



NMUN • NY

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME BACKGROUND GUIDE 2011

WRITTEN BY: Meg Martin, Aletta Koehler, Patrick Parsons and Sabrina Santonocito



NMUN • NY
NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS
nmun.org

CONTACT THE NMUN

Please consult the FAQ section of nmun.org for answers to your questions. If you do not find a satisfactory answer you may also contact the individuals below for personal assistance. They may answer your question(s) or refer you to the best source for an answer.

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NMUN•NY 2011 Important Dates

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To make hotel reservations, you must use the forms at nmun.org and include a \$1,000 deposit. Discount rates are available until the room block is full or one month before the conference – whichever comes first. **PLEASE BOOK EARLY!**

SHERATON	MARRIOTT	DESCRIPTION
31 January 2011	31 January 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm Attendance & Delegate Count. (Count may be changed up to 1 March) • Make Transportation Arrangements - DON'T FORGET! (We recommend confirming hotel accommodations prior to booking flights.)
15 February 2011	15 February 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Updates Posted to www.nmun.org
1 March 2011	1 March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel Registration with FULL PRE-PAYMENT Due to Hotel - Register Early! Group Rates on hotel rooms are available on a first come, first served basis until sold out. Group rates, if still available, may not be honored after that date. See hotel reservation form for date final payment is due. • Any Changes to Delegate Numbers Must be Confirmed to: outreach@nmun.org • Preferred deadline for submission of Chair / Rapp applications to Committee Chairs • All Conference Fees Due to NMUN for confirmed delegates. (\$125 per delegate if paid by 1 March; \$150 per delegate if received after 1 March. Fee is not refundable after this deadline.
15 March 2011	15 March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Copies of Each Position Paper Due via E-mail (See Delegate Preparation Guide for instructions).
NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS		The 2011 National Model UN Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 - 21 April – Sheraton New York • 19 - 23 April – New York Marriott Marquis The 2012 National Model UN Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 - 5 April – Sheraton New York • 3 - 7 April – New York Marriott Marquis

POSITION PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

Two copies of each position paper should be sent via e-mail by 15 MARCH 2011

1. TO COMMITTEE STAFF

A file of the position paper (.doc or .pdf) for each assigned committee should be sent to the committee e-mail address listed below. Mail papers by 15 March to the e-mail address listed for your particular venue. These e-mail addresses will be active when background guides are available. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt. Please put committee and assignment in the subject line (Example: GAPLEN_Greece).

2. TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

- Each delegation should send one set of all position papers for each assignment to the e-mail designated for their venue: positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org or positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org.

This set (held by each Director-General) will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments.

Note: This e-mail should only be used as a repository for position papers.

- The head delegate or faculty member sending this message should cc: him/herself as confirmation of receipt. (Free programs like Adobe Acrobat or WinZip may need to be used to compress files if they are not plain text.)

- Because of the potential volume of e-mail, only one e-mail from the Head Delegate or Faculty Advisor containing all attached position papers will be accepted.

Please put committee, assignment and delegation name in the subject line (Example: Cuba_U_of_ABC). If you have any questions, please contact the Director-General at dirgen@nmun.org.

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COMMITTEE

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Commission on the Status of Women	csw.sheraton@nmun.org
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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	escwa.sheraton@nmun.org
United Nations Environment Programme	unep.sheraton@nmun.org
United Nations Population Fund	unfpa.sheraton@nmun.org
United Nations Children's Fund.....	unicef.sheraton@nmun.org
World Intellectual Property Organization	wipo.sheraton@nmun.org
African Development Bank	afdb.sheraton@nmun.org
Group of 20.....	g20.sheraton@nmun.org
Organization of American States	oas.sheraton@nmun.org
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.....	osce.sheraton@nmun.org
Security Council.....	sc.sheraton@nmun.org
Security Council 2.....	sc2.sheraton@nmun.org
International Court of Justice.....	icj.sheraton@nmun.org
Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference	npt.sheraton@nmun.org

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General Assembly Third Committee.....	ga3rd.marriott@nmun.org
Human Rights Council.....	hrc.marriott@nmun.org
ECOSOC Plenary	ecosoc.marriott@nmun.org
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	ccpcj.marriott@nmun.org
Commission on the Status of Women	csw.marriott@nmun.org
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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	escwa.marriott@nmun.org
United Nations Environment Programme	unep.marriott@nmun.org
United Nations Population Fund	unfpa.marriott@nmun.org
United Nations Children's Fund.....	unicef.marriott@nmun.org
World Intellectual Property Organization	wipo.marriott@nmun.org
African Development Bank	afdb.marriott@nmun.org
Group of 20.....	g20.marriott@nmun.org
Organization of American States	oas.marriott@nmun.org
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.....	osce.marriott@nmun.org
Security Council.....	sc.marriott@nmun.org
Security Council 2.....	sc2.marriott@nmun.org
International Court of Justice.....	icj.marriott@nmun.org
Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference	npt.marriott@nmun.org

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Entire Set of Delegation Position Papers	positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org
(send only to e-mail for your assigned venue).....	positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org
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Dear Delegates,

We are pleased to welcome you to the 2011 National Model United Nations (NMUN). This year's United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) staff is: Directors Meg Martin and Aletta Koehler and Assistant Directors Patrick Parsons and Sabrina Santonocito. Meg is completing an honours degree in Political Science and working in Student Affairs at the University of Calgary, Canada. Her research interests are in the politics of resource (specifically water) distribution in the Israel/Palestine and in Canada. This is her fifth year on NMUN staff. Patrick is studying Animal and Veterinary Science and International Studies at West Virginia University, and will start law school in the fall of 2011. This is his first year on NMUN staff, after three conferences as a delegate. Aletta graduated with a Master in Education from the University of Greifswald, Germany and is pursuing a degree in foreign language teaching. She has been working/interning with the Goethe-Institute in the USA and Canada and has recently finished an internship in public affairs and academic relations at the Canadian Embassy in Berlin. She is currently working as a German teacher in Ireland. This is her second year on NMUN staff. Sabrina holds a degree in Geology from the University of Catania. She is currently completing her PhD thesis, which is concentrated on natural hazards and disasters in southern Italy. This is her first time on NMUN staff, and she has attended NMUN-NY three times as a delegate.

The topics under discussion for UNEP at the 2011 NMUN are:

- 1) Mid-term review of the UN's Water for Life Decade
- 2) Protecting Biodiversity in a Changing Climate
- 3) Creating more resource-efficient cities.

UNEP serves as the UN organization responsible for approaching environmental issues globally and locally. It acts as a leader and a facilitator of partnerships between stakeholders ranging from civil society actors to states. It has a very broad range of activities, from spearheading and coordinating the establishment of regional action plans, to supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. At the Conference, it is a resolution-writing committee, simulating the UNEP Governing Council. We expect that delegates will work collaboratively in true diplomatic fashion toward an excellent final product, and we look forward to assisting you in this process.

This background guide will serve as a brief introduction to the three topics listed. Accordingly, it is not meant to be used as an all-inclusive analysis but as the groundwork for your own analysis and research. To conduct your research, please consult scholarly materials, including journals, international news, and the United Nations website, amongst others. You will also need to familiarize yourself with the work and current operations of UNEP.

Each delegation must submit a position paper. NMUN will accept position papers via e-mail by March 15, 2011. Please refer to the message from your Directors-General explaining the NMUN position paper requirements and restrictions. Delegates' adherence to these guidelines is crucial. NMUN can be one of the most rewarding academic experiences of your post-secondary career. We hope that this year's conference will not only intrigue you to participate again, but also that you find it as beneficial as we have. If you have any questions regarding preparation, please feel free to contact any of the UNEP substantive staff or the Under-Secretaries General for the Department of Specialized Agencies, Daniel Lemay (Marriott) and Katharina Weinert (Sheraton).

Good luck in your preparation for the conference. We look forward to seeing you in April!

Sheraton Venue

Meg Martin, Director

Patrick Parsons, Assistant-Director

unep.sheraton@nmun.org

Marriott Venue

Aletta Koehler, Director

Sabrina Santonocito, Assistant-Director

unep.marriott@nmun.org

Message from the Directors-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2011 NMUN Conference

At the 2011 NMUN New York Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee it is assigned to. Delegates should be aware that their role in each committee impacts the way a position paper should be written. While most delegates will serve as representatives of Member States, some may also serve as observers, NGOs or judicial experts. To understand these fine differences, please refer to the Delegate Preparation Guide.

Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation's policy regarding the topic areas under discussion and establish precise policies and recommendations in regard to the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State should be identified and addressed. Making recommendations for action by your committee should also be considered. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference. NGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as position papers of countries. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in material that is entirely original. ***The NMUN Conference will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism.*** In this regard, the NMUN Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind delegates that although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the Conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents. This plagiarism policy also extends to the written work of the Secretariat contained within the Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy will be immediately reported to faculty advisors and may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incident of plagiarism to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Delegation's position papers can be awarded as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, however, delegations must have met the formal requirements listed below. Please refer to the sample paper on the following page for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion. The following format specifications are **required** for all papers:

- All papers must be typed and formatted according to the example in the Background Guides
- Length must **not** exceed two single spaced pages (one double sided paper, if printed)
- Font **must** be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Margins must be set at 1 inch for whole paper
- Country/NGO name, School name and committee name clearly labeled on the first page; the use of national symbols is highly discouraged
- Agenda topics clearly labeled in separate sections

To be considered timely for awards, please read and follow these directions:

1. **A file of the position paper** (.doc or .pdf) **for each assigned committee** should be sent to the committee email address listed in the Background Guide. These e-mail addresses will be active after November 15, 2010. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt.
2. Each delegation should also send **one set of all position papers** to the e-mail designated for their venue: positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org or positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org. This set will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments. These copies will also be made available in Home Government during the week of the NMUN Conference.

Each of the above listed tasks needs to be completed no later than **March 15, 2010 (GMT-5) for delegations attending the NMUN conference at either the Sheraton or the Marriott venue.**

PLEASE TITLE EACH E-MAIL/DOCUMENT WITH THE NAME OF THE COMMITTEE, ASSIGNMENT AND DELEGATION NAME (Example: AU_Namibia_University of Caprivi)

A matrix of received papers will be posted online for delegations to check prior to the Conference. If you need to make other arrangements for submission, please contact Holger Baer, Director-General, Sheraton venue, or Brianna Johnston-Hanks, Director-General, Marriott venue at dirgen@nmun.org. There is an option for delegations to submit physical copies via regular mail if needed.

Once the formal requirements outlined above are met, Conference staff use the following criteria to evaluate Position Papers:

- Overall quality of writing, proper style, grammar, etc.
- Citation of relevant resolutions/documents
- General consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints
- Consistency with the constraints of the United Nations
- Analysis of issues, rather than reiteration of the Committee Background Guide
- Outline of (official) policy aims within the committee's mandate

Each delegation can submit a copy of their position paper to the permanent mission of the country being represented, along with an explanation of the Conference. Those delegations representing NGOs do not have to send their position paper to their NGO headquarters, although it is encouraged. This will assist them in preparation for the mission briefing in New York.

Finally, please consider that over 2,000 papers will be handled and read by the Secretariat for the Conference. Your patience and cooperation in strictly adhering to the above guidelines will make this process more efficient and is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff, though as we do not operate out of a central office or location your consideration for time zone differences is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Sheraton Venue
Holger Baer
Director-General
holger@nmun.org

Marriott Venue
Brianna Johnston-Hanks
Director-General
briannaj@nmun.org

Sample Position Paper

The following position paper is designed to be a sample of the standard format that an NMUN position paper should follow. While delegates are encouraged to use the front and back of a single page in order to fully address all topics before the committee, please remember that only a *maximum* of one double-sided page (or two pages total in an electronic file) will be accepted. Only the first double-sided page of any submissions (or two pages of an electronic file) will be considered for awards.

Delegation from
Canada

Represented by
(Name of College)

Position Paper for General Assembly Plenary

The topics before the General Assembly Plenary are: Breaking the link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict; the Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy; and the Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa. Canada is dedicated to collaborative multilateral approaches to ensuring protection and promotion of human security and advancement of sustainable development.

I. Breaking the link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict

Canada endorses the Kimberly Process in promoting accountability, transparency, and effective governmental regulation of trade in rough diamonds. We believe the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is an essential international regulatory mechanism and encourage all Member States to contribute to market accountability by seeking membership, participation, and compliance with its mandate. Canada urges Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2007 Kimberley Process Communiqué to strengthen government oversight of rough diamond trading and manufacturing by developing domestic legal frameworks similar to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. We call upon participating States to act in accordance with the KPCS's comprehensive and credible systems of peer review to monitor the continued implementation of the Kimberley Process and ensure full transparency and self-examination of domestic diamond industries. We draw attention to our domestic programs for diamond regulation including Implementing the Export and Import of Rough Diamonds Act and urge Member States to consider these programs in developing the type of domestic regulatory frameworks called for in A/RES/55/56. Canada recognizes the crucial role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the review of rough diamond control measures developed through the Kimberly Process and encourages States to include NGOs, such as Global Witness and Partnership Africa Canada, in the review processes called for in A/RES/58/290. We urge Member States to act in accordance with A/RES/60/182 to optimize the beneficial development impact of artisanal and alluvial diamond miners by establishing a coordinating mechanism for financial and technical assistance through the Working Group of the Kimberly Process of Artisanal Alluvial Producers. Canada calls upon States and NGOs to provide basic educational material regarding diamond valuation and market prices for artisanal diggers, as recommended by the Diamond Development Initiative. Canada will continue to adhere to the 2007 Brussels Declaration on Internal Controls of Participants and is dedicated to ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective regulation of the rough diamond trade through the utilization of voluntary peer review systems and the promotion of increased measures of internal control within all diamond producing States.

II. The Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy

Canada is dedicated to integrating alternative energy sources into climate change frameworks by diversifying the energy market while improving competitiveness in a sustainable economy, as exemplified through our Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. We view the international commitment to the promotion of alternative sources of energy called for in the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Control (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations to Article 4 of the UNFCCC by continuing to provide development assistance through the Climate Change Development Fund and calls upon Member States to commit substantial financial and technical investment toward the transfer of sustainable energy technologies and clean energy mechanisms to developing States. We emphasize the need for Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2005 Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference to strengthen domestic policy frameworks to promote clean energy technologies. Canada views

dissemination of technology information called for in the 2007 Group of Eight Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy Declaration as a vital step in energy diversification from conventional energy generation. We call upon Member States to integrate clean electricity from renewable sources into their domestic energy sector by employing investment campaigns similar to our \$1.48 billion initiative ecoENERGY for Renewable Power. Canada encourages States to develop domestic policies of energy efficiency, utilizing regulatory and financing frameworks to accelerate the deployment of clean low-emitting technologies. We call upon Member States to provide knowledge-based advisory services for expanding access to energy in order to fulfill their commitments to Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Canada urges States to address the concerns of the 2007 Human Development Report by promoting tax incentives, similar to the Capital Cost Allowances and Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses, to encourage private sector development of energy conservation and renewable energy projects. As a member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, Canada is committed to accelerating the development of renewable energy projects, information sharing mechanisms, and energy efficient systems through the voluntary carbon offset system. We are dedicated to leading international efforts toward the development and sharing of best practices on clean energy technologies and highlight our release of the Renewable Energy Technologies Screen software for public and private stakeholders developing projects in energy efficiency, cogeneration, and renewable energy. Canada believes the integration of clean energy into State specific strategies called for in A/62/419/Add.9 will strengthen energy diversification, promote the use of cogeneration, and achieve a synergy between promoting alternative energy while allowing for competitiveness in a sustainable economy.

III. Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Canada views the full implementation of the treatment and prevention targets of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Especially in Africa, as essential to eradicating malaria and assisting African States to achieve Target 8 of Goal 6 of the MDGs by 2015. We recommend Member States cooperate with the World Health Organization to ensure transparency in the collection of statistical information for Indicators 21 and 22 of the MDGs. Canada reaffirms the targets of the Abuja Declaration Plan of Action stressing regional cooperation in the implementation, monitoring, and management of malaria prevention and treatment initiatives in Africa. To fully implement A/RES/61/228, Canada believes developed States must balance trade and intellectual property obligations with the humanitarian objective of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. We continue to implement Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health into our compulsory licensing framework through the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act. We urge Member States to support compulsory licensing for essential generic medicines by including anti-malarial vaccines and initiating domestic provisions to permit export-only compulsory licenses to domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers, similar to Canada's Access to Medicines Regime. Canada calls upon Member States to establish advanced market commitments on the distribution of pneumococcal vaccines to developing States in cooperation with PATH and the Malaria Vaccine Initiative. We emphasize the need for greater membership in the Roll Back Malaria initiative to strengthen malaria control planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation by promoting increased investment in healthcare systems and greater incorporation of malaria control into all relevant multi-sector activities. Canada continues to implement the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) New Agenda for Action on Health to reduce malaria infection rates among marginalized populations in Africa, increase routine immunizations rates, and reduce infection rates of other neglected infections. Canada will achieve the goal of doubling aid to Africa by 2008-2009 by providing assistance to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We urge Member States to increase donations to intergovernmental organizations and NGOs that support malaria programming in Africa, exemplified by CIDA's contribution of \$26 million to the Canadian Red Cross. We continue our efforts to provide accessible and affordable vector control methods to African States through the Red Cross' Malaria Bed Net Campaign and the African Medical Research Foundation Canada by supplying insecticide-treated mosquito nets and Participatory Malaria Prevention and Treatment tool kits.

History of the United Nations Environment Programme

Committee Background

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established after the 1972 United Nations (UN) Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm, Sweden, which proposed the creation of a global body to act as the environmental conscience of the United Nations system.¹ In response, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 2997 on December 15, 1972 creating the UNEP Governing Council, the UNEP Secretariat, and the voluntary Environment Fund.²

The UNEP Governing Council is responsible for “assessing the state of the global environment, establishing UNEP’s program priorities, and approving the budget reports to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.”³ Its 58 members are elected by the General Assembly, for four-year terms, taking into account the principal of equitable regional representation.⁴ The UNEP Secretariat, with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, “provides a focal point for environmental action and coordination within the UN system, headed by an Executive Director, with the rank of UN Under-Secretary-General.”⁵ Finally, the voluntary Environment Fund “finances UNEP’s environmental initiatives, to be supplemented by trust funds and funds allocated by the UN regular budget.”⁶

The Stockholm Conference marked the formal acceptance by the international community that development and the environment are inextricably linked.⁷ The most successful and well-known convention from this period was the 1987 Montreal Protocol of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.⁸ It provided for gradual phasedown of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) production and consumption by industrialized countries to 50% of their 1986 levels by 1998-99, with a ten-year grace period for developing nations. Just six months later, scientists confirmed that the Antarctic phenomenon of the time, was in fact caused by CFCs, and momentum grew for a total phase-out of ozone-depleting chemicals.⁹ The Protocol was amended and substantially strengthened at conferences in London (1990), Copenhagen (1992), and Vienna (1995), and continued to be modified in subsequent years, in a dynamic process informed by periodic scientific, technological, and economic assessments.¹⁰

In 1992, the UN Conference on Environment and Development—the Earth Summit—was convened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, bringing together an unprecedented number of representatives from governments, civil society, and the private sector.¹¹ The purpose of the Earth Summit was to examine progress made since Stockholm, and to develop strategies and measures to halt and reverse the effects of environmental degradation in the context of strengthened national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries.¹² The Earth Summit saw the beginnings of two major conventions—the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)—as well as the creation of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD).¹³ At the Earth Summit, all its participants agreed that environmental protection and social and economic development are fundamental to sustainable development.¹⁴ To achieve such development, world leaders adopted a global program entitled Agenda 21.

In Agenda 21, governments outlined a detailed blueprint for action that could move the world away from its present unsustainable model of economic growth towards activities that will protect and renew the environmental resources

¹ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Organization Profile*, p.9

² United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program, Organization Profile*, p.9

³ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program 2009 Annual Report*, p.82

⁴ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program 2009 Annual Report*, p.82

⁵ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Organization Profile*, p.9

⁶ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Organization Profile*, p.9

⁷ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Organization Profile*, p.10

⁸ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Organization Profile*, p.10

⁹ Benedick, *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer*, 2007

¹⁰ Benedick, *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer*, 2007

¹¹ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Organization Profile*, p.12

¹² United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Organization Profile*, p.12

¹³ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Organization Profile*, p.12

¹⁴ United Nations, *Basic Facts About the United Nations*, 2004, p.207

on which growth and development depend.¹⁵ The Rio Declaration reaffirmed the principles first elaborated in Stockholm twenty years earlier, while Agenda 21 gave the world an action program for building sustainable development into the 21st century.¹⁶

“The impetus of Agenda 21 was seen in the increased involvement of civil society in promoting sustainable development and in private sector initiatives to improve environmental performance, such as the Global Compact and the Global Reporting Initiative.”¹⁷ However, the same period also saw a measurable increase in global temperatures and weather-related natural disasters. In September 2000, the Millennium Summit was held at the UN headquarters in New York City. The principal outcome of the Millennium Summit was the Millennium Declaration, which contained a set of internationally agreed, time-bound objectives and measurable targets collectively known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).¹⁸ Two years later, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, also known as the Johannesburg Summit, emphasized the centrality of the environment to humankind’s development and the integral role that UNEP has to play.¹⁹ In 2005, UNEP adopted the Bali Strategic Plan which “aims to a more coherent, coordinated and effective delivery of environmental capacity-building and technical support at all levels and by all actors.”²⁰ Finally, in September of the same year, governments at the 2005 World Summit reaffirmed their commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.²¹

Mandate and Activities

UNEP is “the voice for the environment within the United Nations system” and its motto is: “environment for development.”²² “UNEP’s mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.”²³ The agency works in assessing global, regional and national environmental conditions and trends, it develops international agreements and national environmental instruments, strengthens institutions for the wise management of the environment, integrates economic development and environmental protection, facilitates the transfer of knowledge and technology for sustainable development and encourages new partnerships and mind-sets within both civil society and the private sector.²⁴

UNEP provides support to national governments, especially in the developing world, to participate in international negotiations, to fulfill their obligations under international agreements, and to develop institutions and formulate legislation to protect the environment.²⁵ “The agency works to develop policy guidelines for addressing major environmental issues, such as the increasing scarcity of fresh water, the degradation of the marine environment and the pollution of the atmosphere. Furthermore, UNEP has also initiated a ministerial-level intergovernmental process to strengthen environmental governance and reinvigorate global commitment to sustainable development.”²⁶

In 2009, UNEP focused on shifting policy towards environmental sustainability and the green economy, an economy that not only improves well-being and lessens inequality amongst humans, but also reduces environmental risks and ecological scarcities.²⁷ It used science, policy and advocacy to move the agenda forward in the areas of climate change, biodiversity and ecosystems, and hazardous substances.²⁸ In the same year, UNEP prepared and presented, to its Governing Council and to the UN General Assembly, the Program of Work for the biennium 2010-2011. The

¹⁵ United Nations, *Basic Facts About the United Nations*, 2004, p.207

¹⁶ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Organization Profile*, p.12

¹⁷ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Organization Profile*, p.13

¹⁸ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Organization Profile*, p. 15

¹⁹ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Organization Profile*, p.15

²⁰ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Medium-term Strategy 2010-2013*, p.6

²¹ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Organization Profile*, p.16

²² United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Organization Profile*, p.1

²³ United Nations, *About UNEP Booklet*, p.2

²⁴ United Nations, *About UNEP Booklet*, p.6

²⁵ United Nations, *About UNEP Booklet*, p.28

²⁶ United Nations, *About UNEP Booklet*, p.28

²⁷ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program-Green Economy A Brief For Policymakers on the Green Economy and Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p.7

²⁸ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program 2009 Annual Report*, p.51

2010-2011 biennial program of work and support budgets is divided among six thematic sub-programs: climate change; disaster and conflicts; ecosystem management; environmental governance; harmful substances and hazardous waste; and resource efficiency and sustainable production and consumption.²⁹

Challenges ahead

A number of recent directional shifts are affecting the United Nations system itself. “There is renewed emphasis on the future evolution of international environmental governance, including calls for greater coherence within the United Nations system, for harmonization of aid under a new architecture, for increased focus on the role of the private sector, for national ownership of development programmes and for results-based management.”³⁰ UNEP should respond proactively to these directional shifts. Against this backdrop, UNEP has developed the Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013. “The Medium-term Strategy sets out the next phase in the evolution of UNEP as it becomes a more effective, efficient and results-focused entity, meeting the expectations of Governments and its stakeholders in responding to global environmental challenges and opportunities.”³¹

Another future concern for the UNEP is the potential for it to be upgraded to a Specialized Agency within the UN system. The debate on a special UN agency for the protection of the environment dates back more than thirty years to George Kennan’s 1970 proposal for an international environmental agency. Now, with the recent support of one fourth of the community of nations, including many powerful countries from both the northern and southern hemispheres, the debate has reached a new stage. Kennan’s call for “an organizational personality” in international environmental politics was the first of its kind. The response of the international community to this early debate was to set-up the UNEP following a decision adopted at the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Currently, UNEP is not a specialized UN organization but rather a subsidiary body of the General Assembly reporting through the Economic and Social Council.³²

Conclusion

Upon its creation, UNEP was assigned the function of forging interagency cooperation throughout the UN system to promote environmental protection.³³ Since environmental concerns cut across almost every conceivable area of human activity, this is indeed a broad mandate.³⁴ Although this broad mandate has caused some serious problems to UNEP, there were increasing concerns about the implications of uncontrolled economic growth on the ecosystem. At first concern centered largely on issues of resource conservation, nature preservation, and pollution of common resources such as air and water; later in the North concern grew over general environmental deterioration.³⁵ Over the years, UNEP has become a “true advocate, educator, catalyst and facilitator, promoting the wise use of the planet’s natural assets for sustainable development.”³⁶ Within the United Nations system, UNEP continues to serve as the voice of the environment, promoting the concept of sustainable development and underscoring the links between environment and security.³⁷ Recently, it has also spearheaded efforts towards “greening” the UN system as a whole.³⁸ “As its 40th anniversary draws nearer, UNEP is assisting governments in their renewed efforts towards achieving greater coherence in international environmental governance.”³⁹

²⁹ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program 2009 Annual Report*, p.86

³⁰ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Medium-term Strategy 2010-2013*, p.3

³¹ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program Medium-term Strategy 2010-2013*, p.3

³² Bauer and Biermann, 2004, *Does Effective International Environmental Governance Require a World Environment Organization? The State of the Debate Prior to the Report of the High-Level Panel on Reforming the United Nations*, Global Governance Working Paper No 13

³³ Weiss, T. et al. *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, 2004, p.254

³⁴ Weiss, T. et al. *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, 2004, p.254

³⁵ Weiss, T. et al. *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, 2004, p.254

³⁶ United Nations, *About UNEP Booklet*, p.24

³⁷ United Nations, *About UNEP Booklet*, p.24

³⁸ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program 2009 Annual Report*, p.51

³⁹ United Nations, *United Nations Environment Program 2009 Annual Report*, p.51

I. Mid-term Review of the UN's Water for Life Decade

Introduction

The years 2005-2015 have been declared an International Decade for Action, designated the Water for Life Decade. The General Assembly, in its Resolution A/RES/58/217 established the Decade. Increased attention toward water-related issues and cooperation at all levels, greater effort toward achieving international water-related targets and commitments, and agreement to engage women in development related to water were established as major aims of the decade.⁴⁰ The primary purpose of the decade is to advance the progress of the international community toward success on water-related commitments by the conclusion of the decade. Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development, and Agenda 21 are the foci for the work of the decade.⁴¹ Attainment of the goals set out in each of these documents would spell success for the decade as a whole. World Water Day 2005 marked the launch of the decade, and though the decade will conclude in 2015, the vision for its success includes long-term planning and implementation of structures and strategies that reach beyond the scope of the decade to address serious water related issues in the short and long term.⁴²

The decade is envisioned to be a global effort, engaging partners at all levels including States, Non-Governmental Organizations, Intergovernmental Organizations and United Nations agencies. UN-Water, an agency established to coordinate between UN groups is responsible for the coordination of the Decade, while the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) acts as a partner agency.⁴³ Water resources management is a central focus of UNEP's work, which includes water resource assessments and assistance in developing integrated water resource management systems in developing states, and awareness-building and support for governance structures that support sustainable water resource management.⁴⁴

Water and the MDGs

The Water for Life Decade is closely tied to the MDGs. Several of the Millennium Development Goals' attainments either require or could be supported by the success of the decade's aims. Most apparently related to the Water for Life Decade is Goal 7 of the MDGs- to ensure environmental sustainability. Target 3 under this goal is to "halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation."⁴⁵ The progress on this target, which is related to the goals of the decade, is mixed, according to recent evaluations by the United Nations. Although advancements have been made toward the attainment of the drinking water target, not all regions are experiencing success.⁴⁶ The rural-urban divide is highlighted where drinking water and sanitation are concerned, and the sanitation target seems to be unattainable.⁴⁷

In short, Goal 7 faces significant barriers toward its attainment, and current efforts must be increased and improved if there is to be a hope of achieving success in the MDGs where water is concerned.⁴⁸ However, water plays a role in MDGs beyond Goal 7; the effects of water on the attainment of the MDGs are far-reaching. Goals from MDG 1, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, to MDG 6, to combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other conditions are influenced by water-related factors, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).⁴⁹

Challenges

⁴⁰ United Nations General Assembly, *International Decade for Action, "Water for Life" (A/RES/58/217)*, 2004, clause 2.

⁴¹ Water for Life Web site, *Background page*, 2010.

⁴² Water for Life Web site, *Background page*, 2010.

⁴³ Water for Life Web site, *Background page*, 2010.

⁴⁴ United Nations Environment Programme Web site, *Freshwater*, n.d., about.

⁴⁵ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals Web site: Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability*, n.d.

⁴⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Millennium Development Goals Monitor*, 2007.

⁴⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Millennium Development Goals Monitor*, 2007.

⁴⁸ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals Web site: Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability*, n.d.

⁴⁹ UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme Water Portal, *The Millennium Development Goals and Water*, n.d.

A host of time-sensitive and urgent issues are associated with the Water for Life Decade. Stakeholders focusing their efforts on attaining water-related goals for development are confronted by myriad challenges that must be accounted for- often in tandem- for initiatives to be successful. Among these challenges, as highlighted in the most recent United Nations Water Development Report are:

Climate Change: which has been highlighted as an additional stressor on existing water challenges, rather than a primary driver.⁵⁰ It complicates and amplifies existing water pressures by introducing greater variability in supply.⁵¹ In addition, it may be a factor in increased natural disasters which have grave human effects, and can jeopardize water access.⁵²

Pollution: which is on the rise due to pressures exerted by human activities such as urbanization and industrialization. The problem of pollution is especially salient in emerging economies due to less rigorous regulation and monitoring of industry.⁵³ Examples of areas experiencing major levels of groundwater pollution include Santa Cruz, Bolivia and the city of Merida, in the Yucatan Peninsula. In Santa Cruz, a rapidly expanding city, urban effluent is being disposed of in a manner that contaminates the urban groundwater supply being drawn from. In Merida, levels of fecal coliform bacteria in drinking water being present in levels several thousand times over WHO recommended ratios.⁵⁴

Capacity and Financing: the gap between developed and developing economies is an important site for improvement. Without the capacity to properly monitor and understand water supplies, governments in the developing world face difficulties making effective policy to govern their water sectors, and a lack of financing for basic infrastructure as well as innovation makes independence and self-sufficiency a challenge for developing countries.⁵⁵

Extreme events: increases in water related events such as extreme flooding in the developing world “can result in many deaths, while in developed countries extreme floods cause material damage in the billions and tens of billions of dollars.”⁵⁶ The fifth World Water Forum (WWF) highlighted disaster management as a key topic for discussion, and highlighted the connections between disasters and phenomena such as climate change and increasing urbanization.⁵⁷ These connections underscore the multifaceted nature of water issues, and the need for them to be addressed in a comprehensive fashion. In the case of extreme events, disaster preparedness, coordination and the establishment and ongoing maintenance of water infrastructure are key to returning populations to normalcy quickly.

Corruption and mismanagement: in the water supply sector, it is estimated that it “increases the investment costs of achieving the water supply and sanitation target of the Millennium Development Goals by almost \$50 billion.”⁵⁸ This issue is especially prevalent in the developing world, where construction of critical water infrastructure in particular has become a site for corruption.⁵⁹ The Water Integrity Network asserts that corruption in the water sector is aided by differences in governance structures between the many groups involved in the sector, the heavy investments on public money, issues with standardization and pressures exerted by scarcity.⁶⁰ An example of the effects of corruption in the water sector is the widespread discontent and protesting which took place in Egypt in 2007, due to serious shortages of water, and public outrage at the perceived impact of corruption on the shortages.⁶¹ Recent developments in some states, such as Chile, Nicaragua, Georgia, Romania, Cameroon and Zambia suggest that anti-corruption reform may be rising. However, this apparent trend should be regarded with cautious optimism, until the reforms have proven successful.⁶²

Clearly, there are many challenges faced by the international community in addressing water issues globally, and these challenges are intertwined in complex ways.⁶³ The existence of so many challenges in the same arena makes it necessary that improvement efforts take into account the specific needs of various regions, and that they adopt

⁵⁰ UNESCO, *United Nations Water Development Report: Water in a Changing World*, 2009, p. 68.

⁵¹ UNESCO, *United Nations Water Development Report: Water in a Changing World*, 2009, p. 68.

⁵² UNESCO, *United Nations Water Development Report: Water in a Changing World*, 2009, p. 68.

⁵³ UNESCO, *United Nations Water Development Report: Water in a Changing World*, 2009, p. 136.

⁵⁴ UNEP, *Vital Water Graphics*, 2002, figure 20.

⁵⁵ UNESCO, *United Nations Water Development Report: Water in a Changing World*, 2009, p. 261f.

⁵⁶ UNESCO, *United Nations Water Development Report: Water in a Changing World*, 2009, p. 214.

⁵⁷ World Water Forum, *Thematic Process: Theme 1*, 2009, Topic 1.3.

⁵⁸ UNESCO, *United Nations Water Development Report: Water in a Changing World*, 2009, p. 254.

⁵⁹ UNESCO, *United Nations Water Development Report: Water in a Changing World*, 2009, p. 254.

⁶⁰ Water Integrity Network, *Water, Corruption and Climate Change*, 2010, p. 7.

⁶¹ Transparency International, *Global Corruption Report 2008: Corruption in the Water Sector*, 2008, p.11.

⁶² Transparency International, *Global Corruption Report 2008: Corruption in the Water Sector*, 2008, p. 21

⁶³ UNESCO, *United Nations Water Development Report: Water in a Changing World*, 2009, p.68.

approaches that are not only evidence-based but localized and case sensitive. Highlighting the need for approaches that recognize that there are not “one size fits all” solutions to water issues is the following case study.

Case Study: Privatization of Water Services

The privatization of water services is a topic that has aroused some controversy and uncertainty over its merits. Some analysis seems to suggest that privatization of water services has benefits in areas such as the reduction of child mortality as a result of improved water provision and quality. Examples of successful water privatization are claimed to have taken place in Argentina and in Thailand. The developments in Argentina are said to have positively affected child mortality rates which, considered in the context of achieving development outcomes through water-related initiatives, are an effective indicator, and an area of priority for action in the water sphere. As of the year 2000, it was estimated that at least “2.2 million people in developing countries, most of them children, die every year from diseases associated with lack of safe drinking-water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene.”⁶⁴

Argentinean municipalities electing to privatize water services, it is claimed, have experienced a reduction in child mortality rates up to 8%, with the majority of the reduction-taking place in low-income areas.⁶⁵ In the specific case of Argentina, child mortality and its linkage to water access and quality constitutes an important area of focus where diarrhea, septicemia, and gastrointestinal infections - all affected by water- are major causes of death for children under five years of age.⁶⁶ Water supply privatization in Thailand has also been touted as a success, particularly for the urban poor by academics who believe that it provides a viable option for increasing water quality and service.⁶⁷ Successes such as these give credence to recommendations by institutions such as the World Bank that states consider water privatization as a mechanism to provide more efficient services, better investment in the water sector, including extension of coverage to communities currently without access to safe water, and improved policy outcomes.⁶⁸

These findings seem to contradict, or at least complicate the assertion or perception that privatization of water services does not lead to an increase in quality, sanitation and safety for impoverished populations, and may provide a model for successful privatization.⁶⁹ From another perspective, the benefits of privatization of services in general are differential according to the income strata of the population under examination. This may lead to a situation where, although quality of service provision increases, prices for access to services such as water and sewerage increase greatly and must be borne by populations who can ill-afford to spend more on a utility that may already constitute a large draw on their incomes, while illegal connections to water networks that previously serviced disadvantaged populations are cut off by private entities.⁷⁰ For example, in states or areas which have heavily privatized their common water supplies, the poor population (women especially) have been faced with a “lack of access, huge price hikes, water cut-offs because of unpaid bills, lack of systems of accountability, deterioration in water quality and threats to hygiene”.⁷¹

Successes and Opportunities

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation highlights domestic good governance, supported by “sound environmental, social and economic policies, democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people, the rule of law, anti-corruption measures, gender equality and an enabling environment for investment” as essential to sustainable development.⁷² Given the critical importance of good governance and policy supportive of the aims of the various plans and commitments the decade is meant to foster, evaluating progress toward the implementation of

⁶⁴ Brundtland and Bellamy, *Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2000 Report*, 2000, v.

⁶⁵ Galiani, et. al, *Water for Life: The Impact of the Privatization of Water Services on Child Mortality*, 2005, p.115.

⁶⁶ Galiani, et. al, *Water for Life: The Impact of the Privatization of Water Services on Child Mortality*, 2005, p.85.

⁶⁷ Zaki and Amin, *Does Basic Services Privatisation Benefit the Urban Poor? Some Evidence from Water Supply Privatisation in Thailand*, 2009, p.2301.

⁶⁸ Zaki and Amin, *Does Basic Services Privatisation Benefit the Urban Poor? Some Evidence from Water Supply Privatisation in Thailand*, 2009, p.2301.

⁶⁹ Galiani, et. al, *Water for Life: The Impact of the Privatization of Water Services on Child Mortality*, 2005, p.84

⁷⁰ Birdsall and Nellis, *Winners and Losers: Assessing the Distributional Impact of Privatization*, 2003, p.1622.

⁷¹ United Nations Environment Programme, *Women and the Environment: Chapter 5*, 2004, p.66

⁷² United Nations, *Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, 2002, p. 2.

strong systems for ensuring water security during the first half of the decade should be a primary focus of its mid-term review.

Technological developments provide unprecedented opportunities to affect positive change during the decade.⁷³ The human capacity to apply creative technological solutions to water-related problems is greater than ever, and greater sharing and dissemination of technologies available to ameliorate water concerns has the potential to address many of the issues highlighted at the decade's inception. Online communities of practice and the use of the internet as a site for collaboration by experts working toward the achievement of water-related goals have also been used very effectively to provide materials for capacity building, and increased civil society participation in the process of securing and maintaining safe water supplies for all.⁷⁴ In its Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building, UNEP has highlighted the need for a widely accessible and comprehensive web-based site for information gathering and sharing on its own capacity building activities.⁷⁵ At the 5th World Water Forum, a virtual meeting space was used to provide additional momentum around the forum, and to allow stakeholders from a broad representative sample to share their opinions and goals for the forum.⁷⁶

The latest UN-Water Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water Report found that, although “the amount of development aid is increasing in absolute terms [...] relative to other sectors, the sanitation and drinking-water share of development aid has markedly decreased over the period 1998–2008, despite its relevance to the achievement of almost all of the MDGs”.⁷⁷ This area represents an important opportunity for partners in the Water for Life Decade to improve the effectiveness of the aid currently being given by targeting it better, and by maximizing the value of their investments.⁷⁸ Investment in sanitation and drinking water in particular has been shown to be highly cost effective. In fact, it can contribute to economic growth through “health-care savings by health agencies and individuals; productive days gained per year (for those 15–59 years of age) and increased school attendance; time savings (working days gained) resulting from more convenient access to services; value of deaths averted (based on future earnings).”⁷⁹

Legal actions and frameworks are also an important tool in achieving water-related goals during the decade. The law provides a medium for enforcement of agreements governing water, and a vital support for policy objectives. A major challenge for the success of the initiatives supported by the decade is tension arising from needs and demands for water by various entities that are at odds, and disagreements over modes of action to address water issues.⁸⁰ In order for the efforts of the decade to better coordinate and promote the success of initiatives such as the MDGs the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and Agenda 21 to be successful, policy approaches must bear in mind “the sometimes conflicting aspirations of an interdependent international community and the individual needs of sovereign states.”⁸¹

UNEP's Work in the Decade

At the onset of the Water for Life Decade, UNEP reviewed its existing policies and initiatives on water and updated its official water policy and strategy. This updated policy was intended to guide UNEP in its activities from the years 2005-2007, and makes specific reference to the central goals and indicators of the decade; namely, the acceleration of progress on and achievement of the MDGs, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and Agenda 21. Several of the priorities of this updated UNEP policy include “ecosystem approaches to integrated water

⁷³ UNESCO, *United Nations Water Development Report: Water in a Changing World*, 2009, p. 42.

⁷⁴ United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, *United Nations Water Development Report: Water in a Changing World*, 2009, p. 256-57.

⁷⁵ Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, *Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building*, 2009, p. 8-9.

⁷⁶ World Water Forum, *The 5th World Water Forum Final Report*, 2009, p. 11.

⁷⁷ UN-Water and World Health Organization, *Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water Report*, 2010, p. 7.

⁷⁸ UN-Water and World Health Organization, *Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water Report*, 2010, p. 7.

⁷⁹ UN-Water and World Health Organization, *Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water Report*, 2010, p. 9.

⁸⁰ Wouters, *Water Security: What Role for International Water Law?*, 2007, p. 170.

⁸¹ Wouters, *Water Security: What Role for International Water Law?*, 2007, p. 171.

resource management, global assessment and monitoring, participation and water governance support to regional and subregional water bodies and groundwater.”⁸²

An excellent example of policy-driven UNEP activity taking place during the decade is the UNEP Capacity Building Programme for Mainstreaming Environmental Aspects in National Water Policy and Strategy through the South-South Cooperation Framework.⁸³ The establishment of the program by UNEP is rooted in recognition of the lack of progress toward establishing strong policy formation and implementation, inter-agency collaboration, successful integrated water resource management (IWRM) and completion of projects initiated or proposed in the years after the Rio Summit of 1992. As with other UNEP activities in the area of water, there is a focus on capacity building and assessment integrated into the program, with water availability in the global south as a primary focus. The south-south cooperation framework aims to bolster the effectiveness of regional organizations and states in addressing water issues in a comprehensive, integrated and independent way, and to facilitate linkages with technical groups and institutions already existing in the global south.⁸⁴

Women are a critical population for the efforts of the decade, and a focus of UNEP’s activity during it. Specific reference is made to the role of gender in ensuring sustainable development in the MDGs, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and Agenda 21. The latter, in particular, emphasizes the need to engage the female population in integrated water resource management.⁸⁵ There is now a greater understanding of the relationship between gender and water than in the past. This perspective allows planners and policymakers to adjust and design programs and supports that meet the needs of the female population. UNEP has highlighted increased efforts to foster gender-sensitive approaches to water issues during the Water for Life Decade which have taken place within the United Nations system, and in several states.⁸⁶ UNEP has recently released a “Gender Action Plan” which aims to provide a framework for gender mainstreaming in the activities and policies of the organization.⁸⁷ This plan is an important step toward ensuring the gender equality and equal participation prioritized by the Water for Life Decade, and, if successfully implemented, will represent a success for UNEP and the decade as a whole.

Conclusion

Affecting meaningful change in the water arena is an immensely complicated process. Complicated linkages and externalities must be considered and planned for by actors at each stage. Because of this, collaboration and information sharing are necessary to achieve any over-arching goals set by the international community. In the area of sanitation and drinking water, it has been reported that “donors are increasing their coordination efforts, which is important, considering the large number of donors that operate in some recipient countries.”⁸⁸ This behavior provides a positive model for stakeholders in other areas of the Decade for Water. The third United Nations World Water Development Report highlights the need for a process “in which water managers inform the initial decision-making and participate in planning the appropriate responses, interacting with the principal actors and with the managers of other sectors.”⁸⁹

Questions delegates should consider in their preparations are as follows. What regions are in particular need of attention during the next half of the Water for Life Decade? Was the revised UNEP Water Policy of 2005 successful in its implementation? What role does civil society have to play in ensuring the success of the decade? What areas should investments be channeled into, and what types of groups are best equipped to channel and use aid effectively? How can the international community address the North-South divide in terms of capacity to address water issues? Has the decade succeeded thus far in its goal of engaging women in the sustainable development and maintenance of water sources? How can indigenous, youth, and female populations be engaged and represented in

⁸² Committee of Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme, *Decision 23/2: Updated Water Policy and Strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme*, 2005.

⁸³ United Nations Environment Programme, *Vital Water Graphics: An Overview of the State of the World’s Fresh and Marine Waters*, 2002.

⁸⁴ United Nations Environment Programme, *Vital Water Graphics: An Overview of the State of the World’s Fresh and Marine Waters*, 2002, p. 7.

⁸⁵ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, *Agenda 21*, 1992, Section 2, Chapter 18.9.

⁸⁶ United Nations Environment Programme, *Women and the Environment*, Chapter 5, p. 70.

⁸⁷ United Nations Environment Programme, *UNEP Gender Plan of Action*, 2007, section 1.

⁸⁸ UN-Water and World Health Organization, *Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water Report*, 2010, p. 3.

⁸⁹ UNESCO, *United Nations Water Development Report: Water in a Changing World*, 2009, p. 2.

policy and decision making during the decade? What progress has UNEP made in gender mainstreaming its water programs during the decade?

II. Protecting Biodiversity in a Changing Climate

“The arrogance of humanity is that somehow we imagine we can get by without biodiversity or that it is somehow peripheral: the truth is we need it more than ever on a planet of six billion heading to over nine billion people by 2050.”⁹⁰

Introduction

Biodiversity and climate change form an inextricable nexus with one another: climate change stresses individual species and ecosystems, while biodiversity strengthens the resiliency of the environmental to the impacts of climate change.⁹¹ Warming global temperatures have not only shifted temperate zones further into the polar latitudes – altering habitat distribution, migratory patterns, and the ranges of disease-carrying organisms and invasive species – but have also caused the outright destruction of habitats through the degradation of coastal areas through rising sea-levels and severe weather events, the melting of polar sea ice, and the bleaching of coral reefs.⁹² Combined with the ongoing pressures from habitat destruction, invasive species, pollution, growing human populations, overharvesting, poaching, and multiple other factors, biodiversity is increasingly at a tipping point in ecosystems across the globe.

With the world dependent on ecosystem services for basic needs like food production and clean water, three alarming facts demand immediate international action. First, 60% of ecosystem services are being degraded beyond sustainable use.⁹³ Second, the effects of degraded ecosystems disproportionately harm the poor and are increasingly causing disparities across regions and leading to social conflict.⁹⁴ Third, and perhaps most alarming, evidence suggests that current short-term damage to ecosystems is increasing the long-term likelihood of accelerating, abrupt, and irreversible changes such as disease emergence, coastal dead zones, fisheries collapse, and changes in climate to ecosystems.⁹⁵ This background guide provides an overview of the status of global biodiversity loss and its ecological and economic implications as well as an introduction to the methods and policies developed by the international community to address this growing threat to human and environmental well being.

Biodiversity Governance in the United Nations

Within the international system, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) works to coordinate the various actions and efforts by states, inter-governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations into a cohesive global response to combat biodiversity loss. Opened for signature at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) embodies that effort through its evolving work in the exchange of scientific data and governance policy.⁹⁶

Central to the CBD is the development of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for states to fully implement the provisions of the Convention.⁹⁷ The parties to the convention strive to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss through measures including the identification and monitoring of biodiversity, conservation of species through management and protection, recovery of threatened and endangered species through reintroduction programs, implementing sustainable development on all levels of government, creation of incentives to compliment

⁹⁰ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Global Biodiversity Outlook 3*, 2010, p. 6.

⁹¹ Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Decision Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its Ninth Meeting, Decision IX/16 Biodiversity and climate change*, 2008.

⁹² Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Global Biodiversity Outlook 3*, 2010, p. 56-58.

⁹³ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, *Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Synthesis*, 2005, p. 1.

⁹⁴ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, *Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Synthesis*, 2005, p. 2.

⁹⁵ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, *Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Synthesis*, 2005, p. 1.

⁹⁶ United Nations, *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 1993.

⁹⁷ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Handbook of the Convention on Biological Diversity Including its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*, 2005, p. 95-221.

conservation and sustainability programs, increasing research and public awareness, technology transfer, and access to genetic resources.⁹⁸

In 2002, parties to the CBD developed the Strategic Plan to strengthen the Convention's implementation on national, regional, and international levels.⁹⁹ The Strategic Plan recognizes both the success of the Convention in gaining wide-ranging international support as well as bringing the issue of biodiversity loss to the public's attention but also notes the challenges in fundamentally changing how biological resources are used.¹⁰⁰ More specifically, the Strategic Plan points to the successes in the ten-year period from the Convention's adoption in 1992 to 2002 in practically implementing the Convention through national action plans and the Cartagena Protocol.¹⁰¹ Framing the entire document's recognition of the successes and challenges realized in the first ten years of the Convention, and perhaps most important to the Strategic Plan, is the 2010 Biodiversity Target. Although not a concrete, numerical target, the Strategic Plan commits parties to the Convention "to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth."¹⁰²

Despite this target, the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook points to a number of alarming statistics demonstrating that biodiversity loss continues at an unprecedented pace. First, the global population of wild vertebrate species dropped by 31% between 1970 and 2006, as measured by the Living Planet Index (LPI).¹⁰³ Although the LPI is a measure of absolute population numbers and does not represent species diversity, the overall decline points to increased pressure on populations. To more accurately assess diversity, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) 2009 Red List classifies species into categories based on an extinction threat level.¹⁰⁴ Of the 47,677 species assessed, 36% are categorized as threatened: of that, approximately 19% Vulnerable, 10% Endangered, and 7% Critically Endangered.¹⁰⁵ Of the remaining assessed species, 2% are classified as Extinct or Extinct in the Wild, 8% are Near Threatened, 40% as Least Concern, and 14% as Data Deficient.¹⁰⁶ More important for assessing long-term population trends, the Red List Index ranks populations on a scale of 1.0 to 0, with 1.0 representing that an entire population falls into the Least Concern category and 0 representing that an entire population is extinct.¹⁰⁷ For the time period that data has been collected, all species categories have been in decline on the Red List Index, with Birds and Mammals showing slight declines in the areas of 0.92 and 0.86 respectively, a more dramatic decline for Amphibians from 0.77 in 1980 to 0.74 in 2004, and an alarmingly rapid decline in Corals from 0.98 in 1996 to 0.81 in 2009.¹⁰⁸

New Role, New Emphasis

Today, both the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the Convention's fundamental goal of halting biodiversity loss remain unmet as populations continue to decline. At the Ninth Conference of Parties (COP-9) delegates agreed to an ambitious agenda for further implementation of the CBD beyond the 2010 Biodiversity Target. Discussion on the review and revision of the Strategic Plan centered around creating a concrete strategy emphasizing the role of protecting biodiversity in poverty eradication and the Millennium Development Goals.¹⁰⁹ CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlah highlighted this new emphasis as "a new way of doing business, a new thinking, a new approach

⁹⁸ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Handbook of the Convention on Biological Diversity Including its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*, 2005, p. 95-221.

⁹⁹ Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Decision VI/26 Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/IV/26)*, 2002.

¹⁰⁰ Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Decision VI/26 Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/IV/26)*, 2002.

¹⁰¹ Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Decision VI/26 Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/IV/26)*, 2002.

¹⁰² Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Decision VI/26 Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/IV/26)*, 2002.

¹⁰³ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Global Biodiversity Outlook 3*, 2010, p. 24.

¹⁰⁴ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Global Biodiversity Outlook 3*, 2010, p. 27.

¹⁰⁵ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Global Biodiversity Outlook 3*, 2010, p. 27.

¹⁰⁶ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Global Biodiversity Outlook 3*, 2010, p. 27.

¹⁰⁷ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Global Biodiversity Outlook 3*, 2010, p. 29.

¹⁰⁸ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Global Biodiversity Outlook 3*, 2010, p. 29.

¹⁰⁹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *The Convention on Biological Diversity 10 Years on Taking Stock, Looking Forward*, 2002.

for preparing, adopting and implementing together the new Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the period 2011-2020.”¹¹⁰

Djoghlaf’s “new thinking” and “new approach” is steadily being manifested in the understanding that protecting biodiversity loss is imperative to reducing poverty and meeting the Millennium Development Goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.¹¹¹ Environmental degradation, and the accompanied loss in biodiversity, unequally affects the poor. In fact, approximately 70% of the world’s poor live in rural areas that rely on biodiversity for their livelihood.¹¹² Despite the heavy reliance on ecosystems, the value of biodiversity is rarely manifested in global markets – treated as a public good rather than a driver of economic prosperity.¹¹³ Far from an economic externality, biodiversity is directly tied to nutrition, health, and livelihoods: over 1 billion people depend on fish as a primary source of food despite nearly 80% of the world’s fisheries being fully exploited or overexploited, 20-50% of the annual \$650 billion pharmaceutical industry is derived from genetic sources obtained from ecosystems, and roughly one-sixth of the world’s population depend on protected areas for a significant portion of their livelihoods.¹¹⁴

Valuing Biodiversity

Increasingly, international bodies and organizations are addressing the valuation of natural capital when dealing with climate change and other environmental challenges. Natural capital – the ecosystems, biodiversity and natural resources of the planet – often forms the basis of economies and has long been viewed simply as a raw material or input. By only valuing natural resources as raw inputs, without accounting for the services provided to society, this capital has been depleted. As noted by the “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity” (TEEB) study of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the degradation of forests, soils, wetlands, coral reefs, and the depletion of species populations results from “ignoring values beyond the immediate and private” ultimately leading to negative impacts on “public health, food security, consumer choice and business opportunities”.¹¹⁵ The TEEB report emphasizes four strategic areas for sustaining biodiversity and natural capital, as well as contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals of poverty eradication and environmental sustainability: halting deforestation and forest degradation, protecting tropical coral reefs, restoring global fisheries, and recognizing the link between ecosystem degradation and rural poverty.¹¹⁶

Under the framework of valuing natural capital, Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) have emerged as a key policy tool in addressing biodiversity loss. Ecosystem services are natural processes such as water purification, nutrient cycling, soil formation, crop pollination, and climate regulation that are vital for both ecosystem and human well being.¹¹⁷ However, much like the value of environmental goods discussed above, the value of ecosystem services is rarely noted, yet represents an astounding figure: approximately \$33 trillion per year, roughly twice the global gross national product.¹¹⁸ PES is a valuation method, in which one entity, often a developed state, pays another entity, often a developing state, to implement sustainability or conservation measures. In current post-Kyoto climate discussions, the United Nations Collaborative Initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Programme (UN-REDD) stands as a prominent example of a PES scheme.¹¹⁹ UN-REDD is

¹¹⁰ Djoghlaf, *Statement by Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf on the occasion of Informal Expert Workshop on the Updating of the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the Post-2010 Period*, 2010, p.2. par.2.

¹¹¹ United Nations, General Assembly, *A/RES/55/2 United Nations Millennium Declaration*, 2000, p. 4-6.

¹¹² Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation: Recognizing the Role of Biodiversity for Human Well-being*, 2009, p. 4.

¹¹³ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation: Recognizing the Role of Biodiversity for Human Well-being*, 2009, p. 4.

¹¹⁴ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation: Recognizing the Role of Biodiversity for Human Well-being*, 2009, p. 7.

¹¹⁵ UNEP, *TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for National and International Policy Makers – Summary: Responding to the Value of Nature*, 2009, p.4.

¹¹⁶ UNEP, *TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for National and International Policy Makers – Summary: Responding to the Value of Nature*, 2009, p.4.

¹¹⁷ Forest Trends, The Katoomba Group, United Nations Environment Programme, *Payments for Ecosystem Services Getting Started: A Primer*, 2008, p.1.

¹¹⁸ World Resources Institute, United Nations Environment Programme, The World Bank, *World Resources 1998-99: Environmental Change and Human Health*, 1998.

¹¹⁹ Global Canopy Programme, *The Little REDD Book*, 2008, p. 4-5.

designed as a tool for emissions reductions by incentivizing forest conservation.¹²⁰ The sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere by forests, long thought as a free public good, ultimately becomes valued at a certain level, and states that would otherwise engage in deforestation are compensated for conserving.¹²¹ Furthermore, as PES schemes like UN-REDD become established, these programs can be designed to address a myriad of factors, inclusive of both climate change mitigation and ecosystem conservation as well as poverty and biodiversity.

Although PES schemes are a core instrument in protecting biodiversity, no scheme is universally successful – schemes can be based on a number of economic models and molded to fit specific situations.¹²² Recognizing this versatility in implementing PES schemes, the CBD has sought to foster country-specific programs – through NBSAPs – rather than rigid international frameworks. Despite the successes of this “bottom-up” approach, the CBD is still challenged by the need for increased international assistance in the areas of capacity building and financial assistance for full implementation of NBSAPs.¹²³

Growing Global Awareness

While many PES schemes are still in their infancy, on a global scale positive trends in public awareness are beginning to take shape. Actions by non-governmental organizations and the media in disseminating scientific research have increased consumer concern for the environment, a concern that is seen by increased demand for ecologically certified goods.¹²⁴ In turn, this consumer demand for sustainably produced goods has increased the awareness and actions of businesses and investors in meeting the new demand. On the financing side, investors are developing strict environmental guidelines to ensure that the public views companies they invest in as “green”. For example, the Dutch bank Rabobank now requires borrowers in the palm oil industry to develop guidelines for mitigating biodiversity loss.¹²⁵ A recent global survey of CEO’s echoed the rising importance of biodiversity to business: 27% of CEO’s “expressed concern about the impacts of biodiversity on their business growth prospects.”¹²⁶ This concern was highest in industries with the greatest impacts on biodiversity, and also highest in the developing regions of Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa.¹²⁷

Despite this trend in increasing public and corporate awareness, biodiversity continues to be lost, indicating that more must be done at an even faster pace to stem the damage to ecosystems. Whereas the developing world shows an increasing awareness of the danger in biodiversity loss, the developed world lags behind, yet it is often developed states that finance PES schemes.¹²⁸ Ultimately, PES schemes and other programs for ecosystem valuation must be deemed equitable by all parties involved and meet both environmental objectives of developed states and development aspirations of developing states.

Case Study: Ocean Acidification

As the public’s attention focuses on CO₂ emissions and atmospheric concentrations, policymakers have overlooked the role that oceans play in the natural carbon cycle.¹²⁹ Since the Industrial Revolution and the rapid increase in CO₂ emissions, the world’s oceans have absorbed roughly one-third of those emissions.¹³⁰ Although this uptake has mitigated against further climate change by reducing atmospheric concentrations, the absorption of CO₂ eventually causes acidification of seawater. Despite the apparently small decrease in alkalinity—the world’s ocean pH is approximately 8.1—the post-Industrial change has been three times greater and 100 times faster than at any point during the last 21 million years.¹³¹ Whereas the effects of ocean acidification are not entirely clear, the science

¹²⁰ Global Canopy Programme, *The Little REDD Book*, 2008, p. 12.

¹²¹ Global Canopy Programme, *The Little REDD Book*, 2008, p. 12.

¹²² Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *CBD Technical Series No. 28*, p. 29-35.

¹²³ International Institute for Sustainable Development, *Earth Negotiations Bulletin: COP 9 Final*, 2008, p. 7-9.

¹²⁴ UNEP, *TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Report for Business*, 2010, p. 2.

¹²⁵ UNEP, *TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Report for Business*, 2010, p. 2.

¹²⁶ UNEP, *TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Report for Business*, 2010, p. 2.

¹²⁷ UNEP, *TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Report for Business*, 2010, p. 2-3.

¹²⁸ UNEP, *TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Report for Business*, 2010, p. 2-3.

¹²⁹ United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, *Copenhagen Policy Brief No. 1 Ocean Acidification*, p. 1.

¹³⁰ Owens, *Environment on the Edge 2007/08 – Ocean acidification: the other CO₂ problem*, 2008, p. 60.

¹³¹ Owens, *Environment on the Edge 2007/08 – Ocean acidification: the other CO₂ problem*, 2008, p. 60.

behind the cause of ocean acidification is: the amount of carbon absorbed by oceans is directly correlated to the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere.¹³²

Organisms including corals, planktons, and mussels form shells using calcium dissolved in seawater. However, in more acidic conditions, calcium shells improperly form if not dissolve entirely.¹³³ Corals are particularly vulnerable to acidification, with some scientists estimating that coral erosion will exceed reef-building by mid-century.¹³⁴ The “rainforests of the sea”, coral reefs occupy only 1% of ocean surfaces yet serve as habitat for 25% of marine species.¹³⁵ Aside from the significance to biodiversity, coral reefs provide important services to human populations. A World Bank study recently estimated that over half a billion people rely on corals reefs for food and other services at a value of \$375 billion through tourism, shoreline protection, and fisheries.¹³⁶ Threats to biodiversity from ocean acidification extend beyond the destruction of reef habitats. Many species impacted by acidification through decreased calcification form the base of food webs. Without plankton, sea stars, urchins, and multiple plant species harmed by acidification, entire ecosystems will be damaged.¹³⁷

The oceans have long been considered a bottomless sink for CO₂ emissions, but scientists are quickly recognizing that the ocean’s chemistry is already changing.¹³⁸ Actions can be taken to minimize stresses on coastal and ocean ecosystems to mitigate the damage by acidification – namely through sustainable fishing practices and habitat conservation – and further research must be conducted to determine the effects of an increasingly acidic ocean, but ultimately, the only way to reduce and eventually reverse ocean acidification is through global CO₂ emission reductions.¹³⁹

Conclusion

The United Nations Environment Programme plays a strong role in international governance for the protection of biodiversity. Emphasizing this role, halting biodiversity loss has key importance in UNEP’s Ecosystem Management priority area.¹⁴⁰ As the bridge between the work of the CBD and various other conventions and international bodies, UNEP functions as the leader in integrating strategies and creating partnerships for the prevention of biodiversity loss.

Despite international agreements and public attention to the prevention of biodiversity loss, the fact remains that today’s extinction rate exceeds the natural background rate by 1,000 times.¹⁴¹ The failure in meeting the 2010 Biodiversity Target highlights the need to re-examine international approaches to combating biodiversity loss. Policies alone aimed at preventing biodiversity loss have failed to recognize the economic value and benefit to society, instead viewing the economic cost of preventing biodiversity loss and the benefits of maintaining biodiversity separately.

With the close of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity international attention now turns toward future strategies for stemming biodiversity loss. Old paradigms have failed to meet the 2010 Biodiversity Target and current efforts are either too new to assess their success or have failed to receive enough support through capacity-building and financial assistance to yield substantial benefits.

Operating under the principle of improving humanity’s quality of life without sacrificing that of future generations, UNEP must work toward changing global economics to value ecosystem services and the vital role that biodiversity plays. Whereas states have begun to develop national strategies and programs to implement this goal, implementation on a global scale still faces many challenges. How can partnerships be created to foster capacity-

¹³² United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, *Copenhagen Policy Brief No. 1 Ocean Acidification*, p. 1.

¹³³ The Ocean Acidification Network, *Fact Sheet: The Ocean in a High CO₂ World*, 2008.

¹³⁴ The Ocean Acidification Network, *Fact Sheet: The Ocean in a High CO₂ World*, 2008.

¹³⁵ Owens, *Environment on the Edge 2007/08 – Ocean acidification: the other CO₂ problem*, 2008, p. 62.

¹³⁶ Owens, *Environment on the Edge 2007/08 – Ocean acidification: the other CO₂ problem*, 2008, p. 62.

¹³⁷ Owens, *Environment on the Edge 2007/08 – Ocean acidification: the other CO₂ problem*, 2008, p. 63-66.

¹³⁸ United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, *Copenhagen Policy Brief No. 1 Ocean Acidification*, p. 1-2.

¹³⁹ United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, *Copenhagen Policy Brief No. 1 Ocean Acidification*, p. 3.

¹⁴⁰ UNEP, *Ecosystem Management Priority Area Website*, 2010.

¹⁴¹ Djoghlaif, *Statement by Mr. Amed Djoghlaif on the occasion of The High-Level International Forum on the Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation*, 2010, p. 2 par.2.

building and financial assistance to ensure full implantation of national strategies? How can scientific collaboration be strengthened to improve species assessments and the establishment of more precise population targets? And framing the entire discussion of biodiversity loss: how can the protection of ecosystems be revolutionized from simply an environmental decision to an intertwined issue of ecological and human well being?

III. Creating more resource-efficient cities

*“Today, three billion people half of the world’s population, live in cities. One billion urban residents live in slums, condemned to a life of poverty and ill health, because they are exposed to air pollution and are denied clean water, basic sanitation and adequate shelter.”*¹⁴²

Resource efficiency of cities

Today, more than half of the world’s population lives in urban spaces.¹⁴³ Even though cities only occupy a geographical area of 2% they consume 75% of global natural resources.¹⁴⁴ These communities are thereby “extracting more resources to produce goods and services than [the] planet can replenish, while a large share of an increasingly urban world population is still struggling to meet basic needs.”¹⁴⁵ People are being denied access to clean water and basic sanitation while others are being forced to live in poverty. Continuing population growth in these urban areas results in ever increasing energy consumption and demand for transportation infrastructure while perpetuating the continuing loss of global biodiversity. This process is ultimately unsustainable as ever-increasing demands for limited resources, running the gambit from food and water to the raw materials that drive industry, will eventually be impossible to meet.¹⁴⁶

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has created the Urban Environment Unit, a unit that is addressing growing urban environmental challenges.¹⁴⁷ The Urban Environment Unit has identified four key areas needing work, these include: urban air pollution, urban biodiversity, cities affecting climate change, and cities in coastal areas.¹⁴⁸ Poor urban waste management policies coupled with inefficient transportation infrastructure have lead to increased water and air pollution in and by cities around the world. The simple fact that these trends cannot continue over the long term without significant and increasing risk to human health and well-being demonstrate the need for new, resource-efficient and sustainable concepts for cities.¹⁴⁹ Under the motto “development for environment,” UNEP’s mandate in urban environmental issues is to secure environmental sustainability in times of increasing urbanization. It is often the case that, as the demand for natural resources by urban centers continues to increase, the availability of these same resources is seeing global decreases due to their inherently limited nature or problematic extraction methods.¹⁵⁰

The challenge faced by UNEP is to establish and ensure the resource efficiency and sustainability of cities while focusing on the United Nations *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs), in particular, goal 7: to eradicate poverty. The key challenges that UNEP faces in this regard involve being able to protect regional and global ecosystems that surround the urban population centers while ensuring that the resources from these ecosystems that need to be extracted are being removed and used in a sustainable manner.¹⁵¹ The size and global diversity of this problem

¹⁴² United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *Towards Sustainable Urban Development*

¹⁴³ United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *Towards Sustainable Urban Development*

¹⁴⁴ United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *Ecosystems and Biodiversity. The Role of Cities involvement Influence implementation*, 2005, p.1

¹⁴⁵ United Nations Environment Programme, *Resource efficiency*

¹⁴⁶ United Nations Environment Programme, *Resources efficiency*; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *Towards Sustainable Urban Development*

¹⁴⁷ United Nations Environment Programme, *United Nations Environment Programme*.

¹⁴⁸ United Nations Environment Programme, *Urban Environment Unit*, 2010

¹⁴⁹ United Nations Environment Programme, *United Nations Environment Programme*.

¹⁵⁰ United Nations Environment Programme, *Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013*, p.13

¹⁵¹ United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *Ecosystems and Biodiversity. The Role of Cities involvement Influence implementation*, 2005, p.1.

presents a variety of serious challenges common to such fundamental issues as international resource management and social policy. As such, UNEP recognizes that a strong regional focus, coupled with capacity building at the national level are the most reliable means by which workable solutions may be achieved.¹⁵²

United Nations and Actions on Environmental Sustainability - UNEP's responsibilities and partnerships

UNEP's responsibility is to act as an educator and catalyst to cooperation among local, regional, national and global bodies to achieve environmental sustainability and secure resources for future generations.¹⁵³ As such, promoting government investments in greener cities, technology, design and the synergy of cities is an essential part of UNEP's work. UNEP notes: "reforms in government policies, changes in private sector management practices and decisions, and increased consumer awareness are needed to achieve this decoupling."¹⁵⁴ In 2004 the UNEP launched the Eco-Housing Programme for the Asia Pacific Region. This program encourages national governments and local partners such as city governments and local businesses to maintain and create healthy urban ecosystems by investing in design, energy management, and water and waste management on a community level.¹⁵⁵ Other key programs of the Urban Environment Unit are the Cities Alliance, the joint UNEP and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Sustainable Cities Programme, and Global Environmental Outlook Cities (GEO Cities). UNEP also supports programs including the Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV), Initiatives on Road Design and Finance of Safety, Sustainability, and Accessibility.¹⁵⁶

The *2005 Bali Strategic Plan*, adopted by the UNEP Governing Council, focuses on capacity building and promoting use of new technology on a country-by country basis.¹⁵⁷ While with the *Medium-Term Strategy 2010-2013*, UNEP has underlined that it aims to promote "natural resources... produced, processed and consumed in a more environmentally sustainable way."¹⁵⁸ The goal is to achieve sustainable consumption and production by promoting science and technology, and public-private partnerships that aim specifically for sustainable practices.

The development of environmentally sustainable regional programs, national and international cooperation and raising awareness and knowledge are the core responsibilities of UNEP.¹⁵⁹ Initiatives such as GEO Cities and joint programs with other UN agencies such as UN-Habitat's initiated Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) and the Partnership Framework 2008-2013 show the necessity of cooperation to meet the responsibilities and challenges.

The establishment of local-global organization partnerships is one attempt at such action on environmental sustainability and resource efficiency.¹⁶⁰ The Global Partnership of Cities and Biodiversity was launched in 2007, by UNEP and in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UN-HABITAT, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), IUCN Countdown 2010, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and a Steering Group of Mayors from Curitiba, Montreal, Bonn, Nagoya and Johannesburg.¹⁶¹ The purpose of this partnership was, broadly, to help halt the rapid loss of biodiversity both within and due to large urban centers.¹⁶² Following the theme of decentralized, regionally focused individual solutions, the approaches to this project have ranged from sponsoring mayoral conferences to local workshops and distributing pamphlets that aim to educate and engage the general population.¹⁶³

UNEP and UN-HABITAT highlight that "cities have a crucial role to play in managing the unavoidable and avoiding the unmanageable" as they are the most affected by air pollution, loss of biodiversity and climate changes

¹⁵² United Nations Environment Programme, *Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013*, p.15

¹⁵³ United Nations Environment Programme, *About UNEP Booklet*.

¹⁵⁴ United Nations Environment Programme, *Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013*, 13.

¹⁵⁵ United Nations Environment Programme, *UNEP, Eco-Housing Programme for the Asia Pacific Region*, 2010.

¹⁵⁶ United Nations Environment Programme, *United Nations Environment Programme*.

¹⁵⁷ United Nations Environment Programme, *Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013*, p.25

¹⁵⁸ United Nations Environment Programme, *Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013*

¹⁵⁹ United Nations Environment Programme, *UNEP*, 2010

¹⁶⁰ United Nations Environment Programme, *United Nations Environment Programme*

¹⁶¹ United Nations Environment Programme, *United Nations Environment Programme*

¹⁶² United Nations Environment Programme, *Urban Biodiversity*

¹⁶³ United Nations Environment Programme, *Urban Biodiversity*

while, at the same time, cities are the largest contributors to these problems.¹⁶⁴ For the 2010-2011 year, UNEP assigned within the Resource Efficiency sub-program a budget of \$4.9 million to the project of *City Policies and Tools* to develop “resource efficient cities, best practices for sustainable urban development, appropriate infrastructure and the use of environmentally sound technologies.”¹⁶⁵ The main goals of this project are to assess critical trends, build capacity for policy action, to seize investment opportunities, and to stimulate demand for resource efficient goods and services.¹⁶⁶

Since the establishment of Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP), on a broad-based stakeholder participatory approach, the number of partner cities involved in the SCP and Localizing Agenda 21 (LA 21) Programme has increased to 120 worldwide.¹⁶⁷ Divided into different stages, the first phase of the program ended in 2001 and a second phase was completed in 2007.¹⁶⁸ Today, the program is active in over 30 countries promoting environmental, social and economic sustainability in cities through Environmental Planning and Management (EPM). The five focus areas of this program are cities and climate change, sustainable urban mobility, integrated waste management, urban biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. Both the SCP and the EPM highlight the interdependent relationship between environment and poverty stating “the urban environment is a resource to reduce poverty and improve health conditions, while poverty reduction can have positive effects on the environment.”¹⁶⁹ UNEP cooperates with UN-Habitat, ILO, the World Bank and various partner countries to provide technology and knowledge to strengthen individual states as a first step. A core focus of many of these projects involves promoting the idea of, and working towards, a sustainable balance between industry and environment in all cities.¹⁷⁰

Initiatives such as The Climate Leadership Group (C40) are relevant partners to UNEP’s work. These senior city administrations share knowledge; coordinate policies and work together to discuss urban environmental issues.¹⁷¹ Initiated in 2005 to address global climate change the C40 “pledged to reduce carbon emission and increase energy efficiency in large cities around the world.”¹⁷² Even while facing diverse individual problems, the common need to reduce air pollution, control urban growth and slow the loss of biodiversity has brought mayors together to take action and secure a stable and sustainable form of development with greater resource-efficiency.¹⁷³ The C40 initiative notes, “national governments must recognize the crucial role cities can play in delivering national targets and stopping climate change” and calls for cooperation among cities and for the empowerment of city authorities in dealing with the regional and global environment challenges.¹⁷⁴

Finally, the Agenda 21 Programme, along with the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* and the *Statement of Principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests*, are all products of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).¹⁷⁵ At this conference, and several times since, an overwhelming majority of the UN Member States have continually affirmed and reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable development and to mitigating, where possible, the impact of major human settlements on the environment.¹⁷⁶ In order to help monitor progress of the comprehensive plans laid down in the early 1990s, the Commission on Sustainable development (CSD) was created in 1992.¹⁷⁷ The commission today includes monitoring progress by and through the multiple projects and initiatives initiated by the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation* as well as the aforementioned Agenda 21 programs.¹⁷⁸

¹⁶⁴ United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *Climate Change. The Role of Cities*, 2005

¹⁶⁵ United Nations Environment Programme. *Resource efficiency*

¹⁶⁶ United Nations Environment Programme. *Resource efficiency*

¹⁶⁷ United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *Urban Environment Newsletter February 2009*, 2009, p.1.

¹⁶⁸ United Nations Environment Programme, *United Nations Environment Programme*.

¹⁶⁹ United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *Towards Sustainable Urban Development*

¹⁷⁰ United Nations Environment Programme, *UNEP*, 2010

¹⁷¹ C40 Cities - Climate Leadership Group, *Cities 2010*

¹⁷² C40 Cities - Climate Leadership Group, *Cities 2010*

¹⁷³ C40 Cities - Climate Leadership Group, *Cities 2010*

¹⁷⁴ C40 Cities - Climate Leadership Group, *Cities 2010*

¹⁷⁵ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2009) *Core Publications – Agenda 21*

¹⁷⁶ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2009) *Core Publications – Agenda 21*

¹⁷⁷ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2009) *About the UN Commission on Sustainable Development*

¹⁷⁸ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2009) *About the UN Commission on Sustainable Development*

A Global Green New Deal

The impact of the 2008 world financial crisis has had a large affect on urban areas. In the policy brief, "Global Green New Deal" (GGND) UNEP addresses the challenges of multiple crises including financial crises, the impact of food and water crises, and the impact of climate change."¹⁷⁹

"The current level of atmospheric CO₂ concentration is already at the ecological threshold if no drastic actions are taken immediately. The world's poor are especially vulnerable to climate-induced rising sea level, coastal erosion, and frequent storms. Around 14 percent of the population and 21 percent of urban dwellers in developing countries live in low-elevation coastal zones that are exposed to the risks. Sixty percent of the world largest urban areas with a population over 5 million are located within 100km of the coast. This includes 12 out of 16 cities with a population greater than 10 million."¹⁸⁰

In the GGND, UNEP further notes, that "sectors that are particularly important in terms of their economical, employment, and environmental benefits are efficient buildings, renewable energy, sustainable transport, agriculture and fresh water."¹⁸¹ The challenge is to create more resource-efficient cities to secure the global community to react and prevent future crises. To this end, UNEP encourages governments "to invest in retrofitting public buildings to be energy efficient, and to proved incentives for greening and weathering homes and offices."¹⁸² In terms of sustainable transport UNEP highlights that governments need to "develop more energy-efficient, less polluting transport modes and infrastructure, improved public transportation, and the use of greener vehicles."¹⁸³

Case Study: Nairobi, Kenya

Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, has a significant role within the country as it houses 25 % of the country's urban population.¹⁸⁴ It occupies 0.1% of the country's surface and has a population density of 3,079 people/km².¹⁸⁵

As are many other cities in Africa and in general, Nairobi is drawing people into its city borders, causing environmental changes and challenges as the population increases.¹⁸⁶ Increasing demand for energy, water and land challenge the environmental stability of the city.¹⁸⁷ In the 2007 City of Nairobi Environment Outlook, the City Council of Nairobi (CCN) states the protection of the environment is a primary concern for the city.¹⁸⁸ Nairobi has thereby launched initiatives to control pollution and secure the ecosystem by various means including inter-agency collaboration to enable the enforcement of environmental laws and a large scale city landscaping project aiming to drastically increase the grass and tree cover in urban areas.¹⁸⁹

As the headquarters of UNEP and UN-Habitat and seat of regional offices of UNICEF, UNESCO, UNIDO, and UNDP, Nairobi and its sustainable urban environmental development serves almost as a test case within Kenya and even within wider Africa.¹⁹⁰ UNEP is taking a leading role in creating a new green and energy neutral headquarters in Nairobi, using solar energy, natural cooling, local building materials and harvesting rainwater, in order to set the example.¹⁹¹ Further, it is setting an example for the path towards a climate neutral UN.¹⁹² However, the City of

¹⁷⁹ United Nations Environment Programme, (2009. *Global Green New Deal Policy Brief*, p.2

¹⁸⁰ United Nations Environment Programme, (2009. *Global Green New Deal Policy Brief*, p.5

¹⁸¹ United Nations Environment Programme, (2009. *Global Green New Deal Policy Brief*, p.8

¹⁸² United Nations Environment Programme, (2009. *Global Green New Deal Policy Brief*, p.8

¹⁸³ United Nations Environment Programme, (2009. *Global Green New Deal Policy Brief*, p.9

¹⁸⁴ United Nations Environment Programme, (2007) *City of Nairobi Environment Outlook* p.1

¹⁸⁵ United Nations Environment Programme, (2007) *City of Nairobi Environment Outlook* p.1 -2

¹⁸⁶ United Nations Environment Programme, (2007) *City of Nairobi Environment Outlook* p.1 -2

¹⁸⁷ United Nations Environment Programme, (2007) *City of Nairobi Environment Outlook*

¹⁸⁸ United Nations Environment Programme, (2007) *City of Nairobi Environment Outlook*

¹⁸⁹ United Nations Environment Programme, (2007) *City of Nairobi Environment Outlook*

¹⁹⁰ United Nations Environment Programme, (2007) *City of Nairobi Environment Outlook*, p.1

¹⁹¹ United Nations Environment Programme, *UNEP, Making UNEP Climate Neutral*, 2010.

¹⁹² United Nations Environment Programme, *UNEP, Making UNEP Climate Neutral*, 2010.

Nairobi Environment outlook shows that there are various challenges that need to be met to solve the urban environmental issues.¹⁹³

One issue of major concern is air pollution. The Urban Environment Unit classifies air pollution as one of the four major threats to cities. The lack of urban planning in terms of transport, urban mobility referring to infrastructure, energy consumption, and the industrial sector are contributing to the poor air quality. As highlighted in the Environmental Outlook the impact is of both ecological and socio-economical concern. In 2009 UNEP started, as part of the PCFV cooperation, an initiative to improve the air quality within Kenya.¹⁹⁴ “UNEP, through the PCFV, has rolled out an initiative aimed at reducing sulphur levels in diesel to cut down pollution caused by vehicles in Kenya. The National Environment Management Agency (NEMA) and the Petroleum Institute of East Africa (PIEA) are backing the initiative for Kenya to meet a 2010 East African deadline of using low sulphur diesel.”¹⁹⁵

Cooperation with UNEP and UN-Habitat has helped to take constructive steps towards creating a sustainable urban environment in Nairobi. However, unsustainable migration, poverty, ecological challenges, unemployment, and environmentally unfriendly industries all still represent significant challenges for the project and serve to demonstrate in a way the complexity inherent in environmental projects in the developing world where there is often a semblance of needing to make a choice between socio-economic development and the wider natural environment.

Challenges faced by UNEP

With the process of urbanization continuing at a rapid pace around the world UNEP is in need of local, regional, national and global partners to achieve its mandate. With Agenda 21, the Sustainable Cities Programme, Partnership Framework 2008-2013 and Medium-Term Strategy 2010-2013 the first significant steps have been taken. As cities are already hosting 50% of the world’s population, existing funding, projects, actions, agreements and protocols need to be discussed to secure their efficiency and sustainability. The C40 initiative shows that cities such as Bangkok, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Delhi, Rome, and Toronto among others have realized the necessity of being resource-efficient, self-sustaining and environmentally sustainable as much as possible.¹⁹⁶ One of the main aims of many of these programs is to decrease the gap in capacity for efficient resource use between cities in the developed and developing world. Climate change, desertification, natural disasters and migration remain serious problems, as do growing populations, urbanization and inefficient use of resources. UNEP remains an important agency in the UN system for working towards solutions to these problems. UNEP is taking a first leading role within the UN in creating a new green and energy neutral headquarters in Nairobi. However, partnerships with other UN agencies will be crucial if the UNEP is to fulfill its mandate. Key programs such as Cities Alliance, the joint UNEP and UN-HABITAT Sustainable Cities Programme, GEO Cities, Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV), Local-global linkages and Cooperation with UN-Habitat that have had an impact in some regions the aim has to be to give and find the aid to support a larger network of cities.¹⁹⁷

As the leading environmental agency within the UN body, the task is to look beyond former and even present actions turning the focus towards UNEP’s development and mandate after the Partnership Framework 2008-2013 and Medium-Term Strategy 2010-2013. With more than 80% of resource inefficient cities being in developing countries, the majority in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, new challenges are to be faced to achieve sustainable development not only on a national but also international level.¹⁹⁸ How can UNEP act to meet the challenges presented by these regions? How can the UNEP address the diverse development of cities in developing countries and developed countries? How will cities with a relatively young population in developing countries develop different from cities in developed countries, which are facing the opposite problem, an aging population? How do knowledge transfer, green energy and the Global Green New deal influence the urbanization?

¹⁹³ United Nations Environment Programme. (2007) *City of Nairobi Environment Outlook*.

¹⁹⁴ United Nations Environment Programme, *UNEP, Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV)*, 2010

¹⁹⁴ C40 Cities - Climate Leadership Group

¹⁹⁵ United Nations Environment Programme, *UNEP, Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV)*, 2010

¹⁹⁶ C40 Cities - Climate Leadership Group, *Cities 2010*.

¹⁹⁷ United Nations Environment Programme, *UNEP, Urban Environment Unit*, 2010.

¹⁹⁸ United Nations Environment Programme. *Cities and Green Building in the Transition to a Green Economy: A UNEP Brief*, 2009

Annotated Bibliography

History of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

Bauer, S and Biermann, F. 2004. *Does Effective International Environmental Governance Require a World Environment Organization? The State of the Debate Prior to the Report of the High-Level Panel on Reforming the United Nations*. Global Governance Working Paper No 13. Amsterdam, Berlin, Oldenburg, Potsdam: The Global Governance Project, from <http://www.glogov.org/images/doc/WP13.pdf>

This working paper investigates international institutions, political processes, organisations and other actors that influence the emerging system of global environmental governance. The current focus is on questions of institutional and organisational effectiveness, learning processes in environmental policy, institutional inter-linkages, the role of private actors in governance systems, and questions of legitimacy beyond the nation state.

Benedick, R. (2007), *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer* from http://www.eoearth.org/article/Montreal_Protocol_on_Substances_that_Deplete_the_Ozone_Layer

In this article, Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the author briefly introduces the Montreal Protocol and explains the effectiveness of its purpose through its history. As he suggests the Montreal Protocol has been characterized by the heads of the UNEP and the WMO as "one of the great international achievements of the century."

Biermann, F. (ND) *Reforming Global Environmental Governance: From UNEP towards a World Environment Organization*. Retrieved on August 19, 2010, from www.centerforunreform.org/system/files/GEG_Biermann.pdf

In his article, "Reforming Global Environmental Governance: From UNEP towards a World Environment Organization, Frank Biermann presents a detailed analysis of the potential transformation of the UNEP into a World Environment Organization with its own budget. Biermann argues that the establishment of a World Environment Organization would improve coordination of global environmental governance, would pave the way for the elevation of environmental policies on the agenda of governments, and assist in developing the capacities for environmental policy in African Asian and Latin American countries.

United Nations Department of Public Information, *Basic Facts About the United Nations*. (2004). United States: United Nations Department of Public Information.

This publication examines with extreme detail each aspect of the United Nations machinery: International Peace and Security, Economic and Social Development, Human Rights, Humanitarian Action, International Law and Decolonization. The book includes a section of the United Nations purposes and principles, it further analyses the structure and budget of the organization and presents a thorough overview of the United Nations family of organizations. It also incorporates a list of appendices like the list of UN member states, peacekeeping operations, past and present, etc.

United Nations Environment Program. (ND). *Organization Profile*. Retrieved on August 18, 2010, from <http://www.unep.org/PDF/UNEPOrganizationProfile.pdf>

The UNEP Organization Profile holds all information regarding the UNEP including its mission statement, responsibilities, objectives, priorities, structure, funding, resources and staff. It also includes a brief history of the UNEP from 1972 to 2005. Moreover, the publication presents all the activities undertaken by the UNEP, like early warning and assessment technology, environmental conventions, regional cooperation, etc. It further incorporates the actions and entrepreneurs of the UNEP around the world.

United Nations Environment Program, (ND). *About UNEP Booklet*. Retrieved on August 18, 2010, from http://www.unep.org/PDF/ABOUT_UNEP_ENGLISH.pdf

The UNEP Booklet contains relevant information about the role of the UNEP within the UN system. The booklet presents the mission of the organization and its activities as a catalyst promoting the wise use of natural resources and upholding the concept of sustainable development. It also informs the reader what the UNEP does and how it works. Furthermore, the

document talks about the many partners of the UNEP, its different department divisions and liaison offices around the world, and the several environmental conventions that the UNEP had hosted.

United Nations Environment Program, (2009). *UNEP Annual Report*. Retrieved on August 18, 2010, from http://www.unep.org/PDF/UNEP_AR_2009_FINAL.pdf

The 2009 UNEP Annual Report releases specific and detailed information concerning the activities of the UNEP during the year 2009. The core issue of the report is the vision of greener, cleaner, low-carbon and resource efficient economies and societies. It asserts that the UNEP in 2009 has positioned itself in the vanguard of the green economy movement. The report also presents examples of the application of green economy in different countries. It further outlines testimonies about the use of green economy from heads of state from diverse nations. Finally, it informs the reader about the UNEP Governing Structure and the future activities of the agency, e.g. the UNEP Program of Work 2010-2011.

United Nations Environmental Program, (2009). *United Nations Environment Program Medium-term Strategy 2010-2013*. Retrieved on August 18, 2010, from <http://www.unep.org/PDF/FinalMTSGCSS-X-8.pdf>

A detailed explanation of the UNEP Medium-term Strategy 2010-2013 is found in this document. The paper includes the purposes of the Medium-term Strategy, the current state of the global environment and major trends, the evolution in the role and mandate of UNEP and recent shifts, and the lessons learned from the past. It further outlines the vision for the UNEP. Those wishing to further explore the specifics of the Medium-term Strategy should reference this paper.

Weiss, T. et al. (2004) *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*. United States: Westview Press. *The authors of this book present a comprehensive examination of the United Nations system, the bases for its foundation, its core objectives and responsibilities. The book includes a detailed explanation of each body of the United Nations, its foundation, functions and activities. It also provides a complete revision of the UN treaties and conventions. The book is divided in three sections: International Peace and Security, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs and Sustainable Human Development.*

I. Mid-term review of the UN's Water for Life decade

Birdsall, Nancy & Nellis, John. (2003). *Winners and Losers: Assessing the Distributional Impact of Privatization*. Retrieved October 18, 2010 from http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPGI/Resources/13363_birdsall_nellis.pdf

This article presents a cautionary view toward the privatization of services such as water. It argues that differential effects resulting from privatization in some industries may harm the underprivileged and populations most needing to be served by water-related issues. Delegates may wish to examine this article, seeking out the sections referring specifically to water.

Committee of Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme. (2005). *Decision 23/2: Updated Water Policy and Strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme*. Retrieved September 28, 2010 from <http://www.unep.org/gc/gc23/documents/GC23Decisionsadvancetext-14Mar05.doc>

Decision 23/2 represents a reevaluation of the strategic direction of UNEP with regards to water. Conveniently, it was established at the onset of the decade, and so provides a metric for gauging the success of UNEP's efforts at the halfway point of the decade. Delegates should pay particular attention to the aim of the policy to increase collaboration between willing governments and other groups, as well as its request that the Executive Director of UNEP ensure synergies between the UNEP water strategy, the MDGs and the Johannesburg Plan. These two goals provide an excellent basis for research on whether UNEP has been successful in aligning its policies with the aims of the decade.

Galiani, Sebastian & Gertler, Paul et. al. (2005). *Water for Life: The Impact of the Privatization of Water Services on Child Mortality*. *Journal of Political Economy*, 113(1), 83-120. Retrieved August 18, 2010 from <http://ideas.repec.org/a/ucp/jpolec/v113y2005i1p83-120.html>

This academic article provides a positive perspective on water service privatization. It is useful in framing the debate on privatization and in providing one of many perspectives on this topic. Delegates may wish to peruse it in order to understand the perspective of privatization advocates, and for its consideration of the arguments against privatization.

Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme. (2009). *Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building*. Retrieved September 30th from <http://www.unep.org/GC/GC23/documents/GC23-6-add-1.pdf>

The Bali Plan falls under the theme of international environmental governance. As part of the plan, the need for UNEP to be more proactive in its capacity building activities is identified. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition are the primary target of the plan, which makes specific reference to entrepreneurship and innovation. Also of note is the acknowledgement that the plan sets the foundation for greater involvement of UNEP in the United Nations Development Group framework- a commitment that should be analyzed in light of the goals of the decade.

Saeed Zaki & A.T.M Nurul Amin. (2009). Does Basic Services Privatisation Benefit the Urban Poor? Some Evidence from Water Supply Privatisation in Thailand. *Urban Studies*, 46, 11, 2301-2327.

This article represents a positive view toward privatization of water services, from a regional perspective. It is useful in contextualizing and understanding the nuanced scholarly debate on best practices where water policies and approaches are concerned. It is valuable in that it is careful to present a tentatively positive opinion that does not claim to be applicable universally. It also highlights some of the discusses issues faced by states in the provision of water supplies that make privatization attractive, such as high costs to set up water structures initially, which can be prohibitive for some states.

Transparency International. (2008). *Global Corruption Report 2008: Corruption in the Water Sector*. Cambridge University Press: New York. Retrieved September 12, 2010 from <http://www.waterintegritynetwork.net/page/430>

This document gives an excellent overview of the effects of corruption on the water sector. It will be very useful to delegates in getting a basic understanding of the issue in a relatively short amount of time. Delegates should concentrate primarily on part one of the document, as not all country case studies are directly relevant to the issue of water and corruption.

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. (1992). *Earth Summit Agenda 21: The United Nations Programme of Action from Rio*. Retrieved September 12, 2010 from <http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/index.shtml>

Agenda 21 is a plan of action arising from the Rio Summit. It is intended to provide guidance and direction for local, national and international actions toward ensuring sustainable development. Objectives, suggested activities, targets and possible modes of action are recommended under each programme area defined by the agenda, making it an action driven document crafted for many purposes and situations. At its inception it was envisioned to be a dynamic and evolving document able to be used by many different actors according to their needs. This document is a must-read for delegates as the Water for Life Decade aims to accelerate and support progress toward its goals. It provides a foundation for actions taken as part of the decade as well as metrics for evaluating the decade's success.

United Nations Development Programme. (2010). *Millennium Development Goals Monitor*. Retrieved August 18, 2010 from <http://www.mdgmonitor.org/map.cfm?goal=6&indicator=0&cd=>

This tool provides a visual aid for delegates in tracking the progress of MDG Goal 7 target 3. It displays the proportion of populations using improved drinking water sources by State, and also allows for analysis of progress by region.

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2010). *General Assembly Adopts Resolution Recognizing Access to Clean Water, Sanitation as Human Right, By Recorded Vote of 122 in Favour, None Against, 41 Abstentions GA/10967*. New York. Retrieved September 12, 2010 from <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/ga10967.doc.htm>

This resolution provides important formal recognition of the human right to water for the first time by the General Assembly. It provides a positive example of the increased attention to water-related issues during the Water for Life Decade, and an important recognition of the centrality of water to the realization of other human rights. Delegates may wish to concentrate especially on the records of statements made by the representatives of Member States on the occasion of the Resolution's passing, for statements of policy.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2010). *Freshwater Web Site*. Retrieved August 18, 2010 from <http://www.unep.org/themes/Freshwater/About/index.asp>

This Web site is a portal for further examination of UNEP's water related activities. Delegates are encouraged to peruse the "Water in the Regions" link to research regional efforts to address water issues that pertain to their state. The "Water Policy and Strategy" portion of the web site also provides a concise summary of UNEP's positions and approaches toward water issues, which have recently been streamlined and reformed.

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2010). *World Water Assessment Programme Water Portal. The Millennium Development Goals and Water*. Retrieved August 18, 2010 from http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/facts_figures/mdgs.shtml

This document is useful in underscoring the prevalence of water concerns in relation to the MDGs. It highlights the influence of water on health, gender equality, education and other factors related to the attainment of the MDGs. It provides concise summaries and links to supporting documentation and further sources that delegates may wish to investigate.

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2009). *United Nations Water Development Report: Water in a Changing World*. Paris: UNESCO. Retrieved August 18, 2010 from <http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/wwdr3/>

This report is the third in a series, all of which should be sources for delegates in their research. It is extensive, and represents a great amount of collaboration between numerous partner agencies, including UNEP. It provides a comprehensive and up-to-date summary of water issues globally, with useful regional case studies, and is an invaluable source of critical information.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2004). *Women and the Environment, Chapter 5*. UNON: Nairobi. Retrieved September 12, 2010 from <http://www.unep.org/PDF/Women/ChapterFive.pdf>

This document provides a general, global overview of the gendered nature of water access and shortages. It is supplemented by case studies that highlight the specific issues faced by women in several areas of the world, most especially in sub-Saharan Africa. The entire report contains interesting information, but only chapter 5 is recommended for delegates, in the interests of time.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2006). *UNEP Gender Plan of Action*. Retrieved September 12, 2010 from http://www.unep.org/civil_society/PDF_docs/Unep-Gender-Action-Plan-5Feb07.pdf

This brief document provides an excellent summary of UNEP's goals with regard to gender mainstreaming policy decisions and the strategic direction for the organization. It is especially useful in that it provides short, medium and long-term goals with specific desired outcomes. This will allow delegates to gauge the progress of UNEP on several of the goals since the inception of the plan to the midpoint of the Water for Life Decade, and examine what strategies need to be put in place for the achievement of the plan's mid and long-term goals.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2002). *Vital Water Graphics: An Overview of the State of the World's Fresh and Marine Waters*. Retrieved September 29, 2010 from <http://www.unep.org/dewa/assessments/ecosystems/water/vitalwater/index.htm>

This document will be an invaluable resource for delegates in their preparations. It gives a clear picture of the state of water resources around the globe, both freshwater and marine/coastal, and is written very accessibly, in addition to being supplemented by excellent visual aids. This document gives clear examples of the connections between water and the social, political and economic factors faced by states and the United Nations system, and a longitudinal analysis of the progression of water issues in the past few decades.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2008). *UNEP Capacity Building Programme for Mainstreaming Environmental Aspects in National Water Policy and Strategy Through the South-South Cooperation Framework*. Retrieved September 30th from

http://www.unep.org/Themes/freshwater/PDF/capacity_building_programmeDec2009.pdf

This document is a must-read for delegates. It provides clear benchmarks, goals and objectives that address capacity-building needs and areas for assistance by UNEP to states in the global south. Annexes including a work plan and visual representation of the impact of climate change in participating states are also useful aspects of this document.

United Nations General Assembly. (2004). *International Decade for Action, "Water for Life" (A/58/217)*. New York: United Nations Publications. Retrieved August 18, 2010 from <http://www.un-documents.net/a58r217.htm>

This GA Resolution established the Water for Life Decade, and provides the basis for activities under the auspices of the Decade. The references made to water-related international agreements and delegates in their examination of the topic should explore plans contained in this resolution further. The title of the decade was drawn from that of the first United Nations World Water Development Report, which provided a large amount of supporting material and context for the establishment of the decade. The resolution passed, with two annexes highlighting topics particularly important to the establishment of the decade. These annexes, as well as several other resources, are appended to this resolution, and make for excellent resources for delegates.

United Nations. (2010). *Water for Life. Background*. Retrieved August 18, 2010 from

<http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/background.html>

This page should be a starting point for delegate research. It provides an excellent access point for information on the formation of the Decade, its initiatives, and its many partners. It is a hub for reports and updates on progress toward the aims of the Decade, as well as links to stakeholder organizations.

United Nations. (2010). *Millennium Development Goals Web site, Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability*. Retrieved August 18, 2010 from <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/environ.shtml>

MDG Goal 7 and the targets contained as part of it are stated, along with updates on the progress toward achieving each target today. Target 3 is especially relevant to discussion of the Water for Life Decade, and progress has not been great toward achievement of this target thus far. A lack of progress in several regions- particularly in Asia and Africa- toward the MDG drinking water target is worth highlighting for delegates focusing their research on particular areas needing attention.

United Nations. (2002). *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*. Johannesburg: South Africa. Retrieved September 12 from

http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/WSSD_PlanImpl.pdf

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation reaffirmed the commitments and priorities set out during the Rio Summit and in Agenda 21. It will be essential to delegates in their preparations, as the goals and metrics it contains are key indicators to evaluate the successes and/or failures Water for Life Decade in its first five years. Delegates should focus their attentions on the regional goals and concerns elaborated in the plan to understand more fully the concerns of the regions they represent or are invested in. It is also worthwhile to look for synergies between goals outlined in Agenda 21 and the MDGs in this document.

UN-Water and World Health Organization. (2010). *Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water Report*. Geneva: World Health Organization Press. Retrieved August 18, 2010 from

http://www.unwater.org/downloads/UN-Water_GLAAS_2010_Report.pdf

This report focuses on the status of sanitation and drinking water in the developing world. It takes an evidence-based and pragmatic approach towards its analysis and presents clear, concisely expressed options and recommendations to the international community as well as to developing states for the improvement of quality in these areas. It is aimed primarily at an audience of policy and decision makers at the local and international levels.

Water Integrity Network and McIntyre, Peter. (2010). *Water, Corruption and Climate Change: WIN Expert Consultation Report*. Berlin. Retrieved 12, 2010 from <http://www.waterintegritynetwork.net/page/3600>

This document provides a perspective in the connections between climate change and integrity in the water sector, informed by water experts from a variety of experts. The focus of this document on considering transparency and accountability for information sharing and project planning is another positive aspect. It is brief and concise, making for a quick but informative read for delegates.

World Health Organization/United Nations Children's Fund Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation. (2002). *Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2000 Report*. Retrieved August 18, 2010 from http://www.who.int/docstore/water_sanitation_health/Globassessment/GlobalTOC.htm

This report provides a comprehensive and global analysis of the status of the global water supply and sanitation before the inception of the Decade. It may be useful for delegates to compare the findings of this report to the findings of the updated 2010 Assessment report to gauge progress. The report is divided into sections highlighting Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania, Europe and Northern America. This regional focus should be helpful for delegates in understanding the challenges faced by their own regions as well as others. Asia and Africa are highlighted in the report as being of particular concern for the state of their water. The former is reported as representing the lowest amount of sanitation coverage globally, while the latter represents the region with the lowest water supply. It is also important to note that the sample for Europe given in the report may not be representative of the population of the region.

World Water Forum. (2009). *Thematic Process*. Retrieved September 30th from <http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/index.php?id=1897&L=0>.

The World Water Forum is an event organized by the World Water Council that takes place every three years. The fifth forum was hosted in Istanbul, Turkey in 2009. Sessions at the forums are organized around thematic issues, and this web site provides an excellent hub for examining some of the most crucial, current water-related concerns, as reflected by the stakeholders who set the priorities for the forum.

Wouters, Patricia. (2007). *Chapter 13: Water Security: What Role for International Water Law?* Ed. Dodds, Felix and Pippard, Tim. (Ed.). (2007). *Human & Environmental Security: An Agenda for Change*. Earthscan.

This chapter provides an excellent perspective on the impact of the law on water security from a laymen's perspective. National, international and transnational laws are all considered, and practical applications for ensuring positive policy outcomes suggested through the use of case studies. This chapter provides some excellent case studies from a broad cross section of locations globally. These case studies serve to underscore the need for clear legal frameworks for addressing water issues to ensure water security for individuals and populations as a whole. Key legal considerations for policymakers provided by Wouters will be especially helpful for delegates in considering the needs and aims of their states.

II. Protecting biodiversity in a changing climate

Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2008). *Decision Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its Ninth Meeting, Decision IX/9 Process for the revision of the Strategic Plan*. Bonn. Retrieved August 12, 2010 from <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=11652>

Decision IX/9 provides a detailed listing of topics and provisions to be covered in the revised Strategic Plan as well as a timeline for the completion of the Strategic Plan. More importantly, the Decision seeks to involve all programs of the CBD in the creation of the revised Plan, a new biodiversity target, and a review of the existing Strategic Plan. Through increased synergy and collaboration, UNEP can play a strong role in the implementation of a revised Strategic Plan for protecting biodiversity and eradicating poverty in the post-2010 period.

Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2008). *Decision Adopted by the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its Ninth Meeting, Decision IX/16 Biodiversity and climate change*. Bonn. Retrieved August 12, 2010 from <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=11659>

Decision IX/16 seeks to integrate the potential impacts of climate change into the programmes of the Convention. Further, the Decision calls on states to analyze ecosystem impacts from climate change within their borders and address those vulnerabilities in national biodiversity strategy and action plans, as well as through regional and international cooperation. At its core, this Decision formalizes the scientific link between climate change and biodiversity and creates a preliminary framework for the Secretariat and Parties to the Convention to both assess and address the challenges to biodiversity that climate change poses.

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2002). *Decision VI/26 Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity*. The Hague. Retrieved September 20, 2010 from <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=7200>

The Strategic Plan works to coordinate implementation of the CBD on all levels to reduce biodiversity loss more effectively and timely. The Strategic Plan lays out a number of goals for effective implementation of the CBD, but most wide-reaching is the 2010 Biodiversity Target – though not a numerical target, an international consensus to reduce biodiversity loss rates by 2010. Created in 2002, the Strategic Plan is currently being updated and reviewed for the post-2010 period.

Djoghla, A. (2010). *Statement by Mr. Ahmed Djoghla Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the occasion of The High-Level International Forum on the Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation*. Chengdu. Retrieved August 12, 2010 from <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2010/sp-2010-08-25-chengdu-bd-forum-en.pdf>

In a speech in Sichuan Province, China, Djoghla laments the continued loss of biodiversity despite international efforts, while highlighting the renewed efforts of parties to the CBD in coming months – through the 2020 Biodiversity Target and a new Strategic Plan. Many of Djoghla's statements combine a glimpse of biodiversity in ecosystems across the globe (in this statement he highlights the myriad species in China) with a message of the continued role that the CBD has in preserving biodiversity and maintaining it as a forefront issue in global environmental discussions.

Djoghla, A. (2010). *Statement by Mr. Amed Djoghla Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the occasion of Informal Expert Workshop on the Updating of the Strategic Plan of the Convention of the Post-2010 Period*. London. Retrieved August 12, 2010 from <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2010/sp-2010-01-18-london-en.pdf>

Executive Secretary Djoghla's statement provides key insight into possible directions for the future of the CBD after the failure to meet the 2010 Biodiversity Target. Djoghla provides both a brief summary into the process of developing the Strategic Plan as well as specific policy proposals. Delegates should be well versed in the ongoing revision of the CBD's Strategic Plan as it frames the entire work of the CBD for the near future.

Forest Trends, The Katoomba Group, United Nations Environment Program. (2008). *Payments for Ecosystem Services Getting Started: A Primer*. Nairobi. Retrieved August 12, 2010 from <http://www.katoombagroup.org/documents/publications/GettingStarted.pdf>

This joint study between UNEP and partner organizations introduces the concepts of ecosystem services and Payments for Ecosystem Services in an effort to educate policymakers. This primer should serve to increase delegates' awareness of the benefits to conservation and poverty alleviation through Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES). Although many PES systems are designed to address climate change, delegates can make valuable linkages between the successes and challenges of existing PES structures in constructing PES systems related to biodiversity.

Global Canopy Programme. (2008). *The Little REDD Book: A guide to governmental and non-governmental proposals for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation*. Oxford. Retrieved August 12, 2010 from http://www.amazonconservation.org/pdf/redd_the_little_redd_book_dec_08.pdf

The Little REDD Book contains a clear description of how the UN-REDD system is designed as well as proposals from various states on its operation. Although individual state insight is important to consider, delegates should more importantly draw comparisons from the set-up of the UN-REDD program for possible new PES policies and programs.

International Institute for Sustainable Development (2008). *Earth Negotiations Bulletin: COP 9 Final*. Bonn. Retrieved September 20, 2010 from <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb09452e.pdf>.

The Earth Negotiations Bulletin provides an in-depth reporting service of major international environmental negotiations and conferences. Reports cover not only the factual business of meetings, but more importantly, explains the various policy positions of states. Bulletins from the CBD's COP meetings as well as other international bodies relevant to biodiversity will offer valuable insight to delegates into the nuanced positions of their states in international negotiations.

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. (2005). *Ecosystems and Human Well-Being*. Washington D.C. Retrieved August 12, 2010 from <http://www.maweb.org/documents/document.356.aspx.pdf>

In 2000, Secretary-General Kofi Annan called for the creation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) to assess the impacts of ecosystem change on human well-being. Through the work of 1,360 experts across the globe, the MA has issued five technical and six synthesis reports examining trends in services provided by ecosystems. Of particular importance, the MA's scientific approach includes policy options for restoring and conserving ecosystems.

Owens, N. (2008). *Environment on the Edge 2007/08 – Ocean Acidification: the other CO₂ problem*. Cambridge. Published by the United Nations Environmental Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre, *Environment on the Edge* identifies environments across the globe threatened by biodiversity loss. Professor Nick Owen's segment on ocean acidification provides both a scientific explanation as well as policy advice on one of the world's clearest links between climate change and threats to biodiversity. For further examples of anthropogenic threats to biodiversity, the *Environment on the Edge* series explores a multitude of case studies across the globe with detailed explanations.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2009). *Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation: Recognizing the Role of Biodiversity for Human Well-being*. Montreal. Retrieved August 12, 2010 from <http://www.cbd.int/doc/bioday/2010/idb-2010-booklet-en.pdf>

An understanding of the integration between humanity's well-being and the well-being of the environment is crucial to developing new policies for preventing biodiversity loss. This introductory text, released in conjunction with the annual International Day for Biological Diversity highlights the 2010 theme of Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation. As the CBD and UNEP increasingly work to emphasize the connection between biodiversity and poverty, delegates must be knowledgeable of these connections to formulate policies that contribute to the well-being of both.

Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2007). *CBD Technical Series No. 28: An exploration of tools and methodologies for valuation of biodiversity and biodiversity resources and functions*. Montreal. Retrieved September 20, 2010 from <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-28.pdf>.

The CBD Technical Series offers a wide range of technical background documents for policymakers. In this publication, various economic tools and models are explained with practical perspectives on implementation. Most important to delegates are the case studies on biologically diverse regions and how economic incentives and valuation have been implemented to protect ecosystems.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2002). *The Convention on Biological Diversity: 10 Years on Taking Stock, Looking Forward*. Montreal. Retrieved on August 12, 2010 from <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/rio10-brochure-en.pdf>

This publication by the Secretariat of the CBD briefly explores both the successes and the shortcomings of the Convention in preparation for a review at the 2002 World Summit on

Sustainable Development. Predominantly citing the Convention's success in "mainstreaming" the discussion on biodiversity and integrating it into national and international programmes of sustainable development, the publication also notes the failures in achieving concrete results and actual reductions in biodiversity loss.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2010). *Global Biodiversity Outlook 3*. Montreal. Retrieved August 12, 2010 from <http://gbo3.cbd.int/>

The third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook series published as a benchmark analysis by the Secretariat of the CBD. The report draws on national reports, scientific studies, and biodiversity indicators to assess the state of global biodiversity and is an important basis for delegates in understanding global trends in biodiversity loss. Further, the report addresses future challenges to protecting biodiversity and offers a range of policy options to combat those challenges.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2005). *Handbook of the Convention on Biological Diversity Including its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 3rd Edition*. Retrieved on August 12, 2010 from <http://www.cbd.int/doc/handbook/cbd-hb-all-en.pdf>

The Handbook is an authoritative guide on the application of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Providing both a detailed description of the agreed upon provisions as well as citations of COP and UN-related decisions on the practical applications of those provisions, the CBD is best understood by cross-referencing the Handbook. The Handbook is an excellent source for delegates in understanding the various processes and programs of the CBD and how the Convention is practically implemented.

Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity. (n.d.). *Information Database on Incentive Measures*. Retrieved September 20, 2010 from <http://www.cbd.int/incentives/case-studies.shtml>

The CBD web database compiles both regional and country-specific information on ecosystem valuation and incentive programs for delegates to explore existing programs in their own states as well as successful programs in other countries and regions. The database also links to a catalog of national reports, detailing country actions in implementing the CBD. When used in connection, both databases will provide delegates with a thorough background on specific actions taken by their state in implementing incentive programs for the protection and valuation of biodiversity.

The Ocean Acidification Network. (2008). *Fact Sheet: The Ocean in a High CO₂ World*. Retrieved August 12, 2010 from http://www.ocean-acidification.net/OAdocs/FactSheet_en.pdf

Sponsored in part by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), this Fact Sheet is a strong introduction and starting point for delegates unfamiliar with the phenomenon of ocean acidification. Explaining both the causes, scientific processes, effects, and wider implications in a historical perspective, this Fact Sheet lays a foundation to be expanded upon through further research.

United Nations. (1993). *Convention on Biological Diversity*. New York. Retrieved August 12, 2010 from <http://www.cbd.int/convention/convention.shtml>

Negotiated from 1988 to 1992, the CBD was opened for signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro and entered into force on December 29, 1993. With 193 parties to the Convention, the CBD builds upon the global strategy of sustainable development agreed to at the Rio Earth Summit. Key to the CBD's goals of protecting biodiversity are national biodiversity strategy and action plans that states develop to implement the provisions of the Convention on a national level.

United Nations Division for Sustainable Development. (n.d.). *Copenhagen Policy Brief No. 1 Ocean Acidification: A Hidden Risk for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved August 12, 2010 from http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_pdfs/publications/sdt_cc/cop15_policy_brief_1.pdf

While the above sources focus on the actual science of ocean acidification, this Copenhagen Policy Brief details the human implications from acidification. Although the focus of this topic is

biodiversity, the human element cannot be viewed separately if successful policies are to be created.

United Nations General Assembly. (2000). *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*. New York. Retrieved August 12, 2010 from <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>

Nearly all actions by programmes and bodies within the United Nations are focused on achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and goals are increasingly being approached in an integrated matter – like the role of environmental sustainability in reducing poverty and hunger. Although the Millennium Development Goals are straightforward in their stated objectives, the Millennium Declaration provides a more thorough account of the international community's goals for the new millennium: both explicit and general.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2010). *Ecosystem Management Priority Area Web site*. Retrieved September 20, 2010 from <http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/>.

Focusing on six key priority areas, UNEP's work related to ecosystem management provides quick access international actions on biodiversity loss. Although the CBD functions as the predominant body on international issues regarding biodiversity, UNEP acts as a bridge between the CBD's work and various other conventions and organizations that have formed as a result of UNEP's work. This specific website, as well as the homepage for UNEP serve to connect international bodies into a unified approach.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2010). *A Quick Guide to the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Local and Regional Policy Makers*. Retrieved September 9, 2010 from <http://www.teebweb.org/ForLocalandRegionalPolicy/tabid/1020/Default.aspx>

The most recent TEEB end-user report, TEEB for Local and Regional Policy Makers draws on many of the conclusions and data from TEEB's first two reports, but refocuses the information onto a micro level – emphasizing how effective policies can be implemented through local governments and non-governmental organizations. Just as important as understanding a business approach to preventing biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, delegates will gain insight into how international policies translate into effective national and local actions through this report.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2010). *TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Report for Business*. Retrieved August 12, 2010 from <http://www.teebweb.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ubcryE0OUbw=&tabid=1021&language=en-US>

The second in TEEB's series of end-user reports, this report translates many of the basic observations contained in the TEEB for National and International Policy Makers into business terms. Key for a more in-depth understanding of ecosystem valuation, TEEB for Business examines outcomes in terms of consumers and sellers rather than policymakers, however understanding the motivations for business are paramount to drafting effective policies that will channel and incentivize economic markets into conserving ecosystems and valuing natural capital.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2009). *TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for National and International Policy Makers – Summary: Responding to the Value of Nature*. Wesseling.

In 2007 G8+5 Environment Ministers proposed the development of a global study on the economics of biodiversity loss. After a series of interim reports, this report was released as the first in a series of end-user reports. TEEB for National and International Policy Makers offers a strong, comprehensive introduction to the economic implications of biodiversity loss and protection, with specific emphasis on translating economic gains and losses into national and international policies.

World Resources Institute, United Nations Environment Programme & The World Bank. (1998). *World Resources 1998-99: Environmental Change and Human Health*. Washington D.C. Retrieved August 12, 2010 from <http://www.wri.org/publication/world-resources-1998-99-environmental-change-and-human-health>

The World Resources Institute's jointly-produced World Resources series combines economic and population indicators with environmental data to demonstrate correlations between the two. Although over a decade old, this eighth biennial edition of World Resources provides key data on

the valuation of global economic services which later issues build upon as a basis for Payments for Environmental Service, ecosystem valuation, etc. Latter issues of World Resources focus on the possibilities for poverty alleviation and may also prove helpful to delegates.

III. Creating more resource-efficient cities

C40 Cities - Climate Leadership Group, (N.D.) Retrieved on August 14, 2010 from <http://www.c40cities.org>

The C40- Climate leading Group was founded in 2005. This web page provides an overview of the involvement of major cities and the link between climate change and cities. Delegates will find this to be a relevant source to learn more about the C49 initiatives and climate change action plans created by various cities.

The United Nations Today. (2008). New York, NY: United Nations Department of Public Information Providing a general overview to the United Nations (UN), this is a comprehensive guide for delegates to become familiar with the United Nation system. It provides key information on the UN body and highlights the function of committees such as UNEP within the UN. Delegates will gain insight into the function, activity and role of their committee within the UN. Furthermore it addresses specific topics, including sustainable development, World Summit on Sustainable Development, Agenda 21 and the areas in which UNEP is engaged.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs – Division for Sustainable Development. (2009) *Core Publications – Agenda 21* Retrieved on October 28, 2010 from <http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/>

This is the main Agenda 21 reference page of the department's website. The link contains a brief summary of Agenda 21 and its formation as well as links for a variety of other related or affiliated declarations and documents as well as pages giving necessary background information for all of the above. Without question this site is a must-read for delegates seeking information on international projects or attitudes towards sustainable development.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2009) *About the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)*. Retrieved on October 28, 2010 from http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_aboutcsd.shtml

This page simply provides a brief background on the origins and purpose of the CSD. For delegates looking for more information on what has become a fairly central committee, this page would be a good place to start as it contains several links to more detailed information.

United Nations Environment Programme. (N.D.) *About UNEP Booklet*. Retrieved on August 14, 2010, from http://www.unep.org/PDF/ABOUT_UNEP_ENGLISH.pdf

This booklet gives a general account of the UNEP's role within the UN, its mission, divisions and actions. It will be a useful guide in understanding the UNEP's mandate, activities and challenges ahead as it points to the general action, giving delegates essential information in where to follow research on UNEP and the topic of sustainable development.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2009) *Cities and Green Buildings. In the Transition to a Green Economy. A UNEP Brief*. Retrieved on August 14, 2010 from <http://www.unep.ch/etb/ebulletin/pdf/Cities%20and%20building%20brief.pdf>

This document briefly outlines the key challenges of growing urbanization marking the year 2008 as the historical turning point when there were more people living in urban than rural areas. It refers to the challenges of the process of urbanization, addresses opportunities for green economy and calls for ideas to develop sustainable cities.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2007) *City of Nairobi Environment Outlook*. Nairobi. Received on August 17, 2010 from http://www.unep.org/pdf/NEO_Exec_Summ.pdf

The City of Nairobi Environment Outlook gives a detailed insight on the environmental state of Nairobi, Kenya. It provides basic information on the city, population growth and distribution, land use, settlements and infrastructure. Further it highlights urban environmental challenges including energy supply, transportation and urban mobility, water supply and sanitation, water pollution, air pollution and solid waste. Additionally it points to projects and action undertaken by UNEP and UN-Habitat as well as the City Council of Nairobi itself.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2009) *Global Green New Deal Policy Brief*. Nairobi.

The Global Green New Deal documents addresses the recent global crises such as the 2008 financial crises, water and food shortages and climate change. This document outlines briefly how UNEP positions itself in terms of green technology, recommending action in regards to energy efficient buildings, sustainable transport and energy to secure natural resources. Further, the document outlines the potential positive effects of a Global Green New Deal for cities and urban residents.

United Nations Environment Programme. (N.D.) *Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013*. Nairobi. Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from <http://www.unep.org/PDF/FinalMTSGCSS-X-8.pdf>

The Medium-term Strategy 2010-2013 focuses the strategic direction of UNEP's work in the six priority area of climate change, disaster and conflict, ecosystem management, environmental governance, harmful substances, hazardous waste management, and resource efficiency, referring to sustainable consumption and production. It is a useful document for understanding the current state of the environment and the role and mandate of UNEP as well as how the organization is adapting to more recent global changes.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2009) *Natural Allies. Engaging Civil Society in UNEP's Work. Second Edition*. Nairobi: 2009. Retrieved on August 14, 2010 from <http://www.unep.org/civil-society/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=QIPA7Ev6cZc%3D&tabid=2632&language=en-US>

This report is a detailed source by which one might understand the engagement and need for cooperation of UNEP with civil society to build upon extending international, national and local partnerships. It is an excellent source for understanding current actions as well as providing information on important documents including the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2010-2013 and the GEO-4 Report. Further it addresses UNEP's role in meeting The Millennium Development Goals, especially in terms of MDG –ensuring environmental sustainability.

United Nations Environment Programme. *Resource Efficiency*. Paris. Retrieved on August 17, 2010 from <http://www.unep.org/pdf/brochures/ResourceEfficiency.pdf>

Resource Efficiency provides an insight into UNEP's work and overall aims. It is a valuable source for delegates to make themselves familiar the sub-program and its vision for 2010-2013. The document addresses the topic of Green economy, poverty alleviation and key projects such as Assessments to strengthen the scientific knowledge base, building capacity for policy action, and seizing investment opportunities, with a budget for 2010 -2011.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2010) *UNEP Annual Report 2009*. Nairobi: Retrieved on August 14, 2010 from http://www.unep.org/pdf/UNEP_2009_ANNUAL_REPORT.pdf

This annually published report by UNEP provides a detailed description of the events, activities and challenges faced by the committee in a particular year. References to the UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2010-2013 and the six defined priority areas will prove useful in understanding of the complexity of UNEP's mission, challenges and actions as well as to the importance of creating more resource-efficient cities. Moreover, it is a complex source of information as it addresses the complex nature of the environmental challenges faced by the global community in the 21st Century.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2010) *UNEP Year Book 2010*. Nairobi. Retrieved on August 17, 2010 from http://www.unep.org/pdf/year_book_2010.pdf

This document provides key information on the topic of resource efficiency including information on renewable energy including solar, hydro and wind power as well as information on current

global freshwater resources. This source should help delegates will gain insight into the need, activity and role of their committee within the UN on the topic of creating more resource-efficient cities.

United Nations Environment Programme (n.d.). *United Nations Environment Programme*. Retrieved on August 10, 2010 from <http://www.unep.org/>

This website provides delegates with country specific information by giving an overview of actions taken by UNEP globally and by particular country. Delegates may use this source to find relevant information on programs as well as actions undertaken by UNEP worldwide.

United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2005) *Climate Change. The Role of Cities*. Nairobi: Retrieved on August 14, 2010 from <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2226>

This document presents delegates with specific challenges that cities face in times of growing urbanization and climate change. It addresses the topic of waste management, transportation and sustainable and green building in a broad way. Delegates will find this a relevant source to deepen research on actions undertaken by UNEP in cooperation with UN-HABITAT, challenges to overcome on a national to international basis to find solutions in terms of ecological sustainable and healthy development of cities.

United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2005). *Coastal Area Pollution. The Role of Cities*. Nairobi: Retrieved on August 14, 2010 from http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/PDFs/Coastal_Pollution_Role_of_Cities.pdf

This document briefly covers the effect coastal zone pollution has on cities, people and the future of said cities. It is a useful source to understand the complexity of cities, challenges faced by large urban centers, development of cities and the discussion of creating a standard way to measure the efficiency in terms of resource use, of major cities around the world.

United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2005) *Ecosystems and Biodiversity. The Role of Cities involvement Influence implementation*. Nairobi: Retrieved on August 14, 2010 from http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/PDFs/Ecosystems_and_Biodiversity_Role_of_Cities.pdf

Addressing the urban spaces and their 'ecological footprint' this document is a valuable guide for delegates to get familiar with the concept of visual geographical space taken by cities versus the space actually required to meet the needs of a city. It draws attention to the relation of city development to global loss of biodiversity and growing demand for natural resources. Delegates may gain insight into to the topic of why actions need to be taken by agencies such as UNEP and UN-HABITAT via this particular publication.

United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (n.d.) *Partnership Framework 2008-2013*. Nairobi. Retrieved on August 14, 2010 from http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/PDFs/UEFrameworkfinal.pdf

Providing an insight into the Partnership Framework 2008-2013, this is a comprehensive guide to get an understanding of the joint work of UNEP and UN-HABITAT by integrating environmental perspectives into national and international urban policy making. It further highlights the local, national and global objectives, the importance of partnerships and areas of co-operative activities.

United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (n.d.) *Towards Sustainable Urban Development*. Retrieved on August 14, 2010 from http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/PDFs/UNEP_HABITAT_Flyer.pdf

This brochure introduces to-cooperative activities of UNEP and UN-HABITAT in the area sustainable urban development. It draws attention to the need for cooperation and partnerships to achieve the goal of developing more sustainable cities. It should prove to be a valuable source for its short overview of the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP), Global Environment Outlook (GEO) progress, Guidelines on Municipal Wastewater and highlights the joint work in the field of

air pollution and climate change, outlining the importance of cooperation in the future.

United Nations Environment Programme United. (N.D.) *Urban Biodiversity*. Retrieved on October 28, 2010 from http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/issues/biodiversity.asp

This page provides a very brief overall summary of the UNEP's work and perspective on urban biodiversity problems. While this page itself is by no means an exhaustive source, it contains multiple very useful links to other pages providing more detailed information on several topics related to this core problem.

United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2005) *Urban Air Quality Management*. Nairobi. Retrieved on August 14, 2010 from http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/pdfs/handbook.pdf

The document by UNEP and UNHSP introduces methods to address and manage the topic of urban air quality. In three chapters it illustrates how to improve information, actions and implementations to reach secure urban environments. To understand the diversity of the challenges in the area of urban air quality management and some of the serious effects of poor urban air quality, delegates should make use of this source.

United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2009) *Urban Environment Newsletter February 2009*. Nairobi. Retrieved on August 14, 2010 from http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/PDFs/Urban-Newsletter-Feb2009.pdf

This document introduces joint programs and the history of the programs of UNEP and UNHSP/UN-HABITAT including the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) and Localizing Agenda 21 Programme. It addresses the development, the time frame and the progress as well as highlights projects in various regions including a general overview on urban environment strategies in Latin America. Furthermore, it addresses a project in the Philippines and initiative for Eco Cities in Mediterranean.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2008) *State of the World's Cities 2008/2009 - Harmonious Cities*. Nairobi.

The State of the World's Cities is annually published document by the United Nations Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), giving a detailed look into the recent work by the agency. This report is a useful source to learn more about cities and the cooperation of UNEP with UN-Habitat. It provides information on cities and climate change, cities at risk from rising sea levels, energy consumption in cities, and urban mobility supported by figures. Further it addresses the rural-urban disparities metropolitan governance issues.

Rules of Procedure

United Nations Environment Programme

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the United Nations Environment Programme's Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") and shall be considered adopted by the Commission prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Plenary Director, the Assistant Director(s), the Under-Secretaries-General, and the Assistant Secretaries-General, are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Director-General, and are collectively referred to as the "Secretariat."
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Director-General or her or his designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations and in furtherance of the educational mission of that organization.
4. For the purposes of these rules, "President" shall refer to the chairperson or acting chairperson of the Council.

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - *Dates of convening and adjournment*

The Council shall meet every year in regular session, commencing and closing on the dates designated by the Secretary-General.

Rule 2 - *Place of sessions*

The Council shall meet at a location designated by the Secretary-General.

II. AGENDA

Rule 3 - *Provisional agenda*

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and communicated to the Members of the Council at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

Rule 4 - *Adoption of the agenda*

The agenda provided by the Secretary-General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of the agenda items shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting. Items on the agenda may be amended or deleted by the Council by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

The vote described in this rule is a procedural vote and, as such, observers are permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, —those present and voting¹ means those delegates, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote.

Rule 5 - *Revision of the agenda*

During a session, the Council may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only important and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during a session. Permission to speak on a motion to revise the agenda shall be accorded only to three representatives in favor of, and three opposed to, the revision. Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a session, may be placed on the agenda if the Council so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Council decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a committee has reported on the question concerned.

For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item of an —important and urgent character¹ is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final. If an item is determined to be of such a character, then it requires a two-thirds vote of the Council to be placed on the agenda. It will, however, not be considered by the Council until a committee has reported on the question. The votes described in this rule are substantive vote, and, as such, observers are not permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, —the members present and voting — means members (not including observers) in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to

vote.

Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum

Any item proposed for inclusion in the agenda shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents.

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the Council.
2. The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the Council and be responsible for all the arrangements that may be necessary for its meetings.

Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall receive, print, and distribute documents, reports, and resolutions of the Council, and shall distribute documents of the Council to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Council may require.

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat

The Secretary-General, or her/his representative, may make oral as well as written statements to the Council concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 10 - Selection of the President The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall appoint, from applications received by the Secretariat, a President who shall hold office and, *inter alia*, chair the Council for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretary-General.

Rule 11 - Replacement of the President If the President is unable to perform her/his functions, a new President shall be appointed for the unexpired term at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 12 - Official and working language

English shall be the official and working language of the Council.

Rule 13 - Interpretation (oral) or translation (written)

Any representative wishing to address any body or submit a document in a language other than English shall provide interpretation or translation into English.

This rule does not affect the total speaking time allotted to those representatives wishing to address the body in a language other than English. As such, both the speech and the interpretation must be within the set time limit.

V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 14 - Quorum

The President may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the members of the Council are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the Council shall be required for any decision to be taken.

For purposes of this rule, —members of the Council means the total number of members (not including observers) in attendance at the first night's meeting.

Rule 15 - General powers of the President

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Council, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules,

accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Council and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He or she shall rule on points of order. He or she may propose to the Council the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each member may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

Included in these enumerated powers is the President's power to assign speaking times for all speeches incidental to motions and amendment. Further, the President is to use her/his discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference. For purposes of this rule, the President's power to —propose to the Council entails her/his power to —entertain motions, and not to move the body on his or her own motion.

Rule 16

The President, in the exercise of her or his functions, remains under the authority of the Council.

Rule 17 - Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President. Any appeal of the decision of the President shall be immediately put to a vote, and the ruling of the President shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. Any questions on order arising during a speech made by a representative should be raised at the conclusion of the speech, or can be addressed by the President, sua sponte, during the speech. For purposes of this rule, —the members present and voting mean those members (not including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 18

A representative may not, in rising to a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 19 - Speeches

1. No one may address the Council without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.
2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Council, and the President may call a speaker to order if her/his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The Council may limit the time allowed to speakers and all representatives may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives favoring and two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call her or him to order without delay.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, if the President determines that the Council in large part does not want to deviate from the limits to the speaker's time as it is then set, and that any additional motions will not be well received by the body, the President, in her/his discretion, and on the advice and consent of the Secretariat, may rule as dilatory any additional motions to change the limits of the speaker's time.

Rule 20 - Closing of list of speakers

Members may only be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after having spoken. During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Council, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by decision of the Council.

The decision to announce the list of speakers is within the discretion of the President and should not be the subject of a motion by the Council. A motion to close the speakers list is within the purview of the Council and the President

should not act on her/his own motion.

Rule 21 - Right of reply

If a remark impugns the integrity of a representative's State, the President may permit that representative to exercise her/his right of reply following the conclusion of the controversial speech, and shall determine an appropriate time limit for the reply. No ruling on this question shall be subject to appeal.

For purposes of this rule, a remark that —impugns the integrity of a representative's State is one directed at the governing authority of that State and/or one that puts into question that State's sovereignty or a portion thereof. All interventions in the exercise of the right of reply shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point of order or motion. The reply shall be read to the Council by the representative only upon approval of the Secretariat, and in no case after voting has concluded on all matters relating to the agenda topic, during the discussion of which, the right arose.

Rule 22 - Suspension of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension of the meeting, specifying a time for reconvening. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass.

Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to the vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. After adjournment, the Council shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

As this motion, if successful, would end the meeting until the Council's next regularly scheduled session the following year, and in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and in furtherance of its educational mission, the President will not entertain such a motion until the end of the last meeting of the Council.

Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of debate on the topic under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to two representatives favoring and two opposing adjournment, after which the motion shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. If a motion for adjournment passes, the topic is considered dismissed and no action will be taken on it.

Rule 25 - Closure of debate

A representative may at any time move the closure of debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified her/his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. Closure of debate shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. If the Council favors the closure of debate, the Council shall immediately move to vote on all proposals introduced under that agenda item.

Rule 26 - Order of motions Subject to rule 23, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

- a) To suspend the meeting;
- b) To adjourn the meeting;
- c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat, with the names of twenty percent of the members of the Council who would like the Council to consider the proposal or amendment. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the proposal or amendment for circulation among the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be put to the vote at any meeting of the Council unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated. If the sponsors agree to the adoption of a proposed amendment, the proposal shall be modified accordingly and no vote shall be

taken on the proposed amendment. A document modified in this manner shall be considered as the proposal pending before the Council for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

For purposes of this rule, all —proposals shall be in the form of working papers prior to their approval by the Secretariat. Working papers will not be copied, or in any other way distributed, to the Council by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of the working papers. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft resolution. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Council. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Council and, as such, the names of the original sponsors will be removed. The copying and distribution of amendments is at the discretion of the Secretariat, but the substance of all such amendments will be made available to all representatives in some form.

Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before voting has commenced, provided that it has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic

When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Council, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, so decides. Reconsideration can only be moved by a representative who voted on the prevailing side of the original motion to adjourn. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

For purposes of this rule, —those present and voting means those representatives, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion is voted upon by the body.

VI. VOTING

Rule 30 - Voting rights

Each member of the Council shall have one vote.

This rule applies to substantive voting on amendments, draft resolutions, and portions of draft resolutions divided out by motion. As such, all references to —member(s) do not include observers, who are not permitted to cast votes on substantive matters.

Rule 31 - Request for a vote

A proposal or motion before the Council for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Council may adopt proposals or motions without a vote.

For purposes of this rule, —proposal means any draft resolution, an amendment thereto, or a portion of a draft resolution divided out by motion. Just prior to a vote on a particular proposal or motion, the President may ask if there are any objections to passing the proposal or motion by acclamation, or a member may move to accept the proposal or motion by acclamation. If there are no objections to the proposal or motion, then it is adopted without a vote.

Rule 32 - Majority required

1. Unless specified otherwise in these rules, decisions of the Assembly shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of tabulation, the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

All members declaring their representative States as “present and voting” during the attendance role call for the meeting during which the substantive voting occurs, must cast an affirmative or negative vote, and cannot abstain.

Rule 33 - Method of voting

1. The Council shall normally vote by a show of placards, except that a representative may request a roll call, which shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is randomly selected by the President. The name of each present member shall be called in any roll call, and one of its representatives shall reply “yes,” “no,” “abstention,” or “pass.”

Only those members who designate themselves as —present or —present and voting during the attendance roll call, or in some other manner communicate their attendance to the President and/or Secretariat, are permitted to vote and, as such, no others will be called during a roll-call vote. Any representatives replying —pass, must, on the second time through, respond with either —yes or —no. A —pass cannot be followed by a second —pass for the same proposal or amendment, nor can it be followed by an abstention on that same proposal or amendment.

2. When the Council votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of placards and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote. A representative may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the Council shall dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the members.
3. The vote of each member participating in a roll call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in the record.

Rule 34 - Explanations of vote

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanation of their votes after the voting has been completed. The representatives of a member sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended, and the member has voted against the proposal or motion.

All explanations of vote must be submitted to the President in writing before debate on the topic is closed, except where the representative is of a member sponsoring the proposal, as described in the second clause, in which case the explanation of vote must be submitted to the President in writing immediately after voting on the topic ends.

Rule 35 - Conduct during voting

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representatives shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual process of voting.

Rule 36 - Division of proposals and amendments

Immediately before a proposal or amendment comes to a vote, a representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If there are calls for multiple divisions, those shall be voted upon in an order to be set by the President where the most radical division will be voted upon first. If objection is made to the motion for division, the request for division shall be voted upon, requiring the support of a majority of those present and voting to pass. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are involved shall then be put to a vote. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

For purposes of this rule, —most radical division means the division that will remove the greatest substance from the draft resolution, but not necessarily the one that will remove the most words or clauses. The determination of which division is —most radical is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.

Rule 37 - Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from, or revise part of another proposal.

An amendment can add, amend, or delete operative clauses, but cannot in any manner add, amend, delete, or otherwise affect perambulatory clauses.

Rule 38 - Order of voting on amendments

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal shall be voted on

first and then the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

For purposes of this rule, —furthest removed in substance means the amendment that will have the most significant impact on the draft resolution. The determination of which amendment is —furthest removed in substance is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.

Rule 39 - Order of voting on proposals

If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Council decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted.

Rule 40 - The President shall not vote

The President shall not vote but may designate another member of her/his delegation to vote in her/his place.

VII. CREDENTIALS

Rule 41 - Credentials

The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General prior to the opening of a session.

Rule 42

The Council shall be bound by the actions of the General Assembly in all credentials matters and shall take no action regarding the credentials of any member.

VII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Rule 43 - Participation of non-Member States

1. The Council shall invite any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Council and any other State, to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.
2. A committee or sessional body of the Council shall invite any State that is not one of its own members to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.
3. A State thus invited shall not have the right to vote, but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote on request of any member of the body concerned.

If the Council considers that the presence of a Member invited according to this rule is no longer necessary, it may withdraw the invitation again. Delegates invited to the Council according to this rule should also keep in mind their role and obligations in the committee that they were originally assigned to. For educational purposes of the NMUN Conference, the Secretariat may thus ask a delegate to return to his or her committee when his or her presence in the Council is no longer required.

Rule 45 - Participation of national liberation movements

The Council may invite any national liberation movement recognized by the General Assembly to participate, without the right to vote, in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that movement.

Rule 46 - Participation of and consultation with specialized agencies

In accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies shall be entitled: a) To be represented at meetings of the Council and its subsidiary organs; b) To participate, without the right to vote, through their representatives, in deliberations with respect to items of concern to them and to submit proposals regarding such items, which may be put to the vote at the request of any member of the Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

Rule 47 - Participation of non-governmental organization and intergovernmental organizations

Representatives of non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations accorded consultative observer status by the General Assembly and other non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or a continuing basis by the Council on the recommendation of the Bureau, may participate,

with the procedural right to vote, but not the substantive right to vote, in the deliberations of the Council on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.