships in the post-2015 setting through DCF.[74] In addition to this, both GA and ECOSOC work closely to promote innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development, initiating a thematic forum for such discussion in April 2014.[75] At the event, the participants agreed to focus on scaling-up all forms of collaboration in the post-2015 setting; promote the implementation of existing global commitments, and address "the emerging role of innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships."[76]

For the third consecutive year, ECOSOC led discussion around youth participation and inclusion, especially in the post-2015 development agenda. In June 2014 the Council hosted a Youth Forum where UN Member States, youth councils, government agencies and other organizations identified the following global priorities for immediate action: youth unemployment and lack of access to decent jobs and education, young people's health, good governance, entrepreneurship and participation in decision-making processes.[77] These pressing issues were consolidated in the advocacy strategy drafted by all the participants which serves as a "roadmap" towards closer collaboration between young people and the UN agencies, civil society and private sector.[78]Following this, the

Council decided to focus explicitly on employment creation and decent work as a theme for the Integration Segment of its 2015 session; ECOSOC, therefore, remains a central body for youth-related issues.[79]

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[67] UN ECOSOC, *About ECOSOC.*
[68] UN DESA, *UN Assembly, Economic and Social Council launch joint talks on development partnerships,* 2014.
[69] UN DESA, *Committee on NGOs convenes for first session of 2014,* 2014.
[70] IGLHRC, *United Nations Grants Official Status to U.S.-based International LGBT Rights Group*, 2010.
[71] UN ECOSOC, *Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2014 resumed session (E/2014/32/2),* 2014, pp. 1, 46
[72] UN ECOSOC, *Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 Development Agenda.*
[73] UN ECOSOC, *Keynote Address by His Excellency Mr. Martin Sajdik, President of the Economic and Social Council,* 2014, p.2.
[74] UN ECOSOC, *Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 Development Agenda.*
[75] UN DESA, *The role of partnerships beyond 2015,* 2014.
[76] UN DESA, *The role of partnerships beyond 2015,* 2014.
[77] UN DESA, *Uniting for youth beyond 2015,* 2014.
[78] UN DESA, *Uniting for youth beyond 2015,* 2014.
[79] UN ECOSOC, *Theme for the integration segment of the 2015 session of the Economic and Social Council (E/2014/L.23),* 2014, p.1

The Council's biennial Development Cooperation Forum has prioritized other important issues, such as development assistance and accountability, as increasing number of non-state actors such as NGOs, private sector, and philanthropies have been contributing to international cooperation.[80] The Forum plays a central role in monitoring trends in international development cooperation and streamlining operational activities and their delivery, which feeds into stronger policy integration between the work of the UN and variety of other development partners involved in development activities.[81]

Recent Sessions

In March 2014, ECOSOC convened the Development Cooperation Forum's High-Level Symposium, on the topic "Accountable and effective development cooperation in a post-2015 era," to discuss ways how to improve development cooperation and measure its impact.[82] The President of ECOSOC stressed that the Symposium would demonstrate the relevance of DCF and its instrumental role in ensuring "development cooperation is fit for purpose in the post-2015 era."[83] Participants discussed issues such as quality and effectiveness of development cooperation, how it will look like post-2015, and how to design frameworks for effectively monitoring development cooperation and making sure it is accountable.[84] These discussions also fed into the first ministerial meeting of the Busan Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which was held in Mexico in April 2014.[85] In July 2014, the Annual Ministerial Review was convened as part of ECOSOC High-level Segment at the UN Headquarters in New York.[86] It took place in the overall substantive context of the final effort to accelerate progress towards the MDGs by 2015, the continued follow-up to Rio+20, and the discussions for elaborating the post-2015 development agenda.[87]

The High-level Political Forum was held under the auspices of ECOSOC's for the first time from 30 June to 9 July 2014. [88] The Forum replaced the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, formed in 1992 after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to generate action on energy issues, sustainability in production and consumption.[89] The outcome document of the 2014 ECOSOC High-level Segment and the High-level Political Forum was the Ministerial Declaration, themed "Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future."[90] It stressed the commitment to establishing inclusive and a people-centered post-2015 development agenda that will build upon the legacy of MDGs.[91]The Declaration also identified that poverty eradication, sustainable patterns of consumption and production, and natural resources as key requirements for sustainable development which need to be at the center of the new development framework.[92]

The Council has also released its provisional agenda with the key events for 2015. The upcoming sessions will include: high-level policy dialogue with international financial and trade institutions; the second High-level Political Forum on sustainable development; review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries; and other meetings to follow-up on General Assembly's recommendations.[93]

Conclusion

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[80] UN ECOSOC, *Development Cooperation Forum;* UN ECOSOC, *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods,* 2014, p.1
[81] UN ECOSOC, *Development Cooperation Forum.*
[82] UN DESA, *ECOSOC convenes symposium on development cooperation,* 2014.
[83] UN DESA, *ECOSOC convenes symposium on development cooperation,* 2014.
[84] UN ECOSOC, *Accountable and Effective Development Cooperation in a Post-2015 Era: Official Symposium Summary,* 2014, pp: 1-3.
[85] UN DESA, *ECOSOC convenes symposium on development cooperation,* 2014.
[86] UN ECOSOC, *2014 Annual Ministerial Review.*
[87] UN ECOSOC, *2014 Annual Ministerial Review.*
[88] UN DESA, *-level Political Forum (under the auspices of ECOSOC).*
[89] UN DESA, *New Forum seeks to set stage for future global development agenda,* 2014.
[90] UN ECOSOC, *Ministerial Declaration of the High-level Segment of the 2014 session of the Economic and Social Council (E/2014/L.22),* 2014, p. 1.
[91] UN ECOSOC, *Ministerial Declaration of the High-level Segment of the 2014 session of the Economic and Social Council (E/2014/L.22),* 2014, p. 3
[92] UN ECOSOC, *Ministerial Declaration of the High-level Segment of the 2014 session of the Economic and Social Council (E/2014/L.22),* 2014, p. 3
[93] UN ECOSOC, *Provisional Agenda* (E/2015/1), 2014, pp. 1-2.

The Economic and Social Council plays a key role in coordinating the expansive UN system. So far the Council has demonstrated a commitment and leadership in mobilizing action on tackling key priority issues, such as sustainable development, youth inclusion in decision-making processes, decent work and employment, and gender issues. It has also initiated much-needed global collaboration across UN entities to ensure political commitment towards a new development framework and SDGs. The contributions of the Council both as a forum for discussion and in terms of policy guidance are significantly important and its role will continue to grow in the post-2015 era, where clear organizational leadership and strong monitoring mechanisms to assess the progress towards SDGs will be required.

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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. 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.*

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> *This is an excellent source for the delegates to gain background information on the complex UN system and its main organs. This comprehensive handbooks presents detailed information on the UN family organizations, explains their functions, structure and role. It also gives an overview on various subsidiary organs established under the Charter, UN Programmes and Funds, and other organizations related to the UN system as a whole. Delegates are encouraged to read the section on ECOSOC in detail to understand its structure, membership, working methods and linkage with various subsidiary bodies.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (1992). *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council*. Retrieved 22 October 2014 from: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/pdf/rules.pdf
> *This document provides an overview of the key ECOSOC sessions, its programme of work, agenda setting, voting procedures, the structure of the Bureau and Member States' representation as well as ECOSOC's relationships with other organs and bodies. It is important that delegates familiarize themselves with the original rules of ECOSOC to gain a better understanding how the Council works and what it attempts to accomplish. The rules of procedure at National Model United Nations (NMUN) have been adapted for the simulation, and are not identical to the original rules as presented in this document.*

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) [Resolution]. Retrieved 22 October 2014 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 tacking challenged towards sustainable development. It provides detailed recommendations how the Council 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.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2014). *Provisional Agenda* (E/2015/1). Retrieved 22 October 2014 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2015/1
> *This document lists the provisional agenda items and work plan for the Council in 2015, 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, 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 the Council for 2015 and continue researching further how all these action items will be carried out next year.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2014). *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods* [Brief]. Retrieved 22 October 2014 from: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf14/the_new_ecosoc_31_march_2014.pdf

> *This briefing document details the new functions and working methods of the Council following General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 2013. It provides an excellent summary on how ECOSOC's role has been enhanced, and outlines the main priorities for the work of ECOSOC which include greater development cooperation, improved monitoring processes to tracks SDGs and accountability. Delegates will greatly benefit from this resource as it summarizes the key outcomes of the resolution 68/1, and clarifies the extent to which Council's functions and powers have been expanded.*

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I. Empowering Women and Girls in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

"Removing the barriers that keep women and girls on the margins of economic, social, cultural and political life must be a top priority for us all – businesses, Governments, the United Nations and civil society."[94]

Introduction

Every day millions of women and girls are experiencing violence, sexual abuse, discrimination and social and economic inequalities. The president of the United Nations General Assembly, Sam Kutesa stated in September 2014 that despite reaching the target of reducing world poverty by half, almost one billion people still live in poverty, hundreds of thousands of women die each year during pregnancy and childbirth, and while school enrolment has gone up, the quality of teaching is poor in many countries.[95] United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is systematically working with other United Nations (UN) agencies on several programmes and actions which helps with empowering of women across the world. Even though there has been some progress towards women's rights and equality over the decades, there are still persisting problems which are blocking structural changes in universal rights such as violence against women, unpaid care work, limited control over assets and property, and unequal participation in private and public decision-making.[96]

The 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, brought together representatives of national governments, civil society organizations and individuals that have worked in mutual cooperation on the final output of the conference summarizing the most urgent challenges for the global agenda of gender equality- Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)[97]. BPfA serves as the foundation for the international community's efforts to achieve gender equality and respect for human rights. The BPfA emphasizes that women share common concerns that can be addressed only by working together and in partnership with men towards the common goal of gender equality around the world.[98] The

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[94] UN-Women, Press release, 2015.
[95] GNRD, Gender, Women, and Girls in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 2015.
[96] UN-Women, *Position on the Post-2015 Development,* 2013.
[97] UN, *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1),* 1996, p. 7.
[98] UN, *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1),* 1996, p. 7.

20-year review of the BPfA known as 2015 Beijing +20 review provides significant opportunity for the revision of promises and commitments arising from previous agreements and removal of barriers that prevent the implementation of BPfA at regional and national levels. States are called upon to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the BPfA and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly.[99]

International and Regional Framework

Prior to the groundbreaking Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, UN organized three conferences on women: Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, and Nairobi in 1985.[100] The 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing marked a significant turning point for the global agenda for gender equality, emphasizing current challenges towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The ECOSOC Commission on the Status of Women was mandated to review the progress of the *Beijing Declaration* and *Platform for Action* through the realization of women's and girls' full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout their life cycle, as well as to ensure the acceleration of the implementation of the *Platform for Action*.[101]

UN-Women has set three priority goals and objectives to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women in post-2015 period: freedom from violence against women and girls, gender equality in capabilities and resources, and gender equality in decision-making power in public and private institutions.[102] In the context of the post-2015 development agenda and Beijing+20 review in 2015 many intergovernmental events have been organized by regional UN entities, including the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.[103] Those national-level as well as regional and international organizations works closely in order to achieve comprehensive structural changes which are essential for elimination of widespread inequalities, gender-based violence, discrimination and unequal development progress between women and men, girls and boys.[104]

In March 2015 the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) focused on the objectives and challenges of the BPfA, including challenges that affect its implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Commission undertook a review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration, stressing the importance of the cooperation on regional and international level.[105] The UN-Women strategy is to engage and build the capacity and impact of civil society organizations, to more effectively advocate for gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment in the post-2015 development agenda. Also UN-Women seeks to increase public accountability.[106] UN-Women works closely with Civil Society Advisory Groups in order to coordinate and facilitate civil society participation at the regional and country level.[107]

A UN System-Wide Policy on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women was endorsed by the Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) on October 2006, in an attempt to further the goal of gender equality and women's empowerment within the policies and programmes of the UN system.[108] ECOSOC agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system contain commitments to "apply a gender perspective to all conference follow-up and, where appropriate, adjust their

[99] UN-Women, *Review and appraisal processes for the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 2015.
[100] UN-Women, *World Conferences on Women,* 2015.
[101] UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women*, 2015.
[102] UN-Women, *A Transformative Stand-Alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment: Imperatives and Key Components*, 2013, pp. 16-17.
[103] UN-Women, *Schedule of Events: 2014-2015,* 2014.
[104] UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, *Realizing the Future We Want for All: Report to the Secretary-General*, 2012, pp. 23, 25.
[105] UN-Women, Review and appraisal processes for the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 2015.
[106] UN-Women, *Civil Society Engagement in the Post–2015 Development Agenda,* 2015.
[107] UN-Women, *Civil Society Engagement in the Post–2015 Development Agenda,* 2015.
[108] UN-Women, *UN System Wide-action Plan for Implementation of the CEB United Nations System-wide policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women,* 2012.

implementation activities accordingly, including through targeted, women-specific projects; (b) To utilize gender analysis effectively to identify the differential impact of implementation on women and men and to guide implementation towards gender equality."[109] ECOSOC agreed conclusions further emphasize that: "States unanimously agreed at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing in 1995, that it was essential to design, implement and monitor, with the full participation of women, effective, efficient and mutually reinforcing gender-sensitive policies and programmes, including development policies and programmes at all levels, to foster the empowerment and advancement of women.[110]

In early 2012, the United Nations agreed on the landmark UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP), to implement the gender equality policy of its highest executive body. The UN-SWAP for the first time assigns common performance standards for the gender-related work of all UN entities, ensuring greater coherence and accountability.[111] The focus of the UN-SWAP is on corporate processes and institutional arrangements to support achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women. UN-Women has a leading role in supporting the implementation of the plan, which uses a framework with 15 performance indicators based on intergovernmental mandates. All UN system organizations will need to adopt policies on gender equality and women's empowerment, for example, and ensure that corporate strategic planning documents commit to achieving at least one gender equality objective. Fifty UN entities and departments contributed to developing the UN-SWAP.

Role of the International System

The international system is crucial when it comes to addressing of problems related to women's rights and their empowerment because of the global nature of these issues. In accordance with UN conferences and summits, all humanitarian, social and economic aspects of sustainable development should contribute to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.[112] Entities such as UN-Women: have called for the "integration of gender equality concerns throughout the other priority areas and goals of the post-2015 development agenda, with clear targets and indicators."[113]

An important part of achieving the gender equality and women empowerment is to have more women representatives in decision-making bodies. Women are underrepresented in almost all national parliaments and even when they reach high political office they tend to be excluded from the most senior decision-making roles. When women are included in high-level bodies such as government and parliaments, it is more likely that gender sensitive issues will be put on the agenda and there will be a wider perspective on a range of topics. Engaging women at the local level of leadership is also important, as research shows that when the proportion of women in local councils around the world reaches or exceeds 30 percent, a tangible change can be observed in local priorities and the assigning of resources in ways that benefit women.[114]. At the 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2008, the document *Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building* was reviewed. The 1995 *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* recognized the link between equality of women and men and development. The Declaration also emphasized the importance of women's full involvement in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict and their essential role in maintaining of peace and security.

ECOSOC
ECOSOC plays a vital role in coordination of various development actors to address a broad range of themes that contributed to preparations for a unified and universal post-2015 development agenda.[115] The entire ECOSOC system provides a platform for coherence, coordination, integration and inclusion and contributing to the global effort to

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[109] UN ECOSOC, *Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations System,* 1997.
[110] UN ECOSOC, *Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations System,* 1997.
[111] UN-Women, *Promoting UN Accountability (UN-SWAP),* 2015.
[112] UN ECOSOC, *Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Strengthening Development Cooperation*, 2010.
[113] UN ECOSOC, *Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Strengthening Development Cooperation*, 2010.
[114] GNRD, *Gender, Women, and Girls in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 2015*.
[115] UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC as a unifying platform for sustainable development,* 2015.

achieve sustainable development for all.[116] ECOSOC is the main platform for the organization and coordination of the "the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: What it will take," providing guidance and recommendations on the transition process.[117]

UN-Women and Commission on the Status of Women
The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) was established on July 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly. UN-Women is works with inter-governmental bodies such as CSW in order to ensure articulation and formulation of policies and the creation of global standards and norms. UN-Women, supervises the implementation of gender equality and empowerment programs in Member States, providing technical and financial support.[118] UN-Women also provide support funds that facilitate the implementation processes of certain policies at the national level, such as the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women and Fund for Gender Equality. The Fund totals $69.5 million and is one of the largest global grant-making funds dedicated to women's rights and empowerment.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which is principal in global policy-making and it is dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women.[119] ECOSOC resolution 1996/6 outlined the leading role of CSW in monitoring the progress and assessing deficiencies in the implementation of the BPfA.[120] ECOSOC and the Commission on the Status of Women emphasize the urgent need to coordinate actions and policies within the framework of post-2015 development agenda through the integration of a gender perspective into economic, social and environmental objectives and the dimensions of sustainable development agenda.[121]

In accordance with UN conferences and summits, all humanitarian, social and economic aspects of sustainable development should contribute to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.[122] Entities such as UN-Women: have called for the "integration of gender equality concerns throughout the other priority areas and goals of the post-2015 development agenda, with clear targets and indicators."[123] ECOSOC also expressed concerns about the slow progress in terms of achievements in gender equality and protection of women and girls. Persistent obstacles and challenges need to be tackled in 12 critical areas of concern, namely women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights of women, women and the media, women and the environment, and the girl child.[124]

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play a crucial role in the implementation of the post-2015 developmental agenda and advocate of stronger frameworks that support implementation.[125] CSOs represent a dynamic source of ideas and policy perspectives, partnerships and support. CSOs also facilitate opportunities of civil society and women's group to reflect their ideas and views in international development agendas of the post-2015 development goals. The Women Global Empowerment Fund's goal is to "reach underserved women through economic, social and political programs; creating opportunities while addressing inequality, strengthening families and communities."[126] Other organizations such as International Labour Organization (ILO) with the support of UN-Women launched a new initiative to promote women's economic empowerment through enhancing their entrepreneurial skills.[127]

Violence Against Women

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[116] UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC as a unifying platform for sustainable development,* 2015.
[117] UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC as a unifying platform for sustainable development,* 2015.
[118] UN-Women, *Fund For UN Women,* 2015.
[119] United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, *About,* 2015.
[120] UN ECOSOC, *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (E/RES/1996/6),* 1996.
[121] UN ECOSOC, *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (E/RES/1996/6),* 1996.
[122] UN ECOSOC, *Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Strengthening Development Cooperation*,
        2010.
[123] UN-Women, *12 Critical Areas.*
[124] UN-Women, *12 Critical Areas.*
[125] UN-Women, Major Partners, 2014.
[126] Women's Global Empowerment Fund, Who we are, 2015
[127] International Labour Organization, Launch of Women's Economic Empowerment project in Somalia, 2015.

The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."[128] The key target according to UN-Women position paper, *A Transformative Stand-Alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality,* women's rights and women's empowerment is to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. Violence against women is widespread throughout the world regardless class, race, ethnicity or religion and has a negative impact not only on the women as an individuals, but also on their families, social status, health and economic situation.[129]

In the context of the post-2015 development framework and Sustainable Development Goals, three components of the transformative stand-alone goal on gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment was introduced in 2013. Today, one of the most pervasive human rights abuse is the gender discrimination which has a negative effect on the full enforcement of rights and freedoms for women and girls. Violence against of women is increasing especially during armed conflict and natural disasters when particular forms of violence- rape, sex trafficking and forced prostitution are widespread and systematic and often used by armed groups.

The Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) states that: "Gender based violence against women is violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately and includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty."[130]

Eliminating violence against all women and girls and the empowerment of women are at the center of discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.[131] Secretary-General's campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women was launched in 2008 and it aims to raise public awareness and increase political will and resources for preventing and ending all forms of violence against women and girls in all parts of the world.[132] Through the national, regional and global initiatives UNiTE campaign is supporting adoption and implementation action plans that emphasize prevention and protecting women and girls who suffers from various forms of violence.[133] In the context of post 2015 agenda, UN-Women and CSOs are providing training and knowledge to the Member States to help them eliminate sexual violence.[134]

Women and the Economy

Gender discrimination in the economic sphere means that women are not treated equally in terms of wages, job opportunities, even though they make enormous contribution to economies.*[135]* The UN has introduced multiple programmes for women's economic empowerment to ensure women's ability secure decent jobs, own land, accumulate assets, and influence institutions and public policies determining growth and development.[136] Twenty years ago, the international community came together to define a transformative new agenda for sustainable development that set out an ambitious program to advance gender equality.[137] Despite the progress that has been made since Beijing Conference, millions of women are still consigned to work in low paid, poor quality jobs, denied even basic level of health care, without access to clean water and decent sanitation.[138] The 2015 UN-Women report, *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights*, reveals that globally, on average, women are paid 24 per cent less than men. The report also summarizes key recommendations underlying the importance of balanced mix of economic and social policies. Governments can generate decent jobs for women (and men) and ensure that the unpaid care work that goes into sustaining all economies is recognized and supported.

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[128] World Heath Organization, *Violence against women,* 2015.
[129] UN-Women, *A Transformative stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment: Imperatives and key components,* 2013.
[130] YWCA, *Position Paper on Violence Against Women,* 2011.
[131] UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, *Realizing the Future We Want for All: Report to the Secretary-General,* 2012.
[132] UN, *UNiTE to End Violence against Women,* 2008.
[133] UN, *UNiTE to End Violence against Women,* 2008.
[134] UN, *UNiTE to End Violence against Women,* 2008.
[135] UN-Women. *12 Critical Areas.*
[136] UN-Women. *12 Critical Areas.*
[137] UN-Women, *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights,* 2015.
[138] UN-Women, *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights,* 2015.

"Women's subordination was seen as having its roots in their exclusion from the market sphere and their limited access to, and control, over resources. The key was then to place women 'in' development by legislatively trying to limit discrimination and by promoting their involvement in education and employment."[139] The Women in Development (WID) approach advocated for greater gender equality as well as more practical gender needs, eg. better access to water, which would reduce the amount of time women and girls must spend in domestic activities and thus allow them more time for education or employment.[140] To ensure women's participation in the economy, UN-Women has launched multiple programmes for women's economic empowerment including training in business management, income-generating agricultural projects and projects which helps to prevent gender-based violence.[141] For example, in India where sexual violence is widespread, the UN Trust Fund helped to finance training of thousands of workers who have learned the ways how to solve the problem with gender-based violence.[142]

Conclusion

The post-2015 development agenda highlights the importance of women and girls as essential actors in a sustainable development framework. The *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* defined policy framework for empowerment of women in the context of post-2015 process. During the past 20 years progress has been made, but there are still persistent obstacles in implementation of necessary measures against unequal status of women and girls. The empowerment of women is not just an aim in itself – it is a key to progress of any post-2015 goals and a precondition to ensure full and effective implementation of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*.[143] The post-2015 agenda can deliver economic transformation only if it changes the way we understand women's contribution to the economy.[144] Unless women's role in economic development is recognized, durable and visible solutions will not be possible. Creating the right governance framework is key to ensuring this happens, and requires, amongst others, gender responsive macroeconomic policies including budgeting, equal access to natural resources, and tackling corruption.[145]

Further Research

Some of the important questions for delegates to consider include: What were the positive changes in the development of women's empowerment over the last 20 years after Beijing Conference? What measures should be created in order to improve women's empowerment and enhance women's equal opportunity in private and public businesses? In the context of post-2015 development agenda, what are the critical areas of concern that need the attention of ECOSOC, and what other areas should be addressed? In what way can ECOSOC support the activities of national governments, as well as regional measures that enhance empowerment of women and equal opportunities?

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Acord International. (2015). Briefing for Post 2015 Development Agenda, Women and economic transformation post 2015. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.acordinternational.org/silo/files/women-cso-roundtable-report.pdf
> *Briefing for post-2015 development agenda summarize various approaches and concrete goals in achieving women's empowerment in the context of economic transformation and post-2015 agenda. The document also highlights main priorities that need to be addressed in order to strengthen women's position in economy and in the context of economic transformation.*

Global Network for Rights Development. (2015). Gender, Women, and Girls in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.gnrd.net/seemore.php?id=1325#sthash.mUGWuy23.dpuf

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[139] UN SDSN, *Women's role in economic development: Overcoming the constraints,* 2013.

[140] UN SDSN, *Women's role in economic development: Overcoming the constraints*, 2013.

[141] UN-Women, *Women and the Economy,* 2015.

[142] UN-Women, *Women and the Economy*, 2015.

[143] European Union, *High-Level Event on Women's Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Development,* 2015.

[144] Acord International, *Briefing for Post 2015 Development Agenda, Women and economic transformation post 2015*, 2015.

[145] Acord International, *Briefing for Post 2015 Development Agenda, Women and economic transformation post 2015*, 2015.

Global Network for Rights and Development is an international NGO with the aim to enhance and support human rights and development by adopting new strategies and policies. This survey document may provide useful starting point and inspiration for delegate's own research, primarily focused on the Sustainable Development Goals which will take effect in 2016.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2013). A Transformative Stand-Alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment: Imperatives and Key Components. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2013/7/post-2015-long-paper

This document is a summary of the new transformative framework which is addressing structural impediments to gender equality and achievement of women's right. The document provides specific key imperatives and components to achieve gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment. This could be a useful document to start research for the delegates who are looking for comprehensive summary of recent developments in women's rights and empowerment in the context of post-2015 development agenda.

Young Women's Christian Association. (2011). Position Paper on Violence Against Women. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.ywcagb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Position-Paper-Violence-Against-Women.pdf

Position Paper on VAW explains causes and consequences contributing to women's inequality and violence against women. The document also summarize fundamental documents, e. g. The Beijing Platform for Action (1995), Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women, on the topic. The document therefore provides overview of the issue, an explanation of interventions and practices for addressing the issue required, and the position paper is also giving supporting evidence and statistics data that helps better understanding of the issue.

United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. (2012). Realizing the Future We Want for All: Report to the Secretary-General. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTTreport.pdf

Report to the Secretary General: Realizing the Future We Want for All is an extensive study providing outline of the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its results. For the purpose of coordination and preparation of post- 2015 process, the United Nations Secretary General established the UN System Task Team to support UN system-wide preparations for the post-2015 UN development agenda. The Task Team brings together senior experts from over 50 UN entities and international organizations to provide system-wide support to the post-2015 consultation process, including analytical input, expertise and outreach. This document compiles information, data and analysis reviewing the MGD framework, progress and failure in achieving power reduction and persisting inequalities. Significant part of the text is devoted to the new visions of the future, new time horizons and reshaping global partnership for development.

United Nations. (1996) Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/CONF.177/20/Add.1). Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1

Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women is defining document which includes fundamental reports, documents, statements and Conference outcomes. The resolutions adopted by the Conference Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action provides important framework and essential information, explains the role of United Nations and its bodies in the process of changes improving gender equality and empowerment of women. Delegates could find this Report helpful in gaining insights of the issue and it should also help them to identify improvements in terms of key objectives and challenges which were proclaimed in the Conference's outcomes. Report also diagnoses issues and strategic objectives in each critical area of concern and defines specific actions to be taken to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women.

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II. Energy Governance and the International Community

"It is unimaginable that today's economies could function without electricity and other modern energy services. From job creation to economic development, from security concerns to the status of women, energy lies at the heart of all countries' core interests."[146]

Introduction

The world relies upon energy. Energy is a critical element for sustainable development, eradicating poverty, improving human welfare, and ultimately raising living standards.[147] The good governance of energy has implications for a vast range of issues, including health, education, gender, water, food security, the environment, and industrialization.[148] In 2011, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) noted with concern that over three billion people depend upon traditional biomass, commonly collected and used in unsafe and unsustainable ways, for cooking and heating; that around one and a half billion people do not have access to electricity; and that for millions more electricity is an unaffordable service.[149] The provision of renewable, reliable and affordable energy services is a precondition for investments to stimulate the sustainable economic growth and social development needed to redress these issues.[150] Failure to meet these preconditions results in societies and communities in energy poverty, which struggle to grow food without motorized equipment, where women cannot earn an income because their time and energy is spent on subsistence activities, and schools and clinics cannot function without electricity.[151]

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[146] Ban Ki-moon, *Sustainable Energy for All: A Vision Statement by Ban Ki-moon*, 2011, p. 2.
[147] UN-Energy, *Energy: A Brief Discussion on Goals, Targets and Indicators*, 2014, p. 1.
[148] UN-Energy, *Activities of Member Organizations and Partners of UN-Energy in support of "2014-2024 United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All"*, 2014, p. 4.
[149] UN General Assembly, *International Year of Sustainable Energy for All* (A/RES/55/151), 2011, p. 1-2; FAO, *Forests and energy*, 2008, p.52.
[150] UN-Energy, *Energy: A Brief Discussion on Goals, Targets and Indicators*, 2014, p. 1.
[151] Ban Ki-moon, *The Implications of Energy Poverty Enormous*, 2011.

Global demand for energy is rising; with the world's population due to increase from seven to nine billion by 2050, global energy resources must be managed innovatively to optimize the sustainable and efficient production, and use of, energy.[152] These issues – universal access to modern energy services, energy efficiency, and renewable energy – are three of the key energy challenges that the international community must face to produce a comprehensive energy governance strategy.[153] This topic will examine the current international framework for energy governance, as well as the roles of relevant actors within the international system, before examining particular challenges that the Economic and Social Council should address. Please note that the nuclear energy regime is *not* within the purview of this committee and topic, because the nuclear energy regime is primarily designed to deal with safety and security matters, rather than energy policy.

International and Regional Framework

In the past four decades, the UN organized a number of global summits on the environment, most of which are closely related to energy. The first environmental summit was the UN Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE), held in Stockholm in 1972, which established the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).[154] The subsequent summits concerned energy for sustainable development more specifically. These were the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992; the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, which reviewed the Earth Summit at ten years; and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in 2012, commonly known as Rio+20, which reviewed the Earth Summit at twenty years in Rio de Janeiro.[155] A number of key documents, focusing on moving toward sustainable development, were adopted at these summits: *Agenda 21* at the Earth Summit; the *Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development*, the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation* and the *Type II Partnership Initiatives* at the WSSD; and *The Future We Want* at Rio+20.[156]

From these roots, the international community is currently developing a framework through the post-2015 development agenda to achieve "Sustainable Energy for All" (SE4ALL) by the year 2030.[157] This call began in 2011, when the General Assembly declared 2012 to be the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All.[158] In 2013, the call intensified with the declaration of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All between 2014 and 2024.[159] In September 2015, the UN Sustainable Development Summit will be held in New York City to announce a new set of international development goals that succeed the Millennium Development Goals. The proposed set of goals highlight energy in goal seven, "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all," and the targets within this goal are suggested as:

> "7.1 by 2030 ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services
> 7.2 increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030
> 7.3 double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030
> 7.a by 2030 enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technologies, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies
> 7.b by 2030 expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, particularly LDCs and SIDS."[160]

Another strand of the international framework relating to governance of energy is the United Nations Framework

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[152] UN-Energy, *Energy: A Brief Discussion on Goals, Targets and Indicators*, 2014, p. 1.
[153] UN-Energy, *Synthesis of Energy-related Issues Highlighted in National Reports of Rio+20*, 2014, p. 3-4.
[154] UNEP, *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment*.
[155] UN General Assembly, *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development* (A/CONF.199/20*), 2002; UNCSD, *Rio+20.*
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[157] UN General Assembly, *International Year of Sustainable Energy for All* (A/RES/55/151), 2011, p. 2.
[158] UN General Assembly, *International Year of Sustainable Energy for All* (A/RES/55/151), 2011, p. 2.
[159] UN General Assembly, *Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy* (A/RES/67/215), p. 2.
[160] Open Working Group on the SDGs, *Open Working Group Proposal for Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014.

Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol.[161] The chief objective of the Convention is to stabilize the concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to prevent human interference with the climate system.[162] The most common greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide, produced by burning fossil fuels for energy.[163] The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC will take place in Paris in November this year.[164] This summit will be vital to infill gaps within the current framework and ensure that necessary action to address climate change is taken in the forthcoming years. A strong legal framework and clear rules, framed within an ambitious long-term approach linked to the SDGs, is required to create a framework sufficient in strength to address climate change.[165] It must also outline the role of equity and finance, and set out a framework for action on deforestation and land use to be truly effective.[166]

Role of the International System

The Economic and Social Council, functions as a normative policymaking body, rather than an operational agency with programs on the ground, serving as a forum on all topics relating to economic and social matters. Within the auspices of ECOSOC, energy governance has been addressed in such areas as the sustainable use of energy; the promotion of regional cooperation for energy security; the promotion of renewable energy technologies to reduce energy poverty and mitigate climate change; science, technology and innovation in energy and agriculture; and food and energy.[167] General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 13 December 2013 stated that the Council has a particular role in "identifying emerging challenges and promoting reflection, debate and innovative thinking on development, as well as in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development," which is particularly relevant function for the challenges posed by energy governance.[168]

Within the auspices of the United Nations, UN-Energy was formulated as a result of WSSD as an inter-agency mechanism to increase the coherence and collective engagement on energy within the UN system and with key external stakeholders.[169] It therefore acts as an information exchange, facilitator of joint action-oriented programs.[170] UN-Energy's work is divided into thematic clusters each led by two UN entities, these are: energy access, led by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the World Bank; renewable energy, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with the support of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and energy efficiency, led by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).[171] There are also specialized subsidiaries within the UN, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a scientific body that provides "rigorous and balanced" scientific information to policy makers.[172]

In terms of other international organizations, there are multitudes of entities associated with energy. Amongst these, some of the most relevant for this topic are the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). These

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[161] UNFCCC, *Background on the UNFCCC: The international response to climate change.*
[162] UNFCCC, *First steps to a safer future: Introducing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.*
[163] UNFCCC, *Feeling the Heat: Climate Science and the Basis of the Convention.*
[164] IISD, *Event: UNFCCC COP 21.*
[165] Willis, *Paris 21: Getting a global agreement on climate change,* 2014, p. 2.
[166] Willis, *Paris 21: Getting a global agreement on climate change,* 2014, p. 2.
[167] UN ECOSOC, *Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific,* 2011; UN ECOSOC, *2013 Annual Ministerial Review: Science, technology and innovation (STI) and culture for sustainable development and the MDGs,* 2013; UN ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary-General on "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals" for the 2013 Annual Ministerial Review,* 2013; Trademark Southern Africa, *ECOSOC debate on energy, agriculture and the MDGs,* 2013; IISD, *ECOSOC Highlights Interlinkages between Food and Energy Crises*, 2008.
[168] UN ECOSOC, *Further Review of the Implementation of Resolution 61/16 of the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.*
[169] UN-Energy, *About UN-Energy.*
[170] UN-Energy, *About UN-Energy.*
[171] UN-Energy, *About UN-Energy.*

intergovernmental organizations, sometimes in collaboration, provide a range of functions, from research and analysis to specialist resources, statistics and learning networks, facilitating policy creation and implementation on many different aspects of energy.[173] IRENA also provides up-to-date regional and country assessments and information that detail the prospects, capacity, national frameworks and markets for renewable energy.[174] The IEA recently reported that progress towards the SE4All goals is underway, but not "on track," stating that efforts must be redoubled to achieve the rate of progress necessary to accomplish the goals by 2030.[175]

Universal Access to Modern Energy Services

Universal access to modern energy services is one of the chief issues that the international community must address in relation to post-2015 energy governance. Some 1.4 billion of the global population lack access to electricity, the overwhelming majority of this group living in rural areas.[176] In the Zero Draft of the Sustainable Development Goals, the preamble emphasizes the importance of ensuring that in 2030, "nobody will be left behind. We wish to see the goals and targets met for all economic and social groupings."[177] Countries need dedicated policies to be able to effectively address lack of access to sustainable energy by 2030, and the Economic and Social Council must investigate how best to develop these policies and assist the populations that are the hardest to reach.[178] A particular facet of increasing access to modern energy services is to reduce dependency on biomass.

Reducing dependency on biomass
In the most isolated rural communities, which are often also the poorest, the lack of access to cost-effective technology to provide energy services means that people must rely on traditional solid biomass to burn for heating and cooking.[179] The resulting indoor pollution causes 4 million deaths per year, primarily women and children.[180] Reducing dependency on biomass (usually collected wood for fire), relied upon by 3 billion people worldwide, will have a multitude of social and economic effects. In poor communities that rely on fuelwood, for the children and women that are responsible for its collection, affordable access to energy would mean they have more time for school, studying, or paid work.[181] Additionally, the WHO has highlighted the health benefits, estimating that almost 17% of deaths from pneumonia in children under five in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America could be avoided if their caregivers had access to advanced biomass or clean fuel stoves.[182] Reducing energy poverty therefore helps to halt the poverty cycle itself, as these communities become able to afford alternative sources of energy, and healthier, they are enabled to improve their overall economic condition.

Strengthening Institutional Frameworks

In 2014, many countries reported that at a national level, institutional frameworks for energy governance are weak, and prevent effective policymaking and planning, forming an obstacle to implementation.[183] To address this challenge, there is a need for capacity development within government, civil society and private sector stakeholders.[184] This

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[172] IPCC, *Organization*.
[173] International Energy Agency, *About us*; International Renewable Energy Agency, *What We Do*; Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *What we do and how*.
[174] IRENA, *Reports and papers*; IRENA, *REsource Gateway*.
[175] IEA, *Progress towards sustainable energy underway, but not on track*, 2015; IEA, *Progress towards sustainable energy: Global Tracking Framework 2015 Key Findings*, 2015, p. 2.
[176] OECD and IEA, *Energy Poverty: How to make modern energy access universal?*, 2010, p. 2.
[177] Donoghue & Kamau, *Zero draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2015, p. 2.
[178] OECD and IEA, *Energy Poverty: How to make modern energy access universal?*, 2010, p. 2.
[179] OECD and IEA, *Energy Poverty: How to make modern energy access universal?*, 2010, p. 9.
[180] OECD and IEA, *Energy Poverty: How to make modern energy access universal?*, 2010, p. 9.
[181] UN DESA, *Synthesis of Energy-related Issues Highlighted in National Reports of Rio+20*, p. 13.
[182] WHO, Health in the green economy, p.1.
[183] UN DESA, *Synthesis of Energy-related Issues Highlighted in National Reports of Rio+20*, p. 9.
[184] UN DESA, *Synthesis of Energy-related Issues Highlighted in National Reports of Rio+20*, p. 36.

involves both technical and operational elements. In terms of technical aspects, the institutions responsible for researching and creating relevant and coherent policy and strategy must have personnel that are well-trained and educated in areas such as new and emerging technology and technology management.[185] A further question to answer for policy and planning is that of integration, concerning "who is at the table" when decisions about resources are made, to ensure integration between different agencies and agendas.[186] In addition to planning and actually reaching remote communities to implement programmes at the micro-level, it is also necessary to ensure that energy planning is effective at a macro intra- and trans-regional level. In a globalized world, neighboring countries often serve as resources or markets for energy.[187] Coherent cooperation and planning can facilitate cheaper development of sustainable energy resources.[188]

Another aspect for achievement in technical terms is the collection of high-quality data and information for planning and policymaking. Many countries struggle with policy development because they have not been able to clearly map information on their population's, and sub-groups of the population's, relationship with energy use.[189] The ability to comprehensively review energy, through having the capacity to do so, is vital in ensuring that the energy needs of the population in even the most remote and areas can be met. In operational terms, strong institutional frameworks are also necessary. Even if technical expertise is well developed at the policymaking and planning stage, the resulting energy programmes for implementation must have the skilled personnel necessary for the effective leadership and running of operations on the ground.[190]

Conclusion

Addressing the challenges of energy governance for a burgeoning global population is a significant task for the international community. Achieving universal access to energy by 2030 will assist billions of people in a multiplicity of ways, from being free from energy poverty and its consequences like severe ill-health, to not having the time for paid work or school. Ensuring that states can identify the needs of their population, particularly the poorest and those in isolated areas, and that their institutional mechanisms have the capacity and expertise with which to provide sound policy and plans, are the first steps in addressing the challenge. As a forum for policy dialogue, with the power to make recommendations and request action from other UN entities, the Economic and Social Council is well placed to address energy governance as a social and economic issue.

Further Research

This guide serves as a starting point for delegates' own research. Guiding questions that delegates should use to pursue their own research are: Which social and economic groups suffer from energy poverty within your own state and region? What are the key barriers these groups face in accessing modern energy services? What programs are in place to address access to energy in your state and region? Does your state have any energy agreements with neighboring countries or within the region? What are the obstacles to effective energy policymaking and program implementation in your state and region? Key questions for the Economic and Social Council to address are: How can ECOSOC best promote universal access to modern energy services? How can the Council facilitate countries' energy planning and policymaking? How might ECOSOC effectively participate with other UN bodies and agencies, especially through UN-Energy, and with other multilateral agencies and sub-regional organizations, to facilitate energy governance in the post-2015 agenda?

Annotated Bibliography

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[185] UN DESA, *Synthesis of Energy-related Issues Highlighted in National Reports of Rio+20*, p. 36.
[186] UN DESA, *Synthesis of Energy-related Issues Highlighted in National Reports of Rio+20*, p. 36.
[187] UN DESA, *Synthesis of Energy-related Issues Highlighted in National Reports of Rio+20*, p. 18.
[188] UN DESA, *Synthesis of Energy-related Issues Highlighted in National Reports of Rio+20*, p. 18.
[189] UN DESA, *Synthesis of Energy-related Issues Highlighted in National Reports of Rio+20*, p. 36.
[190] UN DESA, *Synthesis of Energy-related Issues Highlighted in National Reports of Rio+20*, p. 36.

Donoghue, David & Kamau, Macharia (Co-Facilitators for the intergovernmental negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda). (2015). *Zero draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda.* Retrieved 2 June 2015 from:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7261Post-2015%20Summit%20-%202%20June%202015.pdf

> *This document is the result of the intergovernmental negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda, which will be considered for adoption by a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda from 25 to 27 September, 2015. It is the basis on which the next 15 years of international and national development plans will be based, and it is therefore critical reading for work on all related topics, including energy.*

International Energy Agency. (2015). *Progress towards sustainable energy underway, but not on track*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.iea.org/newsroomandevents/news/2015/may/progress-towards-sustainable-energy-is-underway-but-not-on-track.html

> *This page provides a summary of current efforts to realize sustainable energy for all, using the Global Tracking Framework. Furthermore, it provides links to the Key Findings, Summary Report, and relevant web pages, that provide full analysis and clarity on progress and barriers to progress for the SE4All objectives. It is essential reading because it provides the most up-to-date information available on this topic.*

International Renewable Energy Agency. (n.d.). *REsource Gateway.* Retrieved 10 July 2015 from:
http://resourceirena.irena.org/gateway/

> *The IRENA REsource Gateway is an important resource for delegates because it provides detailed country profiles, data and statistics, and information on renewable energies. Delegates need to have a full understanding of the energy situation in their own state and region in order to identify barriers for universal access to energy and the institutional weaknesses, and this tool will greatly facilitate this research because it provides a vast range of data and reports.*

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and International Energy Agency. (2010). *Energy Poverty: How to make modern energy access universal?,* Retrieved 10 July 2015 from: http://www.se4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Special_Excerpt_of_WEO_2010.pdf

> *This special excerpt is an essential resource for delegates because it provides information on four key issues for energy governance: access to electricity, access to cooking facilities, and investment and financing for universal modern energy access. This document details energy poverty in an accessible way, providing key statistics and implications for policy that will help delegates shape their country position.*

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *Synthesis of Energy-related Issues Highlighted in National Reports of Rio+20*. Retrieved 10 July 2015 from: http://www.un-energy.org/sites/default/files/share/une/synthesis_report_energy_issues_national_reports_rio20.pdf

> *This report, compiled by an arm of the Secretariat of the United Nations, compiles the key trends and issues that countries have identified in their own national energy reports. It is a key document because it provides detailed analysis on the key issues with energy governance, and thus provides an important core of research for all delegates on this topic. It is particularly important source because it will assist delegates in moving beyond universal access to energy and institutional weaknesses to other issues in energy governance, such as the Green Economy, taxation and financing approaches.*

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