



THE 2016 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

20-24 March (Conf. A) & 27-31 March (Conf. B) • www.nmun.org

Update for the General Assembly Second Committee

Kristina Getty &
Beatrice Soler
Secretaries-General

Ardis Smith &
Cara Wagner
Deputy Secretaries-General

Doug Arseneault &
Sara Johnsson
Chiefs of Staff

Nguyen Cao &
Camille Ellison
Assistant Chiefs of Staff

Sonia Patel &
Felipe Ante
Assistant Secretaries-General

Sabrina Grover &
Patrick Parsons
Under-Secretaries-General
General Assembly

Dinah Douglas &
Lauren Shaw
Under-Secretaries-General
Economic and Social Council

Michael Buechl &
Andrea Wong
Under-Secretaries-General
Development

Moritz Müller &
Claudia Sanchez
Under-Secretaries-General
Human Rights and
Humanitarian Affairs

Allison Chandler &
Clarissa Manning
Under-Secretaries-General
Peace and Security

Markus Petermann &
Carl Dionne
Under-Secretaries-General
Conference Services

NCCA BOARD of DIRECTORS

Prof. Eric Cox
President

Prof. Kevin Grisham
Vice-President

Prof. Chaldeans Mensah
Treasurer

Prof. Pamela Chasek
Secretary

Jennifer Contreras

Raymond J. Freda

Rachel Holmes

Amierah Ismail

Prof. Markéta Žídková

Members Ex-Officio

Michael Eaton
Executive Director

Prof. Richard Murgu
Past President

Prof. Richard Reitano
President Emeritus

Committee Overview	2
Recent Developments	2
Annotated Bibliography.....	4
Bibliography	4
I. Promoting Access to Renewable and Sustainable Energy for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development.....	6
Recent Developments	6
Annotated Bibliography.....	8
Bibliography	9
II. Financing for Development.....	10
Recent Developments	10
Annotated Bibliography.....	12
Bibliography	12
III. World Commodity Trends and Prospects.....	14
Recent Developments	14
Annotated Bibliography.....	16
Bibliography	17

The NCCA/NMUN is a Non-Governmental Organization associated with the UN Department of Public Information, a UN Academic Impact Member, and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of the United States.

Committee Overview

Recent Developments

The 70th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) Second Committee focused on a number of key issues covering topics from sustainable development and international finance to the revitalization of the program of work for the GA.¹ During the session, the body unanimously approved 18 draft resolutions.² The main emphasis during this session was on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) and related issues.³ Many of the adopted draft resolutions of the Second Committee underline the aims of the 2030 Agenda; consequently, components of and additional objectives related to the 2030 Agenda are found in the draft resolutions of the Second Committee.⁴ These draft resolutions emphasize the need to adopt and implement actions that foster sustained, equitable, and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, and job creation, and furthermore, the Second Committee reaffirmed previous commitments and outlined the link between gender equality, female empowerment, and poverty eradication.⁵ The Second Committee additionally highlighted the importance of cooperation on main priorities with Member States across the UN system, in particularly with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the GA Third Committee on social, humanitarian and cultural issues, and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).⁶ Following the end of its session, the Committee's work was later considered by the GA Plenary.⁷

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, consisting of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was a key discussion item for the Committee.⁸ The president of the 70th session of the GA, Mogens Lykketoft, outlined the importance of the SDGs and highlighted the role of the Second Committee in ensuring the mobilization of financial and economic resources for the realization of the SDG targets by 2030.⁹ The SDGs are interlinked, and many of the goals reflect the core mandate of the Second Committee; as a result, the Second Committee will take an active role in the implementation, follow-up, and evaluation of the stated goals and targets.¹⁰ While Member States generally agreed on the role and work of the Second Committee in relation to the SDGs, differences appeared with respect to working timelines, as well as debates on substance versus efficiency for outcome resolutions.¹¹ One of the key issues that underscored the discussions on sustainable development during the session was the connection between agricultural development and social protection, and stress was placed on the links to natural disasters, entrepreneurial opportunities, and food security.¹² The debate also directed attention towards the connection between climate change and terrorism and the risks that conflict and extreme human security situations pose towards development gains, putting the realization of the 2030 Agenda in danger, as countries redirect funding from development towards national security and military spending.¹³

Climate change and its impact on sustainable development, trade, and economic growth was a key focus of the 70th session in connection with the *Paris Agreement* at the COP21 and the interconnections with the 2030 Agenda.¹⁴ The

¹ UN DPI, *Concluding Its Session, Second Committee Unanimously Approves 18 Resolutions*, 2015.

² Ibid.

³ IISD, *Second Committee Debates Priorities for 70th Session*, 2015.

⁴ UN DPI, *Concluding Its Session, Second Committee Unanimously Approves 18 Resolutions*, 2015.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ IISD, *Second Committee Discusses Alignment with 2030 Agenda*, 2015.

⁷ UN General Assembly, *Resolutions: 70th session*, 2015.

⁸ UN General Assembly, *Statement by Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th Session of the General Assembly at the Second Committee Debate on Agenda Item 20: Sustainable Development on 19 October 2015*, 2015.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Second Committee Debate on Sustainable Development: Statement by Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th Session of the General Assembly at the Second Committee Debate on Agenda Item 20: Sustainable Development*, 2015.

¹¹ IISD, *Second Committee Discusses Alignment with 2030 Agenda*, 2015.

¹² UN DPI, *Social Protection, Agricultural Development Must Go Together, Speakers Stress as Second Committee Discusses Food Security, Nutrition*, 2015.

¹³ UN DPI, *Climate Change Degrading Land, Eroding Development Gains, Speakers Say, as Second Committee Concludes Debate on Sustainable Development*, 2015.

¹⁴ Ibid.

Second Committee described climate change as “one of the greatest challenges of our time” and expressed a “profound alarm” concerning the rising levels of greenhouse gas emissions.¹⁵ In support of the international discussion on climate change, the Second Committee submitted a report to the GA Plenary on the “Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind” that stresses the concerns about climate change-related conditions, particularly on developing states.¹⁶ The *Paris Agreement* of COP21 obliges Member States to cut their greenhouse gas emissions according to the “common but differentiated responsibilities” approach, which entails that industrialized countries provide a greater contribution than developing states to finance the transition towards a world that is more climate-friendly and lower in emissions.¹⁷ The work of the Second Committee plays an important role in the implementation of the aims and the linkage of climate change with sustainable development, economic growth, and financial stability, and reinforces the importance of the *Paris Agreement*.¹⁸

With the success of adopting the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development and COP21’s adoption of the *Paris Agreement*, the Second Committee now faces the challenge of ensuring that measures to achieve the SDG targets can be effectively and efficiently implemented, and that financial resources will be sufficiently mobilized.¹⁹ Cooperation and coherence across the UN system will play a key role in supporting the SDGs, and the work of the Second Committee will be important in coordinating policy to successfully implement programs on the ground.

¹⁵ UN DPI, *Draft Resolution Expressing ‘Profound Alarm’ over Global Rise in Greenhouse Gas Emissions among 14 Texts Approved by Second Committee*, 2015.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*; UN General Assembly, *Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind: Report of the Second Committee (A/70/472/Add. 4)*, 2015.

¹⁷ UNFCCC, *Adoption of the Paris Agreement (FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1)*, 2015.

¹⁸ IISD, *Second Committee Debates Priorities for 70th Session*, 2015; UN DPI, *COP21: UN chief hails new climate change agreement as ‘monumental triumph’*, 2015.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

Annotated Bibliography

International Institute for Sustainable Development. (2015). *Second Committee Debates Priorities for 70th Session*. Retrieved 2 January 2016 from: <http://sd.iisd.org/news/second-committee-debates-priorities-for-70th-session/>

This news article provides delegates with a good overview about the main issues of the 70th session of the GA and the focus of the Second Committee. The most important topics from the session are briefly evaluated, and Member States' opinions concerning the debated issues are summarized. The main priorities are related to current initiatives the Second Committee is involved in and consist, among others, of highlighting official development assistance, respecting the common but differentiated responsibilities approach, increasing financial support and technology transfer to developing countries, enhancing South-South cooperation, and combating corruption and restricting debts. This source will provide delegates with an insight into the differing aims and ambitions of Member States and the ideas different countries or blocs have expressed during the 70th session.

International Institute for Sustainable Development. (2015). *Second Committee Discusses Alignment with 2030 Agenda*. Retrieved 2 January 2016 from: <http://sd.iisd.org/news/second-committee-discusses-alignment-with-2030-agenda/>

The IISD news source gives delegates insight on the work of the Second Committee and its initiatives supported in relation to the SDGs. It evaluates the current priorities of the committee, such as the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the programs of actions of countries in vulnerable situations. Additionally, the positions of some Member States and blocs represented in the Second Committee are briefly reflected and summarized. The source provides a good starting point for delegates to understand the role and position of the Second Committee in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 14). *Concluding Its Session, Second Committee Unanimously Approves 18 Resolutions* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 25 December 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/gaef3444.doc.htm>

This meeting coverage summarizes the outcome of the meetings of the Second Committee during the 70th GA session and provides delegates with a short report on the committee's main achievements. The coverage mentions all the draft resolutions agreed by the Second Committee, and comments and views of Member States on the individual issues. Furthermore, the concluding statements of Member States are summarized, which will be useful for delegates to gain knowledge about difficulties and challenges the body has to address in the future.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Development and the agreement on the 17 SDGs is one of the greatest achievements of the last year and represents the key information concerning the background and the specifics of the goals. Delegates should use this source to become familiar with the SDGs and to connect the work and topics discussed within the Second Committee to the aims set in the Agenda. Many of the core topics that are within the mandate of the Second Committee can be found in the SDGs or have some link to the goals set in the Agenda, which is why this source is crucial to understand the work and the ongoing discussions of the body.

Bibliography

International Institute for Sustainable Development. (2015). *Second Committee Debates Priorities for 70th Session*. Retrieved 2 January 2016 from: <http://sd.iisd.org/news/second-committee-debates-priorities-for-70th-session/>

International Institute for Sustainable Development. (2015). *Second Committee Discusses Alignment with 2030 Agenda*. Retrieved 2 January 2016 from: <http://sd.iisd.org/news/second-committee-discusses-alignment-with-2030-agenda/>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, October 20). *Climate Change Degrading Land, Eroding Development Gains, Speakers Say, as Second Committee Concludes Debate on Sustainable Development* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 25 December 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/gaef3428.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 14). *Concluding Its Session, Second Committee Unanimously Approves 18 Resolutions* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 25 December 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/gaef3444.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 12). *COP21: UN chief hails new climate change agreement as 'monumental triumph'* [News Article]. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52802#.Vo0J5IT2iHo>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 10). *Draft Resolution Expressing 'Profound Alarm' over Global Rise in Greenhouse Gas Emissions among 14 Texts Approved by Second Committee* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 25 December 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/gaef3443.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, November 4). *Global Partnerships, Transparency Critical to Effective Sustainable Development, Delegates Say, as Second Committee Takes Up Global Partnerships* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 23 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/gaef3436.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, November 2). *Social Protection, Agricultural Development Must Go Together, Speakers Stress as Second Committee Discusses Food Security, Nutrition* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 23 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/gaef3434.doc.htm>

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2015). *Adoption of the Paris Agreement (FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1)* [Draft Outcome Document]. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Resolutions: 70th session* [Website]. Retrieved 12 February 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/70/resolutions.shtml>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Statement by Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th Session of the General Assembly at the Second Committee Debate on Agenda Item 20: Sustainable Development on 19 October 2015*. Retrieved 25 December 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/pga/70/2015/10/19/second-committee-debate-on-sustainable-development/>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth Session. (2015). *Sustainable development: Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind: Report of the Second Committee (A/70/472/Add. 4)*. Retrieved 24 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/A/70/472/Add.4>

I. Promoting Access to Renewable and Sustainable Energy for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development

Recent Developments

In recent months, the United Nations (UN) Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) that concluded with the adoption of the *Paris Agreement* in December 2015 dominated the global debate about renewable and sustainable energy.²⁰ Many of those items discussed at COP21 are also connected to the UN Summit on Sustainable Development held in September 2015, where the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted, and in particular, SDG 7 "to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all."²¹ The UN Secretary-General has called on Member States to use the UN General Assembly (GA) as a global platform for a dialogue on energy to scale up partnerships and action plans, catalyze investment, and build capacity for implementation and monitoring of SDG 7.²² To generate momentum for the SDGs, the Secretary-General launched a group of eminent persons, named SDG Advocates, on 21 January 2016 at the World Economic Forum (WEF).²³ The participants of the WEF also discussed a report on "The Future of Electricity in Fast-Growing Economies," which made recommendations on strategies for developing countries to attract investment to provide affordable, accessible, and sustainable power.²⁴

At its first meeting on energy poverty in October 2015, the Group of Twenty (G20) Energy Ministers adopted an Africa-focused Energy Access Action Plan.²⁵ The plan outlines several voluntary collaboration mechanisms on how G20 countries can assist sub-Saharan African countries in their fight against energy poverty by sharing knowledge, experiences, and good practices.²⁶ The outcome document was developed in cooperation with the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative, which is also supported by the GA Second Committee.²⁷ The Action Plan focuses on increasing energy supply by facilitating investment, making best use of modern technologies, and increasing policy efficiency.²⁸ However, the document also prioritizes improving access to energy over the promotion of renewable energy resources and thus stresses the right of countries to use their own fossil resources if needed.²⁹ The meeting was initiated by the G20 leaders in 2014 as part of the G20 Principles on Energy Collaboration, which include "ensur[ing] access to affordable and reliable energy for all."³⁰

On 10 November 2015, the International Energy Agency (IEA) released its 2015 "World Economic Outlook Special Report" in which it notes the world as a whole is on a path that falls short of SDG 7 targets, as well as the goal of universal energy access by 2030.³¹ The report predicts that without significantly increasing global efforts, 800 million people will continue to be without electricity and 2.3 billion people without access to clean cooking fuels by 2030.³² The report anticipates a global long-term shift towards low-carbon technologies due to rising costs in extracting fossil fuels and more efficient renewable energies.³³ Despite this and the COP21 process, the IEA estimates that it is necessary to increase investment in renewable energy technologies by \$130 billion annually to achieve the global warming limit of 2 degrees Celsius.³⁴

In November 2015, a report published by Chatham House drew attention to the current situation of the refugees and displaced people worldwide, of whom 80% have no access to electricity and greatly depend on firewood and

²⁰ UN DPI, *Ban: Sustainable energy can 'save millions of lives'*, 2015.

²¹ UN DPI, *Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*, 2015.

²² UN General Assembly, *United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/422)*, (2015), p. 14.

²³ UN DESA, *Advocates appointed to build widespread support for SDGs*, 2015.

²⁴ World Economic Forum, *The Future of Electricity in Fast-Growing Economies*, 2016, p. 31.

²⁵ UN SE4All, *G20 ministers adopt Africa-focused Energy Access Action Plan*, 2015; UN SE4All, *Recent News*, 2016.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/422)*, (2015), p. 4.

²⁸ G20, *G20 Energy Access Action Plan: Voluntary Collaboration on Energy Access*, 2015, pp. 3-10.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

³⁰ SE4All, *G20 ministers adopt Africa-focused Energy Access Action Plan*, 2015.

³¹ IEA, *World Energy Outlook 2015: Executive Summary*, 2015, p. 3.

³² *Ibid.*

³³ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

charcoal for cooking and heating.³⁵ The main barriers to sustainable energy supply for refugees is a shortage of energy expertise in humanitarian professionals.³⁶ Additionally, limited funding of humanitarian agencies and political reluctance of refugee-hosting countries to provide long-term infrastructure in refugee camps result in short-term solutions without sustainable energy provisions.³⁷

On 12 December 2015 at COP21, the *Paris Agreement* was adopted, in which the international community aims to "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels in order to significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change."³⁸ Member States, through nationally determined contribution plans, will work to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and better allocate energy resources whereby the plans should be renewed every five years and reflect increasing goals.³⁹ This process must take place in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, and as such, developed countries pledged to make available \$100 billion a year until 2025 to support the efforts of developing countries.⁴⁰ Moreover, developing countries will receive additional support via technology transfer and capacity building.⁴¹

COP21 and the UN Summit on Sustainable Development brought the importance of enhancing renewable and sustainable energy for poverty reduction into the spotlight of global awareness. The GA Second Committee should play a major part in maintaining the momentum generated by these two landmark summits in 2015 in order to move forward in the fight against energy poverty.⁴² Its main actions will include fostering partnerships between governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to create a regulatory framework that incentivizes investment in sustainable energy and promotes the transfer of clean energy technology to developing countries.⁴³

³⁵ Lahn & Grafham, *Heat, Light and Power for Refugees*, 2015, p. ix.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. x.

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ UNFCCC, *Adoption of the Paris Agreement (FCCC/CP/2015/L.9)*, 2015, p. 21.

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ World Resources Institute, *The Paris Agreement: Turning Point for a Climate Solution*, 2015.

⁴¹ UNFCCC, *Adoption of the Paris Agreement (FCCC/CP/2015/L.9)*, 2015, p. 26.

⁴² UN General Assembly, *Opening remarks by Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly at SE4All event on "Implementing SDG 7: The role of partnerships in ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all,"* 2015.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

Annotated Bibliography

Group of Twenty. (2015). *G20 Energy Access Action Plan: Voluntary Collaboration on Energy Access*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://www.se4all.org/sites/default/files/1/2015/10/G20-Energy-Access-Action-Plan.pdf>

The G20 Energy Access Action Plan is the first common approach of industrialized countries to work towards universal energy access. The G20 acknowledge their key role in accomplishing the success of SDG 7 by supporting developing countries and incentivizing investment into sustainable energy. The Action Plan entails a long list of proposals on how developed countries can assist with knowledge and technology transfer, capacity building, and investment finance. Although the proposals are only voluntary, they may be a good starting point for delegates to develop innovative ways on how to fight energy poverty.

International Energy Agency. (2015). *World Energy Outlook 2015: Executive Summary*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from:

http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/WEB_WorldEnergyOutlook2015ExecutiveSummaryEnglishFinal.pdf

The IEA is an autonomous unit of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development but also works with non-member countries. Among other functions, it provides research on every aspect of energy policy. The Executive Summary of the Outlook is a valuable source that analyzes recent developments on demand and supply at the global energy market, new technological advances and their importance for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as providing prognoses about future developments. This year's Outlook contains a prognosis about energy poverty and how SDG 7 can be accomplished.

Lahn, G. & O. Grafham. (2015). *Heat, Light and Power for Refugees*. Chatham House Report for the Moving Energy Initiative. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from:

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/files/chathamhouse/publications/research/20151117HeatLightPowerRefugeesMEILahnGrafham.pdf>

This report is published by the non-governmental organization Chatham House. The report studies the energy consumption of refugees and displaced people and analyzes the impacts of missing energy access on living conditions in refugee camps. The connection between refugees and energy poverty has long been neglected by global awareness. Since the number of refugees and displaced people increases continually and has reached the highest number since World War II, the issue is relevant not only because of humanitarian concerns but also because refugee camps start to become an important source of greenhouse gas emissions. This publication will be beneficial for delegates by shedding light on the interconnectivity of matters of security, humanitarian assistance, poverty reduction, and climate change.

United Nations, Sustainable Energy for All. (2016). *Recent News* [Website]. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from:

<http://www.se4all.org/news>

Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) is an initiative launched by the Secretary-General in 2011, which aims to ensure universal access to sustainable energy by 2030. Apart from undertaking effective and innovative fieldwork through its various thematic and regional hubs, its website provides an excellent overview of the recent developments concerning the topic. The brief and well-informed summaries provide a good source for delegates who aim to know more about specific events without having to read the entire outcome document.

World Resources Institute. (2015). *The Paris Agreement: Turning Point for a Climate Solution*. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from: <http://www.wri.org/blog/2015/12/paris-agreement-turning-point-climate-solution>

The World Resources Institute is a non-governmental research organization that seeks to achieve sustainable development and poverty reduction through better natural resource management. This article provides a review and summary of the Paris Agreement. The Agreement's key provisions should be familiar to everyone working on improving sustainable energy access since it entails groundbreaking commitments of developed and developing countries alike. Additionally, the article provides an analysis of the effectiveness of the Agreement and some necessary follow-up measures.

Bibliography

Group of Twenty. (2015). *G20 Energy Access Action Plan: Voluntary Collaboration on Energy Access*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://www.se4all.org/sites/default/files/1/2015/10/G20-Energy-Access-Action-Plan.pdf>

International Energy Agency. (2015). *World Energy Outlook 2015 Executive Summary*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/WEB_WorldEnergyOutlook2015ExecutiveSummaryEnglishFinal.pdf

Lahn, G. & O. Grafham. (2015). *Heat, Light and Power for Refugees*. Chatham House Report for the Moving Energy Initiative. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/files/chathamhouse/publications/research/20151117HeatLightPowerRefugeesMEILahnGrafham.pdf>

Morgan, J. & D. Waskow. (2015, December 12). The Paris Agreement: Turning Point for a Climate Solution. *World Resources Institute*. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from: <http://www.wri.org/blog/2015/12/paris-agreement-turning-point-climate-solution>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2015). *Advocates appointed to build widespread support for SDGs* [Website]. Retrieved 24 January 2016 from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/sustainable/sdgs-advocates.html>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015). *Ban: Sustainable energy can 'save millions of lives'* [Website]. Retrieved 23 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/01/ban-sustainable-energy-can-save-millions-of-lives/>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015). *Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all* [Website]. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/>

United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change. (2015). *Adoption of the Paris Agreement (FCCC/CP/2015/L.9)* [Draft Outcome Document]. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09.pdf>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Opening remarks by Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly at SE4All event on "Implementing SDG 7: The role of partnerships in ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all"*. Retrieved 22 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/pga/70/2015/09/27/implementing-sdg-7-the-role-of-partnerships-in-ensuring-access-to-affordable-reliable-sustainable-and-modern-energy-for-all/>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 24 January 2016 from: <http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/422)*. Retrieved 23 January 2016 from: <http://www.undocs.org/A/70/422>

United Nations, Sustainable Energy for All. (2015). *G20 ministers adopt Africa-focused Energy Access Action Plan* [Website]. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: http://www.se4all.org/2015_10_07_g20-ministers-adopt-africa-focused-energy-access-action-plan

United Nations, Sustainable Energy for All. (2016). *Recent News* [Website]. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from: <http://www.se4all.org/news>

World Economic Forum. (2016). *The Future of Electricity in Fast-Growing Economies*. Retrieved 24 January 2016 from: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Future_of_Electricity_2016.pdf

II. Financing for Development

Recent Developments

In the last months of 2015, the international community adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and consequently, United Nations (UN) agencies have launched several initiatives related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁴⁴ One area of focus is concentrated on external debt sustainability and its effects on the financial stability of Member States, which is interrelated with the international community's efforts to identify the most worthy investment projects and mobilize new financial resources.⁴⁵

In September 2015, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Gap Task Force released its 2015 report, which marks the final in the series.⁴⁶ This specific series of reports monitored progress on MDG 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development.⁴⁷ The final report highlighted significant achievements, including the substantial increase of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to \$135 billion since 2000, but the report also emphasized gaps to the achievement of MDG 8, such as the vulnerability and financial instability of developing countries' markets.⁴⁸ This has partially resulted from the failure to conclude the Doha Development Round of World Trade Organization negotiations after more than 14 years since its launch in 2001.⁴⁹ Building upon these acknowledged gaps, at its 70th session, the UN General Assembly (GA) discussed several macroeconomic policy questions, many of which were reported by the Second Committee.⁵⁰ Acting on the Second Committee's recommendations, the GA adopted several resolutions, including GA resolution 70/189, which included targets for finance in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.⁵¹ During the session, GA resolution 70/188 was also adopted, which recognized the importance of multilateral development banks in mobilizing resources from capital markets and the increased cooperation between major international institutions.⁵²

As the first global meeting following the adoption of the SDGs, 196 countries met in December 2015 for the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) in Paris, France, to adopt the *Paris Agreement*.⁵³ The significance of public finance in the Agreement was emphasized with the requirement of \$100 billion in annual donations for financing climate-related projects until 2025, particularly through bilateral and multilateral funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF).⁵⁴ This need for increased climate financing was clearly demonstrated in the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA) report, "The State of City Climate Finance 2015," which analyzed the gap between current financial investments in sustainable development projects and the volume required to mitigate against climate change.⁵⁵ Based on that gap, over the next 15 years, \$4.1 to 4.3 trillion per year will be needed to make cities climate resilient and to transition to low-emission economies.⁵⁶

In assessing broader trends in development and financial stability, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) published the *Global Financial Stability Report* in October 2015, which welcomed improvements in the financial stability recorded in developed countries during the second half of 2015.⁵⁷ This report specifically noted that economic recovery in the European Union (EU) and United States of America had broadened, partly due to growing

⁴⁴ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015; UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015; UN DESA, *Decisions by Topic: Finance*; UN DESA, *Partnerships for SDGs*.

⁴⁵ UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform*, 2015.

⁴⁶ UN MDG Gap Task Force, *Millennium Development Goal 8: Taking Stock of the Global Partnership for Development*, 2015.

⁴⁷ UN DESA, *MDG Gap Task Force*, 2015.

⁴⁸ UN MDG Gap Task Force, *Millennium Development Goal 8: Taking Stock of the Global Partnership for Development*, 2015, pp. 37, 41; UN DESA, *MDG Gap Task Force*, 2015.

⁴⁹ UN MDG Gap Task Force, *Millennium Development Goal 8: Taking Stock of the Global Partnership for Development*, 2015.

⁵⁰ UN DPI, *General Assembly Adopts 48 Texts in Total as It Takes Action on Reports of Its Second Committee (GA/11746)*, 2015.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁵² *Ibid.*

⁵³ Climate Action & UNEP, *Find out more about COP21*, 2015; European Commission, *Climate Action: Paris Agreement*, 2015.

⁵⁴ UNFCCC, *Adoption of the Paris Agreement (FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1)*, 2015, p. 26.

⁵⁵ Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance, *The State of City Climate Finance 2015*, 2015.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 14.

⁵⁷ IMF, *Global Financial Stability Report: October 2015*, 2015.

confidence in the monetary policies of respective national banks.⁵⁸ Conversely, the report also highlighted the numerous criticisms that continue to affect emerging economies, such as the persistent domestic imbalances and financial market volatility.⁵⁹ Along with this, persistently high levels of external debt affected economic growth and stability.⁶⁰ In collaboration with the IMF, the World Bank published its International Debt Statistics (IDS) report in January 2016, which includes data on Quarterly External Debt Statistics (QEDS) and the Public Sector Debt (PSD).⁶¹ The data extracted from QEDS and PDS confirmed that developed countries have the highest level of external debt, whereas low- and middle-incomes countries observed an 18% decrease in net debt flows.⁶²

Recent goals established in the *Paris Agreement* and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provide an ambitious platform for the international community to act upon. To fulfill those ambitions, however, adequate funding and financial stability must be achieved. For many countries, and particularly those with high existing external debt burdens, creative new means must be devised to finance projects that increase climate resilience, food security, education, energy access, and a myriad of other measures that increase economic and human development. As a leading global body tasked with issues of economic growth and sustainable development, it now falls upon delegates of the Second Committee to formulate solutions that increase financial flows without burdening states with unsustainable levels of debt.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ IMF, *Global Financial Stability Report: October 2015*, 2015, p. 8.

⁶⁰ Pattillo, et al., *External Debt and Growth*, 2002.

⁶¹ The World Bank Group, *International Debt Statistics*, 2016.

⁶² The World Bank, *Quarterly External Debt Statistics (SDDS)*, 2016.

Annotated Bibliography

International Monetary Fund. (2015). *Global Financial Stability Report: October 2015*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://www.imf.org/External/Pubs/FT/GFSR/2015/02/pdf/text.pdf>

The IMF's Global Financial Stability Report is released every six months, and this edition of the report provides the most recent data and analysis on global financial stability through tables and direct case studies. Financial stability plays a key role in the availability of financing; in periods of instability, financial institutions are willing to take less risk and global financial flows are reduced. Delegates should therefore use this source for the most recent update on the state of global financial stability and use relevant case studies to research ways to support increased stability.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *Partnerships for SDGs* [Website]. Retrieved 2 January 2016 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/about>

This website is an online platform created by UN DESA to promote the involvement of multi-stakeholder partnerships in initiatives for the achievement of the SDGs. The platform represents a unique confluence of contributions by Member States, public and private institutions, NGOs, and civil society. Delegates should use the website for examining existing initiatives, programs, and projects aimed at implementing the SDGs to determine how successful initiatives can be replicated and other initiatives strengthened.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2015). *Decisions by Topic: Finance* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/finance/decisions>

This source offers direct links to important financial documents related to the SDGs. The source provides links to the most relevant UN documents and offers summaries of discussions, resolutions, treaties, and conventions approved in the last two decades. Furthermore, this website displays direct links to the most recent draft resolutions proposed by the Second Committee in this field. This source therefore provides both a historical reference of previous actions and current, pending actions that combine to provide delegates with a full understanding of actions already taken by the international community. With that understanding, delegates can begin to craft their own solutions that build upon these existing actions.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 22). *General Assembly Adopts 48 Texts in Total as It Takes Action on Reports of Its Second Committee (GA/11746)* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 10 February 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ga11746.doc.htm>

This source provides a concise summary action that the General Assembly Plenary took on draft resolutions presented from the Second Committee. This source provides references to the Second Committee reports that contain the draft resolutions that were ultimately adopted. In addition to this substantive information, delegates can also gain useful insights into the procedural process of the Plenary's actions in relation to the Second Committee, as well as key positions of various Member States in those negotiations.

World Bank Group. (2016). *International Debt Statistics* [Report]. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9781464806810?e=0/32161802>

This report represents the most recent paper focused on external debt levels and trends. It offers analysis on the most recent global levels, with specific statistics on developed countries, developing countries, and least developed countries. Understanding the role of external debt in relation to development is important, as Member States generally must accumulate debt to finance development projects and future economic gains can then be used to repay those debts, but external debt can also be amassed at unsustainable.

Bibliography

Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance. (2015). *The State of City Climate Finance 2015*. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2201CCFLA-State-of-City-Climate-Finance-2015.pdf>

- Climate Action & United Nations Environment Programme. (2015). *Find out more about COP21* [Website]. Retrieved 3 January 2016 from: <http://www.cop21paris.org/about/cop21>
- European Commission. (2015). *Climate Action: Paris Agreement*. Retrieved 3 January 2016 from: http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/future/index_en.htm
- International Monetary Fund. (2015). *Global Financial Stability Report: October 2015*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://www.imf.org/External/Pubs/FT/GFSR/2015/02/pdf/text.pdf>
- Pattillo, C., et al. (2002). External Debt and Growth. *Finance and Development*, 39 (2). Retrieved 24 January 2016 from: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2002/06/pattillo.htm#author>
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2015). *Decisions by Topic: Finance* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/finance/decisions>
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2015). *MDG Gap Task Force* [Website]. Retrieved 9 January 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/mdg_gap/
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2015). *Partnerships for SDGs* [Website]. Retrieved 24 January 2016 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships>
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2015). *Sustainable Development Goals* [Website]. Retrieved 2 January 2016 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2015). *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>
- United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 22). *General Assembly Adopts 48 Texts in Total as It Takes Action on Reports of Its Second Committee (GA/11746)* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 10 February 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ga11746.doc.htm>
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2015). *Adoption of the Paris Agreement (FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1)* [Draft Outcome Document]. Retrieved 3 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1>
- United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>
- United Nations, MDG Gap Task Force. (2015). *Millennium Development Goal 8: Taking Stock of the Global Partnership for Development* [Report]. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/mdg_gap/mdg_gap2015/2015GAP_FULLREPORT_EN.pdf
- The World Bank. (2016). *Quarterly External Debt Statistics (SDDS)* [Website]. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/quarterly-external-debt-statistics-ssds>
- The World Bank. (2016). *International Debt Statistics*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9781464806810?e=0/32161802>

III. World Commodity Trends and Prospects

Recent Developments

In recent months, there has been a continuous flow of research, news, and discussion on the altering landscape of global commodity trends and prospects. The international community has emphasized the importance of supporting producers in developing countries against the shock of dwindling commodity prices. In particular, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) Second Committee has played a large role in facilitating discussion and action on these issues, including during the recent 70th session of the GA.

At the session, a plethora of reports and resolutions were considered, several of which directly affect world commodity trends and prospects.⁶³ Following the work of the Second Committee, the GA acted on recommendations of the Second Committee and adopted various documents to strengthen regulations in order to stabilize developing countries vulnerable to volatile commodity price shocks.⁶⁴ During the session, the GA called for the developing and strengthening of agricultural policies and strategies as short- and long-term responses to food insecurity and excessive price volatility in developing countries.⁶⁵ In a report on “Agriculture development, food security and nutrition,” the Second Committee emphasized the importance of building resilience in agricultural productivity by better supporting developing countries from crises and shocks.⁶⁶ GA resolution 70/213 recognized the important role of science, technology, and innovation, such as environmentally-sound technologies and information and communication technologies (ICTs), in supporting national development agendas and addressing global challenges such as eradicating poverty.⁶⁷ In GA resolution 70/191, the GA called for the assistance of international financial institutions and development banks in managing and overcoming the effects of declining commodity prices.⁶⁸ In the same resolution, the GA also welcomed the convening of the 10th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Nairobi, Kenya, in December 2015.⁶⁹ At the Conference, ministers adopted the Nairobi Package and reaffirmed their previous commitments from past ministerial sessions and the Fourth UN Conference on Least-Developed Countries in Istanbul, Turkey.⁷⁰

Lowering barriers to trade is fundamental for producers in developing countries, where lower prices affect food security, economic development, and sustainable agricultural production.⁷¹ In October 2015, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN released its “Food Outlook Report,” which statistically predicted a decline in food prices.⁷² The report suggested that food prices would be lower for longer periods of time and noted a divergence in the price path of previous years and the prospective path ahead.⁷³ This declining trend will significantly affect producers in developing countries by lowering their income, resulting in their increasing vulnerability to food insecurity, poverty, and access to energy.⁷⁴ The report further noted a decline in the volumes of cereal being internationally traded, driven by lower imports of wheat into Asia, Iran, and North Africa.⁷⁵ The FAO announced a further decline in the overall world food prices, with prices plunging almost 19% in 2015.⁷⁶ This behavior, which marks the fourth annual decline, is a result of dwindling global economic activity from declines in energy prices and the economic slowdown in China.⁷⁷

⁶³ UN DPI, *General Assembly Adopts 48 Texts in Total as It Takes Action on Reports of Its Second Committee (GA/11746)*, 2015.

⁶⁴ UN DPI, *General Assembly Adopts 48 Texts in Total as It Takes Action on Reports of Its Second Committee (GA/11746)*, 2015.

⁶⁵ UN General Assembly, *Macroeconomic policy questions: commodities (A/70/470/Add.4)*, 2015.

⁶⁶ UN General Assembly, *Agricultural development, food security and nutrition (A/70/478)*, 2015.

⁶⁷ UN General Assembly, *Globalization and interdependence: science and technology for development (A/70/474/Add.2)*, 2015.

⁶⁸ UN General Assembly, *Macroeconomic policy questions: commodities (A/70/470/Add.4)*, 2015.

⁶⁹ The World Bank, *World Trade Organization’s 10th Ministerial Conference in Nairobi*, 2016.

⁷⁰ WTO, *Nairobi Ministerial Declaration*, 2015.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² FAO, *Food prices lower for longer*, 2015.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid.; UN DPI, *Food prices are staying lower for longer periods – UN agency*, 2015.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ FAO, *World Food Situation: FAO Food Price Index*, 2016.

⁷⁷ UN DPI, *World food prices hit lowest level in almost seven years, UN agency reports*, 2015; UN DPI, *Food price index drops in December due to abundant supplies, slow economic growth – UN agency*, 2016.

The third quarter of 2015 affirmed trends in China’s economic slowdown as China’s growth in gross domestic product (GDP) dropped to 6.9%, marking its slowest pace in a quarter of a decade.⁷⁸ As the second-largest economy in the world, China’s decline in commodities consumption has resulted in a wave of shocks with a collapse in prices of oil, food, and metals.⁷⁹ China’s reduced growth also impacts a number of countries directly; along with high inflation in Venezuela and expanding levels of unemployment in Brazil, South Africa’s currency has plunged as a result of the slowdown in investment and trade from China.⁸⁰ China is South Africa’s largest trading partner, with \$20 billion in goods being traded each year.⁸¹ The impact of China’s economic boom has resulted in a reduction of trade with South Africa, causing a number of problems for producers in South Africa; the decline in prices and value of the South African Rand further stagnates the quality of life for producers, causing increases in poverty levels, malnutrition, and food insecurity.⁸² Along with this trend, the decline in Saudi Arabian and Russian oil exports to China has taken its toll on these oil-exporting countries with a decline in prices.⁸³ As a result, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and a number of energy-export-dependent economies face internal financial challenges.⁸⁴

With warnings of further declining commodity trends, producers in developed and developing countries are increasingly at risk for a poorer quality of life. While there appears to be a strengthened commitment to reduce volatile shocks, as emphasized by the GA at the 70th session, stronger regulations and increased international trade may not be enough to reduce impacts from volatile commodity pricing. China’s slowdown will continue to be felt across the globe, and both consumers and producers must prepare for the unprecedented shocks that will continue as a result of that trend.

⁷⁸ Spence, *How China became the global threat everyone saw coming*, 2016.

⁷⁹ Ali, *China’s economic slowdown: What you need to know*, 2015.

⁸⁰ Swanson & Sieff, *China’s slowdown, financial mayhem cast long shadow across world*, 2016.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

Annotated Bibliography

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2016). *World Food Situation: FAO Food Price Index* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/>

This source provides a breakdown of the changes in food commodity trends of five commodity group prices. This source is useful as it offers monthly and annual trajectories of the food group trends along with emphasizing the relevant countries affected. Delegates should use this source to draw conclusions on the specific commodity food groups that are more vulnerable to change. This can be used to help determine which areas of production in developing countries require the most protection. Delegates should consider ways in which the production of certain food groups could be protected in developing countries, and how sustainable development can be used to support this.

Swanson, A. & K. Sieff. (2016, January 11). China's slowdown, financial mayhem cast long shadow across world. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved 27 January 2016 from:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/01/11/chinas-slowdown-financial-mayhem-cast-long-shadow-across-world/>

This article is insightful in outlining the Chinese economic slowdown and its effects across the globe. It identifies China's slowdown to have damaging, life-threatening effects on producers in developing countries through the collapse in prices and a slowdown in trade. Delegates should note these rippling effects to grasp the significance of China on world commodity trends and the impact this will have on citizens in developing countries. Delegates should particularly follow news in countries such as South Africa, Brazil, and Venezuela, where the effects are especially pronounced.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 22). *General Assembly Adopts 48 Texts in Total as It Takes Action on Reports of Its Second Committee (GA/11746)* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ga11746.doc.htm>

This meetings coverage offers a condensed insight into the role of the Second Committee and its influence on the work of the GA during the 70th session. The GA has affirmed its commitment to strengthening and supporting developing countries against volatile price changes. With expectations of further volatility in commodity prices, adopted resolutions push towards finding solutions to reducing the level of impact on agricultural production, food security, and sustainable production in line with the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Macroeconomic policy questions: commodities (A/70/470/Add.4)* [Report]. Retrieved 28 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/70/470/Add.4>

The General Assembly Second Committee's report on macroeconomic policy questions and commodities was adopted as GA resolution 70/191 by the GA Plenary. This document highlights the GA's most recent action related to the topic of commodities. Delegates should use this document to gain ideas on how to effectively make progress on strengthening regulations for developing countries. Moreover, this source cites a range of important historical documents that are useful resources to track and analyze former action taken by the UN and key treaties and agreements currently in place. By understanding what measures have already been taken, delegates can seek to strengthen implementation of existing policies and enact new policies where gaps remain.

The World Bank. (2016). *World Trade Organization's 10th Ministerial Conference in Nairobi* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/01/07/world-trade-organizations-10th-ministerial-conference-in-nairobi>

This source is useful, as it offers a summary of the recent Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, which is mentioned in GA resolution 70/191. The source outlines the sheer scale of the WTO and highlights the levels of importance for international cooperation on the facilitation of trade with commodities. Delegates will find this to be a helpful resource in identifying how the WTO and its members are also supporting the overarching goals of the Second Committee.

Bibliography

- Ali, A. (2015, October 19). China's economic slowdown: What you need to know. *Al Jazeera*. Retrieved 27 January 2016 from: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/10/china-economic-slowdown-151019081247350.html>
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2015, October 8). *Food prices lower for longer* [News Article]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/335736/icode/>
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2016). *World Food Situation: FAO Food Price Index* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/>
- Spence, P. (2016, January 23). How China became the global threat everyone saw coming. *The Telegraph*. Retrieved 27 January 2016 from: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/12116018/How-China-became-the-global-threat-everyone-saw-coming.html>
- Swanson, A. & K. Sieff. (2016, January 11). China's slowdown, financial mayhem cast long shadow across world. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved 27 January 2016 from: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/01/11/chinas-slowdown-financial-mayhem-cast-long-shadow-across-world/>
- United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 7). *Food prices are staying lower for longer periods – UN agency* [News Article]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52200#.Vo6G4PmLSUk>
- United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 22). *General Assembly Adopts 48 Texts in Total as It Takes Action on Reports of Its Second Committee (GA/11746)* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ga11746.doc.htm>
- United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, September 10). *World food prices hit lowest level in almost seven years, UN agency reports* [Blog Post]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2015/09/world-food-prices-hit-lowest-level-in-almost-seven-years-un-agency-reports/>
- United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2016, January 7). *Food price index drops in December due to abundant supplies, slow economic growth – UN agency* [News Article]. Retrieved 13 February 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52950#.Vr8IGRjUv6Y>
- United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Agricultural development, food security and nutrition (A/70/478)* [Report]. Retrieved 28 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/70/478>
- United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Globalization and interdependence: science and technology for development (A/70/474/Add.2)* [Report]. Retrieved 28 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/70/474/Add.2>
- United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Macroeconomic policy questions: commodities (A/70/470/Add.4)* [Report]. Retrieved 28 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/70/470/Add.4>
- The World Bank. (2016). *World Trade Organization's 10th Ministerial Conference in Nairobi* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/01/07/world-trade-organizations-10th-ministerial-conference-in-nairobi>
- World Trade Organization. (2015). *Nairobi Ministerial Declaration* [Website]. Retrieved 28 January 2016 from: https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/mc10_e/mindecision_e.htm