

ECOSOC Plenary Council

General Committee Items

Since September of 2012, the most important developments affecting the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) occurred at the Special Ministerial Meeting - *Building the Future We Want*, which focused on necessary reforms for ECOSOC.¹ This meeting was mandated by the United Nations (UN) Conference on Sustainable Development and General Assembly (GA) *Resolution 66/288*, and was attended by over 100 ministers and high-level officials and current ECOSOC members.² At the meeting attendees sought first to outline key components of ECOSOC in need of reform and, secondly, to establish a list of suggested agenda topics for 2013.³ Attendees concluded that reforms should frame ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies around “the three pillars of sustainable development,” and address structural and procedural reforms within ECOSOC to better position ECOSOC as a leader post-2015.⁴ Considering future topics, the Special Ministerial Meeting called for underscoring all future agenda topics of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies on sustainable development, and addressing the challenges to development in future sessions.⁵

Another notable development is the October Joint Meeting of the Second Committee of the GA and ECOSOC, *LINK Global Economic Outlook*.⁶ The two committees examined the economic outlook for 2013-2014 with regards to the prospective growth in both developed and developing countries and international trade.⁷ The joint meeting used the most recent Project LINK studies to determine the direction of the global economy, emphasizing employment growth and inflation.⁸ Project LINK is “a co-operative, non-governmental, international research activity, which integrates independently developed national econometric models into a global economic model.”⁹ Through Project LINK, the joint meeting was able to utilize quantified data regarding both international and national economic policies to address the risks and uncertain consequences of current economic conditions.¹⁰ The meeting concluded with recommendations for future international policies and international policy changes.¹¹

Additional recent ECOSOC work included the presentation of the 2012 Report of ECOSOC to the General Assembly and annual elections. The 2012 Report of ECOSOC to the GA, submitted in October 2012, highlights the progress of the Annual Ministerial Review.¹² The report focused on the promotion of employment, outlined the Operational Activities Segment's preparations for the GA's Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, and noted the achievements of the General Segment, which included the “adoption of the new System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.”¹³ In November 2012, 18 new Member States were elected to ECOSOC; their terms began January 1, 2013.¹⁴ Nestor Osorio of Colombia was elected President of ECOSOC in

¹ DESA, *Calendar of Event: ECOSOC Special Ministerial Meeting*, 2012; ECOSOC, *Summary of the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Economic and Social Council*, 2012.

² ECOSOC, *Summary of the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Economic and Social Council*, 2012; GA, *Resolution 66/288*, 2012.

³ ECOSOC, *2012 Special Ministerial Meeting of the Economic and Social Council: Background note for the panel discussion*, 2012; ECOSOC, *Summary of the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Economic and Social Council*, 2012.

⁴ UNDP, *Press Conference on Economic and Social Ministerial Meeting*, 2012; ECOSOC, *Statement by H.E. Ambassador Miloš Koterec, President of ECOSOC: Introduction of the 2012 Report of ECOSOC*, 2012.

⁵ ECOSOC, *Summary of the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Economic and Social Council*, 2012; Inter Press Service: News Agency, *Strengthening ECOSOC To Improve U.N. System*, 2012.

⁶ United Nations, *Meetings and Events of the ECOSOC and its Subsidiary Bodies*, 2012.

⁷ ECOSOC, *Joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council - "LINK Global Economic Outlook"*, 2012.

⁸ ECOSOC, *Joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council - "LINK Global Economic Outlook"*, 2012.

⁹ DPAD, *Project LINK: Background*, 2011.

¹⁰ ECOSOC, *Joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council - "LINK Global Economic Outlook"*, 2012.

¹¹ ECOSOC, *Joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council - "LINK Global Economic Outlook"*, 2012.

¹² ECOSOC, *Statement by H.E. Ambassador Miloš Koterec, President of ECOSOC: Introduction of the 2012 Report of ECOSOC*, 2012.

¹³ ECOSOC, *Statement by H.E. Ambassador Miloš Koterec, President of ECOSOC: Introduction of the 2012 Report of ECOSOC*, 2012.

¹⁴ WFM-IGP, *18 New Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Members for 2013 - 2016*. 2012.; *Goals*, 2013.

January 2013, and his election concluded the 2012 substantive session with the adoption of a draft document.¹⁵ The draft is a reiteration of the goals established in the Special Ministerial Meeting in September 2012.¹⁶

Many ECOSOC commissions and their subsidiary bodies also held, or have planned numerous meetings. Two functional commissions of ECOSOC were the first to hold sessions. In December of 2012, the 55th session on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs reconvened in Vienna.¹⁷ The session addressed a round-table discussion on creating an integrated and balanced strategy to address the world drug problem, to be held in 2013.¹⁸ Also in December, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice reconvened its 21st session, which focused on the role of the CCPCJ in the ECOSOC post-2015 development agenda, and potential sub-themes for its 22nd session.¹⁹ Additionally, the 51st session of the Commission for Social Development will convene in February 2013. The theme of this session is “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all.”²⁰ This session will feature a high-level panel discussion on people’s empowerment, a high-level panel discussion on ageing, a panel discussion on emerging issues, and a panel discussion on youth.²¹ Rescheduled for February is a Special Joint Meeting on Food Security and Nutrition, featuring ECOSOC, the Second Committee of the GA, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agriculture and the World Food Programme.²² The meeting will address the causes of food insecurity, propose solutions, evaluate innovations that ensure food security and nutrition, and define the roles of the private sector for promoting food security.²³

The Committee at the National Model United Nations Conference

ECOSOC is a main organ of the UN that addresses international economic and social issues, and develops policy recommendations for Member States and the UN. The ECOSOC comprises 54 Members that are elected by region for a three-year term. Currently, ECOSOC has 32 subsidiary bodies, of which the Commission of the Status of Women, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Economic Commission on Africa, and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia will be represented at the NMUN 2013.

Format: The ECOSOC Plenary Council is a resolution writing committee.

Voting: In the ECOSOC Plenary Council each Member State has one vote and special privileges for Member States, such as veto power, are not allowed. All decisions are decided on by majority vote of members present for both procedural and substantive matters.

¹⁵ ECOSOC, *Economic and Social Council Elects Nestor Osorio of Colombia President for 2013 as it Prepares for Sustainable Development Goal*, 2013.

¹⁶ ECOSOC, *Draft Document E/2012/L.40: Theme for the 2013 thematic discussion of the Economic and Social Council*, 2013.

¹⁷ UNODC, *Commission on Narcotic Drugs: Reconvened fifty-fifth session*, 2012.

¹⁸ UNODC, *Commission on Narcotic Drugs: Organization of the round-table discussions at the fifty-sixth session*, 2012.

¹⁹ UNODC, *Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Reconvened twenty-first session*, 2012; UNODC, *Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Inputs by Member States for the post-2015 development agenda*, 2012.

²⁰ DESA, *Social Policy and Development Division: Commission for Social Development, 51st Session, 6-15 February 2013, New York*, 2013.

²¹ DESA, *Social Policy and Development Division: Commission for Social Development, Panel Discussions*, 2013.

²² ECOSOC, *Economic and Social Council and the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) on the General Assembly, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agriculture (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP): Special Joint Meeting - Food security and nutrition: Scaling up the global response*, 2012.

²³ ECOSOC, *Economic and Social Council and the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) on the General Assembly, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agriculture (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP): Special Joint Meeting - Food security and nutrition: Scaling up the global response*, 2012.

Annotated Bibliography

Inter Press Service: News Agency. (2012). *Strengthening ECOSOC To Improve U.N. System*. Retrieved January 12, 2013, from <http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/10/strengthening-ecosoc-to-improve-u-n-system/>

This interview with Navid Hanif, Director of the Office of ECOSOC Support and Coordination, stresses the importance of this meeting, and its auspicious timing. Conducted after the Special Ministerial Meeting, this interview provides a glimpse into the outcomes and consequences of the new role for ECOSOC. The interview also highlights concerns that were not directly discussed during the meeting, but may be addressed by ECOSOC's next substantive session.

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2012, September 21). *Press Conference on Economic and Social Committee Ministerial Meeting*. Retrieved January 11, 2013, from

http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs//2012/120921_ECOSOC.doc.htm

This press conference with ECOSOC Senior Vice President, Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba, was conducted a few days before the Special Ministerial Meeting was held. Ambassador de Alba discusses the reason for this meeting, as well its importance to ECOSOC and the UN as a whole. The daunting challenges of reforming ECOSOC as well as direct challenges to sustainable development are highlighted in the Ambassador's discussion. The significance of this meeting for future ECOSOC policies and agendas is also expressed.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2013, January 25). *Draft Document E/2012/L.40: Theme for the 2013 thematic discussion of the Economic and Social Council*. Retrieved February 1, 2013, from

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2012/L.40

Adopted on January 28, 2013, this document is the final act of the 2012 substantive session for ECOSOC. This document establishes the theme for the high-level segment during the 2013 substantive session. The theme echoes the outcomes and suggestions for ECOSOC that were established within the Special Ministerial Meeting of September 2012. Also, the document emphasizes the need for policy review and dialogue regarding ECOSOC's preparedness for a post-2015 development agenda and the continuation of the MDGs.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2012, October 22). *Joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council - "LINK Global Economic Outlook."* Retrieved January 24, 2013, from

http://esango.un.org/event/documents/joint_2nd_com_&_ecosoc_event_of_22_october_2012-background.pdf

This document provides the agenda and background for the Joint Meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council. The topics included in the report emphasize how the two committees will examine and evaluate the current macroeconomic situation. Additionally, the detailed points indicate which regions and markets are to be examined.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2012, September 24). *Summary of the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Economic and Social Council*. Retrieved January 10, 2013, from

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/we/pdf/summary.pdf>

This summary of the Special Ministerial Meeting is divided into four parts that mirror the flow of the meeting: the parameters of the meeting; opening statements and panel discussions; the transcript of moderated debate; and closing statements with a proposal outline. Parameters of the meeting are derived from the Rio+20 meeting and the GA Resolution 66/288. The transcript of the moderated debate is broken into sections that follow the key concepts established in the parameters of the meeting. The proposal outlines the important aspects of the moderated debate and is to be utilized in the next session as points of discussion.

Bibliography

Inter Press Service: News Agency. (2012). *Strengthening ECOSOC To Improve U.N. System*. Retrieved January 12, 2013, from <http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/10/strengthening-ecosoc-to-improve-u-n-system/>

Meetings and Events of ECOSOC and its Subsidiary Bodies. United Nations. Retrieved January 24, 2013, from <http://esango.un.org/irene/ecosoc.html?page=viewContent&nr=20427&type=8>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2012). *Calendar of Event: ECOSOC Special Ministerial Meeting.* Retrieved January 10, 2013, from <http://esango.un.org/irene/desa.html?page=viewContent&nr=20162&type=8>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2013). *Social Policy and Development Division: Commission on Social Development, Panel Discussions.* Retrieved January 25, 2013, from <http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2013/PanelDiscussions.aspx>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2013). *Social Policy and Development Division: Commission on Social Development, 51st Session, 6-15 February 2013, New York.* Retrieved January 25, 2013, from <http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2013.aspx>

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2012, September 21). *Press Conference on Economic and Social Committee Ministerial Meeting.* Retrieved January 11, 2013, from http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs//2012/120921_ECOSOC.doc.htm

United Nations Development Policy and Analysis Division. (2011). *Project LINK: Background.* Retrieved January 24, 2013, from <http://www.un.org/esa/analysis/link/>

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2013, January 25). *Draft Document E/2012/L.40: Theme for the 2013 thematic discussion of the Economic and Social Council.* Retrieved February 1, 2013, from http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2012/L.40

United Nations Economic and Social Council.(2012, November 1). *Economic and Social Council and the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) on the General Assembly, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agriculture (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP): Speacil Joint Meeting - Food security and nutrition: Scaling up the global response.* Retrieved February 1, 2013, from <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/food/pdf/concept.note.pdf>

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2013, January 28). *Economic and Social Council Elects Nestor Osorio of Colombia President for 2013 as it Prepares for Sustainable Development Goals.* Retrieved February 1, 2013, from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2013/ecosoc6555.doc.htm>

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2012, October 22). *Joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council - "LINK Global Economic Outlook".* Retrieved January 24, 2013, from http://esango.un.org/event/documents/joint_2nd_com_&_ecosoc_event_of_22_october_2012-background.pdf

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2012, October, 22). *Statement by H.E. Ambassador Miloš Koterec, President of ECOSOC: Introduction of the 2012 Report of ECOSOC.* Retrieved on January 11, 2013, from http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/president/statement_2012/statement_ecosoc_president-22_oct_2012.pdf

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2012, September 24). *Summary of the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Economic and Social Council.* Retrieved January 10, 2013, from <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/we/pdf/summary.pdf>

United Nations General Assembly. (2012, September 11). *Resolution 66/288: The Future We Want.* Retrieved January 10, 2013, from http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=%20A/RES/66/288

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2012, December 4). *Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Inputs by Member States for the post-2015 development agenda.* Retrieved January 25, 2013, from https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ_session21/Reconvened/ECN152012_CRP9_eV1257818_EC72012_CRP11_eV1257818.pdf

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2012). *Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Reconvened twenty-first session*. Retrieved January 25, 2013, from <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/reconvened-21st-session-of-the-ccpcj.html>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2012, December 4). *Commission on Narcotic Drugs: Organization of the round-table discussions at the fifty-sixth session*. Retrieved January 25, 2013, from http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND-session55/Reconvened/ECN72012_CRP10_eV1257819.pdf

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2012, December 6-7). *Commission on Narcotic Drugs: Reconvened fifty-fifth session*. Retrieved January 25, 2013, from <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/55-reconvened.html>

World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP). (2012, November 8). *New Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Members for 2013 - 2016*. Retrieved January 24, 2013, from <http://www.unelections.org/?q=node/2398>

I. Confronting Family Poverty and Social Exclusion

Recent Developments

In recent months, the significant prevalence of family poverty worldwide and the resulting negative influence of such continues to be discussed by the international community, and reports from Member States reflect the widespread nature of poverty in both developed and developing countries. For example, a recent report shows that Greece has a wide disparity in its economic distribution – 20% of Greeks live in poverty, while the top-earning 20% of wealthy citizens earn nearly 6 times more.²⁴ Another new study reveals that the percentage is even starker in Israel, where approximately 25% of Israelis, including 400,000 families, are considered poor.²⁵ Contributing factors to this include the fact that poverty unequally affects certain cultural groups; large family sizes in some sects in Israel can also contribute to poverty levels.²⁶ In the United States, 22% of children live in poverty, which also reflects the level of family poverty in the country and contributes to high levels of social exclusion.²⁷ Although the World Bank estimates that the number of those living in extreme poverty will have dropped from the 1990 level of 29% to a 2015 level of 12%, what is also apparent is that the issue of poverty affects countries of all economic statuses – thus highlighting the continual need for the UN, Member States, and the global community to address family poverty relief as a method of ensuring a better quality of life and social inclusion.

With the consistent discussion on the effects of poverty throughout the world, several recent projects within Member States affected by poverty and social exclusion are expected to prove successful in improving economic and social parity. In October 2012, a conference held in Geneva with attendance from Member States, UN agencies, and other regional representatives resulted in raising over \$2 billion for development initiatives in Burundi, a Member State highly affected by extreme levels of poverty.²⁸ This money will assist Burundi in its *Poverty Reduction Strategy*.²⁹ In November, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Niger similarly held a roundtable in France that resulted in \$4.8 billion towards an *Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES)* for Niger.³⁰ The plan, enacted for 2012-2015, has five main goals, including sustainable development and economic and social growth.³¹ The UNDP will assist as the country, which also instituted the *N3 Initiative* for “The people of Niger [to] feed their fellow citizens” in 2011, implements PDES.³² Strategies such as those being put into place in Burundi and Niger reflect potential methods for improving overall development and social inclusion.

A significant international commemoration is the upcoming twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF), which will be observed by the international community in 2014.³³ The first IYF was established by General Assembly *Resolution 44/82* in 1989 and was celebrated in 1994, with the theme “Family: Resources and Responsibilities in a Changing World.”³⁴ In 2004, the Tenth Anniversary of the IYF was commemorated and included attention to “Enhance the effectiveness of local, national and regional efforts to carry out specific programmes concerning families” and “Increase awareness of family issues among Governments as well as in the private sector.”³⁵ A Secretary-General’s Report, written to address ECOSOC *Resolution 2012/10* and General Assembly *Resolution 66/126* and to discuss upcoming preparations for 2014, was published on 28 November 2012.³⁶ The report discusses the status of the current preparations for recognition of the twentieth anniversary and

²⁴ Oikonomakis, *Poverty and Social Exclusion Rising in Greece*, 2012.

²⁵ Sales, *Report: One-quarter of Israelis – and 37 Percent of Kids – Live in Poverty*, 2012.

²⁶ Sales, *Report: One-quarter of Israelis – and 37 Percent of Kids – Live in Poverty*, 2012.

²⁷ National Poverty Center, *Poverty in the United States: Frequently Asked Questions*, 2013.

²⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *International Community Commits More Than \$2 Billion to Accelerate Burundi’s Development Progress*, 2012.

²⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *International Community Commits More Than \$2 Billion to Accelerate Burundi’s Development Progress*, 2012.

³⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *In Paris, Niger Mobilizes \$4.8 Billion for Development*, 2012.

³¹ United Nations Development Programme, *In Paris, Niger Mobilizes \$4.8 Billion for Development*, 2012.

³² United Nations Development Programme, *In Paris, Niger Mobilizes \$4.8 Billion for Development*, 2012.

³³ United Nations, *Preparations for and Observance of the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014*, 2012.

³⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *The International Year of the Family (IYF) 1994*, N.D.

³⁵ United Nations, *Proclamation of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family*, N.D.

³⁶ United Nations, *Preparations for and Observance of the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014*, 2012.

highlights issues of particular concern for 2014, and emphasized aspects of this report include family poverty, work-family balance, and incorporating attention to the family into domestic and international policy.³⁷

Another item of international pertinence is the 2012 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, observed 17 October 2012.³⁸ The concentration of this year's observance was "Ending the violence of Extreme Poverty: Promoting empowerment and building peace," recognizing the positive influences of empowerment and peace as ways of promoting economic parity and social inclusion.³⁹ In commemoration of the day, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon released a message in which he emphasized that poverty still affects far too many throughout the world and the continued need to discuss poverty, which "is easy to denounce but difficult to combat."⁴⁰ The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and the focus on poverty within the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 illustrate the connectivity between poverty, family, and community.

The global discussion on poverty and social exclusion also remains tied to the topic of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and global development post-2015. UNDP administrator Helen Clark, in a statement for this year's International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, lauded that the world had met the Millennium Development Goal aim of halving the percentage of the global population in extreme poverty, but also stressed that the successes of this goal must be considered in order to continue to achieve international and national progress in reducing poverty and social exclusion.⁴¹ In order to do this, Clark noted, "The experience of countries striving to achieve the MDGs provides vital information on how to move beyond...From experience, we know that national ownership and leadership are critical for success."⁴² In October and November 2012, the High Level Panel appointed by Ban Ki-moon to focus on international development post-2015 met in London and discussed the question of poverty at the household level.⁴³ Co-chair and British Prime Minister David Cameron stated during the meetings, "There is more progress to be made between now and 2015, but we are clear the next stage should be aiming to eradicate absolute poverty in our world."⁴⁴ Indeed, while much has been accomplished to improve the burden of economic disparity, the international community must continue to pay attention to the causes of family poverty and social exclusion in the coming years and following the 2015 deadline of the MDGs.

³⁷ United Nations, *Preparations for and Observance of the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014*, 2012; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Mission Statement," N.D.

³⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*, 2012.

³⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*, 2012.

⁴⁰ Ban, *Secretary-General's Message for 2012*, 2012.

⁴¹ Clark, *Helen Clark: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*, 2012.

⁴² Clark, *Helen Clark: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*, 2012.

⁴³ Tran, *The Post-2015 Development Agenda Explained*, 2012; United Nations, *High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda Press Statement*, 2012.

⁴⁴ Cameron, *UN High Level Panel Press Statements*, 2012.

Annotated Bibliography

British Prime Minister's Office. (2012). *UN High Level Panel Press Statements*. Retrieved on January 15, 2012, from: <http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/un-high-level-panel-press-statements/>.

The UN High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda met in London in October and November to discuss household poverty as an object of continuing attention in relation to international development goals following the 2015 expiration of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The High Level Panel will play an influential part in shaping the post-2015 agenda, and this source provides detailed statements on poverty and its link to international development from the co-chairs of the panel: British Prime Minister Cameron, President Yudhoyono of Indonesia, and President Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia. These statements shed light upon the influence of poverty in several regions of the world and issues of pertinence determined by the co-chairs.

Clark, Helen. (2012). *Helen Clark: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*. Retrieved on January 14, 2012, from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2012/10/17/helen-clark-international-day-for-the-eradication-of-poverty/>.

Clark is the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, which is highly involved in addressing the topic of poverty and its connection to development. In this statement, released in commemoration of the 2012 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Clark highlights the complicated nature of addressing poverty and social exclusion: while much has been achieved, much remains to be done in order to provide further economic and social equality throughout the world, thus leading to better personal and family lives for global citizens. In this statement, she outlines many of the continuing issues and discusses her belief in the need for post-2015 attention to these issues.

Department for International Development (2012). *Beyond 2015: Reducing Poverty After the MDGs*. Retrieved on January 15, 2012, from: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/News/Latest-news/2012/Global-development-shaping-the-future-post-2015/>.

One of the most pertinent issues facing the international community, the United Nations, and ECOSOC is what should be done regarding international development goals once the initial goal of the MDGs expires in 2015. This source provides information about the discussions and findings of the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which met in October and November to discuss household poverty as a part of the post-2015 United Nations strategy for action. This source from the UK's Department for International Development also includes statements from co-chairs of the High Level Panel and useful links to other statements and coverage of each day of the meetings.

Sales, Ben. (2012). *Report: One-quarter of Israelis – and 37 Percent of Kids – Live in Poverty*. Retrieved on January 14, 2012, from: <http://www.jta.org/news/article/2012/12/04/3113401/nearly-25-percent-of-israelis-are-poor-government-report-says>.

Reports on levels of poverty and social exclusion within different nations are very helpful in understanding the continuing perseverance of economic disparity within the world, and this article on Israel explains well how poverty affects both developed nations, such as Israel, and developing nations. The details of the conditions behind poverty in Israel, affecting families, children, and cultural groups, as mentioned in this report, illustrate aspects of the topic that need to be addressed in order to reduce poverty levels in Israel, and also reflect conditions that are also faced in other developed nations. This source is a helpful case study in order to understand the continued relevance of this topic.

United Nations. (2012). *Preparations for and Observance of the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014*. Retrieved on January 15, 2012, from: <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=E/2013/3>.

The original International Year of the Family was observed in 1994. Much has been accomplished within the global community since 1994, and as this document produced in relation to two resolutions by the General Assembly and ECOSOC illustrates, there is also much that needs to be discussed as the UN prepares for the 2014 observance of the twentieth anniversary of the

International Year of the Family. This report from the Secretary-General is helpful in its explanations of what must be done to prepare for 2014, and its particular emphasis on family poverty discusses many of the issues related to extreme poverty and its influence on families and what must be done to successfully approach this during the twentieth anniversary.

United Nations Development Programme. (2012). *In Paris, Niger Mobilizes \$4.8 Billion for Development*. Retrieved on January 14, 2012, from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/articles/2012/11/16/a-paris-le-niger-mobilise-4-8-milliards-pour-le-d-veloppement/>.

Poverty and social exclusion are issues of significance in Niger, a country challenged by food shortage and economic concern. This article details the combined efforts of Niger and the UNDP in addressing poverty, and the large scale of the efforts of Niger's Economic and Social Development Plan illustrates what can be done to address poverty on both large and small scales. As Helen Clark of the UNDP has highlighted, it is important to consider efforts which have proven or will prove successful, as they can serve as models for other nations of effective plans for poverty reduction.

Bibliography

Ban, Ki-moon. (2012). *Secretary-General's Message for 2012*. Retrieved on January 15, 2012, from: <http://www.un.org/en/events/povertyday/2012/sgmessage2012.shtml>.

British Prime Minister's Office. (2012). *UN High Level Panel Press Statements*. Retrieved on January 15, 2012, from: <http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/un-high-level-panel-press-statements/>.

Clark, Helen. (2012). *Helen Clark: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*. Retrieved on January 14, 2012, from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2012/10/17/helen-clark-international-day-for-the-eradication-of-poverty/>.

Cameron, David. (2012). *UN High Level Panel Press Statements*. Retrieved on January 15, 2012, from: <http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/un-high-level-panel-press-statements/>.

Department for International Development (2012). *Beyond 2015: Reducing Poverty After the MDGs*. Retrieved on January 15, 2012, from: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/News/Latest-news/2012/Global-development-shaping-the-future-post-2015/>.

National Poverty Center. (2013). *Poverty in the United States: Frequent Asked Questions*. Retrieved on February 3, 2013, from: <http://www.npc.umich.edu/poverty/>.

Oikonomakis, Leonidas. (2012). *Poverty and Social Exclusion Rising in Greece*. Retrieved on January 14, 2012, from: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/poverty-and-social-exclusion-rising-in-greece/5315571>.

Sales, Ben. (2012). *Report: One-quarter of Israelis – and 37 Percent of Kids – Live in Poverty*. Retrieved on January 14, 2012, from: <http://www.jta.org/news/article/2012/12/04/3113401/nearly-25-percent-of-israelis-are-poor-government-report-says>.

Tran, Mark. (2012). *The Post-2015 Development Agenda Explained*. Retrieved on January 15, 2012, from: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/oct/31/post-2015-development-agenda-explained>.

United Nations. (2012). *High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. Retrieved on January 15, 2012, from: http://www.un.org/sg/management/pdf/PS_London_2_Nov_2012.pdf.

United Nations. (2012). *Preparations for and Observance of the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014*. Retrieved on January 15, 2012, from: <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=E/2013/3>.

United Nations. (N.D.) *Proclamation of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family*. Retrieved on January 30, 2013, from <http://social.un.org/index/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Q9qFJzl0bP4%3d&tabid=220>.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (N.D.) *The International Year of the Family (IYF) 1994*. Retrieved on January 30, 2013, from <http://social.un.org/index/Family/InternationalObservances/InternationalYearoftheFamily.aspx>.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (N.D.) *Mission Statement*. Retrieved on February 3, 2013, from: <http://social.un.org/index/Family.aspx>.

United Nations Development Programme. (2012). *In Paris, Niger Mobilizes \$4.8 Billion for Development*. Retrieved on January 14, 2012, from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/articles/2012/11/16/a-paris-le-niger-mobilise-4-8-milliards-pour-le-d-veloppement/>.

United Nations Development Programme. (2012). *International Community Commits More Than \$2 Billion to Accelerate Burundi's Development Progress*. Retrieved on January 15, 2012, from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2012/10/30/-international-community-commits-more-than-2-billion-at-geneva-conference-to-accelerate-burundi-s-development-progress/>.

United Nations Development Programme. (2012). *International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*. Retrieved on January 14, 2012, from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/events/2012/october/international_dayfortheeradicationofpoverty/.

II. Strengthening Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance and Relief

Recent Developments

Recently, several catastrophes have led to the need to address humanitarian assistance and relief, including natural disasters, food insecurity, conflicts, and displacement. The Humanitarian Affairs Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) identified in July 2012 two challenges that need to be addressed during the following session, which will take place in the summer of 2013, and these challenges show that it is important to know which current crises should be addressed. In a recent interview, United Nations (UN) Office of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) Operations Director John Ging identified several tasks the international community has to deal with in 2013.⁴⁵ He highlighted three categories of current crises: conflicts, as in Syria; flooding, such as in the Philippines; and climatic changes in regions like the Sahel zone.⁴⁶ The deteriorating situation in Syria perhaps draws the most attention with over four million people in need, 500,000 refugees, and two million displaced persons.⁴⁷ This situation has an impact on neighboring countries as well and makes humanitarian assistance even more urgent.⁴⁸ Additionally, Ging stated that one of the challenges for OCHA is accumulating more money from donor states in 2013 in order to fulfill its coordination role.⁴⁹ Consequently, he declared: “One of our big focuses for 2013 will be on how to broaden the base of donor support.”⁵⁰

Not only UN bodies and committees struggle for strengthening coordination of humanitarian assistance and relief; non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also experience these issues.⁵¹ As NGOs have their own expertise and can rely on already established partnerships with civil societies, Member States may benefit from the experience of working with NGOs.⁵² For example, the ICRC launched a four-year-initiative named “Health Care in Danger” in 2011.⁵³ The relating report documents attacks against health care institutions such as hospitals, ambulances, and medical personnel.⁵⁴ In order to finding a solution to improve this important aspect of humanitarian assistance, the ICRC has recently pushed awareness of this issue.⁵⁵ In 2011, at their 31st International Conference, the actors of both the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement launched a four-year-initiative in which they bring together actors of the civil society as well as representatives of Member States.⁵⁶ Last year, the cooperation and partnership was intensified and further implemented. Moreover, representatives are conscious that this is a dynamic process and therefore hope that both ECOSOC and the General Assembly will discuss this issue in coming months.⁵⁷

Another important issue continues to be the impact of climate change on humanitarian assistance. In a newly published book, authors Turnbull, Sterret, and Hilleboe claim that changes in the climate “affect almost every aspect of human life and the ecosystems on which it depends,” thus making it important to adapt to climate change.⁵⁸ The disasters caused by climate change are major obstacles in achieving the goal of empowering people to enjoy their inherent rights.⁵⁹ Accordingly, disasters may not be avoided, but conversely can be significantly reduced through strategies that address possible hazards and the needs of the people affected.⁶⁰

⁴⁵ UN Economic and Social Council, *Draft Resolution L/11*, 2012; OCHA, *Interview: Preparation and Prevention Key for Humanitarian Action in 2013*, 2012.

⁴⁶ OCHA, *Interview: Preparation and Prevention Key for Humanitarian Action in 2013*, 2012.

⁴⁷ OCHA, *Interview: Preparation and Prevention Key for Humanitarian Action in 2013*, 2012.

⁴⁸ OCHA, *Interview: Preparation and Prevention Key for Humanitarian Action in 2013*, 2012.

⁴⁹ OCHA, *What We Do*.

⁵⁰ OCHA, *Interview: Preparation and Prevention Key for Humanitarian Action in 2013*, 2012.

⁵¹ ICRC, *Strengthening Coordination of UN Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance*, 2012.

⁵² ICRC, *Strengthening Coordination of UN Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance*, 2012.

⁵³ ICRC, *Health Care in Danger: Making the Case*, 2011.

⁵⁴ ICRC, *Health Care in Danger: Making the Case*, 2011, p. 8.

⁵⁵ ICRC, *Strengthening Coordination of UN Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance* 2012.

⁵⁶ ICRC, *Strengthening Coordination of UN Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance* 2012.

⁵⁷ ICRC, *Strengthening Coordination of UN Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance* 2012.

⁵⁸ Turnbull, Sterret, Hilleboe, *Towards Resilience*, 2013, p. 4.

⁵⁹ Turnbull, Sterret, Hilleboe, *Towards Resilience*, 2013, p. 1, 4.

⁶⁰ Turnbull, Sterret, Hilleboe, *Towards Resilience*, 2013, p. 2.

As shown by recent natural disasters, one consequence of climate change is the prevalence of natural disasters. Such incidents do not only affect poor regions of the world, but also wealthy regions, with "Superstorm Sandy" being an example, which affected Jamaica, Haiti, Cuba, the Bermudas, and the whole US East Coast.⁶¹ In October, New York City and its inhabitants faced the storm and its impact fairly well due to preparedness and a good infrastructure.⁶² At the same time, another country was affected by remnants of "Sandy," which had also faced a humanitarian catastrophe three years ago: Haiti. It is notable that the media almost exclusively covered the incidents on the US East Coast, even if during the recent heavy rains that pounded Haiti, at least 51 people were killed and temporary camps were washed away.⁶³ This hurricane is a casebook example for the need of coordination of humanitarian assistance and relief as it shows that such an incident might affect every single Member State, whether highly developed or developing.

In Haiti, in the last three years since the devastating earthquake that killed 230,000 people, "UN agencies, humanitarian partners, and the [local] Government have reached millions of people with lifesaving aid as well as with opportunities to improve living conditions."⁶⁴ Even though much has been achieved in this Member State, there are still problems to address due to the insufficient national capacities and recurrent natural disasters.⁶⁵ There remain 358,000 people in internally displaced persons camps where humanitarian needs persist.⁶⁶ Additionally, the cholera epidemic of 2011 persists and may soon affect 118,000 people even if the downward trend of 2012 continues.⁶⁷ In order to meet these challenges, OCHA presented the 2013 *Haiti Humanitarian Action Plan* on December 18, 2012.⁶⁸ The Plan displays which stages, approaches, and actors are necessary to coordinate and in this respect to strengthen if humanitarian assistance and relief shall be executed successfully. With the situation of Haiti being an example for the still existing need of strengthening coordination of humanitarian assistance and relief, it is important to emphasize that ECOSOC is more than a suitable place to discuss effective strategies and to address the needs of Member States which are not able to solve their problems solely on their own.

⁶¹ Guardian, *Superstorm Sandy: Every Verified Event Mapped and Detailed*, 2012.

⁶² Goldberg, *Sandy's Path of Destruction: How the United Nations Deals With Disasters*, 2012.

⁶³ Goldberg, *Sandy's Path of Destruction: How the United Nations Deals With Disasters*, 2012.

⁶⁴ BBC, *Why Did So Many People Die in Haiti's Quake?*, 2010; OCHA, *Haiti: Three Years After the Earthquake*, 2013.

⁶⁵ OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Action Plan 2013*, 2012, p. 1.

⁶⁶ OCHA, *Humanitarian Bulletin: Haiti. Issue 25*, 2012, p. 3.

⁶⁷ OCHA, *Humanitarian Bulletin: Haiti. Issue 25*, 2012, p. 2.

⁶⁸ OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Action Plan 2013*, 2012.

Annotated Bibliography

International Committee of the Red Cross. (2011). *Health Care in Danger: Making the Case*. Geneva, Switzerland: International Committee of the Red Cross.

With this publication the ICRC wants to draw attention to an important, yet not acknowledged aspect of the topic of humanitarian assistance. It is crucial to keep in mind the security of medical personnel and institutions in order to use a holistic approach of humanitarian assistance and relief.

International Committee of the Red Cross. (2012). *Strengthening Coordination of UN Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance*. Retrieved January 12, 2013, from:

<http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/statement/2012/12-13-13-united-nations-humanitarian-coordination.htm>.

In this ICRC statement presented to the United Nations General Assembly, a spokesperson of the NGO highlights several important points of the subject of strengthening coordination of humanitarian assistance, e.g. by establishing strong partnerships between the actors concerned. It presents the view of a non-UN entity which is still committed to the topic to be discussed within ECOSOC. Additionally, the ICRC presents examples of how to achieve better coordination within the range of humanitarian assistance.

Turnbull, M; Sterret, C. L.; Hilleboe, A. (2013). *Towards Resilience: A Guide to Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation*. Warwickshire: Practical Action Publishing Ltd.

This book was published in order to provide a resource for both individuals working in the field of disaster risk reduction and students of the topic. It provides introductory information, guidelines for action, and principles of effective practice. As a source, it is meant to foster complementary practices and not replace already established policies or guidelines. It offers case studies to illustrate examples of good practices and lessons learned.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2012). *Haiti Humanitarian Action Plan 2013*. Retrieved January 12, 2013, from: <http://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/haiti-humanitarian-action-plan-2013>.

This report lists the efforts made in Haiti after the devastating earthquake in 2010 and what needs to be done. Even though improvements are visible, Haiti and its people still need the assistance of the international community. Therefore, OCHA developed and published this Humanitarian Action Plan, which addresses practitioners and the interested public and serves as a guideline, as it identifies important aspects concerning assistance for Haiti.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2012). *Interview: Preparation and Prevention Key for Humanitarian Action in 2013*. Retrieved January 11, 2013, from: <http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/interview-preparation-and-prevention-key-humanitarian-action-2013>.

In this short question and answer interview, OCHA's Operations Director John Ging talks about several ways to improve humanitarian response in 2013. He identifies different sorts of catastrophes aid organizations have to deal with. Moreover, he stresses the limits of humanitarian aid and what needs to be done in order to go beyond these limitations. This interview presents the possibilities and challenges of humanitarian assistance in a nutshell and is a perfect starting point for developing further strategies that might help to strengthen coordination of humanitarian assistance and relief.

Bibliography

BBC. (2010). *Why Did So Many People Die in Haiti's Quake?* Retrieved January 12, 2013, from: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8510900.stm>.

Goldberg, M. L. (2012). *Sandy's Path of Destruction: How the United Nations Deals With Disasters*. Retrieved January 12, 2013, from: <http://www.undispatch.com/sandys-path-of-destruction-how-the-united-nations-deals-with-disasters>.

Guardian. (2012). *Superstorm Sandy: Every Verified Event Mapped and Detailed*. Retrieved January 30, 2013, from: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/interactive/2012/oct/30/superstorm-sandy-incidents-mapped>.

International Committee of the Red Cross. (2012). *Strengthening Coordination of UN Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance*. Retrieved January 12, 2013, from: <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/statement/2012/12-13-united-nations-humanitarian-coordination.htm>.

International Committee of the Red Cross. (2011). *Health Care in Danger: Making the Case*. Geneva, Switzerland: International Committee of the Red Cross.

Turnbull, M; Sterret, C. L.; Hilleboe, A. (2013). *Towards Resilience: A Guide to Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation*. Warwickshire: Practical Action Publishing Ltd.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2012, 11 July). *Draft Resolution L./11*. Retrieved January 13, 2013, from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2012/3.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2012). *Haiti Humanitarian Action Plan 2013*. Retrieved January 12, 2013, from: <http://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/haiti-humanitarian-action-plan-2013>.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2012). *Humanitarian Bulletin: Haiti. Issue 25*. Retrieved January 12, 2013, from: <http://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/haiti-humanitarian-bulletin-issue-25-december-2012-0>.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2012). *Interview: Preparation and Prevention Key for Humanitarian Action in 2013*. Retrieved January 11, 2013, from: <http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/interview-preparation-and-prevention-key-humanitarian-action-2013>.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (N.D.). *What We Do*. Retrieved January 13, 2013, from: <http://www.unocha.org/what-we-do/coordination/overview>.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (N.D.). *Hyogo Framework for Action*. Retrieved January 12, 2013, from: <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/hfa>.

III. Millennium Development Goal 2 and Increasing Access to Education

Global Uprising

At the end of 2012 and start of 2013, local events in countries like India and Pakistan became global rallying cries for greater access to education because of education's potential to help change gender norms. Moreover, these events are transforming into youth movements demanding the realization of their rights.⁶⁹ Specifically, in Pakistan the shooting of Malala Yousafzai by a Taliban assassin for attending school has become a symbol of the importance of educating a girl.⁷⁰ Not only has Malala become a heroine for other Pakistani girls, she has become a champion for education everywhere, with efforts sparked by her bravery leading to calls for "Malala's law", to ensure funding for girls' education in Pakistan.⁷¹ Events in India, where a 23-year old university student was brutally raped and left to die, have also sparked discussion on the importance of education.⁷² As in Malala's case, experts see the root cause of the violence in repressive and regressive gender norms that dehumanize women, as well as inequality that stems from the unequal attendance of girls at school.⁷³ In both these cases, not only is women's education seen as important to decrease the attendance gap, and therefore inequality, as well as challenge gender norms, but there is evidence from areas such as Uttar Pradesh that education can help teach gender empowerment.⁷⁴

Recent UN, Governmental, and Civil Society Developments

Though these events are incredibly tragic, their ability to transcend local news to become global events combined with recent UN, governmental, and nonprofit initiatives means there is hope for 2013 to feature unprecedented efforts towards education reform and coordination, helping achieve Millennium Development Goal 2 (MDG 2) by 2015. The UN has reaffirmed the importance of this goal, as well as new specific goals, in many recent reports and resolutions such as report *A/67/257* of August 2012, which stresses that gender equality in secondary education must be addressed; resolution *A/Res/67/1* of December 2012, which uniquely looks at the relationship between sports, health, and education to the attainment of MDG 2; and draft resolution *A/67/L.25* of November 2012, which crucially reiterates how education is key to democratic institutions.⁷⁵ More broadly, the newly-introduced Global Education Initiative, Education First, by the UN Secretary-General has begun to direct and focus global education initiatives.⁷⁶ The UN efforts related to this specifically include the launch of the Post-2015 Global Consultation on Education process by the United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).⁷⁷ Citizens of all countries can become involved in this discussion, which is hosted on the "The World We Want" Web site.⁷⁸ Upon its conclusion, a final summary will be presented to provide input for the upcoming April summit on global education initiatives to be led by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim.⁷⁹ Additionally, in support of Education First, the Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group convened for the first time in December 2012.⁸⁰ The group and its action plan have already been highly influential in leveraging the youth voice and social media to raise the issue of education.⁸¹

Additional accomplishments by state governments and nonprofits parallel these recent UN resolutions and reports and show a renewed focus on child wellbeing and welfare; these actions have specifically reaffirmed gender

⁶⁹ Brown, *Youth in Revolt*, 2013.

⁷⁰ UN Education First, Join the campaign to save Malala and girls' education, 2013.

⁷¹ UN Education First, Join the campaign to save Malala and girls' education, 2013.

⁷² Winthrop, *Promoting Gender Equality through Education in India*, 2013.

⁷³ Winthrop, *Promoting Gender Equality through Education in India*, 2013.

⁷⁴ Winthrop, *Promoting Gender Equality through Education in India*, 2013.

⁷⁵ United Nations General Assembly, *Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012; United Nations General Assembly, *Education for democracy*, 2012; United Nations General Assembly, *Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace*, 2012.

⁷⁶ Winthrop, *A Game-Changer for Global Education*, 2013.

⁷⁷ UN Education First, Post 2015 Global Consultation on Education, 2013.

⁷⁸ The World We Want.

⁷⁹ UN Education First, Post 2015 Global Consultation on Education, 2013; Brown, *Without frontiers, young people mobilize for change*, 2013.

⁸⁰ Greubel & Robinson, *Youth Are Central to Shaping Global Education Policy*, 2013.

⁸¹ Greubel & Robinson, *Youth Are Central to Shaping Global Education Policy*, 2013.

inequality in education and the powerful potential of technology. For example, the UN heralded, and moved to support a declaration by Yemen of its recent commitment to ending the recruitment of children in the country's armed forces.⁸² The Republic of Korea's first female President has also already pledged that her education ministry will "aim to make high school education free for everyone by 2017."⁸³ Thailand is also beginning 2013 with a newly implemented One Tablet Per Child Policy (OTPC) that was completed in November 2012 with the distribution of 868,886 of an ordered 900,000 tablets to first grade students nationwide.⁸⁴ For the country, 2013 will focus on expanding internet access and improving online learning communities and resources for the OTPC.⁸⁵ While programs such as these might seem cost prohibitive or simply a poor use of resources, as opposed to investing in teachers, other programs such as those in Kenya and other African countries are demonstrating at the start of 2013 the potential to lessen the burden on teachers and help students teach themselves in the absence of formal or strong educational systems.⁸⁶ Finally, two new initiatives are also noteworthy from nonprofit organizations. First, Sheikha Moza bint Nasser of Qatar, UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, launched "Educate a Child", a new global initiative to support the first pillar of Education First and provide "primary education to millions of children across the world."⁸⁷ Also, Save the Children, an internationally-recognized nonprofit dedicated to children's welfare, announced in January 2013 their new framework "Ending Poverty in Our Generation" which sets out not only a bold new global education goal for 2030, but a clear strategy to achieve it.⁸⁸

Outlook and Challenges

Despite the above reasons for optimism for achieving MDG 2, other challenges to the general welfare of children in 2013 must moderate this hope. In particular, many conflicts have continued and escalated, threatening not just social stability that allows children to go to school, but children and adult lives. For example, in Syria, not only have schools been closed due to looting, vandalism, and fire, but students and teachers have been killed in school mortar bombings.⁸⁹ Children are also increasingly recruited as child soldiers in the conflict in northern Mali.⁹⁰ These crises call on the international community to consider not just how to increase education, but also how to provide for children's safety and ensure that neither social development nor peace and security concerns overshadow and detract from the fact that increasing education and improving peace and security are inextricably linked. This is a daunting task, but as Gordon Brown, UN Special Envoy for Global Education has pointed out, youth in 2013 already seem to be acting out for causes that fight for their own rights, centered on an understanding of the importance of education and a belief in its potential to exponentially solve social, development, and economic problems.⁹¹ Therefore, perhaps a recognition that "education is the one real driver of equality of opportunity" may help youth in developed and developing countries connect and collaborate to improve education outcomes and futures for all.⁹²

⁸² Education First, During UN envoy's visit, Yemeni authorities commit to stop recruiting child soldiers, 2012.

⁸³ Yonhap News Agency, Education ministry aims to make high school education free by 2017, 2013.

⁸⁴ Kunakornpaiboonsiri, One Tablet Per Child Policy: Stepping Up Education Reform, 2013.

⁸⁵ Kunakornpaiboonsiri, One Tablet Per Child Policy: Stepping Up Education Reform, 2013.

⁸⁶ The Economist, Digital Education in Kenya: Tablet teachers, 2012.

⁸⁷ UN Education First, Qatar's Sheikha Moza launches global push to deliver quality schooling for world's hard-to-reach children, 2012.

⁸⁸ Humme, *End Poverty & Educate All Children: Save the Children Proposes Bold New Strategy*, 2013.

⁸⁹ UN Education First, *UNICEF condemns mortar attack on Syrian school*, 2012.

⁹⁰ Human Rights Watch, *Mali: Islamists Should Free Child Soldiers*, 2013.

⁹¹ Brown, *Youth in Revolt*, 2013.

⁹² Brown, *Youth in Revolt*, 2013.

Annotated Bibliography

Brown, G. (2013, January 15). *Without frontiers, young people mobilize for change*. CNN.com. Retrieved January 15, 2013, from <http://www.cnn.com/2013/01/15/opinion/gordon-brown-youth-activism/index.html>

This article by Gordon Brown, UN Special Envoy for Global Education, focuses broadly on the mobilization of young people for social changes brought about by the shooting of Malala Yousafzai and the rape of a 23 year-old Indian student. While focusing on many causes for global poverty and inequality as well as causes of poor child welfare, such as child labor and trafficking, Brown focuses on the role education, or lack of education currently plays in expanding inequality and the potential for education to be the "counterweight" to create economic opportunity. While Brown specifically seems to call for greater funding for education, he also outlines his general goals for the year as well in his official role.

Brown, G. (January 14, 2013). *Youth in Revolt*. *The Daily Beast*. Retrieved January 14, 2013, from <http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2013/01/13/youth-in-revolt.html>

In greater detail than the above article, in this piece UN Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown explores the movement in 2013 that sees youth against laws and practices that harm and disenfranchise themselves. Brown focuses specifically on how many of these efforts are encouragingly grassroots-led and driven by younger generations who are more likely to hold different values and views than their parents. Moreover, Brown also calls attention to the fact that these movements are not just contained to India, calling attention to protests against rape and child marriage in Africa that are also connected to movements in the West and driven by a process of globalization. However, he also calls on those in the developed world to evaluate their policies and to try to better understand this role to justify or rectify unequal spending on, and opportunities for education. Ultimately, for youth, this is a very important piece to read to understand social change and how it is linked to education.

Greubel, L. & J.P. Robinson. (2013, January 7). *Youth Are Central to Shaping Global Education Policy*. Retrieved January 7, 2013, from http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2013/01/07-youth-education-robinson?cid=em_alerttr011013

This blog post by experts at the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution outlines new developments related to youth involvement in shaping the global education agenda and, in particular, the UN Secretary-General's Education First initiative. Specifically, the blog post focuses on the recent formation and efforts of the Youth Advocacy Group (YAG) which is providing support and input not only on the Education First initiative, but is also working to leverage social media, networks, and institutions to raise global awareness about education in general. The group, as explained in the post, has put together its plan to bring out youth voices and has already been effective, for example, helping to gain international support for the I am Malala petition.

Winthrop, R. (2012, December 19). *A Game-Changer for Global Education*. The Brookings Institution. Retrieved January 14, 2013, from <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2012/12/19-education-first-winthrop>

This article provides a solid overview of the Global Education Initiative developed by Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon now that more is known about the direction of the initiative. Specifically, the article provides an overview to the 10 key action items and specific targets within them for the initiative. Additionally, delegates should consult this resource as it builds on a two-day conference held by the Brookings Institution on the future of global education, which is widely referenced conference in global education in terms of helping to convene actors and set goals ahead of 2013.

Winthrop, R. (2013, January 15). *Promoting Gender Equality through Education in India*. Retrieved January 15, 2013, from <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2013/01/15-gender-equality-winthrop>

This article by the Director of the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution reflects on the rape of the 23-year old female Indian student in January or 2013. In the article the author links the treatment of the woman to gender norms and gender inequality and suggests that education can be a powerful way to help improve the plight of women. To prove her point, the author uses examples of schools in India where girls have been taught gender empowerment and

their academic and personal performance has therefore increased, also helping to decrease gender inequality.

Bibliography

- Baker, A. (2012). Runner-Up: Malala Yousafzai, the Fighter. *Time.Com*. <http://poy.time.com/2012/12/19/runner-up-malala-yousafzai-the-fighter/>
- Brown, G. (2013, January 15). *Without frontiers, young people mobilize for change*. CNN.com. Retrieved January 15, 2013, from <http://www.cnn.com/2013/01/15/opinion/gordon-brown-youth-activism/index.html>
- Brown, G. (January 14, 2013). Youth in Revolt. The Daily Beast. Retrieved January 14, 2013, from <http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2013/01/13/youth-in-revolt.html>
- The Economist. (2012, December 8). Digital Education in Kenya: Tablet teachers. *The Economist*. Retrieved January 5, 2013, from <http://www.economist.com/news/business/21567972-schools-africa-are-going-digital-with-encouraging-results-tablet-teachers>
- Greubel, L. & J.P. Robinson. (2013, January 7). *Youth Are Central to Shaping Global Education Policy*. Retrieved January 7, 2013, from http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2013/01/07-youth-education-robinson?cid=em_alerttr011013
- Human Rights Watch. (2013). *Mali: Islamists Should Free Child Soldiers*. Retrieved January 15, 2013, from <http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/01/15/mali-islamists-should-free-child-soldiers>
- Humme, A. (2013, January 9). End Poverty & Educate All Children: Save the Children Proposes Bold New Strategy. *Education for All Blog*. Retrieved January 13, 2013, from <http://www.educationforallblog.org/issues/millennium-development-goals/end-poverty-educate-all-children-save-the-children-proposes-bold-new-strategy>
- Kunakornpaiboonsiri, T. (2013, January 15). One Tablet Per Child Policy: Stepping Up Education Reform. *FutureGov*. Retrieved January 15, 2013, from <http://www.futuregov.asia/articles/2013/jan/15/one-tablet-child-policy-stepping-education-reform/>
- Petochi, M. (N.D.) Why childhood education is a long-term investment. *World Economic Forum*. Retrieved January 13, 2012, from <http://www.weforum.org/content/why-childhood-education-long-term-investment>
- Petochi, M. (2012, December 18). Why early childhood education is a good start. *Forum:Blog*. Retrieved January 14, 2013, from <http://forumblog.org/2012/12/why-early-childhood-education-is-a-good-start/>
- UN Education First. (N.D.). *Join the campaign to save Malala and girls' education*. Retrieved January 13, 2013, from <http://www.globaleducationfirst.org/729.htm>
- UN Education First. (N.D.). *Post2015 Global Consultation on Education*. Retrieved January 13, 2013, from <http://www.globaleducationfirst.org/802.htm>
- UN Education First. (2012, November 4). *Qatar's Sheikha Moza launches global push to deliver quality schooling for world's hard-to-reach children*. Retrieved January 13, 2013, from <http://www.globaleducationfirst.org/766.htm>
- UN Education First. (2012, November 28). *During UN envoy's visit, Yemeni authorities commit to stop recruiting child soldiers*. Retrieved January 14, 2013, from <http://www.globaleducationfirst.org/782.htm>
- UN Education First. (2012, December 5). *UNICEF condemns mortar attack on Syrian school*. Retrieved January 13, 2013, from <http://www.globaleducationfirst.org/797.htm>

United Nations General Assembly. (2012). *Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (A/67/257)*. Retrieved February 4, 2013, from <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/67/257>

United Nations General Assembly. (2012). *Education for democracy (A/67/L.25)*. Retrieved February 4, 2013, from <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/67/L.25>

United Nations General Assembly. (2012). *Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace (A/Res/67/17)*. Retrieved February 4, 2013, from http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/17

Winthrop, R. (2012, December 19). A Game-Changer for Global Education. The Brookings Institution. Retrieved January 14, 2013, from <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2012/12/19-education-first-winthrop>

Winthrop, R. (2013, January 15). *Promoting Gender Equality through Education in India*. Retrieved January 15, 2013, from <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2013/01/15-gender-equality-winthrop>

The World We Want. (N.D.) The World We Want. Retrieved January 14, 2013, from <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/post2015-about>

Yonhap News Agency. (2013, January 15). *Education ministry aims to make high school education free by 2017*. Yonhap News Agency. Retrieved January 15, 2013, from <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2013/01/15/67/0301000000AEN20130115005951315F.HTML>