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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL PLENARY BACKGROUND GUIDE 2014

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



Table of Contents

Welcome Letter	2
NMUN•NY Position Papers Guidelines	3
Abbreviations	4
Committee History	5
Introduction	5
Mandate	5
Governance, Structure and Membership	5
Functions and Powers	6
Recent Sessions	7
Conclusion	7
Annotated Bibliography	8
Bibliography	9
I. Promoting the Rule of Law to Facilitate Economic and Social Development	11
Introduction	11
International Framework	11
Role of the United Nations System	12
Linkages to Economic Development	15
Linkages to Social Development	16
Conclusion	17
Annotated Bibliography	18
Bibliography	20
II. Strengthening Global Progress Toward Sustainable Development Through Innovation in Science and Technology	24
Introduction	24
International Framework	24
Role of the United Nations System	25
Science, Technology and Innovation for Social Development	26
Science, Technology and Innovation for Economic Development	27
Science, Technology and Innovation for Environmental Protection and Preservation	28
Conclusion	29
Annotated Bibliography	31
Bibliography	32
III. Assessing the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Addressing the Challenges in Monitoring and Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	37
Introduction	37
International Framework	38
Role of the United Nations System	39
Discussion on Monitoring and Implementation Strategies for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	40
Conclusion	43
Annotated Bibliography	44
Bibliography	46
Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council Plenary	49



THE 2014 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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Dear Delegates,

We are pleased to welcome you to the 2014 National Model United Nations in New York (NMUN•NY) Conference! This year's Economic and Social Council Plenary staff is: Directors Monika Milinauskyte (Conference A) and Allison Chandler (Conference B), and Assistant Directors Anne Bergren (Conference A) and Pauline Marcou (Conference B). Monika recently completed her MSc in international development and humanitarian emergencies from the London School of Economics and currently works as a research ethics consultant at the social enterprise, Marie Stopes International, in London. She is excited to return for her fourth year on staff at NMUN•NY. Allison received her JD from Fordham University School of Law and works as a human rights researcher. This is her fourth year on staff at NMUN•NY. Anne is earning her MA in International Affairs at the Elliott School of International Affairs of George Washington University. She participated in the NMUN Conference twice as a delegate and looks forward to her third year on staff. Pauline is a Master's candidate at the Yale Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, working on environment and climate change. This is her second year on staff at NMUN•NY.

The topics under discussion for ECOSOC are:

- I. Promoting Rule of Law to Facilitate Economic and Social Development
- II. Strengthening Global Progress Toward Sustainable Development Through Innovation in Science and Technology
- III. Assessing the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Addressing the Challenges in Monitoring and Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Economic and Social Council Plenary plays a unique role within the United Nations, as a primary organ tasked with discussing crosscutting issues related to development, cooperation, and international standard setting. In addressing these issues, ECOSOC may initiate studies, call international conferences, submit draft conventions to the General Assembly, and make recommendations. Overseeing specialized agencies, functional commissions, and regional commissions, ECOSOC's mandate allows it the responsibility to address problems in a way that other bodies cannot.

We hope you will find this Background Guide useful as it serves to introduce you to the topics for this committee. It is not meant to replace further research and we highly encourage you explore in-depth your countries' policies as well as use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation of the conference, each delegation will be submitting a [position paper](#). Please refer to the following pages for details regarding the position paper submission process. Please take note of the [NMUN policies](#) on the website and in the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#) regarding plagiarism, codes of conduct/dress code/sexual harassment, awards philosophy/evaluation method, etc. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the Committee or the Conference itself, feel free to contact the substantive staff listed below or the Under-Secretaries-General for the ECOSOC, Sasha Sleiman (Conference A) and Yvonne Jeffery (Conference B). You can reach either USG by contacting them at: usg.ecosoc@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best for your preparation for the Conference and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,

Conference A

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NMUN•NY Position Papers Guidelines

Due 1 March 2014

Each committee topic should be addressed in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned country, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), or expert role. You should identify and address international and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action that are relevant to the policy of your country or NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. A delegate's role as a Member State, Observer State, or NGO should affect the way a position paper is written. To understand these differences, please refer to the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#). It may also be helpful to view a [Sample Position Paper](#).

A position paper should be submitted for each assigned committee.

- The two page position paper should cover all the topics in the background guide, not a separate paper for each topic.
- Do not submit papers for committees not assigned to your country/NGO (see matrix for [Conf. A](#) or [Conf. B](#)).
- No more than two delegates can represent a single country/NGO in a committee. If you assign two delegates to represent a country/NGO on a committee, they submit one position paper jointly, not separate position papers from each individual.

Please pay careful attention to the following guidelines when drafting and submitting your position papers. Only those delegations that follow the guidelines and meet the submission deadline will be eligible for [position paper awards](#).

All papers must be typed and formatted according to the standards below:

- Length must not exceed two pages
- Margins must be set at 1 inch or 2.54 cm. for the whole paper
- Font must be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Country/NGO name, school name, and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page
- Agenda topics must be clearly labeled in separate sections
- National symbols (headers, flags, etc.) are deemed inappropriate for NMUN position papers

Please note that position papers must be comprised of entirely original writing. **The NMUN Conference will not tolerate plagiarism**, including copying from Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy may result in dismissal from the conference. Although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents.

How to Submit Your Position Papers

Position papers need to be submitted by email in .pdf or .doc formats. As proof of submission, include yourself as an email recipient. Please use the committee name, your assignment, Conference A or B, and delegation/school name in both the email subject line and in the filename (example: GA1_Cuba_Conf A_State College).

1. Send one complete set of all position papers for each of your country/NGO assignments to the Deputy Secretary-General for the conference you are attending:

Conference A: positionpapers.nya@nmun.org

Conference B: positionpapers.nyb@nmun.org

2. Send a copy of your position paper for each assigned committee to the corresponding committee email address listed on the [Committee Background Guides page](#).

Your delegation may wish to submit a copy of their position papers to the permanent mission of the country/NGO headquarters along with an explanation of the conference. This is encouraged if requesting a [briefing](#).

Many, many papers will be read by the Secretariat. Your patience and cooperation in adhering to the above guidelines is greatly appreciated.

Abbreviations

AMR	Annual Ministerial Review
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Center for Transfer of Technology
BIC	Based Industries Consortium
CSO	Civil society organization
CSTD	Commission on Science and Technology for Development
DCF	Development Cooperation Forum
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DPA	Department of Political Affairs
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DSD	Division for Sustainable Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GA	General Assembly
IAASTD	International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development
ICT	Information and communication technology
IDLO	International Development Law Organization
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
ISTIC	International Center for South-South cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JPOI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	Non-governmental organizations
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OER	Open Educational Resources
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OLA	Office of Legal Affairs
OWG	Open Working Group
PPP	Public-private partnership
R&D	Research and development
RECAP	Renewable Energy Cooperation-Network for the Asia-Pacific
SC	Security Council
SDG	Sustainable development goal
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
STAMP	Sustainability Assessment and Measurement Principles
STI	Science, technology and innovation
TIR	Technology and Innovation Report
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio)
UNCSD	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission)
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society

Committee History

Introduction

The *Charter of the United Nations* was signed by 51 founding Member States on 26 June 1946 and officially entered into force on 24 October 1946.¹ Chapter X of the Charter established the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a founding body and a Principal Organ alongside the General Assembly (GA), the Security Council (SC), the International Court of Justice, the Secretariat, and the Trusteeship Council.² As membership in the UN multiplied throughout the 1960s and 70s, so did the membership of ECOSOC.³ To reflect these changes, Article 61 of the Charter was amended twice, in 1965 and 1973, increasing membership from 18 to 27, and then 27 to 54 respectively.⁴

Due to ECOSOC's overarching mandate, its functions are not as widely known to the public as that of the General Assembly or the Security Council; however, ECOSOC indirectly has purview over around 70% of UN resources through its oversight of fourteen specialized agencies and thirteen functional and regional commissions.⁵ For these reasons, ECOSOC Plenary's membership is highly sought after giving its central coordinating work of dozens of entities within the UN system.⁶

The following sections of the ECOSOC Committee History will explain ECOSOC's mandate and power structure, discuss its responsibilities and interactions with other entities, take an in-depth look at the New Functions of the Council, and conclude with questions to guide further research into this foundational UN body.

Mandate

The mandate of the Council is broad and encompasses many of the UN system's key priorities. Article 62 of the Charter states that ECOSOC "may make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters and may make recommendations with respect to any such matters to the General Assembly to the Members of the United Nations, and to the specialized agencies concerned."⁷

The Council's purpose within the UN, as laid out in Chapter X of the Charter, Articles 62-66, is to act as a mediator between UN entities and as a forum for deliberations concerning the improvement of these entities' operations.⁸ ECOSOC further calls attention to pressing issues relating to economic and social development, health, education, and culture by making policy recommendations to other UN bodies, like the General Assembly, by initiating and conducting studies and by calling for international conferences.⁹

In an effort to refocus the Council and make it more responsive and action-oriented, the outcome of the 2005 World Summit established two additional mechanisms, the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and the Development Cooperation Forum, with the goal of enhancing the coherence and effectiveness of the way in which the United Nations reviews and advances development-focused policies.¹⁰

Governance, Structure and Membership

As a medium-sized body, ECOSOC Plenary is composed of 54 members, each elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms with the chance of immediate reelection.¹¹ Membership is divided regionally with fourteen positions for African states, eleven for Asian states, six for Eastern European states, ten for Latin American

¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

² United Nations, *About ECOSOC* [Website], 2013; United Nations, *Main Bodies* [Website], 2013.

³ United Nations, *Main Bodies* [Website], 2013.

⁴ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Ch. X.

⁵ Public Broadcasting System, *Economic & Social Council*. [Website], 2002.

⁶ United Nations, *About ECOSOC* [Website]; Fasulo, *An Insider's Guide to the United Nations*, 2009, p. 76.

⁷ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Ch. X.

⁸ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Ch. X; Fasulo, *An Insider's Guide to the United Nations*, 2009, p. 75.

⁹ Fasulo, *An Insider's Guide to the United Nations*, 2009, p. 76.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Ch. X.

and Caribbean states and thirteen to European and other states.¹² Each member has one representative and one vote in the Council.¹³ All decisions are made by a simple majority of those members present and voting.¹⁴

The Council typically holds two annual sessions, consisting of an organizational session when elections to the Bureau take place, and a substantive session.¹⁵ The Bureau provides a leadership role within ECOSOC. It consists of five representatives, the President and four Vice-Presidents, who are elected to one-year terms at the outset of each annual session by the entire fifty-four member Council.¹⁶ The Bureau assumes responsibility for setting the Council's agenda, devising an action plan, and collaborating with the Secretariat on administrative duties.¹⁷ Bureau membership rotates equally among regional blocs.¹⁸ The current President of ECOSOC Plenary is Mr. Néstor Osorio, who became the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations in November 2010; he became President of ECOSOC Plenary on 28 January 2013.¹⁹

Functions and Powers

ECOSOC is mandated to serve as a forum for discussion on economic, social, cultural, educational, and health related topics while also assisting other UN entities in shaping their programs in these areas.²⁰ While the Security Council and General Assembly address topics within their mandates by drafting and passing resolutions, ECOSOC provides the vital framework for discussion of social, economic and humanitarian issues as well as “commissions studies, writes reports, and makes policy recommendations to the General Assembly and other parts of the UN.”²¹ Articles 62-66 of the Charter call for ECOSOC Plenary to coordinate the activities of specialized agencies, the General Assembly and UN Member States by requesting reports or making recommendations on how these bodies can better achieve ECOSOC's mandate.²² In turn, these bodies along with the Security Council, may request that ECOSOC carries out functions on their behalf.²³ ECOSOC was the first body within the UN system that gave voice to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) by allowing them to participate in deliberations through consultative status.²⁴ After an NGO is granted consultative status by the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs, its representatives may attend UN summits and preparatory meetings.²⁵ Today, 3,400 NGOs hold consultative status with the Council.²⁶

At the 2005 World Summit, Heads of State sought to make ECOSOC more effective by adopting resolution 60/1 which assigned the Council two new functions: the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and the biennial Development Cooperation Forum (DCF).²⁷ The purpose of the DCF is to facilitate consultation processes among development actors by providing policy reviews and recommendations.²⁸ These recommendations are aimed at strengthening the relationships between various partners to increase cooperation in international development efforts.²⁹ The AMR is composed of a thematic review and voluntary Member States presentations that assess UN progress towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).³⁰ Each year, the AMR focuses on one part of the United Nations “development agenda” such as poverty eradication, for example, all of which fall

¹² United Nations, *ECOSOC Members* [Website].

¹³ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Ch. X.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ United Nations, *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council*, 1992, p. 8.

¹⁶ United Nations, *ECOSOC Bureau* [Website], 2013.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ United Nations, *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council*, 1992, p. 9.

¹⁹ United Nations, *President* [Website].

²⁰ Fasulo, *An Insider's Guide to the United Nations*, 2009, p. 75.

²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 76.

²² *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Ch. X.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ United Nations, *NGO Branch Department of Economic and Social Affairs* [Website].

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ UN General Assembly, *2005 World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1)*, 2005.

²⁸ United Nations, *Key Functions of ECOSOC* [Website].

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ *Ibid.*

within the ECOSOC mandate.³¹ The AMR speeds up progress on these agenda items by bringing together leading experts and policy makers to discuss and make progress on policy implementation.³²

Recent Sessions

The Council's mandate stretches across the sectors of health, education, culture and development, making it especially important for the body to narrow its focus each year by converging on sub-topics or themes taken from the MDGs.³³ Looking at the High-level Segment Programme for the Annual ECOSOC Substantive Session gives a clear picture of ECOSOC's current agenda. The Council devotes much of the year to preparing for the AMR and thematic discussion, both prominent agenda items in the High-Level segment.³⁴ The title of the 2013 AMR was "Science, technology and innovation (STI), and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs."³⁵ By focusing on STI, ECOSOC seeks to achieve global sustainable development and the implementation of MDGs, and to encourage national and international actors to infuse their resources into the expansion of STI.³⁶

While the MDGs have guided the work of the Council and other UN bodies since their inception at the Millennium Summit in 2000, the 2015 deadline approaches and a new framework is needed to continue combating poverty, strengthening education, ensuring gender equality, promoting health, environmental sustainability and fostering a global partnership for development.³⁷ In anticipation, ECOSOC has committed to taking a leading role in the evolution and execution of the post-2015 development agenda. In fact, it was the thematic discussion topic at the ECOSOC's Substantive Session, held in July 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland.³⁸ ECOSOC attempts to extend the agenda beyond the MDGs to sustainable development in its fourth biannual DCF (July 2014).³⁹ Through DCF, international representatives from government, academia and civil society are currently collaborating to define a new global development partnership and a system for overseeing it in the post-MDG world.⁴⁰

Conclusion

The Economic and Social Council plays a key role in coordinating the expansive UN system. Although the work of the Council is not widely known on the world stage, due to its broad mandate and deliberative nature, membership is highly sought after as it is the UN's premier platform on economic and social issues.⁴¹ At the 2013 Substantive Session, which took place July 1-26 in Geneva, Switzerland, ECOSOC members along with premier experts and policy makers from civil society discussed the role of science, technology, innovation, and culture in reaching the MDGs by 2015. They also projected how these fields could be applied to the post-2015 development agenda. While researching ECOSOC, it is important to become familiar with the Council's mandate and to take advantage of its breadth when formulating resolutions. ECOSOC members have the unique opportunity to work with dozens of agencies, commissions, and civil society actors, tackling an almost endless variety of the world's most pressing problems.

³¹ United Nations, *AMR FAQs* [Website].

³² Ibid.

³³ United Nations, *About ECOSOC* [Website].

³⁴ United Nations, *High-Level Segment* [Website].

³⁵ United Nations, *2013 Annual Ministerial Review* [Website].

³⁶ United Nations, *Science, technology and innovation* [Website].

³⁷ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals: Background* [Website].

³⁸ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 Development Agenda* [Website].

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ United Nations, *Economic and Social Council* [Website].

Annotated Bibliography

Fasulo, L. (2009). *An Insider's Guide to the UN*. New Haven, Connecticut; London, England: Yale University Press.

This book is an excellent introduction to the United Nations system as a whole, covering everything from the way in which the UN was established, its founding documents and principle organs then continues on to peacekeeping and how the organization addresses international security, climate change and human rights. The section Fasulo dedicates to ECOSOC is small but includes a truly "insider" opinion of the Council. The author of the book is American and regularly highlights the role of the United States and the position of the United States in relation to the information she is providing. While this does not discredit the book, the reader should keep in mind the limitations that this entails.

Charter of the United Nations. (1945, 26 June). Retrieved 28 June 2013 from:

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/intro.shtml>

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

United Nations, General Assembly. (2005, September 16). *2005 World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1)*. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/1

The 2005 World Summit meeting was held as a follow-up to the 2000 Millennium Summit which produced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The purpose of the 2005 summit was to assess global progress on the MDGs and to tackle reform of the UN. Arguably, the most enduring results of the summit were the establishment of a new Human Rights Council, a Peacebuilding Commission and the adoption of the "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P). The outcome also assigned New Functions to ECOSOC, including the Annual Ministerial Review and the DCF. Critics of the resolution highlight the document's diluted language and its inability to produce tangible progress towards the realization of the MDGs and UN reform. Nevertheless, the resolution is significant and changed the operations of many UN bodies.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2013). *Report of the Secretary-General on "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals" for the 2013 Annual Ministerial Review*. Retrieved 28 June 2013 from:

http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/adv2013/13_amr_sg_report.pdf

In 2013, the ECOSOC chose to focus its AMR on how science, technology and innovation and culture can be used to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and sustainable development. This advanced report by the Secretary-General provides readers with an in-depth look into ECOSOC's current work. It also offers myriad policy ideas for delegates to reference as they address Topic I in the ECOSOC Plenary.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council (1992). *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council*. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/pdf/rules.pdf>

Delegates may be familiar with rules of procedure as they apply to the General Assembly but few know that ECOSOC follows a unique set of its own rules. This document lays out a detailed explanation of ECOSOC sessions, its programme of work, agenda setting, voting procedures, the structure of the Bureau and member representation as well as ECOSOC's relationships with other organs and bodies. Familiarity with these concepts will guide delegates' actions in committee and give them a solid foundation on the workings of the Council. It is important to note that these rules of procedure differ slightly from the rules of procedure that will be used in NMUN-NY.

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I. Promoting the Rule of Law to Facilitate Economic and Social Development

Introduction

Promoting the rule of law is at the heart of the United Nations' (UN) mandate to support international peace and security, promote economic and social development, and protect human rights. Over time, the emphasis on the rule of law has shifted from a focus on international peace and security and protection of human rights to the concept that an effective legal framework can support economic and social development, poverty eradication, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.⁴² Effective promotion of the rule of law may provide the necessary environment to support business and entrepreneurship, encourage financial investments, and allow for equitable and sustainable growth.⁴³ At the same time, these activities support the achievement of social development objectives such as improving access to justice, eliminating gender inequalities, and addressing the needs of marginalized populations.⁴⁴ This topic will address the role of the United Nations in promoting the rule of law and how these programs can support the broader development agenda and goals of economic and social development.

International Framework

The rule of law encompasses a range of issues, involving both international commitments and standards, and domestic institutions regarding government accountability and judicial processes.⁴⁵ At the national level, the concept of the rule of law is, therefore, not a precise form of government, but rather a system which incorporates four main principles: government accountability; clear and publicized laws that are equally applied; fair and accessible processes for enacting and enforcing laws; and a neutral, independent justice system.⁴⁶ At the international level, the rule of law emphasizes recognition of and adherence to international law, respect for sovereign equality, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and resolution of disputes by peaceful means.⁴⁷

The UN first established a system-wide definition for the rule of law in the report of the Secretary-General on *Transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies* (S/2004/616) which defines the rule of law as “a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards.”⁴⁸ The Secretary-General's report also defines the concept of justice as “an ideal of accountability and fairness in the protection and vindication of rights and the prevention of punishment of wrongs,” which can incorporate both formal judicial mechanisms and traditional dispute resolution mechanisms.⁴⁹ Rule of law promotion is, therefore, founded on the framework of the international legal system, including human rights law, humanitarian law, criminal law, and refugee law, as well as the human rights and criminal justice standards articulated by the United Nations.⁵⁰ However, while this provides a broad framework of rule of law and good governance concepts, any national system must take into account the legitimacy of the domestic legal system, address local political contexts, and accommodate traditional legal traditions.⁵¹

The development agenda has further highlighted the importance of the rule of law and good governance reforms towards achieving economic and social development goals. In the *Millennium Declaration* (A/RES/55/2), which forms the basis of the development agenda through 2015, Member States committed to “strengthen respect for the rule of law in international as in national affairs.”⁵² The *Millennium Declaration* (A/RES/55/2) further recognizes that not only is the rule of law an important objective in its own right, but will also create an environment more

⁴² UN General Assembly, *In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all: Report of the Secretary-General* (A/59/2005), 2005.

⁴³ UN Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, *Making the Law Work for Everyone*, 2008.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ UN Security Council, *The rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies: Report of the Secretary-General* (S/2004/616), 2004.

⁴⁶ World Justice Project, *Rule of Law Index Report: 2012-2013*, 2012.

⁴⁷ UN Rule of Law Unit, *What is the rule of law?* [Website].

⁴⁸ UN Security Council, *The rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies: Report of the Secretary-General* (S/2004/616), 2004, para. 6.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 7.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 9.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, para 10.

⁵² UN General Assembly, *UN Millennium Declaration* (A/RES/55/2), 2000, para. 9.

conducive to development, and will be essential to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).⁵³ Good governance and rule of law reforms are specifically recognized in Millennium Development Goal 8, “Develop a Global Partnership for Development,” with Member States committing in Target 12 to “develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system (includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction, both nationally and internationally).”⁵⁴ The importance of rule of law was reemphasized in the Secretary-General’s report, *In Larger Freedom (A/59/2005)*, which specifically recognized the need to coordinate development aid with national governance reform:

“However well-crafted on paper, investment strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals will not work in practice unless supported by States with transparent, accountable systems of governance, grounded in the rule of law, encompassing civil and political as well as economic and social rights, and underpinned by accountable and efficient public administration. [...] [W]ithout good governance, strong institutions and a clear commitment to rooting out corruption and mismanagement wherever it is found, broader progress will prove elusive.”⁵⁵

This approach has been similarly incorporated into the World Summits in 2005 and 2010, assessing progress on the MDGs. In the *2005 World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1)*, Member States reaffirmed a commitment to good governance and the rule of law, both as a goal and as a means to achieve the development agenda.⁵⁶ In particular, this included a common commitment to fight corruption at all levels and to “create a domestic environment conducive to attracting investments through, inter alia, achieving a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate with proper contract enforcement and respect for property rights and the rule of law, and pursuing regulatory frameworks that encourage business formation.”⁵⁷ The 2010 World Summit outcome document similarly focused on the importance of good governance and the rule of law, and incorporated these goals into the action plan for achieving the MDGs.⁵⁸ As the international community looks towards the post-2015 development agenda, it will be critical to incorporate considerations about the rule of law into the framework and plan of action.

Role of the United Nations System

Since 2007, the UN has coordinated all rule of law activities through the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, which is supported by the Rule of Law Unit.⁵⁹ The Coordination and Resource Group brings together the principal UN agencies and departments involved in rule of law activities, including the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).⁶⁰ Rather than direct implementation of rule of law activities, the Group works together to support all UN entities in operationalizing rule of law activities through coordination, eliminating fragmentation and duplication, and providing policy direction across the main thematic areas, such as justice, security, prison and penal reform, legal reform, constitution-making, and transitional justice.⁶¹ To date, the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group has developed six guidance notes for the Secretary-General to streamline the United Nations’ approaches to rule of law assistance, justice for children, constitution-making processes, transitional justice, statelessness, and strengthening the rule of law at the international level.⁶² Through these agencies, the UN is providing rule of law assistance in nearly 150 Member

⁵³ UN General Assembly, *UN Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000, paras. 11-12.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ UN General Assembly, *In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all: Report of the Secretary-General (A/59/2005)*, 2005, para. 36.

⁵⁶ UN General Assembly, *2005 World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1)*, 2005, para. 21.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 25(a)

⁵⁸ UN General Assembly, *Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (A/65/L.1)*, 2010, para. 52.

⁵⁹ UN General Assembly, *In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all: Report of the Secretary-General (A/59/2005)*, 2005, para. 137.

⁶⁰ UN Rule of Law Unit, *What is the rule of law?* [Website].

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

⁶² United Nations, *Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: UN Approach to Justice for Children*, 2008; United Nations, *Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: UN Approach to Rule of Law Assistance*, 2008; United Nations, *Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: UN Assistance to Constitution-making Processes*, 2009; United Nations, *Guidance Note*

States, focusing on a broad range of issues, including development, peacebuilding, conflict, and security.⁶³ While some of these initiatives highlight the international rule of law, increasingly these activities highlight the development of a strong national framework for the rule of law by supporting constitution-making, electoral support, national legal framework, building institutions of justice, governance, security, and human rights, transitional justice, and empowering individuals and civil society to promote accountability.⁶⁴

Traditionally, discussions of the rule of law have focused within public international law, human rights, criminal law, and transitional justice.⁶⁵ In the context of international peace and security, the Security Council has held a number of debates on justice and the rule of law, post-conflict national reconciliation, maintenance of international peace and security, and strengthening international law.⁶⁶ Through these debates and thematic resolutions, the Security Council has recognized the importance of strengthening the international legal framework and institutions to support the rule of law to contribute to international peace and security.⁶⁷ Since 2006, the Secretary-General has presented an annual report to the General Assembly (GA) on the rule of law at the national and international levels, forming the basis for its annual agenda item.⁶⁸ These reports have sought to provide an inventory of United Nations support for the rule of law, highlight the cross-cutting relevance of rule of law to all UN activities, and address ways to strengthen support to Member States.⁶⁹ In its annual resolution on the rule of law, the General Assembly has increasingly recognized the interconnectedness between the rule of law and economic and social development and has called upon the UN and Member States to incorporate the rule of law, justice, and good governance into their activities.⁷⁰

On 24 September 2012, the General Assembly held the first ever “High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels,” bringing together Member States, non-governmental organizations, and civil society.⁷¹ In preparation for the High-level Meeting, the Secretary-General submitted a report on strengthening the rule of law to the General Assembly in March 2012, which called upon Member States to create a program of action for the rule of law, consider a process to develop rule of law goals, and to undertake individual pledges related to the rule of law.⁷² Speaking at the High-level Meeting, a representative of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) identified the linkages between national rule of law and economic development, through enforcement of contract and property rights and the legal security to promote

of the Secretary-General: UN Approach to Transitional Justice, 2010; United Nations, *Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: The UN and Statelessness*, 2011; United Nations, *Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: UN Approach to Assistance for Strengthening the Rule of Law at the International Level*, 2011.

⁶³ UN General Assembly, *Strengthening and coordinating UN rule of law activities: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/290)*, 2012, para. 3.

⁶⁴ UN General Assembly, *Annual report on strengthening and coordinating UN rule of law activities: Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/298)*, 2009, paras. 41-43.

⁶⁵ UN Rule of Law Unit, *What is the rule of law?* [Website].

⁶⁶ UN Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2003/15) [Justice and the Rule of Law: the UN Role]*, 2003; UN Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2004/2) [Post-conflict national reconciliation: role of the UN]*, 2004; UN Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2005/30) [The maintenance of international peace and security: the role of the Security Council in humanitarian crises: challenges, lessons learned and the way ahead]*, 2005; UN Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2006/28) [Strengthening international law: rule of law and maintenance of international peace and security]*, 2006; UN Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2010/11) [The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security]*, 2010.

⁶⁷ UN Rule of Law Unit, *What is the rule of law?* [Website].

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

⁶⁹ UN General Assembly, *Strengthening and coordinating UN rule of law activities: Report of the Secretary-General (A/63/226)*, 2008; UN General Assembly, *Uniting our strengths: Enhancing UN support for the rule of law: Report of the Secretary-General (A/61/636)*, 2006; UN General Assembly, *Annual report on strengthening and coordinating UN rule of law activities: Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/298)*, 2009; UN General Assembly, *Strengthening and coordinating UN rule of law activities: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/290)*, 2012; UN General Assembly, *Delivering justice: programme of action to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels: Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/749)*, 2012.

⁷⁰ UN General Assembly, *The rule of law at the national and international levels (A/RES/61/39)* [Resolution], 2006. See also: *A/RES/62/70, A/RES/63/128, A/RES/64/116, A/RES/65/32.*

⁷¹ UN Rule of Law Unit, *What is the rule of law?* [Website].

⁷² *Ibid.*

entrepreneurship, investment and job creation, calling for local commercial law reform addressing both the laws and local capacity to enforce those laws.⁷³ In the 2012 *Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels*, Member States reaffirmed the importance of a collective response to political, social and economic transformations which is built around the rule of law.⁷⁴ In particular, the Declaration highlights the relationship between rule of law and development, noting that “the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger, and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.”⁷⁵ The Declaration further recognizes “the importance of fair, stable and predictable legal frameworks for generating inclusive, sustainable and equitable development, economic growth and employment, generating investment and entrepreneurship,” as well as key principles of good governance, effective and equitable public services, independent judicial systems, and access to justice.⁷⁶ This Declaration marks a renewed commitment to including rule of law reforms in promoting economic and social development across Member States.

Increasingly, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has incorporated the rule of law into its work, recognizing its role in coordination, policy review, and policy dialogue and guiding the implementation of the development goals.⁷⁷ As the central forum for economic and social issues, ECOSOC has identified annual agenda items that incorporate the rule of law and governance reforms in the context of economic and social development. In recent sessions, ECOSOC has considered rule of law through criminal justice reforms, access to justice and legal aid and guidelines on justice involving children.⁷⁸ In addition, ECOSOC also reviews the work of subsidiary bodies addressing different aspects of rule of law and governance issues, including the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, the Committee for Development Policy, the Commission for Social Development, the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.⁷⁹ In 2012, ECOSOC addressed rule of law in the context of transnational organized crime, encouraged criminal justice reform and rule of law in peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction, and requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical rule of law assistance.⁸⁰ Rule of law promotion was discussed at the 2013 substantive session of ECOSOC in the context of the post-2015 development agenda and achieving sustainable development outcomes, with a particular emphasis on addressing human trafficking, transnational crime, and drug control.⁸¹ The discussion highlighted the role of ECOSOC in policy coordination and supporting subsidiary bodies to build effective institutions and strengthen good governance.⁸²

⁷³ UN Rule of Law Unit, *In Focus Article: Expanding the UN rule of law agenda: rule of law activities that promote economic development*, 2012.

⁷⁴ UN General Assembly, *Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels (A/67/L.1)*, 2012.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 7.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 8.

⁷⁷ UN General Assembly, *In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all (A/59/2005)*, 2005, paras. 171-72.

⁷⁸ UN Economic and Social Council, *Strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, particularly in the areas related to the UN system-wide approach to fighting transnational organized crime and drug trafficking (E/RES/2012/14)* [Resolution], 2012; UN Economic and Social Council, *UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems (E/RES/2012/15)* [Resolution], 2012.

⁷⁹ UN Economic and Social Council, *Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development (E/RES/2012/7)* [Resolution], 2012; UN Economic and Social Council, *Committee of Experts on Public Administration (E/2012/44)* [Report], 2012; UN Economic and Social Council, *Role and work on the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/2012/8)* [Report], 2012; UN Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session (E/RES/2012/32)* [Resolution], 2012.

⁸⁰ UN Economic and Social Council, *Strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, particularly in the areas related to the UN system-wide approach to fighting transnational organized crime and drug trafficking (E/RES/2012/14)* [Resolution], 2012.

⁸¹ UNODC, *UNODC Chief at ECOSOC Panel stresses need to promote rule of law, combat drugs, crime in post-2015 development agenda* [Website].

⁸² *Ibid.*

Linkages to Economic Development

Increasingly, research has demonstrated a strong link between economic development and rule of law, arguing, “the capacity of national institutions to protect property rights, reduce transaction costs, and prevent coercion may be decisive in determining whether economic development takes place.”⁸³ The existence of good governance and strong accountability is also a factor in achieving sustainable, equitable growth as the decision-making incentives “will determine whether the government uses its power to create a framework for productive economic activity or to redistribute wealth to itself or its supporters.”⁸⁴ In addition, corruption threatens to undermine economic growth by “distorting markets, discouraging investment and aid and reducing the productivity of investment.”⁸⁵ Promotion of the rule of law enables a national environment that is conducive to economic growth by enhancing security of people and property, encouraging financial investment and entrepreneurship, limiting corruption, and ensuring that government resources are used productively.⁸⁶

Commercial Law and Enforcement of Property Rights

The General Assembly and UNCITRAL have recognized the importance of commercial law and enforcement of contract and property rights to providing a stable business environment and supporting sustainable economic activity.⁸⁷ In the absence of effective property and contract rights, there is a serious disincentive to investment and business development, as “more complex inter-temporal transactions, including financial ones, require the ability to make and receive promises about future actions.”⁸⁸ UNCITRAL provides technical assistance to assist governments in developing a domestic legislative framework to address commercial needs and implementing commercial law guidelines.⁸⁹ These projects must go beyond merely designing an effective commercial legal framework, but must also incorporate the full range of rule of law concepts, including independent and effective judiciaries, forums for remedies and enforcement, and limits on executive discretion.⁹⁰

Resource Management and Environmental Protection

Paradoxically, many of the most resource-rich countries are among the least developed, due to misuse of public revenues or poor resource management.⁹¹ However, “rule of law can and should serve as a means to reset the balance among economic progress, social fairness and environmental sustainability.”⁹² For example, the Economic Community of West African States produced a directive on the harmonization of guiding principles and policies in the mining sector, which includes standards of environmental integrity and protection of community rights; however, any such program will need to incorporate the broader rule of law framework, including access to information, adequate and accessible legal remedies, and access to justice.⁹³ The mere existence of such laws is not enough to improve environmental protection, but must be supported by government institutions and actors that understand and can enforce those laws.⁹⁴ Working with government officials, civil society representatives, and lawyers in Benin, the Conserve Africa Foundation provided training to build understanding of environmental laws, as well as creating a database of African environmental law experts.⁹⁵ The program has developed the capacity of government officials and civil society to identify and address environmental issues; after the training, nearly 80% of government officials reported that they understood the role of the judiciary in environmental matters and were committed to their role in preventing environmental degradation.⁹⁶

⁸³ World Bank, *Economic Development and the Quality of Legal Institutions* [Website].

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ UNDP, *Corruption and Development: Anti-corruption interventions for poverty reduction, realization of the MDGs and promoting sustainable development* [Report], 2008, p. 24.

⁸⁶ Haggard & Tiede, *The Rule of Law and Economic Growth: Where are We?*, 2011, p. 674.

⁸⁷ UN General Assembly, *Strengthening and coordinating UN rule of law activities: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/290)*, 2012, para. 49.

⁸⁸ Haggard & Tiede, *The Rule of Law and Economic Growth: Where are We?*, 2011, p. 674.

⁸⁹ UNDP, *Corruption and Development: Anti-corruption interventions for poverty reduction, realization of the MDGs and promoting sustainable development* [Report], 2008.

⁹⁰ Haggard & Tiede, *The Rule of Law and Economic Growth: Where are We?*, 2011, p. 674.

⁹¹ UNDP, *Corruption and Development: Anti-corruption interventions for poverty reduction, realization of the MDGs and promoting sustainable development* [Report], 2008, p. 11.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ World Justice Project, *Enhancing Capacity Building for Promoting Environmental Justice*, 2013.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

Linkages to Social Development

Not only is the rule of law crucial to economic growth and development, but also it forms the necessary foundation for the broader concept of human development. As explained in *Making the Law Work for Everyone*, when there is a strong rule of law framework, “it defines and enforces the rights and obligations of all. [...] Thus, the rule of law is not a mere adornment to development; it is a vital source of progress. It creates an environment in which the full spectrum of human creativity can flourish and prosperity can be built.”⁹⁷ This topic may include considerations such as access to justice, gender equality, legal identity and statelessness, employment laws, and housing rights.⁹⁸

Gender Equality

In the absence of an effective legal system, the most vulnerable populations face broad political and institutional discrimination and often lack any forum for legal recourse.⁹⁹ For example, women frequently face challenges in inheriting or owning productive resources, such as land or credit; in the absence of an effective legal framework, they will be unable to access courts or other dispute resolution mechanisms.¹⁰⁰ These challenges have been addressed through programs to domesticate international women’s rights standards, improving access to formal judicial systems and integrating gender equality considerations into customary and informal legal procedures, and undertaking concrete measures at the national level to promote the legal empowerment of women.¹⁰¹ For example, in South Africa and Tanzania, the governments have used recognition of customary laws regarding marriage, property ownership, and inheritance to advance women’s equality; these reforms were balanced with a requirement that the customary laws and proceedings were based on principles of non-discrimination and gender equality.¹⁰² In India, UN-Women has partnered with women’s groups to strengthen and train *Nyama Samitis* (justice committees) and *Nari Adalats* (women’s courts).¹⁰³ The use of informal systems has improved women’s access to justice and addresses the challenges faced in the formal system, such as discrimination and stigma against speaking against violence.¹⁰⁴

Housing Rights and Access to Justice

Many of the same concerns address the large numbers of people living in informal settlements or without reliable enforcement of their housing and property rights. Facing an ongoing threat of forced evictions or land disputes breeds further instability, fuels conflict, and limits economic and social development.¹⁰⁵ Strengthening land governance, including housing rights, property restitution, and processes for mediating land disputes contributes to development, peace and security, and the achievement of global development goals.¹⁰⁶ The United Nations has attempted to address these concerns through rule of law programs, such as establishing commissions for the peaceful resolution of land disputes, developing national level land registry systems, and providing legal aid to assist those dealing with land and property matters.¹⁰⁷

Statelessness and Legal Identity

One of the biggest challenges to legal empowerment of the poor is denial of the fundamental right to legal identity.¹⁰⁸ In order to achieve full recognition before the law, there is a need for adequate legal documentation in the form of birth registration, identity cards, and citizenship certificates.¹⁰⁹ Roughly 40 % of children in developing

⁹⁷ UN Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, *Making the Law Work for Everyone*, 2008, p. 3.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹⁹ UNDP, *Corruption and Development: Anti-corruption interventions for poverty reduction, realization of the MDGs and promoting sustainable development* [Report], 2008, p. 18.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁰¹ UN Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, *Making the Law Work for Everyone*, 2008, p. 6.

¹⁰² UN Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, *Making the Law Work for Everyone: Volume II*, 2008, p. 45.

¹⁰³ UN-Women, *Women’s collectives foster access to justice in India*, 2013.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁵ UN General Assembly, *Strengthening and coordinating UN rule of law activities: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/290)*, 2012.

¹⁰⁶ UN General Assembly, *Annual report on strengthening and coordinating UN rule of law activities (A/64/298)*, 2009, paras. 54-55.

¹⁰⁷ UN General Assembly, *Strengthening and coordinating UN rule of law activities: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/290)*, 2012, para. 35.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 47.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 47.

countries, and 71% of children in the least developed countries are not registered by their fifth birthday.¹¹⁰ Inadequate protection of one's legal identity can lead to challenges across the entire rule of law framework, such as the inability to access the formal economy and government support services, juveniles being improperly tried as adults in the legal system, limitations on the right to travel, and denial of basic citizenship rights.¹¹¹ The United Nations has attempted to support legal registration programs through reducing financial and physical barriers, utilizing technology to improve access to registration services, and empowering health-care and education providers to register children.¹¹²

Conclusion

As discussed above, promotion of the rule of law influences a broad cross-section of issues and United Nations activities. In anticipation of the post-2015 development agenda, the rule of law will continue to be at the heart of discussions about how best to promote economic and social development. Legal documents are technical in nature, but there is a wide range of opportunities that can be addressed by promoting the rule of law. Within this framework, ECOSOC can address a range of topics surrounding economic and social development, including business and entrepreneurship, commercial legal frameworks, access to justice, gender equality, and housing rights, among others. If the international community is to succeed in achieving economic and social development goals, eradicating poverty, and promoting equality for all, it must incorporate these considerations into its discussion.

Moving forward, delegates should consider the role of the United Nations and ECOSOC in strengthening the rule of law as well as what actions could be taken by Member States. Delegates should consider questions such as: What are components of the rule of law that are essential to economic and social development? How does the United Nations support rule of law within Member States and at the regional and international level? Recognizing that rule of law challenges vary among Member States and across regions, delegates should look closely at economic and social issues addressing their Member State and how the rule of law could support development in those areas. How can the domestic legal framework be strengthened to facilitate growth and promote entrepreneurship and investment? What laws and institutions are necessary to ensure the full range of human development? Finally, delegates should take a close look at rule of law programs being implemented domestically, regionally, and internationally and consider the effectiveness of such approaches. Are there gaps that could be identified to better promote the rule of law and encourage linkages to economic and social development? Are there new approaches that could be considered, building on existing good practices and successful programs?

¹¹⁰ UN Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, *Making the Law Work for Everyone: Volume II*, 2008, p. 5.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

¹¹² *Ibid.*

Annotated Bibliography

Dam, K. (2006). *The Law-growth Nexus: The Rule of Law and Economic Development*. Washington, D.C: Brookings Institute.

This Book provides a comprehensive introduction and overview of the concept that rule of law and domestic institutions are essential to promote growth. The first section reviews the existing literature and research that demonstrate the linkages between law and growth, before addressing enforcement, contracts, and property rights in detail. Dam also addresses many of the challenges in rule of law promotion, such as what policies and institutions can most effectively support growth and development. Delegates may find this a useful introduction to the key concepts and theories that are addressed by this topic.

Kaufmann, D., A. Kraay, & P. Zoido-Lobaton. (1999). *Governance Matters*. Policy Research Paper, No. 2196. World Bank. Retrieved 27 July 2013 from: <http://elibrary.worldbank.org/content/workingpaper/10.1596/1813-9450-2196>

Although published in 1999, this working paper has been updated annually by the authors to provide a strong evidence base to support the links between governance indicators and economic growth. In addition to a discussion of the correlation between law and growth, the paper also offers governance indicators around six concepts: voice and accountability, political instability and violence, government effectiveness, regulatory burden, rule of law, and graft. While the Paper is very technical, their analysis, and discussion will strengthen delegates' understanding of how the law and justice framework influences economic considerations.

United Nations, Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor. (2008). *Making the Law Work for Everyone: Volume I*. Retrieved 1 July 2013 from: http://www.unrol.org/files/Making_the_Law_Work_for_Everyone.pdf

Published in response to a need to accelerate progress on the MDGs, this report addresses the link between legal empowerment and poverty reduction. The report emphasizes how access to justice and rule of law, including enforceable property, labor, and business rights, are essential to addressing exclusion and promoting economic development. In addition to providing background on the subject, Volume I includes clear recommendations for reform targeting government, civil society, private sector, and community-based organizations. In addition, Volume II of the report includes the reports of working groups on Access to Justice and the Rule of Law, Property Rights, Labor Rights, Business Rights, and Road Maps for Implementation of Reforms, which offers a more comprehensive discussion of each topic.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2012, April 24). *Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of sustainable and equitable growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2012/63)*. Retrieved 30 June 2013 from: <http://www.undocs.org/E/2012/63>

In this report, the Secretary-General examines the importance of labor policies in strengthening productive capacity, encouraging job creation, and increasing the availability of decent work. Together with his report on macroeconomic policies, this report provides guidance on institutional and legal frameworks that have effectively promoted job and enterprise creation, towards achieving economic development and social protection programs. These policies include promoting safe and productive employment, social protection, fair treatment, and workers' rights, with a focus on small- and medium-sized businesses. The report illustrates the impact of effective legal frameworks on economic and social development, as well as the role of ECOSOC in coordinating efforts towards these policies.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session. (2012, August 10). *Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/290)*. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: <http://www.undocs.org/A/67/290>

This annual report introduces the work of the United Nations in strengthening the rule of law at the national and international level. In addition to reflecting on the work of the previous year, the report addresses challenges and changing priorities for a more comprehensive approach. The 2012 report, particularly Part III on rule of law at the national level, discusses activities in

constitution-making, national legal framework, institutions of justice, governance, security and human rights, transitional justice and empowering individuals and civil society.

United Nations, Rule of Law Unit. (2007). *United Nations Rule of Law* [Website]. Retrieved 30 June 2013 from: <http://www.unrol.org>

This web site serves as the main repository for information on the United Nations rule of law programs, as well as publications and knowledge resources. The Document Repository collects UN policy and guidance documents for a range of themes on international, regional, and national rule of law promotion. In addition, the web site offers an overview of in-country activities undertaken by the UN Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, as well as the participation of different UN agencies in promoting rule of law.

United Nations, Rule of Law Unit. (2010). *The role of the Rule of Law in the achievement of the MDGs*. Retrieved 1 July 2013 from: http://www.unrol.org/article.aspx?article_id=118

A panel discussion was held in 2010, prior to the High-Level Summit on the MDGs, to explore the importance of the rule of law in economic growth and investment, sustainable development, and eradicating poverty and hunger. The discussion highlighted the rule of law as critical to accelerating progress on the MDGs, as well as identifying key themes within the debate. Panelists addressed issues such as legal protections for marginalized people, social justice and dispute resolution, socioeconomic impact of pretrial detention, and the contribution of legal frameworks towards development goals. The debate will offer delegates insight into the complex issues involved in the topic, as well as providing sources for further research.

United Nations, Secretary-General. (2008). *Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: UN Approach to Rule of Law Assistance*. Retrieved 31 July 2013 from:

<http://www.unrol.org/files/RoL%20Guidance%20Note%20UN%20Approach%20FINAL.pdf>

Developed by the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, this brief Guidance Note offers a framework to support UN rule of law activities at the national level, cutting across crisis, post-crisis, conflict, post-conflict, and development contexts. This note offers a comprehensive and coherent approach based on human rights and rule of law standards for utilization all UN entities to support technical assistance and capacity-building. The Guidance Note establishes both the underlying principles that are essential to rule of law programs, as well as a framework of common elements for effective rule of law.

United Nations, Security Council. (2004, August 23). *The rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies: Report of the Secretary-General (S/2004/616)*. Retrieved 31 July 2013 from:

<http://www.unrol.org/files/2004%20report.pdf>

This report forms the foundation of the United Nations modern engagement with rule of law issues, and particularly the role that law and justice institutions play in promoting economic and social development. The Secretary-General introduces the broad concepts and definitions that will inform rule of law activities at the national and international level as well as explaining their importance to achieving the organization's overarching goals. Although focused on conflict and post-conflict societies, the report is nevertheless relevant to the broader discussion of rule of law and the role of the United Nations system.

World Bank. (2005). *A Better Investment Climate for Everyone: World Development Report*. Retrieved 31 July 2013 from: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDRS/Resources/477365-1327693758977/complete_report.pdf

Published annually by the World Bank, the World Development Report focuses on a specific topic in development and provides an in-depth study of the challenges and policy considerations. The 2005 report focuses on the law and policy environment that governments must pursue to support investment, accelerate growth, and reduce poverty. Notably, the report addresses not only economic development, such as property rights and job creation, but also the broader concept of human development including funding for health, education, and government services.

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II. Strengthening Global Progress Toward Sustainable Development Through Innovation in Science and Technology

*“In essence, sustainable development is a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations.”*¹¹³

Introduction

The concept of sustainable development was defined for the first time in 1987, in the report *Our Common Future* (A/42/427), also referred to as the *Brundtland Report*, which was produced by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) and submitted to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA).¹¹⁴ It is presented as a “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”¹¹⁵ Sustainability thus implies that economic growth and social development have to be concomitant while simultaneously preserving environmental resources and the integrity of the ecosystem.¹¹⁶ At the same time, the concept of sustainability holds a temporal dimension, which builds a relation of interdependence between the present generations and the ones to come.¹¹⁷ The *Brundtland Report* (A/42/427) recognized the importance of science and technology in achieving sustainable development, through “innovations in materials technology, energy conservation, information technology, and biotechnology.”¹¹⁸

In the *Brundtland Report*'s (A/42/427) definition, science, technology and innovation (STI) are closely interrelated, with science being defined as the creation of new technology, technology as the concrete application of such knowledge and technique, and innovation as the application of technology in a new and original way.¹¹⁹ STI can bring diverse contributions to sustainable development policies and practices, from improved access to water and sanitation, enhanced crop yields and agricultural production, and less polluting sources of energy, to more transparent public institutions.¹²⁰ Their relevance to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to eradicate poverty, and to promote sustainable development is now largely recognized by the international community.¹²¹ In order to strengthen the inclusion of STI within the current and post-2015 development agendas, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has focused the work of its 2013 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) on “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.”¹²² It is thus crucial for the ECOSOC Plenary to address this issue within the frame of the three pillars of sustainable development: social development, economic development and environmental preservation.¹²³

International Framework

With the 1972 Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm, the UN launched a cycle of conferences, first dedicated to the issue of economic development and environmental degradation and then evolving to include the full spectrum of sustainable development.¹²⁴ This concept officially appeared in the vocabulary of the UN only in 1987, though the *Stockholm Declaration* already shows a certain concern for “present and future generations.”¹²⁵ In 1992, Member States adopted several agreements and conventions as the outcome of the United Nations

¹¹³ UN General Assembly, *Our Common Future*, Chapter 2: Towards Sustainable Development, 1987, p. 43.

¹¹⁴ UN General Assembly, *Our Common Future*, 1987.

¹¹⁵ UN General Assembly, *Our Common Future*, Chapter 2: Towards Sustainable Development, 1987, p. 30.

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 41-43.

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 54-55.

¹¹⁹ UN Economic and Social Council, *Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General* (E/2013/54), 2013.

¹²⁰ Clark & Dickson, *Sustainability science: The emerging research program*, 2013, p. 8059.

¹²¹ UN Economic and Social Council, *E-discussion: Building the future we want with science, technology and innovation (STI) and culture: Phase I, Final Report*, 2013, p. 2.

¹²² UN Economic and Social Council, *Hot topic: Science, technology and innovation* [Website], 2013.

¹²³ UN Economic and Social Council, *Hot topics: Sustainable development* [Website], 2013.

¹²⁴ UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, *Inter-governmental process* [Website], 2013.

¹²⁵ United Nations, *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment*, 1972.

Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, also called Earth Summit).¹²⁶ Sustainable development was thus placed at the center of the negotiations and the outcome document entitled *Agenda 21* (1992) is considered as the founding program for global action in this domain.¹²⁷ Within its content, science and technology are repeatedly mentioned, and four chapters are specifically dedicated to this issue: “Environmentally sound management of biotechnology” (Chapter 16), “Scientific and technological community” (Chapter 31), “Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building” (Chapter 34) and “Science for sustainable development” (Chapter 35).¹²⁸

The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+10) led to the adoption of the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation* (JPOI) as the main road map for action.¹²⁹ This agreement again assigned an important role to science and technology in promoting sustainable development, through the transfer of technology, information and communication technologies (ICTs), and the promotion and funding of research and development (R&D).¹³⁰ Twenty years after the Earth Summit, the UN convened a new Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), also known as Rio+20, in order to give a new impulsion to the ongoing discussions on sustainable development. The UNCSD and the final outcome, *The Future We Want* (A/RES/66/288) thus placed a significant focus on green technologies and their potential of innovation in various fields, such as agriculture, renewable sources of energy, employment (green jobs), and sustainable transport solutions.¹³¹

With the adoption of the *Millennium Declaration* (A/RES/55/2) in September 2000, Member States affirmed their commitment to achieve a designated set of goals, known as the MDGs.¹³² Within Goal 8 “Global Partnership for Development,” target F aims at, “in cooperation with the private sector, [making] available benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.”¹³³ The possibility to access Internet worldwide and regionally is used to monitor progress towards the achievement of this goal.¹³⁴ The 2013 progress report thus noted a positive evolution of this indicator, with 39% of the global population having access to Internet and 96% having a mobile-cellular subscription.¹³⁵ As the deadline for the MDGs is now just around the corner, building the post-2015 development agenda is a pressing issue at the international level.¹³⁶ The ongoing discussions on this topic have in particular focused on setting up sustainable development goals (SDGs), to build upon and follow up on the MDGs.¹³⁷ It is worth mentioning that during the 2010 UN Summit on the MDGs, Member States renewed their commitment to “promote the development and dissemination of appropriate, affordable, and sustainable technology, and the transfer of such technologies on mutually agreed terms.”¹³⁸

Role of the United Nations System

After establishing the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) as a subsidiary body of ECOSOC in 1992, the GA has adopted more than 10 resolutions on science and technology for development.¹³⁹ Since 2000, this item has been fully included in the agenda of the GA and debated on a biannual basis.¹⁴⁰ The CSTD is mandated to report on a yearly basis to ECOSOC and regularly submits draft resolutions for review and adoption

¹²⁶ United Nations, *UN Conference on Environment and Development (1992)* [Website], 1997.

¹²⁷ UN Office for Legal Affairs, *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 16 June 1972)*, *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 14 June 1992)* [Website]; United Nations, *UN Conference on Environment and Development (1992)*, 1997.

¹²⁸ UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, *Agenda 21*, 1992.

¹²⁹ United Nations, *Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, 2002.

¹³⁰ UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, *Science and Technology for Development*, 2012, p. 4.

¹³¹ UN General Assembly, *The future we want (A/RES/66/288)* [Resolution], 2012.

¹³² UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000.

¹³³ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals: Goal 8, Develop a Global Partnership for Development*, 2013.

¹³⁴ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals: 2013 Progress Chart*, 2013.

¹³⁵ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, pp. 56-57.

¹³⁶ Independent Research Forum, *Post-2015: framing a new approach to sustainable development*, 2013, p. 6.

¹³⁷ Independent Research Forum, *Post-2015* [Website], 2013.

¹³⁸ UN General Assembly, *Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (A/RES/65/1)* [Resolution], 2010.

¹³⁹ UN General Assembly, *Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in economic, social and related fields (A/RES/46/235)* [Resolution], 1992; UN CSTD, *General Assembly resolutions related to science and technology for development* [Website], 2013.

¹⁴⁰ UN General Assembly, *Science and Technology for Development (A/RES/55/185)* [Resolution], 2001.

by the Council.¹⁴¹ The 16th session of the Commission concluded in June 2013 and its outcome documents focused on two priority themes: science, technology and innovation for sustainable cities and peri-urban communities; and Internet broadband for an inclusive digital society.¹⁴² The draft resolution presented for adoption by ECOSOC thus recommended stronger collaborations between public and private actors at the local level, and between municipalities and local governments at the national, regional and global levels.¹⁴³ The Commission also encouraged the use of ICTs to improve the infrastructures of cities and to evaluate the future needs of urban populations, in terms of water and sanitation, energy, housing and transports, through simulation tools.¹⁴⁴

As the primary organ of the UN responsible for social, economic and environmental issues, ECOSOC has consequently adopted over the years a series of resolutions on science and technology for development. Those resolutions address a different issue every year, corresponding to the agenda of CSTD, and choose a different angle to promote the inclusion of science and technology within development policies, at the national, regional and global levels.¹⁴⁵ ECOSOC also acts as a coordinating body and presents, through those resolutions, several recommendations to the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which is acting as the secretariat of CSTD.¹⁴⁶ More recently, the Council has placed particular attention to STI through the work of its Annual Ministerial Review.¹⁴⁷ For this purpose, the UN Secretary-General produced a comprehensive report on “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals,” aggregating inputs and reviews from a large number of UN bodies and regional commissions.¹⁴⁸ As part of the preparatory work for the 2013 AMR, ECOSOC has organized regional consultations in Western Asia, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Europe, in collaboration with the concerned UN regional commissions and other bodies.¹⁴⁹ The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) are thus actively involved as partners in the consultations coordinated by ECOSOC.¹⁵⁰

Science, Technology and Innovation for Social Development

Information and Communication Technologies and Access to Knowledge

The rapid pace of innovation in ICTs has launched a digital revolution, generating new ways to create and share knowledge, to acquire and disseminate information, and to communicate.¹⁵¹ This information society now counts almost 6.8 billion mobile-cellular subscriptions and 2.7 billion Internet users worldwide.¹⁵² However, those figures are hiding very important disparities between developed and developing countries, and within those countries between the different socioeconomic groups composing their population.¹⁵³ In 1998, the ITU advised the organization of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), in order to build a concerted plan of action to develop the information society at the global level.¹⁵⁴ The WSIS was organized in two phases, the first one in 2003 in Geneva and the second one in Tunis in 2005, and the annual WSIS Forum now provides a follow-up on the outcomes of those conferences.¹⁵⁵ The Forum is also an occasion for the ITU to capture the trends in the WSIS action lines and to assess the evolution of the global information society. In 2012, the organization thus noted an important need for openness and universal access to information on the web and through Open Educational Resources (OER), and “the urgency [to] provide new and innovative solutions for persons with disabilities to access

¹⁴¹ UN CSTD, *About CSTD: Mandate and Institutional Background* [Website], 2013.

¹⁴² UN CSTD, *Draft resolution on Science, Technology and Innovation for Development*, 2013, p. 5.

¹⁴³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁵ UN Economic and Social Council, *Resolutions and Decisions* [Website], 2013.

¹⁴⁶ UN Economic and Social Council, *Science and Technology for Development (E/RES/2012/6)* [Resolution], 2012.

¹⁴⁷ UN Economic and Social Council, *2013 Annual Ministerial Review* [Website], 2013.

¹⁴⁸ UN Economic and Social Council, *Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2013/54)*, 2013.

¹⁴⁹ UN Economic and Social Council, *2013 Annual Ministerial Review* [Website], 2013.

¹⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁵¹ ITU, *Basic information: About the World Summit on the Information Society* [Website], 2008.

¹⁵² United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, pp. 56-57.

¹⁵³ *Ibid.* United Nations,

¹⁵⁴ ITU, *Resolution 73 of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union* [Website], 1998.

¹⁵⁵ ITU, *About the WSIS Forum 2013* [Website], 2013.

information and knowledge.”¹⁵⁶ In the same tone, UNESCO has been advocating for the building of “knowledge societies,” defined as societies setting up “institutions and organizations that enable people and information to develop without limits, and that open opportunities for all kind of knowledge to be mass-produced and mass-utilized throughout the society as a whole.”¹⁵⁷

Information and Communication Technologies and Civil Society

Social development is also strengthened by STI through new opportunities to communicate and to get engaged in social and political debates. ICTs now allow a larger part of the population to participate to discussions at the local, national, regional and global levels, and to make their voice heard.¹⁵⁸ Citizens and civil society organizations (CSOs) have acquired a new form of power, demanding more openness and transparency, more accountability, and thus tend to move towards a new mode of (e-)governance.¹⁵⁹ CSOs have thus been increasingly integrated into the decision-making processes at the global level; the WSIS is an interesting example of multi-stakeholder forum, where Non-Governmental Organizations and CSOs are invited to participate and to present contributions during the summit.¹⁶⁰ As the first UN primary organ where CSOs are benefitting from a consultative status, ECOSOC could interestingly be a crucial forum for discussion on ICTs and the civil society. Furthermore, the digital revolution has generated a strong potential for integration of excluded groups such as women, youth, indigenous people and persons with disabilities.¹⁶¹ ICTs indeed offer an easy access to information and knowledge, going far from gender hierarchies and “directly to the roots of women’s inequality”, and thus working towards the empowerment of women.¹⁶²

Science, Technology and Innovation for Economic Development

Innovation is recognized as a driver of economic growth and poverty eradication.¹⁶³ In this context, innovation can be understood in broad terms, including “technical and non-technical aspects, business model innovation, eco-innovation, demand- and user-driven innovation, innovation in services and design, and public-sector innovation.”¹⁶⁴ In the aftermath of the economic and financial crisis, pursuing economic growth at the national, regional and global levels requires strong investments in STI, in a large number of sectors such as education, research, agriculture, labor markets and trade.¹⁶⁵ In the path towards a green economy, innovation in science and technology plays a central role in generating new productive activities and new types of decent jobs, primarily in the energy sector.¹⁶⁶

Technological Transfers and Public-private Cooperation

Innovation is a fundamental source of inequality between countries, as they cannot all make the necessary financial investments and build national environments favorable to technical innovation.¹⁶⁷ To counter such imbalance, technological transfers allow less advanced countries to benefit from the knowledge and experience of more developed countries.¹⁶⁸ Mechanisms to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation have thus been developed, such as the International Center for South-South cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation

¹⁵⁶ ITU, *Identifying emerging trends and a vision beyond 2015*, 2012, p. 3.

¹⁵⁷ UNESCO, *World Report: Towards Knowledge Societies*, 2005; UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Understanding Knowledge Societies*, 2005, p. xi.

¹⁵⁸ World Bank, *Role of ICT in uniting civil society around social issues*, 2012.

¹⁵⁹ Dutton, *The Fifth Estate emerging through the Network of Networks*, 2009, pp. 1-15.

¹⁶⁰ ITU, *The multi-stakeholder participation in WSIS and its written and unwritten rules* [Website], 2008.

¹⁶¹ UN Economic and Social Council, *Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2013/54)*, 2013.

¹⁶² Hafkin & Huyer, *Cinderella Or Cyberella?: Empowering Women in the Knowledge Society*, 2006, pp. 1-14; UN Economic and Social Council, *Summary of discussions, 2013 ECOSOC Youth Forum, “Shaping tomorrow’s innovators: Leveraging science, technology, innovation and culture for today’s youth,”* 2013.

¹⁶³ OECD, *Innovation for Development*, 2012.

¹⁶⁴ UN Economic and Social Council, *2013 Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council, Submission from the Economic Commission for Europe*, 2013.

¹⁶⁵ OECD & World Bank, *Innovation and growth: chasing a moving frontier*, 2009.

¹⁶⁶ UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, *Green jobs and social inclusion*, RIO 2012 Issue Briefs n° 7, 2011.

¹⁶⁷ Watkins & Ehst (Eds.), *Science, Technology and Innovation. Capacity Building for Sustainable Growth and Poverty Reduction*, 2008.

¹⁶⁸ UN Economic and Social Council, *E-discussion: Building the future we want with science, technology and innovation (STI) and culture: Phase I, Final Report*, 2013, pp. 4-5.

(ISTIC), located in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia).¹⁶⁹ However, other strategies can be implemented, as countries have the potential to leapfrog and develop technologies that are more advanced faster, through investments in R&D and by building partnerships with the private sector.¹⁷⁰ An example of such public-private partnership (PPP) can be found in Europe, where the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC) has set up a partnership with the European Commission in order to foster economic growth and employment in the field of bio-based products.¹⁷¹

Case Study: Microfinance, Mobile Banking and Inclusive Economic Growth

The use of microcredit and microfinance products has been developed in the past 30 years in order to provide a universal access to financial services through sound and sustainable institutions.¹⁷² The expansion of inclusive finance strategies thus allows excluded and isolated groups to have access to banking services, and plays an important role in reducing poverty.¹⁷³ In this context, the use of mobile banking generates innovative solutions to extend financial services to the populations without access to traditional banks.¹⁷⁴ In Kenya, the M-Pesa system, which was introduced by Safaricom in 2007, allow users to transfer money between mobile phones, at very low costs.¹⁷⁵ M-Pesa can even be used to purchase solar home lighting systems, through a partnership between the operator and the mobile technology company M-Kopa.¹⁷⁶ Musoni, a Kenyan microfinance institution, is also using mobile banking services to deliver loans to its clients, who can then make repayments over their phones.¹⁷⁷ Through those innovative banking services, isolated populations thus have an opportunity to reach and take part to the formal economy of their country.¹⁷⁸

Science, Technology and Innovation for Environmental Protection and Preservation

Innovations in Agriculture and Food Security

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has estimated that the overall agricultural production worldwide would need to rise by 70% between 2005-7 and 2050, in order to feed a projected global population of 9.1 billion.¹⁷⁹ With such a high pressure placed on agricultural systems, the necessary evolution towards a sustainable model of agriculture requires investments in science and technology.¹⁸⁰ STI can indeed enhance the production rate, ensure the protection of natural resources, and help reducing waste, through a large panel of innovative tools and practices.¹⁸¹ The final report of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) recognized the strong linkages between food security and sustainable agriculture and presented a series of options for action, available to public and private stakeholders.¹⁸²

The challenges of population growth and agriculture in the African region are well known.¹⁸³ With a stagnating per capita food production in the past decades, African countries have had to face the challenge of “promoting steady

¹⁶⁹ International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO, *About ISTIC: Introduction* [Website], n.d.

¹⁷⁰ UN Economic and Social Council, *Report of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting 2013 Annual Ministerial Review of ECOSOC*, 2013; UN Economic and Social Council, *Report from the Inter-sessional Panel of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), on the 2013 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review*, 2013.

¹⁷¹ Biobased and Renewable Industries for Development and Growth in Europe, *Bridge 2020* [Website], 2013.

¹⁷² UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Achieving sustainable development and promoting development cooperation: Dialogue at the Economic and Social Council*, 2008, pp. 228-231.

¹⁷³ Ibid.

¹⁷⁴ Govindarajan, *Developing countries and revolutionizing mobile banking* [Website], 2012.

¹⁷⁵ African Development Bank Group, *Fostering financial inclusion with mobile banking* [Website], 2013.

¹⁷⁶ Mulupi, *Kenyan solar lighting solutions on sale via M-Pesa* [Website], 2012.

¹⁷⁷ Grameen Foundation, *Mobile Financial Services* [Website], 2013.

¹⁷⁸ African Development Bank Group, *Fostering financial inclusion with mobile banking* [Website], 2013.

¹⁷⁹ Food and Agriculture Organization, *Global Agriculture Towards 2050*, 2009.

¹⁸⁰ UN Economic and Social Council, *E-discussion: Building the future we want with science, technology and innovation (STI) and culture: Phase I, Final Report*, 2013, pp. 8-9.

¹⁸¹ UN Economic and Social Council, *Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2013/54)*, 2013, pp. 10-11.

¹⁸² International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development, *Agriculture at a Crossroads, Synthesis Report*, 2009.

¹⁸³ UN Conference on Trade and Development, *Technology and Innovation Report 2010*, 2010, p. xii.

growth in agriculture in the dynamic context of economic transformation.”¹⁸⁴ In this context, innovations in science and technology present a wide range of opportunities for change, through the adaptation of already existing technologies and the creation of new ones.¹⁸⁵ Agricultural innovations can thus focus on small-scale farmers, and particularly on women, as they are responsible for managing 80% of the farmland in Africa.¹⁸⁶ Other areas of innovation can include crop and plant breeding and scientific research.¹⁸⁷

Renewable Energy Technologies

In terms of sustainable development, the most evident application of innovation in science and technology is in the energy sector. STIs play a key role in the development of sustainable energy solutions that provide countries with an alternative to fossil fuel and other non-renewable energies.¹⁸⁸ The international community has recently placed a strong incentive on achieving sustainable development through energy strategies, with the 2014-2024 decade declared the “Decade of Sustainable Energy for All” by the General Assembly.¹⁸⁹ As part of the preparatory work for the ECOSOC 2013 AMR, the regional meeting for Asia and the Pacific was specifically focused on this question.¹⁹⁰ In the region, Member States have developed an interesting mechanism for cooperation and exchange of good practices, with the Renewable Energy Cooperation-Network for the Asia-Pacific (RECAP), initiated by the Asian and Pacific Center for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).¹⁹¹ On top of that, Member States have to consider building a solid partnership with private stakeholders, including private companies, research institutes and CSOs, in order to build the path towards sustainable energy.¹⁹²

Conclusion

Delegates should not be discouraged by the very technical content that this topic can entail. The steady pace of innovation in the field of science and technology requires the international community to build effective intergovernmental mechanisms, in order to ensure an optimum inclusion of STI within sustainable development policies.¹⁹³ The term “sustainable development,” however, depicts a complex dynamic and a net of interrelated factors, which can generate some confusion. When debating and negotiating on the policies to adopt and the recommendations to present, delegates should not lose sight of the triple dimension of sustainable development, social and economic development and environmental protection. Delegates should also bear in mind the crucial role that ECOSOC should play in promoting sustainable development, as recently recalled during the Rio+20 conference.¹⁹⁴ The Council is recognized as a “tough leader” in its fields of mandate; it must strengthen its potential for leadership and guidance “using its expertise, knowledge resources and convening power.”¹⁹⁵ ECOSOC should indeed work towards engaging a large part of the UN system and a broad range of its external partners in the debate

¹⁸⁴ UN Conference on Trade and Development, *Technology and Innovation Report 2010*, 2010, p. xii.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Achieving sustainable development and promoting development cooperation: Dialogue at the Economic and Social Council*, 2008, pp. 129-138; UN Economic and Social Council, *Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2013/54)*, 2013, pp. 9-10.

¹⁸⁷ UN Conference on Trade and Development, *Technology and Innovation Report 2010*, 2010, pp. xii-xiv.

¹⁸⁸ UN Economic and Social Council, *Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2013/54)*, 2013, pp. 11-12.

¹⁸⁹ UN General Assembly, *Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/RES/67/215)* [Resolution], 2013.

¹⁹⁰ UN Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Asia and the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting on “Science, Technology, and Innovation for Promoting Renewable Energy Technologies for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific” for the 2013 Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Economic and Social Council*, 2013.

¹⁹¹ Asian and Pacific Center for Transfer of Technology, *About RECAP* [Website], 2012.

¹⁹² UN Economic and Social Council, *E-discussion: Building the future we want with science, technology and innovation (STI) and culture: Phase I, Final Report*, 2013, pp. 8-9.

¹⁹³ UN Economic and Social Council, *Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2013/54)*, 2013.

¹⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 29-31.

¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

and should promote policy coherence at the global level, while recognizing the specificities of each Member State and each regional group.¹⁹⁶

Moving forward, delegates should consider the following questions: in times of financial challenges and difficulties, what kind of innovative mechanisms can be implemented to ensure efficient funding for STI? In the context of the debate on the post-2015 development agenda, how can STIs be concretely promoted as an instrument of implementation and monitoring of the sustainable development goals (SDGs)? Considering the wide range of private stakeholders concerned by the topic, including CSOs, individuals, research institutes, and private companies, what can be done to ensure that they are all fully included in the discussion and the implementation of the relevant policies? Can delegates consider building new instruments of South-South and triangular cooperation or should they strengthen existing ones, in order to foster the exchange of technology and of good practices? Are there cross-cutting strategies that delegates could consider in order to equally promote the three dimensions of sustainable development through innovation in science and technology?

¹⁹⁶ UN Economic and Social Council, “*Partnering for innovative solutions for sustainable development*”, *Summary*, 2013; UN Economic and Social Council, *Report of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting 2013 Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council*, 2013.

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Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. (2012, May). *Innovation for Development*. Retrieved 1 August 2013 from: www.oecd.org/sti/inno/50586251.pdf

As an external forum of discussion on social, economic and environmental issues, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) can be an interesting source of research documents and ideas for delegates. Within the Organization, the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry focuses its work on science and technology for economic and social growth. This document published in 2012 discusses several issues related to innovation for development (economic growth, inclusive innovation, education, ICTs) and presents the work of OECD in this field. It also provides the reader with OECD data and statistics on STI and developing countries.

United Nations, Audiovisual Library of International Law. (2008). *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 16 June 1972), Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 14 June 1992)* [Website]. Retrieved 1 August 2013 from:

<http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ha/dunche/dunche.html>

The Audiovisual Library of International Law was created to provide educational and government institutions with legal documents and research material such as legal instruments, lectures, jurisprudence, publications, etc. As an online multimedia resource, it is now available to all individuals and institutions for free. It is a very useful tool for delegates who need information on declarations, agreements and conventions, on any particular topic.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2008). *Achieving sustainable development and promoting development cooperation: Dialogue at the Economic and Social Council* [Report]. Retrieved 1 August 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/pdfs/fina_08-45773.pdf

The Dialogues at ECOSOC are bringing together the transcripts of discussions, speeches and interventions made by various stakeholders and representatives, on a particular theme. This issue is focused on sustainable development and provides the delegates with a very large overview of the different issues debated, through the points of view of Member States, UN programs, and private actors. Two chapters in particular can be of use for delegates: Chapter 5 “Opportunities and solutions to the global food crisis: addressing the need of small farmers” and Chapter 8, with a contribution by UNESCO on STI and sustainable development.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development. (January 2012). *Science and Technology for Development*, RIO 2012 Issue Briefs n° 12. Retrieved 1 August 2013 from: www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/385brief12.pdf

As part of the preparatory work to the Rio+20 conference, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) published a series of briefing notes to provide input to the discussions on the identified priority issues. This one presents an overview of the global trends in science and technology for sustainable development and of the existing international commitments. Finally, it gives a summary of the proposals made by public and private stakeholders for the negotiations of the Rio+20 conference.

United Nations, Division for Sustainable Development. (2013). *The United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform* [Website]. Retrieved 1 July 2013 from: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.html>

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN Secretariat is primarily responsible for supporting and coordinating the intergovernmental efforts in promoting sustainable development. The website of DSD is an important source of documentation on any aspect of the topic. Delegates can thus more particularly look at the “Topics” section, with entries such as Technology, Green economy, Technical cooperation, and others.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2013). *The United Nations Economic and Social Council* [Website]. Retrieved 1 July 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/index.shtml>

The website of the Economic and Social Council is the first place where delegates can find information and documentation on the implications of the topic at hand for the organization. A large number of materials can thus be accessed online, particularly on the webpage of the Annual Ministerial Review. A special focus has been put on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development for the 2013 AMR of the Council, and the preparatory documents (regional meetings and report from the Secretary-General) are available there.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (April 2013). *Report of the Secretary-General on “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals” for the 2013 Annual Ministerial Review*. Retrieved 1 July 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/adv2013/13_amr_sg_report.pdf

In preparation for the 2013 substantive session of the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review, the Secretary-General issued a report on the designated AMR theme. The document presents an overview of the issues at hand, such as food security and agriculture, ICTs and governmental openness, renewable energies, multi-stakeholder cooperation, etc. It also gives a certain number of recommendations to be applied at the national, regional and global levels by public actors. Finally, delegates can find an interesting section on the role that ECOSOC could play as the global leader and coordinator on the question.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2013). *The United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development* [Website]. Retrieved 1 July 2013 from: <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/cstd.aspx>

The CSTD is a subsidiary body of ECOSOC Plenary, with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in charge of its substantive work. The Commission is primarily responsible for the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Its website can thus be a useful source of documentation on science and technology for development.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-Sixth session. (2012, September 11). *The future we want (A/RES/66/288)* [Resolution]. Adopted the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/66/L.56). Retrieved 1 July 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, is considered as one of the most important conferences in the history of the United Nations. Its outcome document, entitled “The Future We Want,” was adopted in September 2012 by the UN General Assembly. It is a leading document for the post-2015 development agenda, building the way for promoting sustainable development at different levels, and through different media – including science and technology.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2010). *Technology and Innovation Report 2010* [Report]. Retrieved 1 August 2013 from: <http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationArchive.aspx?publicationid=1769>

Since 2010, UNCTAD has launched a report series specifically focusing on science, technology and innovation entitled, Technology and Innovation Report (TIR), in order to provide analysis and recommendations for developing countries. The three first issues of the TIR have addressed food security issues in Africa, renewable energy technologies and South-South cooperation. Considering the importance of such issues in the agenda at hand, the TIR is undoubtedly a very useful source of information for delegates.

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III. Assessing the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Addressing the Challenges in Monitoring and Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

“The question is not whether to abandon global targets but rather how to improve the MDG architecture and how to adjust them to the priorities beyond 2015.”¹⁹⁷

Introduction

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) account for the first global effort in setting development priorities and driving the allocation of resources towards strengthening not only policy, but also addressing the most pressing socioeconomic challenges across the globe.¹⁹⁸ The MDGs defined for the first time a set of time-bound, quantitative targets to operationalize the basic dimensions of human development.¹⁹⁹ In his recent report *Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (A/67/257)*, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General identified several key achievements contributing to meeting the MDGs, primarily in the areas of poverty reduction, gender equality, maternal and child mortality, and public health.²⁰⁰ The goal to reduce the level of extreme poverty, which is defined as the share of the population living on less than \$1.25 per day, was met before the 2015 deadline due to significant poverty reduction strategies in the world’s most populous countries, India and China.²⁰¹ Extreme poverty fell from 43% in 1990 to 22% in 2008 and is projected to fall to 14% in 2015 as indicated by the World Bank’s *Global Monitoring Report 2011*.²⁰² Further, gender equality in terms of accessing primary education has been improved and school enrollment rates for girls are now very close to the rate of boys.²⁰³ Additional progress has also been made towards reducing maternal and child mortality, ameliorating conditions for those living in slums as well as reducing the spread of infectious diseases by 22% globally.²⁰⁴

Despite these accomplishments, the overall trends have been uneven and most of the progress, particularly in relation to poverty reduction, is concentrated in East and South East Asia, and in particular China.²⁰⁵ Gaps remain across other areas, especially in reducing hunger and malnutrition which is very prevalent in South Asia.²⁰⁶ This lack of progress has been highlighted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) which estimated that more than 870 million people suffered from hunger in 2010-2012.²⁰⁷ In fact, the fragile job markets and the lack of employment opportunities led towards a sharp increase of the working poor and this has further exacerbated poverty and hunger.²⁰⁸ Youth have been particularly affected by the weak economic structures and now face severe unemployment resulting in rapid rural-urban or international migration.²⁰⁹ In addition, sustainability factors and environment dimensions have not been properly addressed by the current MDG framework, in particular, climate-related disasters have intensified significantly over the past few decades.²¹⁰ Other critiques of the MDGs framework point towards their technocratic, reductionist nature (focus on minimum achievements such as primary school enrollment as opposed to secondary education or the quality of education in general), failure to address

¹⁹⁷ Vandemoortele, *If Not the Millennium Development Goals, then What?* 2011, p. 9.

¹⁹⁸ UN System Task Team on Post-2015 Agenda, *Review of the contributions of the MDG Agenda to foster development: lessons for the post-2015 UN development agenda*, 2012, p. 4.

¹⁹⁹ Darrow, *The Millennium Development Goals: Milestones or Millstones?* 2012, p. 2.

²⁰⁰ UN General Assembly, *Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: Annual report of the Secretary-General (A/67/257)*, 2012, p. 2.

²⁰¹ Ibid.

²⁰² Aryeetey et. al., *Getting to Zero: Finishing the Job the MDGs Started*, 2012, p. 4.

²⁰³ Melamed, *Contexts Politics and Processes for a Post-2015 Global Agreement on Development*, 2012, p. 14.

²⁰⁴ UN General Assembly, *Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: Annual report of the Secretary-General (A/67/257)*, 2012, p. 3.

²⁰⁵ UN System Task Team on Post-2015 Agenda, *Review of the contributions of the MDG Agenda to foster development: lessons for the post-2015 UN development agenda*, 2012, p. 3.

²⁰⁶ UN General Assembly, *Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: Annual report of the Secretary-General (A/66/126)*, 2011, p. 3.

²⁰⁷ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: Economic growth is necessary but no sufficient to accelerate reduction of hunger and malnutrition*, 2012, p. 1.

²⁰⁸ UN General Assembly, *Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: Annual report of the Secretary-General (A/66/126)*, 2011, p. 5.

²⁰⁹ Melamed, *Contexts Politics and Processes for a Post-2015 Global Agreement on Development*, 2012, pp. 20 – 21.

²¹⁰ UN Committee for Development Policy, *The United Nations Development Strategy Beyond 2015*, 2012, p. 15.

poverty in middle-income countries and their weak accountability mechanisms.²¹¹ These challenges are in fact related to the methodology used for monitoring and implementation of the MDGs which has been highly criticized, especially the targets as they proved to be set inadequately for some countries.²¹² Given these experiences with MDG framework, it is vital to rethink and adapt the monitoring and assessment methodology for a new set of goals to allow us determine realistic targets and effectively assess the impact on local, national and international levels.

International Framework

There are two major policy processes currently feeding into the broad discussion on the development agenda beyond 2015: the first originated in the General Assembly (GA) in 2010 and is explicitly focused on the follow-up to the MDGs; while the second is drawn from the outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development and the resulting sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The first formal policy process towards a post-2015 development agenda began at the 2010 United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals.²¹³ The GA adopted resolution 65/1 on 19 October 2010, mandating that the Secretary-General initiate a consultation process across the UN system, civil society, academia, think tanks, private organizations and make recommendations in his annual reports for further steps to advance the development agenda beyond 2015.²¹⁴ The outcome document also indicated that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) would serve as a principal body for coordination, policy review, dialogue, and development of recommendations on the issues of economic and social development and for the follow up on the MDGs through the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF).²¹⁵

The second policy process originated with the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20). This conference, held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, brought together governments, civil society, and private sector to discuss how to achieve global prosperity while protecting the environment.²¹⁶ One of the main outcomes of the conference was the agreement by Member States to start the process of developing a set of SDGs, which will build upon the MDGs and align with the post-2015 development agenda.²¹⁷ The outcome document, *The Future We Want*, was adopted in GA resolution 66/288 on 11 September 2012.²¹⁸ The outcome called for a wide range of actions such as “strengthening the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), promoting corporate sustainability, taking steps to go beyond gross domestic product in assessing the well-being of a country, developing strategy for sustainable development financing and adopting a framework to tackle sustainable production.”²¹⁹ It also stressed the importance of creating an intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals, which would be mandated to prepare proposals on the SDGs and involve relevant stakeholders and experts from civil society, academia, and the UN system in its work.²²⁰ The Secretary-General was also mandated by the resolution to ensure all necessary support in the work of the UN system and establish an inter-agency technical support team and expert panels in developing the SDGs.²²¹

In terms of the SDGs, Rio+20 did not elaborate specific goals but highlighted more broadly that they should be “concise, action-oriented, limited in number, easy to communicate and universally applicable to all countries considering their different contexts, capacities and levels of development.”²²² This approach suggests that new goals will potentially be applicable to not only developing countries but to all countries, since human poverty, inequality

²¹¹ Darrow, *The Millennium Development Goals: Milestones or Millstones?*, 2012, p. 5.

²¹² UN Committee for Development Policy, *The United Nations Development Strategy Beyond 2015*, 2012, p. 8.

²¹³ Karver, Kenny & Sumner, *MDGs 2.0: What Goals, Targets, and Timeframe*, 2012, p. 3.

²¹⁴ UN General Assembly, *Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (A/RES/65/1)* [Resolution], 2010.

²¹⁵ *Ibid.*

²¹⁶ UN Conference on Sustainable Development, *UN senior officials highlight Rio+20 achievements* [Website], 2012.

²¹⁷ UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Sustainable Development Goals* [Website], 2012.

²¹⁸ UN General Assembly, *The future we want Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: Annual report of the Secretary-General (A/67/257)* [Resolution], 2012, p. 1.

²¹⁹ UN Conference on Sustainable Development, *UN senior officials highlight Rio+20 achievements* [Website], 2012.

²²⁰ United Nations, *Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals* [Website], 2012; UN General Assembly, *The future we want Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: Annual report of the Secretary-General (A/67/257)* [Resolution], 2012, para. 47.

²²¹ *Ibid.*

²²² *Ibid.*, paras. 46-48.

and exclusion are major challenges facing middle-income and rich, developed countries.²²³ However, what is still required is a new approach in setting goals, targets and indicators given that the shift towards sustainable development is going to be complex and difficult requiring clear measurement mechanisms to be in place that would allow monitoring and quantifying the SDGs.²²⁴

Role of the United Nations System

The UN system is uniquely positioned to facilitate an inclusive multi-stakeholder process to advocate for a post-2015 agenda informed by national and local priorities.²²⁵ Beginning in September 2012, the UN began the consultations, pursuant to GA resolution 65/1 (2010), with a wide range of stakeholders, including government, civil society, private sector, and academia and already has been able to engage approximately 200,000 people in a majority of countries of the world.²²⁶ It launched an online survey entitled *MY World*, in which 75,000 people voted and expressed ideas about how the post-2015 development agenda should be arranged.²²⁷ The results of the survey were already reflected in the report of High-Level Panel on Post-2015, released in May 2013, however *MY World* will continue gathering feedback and suggestions from people on the new set of goals up until 2015.²²⁸

The members of the UN Development Group (UNDG) established guidelines to help facilitate post-2015 consultations in at least 50 countries.²²⁹ Such guidelines were designed to help UN Country Teams under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinators to formulate post-2015 agenda and promote inclusive consultations with governments and relevant stakeholders.²³⁰ The country consultations were running from June 2012 until the end of March 2013 and the outcome of this was a creation of the global UNDG report *The Global Conversation Begins: Emerging Views for a New Development Agenda*.²³¹ This report reflects on 83 national dialogues across a range of countries as well as discussions with communities, groups, young people who assume responsibility for the next development agenda.²³² The report reviews the ongoing consultation process that has been designed to take into considerations national contexts, however, the results of such consultations are not yet fully comparable.²³³

In September 2011 the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon established a UN System Task Team to coordinate preparations for beyond 2015.²³⁴ The Task Team brings together senior experts designated by 50 UN system entities and other international organizations.²³⁵ In 2012 the Task Team released a report, *Realizing the Future We Want for All*, which serves to orient the ongoing discussion and consultations taking place among governments, UN agencies, civil society, private companies and academia.²³⁶ It has also informed the work of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons appointed by the Secretary-General and has provided technical inputs towards developing sustainable development goals (SDGs) as was agreed in the Rio+20 conference.²³⁷ The report also highlights that the MDG framework with concrete goals and targets should be retained, but entail key dimensions of a more holistic approach such as “(1) inclusive social development; (2) inclusive economic development; (3) environmental sustainability; and (4) peace and security.”²³⁸

In July 2012, the Secretary-General announced the 27 members of a High-level Panel of Eminent Persons, made up of civil society, private sector and government representatives to advise on the global development framework beyond 2015.²³⁹ The High-Level Panel is tasked with providing a vision on how SDGs ought to be formulated and

²²³ Fukuda-Parr, *Should Global Goal Setting Continue, and How, in the Post-2015 Era?* 2012, p. 20.

²²⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 19.

²²⁵ UN Development Group, *Post-2015 Development Agenda* [Website], 2012.

²²⁶ UN Development Group, *The Global Conversation Begins: Emerging Views For a New Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 9.

²²⁷ *Ibid.*

²²⁸ *Ibid.*

²²⁹ UN Development Group, *Post-2015 Development Agenda* [Website], 2012.

²³⁰ UN Development Group, *Post-2015 Development Agenda: Guidelines for National Consultations*, 2012, p. 10.

²³¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 10-11.

²³² UN Development Group, *The Global Conversation Begins: Emerging Views For a New Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 3.

²³³ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

²³⁴ UN Development Policy and Analysis Division, *Preparing for the Development Agenda Beyond 2015* [Website], 2012.

²³⁵ United Nations, *Realizing the Future We Want for All: Report to the Secretary-General*, 2012, p. 5.

²³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

²³⁷ *Ibid.*

²³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. i.

²³⁹ United Nations, *Beyond 2015* [Website], 2012.

how the post-2015 agenda should be framed.²⁴⁰ The Panel's recent report on *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development* outlines five transformational shifts which shape the post-2015 development agenda: "leave no one behind, put sustainable development at the core, transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth, build peace and effective, open, and accountable institutions for all, and forge a new global partnership."²⁴¹ It also introduces a list of new goals with targets and indicators to be set for 2030 including: monitoring, accountability mechanisms involving states, civil society, private sector, and international development community.²⁴² In addition to High-Level Panel's efforts and work done so far, the considerations of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be further elaborated throughout 2013 and 2014.²⁴³ The UN also projects that global consultations will deepen and widen national ownership of the new agenda that will be subject to implementation as of 1 January 2016.²⁴⁴

The Secretary-General launched the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) in order to provide technical and scientific expertise from academia, civil society and the private sector to address sustainable development at local national and global scale.²⁴⁵ The Network entails 12 thematic groups of global experts working to identify best practices and they also have provided technical assistance for the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons in producing the report to the Secretary-General.²⁴⁶ The SDSN also released *An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development* where it further elaborates challenges linked with sustainable development, builds upon High-Level Panel's identified four dimensions of the sustainable development agenda, and reframes the proposed list of SDGs, their targets and indicators.²⁴⁷

Multiple regional consultations were organized by the key commissions such as Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in order to prepare a report on regional perspectives regarding the development of post-2015 agenda.²⁴⁸ A range of regional priority areas were identified from health and vulnerabilities to natural disasters to unemployment rates among youth and other economic priorities to improving access to public services and minimizing social marginalization of minority groups.²⁴⁹

Discussion on Monitoring and Implementation Strategies for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Currently there is no universally accepted definition of SDGs or monitoring methodology with clear targets and indicators.²⁵⁰ The *Bellagio Principles for Sustainable Development* represent one of the first attempts to outline what could be the principles for monitoring the SDGs.²⁵¹ The discussion took place among a group of experts focusing on how to frame certain development aspects beyond MDG framework.²⁵² The key point of the Bellagio Goals is the focus on individual countries and their national contexts in determining global targets to ensure they are applicable and realistic for both developing and developed countries.²⁵³ Similarly, the outcome document of Rio + 20 recognized and highlighted different regional levels of development and national circumstances in achieving such goals and stressed the importance for capacity-building.²⁵⁴ The document requested relevant UN agencies to provide

²⁴⁰ United Nations, *Beyond 2015* [Website], 2012.

²⁴¹ UN High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development* [Report], 2013, pp. 7-10.

²⁴² *Ibid.*, p. 13.

²⁴³ UN Development Group, *The Global Conversation Begins: Emerging Views For a New Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 6.

²⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

²⁴⁵ UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, *About* [Website], 2012.

²⁴⁶ UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, *An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development: Report for the UN Secretary-General*, 2013, p. iv.

²⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 26.

²⁴⁸ UN Economic Commission for Europe, et. al., *A Regional Perspective on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda*, 2013, pg. iii.

²⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. iv-vii.

²⁵⁰ UN Conference on Sustainable Development, *Current Ideas on Sustainable Development Goals and Indicators*, 2012, p. 1.

²⁵¹ *Ibid.*

²⁵² Bates-Eamer, et. al., *Post-2015 Development Agenda: Goals, Targets And Indicators*, 2012, p. 6.

²⁵³ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

²⁵⁴ IISD, *Measuring Progress Towards Sustainable Development Goals*, 2013, p. 10.

support to regional economic commissions in gathering information on national inputs to sustainable development in order to strengthen global efforts for the post-2015 agenda.²⁵⁵

These considerations were taken further by the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons which proposed a list of 12 SDGs with targets and indicators.²⁵⁶ In their report *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development*, the Panel suggested measuring the impact of the proposed goals by looking into the percentage of women having access to land, property, other assets; increasing the number of young people with skills such as technical and vocational; decreasing maternal mortality, etc.²⁵⁷ It also highlighted the importance of accountability and reporting system to be in place for the post-2015 agenda and recommended the UN to form a consortium of international organizations and other partners who could consolidate reports from various regions on how well countries are meeting the set targets on sustainable development and “produce a Sustainable Development Outlook written every one or two years.”²⁵⁸ According to the Panel, peer-review process at regional level is essential in assessing the effectiveness of policies regarding the implementation of the SDGs and their impact across various countries.²⁵⁹ The proposed measurement indicators and monitoring system however have not yet been agreed on.

In addition to the work done by the Panel, the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN) reframed the proposed SDGs and suggested narrowing them down to 10 Goals which have been put forward for consideration by the Secretary-General and the OWG on sustainable development.²⁶⁰ The amended list of goals by SDSN entails: “extreme poverty and hunger alleviation; achievement of development within planetary boundaries; education for children and youth; gender equality; health and well-being; improvement of agriculture; promoting inclusive and resilient cities; ensure clean energy and reduction of carbon emissions; water and other natural resources management, governance and sustainable development.”²⁶¹ However, these proposals have not yet been agreed on. In his recent report on *Life of dignity for all*, the Secretary-General referred to all the previous discussions on how post-2015 agenda ought to be framed and indicated that the new framework will have to be much broader than MDGs.²⁶² One of the key recommendations of the Secretary-General is to hold the UN summit in 2015 to adopt the new agenda and in preparation for this, he requests GA’s President to arrange consultations for procedural resolution which could call the Secretary-General to prepare a “report on modalities, format and organization for submission to the GA by March 2014.”²⁶³

Given the continuous discussion on how the post-2015 development agenda should look like, the UN is facing a challenge in developing and determining a set of indicators for the SDGs and their monitoring system. Several suggestions have been put forward by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). In the working paper on *Measuring Progress towards SDGs*, the IISD recommends designing the process of SDGs indicators and the indicator system itself to be based on a set of purpose-built principles.²⁶⁴ A notable example would be the *Bellagio Sustainability Assessment and Measurement Principles (STAMP)* developed in a multi-stakeholder process organized by IISD and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).²⁶⁵ The main task is to decide how to conceptualize and develop the indicators; by whom and how implementation mechanisms, monitoring and reporting should be crafted.²⁶⁶ It is important to note that scientific and science policy guidelines will be required in order to selecting indicators, define thresholds and developing pathways that connect present conditions of SDGs with the future targets.²⁶⁷ In this respect, quantitative indicators revealing trends over time will

²⁵⁵ International Institute for Sustainable Development, *Measuring Progress Towards Sustainable Development Goals*, 2013, p. 10.

²⁵⁶ UN High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development* [Report], 2013, pp. 30-31.

²⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 30-31.

²⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 22.

²⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 30.

²⁶¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 32-33.

²⁶² UN General Assembly, *A life of dignity for all: report of the Secretary-General (A/68/202)*, 2013, p. 17.

²⁶³ *Ibid.*, p. 18.

²⁶⁴ IISD, *Measuring Progress Towards Sustainable Development Goals*, 2013, p. 2.

²⁶⁵ IISD, *Bellagio STAMP: Sustainability Assessment and Measurement Principles*, 2008.

²⁶⁶ IISD, *Measuring Progress Towards Sustainable Development Goals*, 2013, p. 2.

²⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

be needed and will have to be designed in such way that allow illustrating, communicating complex data and trends in a simple form that help to shape policies.²⁶⁸

A potential monitoring framework for SDGs could entail a selected summary measures for monitoring economic, social and environmental dimensions.²⁶⁹ The reason behind this is that combination of several aspects into a single measure may help better to reflect the multidimensional character of sustainable development that simple indicators and provide a complete picture of trends in all three dimensions of sustainable development.²⁷⁰ It would also allow assessing which policies promote synergies better such as those leading to improvements across the three measures.²⁷¹ Ultimately, this requires identifying the best indices to measure each dimension, economic, social and environmental.²⁷² In his recent report on *Life of dignity for all*, the Secretary-General highlighted that monitoring and accountability framework for SDGs “can be strengthened through the direct engagement of citizens and responsible businesses making use of new technologies to expand coverage, to disaggregate data and to reduce costs.”²⁷³ He pointed out that baseline data and quantitative information gathering is central to the post-2015 agenda, which will measure broader range of indicators “requiring new and disaggregated data to capture gaps within and between population groups.”²⁷⁴ Ultimately, the advances in information technology should enable countries to strengthen and build strong statistical systems, which are particularly needed across developing countries in order to monitor the impact of the new set of goals.²⁷⁵

Important criteria for selecting indicators for sustainable development are closely linked to the quality of official statistics.²⁷⁶ The majority of indicators are already produced and collected by international organizations such as the United Nations and the European Commission (Eurostat).²⁷⁷ This especially applies to the small set of indicators that are selected “on the basis of their availability in a great number of international data sets.”²⁷⁸ The following five key issue areas for measuring sustainable development have been identified by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe: (1) “building a set of sustainable development indicators;” (2) “environmental and societal perspective;” (3) “future-oriented view;” (4) monetization; composite indicators.”²⁷⁹

It is, however, important to consider that more targets and more indicators would create complexities for SDGs and would affect the simplicity, which was the virtue that made the MDGs so attractive.²⁸⁰ At the same time, the availability of data for adequate measurement will need to be matched with the framing of indicators which require a strong cooperation with scientists and quantitative data experts to allow measuring SDGs.²⁸¹ It is important to note that SDG indicators should be designed in such way that allows measuring outcomes and outputs rather than inputs and processes and the choice of indicators must be “sensitive to potential behavior response.”²⁸² They should be direct measures as opposed to indices as they can result in distorting results due to the aggregation and summation of a lot of information.²⁸³ Ultimately, the selection of SDGs, their targets and indicators will present an opportunity to develop national statistical capacities and collect important information regarding ways to enhance sustainable development across the world.²⁸⁴

²⁶⁸ UNEP, *The need for numbers – goals, targets and indicators for the environment*, 2012, p. 5.

²⁶⁹ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Building on the MDGs to bring sustainable development to the post-2015 development agenda: thematic think piece*, 2012, p. 6.

²⁷⁰ Ibid.

²⁷¹ Ibid.

²⁷² Ibid., p. 7.

²⁷³ UN General Assembly, *A life of dignity for all: report of the Secretary-General (A/68/202)*, 2013, p. 17.

²⁷⁴ Ibid.

²⁷⁵ Ibid.

²⁷⁶ UN ECE & European Commission, *Framework and suggested indicators to measure sustainable development*, 2013, pp. 5-6.

²⁷⁷ Ibid., p. 6.

²⁷⁸ Ibid.

²⁷⁹ Ibid., p. 32.

²⁸⁰ Nayyar, *The MDGs after 2015: Some reflections on the possibilities*, 2012, p. 11.

²⁸¹ Ibid.

²⁸² Bates-Eamer, et. al., *Post-2015 Development Agenda: Goals, Targets And Indicators*, 2012, p. 28.

²⁸³ Ibid., p. 29.

²⁸⁴ Ibid.

Conclusion

Given the extensive work done by various sectors in discussing the priorities for the post-2015 agenda, further steps now require deciding and finalizing the new set of SDGs with clear indicators, targets, and measurement system. This, however, is not going to be achieved easily, especially in developing the progress measurement system for SDGs. It is also essential to examine the indicators to determine if they capture the long-term conceptual perspective.²⁸⁵ More work is needed for gathering information through comprehensive surveys at a micro level for each theme of sustainable development, in particular evidence is lacking for a large number of countries on the well-being of individuals.²⁸⁶ National statistical agencies and international organizations need to harmonize their indicators for sustainable development goals to allow international comparisons and impact assessment.²⁸⁷

Questions to consider for further research could include: Should targets for successor goals measure outputs and outcomes rather than inputs?²⁸⁸ What indicators could best measure the success of each goal proposed by High-Level Panel and SDSN?²⁸⁹ How feasible is it to initiate a peer-review process to monitor the implementation of SDGs across regions? Who would initiate such feedback review and consolidation? How would it feed into the global review on the SDGs? What could be the sources and mechanisms to finance the SDGs?²⁹⁰ How national statistical capacities and information collection systems could be strengthened? What would be the appropriate tools and technologies to gather data on the targets for meeting the SDGs? How to ensure the consistency of data and regular monitoring process on SDGs across developing and developed countries?

²⁸⁵ UN ECE & European Commission, *Framework and suggested indicators to measure sustainable development*, 2013, p. 18.

²⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 91.

²⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 91.

²⁸⁸ Bates-Eamer, et al., *Post-2015 Development Agenda: Goals, Targets And Indicators*, 2012, p. 3.

²⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁰ Greenhill & Ali, *Paying for progress: how will emerging post-2015 goals be financed in the new aid landscape?*, 2013, p. 9.

Annotated Bibliography

Bates-Eamer, N., B. Carin, M. H. Lee, & W. Lim. (2012) *Post-2015 Development Agenda: Goals, Targets And Indicators*. The Centre for International Governance Innovation and the Korea Development Institute. Retrieved 21 July 2013 from: http://www.cigionline.org/sites/default/files/MDG_Post_2015v3.pdf

The authors provide an excellent review and examine the potential targets and goals for the post-2015 development agenda. Their report looks into the framework of Bellagio Goals, the quality of targets and indicators and outlines challenges in terms of selecting appropriate indicators to measure inputs and outcomes. They also provide suggestions to establish a global framework where clear targets could be set and global standards would be able to foster in mobilizing the development agenda beyond 2015. The report was prepared in 2012 to the UN officials responsible for identifying the goals to succeed MDGs and was presented to the Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons and other officials at the UN.

United Nations ECE, ESCAP, ECLAC, ECA and ESCWA. (2013). *A Regional Perspective on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda* [Report]. Retrieved 30 June 2013 from: <http://www.regionalcommissions.org/post2015regionalreport.pdf>

This report identifies the key regional priority areas for a global development agenda beyond 2015. It addresses thematic issues, outlines policy recommendations and serves as an excellent source to gain insights to region-specific challenges and needs. This document also assesses the political and socioeconomic context in which the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were formulated and identifies the challenges and opportunities raised by the current MDG framework.

International Institute for Sustainable Development. (2013). *Measuring Progress Towards Sustainable Development Goals*. Retrieved 20 July 2013 from: http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2013/measuring_progress_sus_dev_goals.pdf

The working paper prepared by the Institute is a particularly useful source which addresses how the idea of sustainable development goals (SDGs) emerged in political deliberations and discusses conceptual, scientific and technical challenges in developing indicators for SDGs. This paper argues that the process of establishing SDGs indicators should be kept separate from the political process in order to ensure objectivity and avoid data driving goal settings. It also outlines a principles-based approach which could serve as a basis for developing indicators to measure SDGs. It is an excellent resource which tackles one of the key issues regarding post-2015 agenda – measurement and implementation of SDGs.

Melamed, C. (2012). *Contexts Politics and Processes for a Post-2015 Global Agreement on Development*. Overseas Development Institute. Retrieved 30 June 2013 from: <http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/6231-millennium-development-goals-mdgs-post-2015>

An excellent resource which looks at the history of MDGs, identifies the triggers leading to the formation of such agenda and reviews the progress made since they were adopted. It then gives insights to the context where discussions of a new development agenda emerged and highlight some issue areas that require attention for such agenda to gain political consensus and be effective. This paper provides an excellent assessment starting with MDG framework and points towards challenges and issue areas that have not been adequately addressed for the current framework as well as identifies the new challenges that emerged recently and now require mobilizing political action to address and tackle them collectively without putting the blame and burden to developing countries.

United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network. (2013). *An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development: Report for the UN Secretary-General*. Retrieved 30 June 2013 from: <http://unsdsn.org/files/2013/06/130613-SDSN-An-Action-Agenda-for-Sustainable-Development-FINAL.pdf>

This report was delivered to the Secretary-General by the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network which consists of scientists, technologists, businesses, and development specialists who are mandated by the UN to help supporting efforts to achieve sustainable development during the period of 2015-30. It outlines 10 sustainable development priorities such as economic growth and reduction of poverty, social inclusion, environmental

sustainability, and good governance. The document also proposes a list of sustainable development goals (SDGs), their targets and how will they contribute towards achieving overall sustainable development. This document provides an excellent review and analysis of how SDGs can be framed and looks into some of the pressing challenges regarding the development and measurement of SDGs.

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Secretariat. (2012). *Current Ideas on Sustainable Development Goals and Indicators* [Issue Brief]. Retrieved 27 July 2013 from: http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/218Issues%20Brief%206%20-%20SDGs%20and%20Indicators_Final%20Final%20clean.pdf

This resource offers a good review of various suggestions regarding the SDGs proposed by Member States and other stakeholders. It looks into the outcomes of Rio+20 conference, summarizes key ideas that came from multiple meetings held with civil society organizations and assess suggestions brought up by the governments of Colombia and Guatemala. This paper identifies the pressing challenges related with SDGs indicators and calls for a discussion of how to move forward with the new agenda taking into account the need for measurement techniques for the SDGs.

United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. (2012). *Realizing the Future We Want for All: Report to the Secretary-General*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs & United Nations Development Programme. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/untt_report.pdf

This report was issued by the UN System Task Team, created by the Secretary-General, on the post-2015 development agenda. It provides an assessment of the key development challenges to which the global development agenda should respond in the next decade. The document is based on the initial consultations between the UN System Task Team and the Member States, academia, civil society and private sector organizations. It serves to provide a strong foundation for all stakeholders to move forward with the preparations for a post-2015 development agenda and is a good resource to get insights into such political debates.

United Nations Development Group. (2013). *The Global Conversation Begins: Emerging Views For a New Development Agenda* [Report]. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/the-global-conversation-begins>

This report was launched by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and provides a snapshot of the narratives from over 80 national and 11 thematic consultations on the post-2015 development agenda. This report provides an excellent documentation of opinions expressed by national governments, development experts and others regarding the development of new post-2015 agenda and where the attention should be directed. It assesses the consultation process rather than proposes a list of new agenda or goals.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and European Commission. (2013). *Framework and suggested indicators to measure sustainable development* [Report]. Statistical Office of the European Communities. Retrieved 4 September 2013 from:

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/2013/SD_framework_and_indicators_final.pdf

UNECE and Eurostat prepared a particularly useful report which outlines a conceptual framework to measure sustainable development and suggests a number of indicators for international comparison. This resource though is aimed at statisticians but offers a good guidance to policy makers as well in developing policies how to monitor the implementation of sustainable development and the proposed goals. Delegates will benefit from exploring this rather technical source because it assesses various approaches and indicators already used by international organizations and various countries with regards to sustainable development.

United Nations, High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. (2013). *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development* [Report]. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: <http://www.post2015hlp.org/featured/high-level-panel-releases-recommendations-for-worlds-next-development-agenda/>

This document presents a summary of decisions and consultations that were made by the independent High-Level Panel of 27 eminent persons appointed by the Secretary-General. The report outlines an ambitious and universal agenda that builds upon the MDGs and promotes sustainable development, institution building, good governance, and human rights. It assesses the issues regarding implementation of new set of goals and the need for further consensus building across various sectors and partners. The recommendations from the report will be used by the Secretary-General in preparing his own report to the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly in September 2013.

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Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council Plenary

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the Economic and Social Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) and shall be considered adopted by the Council prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Director, the Assistant Director(s), the Under-Secretaries-General, and the Assistant Secretaries-General, are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, and are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Deputy Secretary-General or her/his designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations (NMUN) 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, which can be any member of the Secretariat or their designate.
5. The practice of striving for consensus in decision-making shall be encouraged. NMUN also acknowledges it may sometimes be necessary for a Member State to abstain or vote against a resolution it cannot support for policy reasons.

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 Deputy 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 Deputy 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.

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 voting means those Member States and observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote. Should the Council not reach a decision by conclusion of the first night’s meeting, the agenda will be automatically set in the order in which it was first communicated.

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. Debate on the inclusion of an item in the agenda shall be limited to three speakers in favor of, and three against, the inclusion. 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 commission has reported on the question concerned.

For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item of an important and urgent character is subject to the discretion of the Deputy Secretary-General, or his or her designate, 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. The votes described in this rule are substantive votes, 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, in cooperation with the Deputy 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 and 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 designate, 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 or her/his designate.

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 12 - Official and working language

English shall be the official and working language of the Council during scheduled sessions (both formal and informal) 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. The language should be the official language of the country you are representing at NMUN.

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 (session).

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 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. The President may propose to the Council the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the speakers time 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 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 and is limited to entertaining motions.

Rule 16 - Authority of the Council

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

Rule 17 - Voting rights on procedural matters

Unless otherwise stated, all votes pertaining to the conduct of business shall require a favorable vote by the majority of the members "present and voting" in order to pass.

For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this rule is applied. Note that observers may vote on all procedural votes; they may, however, not vote on substantive matters (see Chapter VI). Every delegation must cast a vote in procedural votes. Further, there is no possibility to abstain or pass on procedural votes

Rule 18 - Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. They should be used exclusively to correct an error in procedure. 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 (on her/his own accord), during the speech. For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 19 - Speeches

No representative 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. The President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, the Secretariat will set a time limit for all speeches which may be amended by the Council through a vote if the President, at his or her discretion, decides to allow the Council to decide. In no case shall the speakers time be changed during the first scheduled session of the Council. Consequently, motions to alter the speaker's time will not be entertained by the President. The content of speeches should be pertinent to the agenda as set by the Council.

Rule 20 - 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. Once the list has been closed, it can be reopened upon by a vote of the Council. 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 or reopen (if the list has already been closed) 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. The right of reply will not be approved should it impugn the integrity of another State.

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. Delegates should not state a purpose for the suspension.

This motion should be used to suspend the meeting for lunch or at the end of the scheduled committee session time. Delegates should properly phrase this motion as "suspension of the meeting," and provide a length of time when making the motion.

Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move to 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

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Two representatives may speak in favor of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

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 18, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

1. To suspend the meeting;
2. To adjourn the meeting;
3. To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
4. To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments

Proposals and amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat. Any proposal or amendment that relates to the substance of any matter under discussion shall require the signature of twenty percent of the members of the Council [sponsors].

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 during formal speeches. 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. Should delegates wish to withdraw a working paper or draft resolution from consideration, this requires the consent of all sponsors.

Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

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. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

Rule 30 - Invitation to silent prayer or meditation

Immediately after the opening of the first plenary meeting and immediately preceding the closing of the final plenary meeting of each session of the General Assembly, the President shall invite the representatives to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation.

VI. VOTING

Rule 31 - 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 32 - 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. Adoption by “acclamation” or “without a vote” is consistent not only with the educational mission of the conference but also the way in which the United Nations adopts a majority of its proposals.

Rule 33 - Majority required

1. Unless specified otherwise in these rules, decisions of the Council 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 roll-call for the meeting during which the substantive voting occurs, must cast an affirmative or negative vote, and cannot abstain on substantive votes.

Rule 34 - 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 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, when requested a second time, respond with either a yes or no vote. 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 35 - 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. Only delegates who are sponsors of a draft resolution that has been adopted with an unfriendly amendment, whom subsequently voted against the draft resolution may explain their vote.

Rule 36 - 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.

For purposes of this rule, there shall be no communication among delegates, and if any delegate leaves the Council room during voting procedure, they will not be allowed back into the room until the Council has

convened voting procedure. Should a delegate who is also serving as Head Delegate leave the room, they may reenter but they may not retake their seat and participate in the vote.

Rule 37 - 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 an 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 approved shall then be put to a vote. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or 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 38 - Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from, or revise part of another proposal. Permission to speak on the amendment shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against.

An amendment can add, amend, or delete entire operative clauses, but cannot in any manner add, amend, delete, or otherwise affect preambular clauses or sub-clauses of operative clauses. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule. These speeches are substantive in nature.

Rule 39 - 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 40 - 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 41 - 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 42 - 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 43 - Authority of the General Assembly

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 44 - Participation of non-Member States

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.

A sub-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. 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. Delegates invited to the Council according to this rule should also keep in mind their role and obligations in the Council 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. Delegates may request the presence of a non-member of their committee simply by informing the President that this is the desire of the body, there is no formal procedural process.

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.

National liberation movements are only represented at NMUN in two ways: (1) if their delegation has been assigned explicitly the national liberation movement itself; or (b) should the Security Council wish to hear from a representative of the movement in their deliberations, the Secretariat shall provide the appropriate representative.

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.

NMUN does not assign delegations to Specialized Agencies.

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

Representatives of non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations accorded consultative observer status by the Economic and Social Council 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.

NMUN will assign delegations an NGO instead of a Member State upon request.