



NEW YORK, NY

22 - 26 March – Conference A

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# GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECOND COMMITTEE BACKGROUND GUIDE 2015

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# NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS





# THE 2015 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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Dear Delegates,

We are pleased to welcome you to the 2015 National Model United Nations Conference New York (NMUN•NY)! This year's General Assembly Second Committee staff is: Directors Omar Torres (Conference A) and Sabrina Grover (Conference B), and Assistant Director Julia Bhattacharjee (Conference A). Omar holds a B.A. from California University Fullerton in Political Science with an emphasis on political theory. Currently, Omar works for two non-profit organizations: Latin American Perspectives and Laguna Wilderness Press in Southern California. This is his fourth year on staff. Sabrina completed her B.A. in Political Science from the University of Calgary. She currently works in the field of government relations and political campaigning in Calgary. This is Sabrina's sixth year on staff. Julia is working towards her Master's in Political Science from the University of Potsdam, Germany. This is Julia's third year on staff.

The topics under discussion for the General Assembly Second Committee are:

- I. Women in Development
- II. The Impact of Migration on Development
- III. Adapting to Globalization: The New International Economic Order and the Green Economy

The General Assembly Second Committee is one of six Main Committees of the UN General Assembly, which is a primary organ of the United Nations. The Committee focuses primarily on macroeconomic policy questions, with a focus on economic growth and the post-2015 development agenda including issues related to globalization, debt sustainability, and poverty eradication. Additionally, the Committee touches on issues related to states in special situations including the Leased Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. In addressing these issues, the Second Committee may initiate studies, convene conferences and working groups, and make recommendations to the General Assembly Plenary.

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 for the conference, each delegation will submit a [position paper](#). Please take note of the [NMUN policies](#) on the website and in the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#) regarding plagiarism, codes of conduct/dress code/sexual harassment, awards philosophy/evaluation method, etc. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

The [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) are available to download from the NMUN website. This document includes the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure. It is thus an essential instrument in preparing for the conference, and a reference during committee.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the Committee or the Conference itself, feel free to contact the Under-Secretaries-General for the General Assembly, Kristina Getty (Conference A) and Cara Wagner (Conference B). You can reach either USG by contacting them at: [usg.ga@nmun.org](mailto:usg.ga@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**

Omar Torres, *Director*  
Julia Bhattacharjee, *Assistant Director*

**Conference B**

Sabrina Grover, *Director*



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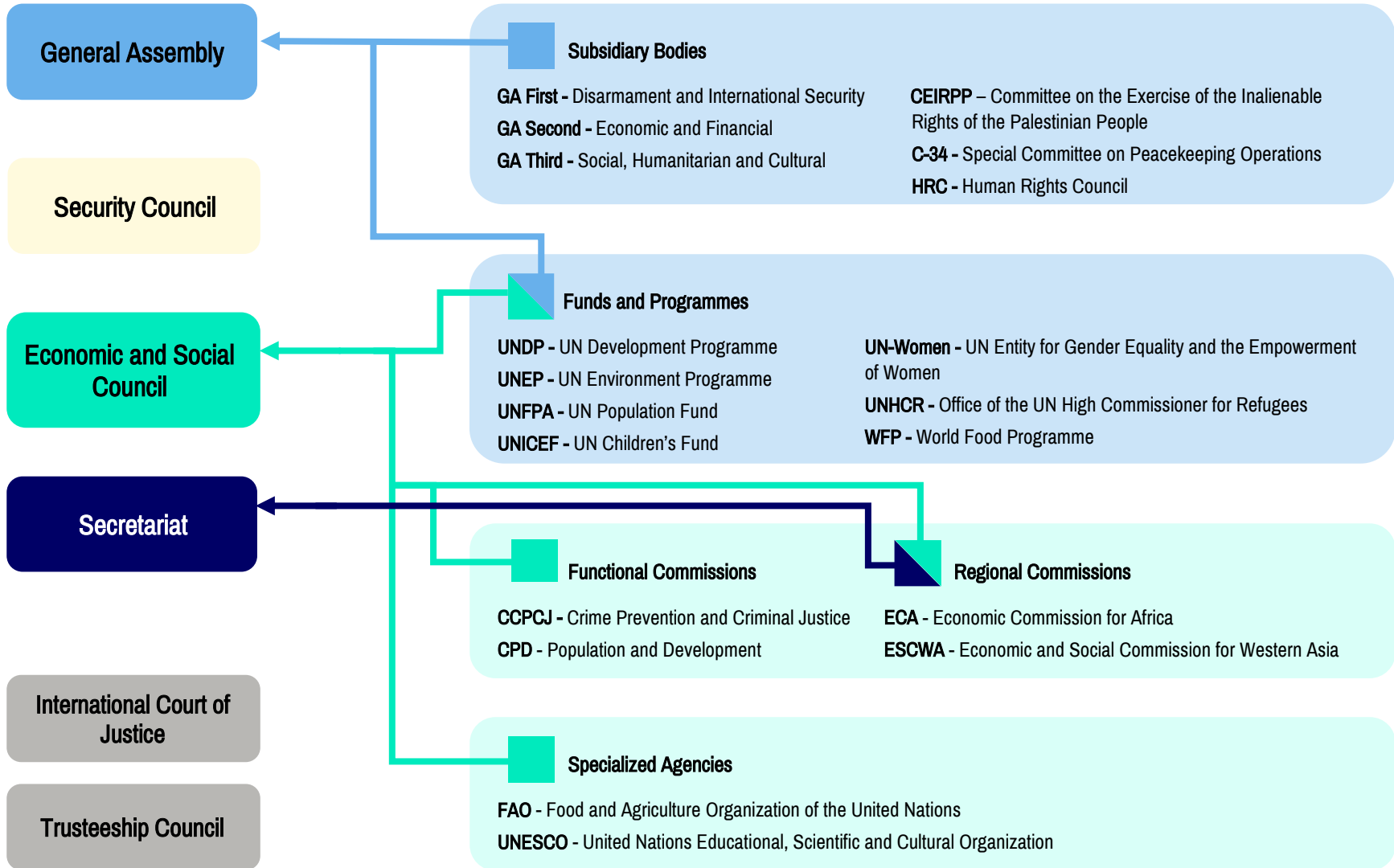
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## Abbreviations

<b>ACP</b>	African, Caribbean and Pacific
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>CBMM</b>	Capacity-Building for Migration Management
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
<b>CSW</b>	Commission on the Status of Women
<b>DESA</b>	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>DSF</b>	Debt Sustainability Framework
<b>ECOSOC</b>	Economic and Social Council
<b>FIT</b>	Feed-in tariffs
<b>GA</b>	General Assembly
<b>GDP</b>	Gross domestic product
<b>GMG</b>	Global Migration Group
<b>HLCP</b>	High-Level Committee on Programmes
<b>IANWGE</b>	Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>ILO</b>	International Labor Organization
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization on Migration
<b>LDC</b>	Least Developed Countries
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MFLM</b>	Multilateral Framework on Labor Migration
<b>OWG</b>	Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals
<b>PGA</b>	President of the General Assembly
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable development goals
<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>US</b>	United States of America

## United Nations System at NMUN·NY

This diagram illustrates the UN System simulated at NMUN·NY. It shows where each committee “sits” within the system, to help understand the reportage and relationships between the entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose and powers within the UN System.



## Committee Overview

*“We must provide ideas for the redesign of policies to strengthen the impact on poverty and in employment, and on the promotion of structural change for a more sustainable future for all.”<sup>1</sup>*

### Introduction

The General Assembly (GA) is one of the primary policy and decision-making organs of the United Nations (UN).<sup>2</sup> The GA has six Main Committees, each of which focus on particular issues including social and humanitarian situations, international security, economic and financial situations, as well as UN budgetary and operational issues.<sup>3</sup> The GA was established as one of the principal organs of the UN when the organization was founded in 1945 following the end of the Second World War.<sup>4</sup> The UN was established with four main tenants: establish peace and security, facilitate friendly relations among states and serve as a center for cooperation, reduce poverty and secure human rights and freedoms; these pillars have shaped the work of the UN, and the GA continues to adapt its program of work to changes in the emerging international system.<sup>5</sup>

**The General Assembly Second Committee** (GA Second Committee) is one of the six Main Committees. A report is issued to the General Assembly Plenary for each item allocated to a Main Committee.

The GA Second (GA 2) Committee is one of the six Main Committees of the GA and places its focus on economic and financial issues of the international system and Member States.<sup>6</sup> Each of the six committees follows a similar structure, governance and membership model, and also exhibits many of the same functions and powers with respect to committee work.<sup>7</sup> Substantively, GA Second promotes the economic growth and development of Member States, while also focusing on the international financial system.<sup>8</sup> In the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis, the committee has revitalized its focus on ensuring stability in the international system, while simultaneously working towards aligning economic development goals with the sustainability initiatives in the post-2015 environment.<sup>9</sup>

As the only main body with universal membership, the GA is a unique forum for discussion within the UN system.<sup>10</sup> As such, it represents the normative center of gravity of the UN and its main role in the maintenance of international peace and security can essentially be summarized in three principal aspects: a generator of ideas, a place of international debate, and the recommendation of new concepts or practices.<sup>11</sup>

### History

Articles 55 to 60 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) describe the motivations for the UN’s work in international financial and economic issues and lays the groundwork for the establishment of the GA Second.<sup>12</sup> The *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) inherently links the need for the stability of economic conditions and economic growth with the continuation of “peaceful and friendly relations among nations,” centered within the context of the depression, which preceded the Second World War.<sup>13</sup> The responsibility for these issues is vested within the authority of the GA, its Main Committees, and also the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).<sup>14</sup> In the Charter’s first Repertory of Practice (1945-1954) in Article 55, the document notes the essential link between improvement of social conditions and the raising of living standards, leading to the reduction of poverty among the

<sup>1</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *The UN General Assembly’s Second Committee*, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *UN at a glance*.

<sup>6</sup> UN General Assembly Second Committee, *Economic and Financial*, 2013.

<sup>7</sup> UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*, 2014.

<sup>8</sup> UN General Assembly Second Committee, *Economic and Financial*, 2013.

<sup>9</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *Regulation of Financial Institutions Critical to Avoiding Spread of Global Risk, Speaker Says as Second Committee Debates Economic Crisis*, 2013.

<sup>10</sup> UN General Assembly, *Homepage*, 2014.

<sup>11</sup> Thakur, *The United Nations, Peace and Security*. Cambridge: University Press, 2006, p. 91 & 162.

<sup>12</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 55-60.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

global population, a notion which ultimately shaped the GA Second's work on development and growth.<sup>15</sup> Further, the GA's work evolved to address ways to achieve and maintain full employment, including reducing structural and under-employment in developing states, in conjunction with the work done by the International Monetary Fund and International Bank for Reconstruction at the time, with the aim of combating inflation, and restoring economic stability.<sup>16</sup>

### **Mandate**

The GA derives its mandate from provisions outlined in the Chapter IV of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945).<sup>17</sup> Overall, the GA is tasked with discussing “any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the present Charter.”<sup>18</sup> This framework for the GA's mandate provides the substance for each committee's program of work and focus.<sup>19</sup>

GA Second derives its mandate from Articles 55-60 of the Charter.<sup>20</sup> The committee works on macroeconomic policy issues, including international trade, the international financial system, external debt sustainability, and financing for development.<sup>21</sup> In line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda, the committee also works on sustainable development, globalization and interdependence, and poverty eradication.<sup>22</sup> Additionally, GA Second works on providing direction regarding special states including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).<sup>23</sup> Lastly, the committee considers the item on the Permanent Sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian territory (oPT), specifically with a focus on the socio-economic factors of the occupation, and also access by both parties to natural resources in the region.<sup>24</sup>

### **Governance, Structure and Membership**

GA Plenary and the six GA Main Committees consist of all UN Member States, a total of 193 states as of July 2013.<sup>25</sup> In 2012, the GA overwhelmingly approved the State of Palestine as a non-Member Observer State; the Holy See also retains the same Permanent Observer status.<sup>26</sup> Several non-governmental organizations have also been afforded observer status in the GA and thus have standing invitations to attend meetings of the GA.<sup>27</sup> Each Member State in the GA has one vote, with the exclusion of Observer States and organizations.<sup>28</sup> In recent years, however, the GA has sought to move towards a model of achieving resolution by consensus rather than a formal vote, to emphasize the importance of collaboration and cooperation by Member States.<sup>29</sup>

The GA meets annually, during regular sessions starting in the third week of September each year.<sup>30</sup> The bulk of the work is addressed annually during the General Debate between September and December.<sup>31</sup> From January to September, the committees focus on thematic debates, consultations, and meetings of organized working groups.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> UN Office of Legal Affairs, *Repertory of Practice of the United Nations Organs*, 2003.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2013-14*, 2013, p. 12.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> UN Office of Legal Affairs, *Repertory of Practice of the United Nations Organs*, 2003.

<sup>21</sup> UN General Assembly Second Committee, *Economic and Financial*, 2013.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> UN General Assembly Second Committee, *Documents of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session*, 2013.

<sup>24</sup> UN General Assembly, *Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan*, (A/RES/68/77), 2013.

<sup>25</sup> New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2013-14*, 2013, p. 17.

<sup>26</sup> UN General Assembly, *General Assembly votes overwhelmingly to accord Palestine 'non-Member Observer State' status in United Nation*, 2012.

<sup>27</sup> UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*, 2014.

<sup>28</sup> UN General Assembly, *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 15.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

As a part of the UN reporting structure, there are five primary groups of organizations which report back to the GA and its six Main Committees: subsidiary bodies, funds and programs, research and training institutes, related organizations and other entities.<sup>33</sup> The GA will receive and consider reports from the various bodies within each of these groups.<sup>34</sup> The GA may take action on any of the items reported on by these bodies, including ordering further study and investigation, the creation of a working group, or including it in documentation or resolutions drafted by the committee.<sup>35</sup> At the end of each year, the Second Committee will submit a report to the GA Plenary on each agenda item allocated to it, which will then consider each report and vote on the adoption of included draft resolutions.<sup>36</sup> GA Second will also specifically consider reports from the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as outlined in its Organization of Work.<sup>37</sup> While the GA is the main deliberative and policy organ of the UN, its decisions are not legally binding on Member States.<sup>38</sup>

The GA's provisional agenda lays out the main issue areas for discussion by the GA and its Main Committees.<sup>39</sup> Agenda items from the provisional agenda are then allocated to the Main Committees for their substantive discussion. The Second Committee's scope of work is primarily focused on the "promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development."<sup>40</sup>

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) is the arm of the UN Secretariat focused on development, and works closely with the GA Second in supporting its initiatives and resolutions related to the organization's development goals.<sup>41</sup> Further, the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination provides the main operational and policy support for ECOSOC and the Second Committee with respect to development issues.<sup>42</sup> It also prepares and advises the GA Plenary on the periodic review of funding of the organization's operational activities related to development.<sup>43</sup> The GA Fifth Committee specifically works with the GA and its Main Committees on budgetary allocations, specifically where resolutions are passed that require expenditures of the GA.<sup>44</sup>

### ***Functions and Powers***

GA Second is a normative body, in that it sets the development of norms and standards for the UN and further helps with the implementation of these standards within Member States through the creation of policy and legislation.<sup>45</sup> The work of the GA Second is chiefly substantive, with the exception of its work on the revitalization of the GA.<sup>46</sup> This work includes streamlining the overall program of work, including the possibility of biennialized and thematic groups of agenda items, updating working methods, and working towards reducing the number and length of draft resolutions.<sup>47</sup>

GA Second completes its work primarily through draft proposals and submissions of reports to the GA Plenary as laid out in the committees' Organization of Work.<sup>48</sup> Primarily, the GA Second works on encouraging implementation of commitments and targets by Member States, as they relate to development and socio-economic goals.<sup>49</sup> The committee further has the ability to convene conferences and summits as they relate to development goals, including following up on international conferences such as the *Monterrey Consensus*, the *Mauritius Strategy*,

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<sup>33</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *The United Nations System*, 2013.

<sup>34</sup> New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2013-14*, 2013, p. 12.

<sup>35</sup> UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*, 2013.

<sup>36</sup> UN, Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *UN Documentation: General Assembly*, 2014.

<sup>37</sup> New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2013-14*, 2013.

<sup>38</sup> UN General Assembly, *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*.

<sup>39</sup> UN General Assembly, *Agenda of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, (A/68/251)*, 2013.

<sup>40</sup> UN General Assembly, Second Committee, *Allocation of Agenda Items to the Second Committee: Letter dated 20 September 2013 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chair of the Second Committee*, 2013.

<sup>41</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *About Us*.

<sup>42</sup> UN Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, *About OESC*.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>44</sup> UN General Assembly Fifth Committee, *Administrative and Budgetary*. 2013.

<sup>45</sup> UN Evaluation Group, *UNEG Handbook for Conducting Evaluations of Normative Work in the UN System*, 2013.

<sup>46</sup> UN General Assembly Second Committee, *Economic and Financial*, 2013.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>48</sup> UN General Assembly Second Committee, *Organization of work of the Second Committee*, 2013.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*



and various programs of action.<sup>50</sup> For example, in 2008, the Second Committee submitted to the Plenary for consideration the need for a World Summit in 2012 as a follow-up to the Rio Conference (1992) and *Agenda 21*, both conferences and outcome documents focused on sustainable development.<sup>51</sup> The proposal was implemented in 2010 by GA resolution 64/236, which convened the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in July 2012 and set the stage for the post-2015 development agenda that is currently being developed.<sup>52</sup> Additionally, the Second Committee is able to call on the Secretary-General to submit reports for consideration on issues of significance as they relate to allocated agenda items.<sup>53</sup> The Second Committee also hosts a number of side events during its sessions, including holding a dialogue with the UN Regional Commissions on regional issues as they apply to the allocation of agenda items such as inter-regional trade, the post-2015 development agenda and increased South-South cooperation.<sup>54</sup>

### ***Current Priorities***

Most recently, the issue of sustainable development has taken a front seat on the agenda of GA Second, including disaster reduction strategies, climate change and its effect on development, the effects of globalization, poverty eradication, and the implementation of *Agenda 21*.<sup>55</sup> The post-2015 development agenda has set the stage for the work of the UN through 2030.<sup>56</sup> The post-2015 development agenda itself outlines a renewed focus on sustainable and inclusive growth, human rights-based approaches to development, poverty reduction, and sustainable development.<sup>57</sup> In a dialogue held with the regional commissions and the Second Committee, several areas were identified as possible development related challenges for the post-2015 agenda.<sup>58</sup> Inter-regional imbalances, especially within the Global South, present both opportunities and challenges for new development including overcoming the South-South trade imbalance and improving technology and capacity within Member States.<sup>59</sup> Additionally, public-private partnerships and increased investment flows to the South were identified as areas for growth and improvement.<sup>60</sup>

The GA's *Strategic Framework For Economic and Social Affairs* for the period 2014-2015 highlights the priorities of Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*, and the overall post-2015 development agenda.<sup>61</sup> With respect to states in special situations, SIDS and LDCs, the GA Second continues to monitor the implementation on the three programs of action, *the Istanbul Programme of Action*, *the Almaty Programme of Action*, and *the Mauritius Strategy*, specifically regards to progress on the Millennium Development Goals and the sustainable development goals (SDGs).<sup>62</sup> Further, GA Second is committed to working towards strengthening partnerships between LDCs and development partners, including increasing the overall number of development and trade partners.<sup>63</sup> For SIDS, the GA Second has focused its efforts on ensuring that Member States are prepared for challenges faced by climate change and environmental threats.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> UN General Assembly Second Committee, *Organization of work of the Second Committee*, 2013.

<sup>51</sup> UN General Assembly Second Committee, *Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, 2008.

<sup>52</sup> UN General Assembly, *Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/RES/64/236)*, 2010.

<sup>53</sup> New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2013-14*, 2013.

<sup>54</sup> UN Regional Commissions, *Second Committee*, 2013.

<sup>55</sup> UN General Assembly Second Committee, *Allocation of Agenda Items to the Second Committee: Letter dated 20 September 2013 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chair of the Second Committee*, 2013.

<sup>56</sup> UN General Assembly, *The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage*, 2013.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>58</sup> UN General Assembly Second Committee, *Regional voices must be heard, priorities captured in post-2015 agenda commission head tells Second Committee*, 2013.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>61</sup> UN General Assembly, *Proposed Strategic Framework for the period 2014-2015- Programme 7 Economic and Social Affairs, A/67/6 (Prog.7)*, 2012.

<sup>62</sup> UN General Assembly, *Proposed Strategic Framework for the period 2014-2015- Programme 8 Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, A/67/6 (Prog.8)*, 2012.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*

## ***Recent Sessions***

The 68<sup>th</sup> session of the GA Second was held from September 2013-August 2014; it further emphasized the GA Second's growing focus on sustainable development, poverty eradication, and increasing stability in economic governance.<sup>65</sup> One important discussion included addressing global economic governance and international financial stability as Member States continue to recover from the 2008 financial crisis and are hampered by debt and slow economic growth, which continues to detract from development priorities.<sup>66</sup> Related to this, the Second Committee discussed ways of addressing the "middle-income trap"; this is Member States that lack the technological capacity of production that high-income states have, while at the same time are losing corporate investment to low-income states.<sup>67</sup> On the issue of women in development, the committee noted that the burden of unpaid work in the existing economic system was carried by women and caused serious challenges to poverty eradication and sustainable employment.<sup>68</sup> Further, it was noted, gender discrimination and inequalities hamper women's access to the formal labor market.<sup>69</sup> These issues will be brought forward to the Beijing +20 review in 2015.<sup>70</sup>

The 69<sup>th</sup> session of the GA Second opened on 7 October 2014 where Member States focused on poverty eradication and the reduction of income inequality within and between states in advancing sustainable development.<sup>71</sup> Further to this, several Member States emphasized the importance of financial resources, especially official development assistance in helping build capacity and facilitate the implementation of development goals.<sup>72</sup>

Overall the GA Second has aligned its discussions with the post-2015 agenda and has put forth draft proposals to the GA Plenary as such. Though they have not yet been finalized, in its conceptualization of the SDGs, the Second Committee has placed its focus on clear and accountable monitoring, reporting, and verifying mechanisms for the goals, while at the same time ensuring that the goals accurately reflected national capacities.<sup>73</sup> The Second Committee emphasized the need for states to enable a crosscutting approach to development implementation of the goals while noting that poverty eradication must still be the core objective.<sup>74</sup> Lastly, the GA Second notes that the approach to solutions need to be global, and that several challenges to sustainable development required a global response, including engagement from all sides: private partners, Member States, and civil society.<sup>75</sup>

## ***Conclusion***

Today, the role and work of the GA Second is integrally tied to the post-2015 agenda as well as the priorities of the UN as the organization moves forward. The Second Committee has taken an active role in promoting sustainable development through economic growth and continues to identify obstacles and create solutions for local development within Member States. Additionally, the Second Committee continues to work closely with other UN bodies, which ensures a broader and more integrated approach to problem solving, including a focus on technical and capacity-building, environmental concerns, and the human rights-based approach to development. Challenges remain ahead for the GA Second, particularly in the implementation of the SDGs and the overall coordination of the post-2015 development agenda across the UN. Yet, as this vision is developed and deployed across the organization, the GA Second will continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring success.

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<sup>65</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *New global economic governance must address debt restructuring, trade, investment, Delegates say as Second Committee considers macroeconomic policies*, 2013.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *New approach needed to address vulnerabilities of middle-income countries delegates say in debate on globalization, interdependence*, 2013.

<sup>68</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *Burden of unpaid work must be valued, formal sectors opened to women, delegates urge as Second Committee takes up poverty eradication*, 2013.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *Eradication of poverty critical to future development activities, speakers stress as second committee opens session*, 2014.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *Summary of the special event of the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly Conceptualizing a Set of Sustainable Development Goals*, 2012.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

## Annotated Bibliography

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*This is a good working paper for delegates to review when they are framing their responses and actions for the topics at hand as it evaluates the working methods of the wider UN organization and the effectiveness of policy tools. Additionally, this resource will help delegates in critiquing, and reforming the work on the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in line with the work of the Second Committee. Additionally, the paper may provide delegates with a better idea on appropriate actions to take when framing their working papers, by referencing the successes and failures of the Millennium Development Goal structure.*

New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2013). *United Nations Handbook 2013-14*. Retrieved 4 August 2014 from: <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/downloads/media-and-publications/UN-Handbook-2013-web%20PDF.pdf>

*This handbook provides a comprehensive look at the UN, and its principal organs and committees. The handbook gives delegates a detailed look at the structure, processes, and procedure of the Main Committees including the General Assembly. It also gives a detailed breakdown of the structure, membership, and functionality of these committees. This is a good place for delegates to start to begin their research and gain an overall understanding of the UN framework.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Second Committee, Sixty-eighth session. (2013). *Allocation of Agenda Items to the Second Committee: Letter dated 20 September 2013 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chair of the Second Committee*. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from:

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.2/68/1](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.2/68/1)

*The official document outlining the allocation of agenda items for GA Second provide delegates with the broad overview of issues under discussion by the GA Second. The agenda will provide a framework of the GA Second's activities and priorities going into the post-2015 agenda and the 69<sup>th</sup> session. Lastly, the agenda should help delegates frame their research around the crosscutting themes of the topics addressed by the GA Second Committee.*

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2014). *Prototype Global Sustainable Development Report*. Retrieved 12 July 2014 from:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1454Prototype%20Global%20SD%20Report.pdf>

*The post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development are at the core of the topics for the upcoming sessions of the Second Committee. This newly released report helps to lay the overarching foundation on the status of sustainable development at present, as well as the broad goals and hopes for improvements in sustainable development over the next 20-50 years. Specifically, the document focuses on working methods of goal development such as "goal progress" and "measuring progress", which should help delegates frame their positions from an achievement and implementation perspective, especially in relation to the finalization of the SDGs. Lastly, the report provides delegates with a framework for cross-sector approach on each of the topics, especially with respect to sustainable development.*

United Nations, Office of Legal Affairs. (2003). *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*. Retrieved 7 September 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/law/repertory/>

*This is an excellent resources by the UN Office of Legal Affairs that breaks down each article in the Charter of the United Nations into 10-year frames and analyses them against the current actions taken by various UN bodies, primarily focusing on the GA and ECOSOC. Chapter IX of the document allows delegates to see how the GA Second and the GA Plenary have acted on certain issues of importance, and what the outcome has been on the issue over the history of the UN. Additionally, the document helps provide specific context for the Charter and its corresponding articles by linking its broad goals to actual proposals and resolutions that are on the GA's Provisional Agenda.*



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## I. Women in Development

*“Women tend to spend their resources on their families—prioritizing things like healthcare, nutritious food, education, and all the building blocks of a thriving society.”<sup>76</sup>*

### **Introduction**

Women face many barriers in the context of development, including lack of education, lack of access to employment opportunities, and poor working conditions.<sup>77</sup> The United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) sought to address this issue by including goals related to women’s participation in its framework for the eradication of extreme poverty, reduction of child mortality rates, and the fight against epidemics such as AIDS, by the year 2015.<sup>78</sup> With the deadline fast approaching, only minor, but important progress has been made; school enrolment of girls in primary and secondary schools in developing regions, for example, has increased.<sup>79</sup> However, disparities still exist, and it is still difficult for women to have equal access to education.<sup>80</sup> Violence, sexual harassment, lack of access to reproductive healthcare, cultural and religious norms, child marriage, and pregnancy keep women and girls away from attending school; these factors are therefore threats to development.<sup>81</sup> Beyond education, HIV infections and maternal deaths also have a deep impact on development and hinder women from achieving their full economic potential.<sup>82</sup> In addition, women’s participation in development is limited because women enter the labor market outside the agricultural sector at a lower wage basis than men do, particularly in developing regions like Northern Africa and Western Asia, and hold less secure jobs.<sup>83</sup> Finally, poor working conditions, stereotypical responsibilities, and unequal division of domestic work restricts the independence of women.<sup>84</sup>

The many ways women are inhibited from contributing to their fullest potential to development mean that it is important to ensure fair participation in the labor market, as women still have a higher unemployment rate.<sup>85</sup> Helping girls and women into school is of utmost importance, and supporting the working conditions of women and decent work will lead to economic growth and development.<sup>86</sup> To address these opportunities, the work of the General Assembly (GA) Second Committee addresses the important relationship between gender equality and economic stability.<sup>87</sup> Specifically, the Second Committee considers both the role of women in development, as well as the impact of inconsistent or unequal development for women particularly as it relates to poverty eradication.<sup>88</sup> Ultimately, promoting women’s empowerment and gender equality in development efforts leads to economic growth and reduces poverty.<sup>89</sup> Unleashing the potential of women relies on understanding the barriers facing women in order to empower them, and thus achieve gender equality between men and women.<sup>90</sup>

### **International and Regional Framework**

Empowering gender equality requires global as well as regional cooperation.<sup>91</sup> The Second Committee’s work on women in development builds on numerous international and regional frameworks that promote women and their rights.<sup>92</sup>

#### *The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*

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<sup>76</sup> Fairchild, *Melinda Gates shares scalable ways to invest in women*, 2014.

<sup>77</sup> UN DPI, *Goal 3*, 2014; UN DPI, *Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women*, 2014.

<sup>78</sup> UN DPI, *Background*, 2014.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> Hunt & Bueno de Mesquita, *Reducing Maternal Mortality*, 2010.

<sup>83</sup> UN DPI, *Goal 3*, 2014.

<sup>84</sup> FAO, *International Women’s Day: Closing the gender gap in agriculture*, 2014.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> UN General Assembly, *Women in Development (A/RES/66/216)*, 2011.

<sup>87</sup> UN General Assembly, *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/26 (Vol. I))*, 1992.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> UN General Assembly, *Women in Development (A/RES/66/216)*, 2011.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

In 1979 the General Assembly adopted *The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW), which is often referred to as the “international bill of rights for women.”<sup>93</sup> The Convention underlines the need for an action plan to end discrimination against women.<sup>94</sup> Additionally, the right to vote and access to political life for women is a core element of the Convention.<sup>95</sup> Ending discrimination against women and strengthening their political rights is a crucial step towards equality and empowerment.<sup>96</sup>

#### *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*

The *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in 1995 in Beijing, China.<sup>97</sup> The Declaration highlights the need for equal human rights and encourages men to participate in all efforts towards equality to achieve sustainable development.<sup>98</sup> In addition, it stresses respect for cultural diversity, and promotes a principle of shared power between genders.<sup>99</sup> The Declaration states that equal human rights are inalienable rights and therefore independent from religious beliefs or cultural backgrounds.<sup>100</sup> In the context of development, most of the 12 “critical areas of concern” identified within the platform are relevant; though Sections A (poverty), B (education and training), F (the economy), and K (environment) are particularly important.<sup>101</sup> The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will undertake a review of the implementation of the platform over the last 20 years in March 2015.<sup>102</sup> The review, which is being supported by UN-Women, will focus on identifying challenges and opportunities for implementation of the platform, and will provide further guidance for all relevant stakeholders in realizing women’s rights in this regard.<sup>103</sup> The review comes in the midst of the discussion on the post-2015 development framework, thus there are important synergies between those processes, particularly in light of the critical role women play in economic and social development.<sup>104</sup>

#### *Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda*

Building on these long-standing frameworks, the General Assembly Plenary further added key frameworks on this topic with the endorsement of the eight MDGs in 2000.<sup>105</sup> All of the goals call for action, and they are a key development in support of the status of women.<sup>106</sup> Every MDG is linked to the status of women, as insufficient healthcare, maternal mortality, lack of birth control, and HIV infections also have negative impacts on women in developing countries.<sup>107</sup> MDG 3, in particular, deals with gender equality and connects equal opportunities in the labor market and fair wages with economic development.<sup>108</sup> Furthermore, MDG 3 targets the elimination of violence against women, as well as the enhancement of female political participation.<sup>109</sup>

To ensure a continuation of the goals after the expiration of the MDGs, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon established a UN System Task Team to coordinate preparations for beyond 2015.<sup>110</sup> In addition, the Post-2015 Women’s Coalition promotes the global development agenda and supports women’s rights.<sup>111</sup> The coalition encourages women’s leadership; together, with the UN System Task Team, it helps to strengthen the status of women in the context of sustainable development.<sup>112</sup> One of the main outcomes of post-2015 development agenda process is the agreement between Member States to develop sustainable development goals (SDGs), based upon the MDGs to

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<sup>93</sup> UN General Assembly, *The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.

<sup>97</sup> UN Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid.

<sup>101</sup> Ibid.

<sup>102</sup> UN-Women, *Global 15-year review process in the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2010.

<sup>103</sup> UN-Women, *Beijing at 20: ECOSOC launches review of progress on women’s rights*, 2013.

<sup>104</sup> Ibid.

<sup>105</sup> UN DPI, *Background*, 2014.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

<sup>107</sup> UN DPI, *Goal 3*, 2014.

<sup>108</sup> UN DPI, *Background*, 2014.

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.

<sup>110</sup> Post-2015 Women’s Coalition, *The Post 2015 Development Agenda: What’s at Stake for the World’s Women?*, 2014.

<sup>111</sup> Ibid.

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.



converge with the post-2015 development agenda.<sup>113</sup> The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals was founded in 2013 by the General Assembly to prepare a proposal on the SDGs in 2014.<sup>114</sup> The group worked on strengthening women's role in sustainable development, and focused on women's rights.<sup>115</sup>

### ***Role of the International System***

#### *Actions of the General Assembly Second Committee*

The Second Committee reviews the progress made across the UN System and aims to decrease gender discrimination and improve the condition of women worldwide.<sup>116</sup> Recently, Member States have focused on the improvement of women's rights and their empowerment in several sectors.<sup>117</sup> The Second Committee encourages its Member States to promote equal decent work and to invest in gender equality related programs.<sup>118</sup> Furthermore, the committee is engaged in strengthening women's access to healthcare and social protection.<sup>119</sup> The committee stresses that violence against women and a lack of access to healthcare inhibit women's role in development, as these factors contribute to poor health for women, especially higher rates of HIV and AIDS infections and maternal deaths, and limit their productivity and ability to enter the labor market and to exercise their rights.<sup>120</sup> In this regard, the Second Committee supervises progresses and failures and is committed to developing new strategies to combat violence and discrimination against women.<sup>121</sup> To support these goals, the international system provides assistance in diverse areas; some actors work on financial questions, others work on policies and specialized political programs.<sup>122</sup>

#### *Work of other UN entities*

HIV hinders economic development and women's participation in development, so understanding the health work done towards eliminating HIV is crucial.<sup>123</sup> The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has gender programs worldwide to teach HIV prevention.<sup>124</sup> Knowledge about HIV is the first step in avoiding transmission, so these programs bring together young women to learn about sexual education and family planning to teach how to prevent HIV.<sup>125</sup> UNFPA emphasizes that women need to learn about reproductive health to prevent disease, as disease prevents economic growth.<sup>126</sup> Moreover, these programs promote youth leaders, who will later support HIV work, and support women to be economically independent.<sup>127</sup> This type of development, hopefully, makes women in the future less likely to become infected by HIV.<sup>128</sup>

Financial actors like the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality or the International Conference on Financing for Development support women's networks and groups and discuss possible solutions to empowering women economically.<sup>129</sup> Both institutions support women's financial independence and women's self-confidence.<sup>130</sup> The institutions point out that women need greater access to fair bank loans, interest rates, and micro-credits, as well as other financial services.<sup>131</sup> Furthermore, the promotion of savings and entrepreneurship is of high importance for the network.<sup>132</sup> These actors stress that a woman's financial independence is the only way to improve the welfare of

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<sup>113</sup> Post-2015 Women's Coalition, *The Post 2015 Development Agenda: What's at Stake for the World's Women?*, 2014.

<sup>114</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>115</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>116</sup> UN General Assembly, *Women in Development (A/RES/66/216)*, 2011.

<sup>117</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>119</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>120</sup> UN-Women, *Facts and Figures: HIV and AIDS*, 2011.

<sup>121</sup> UN General Assembly, *Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (A/RES/65/1)*, 2010.

<sup>122</sup> UN General Assembly, *Women in Development (A/RES/66/216)*, 2011.

<sup>123</sup> UNFPA, *HIV Prevention gains Momentum*, 2011.

<sup>124</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>125</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>126</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>127</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>128</sup> Southern African Development Community, *HIV & AIDS*, 2012.

<sup>129</sup> UN-Women, *Task Force on Gender and Financing for Development*, 2014.

<sup>130</sup> Joint Biennial Workshop of the United Nations IANWGE and GENDERNET, *Women's Economic Empowerment, Accountability and National Ownership*, 2010.

<sup>131</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>132</sup> *Ibid.*

the whole family.<sup>133</sup> Lastly, many of these financial actors focus on fair taxation and tax rebates in order to adapt and alter taxation systems to improve women's livelihoods.<sup>134</sup>

In addition to financial actors, many other organizations are engaged in supporting the fair participation of women in the labor market. One such UN organization working to improve women's equal and fair participation in the labor market, along with the Second Committee, is the UN-Women's Knowledge Gateway for Women's Economic Empowerment.<sup>135</sup> UN-Women is the UN entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women.<sup>136</sup> UN-Women and the Second Committee also work with many non-governmental organizations. The African Women's Development Fund highlights that rural women are important breadwinners for their families and supports their financial sovereignty.<sup>137</sup> Therefore, UN-Women implemented Sharefair 2014 in Nairobi for women in the agricultural sector.<sup>138</sup> It encourages Member States to implement global norms and works together with civil society to strengthen women in development; rural women will have the opportunity to learn more about innovations and their position as "drivers for the rural progress."<sup>139</sup> The East, Central and Southern Africa Sharefair 2014 promotes new technologies and enables rural women farmers to exchange their experiences with each other, food producers, and innovators.<sup>140</sup>

### ***Challenges and Avenues to Women's Economic Empowerment***

Women's economic empowerment faces many barriers, such as sexual harassment, violence, and the lack of access to healthcare and financial structures.<sup>141</sup> All these barriers limit women from attaining their economic potential and are therefore a threat to sustainable development.<sup>142</sup>

#### *Violence against women*

Violence committed against women not only infringes women's human rights, but it is also a concern for development.<sup>143</sup> Physical, emotional, and sexual violence causes serious depression and illnesses.<sup>144</sup> In many regions of the world, women face violence in several parts of their social life and are not protected by law.<sup>145</sup> Sexual violence, female genital mutilation, son preference, dowry-related violence, and child marriage are all forms of violence against women.<sup>146</sup> When women are emotionally and physically threatened, they are unable to participate fully in social and economic development.<sup>147</sup> It is estimated that "more than one in three women in the world experiences physical and/or sexual partner violence."<sup>148</sup> It is therefore critical to address. Acknowledging this issue as a public health concern and working to ensure the issue is taken more seriously by providing training, strengthening legal and policy frameworks on the issue, and improving services to affected women provides a basis for action.<sup>149</sup> The Second Committee can potentially improve financing and multi-sectoral approaches on this issue.

#### *Promoting the right to health*

HIV and AIDS undermine economic development because the disease inhibits individuals from participating in society and because it places an overwhelming burden on the healthcare sector.<sup>150</sup> Women and girls are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS; for example, in some parts of Africa, there are regions where more than

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<sup>133</sup> Ibid.

<sup>134</sup> UN-Women, *Gender Equality & Trade Policy*, 2011.

<sup>135</sup> Empower Women, *Inspiring Agricultural Change*, 2014.

<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

<sup>137</sup> Chinery, *Rural women's contribution to food security*, 2011.

<sup>138</sup> Empower Women, *Inspiring Agricultural Change*, 2014.

<sup>139</sup> Ibid.

<sup>140</sup> Ibid.

<sup>141</sup> UN General Assembly, *Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (A/RES/65/1)*, 2010.

<sup>142</sup> Ibid.

<sup>143</sup> Ibid.

<sup>144</sup> WHO, *Global and regional estimates of violence against women*, 2013.

<sup>145</sup> Ibid.

<sup>146</sup> Ibid.

<sup>147</sup> Ibid.

<sup>148</sup> Ibid., p. 35.

<sup>149</sup> Ibid.

<sup>150</sup> Southern African Development Community, *HIV & AIDS*, 2012.

80% of those infected with HIV are girls or women.<sup>151</sup> Women’s lower economic and cultural status makes them more susceptible to becoming infected through factors such as being involved in sex work, or being unable to advocate for proper protection.<sup>152</sup> Based on women’s lack of access to healthcare, numerous programs such as “Every Woman Every Child” focus on promoting a right to health and addressing religious and cultural beliefs that limit women’s access to healthcare.<sup>153</sup> The right to health is often severely restricted by religion and culture, which many UNFPA programs are working to address.<sup>154</sup> For example, UNFPA financed a health program in Otavalo, Ecuador, to bring modern medicine together with traditional healing.<sup>155</sup> Due to UNFPA’s support, the Ecuadorian Jambi Huasi clinic expands and teaches women and girls about their reproductive health.<sup>156</sup> Consequently, women get better healthcare and are able to participate in the economy.<sup>157</sup> Traditional healers promote the project, and thus it is possible to bring religious beliefs together with equal human rights to support economic development.<sup>158</sup>

Many other programs aim to improve women’s economic standing by addressing the complex, interdependent link between maternal health and economic development. As Michelle Bachelet, former Executive Director of UN-Women, stated: “Maternal mortality is determined by a combination of biological, sociocultural, economic and institutional factors that reflect the social inequality that affects women and both its causes and consequences have their roots in the cycle of poverty and the persistence of marginality.”<sup>159</sup> Bachelet emphasizes that fighting maternal mortality can break the cycle of poverty and can help to eliminate gender gaps and therefore support economic growth.<sup>160</sup> Skilled care can save the lives of women and their children.<sup>161</sup> Other such care extends to programs aimed at addressing malnutrition and malaria for both mothers and their children.<sup>162</sup> The United Nations Foundation initiated a global, grassroots campaign called “Nothing but Nets” to save lives by preventing malaria.<sup>163</sup> This initiative helps to prevent deadly diseases, which improves living conditions of poor families and therefore eradicates poverty in the long run.<sup>164</sup> Just as it is important to engage traditional healers, existing work has shown that engaging women as healthcare providers because of their roles as care givers in society is an important way to magnify efforts at improving maternal health.<sup>165</sup> Therefore, it is essential to help and train women so that they can provide healthcare for themselves and other women.<sup>166</sup> The Second Committee may also be able to support or encourage financing for this type of work.

#### *Access to financing*

In addition to violence and lack of all forms of healthcare, unequal access to financing is a great barrier for women around the world.<sup>167</sup> According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), empowering the status of women and therefore catalyzing economic development, stems from financial support through fair bank loans and credits for females.<sup>168</sup> For example, in Viet Nam, UNFPA works with the Viet Nam Women's Union on a micro-finance initiative that helps women to get credit and weekly training in topics of household economics, farming, and animal husbandry.<sup>169</sup> Other programs by UNDP focus on microfunds and promoting women’s entrepreneurship.<sup>170</sup> Financial autonomy is a key step in poverty eradication and with this initiative women have the opportunity to start

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<sup>151</sup> Southern African Development Community, *HIV & AIDS*, 2012.

<sup>152</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>153</sup> Every Woman Every Child, *What is Every Woman Every Child?*, 2014.

<sup>154</sup> Hunt & Bueno de Mesquita, *Reducing Maternal Mortality*, 2010.

<sup>155</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>156</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>157</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>158</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>159</sup> Bachelet, *Women, Health and Development*, 2011.

<sup>160</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>161</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>162</sup> Nothing but Nets, *Our Impact*, 2014.

<sup>163</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>164</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>165</sup> WHO, *Improving the health of women and children in Afghanistan*, 2011.

<sup>166</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>167</sup> Clark, *Women's Empowerment in Africa: Access to Land, Credit, and Markets*, 2010.

<sup>168</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>169</sup> United Nations Resource for Speakers on Global Issues, *Millennium Development Goals*, 2014.

<sup>170</sup> UN General Assembly, *Women in development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/271)*, 2013, p. 8.

their own businesses and learn more about business plans and the economy.<sup>171</sup> To this end, the UN can continue its work supporting Member States in developing new financing and programs for women.<sup>172</sup>

#### *Access to labor markets and employment*

Poor working conditions and unequal payment are serious threats to women when entering the labor market.<sup>173</sup> To ensure sustainable economic growth, it is important to empower working women and support decent work, especially in the informal economy, and to capitalize on their potential in the agricultural sector.<sup>174</sup> Though there are many ways, detailed below, to support women in development through access to decent work, especially in the agricultural sector, the UN increasingly stresses the need to have economic support systems in place to ensure women have access social protection and social services.<sup>175</sup> This is especially being discussed in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.<sup>176</sup>

Poor working women often find informal work to support the family financially.<sup>177</sup> Examples of work in the informal sector include unpaid work in family or micro businesses, illegal harvest aid, unpaid household work, or illegal underground activities such as drug trafficking.<sup>178</sup> Working on the black market gives women the opportunity to earn money above the extreme poverty level and, as such, many women do not have a choice but to work in the informal sector.<sup>179</sup> However, informal work is a serious threat to economic development.<sup>180</sup> The informal sector is unregulated by governments, taxed or included in gross national product.<sup>181</sup> The lack of regulation and the nature of such work means that “decent work” is typically lacking in the informal sector.<sup>182</sup> Decent work includes safe working conditions, health insurance, a fair income, social protection for families, and equal treatment of men and women.<sup>183</sup> As such, states should support decent work and invest in better working conditions, because informal work is linked to disproportionately low wages, unequal treatment, the black market, or child labor.<sup>184</sup> These factors can all harm economic growth; without decent work, no taxes or social insurance have to be paid and there is no tax revenue for governments, and governments are less able to finance technical progress, research or education.<sup>185</sup>

Women are also a predominant force within the agricultural sector, so it is also a necessary to address women’s employment in this area.<sup>186</sup> Helping women to enter the rural market will raise the agricultural output and create economic growth.<sup>187</sup> According to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), women need equal access to agricultural resources to increase their agricultural productivity and to promote economic growth.<sup>188</sup> Especially in agriculture, training in topics of household economics, farming, and animal husbandry might help to empower the status and the self-confidence of women.<sup>189</sup> IFAD supports rural women and launched the global Farmers’ Forum to bring together women-farmer leaders from every continent.<sup>190</sup> This forum enables rural women to learn more about their leadership role in the agricultural sector, and it introduces new agricultural resources.<sup>191</sup> Working together with other women farmers is an effective way to exchange knowledge and to talk about new technologies or investments in the agricultural sector.<sup>192</sup> This forum encourages women to become agricultural

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<sup>171</sup> United Nations Resource for Speakers on Global Issues, *Millennium Development Goals*, 2014.

<sup>172</sup> UN General Assembly, *Women in development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/271)*, 2013, p. 18.

<sup>173</sup> Kabeer et al, *Organising women workers in the informal economy*, 2013.

<sup>174</sup> UN-Women, *Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment*, 2014.

<sup>175</sup> UN General Assembly, *Women in development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/271)*, 2013, p. 17.

<sup>176</sup> Ibid.

<sup>177</sup> Kabeer et al, *Organising women workers in the informal economy*, 2013.

<sup>178</sup> ILO, *Measuring informality: A statistical manual on the informal sector and informal employment*, 2013.

<sup>179</sup> International Labour Organization, *The informal economy in Africa*, 2009, p. iii.

<sup>180</sup> Kabeer et al, *Organising women workers in the informal economy*, 2013.

<sup>181</sup> Ibid.

<sup>182</sup> International Labour Organization, *The informal economy in Africa*, 2009, p. iii.

<sup>183</sup> ILO, *Decent Work*, 2014.

<sup>184</sup> Kabeer et al, *Organising women workers in the informal economy*, 2013.

<sup>185</sup> Ibid.

<sup>186</sup> IFAD, *Women and rural development*, 2011; UN-Women, *Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment*, 2014.

<sup>187</sup> United Nations Resource for Speakers on Global Issues, *Millennium Development Goals*, 2014.

<sup>188</sup> IFAD, *Women and rural development*, 2011.

<sup>189</sup> United Nations Resource for Speakers on Global Issues, *Millennium Development Goals*, 2014.

<sup>190</sup> IFAD, *Women and rural development*, 2011.

<sup>191</sup> Ibid.

<sup>192</sup> Ibid.

leaders and promotes their financial independence while fostering economic development.<sup>193</sup> In addition to IFAD, the African Union (AU) is also involved in this issue.<sup>194</sup> The AU launched The African Women's Decade and declared 2010-2020 as a decade in which the role of African women needs to be strengthened and improved.<sup>195</sup> With this project, the AU promotes women in agriculture and helps to link women to new agricultural markets and forms of farming.<sup>196</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

Economic and social development is vital to sustainable development. The empowerment of women and their rights is a crucial part of the MDGs and the goals of the Second Committee towards poverty eradication. Without fair compensation in the labor market, equal human rights, and access to health, it will be difficult to carry the spirit of the MDGs and to fulfill the SDGs, which will continue to call for the empowerment of women. The Second Committee is highly aware of the important relationship between gender equality and economic growth and stresses the need for equality for the future. To this end, there are several key areas for continued action. First, although every country has its own religious and cultural beliefs, it is of utmost importance to combat violence against women. Secondly, delegates may understand that every country has its own perception about the empowerment of women, due to different cultures, but healthcare is a core element of human rights and development. International and regional actors give evidence that there is a way to unite human rights and cultural traditions. Thirdly, countries need to focus on improving working conditions and employment opportunities for women. Across all of these areas, whether it through strengthening laws that penalize violence or policies that tacitly support the informal sector or limit women's access to training and financing, governments need to improve their law systems to ensure equality and emancipation, and, therefore, sustainable economic development. Beyond this, there are endless possibilities for building programs designed to teach women about their legal opportunities, build their economic capacities, and magnify the potential of women towards sustainable economic development.

### ***Further Research***

Delegates should consider the important role of the Second Committee in strengthening women's rights as well as what actions can be taken by Member States. Delegates should consider questions such as: how can the international system help to empower women in the educational sector? How can governments improve laws on gender equality and healthcare? And how can the Second Committee and UN System support governments in these efforts? What kind of incentives could be established to reduce the role and the influence of the black market? How can Member States regulate informal work and support decent work? How can women be engaged in other aspects of societal development that also hinder and impact economic development? For example, how can the role of women in situations of conflict be promoted or how can women be involved in environmental resource management to prevent and address environmental degradation that inhibits development?

Finally, delegates should take a close look upcoming conferences, with reference to the future Beijing+20 Review Conference, and ask what programs worked domestically, regionally, and internationally to consider the effectiveness of such approaches. Considering the work of the Second Committee, what else needs to be done to promote the status of women in development? What are the specific barriers to furthering the Committee's work on this topic? How can the Committee further implement the SDGs in its work and how can the SDGs help to achieve equality in the near future?

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<sup>193</sup> IFAD, *Women and rural development*, 2011.

<sup>194</sup> AU, *The African Women's Decade*, 2011.

<sup>195</sup> Ibid.

<sup>196</sup> Ibid.

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<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/egms/docs//2013/EmpowermentPolicies/Kabeer%20et%20al%20Organising%20workers%20in%20the%20informal%20economy.pdf>

*This essential resource provides information about the status of women workers in the informal sector. It explains why poor working women are attracted to enter the black market and what barriers they face. The source explains why informal work is a threat to sustainable development and elaborates consequences of entering the black market for women, for example, losing social insurances. Furthermore, delegates will learn more about the law making process for workers and the informal sector in order to understand the problem of gender inequality in this sector.*

Puri, L. (2011). *Introductory statement by Ms. Lakshmi Puri Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships, UN-Women*. Sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, Item 23 (b), Women in development. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from:

[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/documents/ga66/C2\\_intro\\_statement\\_for\\_posting.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/documents/ga66/C2_intro_statement_for_posting.pdf)

*This source gives insight into the work of UN-Women and its intersection with the work of the Second Committee. Specifically, during her introductory statement in the Second Committee of the General Assembly, Puri states that UN-Women analyzed the actions taken by Member States regarding gender perspective. Moreover, it also highlights the fact that UN-Women struggles with financial issues. She encourages Member States to support UN-Women. Puri stresses that women need to benefit from political decisions in order to fully participate in political life, which will have an impact on sustainable development.*

United Nations, Fourth World Conference on Women. (1995). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. Retrieved 13 October 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

*This document introduces the Beijing Platform for Action and its aims concerning gender equality and women's empowerment. Equality between men and women is a crucial part of the platform and should be established in every part of human life. The document explains the role of women in the family and points out how religion and culture can have an impact on sustainable development. The Beijing Platform condemns violence against women in the strongest terms and highlights future challenges, which could have an impact on gender equality, such as climate change.*

United Nations, General Assembly. (1993). *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (A/RES/48/104)*. Retrieved 27 July 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm>

*This declaration is an important source for delegates because it clearly defines and explains the terms of physical, sexual, and psychological violence against women. It shows the different aspects of violence and its diverse appearances, such as female genital mutilation or marital rape. The prevention of violence and the protection of women's rights is a core element of the document. The General Assembly encourages governments to promote research and collect data to prevent violence. Moreover, the source points out that violence is a serious threat to development.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-sixth session. (2011). *Integrating a gender perspective into national development strategies: Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/219)*. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from:

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/66/219](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/66/219)

*This report provides a comprehensive introduction and overview of economic growth and gender equality and why they are connected with each other. According to the report, Member States need to see this connection and start financing education and development programs for women. Furthermore this report states that investments in the healthcare sector will help to eradicate extreme poverty in developing countries. The report underlines that poor working conditions restrict the independence of women. Therefore, it is important to ensure a fair participation in the labor market to combat the fact that women have a higher unemployment rate.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-sixth session. (2011). *Women in Development (A/RES/66/216)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/66/444/Add.2). Retrieved 10 July 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/216&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/216&Lang=E)

*The General Assembly adopted this resolution that mentions the Beijing Declaration, the Platform for Action, and the MDGs. This resolution underlines the important work of the General Assembly to eradicate poverty and highlights key factors of equality. An example of a key factor might be the equal participation of women in all decision-making bodies and the necessity of fair working conditions. Furthermore, it encourages governments to protect the rights of women workers. The General Assembly Second Committee reviews the progress made towards these goals and aims to decrease gender discrimination and improve the conditions of working women worldwide.*

United Nations Population Fund. (2014). *Gender Equality* [Website]. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: <http://www.unfpa.org/gender/empowerment.htm>

*This is an essential resource for delegates because this Website focuses on multiple problem areas when it comes to the empowerment of women, such as education or reproductive health. It points out limitations and barriers that hinder women to fully participate in social and economic life. Furthermore, it outlines the untapped potential women have for economic growth and focuses on healthcare as an important factor for poverty eradication.*

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, (2014). *Economic Empowerment* [Website]. Retrieved 10 October 2014 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment>

*This Website informs delegates about the need to invest in women's economic empowerment for the future. UN-Women supports gender equality and aims for higher incomes for women and greater access to the labor market for females. The entity supports rural women and female migrants and works to protect women from violence. UN-Women sees the connection between the empowerment of women and poverty eradication and works together with intergovernmental support to implement equal standards regarding women's rights.*

Violence Against Women Hackathon. (2014). *Problem Statements* [Website]. Retrieved 8 October 2014 from: <http://www.vawhack.org/problem-statements>

*Together with the World Bank, this organization provides important information regarding domestic violence against women. Violence Against Women uses innovative technology solutions to help victims of violence and works on speed dial alert systems or mobile apps to prevent violence. This resource underlines the connection between the spirit of the Millennium Development Goals and ending violence against women. It points out why inequality is a threat to development and how the international system can prevent violent acts against women with new technology.*

World Health Organization. (2014). *Maternal Mortality* [Website]. Retrieved 10 October 2014 from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs348/en/>

*This crucial resource explains core elements of how to prevent maternal mortality and its causes. The right to health includes reproductive healthcare and information as well as access to a legal system that protects this human right. Delegates will see the connection between good health and the economic empowerment of women. Furthermore, this resource stresses the need for an appropriate standard of health to support sustainable development.*

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## II. The Impact of Migration on Development

*“Migration can be an enormous force for good: one of the great drivers of economic growth, individual liberty and personal prosperity. The goal is to maximize the benefits of migration and minimize potential negative impacts.”*<sup>197</sup>

### **Introduction**

Migration has increased to unprecedented numbers in the last few decades.<sup>198</sup> On a daily basis, millions of men, women, and children, migrate either externally or internally.<sup>199</sup> Over 215 million individuals are currently residing outside their birth country as external migrants, and 740 million migrants have internally migrated within their country in search of economic opportunities.<sup>200</sup> South to North migration was typical in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but the 21<sup>st</sup> century has seen an increase in South-South migration as well as North-South.<sup>201</sup> An example of North-South migration occurred at the beginning of the 2008 economic crisis in which thousands of Europeans migrated to countries in Africa and South America, believed to be spurred on by the economic downturn.<sup>202</sup> In a survey conducted between 2009-2011, “40 per cent of the world’s migrants...moved from South to North, 33 per cent moved from South to South, 22 per cent from North to North, and 5 per cent from North to South.”<sup>203</sup>

These facts about migration are important because according to the report *Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, “internal and international migration...can make important contributions towards poverty reduction and sustainable economic development.”<sup>204</sup> Moreover, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) Second Committee has expressed that “migration is both a cause and effect of broader development process and an intrinsic feature of our ever globalizing world.”<sup>205</sup> In a panel discussion of the Second Committee, it was recognized that migration, if not managed properly, can have detrimental effects on development as well as violate the rights of migrant workers.<sup>206</sup> Therefore, the Second Committee has recognized the need to protect the rights of migrant workers and work towards a more inclusive agenda on migrants.<sup>207</sup> At the most recent High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the Second Committee acknowledged the necessity for dialogue between Member States in working towards improving existing institutions and frameworks to ensure the safety of migrants since the committee specializes in issues relating to development, globalization, and sustainability.<sup>208</sup>

### **International and Regional Framework**

Since the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006, the Second Committee has been working towards protecting the rights of migrants, and encourages Member States to do the same by adhering to existing frameworks and conventions on the protection of migrants.<sup>209</sup> For example, the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families* and the International Labor Organization (ILO) *Multilateral Framework on Labor Migration* (MFLM) both call on Member States to implement policies to protect migrants from discrimination and abusive treatment.<sup>210</sup> Based on these frameworks, these policies should also recognize that everyone has the right to self-determination in their pursuit of economic development and financial stability.<sup>211</sup>

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<sup>197</sup> UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, *Secretary-General Appoints Peter Sutherland as Special Representative for Migration*, 2006.

<sup>198</sup> IOM, *International Migration and Development Contributions and Recommendations of the International System*, 2013, p. 9.

<sup>199</sup> Shearlaw, M., *Talk points: What is the impact of migration on Development?*, 2013.

<sup>200</sup> IOM, *Migration and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 5.

<sup>201</sup> Ibid.

<sup>202</sup> IOM, *World Migration Report 2013*, 2013, p. 80.

<sup>203</sup> IOM, *Migration and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 10-11.

<sup>204</sup> UN Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics, *Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, p. 13.

<sup>205</sup> UN DESA, *International Migration*, 2014.

<sup>206</sup> UN General Assembly, *Management Can Determine Whether Migration has Positive or Negative Impact*, 2012.

<sup>207</sup> UN General Assembly, *Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development*, 2014, p. 1.

<sup>208</sup> UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial: Second Committee*, 2014.

<sup>209</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Migration and Development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/190)*, 2013, p. 2.

<sup>210</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Migration and Development*, 2013.

<sup>211</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*, 1990.

One of the first comprehensive documents on migrant rights and their protection is the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*, which was adopted in 1990 by the GA, and has become one of the core documents on migrant worker rights.<sup>212</sup> The Convention sets out standards that include protection against slavery and forced labor for all migrants and their family members.<sup>213</sup> The convention also calls for the protection of migrant workers and their families against unlawful and arbitrary arrest, guarantying the right to liberty and the pursuit of justice.<sup>214</sup> Additionally, the convention calls for protecting all migrant workers against discrimination, which is recognized by the Second Committee as necessary for migrant workers to develop in a society free of discrimination.<sup>215</sup>

More recently in 2006, the ILO adopted the MFLM as a response to the growing demand to protect the rights of migrants.<sup>216</sup> This demand was partly due to the growing consensus that migration has had a positive impact on development in both origin and destination countries.<sup>217</sup> The Second Committee recognized the MFLM as one of the standard guidelines for protecting migrants at the 2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.<sup>218</sup> The MFLM calls for Member States to implement gender-sensitive migration policies in order to include women within important debates.<sup>219</sup> For instance, the framework points to the need for implementing policies that would eliminate abusive treatment of women migrants, including work violence and sexual harassment.<sup>220</sup> Additionally, the framework calls for the adoption of measures that would encourage migrants in reporting abusive treatment or exploitation from individuals or entities.<sup>221</sup> Building on the MFLM, also at the 2013 High-Level Dialogue, Member States agreed on an eight-point agenda for action that has been endorsed by the Second Committee.<sup>222</sup> The protection of human rights of all migrants as a fundamental condition for economic development and financial sustainability of migrants is the very first point of agenda and underscores recent work by the Second Committee.<sup>223</sup>

### ***Role of the International System***

As the primary economic and financial committee of the General Assembly, the Second Committee plays a crucial role in addressing the issues of international migration and development within the international system. It is widely recognized within the Second Committee that migration has become a means to poverty reduction, and also a huge contributor to meeting many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).<sup>224</sup> Therefore the Second Committee, since the creation of the Global Migration Group (GMG) in 2006 at the outcome of the first High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, has worked closely with this inter-agency group in improving approaches to migration.<sup>225</sup> In addition to the GMG, the ILO, and the International Organization on Migration (IOM) have also been busy formulating policy and guidelines to improve conditions for international migrants.<sup>226</sup> The Second Committee recognizes the efforts of international organizations by coordinating with them towards strengthening migration policy and initiatives.<sup>227</sup>

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<sup>212</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*, 1990.

<sup>213</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>214</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>215</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>216</sup> ILO, *Multilateral Framework on Labor Migration: Non-binding Principles and Guidelines for a Rights-based Approach to Labour Migration*, 2006, p. v.

<sup>217</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 29.

<sup>218</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Migration and Development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/190)*, 2013, p. 14.

<sup>219</sup> ILO, *Multilateral Framework on Labor Migration: Non-binding Principles and Guidelines for a Rights-based Approach to Labour Migration*, 2006.

<sup>220</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 21.

<sup>221</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 22.

<sup>222</sup> UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, *Making Migration Work: An Eight-Point Agenda for Action*, 2013.

<sup>223</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>224</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Migration and Development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/190)*, 2013, p. 3.

<sup>225</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>226</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>227</sup> UN General Assembly, *Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development*, 2014, p. 2.

The UN Secretary-General established the GMG at the recommendation of the 2006 High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development.<sup>228</sup> This inter-agency organization collaborates the work of 18 international organizations working towards “coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration.”<sup>229</sup> For instance, the GMG and the ILO have coordinated to establish the Decent Work initiative and the Task Force on Migration and Decent Work.<sup>230</sup> The agenda of Decent Work is to help countries in the formulation of policies that support migrant workers and their human rights.<sup>231</sup> The program is designed with the coordination of participating countries.<sup>232</sup> Decent Work has defined “the priorities and the targets within national development frameworks and aimed to tackle major Decent Work deficits through efficient programs that embrace each of the strategic objectives.”<sup>233</sup> These objectives include “reducing poverty and achieving equitable, inclusive, and sustainable development.”<sup>234</sup> The Task Force on Migration and Decent Work created by GMG furthers the evidence base on migration and migrant workers to better inform policymakers and help design programs.<sup>235</sup> The Task Force’s work also includes promoting awareness of issues faced by migrant workers and, in doing so, strengthening the link between human rights and economic sustainable development.<sup>236</sup>

The Second Committee works closely with the ILO in the ratification of international policy to protect migrant workers.<sup>237</sup> Since its inception in 1919, the ILO has collaborated between “governments and employer’s and workers’ organizations in fostering social and economic progress.”<sup>238</sup> The conventions and frameworks created by the ILO are highly regarded by the Second Committee as crucial for advancing and strengthening policy that protects migrant workers.<sup>239</sup> For example, point one of the aforementioned current UN eight-point agenda for action calls for protecting the “human rights of all migrants” and cites ILO conventions and protocols Member States ought to follow.<sup>240</sup> Additionally, the ILO offers international expertise in coordinating efforts between countries and other international organizations to improve policies.<sup>241</sup>

Migration and development is one of the broad areas in which the IOM dedicates its work and coordinates the promotion of international migration policy between its 156 Member States and other organizations, including the Second Committee.<sup>242</sup> The IOM, in a recent report, *International Migration and Development: Contributions and Recommendations of the International System*, stresses the advancement of human rights and human development of migrant workers as a priority.<sup>243</sup> The IOM also recognizes the impact of migration on poverty reduction and economic sustainable development.<sup>244</sup> It is for this reason that the IOM has been a staunch supporter of integrating migration within the post-2015 development agenda.<sup>245</sup> Using its expertise, the IOM has recently worked in establishing “regional and cross-regional research and capacity-building centers” that help to promote further dialogue on migrant issues.<sup>246</sup> For example, the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) are research centers established and run by the IOM in collaboration with academic partners, “collecting data on South-South migration and build relevant capacities for ACP countries.”<sup>247</sup>

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<sup>228</sup> GMG, *What is the GMG?*, 2014.

<sup>229</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>230</sup> ILO, *Decent Work Agenda*, 2014.

<sup>231</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>232</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>233</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>234</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>235</sup> GMG, *Task Force on Migration and Decent Work*, 2014.

<sup>236</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>237</sup> UN General Assembly, *International migration and development*, 2012, p. 2.

<sup>238</sup> ILO, *How the ILO works*, 2014.

<sup>239</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Migration and Development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/190)*, 2013, p. 14.

<sup>240</sup> UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, *Making Migration Work: An Eight-Point Agenda for Action*, 2013.

<sup>241</sup> ILO, *Mission and Objectives*, 2014.

<sup>242</sup> IOM, *About IOM*, 2014.

<sup>243</sup> IOM, *International Migration and Development Contributions and Recommendations of the International System*, 2013, p. 31.

<sup>244</sup> IOM, *About IOM*, 2014.

<sup>245</sup> IOM, *Migration and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 108.

<sup>246</sup> IOM, *International Migration and Development Contributions and Recommendations of the International System*, 2013, p. 103.

<sup>247</sup> *Ibid.*

Ultimately, the complex international system shows that capacity-building and partnerships between international organizations, as well as all stakeholders, is integral to protecting the rights of migrants.<sup>248</sup> For example, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) works on helping countries meet the challenges of migration such as integrating “migration issues into national and sectoral development policies, programs, strategies and action plans, including poverty reduction strategies.”<sup>249</sup> On the ground this means UNFPA works with countries on technical and financial assistance to strengthen capacity-building at the local and national level.<sup>250</sup> Policy dialogue to further migration policy is also encouraged and supported by the UNFPA at the national and regional levels for various countries and regional organizations.<sup>251</sup> For instance, the work of UNFPA in Mexico has helped federal institutions and local government’s policy dialogue on migrant issues such as, “population aging, adolescence and youth, human trafficking, and local development.”<sup>252</sup>

### ***The Impact of Migration on Development and the Current Economic Climate***

According to the *World Migration Report 2013*, globalization has led to “a significant increase in human mobility, with social, economic and environmental implications for all concerned.”<sup>253</sup> Human mobility has been recognized by the Second Committee as an important factor to economic development, with the potential to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals.<sup>254</sup> For instance, the Secretary-General’s Report on International Migration and Development contends that “migration reduces poverty on an extraordinary scale...migrants multiply their income and double the school enrolment rates of their children,” and when funds are sent to family members living in the country of origin that helps “pay for medical care and equip houses with water and electricity.”<sup>255</sup> Specifically, according to the Migration Policy Institute, “migration is the most direct and effective means of raising the income of individual migrants;” migration is even more so beneficial since financial remittances, or money that is sent home, have had a direct economic benefit to “raising living standards, and health and education outcomes” of the families of migrants.<sup>256</sup> For example, in 2010 it was estimated that remittances were “more than \$400 billion” with about 80% of that capital going to developing countries.<sup>257</sup> In some cases, remittances make up a large portion of the gross domestic product of the receiving developing country.<sup>258</sup> So important are remittances that at the last High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013, it was highlighted that the reduction on transaction costs of remittances would increase economic benefits for migrants, especially in times of economic hardship.<sup>259</sup>

The 2007 global economic recession prompted a shift in remittances and migration patterns. Given the ways in which migration helps development, largely through remittances, it is concerning that the recent global economic and financial crisis has had a negative impact on migration by decreasing remittances by migrants to their country of origin.<sup>260</sup> Moreover, the crisis changed the international face of migration in that it prompted an increase in North-North and North-South migration in numbers not previously witnessed.<sup>261</sup> For instance, emerging African and Latin American economies have drawn workers from North countries seeking greater opportunities; Brazil experienced a higher than normal migration of foreigners, particularly of US nationals immigrating during the tougher years of the financial crisis between 2009-2011.<sup>262</sup> Another example of this can be demonstrated by unprecedented numbers of South Korean migrants to the Philippines, which was estimated to have increased to “nearly 430 percent in the past decade.”<sup>263</sup>

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<sup>248</sup> UN General Assembly, *Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development*, 2014, p. 5.

<sup>249</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Monitoring of Population Programmes, focusing on new trends in migration: demographic aspects*, 2013, p. 5.

<sup>250</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6.

<sup>251</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8.

<sup>252</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10.

<sup>253</sup> IOM, *World Migration Report 2013*, 2013, p. 31.

<sup>254</sup> UN General Assembly, *Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development*, 2014, p. 2.

<sup>255</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Migration and Development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/190)*, 2013, p. 2.

<sup>256</sup> Migration Policy Institute, *How Migration Can Advance Development Goals*, 2014, p. 1.

<sup>257</sup> IOM, *Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development*, 2012, p. 13.

<sup>258</sup> IOM, *Integrating Migration in to the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda*, 2014, p. 4.

<sup>259</sup> UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, *Making Migration Work: An Eight-Point Agenda for Action*, 2013.

<sup>260</sup> UN General Assembly, *Impact of the Financial Crisis on Employment, Migration, Trade and Debt*, 2009, p. 3.

<sup>261</sup> IOM, *World Migration Report 2013*, 2013, p. 78.

<sup>262</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>263</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 80.



### *Addressing the Plight of Migrants*

The Second Committee is especially concerned with the plight of migrants in order to ensure that the impact of human mobility can be positive when it comes to migrant livelihoods and overall sustainable development.<sup>264</sup> Therefore the Second Committee is committed to the protection of all migrant workers, especially women migrants who are especially vulnerable to violence, exploitation, and human trafficking.<sup>265</sup> Additionally, the Second Committee recognizes the rampant discrimination and unequal treatment of migrant workers.<sup>266</sup> One such example of this is the vast internal migration within China where many rural peasants who seek employment in larger cities are met with unfair pay, discrimination by city locals, and unequal access to the same benefits as local residence.<sup>267</sup>

### *Addressing the Needs of Women Migrants*

Almost half of all migrants are women, and since women migrants particularly contribute to social and economic development because of the jobs they fill in domestic work and the ways they reinvest in education, the Second Committee recognizes and reaffirms its commitment to combating violence against women migrant workers.<sup>268</sup> GA resolution 66/128 of 11 December 2011 on “violence against women migrant workers” expressed the GA’s concern with continued “reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence...”<sup>269</sup> Additionally, this resolution points to the vulnerability of women migrants to human trafficking, exploitation, and discrimination.<sup>270</sup> As such, Member States are urged to adopt policies that protect the human rights of migrant women.<sup>271</sup> The ILO has produced a number of policies that relate to protecting the rights of migrant women including the Multilateral Framework on Labor Migration and more recently in Decent Work agenda.<sup>272</sup>

One UN inter-agency organization collaborating with IOM and ILO in promoting the rights of migrant women is UN-Women, also known as the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.<sup>273</sup> Ending violence against women and enhancing women’s economic empowerment are just a couple of areas in which UN-Women works towards formulating policy.<sup>274</sup> The economic empowerment of women is something both the Second Committee and UN-Women work towards: UN-Women recognizes, just as the Second Committee does, that providing economic empowerment to migrant women creates opportunities for gender equality and poverty reduction in many ways from empowering their daughters with more education to improved maternal health.<sup>275</sup> Additionally, UN-Women has partnered with the GMG to address gender issues in migration.<sup>276</sup> For instance, UN-Women and GMG have coordinated their efforts to ensure “that gender issues are well-reflected in the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)” guidelines and recommendations.<sup>277</sup>

### *China’s Internal Migration*

Like many countries, China faces the challenges of migration; however, China has an unprecedented number of internal migrants from inland China to eastern, coast regions due to economic growth.<sup>278</sup> In fact, at no other time in history has there ever been as unprecedented number of migrants than what is being witnessed in China today.<sup>279</sup> For example, international migrants numbered 232 million in 2006, whereas in China, internal migrants were estimated

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<sup>264</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Migration and Development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/190)*, 2013, p. 3.

<sup>265</sup> UN General Assembly, *Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development*, 2014, p. 2.

<sup>266</sup> Ibid.

<sup>267</sup> Scheineson, A., Council on Foreign Relations, *China’s Internal Migrants*, 2009.

<sup>268</sup> UN General Assembly, *Violence against women migrant workers*, p. 1.

<sup>269</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

<sup>270</sup> Ibid., p. 4.

<sup>271</sup> Ibid., p. 5.

<sup>272</sup> ILO, *Decent Work Agenda*, 2014.

<sup>273</sup> IOM, *International Migration and Development Contributions and Recommendations of the International System*, 2013, p. 187.

<sup>274</sup> Ibid.

<sup>275</sup> Ibid.

<sup>276</sup> Ibid.

<sup>277</sup> Ibid.

<sup>278</sup> Scheineson, A., Council on Foreign Relations, *China’s Internal Migrants*, 2009.

<sup>279</sup> UNDP, *China National Human Development Report 2013*, 2013, p. 15.

to exceed 180 million in 2008, which is almost as many migrants.<sup>280</sup> Moreover, according to the *China National Human Development Report 2013*, “nearly half a billion people have moved into cities, adding to a total of 700 million urban residents.”<sup>281</sup> Another notable factor for China’s increase in internal migrants comes from the fact that 45% of migrants consist of people between the ages of 16 to 25.<sup>282</sup> It was recorded that in 2008 during the financial crisis and economic downturn, migration to eastern regions of China had slowed down but even with disruptions, China is expected to have over 300 migrants move from rural to cities in the next 20 years.<sup>283</sup>

Internal migrants in China demonstrate many of the same challenges faced by migrants elsewhere.<sup>284</sup> Still, China has slowly improved conditions for migrants by collaborating with international organizations such as the ILO by implementing policies to protect migrants.<sup>285</sup> Internal migrants to urban areas in China have experienced economic development as well as educational opportunities for themselves and their children, but migrants have also had to contend with discrimination and abuse from existing urban residence, employers, and the government.<sup>286</sup> For instance, the Council on Foreign Relations reports that “discrimination or harassment from employers is common, and legal redress is often unattainable within China’s judicial system.”<sup>287</sup> Migrants also do not receive the same benefits as local residence such as not getting paid for overtime work, working under unsafe conditions or contractual work, and not having unemployment coverage.<sup>288</sup> Since 2007, the ILO and the IOM have been working jointly with the Chinese government in capacity-building to strengthen existing laws relating to migrants and for the formulation of new ones to protect migrants and their families.<sup>289</sup> ILO has stated that its priority with its “Decent Work Country Programme for China is to promote employment and to reduce inequalities with a focus on unemployed and internal rural migrants. One major outcome is to improve rights, protection and employability of migrants and to strengthen legal assistance to them (migrants).”<sup>290</sup> The collaboration between the ILO and IOM has introduced the Capacity-Building for Migration Management (CBMM) in China.<sup>291</sup> So successful was the project that in 2011 a second phase was implemented to “lead responsibility for expanding the channel of regular labor migration through increasing the awareness of the risks of irregular migration (i.e. human trafficking) among the potential migrants, strengthening capacity-building agencies and trade unions to provide labor migrants with better services of recruitment, labor rights protection and labor disputes settlement.”<sup>292</sup>

## Conclusion

Migrations have been occurring for thousands of years and as individuals continue to seek greater opportunities for themselves and their families, migration will also continue to shape and reshape our globe.<sup>293</sup> Migration in particular helps economic development as it helps to ensure labor is supplied where needed and, more so, migrants exponentially contribute to their host countries while also helping development in their sending countries through providing remittances and additional support that may shift the economics of development, helping to better educate, feed or care for children, for example. The international community can no longer ignore migration and its impact, and the Second Committee, as the primary economic and financial committee within the United Nations, has the responsibility to integrate migration issues and dialogue into present and future discussions, especially given that at the last High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development it was acknowledged that, “migration reduces poverty on an extraordinary scale.”<sup>294</sup>

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<sup>280</sup> Scheineson, A., Council on Foreign Relations, *China’s Internal Migrants*, 2009; UN, General Assembly, *International Migration and Development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/190)*, 2013, p. 2.

<sup>281</sup> UNDP, *China National Human Development Report 2013*, 2013, p. 15.

<sup>282</sup> Scheineson, A., Council on Foreign Relations, *China’s Internal Migrants*, 2009.

<sup>283</sup> The Economist, *Welcome Home*, 2012.

<sup>284</sup> Scheineson, A., Council on Foreign Relations, *China’s Internal Migrants*, 2009.

<sup>285</sup> ILO, *Labour Migration*, 2014.

<sup>286</sup> UNDP, *China National Human Development Report 2013*, 2013, p. 39.

<sup>287</sup> Scheineson, A., Council on Foreign Relations, *China’s Internal Migrants*, 2009.

<sup>288</sup> Ibid.

<sup>289</sup> ILO, *Capacity Building For Migration Management in China Project Phase II*, 2013.

<sup>290</sup> ILO, *Labour Migration*, 2014.

<sup>291</sup> ILO, *Capacity Building For Migration Management in China Project Phase II*, 2013.

<sup>292</sup> Ibid.

<sup>293</sup> IOM, *World Migration Report 2013*, 2013, p. 29.

<sup>294</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Migration and Development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/190)*, 2013, p. 2.

This is why, ultimately, much debate currently focuses on how migration issues should be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda, especially considering no explicit mention was made of migration in the MDGs.<sup>295</sup> As explained, much has shifted with the global economy since the creation of the MDGs and it is now clear that mobility, migration, and remittances play a clear role in economic development, even more so than official development assistance.<sup>296</sup> Ultimately, though negotiations are being had on the shape of the future post-2015 development agenda, vis-à-vis the debate around the Sustainable Development Goals, according to the Migration Policy Institute, there are three reasons why migration must be included: 1) It is simply too large of an issue to ignore; 2) “migration can help individuals and their families to increase their incomes, develop new skills, improve their social status, build up assets and generally improve their quality of life;” and, 3) as mentioned, as migration’s dynamics change between increased South-South or North-South migration, the impact of migration is truly global.<sup>297</sup> Ultimately, for all of these reasons, as the Second Committee focuses on specific ways to continue implementing its action plan and supporting Member States, for the one in seven of the world’s population that is a migrant, much consideration should be given to the integration of migration on the post-2015 development agenda.<sup>298</sup>

### ***Further Research***

It is important to keep in mind how the Second Committee has already worked with other UN agencies and how the committee can broaden its partnerships within the context of migration and its impacts on development. A major question still remains how migration should be included to the post-2015 developmental agenda; while there has been consideration by the GA and other UN agencies to do so, it has not yet been confirmed how this will be integrated. Other questions to be considered are as follows: With so many indicators demonstrating the link between poverty reduction and migration, why have so many Member States still have not implemented better measures to protect migrants? What economic policies most effectively support migrants and, in particular, their equal treatment, and how can they be implemented? How have regional bodies such as the European Union or African Union worked towards coherent policies in advancing the economic development of migrants? Given an understanding that migrants contribute to their sending country’s economy through remittances, how can the international community and the Second Committee improve and ease remittance systems? How else can the Second Committee economically support migrants? And, to what degree should the international community also consider the impacts of migration on social development, such as family structure and women’s roles that migration may alter?

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<sup>295</sup> IOM, *Migration and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 7.

<sup>296</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8.

<sup>297</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 9-11.

<sup>298</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 9.



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*The MFLM is a comprehensive collection of principles and guidelines on labor migration policy. Important themes of the Decent Work for All agenda are explained, such as the promotion of the links between migration and development. This framework was formulated due to the demand for migration policy based human rights; such demand was evident during the first High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development.*

International Organization for Migration. (2013). *International Migration and Development Contributions and Recommendations of the International System*. Retrieved 9 July 2014 from: [http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/CEB\\_GMG\\_web.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/CEB_GMG_web.pdf)

*This is an essential resource for delegates because various players in the international system that are engaged in migration issues are presented in this document. It also provides an overall understanding of who is involved within this topic. The United Nations Population Fund and the International Organization for Migration are some of the leading contributors to this document, and they report on the potential of migration on development. Other international actors included in this document are the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and many others.*

International Organization for Migration. (2014). *Integrating Migration into The Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda*. Retrieved 18 September 2014 from: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/MPI-IOMBrief10-PostStockholm.pdf>

*This document explains how migration today cannot be solely controlled or managed by a Member State, but how some Member States still choose to not engage on the topic of migration at the international level. Based on this understanding, this document evaluates the need for international collaboration on migration in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. Three possible Sustainable Development Goals are introduced such as including migration within economic growth and decent work and decreasing poverty and inequality. Key conclusions of this report include reasons for the lack of participation from some Member States in improving migrant rights.*

International Organization for Migration. (2013). *Migration and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda*. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: [http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/Migration\\_and\\_the\\_UN\\_Post2015\\_Agenda.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/Migration_and_the_UN_Post2015_Agenda.pdf)

*Key issues regarding migration and the post-2015 development agenda are presented in this framework to serve beyond the MDGs. Discussed within this document is developing a global partnership on migration and development for post MDG's. This document also presents migration as a tool to reduce poverty through labor mobility and income generation.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2014). *Declaration of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development*. Adopted without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.5). Retrieved 30 July 2014 from: <http://www.undocs.org/a/res/68/4>

*This resolution calls on Member States to recognize the important contribution of migrants to sustainable development and the realization of the MDGs. This document also reaffirms the commitment by the UN to protect the human rights of migrant workers and their families. This document provides recommendations on basic requirements in the formation of policy related to migrants.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-seventh session. (2012). *International migration and development*. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/67/439/Add.2). Retrieved 10 July 2014 from: <http://www.undocs.org/a/res/67/219>

*This document presents information on new emerging patterns of migration that include South-South migration as opposed to the traditional South-North migration. It also gives facts and figures about international remittance transfers. Migrant rights and migration policies are briefly presented, as well as relevant actors that help to formulate policy.*

United Nations, General Assembly. (2013). *Making Migration Work: An Eight-Point agenda for Action*. Retrieved 10 July 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/migration/pdf/migration\\_8points\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/migration/pdf/migration_8points_en.pdf)

*This short document summarizes the eight points recommended by the Secretary-General on migration policy. The first point calls for the protection of human rights of all migrants, citing many existing conventions and frameworks precisely on this issue. Delegates should note that the first six points can only be achieved by strengthening the evidence base and enhancing migration partnerships and cooperation, which are points seven and eight.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013). *International Migration and Development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/190)*. Retrieved 10 July 2014 from:

[http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/docs/SG-report-Intl-Migration-and-Development-2013-A\\_68\\_190-EN.pdf](http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/docs/SG-report-Intl-Migration-and-Development-2013-A_68_190-EN.pdf)

*This comprehensive report was written by the Secretary-General, outlining his recommendations for the second High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development held in September 2014. It is here that the Secretary-General recognizes the link between migration and economic development, citing that there is evidence migration has helped to reduce poverty. This report also contains the work of the UN system in promoting rights of migrants and the collaboration of inter-agencies such as IOM, ILO, and GMG.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-sixth session. (2012). *Violence against women migrant workers* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/66/455 and Corr.1)]. Retrieved 3 August 2014 from:

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=a/res/66/128](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=a/res/66/128)

*Adopted in 2011 by the General Assembly, this resolution offers a wide range of recommendations and guidelines to promoting and implementing international policy to protect women migrants from violence, abuse, and exploitation. The resolution recognizes the increased participation of women in migration, and calls for greater gender-sensitive policy efforts. Also, the resolution affirms that women migrant workers are important contributors to social and economic development, and therefore have a great impact on alleviating poverty.*

World Bank. (2011). *Impact of Migration on Economic and Social Development: A Review of Evidence and Emerging Issues*. Retrieved 9 July 2014 from: <http://elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/pdf/10.1596/1813-9450-5558>

*This document provides a comprehensive overview of the developmental impacts of migration and remittances on origin countries and on destination countries, such as increased income to households at countries of origin. Facts and figures about remittances are presented with recent information and developments. According to the World Bank, remittances are income stabilizers at both the macroeconomic and microeconomic levels.*

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### III. Adapting to Globalization: The New International Economic Order and the Green Economy

*“What we must do instead is to ensure that the global market is embedded in broadly shared values and practices that reflect global social needs, and that all the world’s people share the benefits of globalization.”<sup>299</sup>*

#### **Introduction**

Globalization has increased interconnectedness, with events that take place in one corner of the globe no longer exclusively affecting a single locality, but rather, the entire world.<sup>300</sup> The 2008 global financial crisis, which began in the world’s major financial centers, quickly spread throughout the global economy, resulting in a global economic recession.<sup>301</sup> All countries, both developed and developing, were negatively impacted by this crisis, through reduced export opportunities and greater instability in commodity prices and capital flows.<sup>302</sup> As a result, much of the previous economic and social progress, such as achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), was threatened, particularly in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).<sup>303</sup> Presently, nearly 1 billion people still live in extreme poverty, surviving on less than one dollar a day, and more than 800 million people lack enough food to eat on a daily basis.<sup>304</sup> Inequality between and within countries has increased as globalization grows, and the gap between middle-income and high-income states continues to widen.<sup>305</sup> Globalization has also increased financial shocks’ such as drops in global stock markets, unstable employment trends, and decreases in national productivity.<sup>306</sup> These shocks have heightened inequalities by reduction in trade, investment, financial flows, and remittances.

In spite of these apparent negative trends in the global economy, globalization activities have the power to be forces for good with respect to economic growth and sustainable development when conducted in a socially responsible manner.<sup>307</sup> Inclusive growth is one of the cornerstones in the post-2015 development agenda, with states focused on ensuring that globalization trends close the gap between inequalities both within and between states, reduce uncertainty in local and global markets, and respect the social and human rights of all citizens.<sup>308</sup> Harnessing the positive effects of globalization stretches beyond simple policy making within states, it involves structural changes in local economies, as well as adapting to global labor markets and productivity trends.<sup>309</sup> States that are able to adapt to globalization trends and effectively reduce poverty conditions must work to diversify their economies between traditional and modern sectors, while at the same time working to reduce the informal economy.<sup>310</sup> Further to structural changes, states have been called upon to intensify efforts to strengthen and reform their local financial regulations and broadly contribute to strengthen the international financial system and global markets.<sup>311</sup>

Outside of local economies, the need to adapt to globalization in the aftermath of the 2008 economic crisis placed particular emphasis on examining the existing international economic order and its role in combination with growing and protecting the environment and its resources.<sup>312</sup> Transitioning to a green economy is essential to adapt to the post-2008 world, and harness globalization’s positive effects on local communities.<sup>313</sup> According to the United

<sup>299</sup> UN DPI, *Secretary-General Welcomes International Corporate Leaders to Global Compact Meeting (SG/SM/7495)*, 2000.

<sup>300</sup> UNESCO, *Globalisation*, 2014.

<sup>301</sup> UN General Assembly, *Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (A/RES/63/303)*, 2009.

<sup>302</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>303</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>304</sup> UN DESA, *Globalization and Interdependence*, 2014.

<sup>305</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>306</sup> UN General Assembly, *An overview of the major international economic and policy challenges for equitable and inclusive sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and of the role of the United Nations in addressing these issues in the light of the New International Economic Order: Report of the Secretary-General (A/65/272)*, 2010.

<sup>307</sup> ILO & WTO, *Making Globalization Socially Sustainable*, 2011.

<sup>308</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>309</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

<sup>310</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 49.

<sup>311</sup> UN General Assembly, *Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (A/RES/63/303)*, 2009.

<sup>312</sup> UNESCO, *Globalisation*, 2014.

<sup>313</sup> *Ibid.*

Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Green Economy Initiative, green economy is defined as “one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.<sup>314</sup> In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive.”<sup>315</sup> Advancing the green economy holds many challenges, especially for local businesses, as they may be faced with unfavorable regulatory environments, pressure from transnational corporations, and limited financing.<sup>316</sup> This guide will address how the United Nations (UN), and the international community, can adapt to globalization through the consideration of the post-2015 development agenda, the continued development of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), strong global partnerships, and policies to combat external debt, while further “greening” the economy.

### ***International and Regional Framework***

The *Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order*, adopted by the UN General Assembly (GA) in 1974, called upon Member States to create an economic order which worked towards closing the gap between developed and developing countries, as well as ensuring that peace and security went hand in hand with economic and social development.<sup>317</sup> The *Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order* emphasized state sovereignty, but also recognized the special circumstances of developing countries, and affirmed that they should receive favorable terms where possible, including conditions on loans, import and tariff structures, and technology transfers.<sup>318</sup> With increased deregulation of many markets, the global economy is not the same system it was during the Declaration's adoption in 1974, however.<sup>319</sup> Emerging economies have developed at rapid rates, causing a shift in the global balance of economic power, and the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis forced the international community to re-evaluate and consider a new economic order for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.<sup>320</sup>

#### *The post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

Over the past several years, domestic governance has surfaced as a critical factor in explaining the uneven progress of development in many countries.<sup>321</sup> The *Final Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Governance and the Post-2015 Development Framework* outlines the post-2015 development agenda, which will work to build on the MDGs.<sup>322</sup> The report concludes that democratic governance, peace and security, rule of law, and protection of human rights are all essential to achieving sustainable development.<sup>323</sup> These observations call for a strong post-2015 development agenda, including a detailed account of the important role improved governance and accountability can have in achieving better development outcomes.<sup>324</sup> One example of on the ground progress in this area is the Institute for Capacity Development created by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).<sup>325</sup> The Institute brings together policy and government officials for training, policy dialogue, and knowledge sharing on industrial development activities.<sup>326</sup> The Institute also helps in guiding policy makers on effective governance strategies including exploring inter-regional cooperation, balancing industrial development with environmental issues and trade capacity-building.<sup>327</sup> The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) discussion paper on Governance for Sustainable Development further highlights the role of governance at a local and national level, but also its importance at the international level, ensuring that developing countries have a seat at

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<sup>314</sup> UNEP, *About GEI*, 2014.

<sup>315</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>316</sup> UNEP, *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*, 2011.

<sup>317</sup> UN General Assembly, *Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (A/RES/3201(S-VI))*, 1974.

<sup>318</sup> UN General Assembly, *Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (A/RES/3202(S-VI))*, 1974.

<sup>319</sup> UNESCO, *Globalisation*, 2014.

<sup>320</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>321</sup> The World We Want, *Final Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Governance and the Post-2015 Development Framework*, 2013.

<sup>322</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>323</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>324</sup> The World We Want, *Final Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Governance and the Post-2015 Development Framework*, 2013.

<sup>325</sup> UNIDO, *About Us*.

<sup>326</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>327</sup> *Ibid.*

the table in international institutions.<sup>328</sup> The report links successful governance and rule of law, to economic progress and integration into international markets, specifically through curbing crime, corruption, and bribery.<sup>329</sup>

To operationalize the post-2015 development agenda, the SDGs were established during the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, whereby Member States agreed to initiate a process to develop a set of development goals that will build upon the main objectives of the MDGs.<sup>330</sup> The Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*, created the intergovernmental Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG), to begin the conceptualization of the SDGs and its associated targets.<sup>331</sup> In August 2014, the OWG submitted a report to the GA detailing the goals, emphasizing the role of governance, human rights, and respect for the environment as tenets of the SDGs, as well as outlining each of the proposed 17 goals.<sup>332</sup> In September 2014, the GA adopted the report, setting the framework for the creation of the post-2015 development agenda.<sup>333</sup> Of the 17 proposed SDGs, Goals 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17 provide a platform to promote the positive effects of globalization, acknowledge the 21<sup>st</sup> century economic order, and directly call to action the need for a more green economy.<sup>334</sup> The goals highlight key objectives such as: reducing inequality and eradicating poverty, noting specific policy actions like improved fiscal and employment policies, and trade and tariff policies, while also mainstreaming a gender perspective into policy frameworks to ensure that no one group is excluded from the development process.<sup>335</sup> The GA Second Committee has therefore focused its efforts in aligning many of its agenda items with the SDGs including but not limited to access to clean, renewable energy, sustainable development and use of ocean and marine resources, and building sustainable cities and sustainable consumption patterns.<sup>336</sup>

### ***Role of the International System***

As a committee with universal membership, the GA Second is well-situated to address the question of how to better manage and adapt to globalization in order to promote sustainable development in line with the SDGs.<sup>337</sup> The topic of globalization specifically is of relevance to the GA Second as it has been present on the Committee's agenda since 1999 as a follow-up to the High-Level Dialogue of September 1998 on the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence.<sup>338</sup> As it deals with globalization, adapting a new economic order and greening the economy falls under item 21 of the GA Second's agenda on "globalization and interdependence".<sup>339</sup>

During the 69<sup>th</sup> session, the GA Second Committee discussed questions on the parameters of globalization, and the difficulties that developing countries face in integrating themselves into international institutions, which would allow them to fully take advantage of globalization trends.<sup>340</sup> Delegates called upon Member States to "strengthen partnerships on trade, aid, technology and migration."<sup>341</sup> Migration was particularly noted as a key component of globalization trends, with several Member States highlighting the complex interactions in migration, which while allowing for greater labor mobilization across states and increasing remittances, negatively impacted local

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<sup>328</sup> UNDP, *Governance for Sustainable Development: Integrating Governance in the Post-2015 Development Framework*, 2014, p. 3.

<sup>329</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6.

<sup>330</sup> UN Open Working Group, *Proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014.

<sup>331</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>332</sup> UN General Assembly, *Report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (A/68/970)*, 2014.

<sup>333</sup> UN DPI, *General Assembly adopts resolution on SDGs report*, 2014.

<sup>334</sup> UN Conference on Sustainable Development, *Introduction to the Proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014.

<sup>335</sup> UN Open Working Group, *Proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014.

<sup>336</sup> UN General Assembly Second Committee, *Statement on the sustainable development agenda item in the Second Committee by Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs Department of Economic and Social Affairs Wednesday, 15 October 2014*, 2014.

<sup>337</sup> UN DESA, *Globalization and Interdependence*, 2014.

<sup>338</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>339</sup> UN General Assembly, *Agenda of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly (A/68/251)*, 2013.

<sup>340</sup> UN General Assembly, *Comprehensive Set of Measures Needed to Leverage Migration for Development, Speaker Says, as Second Committee Takes Up Globalization, Interdependence*, 2014.

<sup>341</sup> *Ibid.*

productivity.<sup>342</sup> In GA resolution 68/219 of 20 December 2013 on the “Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence”, under economic relations, the GA noted the emergence of “rules-based regimens” in the international system.<sup>343</sup> Such regimes mean that national and domestic policies are more and more framed within “international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations” forcing a trade-off between “the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space.”<sup>344</sup> Additionally, the Resolution reaffirmed the key need for global partnerships for development and the need for enhanced accountability by the UN to Member States in that regard.<sup>345</sup>

### ***Global Partnerships***

The GA Second Committee focuses broadly on creating and developing partnerships within the UN system to address globalization challenges. Partnerships with the UNDP, UNEP, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), are fundamental to the work of the committee in promoting development goals and creating sustainable capacity and infrastructure within Member States.<sup>346</sup> More recently, the Committee has narrowed the scope of its partnerships in this arena to focus on the green economy, and inclusive, sustainable growth.<sup>347</sup>

UNCTAD’s recent work on development strategies aligns closely with concerns the GA Second has raised on the risk of the encroachment of national policy space on globalization trends.<sup>348</sup> Its 2014 Trade and Development report highlights the gap in the regulation of the international economic system as a result of the 2008 crisis, and notes that the world economy has not yet established a sustainable, productive regime to handle the expected economic growth over the next several years.<sup>349</sup> Further, the report highlights previously raised risks in policymaking in developing countries and the need to align with the international system.<sup>350</sup> Within this arena, the Second Committee has the opportunity to shape the post-2015 development agenda and development programs that ensure developing countries do not risk their forward progress in attempts to align with the international system, but still maintain adherence to international regulations, especially where financial markets are concerned.

The UNDP’s work in the arena of human development raises similar concerns to UNCTAD with respect to policy space and the effect that disruption of a local economy has within the global system.<sup>351</sup> The UNDP has stressed the need for examining social policies in conjunction with economic policies, and creating the capacity to reduce a population’s vulnerability to economic shocks.<sup>352</sup> Additionally, the UNDP highlights the need for facilitating green growth, specifically in ensuring better trade frameworks for the transfer of green technologies between developed and developing countries.<sup>353</sup> Under the broader framework of climate change, both the UNDP and the Second Committee have focused some of their work on the link between sustainable development in business and the positive policy effects on local populations, also emphasizing the need for private sector partnerships.<sup>354</sup> For example, several corporations have already committed to sustainable practices including Coca-Cola and Unilever committing to eliminate deforestation in their supply chain, and Microsoft promising to be carbon neutral.<sup>355</sup>

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<sup>342</sup> UN General Assembly, *Comprehensive Set of Measures Needed to Leverage Migration for Development, Speaker Says, as Second Committee Takes Up Globalization, Interdependence*, 2014.

<sup>343</sup> UN General Assembly, *Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/RES/68/219)*, 2013.

<sup>344</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>345</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>346</sup> UN General Assembly Second Committee, *Speakers in Second Committee Stress Need to Reinforce Progress on United Nations Private Sector Partnerships*, 3 November 2011.

<sup>347</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>348</sup> UNCTAD, *Trade and Development Report: Global Governance and Policy Space for Development*, 2014.

<sup>349</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>350</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>351</sup> UNDP, *Human Development Report 2014: Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience*, 2014, p. 8.

<sup>352</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 11.

<sup>353</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>354</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>355</sup> UNDP, *Human Development Report 2013: The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World*, 2013.

### ***External Debt Sustainability***

Although many states have moved towards the status of an emerging economy, there is still a fundamental lack of development in the LDCs. Far too often developing countries are most likely the ones faced with the burden of large external debts.<sup>356</sup> Some of these debt burdens have been condensed because of the establishment of international debt relief initiatives.<sup>357</sup> In the 2014 report of the Secretary-General on “External debt sustainability and development”, it is noted that while there was slight improvements to export growth, overall debt ratios worsened in developing countries in 2013.<sup>358</sup> While developing countries continue to experience unprecedented growth at some levels, the burden of debt payments on local economies has several cascading effects including increasing borrowing levels to keep up with payments and reducing the incentives for foreign direct investment by external states or private partners.<sup>359</sup> Greater access to international markets can help LDCs in mobilizing resources to build long-term infrastructure, but in conjunction states must have debt management policies in place to avoid instability in the event of large capital inflows.<sup>360</sup> The Second Committee has done substantial work on debt restructuring and creating debt management plans within developing countries, but some Member States, including the United States of America, have noted that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and International Capital Markets Associations were “the institutions best equipped to handle such debt issues”.<sup>361</sup>

To that end, the IMF and the World Bank created a joint partnership called the Debt Sustainability Framework (DSF).<sup>362</sup> The Framework is designed to guide the borrowing decisions of developing countries in a way that meets their specific financial needs, by considering each country’s unique circumstances.<sup>363</sup> Under the DSF, debt sustainability analyses are conducted regularly.<sup>364</sup> The Framework also provides increased assessment of macroeconomic stability, sustainability of fiscal policy, and overall debt sustainability.<sup>365</sup> The DSF may be seen as an important initiative for adapting to globalization, in the wake of the 2008 global economic crisis and our constantly changing, interconnected world.

### ***Case Study: Kenya’s Green Economy***

Kenya’s recent policy changes in its energy industry are one example of a positive policy initiative at the national level to adapt to the latest globalization trends.<sup>366</sup> In 2008, Kenya’s Ministry of Energy implemented feed-in tariffs (FIT), designed to force utility and energy companies, both national and foreign, that operate on the national grid to purchase electricity from renewable sources at a pre-determined price.<sup>367</sup> The FIT policy works to encourage new investment into the renewable sector, creating a sustainable business market for renewable energy.<sup>368</sup> Additionally, the policy encourages private investors to operate in a sustainable manner, while reducing transaction costs by removing the conventional bidding process.<sup>369</sup> The benefits of the policy have trickled down into the local economy through reducing costs and boosting energy access to businesses and residences, alleviating poverty in rural areas and building up local industries.<sup>370</sup> For example, Kenya has been able to leverage its sugarcane production for cogeneration of renewables using the sugarcane bagasse residues, thereby expanding the industry, increasing employment among rural workers, and advancing the sustainability of the land.<sup>371</sup> Further, the country has been able

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<sup>356</sup> UN General Assembly *External debt sustainability and development (A/RES/68/202)*, 2013.

<sup>357</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>358</sup> UN General Assembly, *External debt sustainability and development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/167)*, 2014.

<sup>359</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>360</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>361</sup> UN General Assembly Second Committee, *Addressing Sovereign Debt Distress among Issues Tackled, as Second Committee Continues Debate on Sustainable Development Goals*, 8 October 2014.

<sup>362</sup> International Monetary Fund, *The Joint World Bank-IMF Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries*, 2014.

<sup>363</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>364</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>365</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>366</sup> UNEP, *Feed-in Tariffs in Kenya*.

<sup>367</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>368</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>369</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>370</sup> AFREPREN/FWD, *The Role of Feed-In Tariff Policy in Renewable Energy Development in Developing Countries: A Toolkit for Parliamentarians*, 2009, p. 4.

<sup>371</sup> UNEP, *Feed-in Tariffs in Kenya*.

to reduce its dependence on oil imports, and move towards sustainable resource development within its own borders.<sup>372</sup>

Kenya's example fits into the nature of globalization and changing economic structures in several ways. By leveraging local resources and moving towards renewable energy, the country developed its own green economy policies, reduced its external oil-dependence, and ensured that foreign investment in electricity and utilities goes back into Kenyan sustainable development.<sup>373</sup> At the same time the FIT policy created a friendly environment for new business development.<sup>374</sup> Further, by creating local jobs and increasing local industries, Kenya has laid the groundwork to avoid substantial disruption in the event of a global economic crisis by boosting its own economic strength with new and growing business models, and creating long-term sustainable opportunities for its own people.<sup>375</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

The 2008 economic crisis forever changed the way the world economic system functions. The international community was left with substantial gaps in the stability of the global financial system and the existing infrastructures of the economy. Globalization in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has meant that changes on one side of the globe cause reverberations throughout multiple countries and a diversity of channels. The international community has thus been forced to find new ways to adapt to evolving global trends and to create sustainable local economic environments that feed into the wider system. As climate change impacts rise, many have sought to develop green economy practices to better adapt their economic policies going forward as a means to match said global trends. Reformed and coherent fiscal policies, a strong post-2015 development agenda, the implementation of the SDGs, new global partnerships, and concrete avenues to combat key obstacles in economic prosperity, such as external debt are all means to achieving sustainable growth and development, environmental preservation, and innovation in economic policy. Bearing in mind the state of the world's environment and impacts from climate change, and understanding the reality of today's economic order, the UN along with the rest of the international community has the opportunity to better adapt to globalization and benefit from its positive effects, one which it is imperative to seize for the future of the world's populations.

### ***Further Research***

By transitioning to green economies throughout the world, as well as thorough examination of the current international economic order, we have the potential to more easily embrace globalization and all the changes and challenges it will bring. In light of this, there are additional questions for delegates to consider when beginning their research. What potential does the green economy have to create productive employment and reduce poverty? How has the new international economic order changed since its adaptation in 1974, and can aspects of it be applied to our current global economic system? What is the state of the current economic order and how should it best be adapted to evolving trends in globalization? What kinds of policies will best harness the trends of globalization to support the green economy and create more favorable economic institutions? How can the economic growth be stimulated without favoring developing or developed countries? How can the growth of both developing and developed countries be encouraged without negatively impacting the environment?

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<sup>372</sup> Energy, Environment and Development Network for Africa, *The Role of Feed-In Tariff Policy in Renewable Energy Development in Developing Countries: A Toolkit for Parliamentarians*, 2009, p. 4.

<sup>373</sup> Ibid.

<sup>374</sup> Ibid.

<sup>375</sup> Ibid.

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The World We Want. (2013). *Final Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Governance and the Post-2015 Development Framework*. Retrieved 7 August 2014 from: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/governance/finalreport>

*This report provides a detailed overview on what the post-2015 development agenda entails. It highlights specific lessons learned from the MDGs, in particular how global governance will play a role in the success of this agenda. The progress of the MDGs should not be overlooked or forgotten as important milestones have already been reached, though there is still much work to be done in considering the way forward. Delegates should consider the goals of the post-2015 development agenda when discussing the SDGs and how to incorporate economic growth, and environmental preservation as well and their nexus into the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs.*

United Nations, Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. (2014). *Introduction to the Proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals*. Retrieved 7 August 2014 from: [http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4518SDGs\\_FINAL\\_Proposal%20of%20OWG\\_19%20July%20at%201320hrsver3.pdf](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4518SDGs_FINAL_Proposal%20of%20OWG_19%20July%20at%201320hrsver3.pdf)

*This document will be helpful for delegates because it outlines one proposal for the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and their specific targets. The document provides a comprehensive outline of the history of the SDGs, detailing the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development and the Working Group on the SDGs. It is an up-to-date publication and delegates will find it to useful in relating the topic to the relevant SDGs.*

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2008, December 19). *Among 34 development-related actions, General Assembly adopts resolution reaffirming need to work towards new international economic order. Taking Action on Second Committee Reports, Plenary Also Passes Text Relating to 'Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization'* [Press Release]. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/ga10802.doc.htm>

*The call for a New International Economic Order stemmed from the global financial crisis and the need to address the critical economic and policy challenges that were hindering upon long-term sustainable development and economic prosperity. This press release is important to the topic as a whole because it provides the basis for the New International Economic Order called upon by the GA. The main tenets of the New International Economic Order outlined during the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the GA are: principles of equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, and common interest and cooperation among Member States. This meeting of the GA also set the precedence for outlining the international economic situation in its entirety, which will be important for delegates when conducting research and during debate of the topic.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (2011). *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication* [Report]. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: [http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/Portals/88/documents/ger/ger\\_final\\_dec\\_2011/Green%20EconomyReport\\_Final\\_Dec2011.pdf](http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/Portals/88/documents/ger/ger_final_dec_2011/Green%20EconomyReport_Final_Dec2011.pdf)

*A publication of UNEP's Green Economy Initiative, this report gives a detailed account of the growing push towards a global green economy. Set among the backdrop of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, the report makes a strong economic and social argument for the international community to invest 2% of global GDP towards the greening of 10 central sectors of the economy with the hopes of causing a development shift that promotes public and private capital flows, placing the global economy on a path of resource efficiency and low carbon. The report is broken down into three parts, which are: investing in natural capital, investing in energy and resource efficiency, and supporting the transition to a global green economy. Each section has multiple subsections that provide more specific information on various aspects of a green economy. This report is an all-encompassing document, which will provide a detailed overview of the topic for delegates as they begin their research.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (2013). *Building Inclusive Green Economies: Success Stories From South-South Cooperation* [Report]. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: [http://www.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/Portals/8/publications/Building\\_Inclusive\\_Green\\_Economies.pdf](http://www.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/Portals/8/publications/Building_Inclusive_Green_Economies.pdf)

*A UNEP report, this document focuses specifically on the relationship between south-south cooperation and the green economy by elaborating on numerous stories of success from states supported by UNEP projects. The main focal point of this report is to highlight how different partnerships between Member States in the global South have contributed to a transition in the global economic system towards a greener, more carbon neutral society. Information gathered through the report show that the success of such “green” projects are being built upon and simulated in other developing countries, positioning the South on a path towards inclusive sustainable development. This source is particularly helpful for delegates in order to illustrate real-life examples of integration of the green economy through south-south cooperation.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixth special session. (1974). *Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (A/RES/S-6/3202)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 6 August 2014 from: [http://undocs.org/A/RES/3202\(S-VI\)](http://undocs.org/A/RES/3202(S-VI))

*This resolution provides the official documentation of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order from 1974. In order for delegates to have a strong background understanding of this topic, the details of this resolution should be examined. Knowing the specific details of this document will prove beneficial for delegates when beginning their research on the New International Economic Order in developing ideas for an economic order suitable for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-third session. (2009). *Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (A/RES/63/303)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 6 August 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/63/303>

*General Assembly resolution 63/303 provides detailed information on the 2008 global economic crisis and its impact on development and globalization. In order to better understand globalization and the global economy, and ultimately adapt to it, it is important to first understand the historical implications of why the global economy is in the state that it is. This document will lay a strong foundation for this topic and is a good starting point for delegates’ research.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-fifth session. (2010). *An overview of the major international economic and policy challenges for equitable and inclusive sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and of the role of the United Nations in addressing these issues in the light of the New International Economic Order: Report of the Secretary-General (A/65/272)*. Retrieved 9 September 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/65/272>

*This document ties together each of the focus areas of the topic: globalization, the new international economic order, and the green economy. This source contains significant substantive in reference to the international economic order in more recent terms, focusing particularly on the 2008 global economic crisis. It will also serve as a good tool for further research by providing additional UN instruments to review.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013). *External debt sustainability and development (A/RES/68/202)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/436/Add.3). Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/68/202>

*This resolution outlines one of the challenges of globalization, which is external debt sustainability. Resolution 68/202 introduces the type of debt that is most prevalent in our international economic system today, and ways to make this type of debt sustainable for Member States. Reviewing this source will help delegates understand the obstacles that exist to fully embracing globalization and its impacts.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013). *Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/RES/68/219)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/440/Add.1). Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/68/219>



*Adopted by the General Assembly, resolution 68/219 is a good starting point to begin examining the relationship between globalization in the context of development and the United Nations. Adopted in 2014, this resolution provides up-to-date information on the work of the General Assembly in regards to the topic of globalization. This source will be helpful to delegates as it can be used as a tool for referencing other UN instruments such as publications, initiatives, and conferences that relate to globalization and development efforts globally.*

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