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Update for the Commission for Social Development

Committee Overview

Recent Developments

In the latter half of 2016, the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) launched preparations for the 55th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD), which will focus on the implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015).[1] Therefore, DESA organized an Expert Group Meeting in June 2016 on "Strategies for Eradicating Poverty to Achieve Sustainable Development for All," which will be the priority theme of the 2017-2018 review and policy cycle of CSocD.[2] This meeting provided the Commission with valuable input from experts who gave concrete, evidence-based reviews of poverty eradication strategies.[3] Former Senior Advisor to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Professor Richard Mkandawire evaluated the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), which aims to increase production and productivity levels of Africa's agribusiness.[4] He criticized state-run fertilizer and seed subsidy programs as sources of corruption and concluded that CAADP needs institutional reform and increased inclusion of women farmers in order to be successful.[5] Nathanael Goldberg, program director at the non-government organization (NGO) Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), evaluated the role of microcredits in poverty eradication through self-employment; he then presented alternatives that avoid the problem of recipients spending most of their grants on household expenditures by providing them with productive assets like livestock instead of credit.[6]

These presentations also informed the report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme, which was presented to CSocD in November 2016.[7] In this report, the Secretary-General identified eradicating poverty as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[8] He outlined several strategies for eradicating poverty, including investing in agriculture and rural development as well as structural transformation and infrastructure investment, among others.[9] In conclusion, he advised CSocD to consider prioritizing the structural causes of poverty, including high and rising inequality, insufficient redistribution policies, and social exclusion.[10] Furthermore, the Secretary-General submitted several reports concerning youth, aging, disability, and Africa's development, which will each be considered by CSocD in its 55th session.[11]

In October 2016, the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), which collaborates closely with CSocD, released its flagship report *Policy Innovations for Transformative Change*, which presents integrated policy and institutional innovations that have the potential to lead to sustainable development.[12] The report takes a comprehensive view and defines transformative change as changes in all three dimensions of the 2030 Agenda: economic, environmental, and social.[13] The report distills several guidelines: position social and environmental

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[1] UN DESA, *EGM on Strategies for Eradicating Poverty to Achieve the SDGs, 1-3 June 2016*, 2016.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Mkandawire, *Promising African Success for Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Poverty Reduction*, 2016, p. 10.

[5] Ibid., p. 16.

[6] Goldberg, *Poverty eradication through self-employment and livelihood development: the role of microcredit, variations on traditional microcredit, and alternatives to microcredit*, 2016, p. 1.

[7] UN DESA, *EGM on Strategies for Eradicating Poverty to Achieve the SDGs, 1-3 June 2016*, 2016.

[8] UN ECOSOC, *Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2017/3)*, 2016, p. 2.

[9] Ibid., p. 9.

[10] Ibid., p. 19.

[11] UN ECOSOC *Policies and programmes involving youth: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2017/5)*, 2016; UN ECOSOC, *Third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging, 2002: preliminary assessment: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2017/6)*, 2016; UN ECOSOC, *Mainstreaming disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2017/4)*, 2016; UN ECOSOC, *Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2017/2)*, 2016.

[12] UNRISD, *Policy Innovations for Transformative Change*, 2016, p. 3.

[13] Ibid.

priorities above economic ones; promote political empowerment and social justice; and invest in research on innovative ways to design transformational policies for sustainable development.[14]

In November 2016, DESA published the Report on the World Social Situation 2016 titled *Leaving No One Behind: The Imperative of Inclusive Development*, which touches many topics of importance for CSocD as it examines patterns of social exclusion.[15] As it is paramount to the success of the SGDs to tailor development policies to the most vulnerable, the report illustrates who is being left behind and in what ways.[16] It highlights the denial of opportunities in education and health, unequal income-generating prospects, and unequal participation in political, civic, and cultural life.[17] The report shows that these dimensions are mutually reinforcing as lower levels of health and education lead to higher levels of poverty and unemployment, which in turn restrict people from participating in political and civic life.[18] The report concludes by calling for a universal approach to social policy and the promotion of more inclusive institutions.[19]

In December 2016, DSPD released the proposed organization of work of the 55th session of CSocD that will take place on 1-10 February 2017.[20] A civil society forum will precede the session on 30-31 January 2017 and allow representatives of the civil society, NGOs, and the business community to voice their opinions on the topic of "Social Protection, Including Floors."[21] CSocD will convene three high-level panel discussions on the priority theme "Strategies for Eradicating Poverty to Achieve Sustainable Development for All," the emerging issue "Promoting integrated policies for Poverty Eradication: Youth Development in the 2030 Agenda," and "Leaving No One Behind: Poverty and Disability."[22] Afterwards, CSocD will begin the general discussion of the priority theme.[23] CSocD is expected to draft resolutions on the priority theme, aging, youth, disability and Africa's Development.[24]

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2016). *Leaving no one behind: the imperative of inclusive development* [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/rwss/2016/full-report.pdf

> *This report provides delegates with an extensive, up-to-date analysis of the causes, implications, and demographics of social exclusion. The second chapter explains why poverty, income inequality, and exclusion are a vicious cycle and how decent work is the main avenue for people to escape poverty and become economically empowered. In the third chapter, new data and findings about the scope of social exclusion and the most vulnerable groups are presented. The fourth chapter sets to explain how prejudice and discrimination, both formal and informal, are common causes of exclusion. In the conclusive chapter, the report outlines several policy imperatives to address the structural causes of exclusion and social injustice. As CSocD is tasked with ensuring that all persons can participate in social development, delegates might find this report useful to understand what needs to be done to include the vulnerable in social and economic progress.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2016). *Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2017/3)*. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://www.undocs.org/E/CN.5/2017/3

> *This report of the Secretary-General was submitted to CSocD to inform its deliberations on its priority theme. It provides a review of progress made to eradicate poverty and evaluates various*

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[14] UNRISD, *Policy Innovations for Transformative Change*, 2016, p. 226.

[15] UN DESA, *Leaving no one behind: the imperative of inclusive development*, 2016, p. 1.

[16] Ibid.

[17] UN DESA, *Leaving no one behind: the imperative of inclusive development*, 2016, p. 4.

[18] Ibid.

[19] UN DESA, *Leaving no one behind: the imperative of inclusive development*, 2016, p. 8.

[20] UN DESA, *Commission for Social Development, 55th Session, 1-10 February 2017 (Proposed organization of work)*, 2016.

[21] Ibid.; UN DESA, *Briefing by Daniela Bas*, 2017.

[22] UN DESA, *Commission for Social Development, 55th Session, 1-10 February 2017 (Proposed organization of work)*, 2016.

[23] Ibid.

[24] Ibid.

strategies that have been implemented by states. These strategies are divided into those that promote inclusive and equitable economic growth and those that create a coherent social policy framework to ensure that no one is left behind. The report also highlights challenges encountered and includes several recommendations to CSocD to accelerate the eradication of poverty. This report will be helpful to delegates in understanding challenges in promoting sustainable development for all people and how CSocD can contribute to this goal.

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (2016). *Policy Innovations for Transformative Change.* [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://www.unrisd.org/80256B42004CCC77/(httpInfoFiles)/2D9B6E61A43A7E87C125804F003285F5/$file/Flagship2016_FullReport.pdf

> *This report considers recent policy innovations that can contribute to the realization of the SDGs and the necessary conditions for transformative innovations to succeed. In the first chapter, the report outlines a framework to understand transformative change and identifies opportunities and challenges for implementing the 2030 Agenda. The next six chapters focus on six key areas with relevance across multiple SDGs: social policy; care policies; social and solidarity economy; climate change and sustainability; domestic resource mobilization; and governance and politics. Delegates will find this report very informative as it provides evidence-based evaluations of policy innovations that actually help achieve inclusive social development and are likely to be discussed in CSocD's 55th session.*

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Mkandawire, R. (2016). *Promising African Success for Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Poverty Reduction.* Retrieved 8 January 2017 from: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/egms/docs/2016/Poverty-SDGs/RichardMkandawirePPT.pdf

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2016). *Commission for Social Development, 55th Session, 1-10 February 2017 (Proposed organization of work).* Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csocd/2017/draftprogrammework.pdf

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United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2016). *Policies and programmes involving youth: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2017/5).* Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://www.undocs.org/E/CN.5/2017/5

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2016). *Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development: Note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2017/8)*. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://www.undocs.org/E/CN.5/2017/8

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2016). *Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2017/2)*. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://www.undocs.org/E/CN.5/2017/2

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2016). *Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2017/3)*. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://www.undocs.org/E/CN.5/2017/3

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2016). *Third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging, 2002: preliminary assessment: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2017/6)*. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://www.undocs.org/E/CN.5/2017/6

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (2016). *Policy Innovations for Transformative Change.* [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://www.unrisd.org/80256B42004CCC77/(httpInfoFiles)/2D9B6E61A43A7E87C125804F003285F5/$file/Flagship2016_FullReport.pdf

I. Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Society and Development

Recent Developments

In recent months, the international community has continued to explore mechanisms to ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities, particularly in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[25] During the 71st session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly starting in September 2016, the rights of persons with disabilities were discussed with a focus on the adoption of disability-inclusive policies at the national and international levels.[26] In November 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution 71/165 on "Inclusive development for persons with disabilities".[27] In this resolution, Member States stress the need for efforts to ensure equal access to employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.[28] The resolution further highlights the importance of operationalizing national disability strategies through measurable targets and appropriate data collection methods to provide reliable statistics on persons with disabilities.[29]

In preparation for the 55th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD), which is to take place in February 2017, the Secretary-General prepared a report titled "Mainstreaming Disability in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."[30] The report discusses the channels through which disability is included in development process nationally and internationally, as well as the particular role of CSocD in mainstreaming disability.[31] Namely, it outlines options for review and follow-up mechanisms by CSocD for monitoring progress in achieving the SDGs for persons with disabilities.[32] Among these, the Secretary-General noted Member States' support for the establishment of an annual multi-stakeholder panel, supervised by CSocD, to discuss the progress made towards implementing the SDGs for persons with disabilities.[33] Another proposal is to create a permanent forum on disability and development within CSocD.[34] Furthermore, in order to foster collaboration with non-governmental actors, CSocD received written statements from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) wishing to participate in the 55th session; a statement by the Interregional Union of Life Help for Mentally Handicapped Persons focuses on working with persons with disabilities.[35] Published in December 2016, the statement examines the employment of persons with disabilities in Russia.[36] Through their work, they demonstrate the cycle of poverty arising from unequal access to employment opportunities for disabled persons, and propose policy recommendations to address this issue, thereby aiding CSocD in their advisory process in the coming session.[37]

Other entities in the UN system have similarly addressed the topic of inclusive development for persons with disabilities in recent months. In November 2016, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) published an evaluation of its ability to include persons with disabilities in their development strategies.[38] In this evaluation, UNDP acknowledges that, while some efforts have been undertaken, there is a need for greater promotion of disability-

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[25] UN General Assembly, *Inclusive development for persons with disabilities (A/RES/71/165)*, 2016; UN CSocD, *Mainstreaming disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*: *Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2017/4)*, 2016.

[26] UN General Assembly, *Inclusive development for persons with disabilities (A/RES/71/165)*, 2016.

[27] Ibid.

[28] Ibid.

[29] Ibid.

[30] UN CSocD, *Mainstreaming disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*: *Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2017/4)*, 2016, p. 1.

[31] Ibid.

[32] Ibid., p. 16.

[33] UN CSocD, *Mainstreaming disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*: *Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2017/4)*, 2016, p. 16.

[34] Ibid.

[35] UN DESA, *CSocD55 NGOs Written Statements*.

[36] UN CSocD, *Statement submitted by Interregional Union of Life Help for Mentally Handicapped Persons "Sail of Hope", a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2017/NGO/34)*, 2016.

[37] Ibid.

[38] UNDP, UNFPA & UNOPS, *Evaluation of disability-inclusive development at UNDP (DP/2017/6)*, 2016.

inclusive development in its country programs.[39] The UN Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities submitted a report to the Secretary-General in August 2016, providing guidance to Member States and other actors on how to develop and implement policies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities across all sectors of society.[40] In this report, which was presented to the General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur proposes a human rights-based approach to disability as the framework to achieve inclusion and equality, guided by respect for human dignity and non-discrimination.[41]

The UN also celebrated the 15th annual International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2016 with the theme "Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want," coinciding with the 10th anniversary for the adoption of the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (2006).[42] This year, the theme highlighted the interdependence between ensuring equal rights for persons with disabilities and achieving the SDGs.[43] The Secretary-General called upon the UN Member States to collaborate to ensure the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities by removing obstacles and intensifying efforts to end discrimination.[44] The occasion instigated more global action for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in areas such as education, training, employment, and equal access to public services.[45] The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognized the International Day of Persons with Disabilities by holding a panel discussion on Inclusive Education and Training for Inclusive Labor Markets on 2 December 2016 at their headquarters in Paris.[46] The panel discussion addressed the role of inclusive education and training in ensuring more equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in the labor market, in addition to exploring the potential of the new digitized economy in promoting inclusive labor markets for persons with disabilities.[47]

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United Nations, Commission for Social Development. (2016). *Mainstreaming disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*: *Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2017/4).* Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://undocs.org/E/CN.5/2017/4

> *The report provides the most up-to-date overview of the existing international development framework for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. More importantly, it highlights the current and potential role for CSocD in ensuring equal rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities, thereby providing concrete examples of the efforts undertaken by the commission and how it can contribute to the SDGs. Specifically, the report summarizes the panel discussion on disability held at CSocD's 54th session in February 2016, in which the commission decided to have a greater role in monitoring and measuring outcomes related to the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Overall, this resource is indicative of the nature of the work that can be undertaken by CSocD on this topic in the future.*

United Nations, Commission for Social Development. (2016). *Statement submitted by Interregional Union of Life Help for Mentally Handicapped Persons "Sail of Hope", a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2017/NGO/34).* Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://undocs.org/E/CN.5/2017/NGO/34

> *This statement was submitted by an NGO, which will participate in the 55th session of CSocD. "Sail of Hope" provides a local perspective of the effects of unequal access to employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in the Russian context. The statement further offers policy recommendations that may help to overcome the barriers faced by persons with disabilities,*

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[39] Ibid., p. 6.

[40] UN General Assembly, *Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas-Aguilar (A/71/314)*, 2016.

[41] Ibid., pp. 5-6.

[42] UN DPI, *International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December*, 2016.

[43] Ibid.

[44] UN DPI, *Secretary-General's Message for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December 2016*, 2016.

[45] Education International, *Paving the way to education for people with disabilities,* 2016; UNESCO, *Inclusive Education and training for Inclusive Labour Markets*, 2016.

[46] UNESCO, *Inclusive Education and training for Inclusive Labour Markets*, 2016.

[47] Ibid.

such as quotas for jobs and vocational guidance. It also elaborates upon the project undertaken by the NGO to support this vulnerable group. This document provides an example of how CSocD can benefit from collaborating with NGOs in shaping policy advice innovatively.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2016). *Secretary-General's Message for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December* 2016 [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://www.un.org/en/events/disabilitiesday/2016/sgmessage.shtml

> *The Secretary-General's message is indicative of the UN's stance and vision for inclusive development while considering the needs of persons with disabilities. It highlights the UN's commitment to equality as it works towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It encourages local actors in both the public and private sectors to remove the obstacles preventing persons with disabilities from realizing their full potential. This message from the tenth annual International Day of Persons with Disabilities provides an insight into the UN's position on the topic in the future.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Inclusive development for persons with disabilities (A/RES/71/165)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/71/476). Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/71/165

> *This is the most recent resolution pertaining to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development. Member States accordingly consider the topic within the framework of the* 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. *In the draft resolution, measurable targets and close follow-up are stressed as important conditions for the successful monitoring of policies targeting persons with disabilities.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas-Aguilar (A/71/314).* Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://undocs.org/A/71/314

> *The report of the Special Rapporteur highlights the need for disability-inclusive policies from the perspective of protecting human rights and eradicating poverty and inequality. She highlights the key components of disability-inclusive policies and provides an account of the practical considerations to be taken into account for the purposes of policy implementation. The report focuses on non-discrimination and accessibility as policy components, and further on the need for monitoring and data collection.*

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United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Inclusive development for persons with disabilities (A/RES/71/165)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/71/476). Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/71/165

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas-Aguilar (A/71/314)*. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://undocs.org/A/71/314

II. Promoting Social and Economic Inclusion of Refugees

Recent Developments

In recent months, the international community has continued to evaluate the process of social and economic integration for displaced persons. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that as the violence in Iraq, Syria, and Somalia continues to escalate, human mobility has reached unprecedented levels with over 244 million migrants in 2015, with 65 million being forcibly displaced.[48] As 2016 ended, there was intensified discussion of this issue both within and outside the United Nations (UN), underscoring the importance of addressing this issue at regional and national levels as well.[49] The increasing number of refugees highlights the need for effective social policies and capacity building among host countries to ensure economic and social integration.

In November 2016, the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), which is the principle inter-agency coordination body on social, economic, and related matters, released the *Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its thirty-second session*.[50] Agenda item 5 addressed mass movements of refugees and discussed the role of the international system, stating that while the primary responsibilities for aiding refugees in better integration lies with Member States, the UN system had an important role to play at the country and regional level.[51] The committee also applauded the tangible commitments set forward in the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* (2016), which reiterates the human rights of all refugees and migrants regardless of status.[52] Notably, the CEB supported the declaration's goals to ensure education for all refugee and migrant children, condemn xenophobia towards refugees and migrants, and encourage positive contributions made by migrants to economic and social development in their host countries.[53] CEB also noted that many UN entities can support Member States in fulfilling these goals, such as UNHCR, the global campaign to counter xenophobia, and the Global Migration Group.[54]

In December 2016, UNHCR announced the Nigerian Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) aimed at aiding victims of Boko Haram in Nigeria, Chad, and Cameroon.[55] The RRRP plans to provide social, economic, and political protection to refugees resettling in Nigeria, in addition to humanitarian assistance and basic services while encouraging self-reliance.[56] The RRRP is an action plan set forward to advance the commitments set by the Abuja Action Statement (AAS), which promises cooperation between the governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, alongside UNHCR, to address the needs of refugees displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency, including social and economic needs, such as education and local integration.[57] The signees pledged to create individual national plans within six months of the document's adoption and to review its progress regularly going forward.[58] The RRRP was in response to a report of the Secretary-General on "Assistance to refugees, returnees, and displaced persons in Africa" (2016) calling for additional support in the economic and social inclusion of refugees.[59]

To highlight another regional response, multiple reports were published in Europe in December 2016 on the topic of economic and social integration of refugees, including the European Commission's report on Employment and

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[48] UN CEB, *Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its thirty-second session*, 2016; UNHCR, *Nigeria Regional Refugee Response Plan*, 2016; European Commission, *Employment and Social Development in Europe 2016*, 2016.

[49] UN CEB, *Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its thirty-second session*, 2016; UNHCR, *Nigeria Regional Refugee Response Plan*, 2016; European Commission, *Employment and Social Development in Europe 2016*, 2016.

[50] UN CEB, *Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its thirty-second session*, 2016, p. 1; UN CEB, *What We Do*, 2016.

[51] UN CEB, *Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its thirty-second session*, 2016, pp. 16-17.

[52] UN General Assembly, *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1)*, 2016, p.1.

[53] UN CEB, *Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its thirty-second session*, 2016, p. 17.

[54] Ibid.

[55] UNHCR, *Nigeria Regional Refugee Response Plan*, 2016, p. 1.

[56] Ibid., p. 6.

[57] Government of Niger et al., *Regional Protection Dialogue on the Lake Chad Basin – Abuja Action Statement*, 2016, p. 1.

[58] Ibid., p. 4.

[59] UN General Assembly, *Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa: Report of the Secretary-General (A/71/354)*, 2016, p. 1.

Social Developments in Europe.[60] The report found that labor market integration for refugees improves significantly over time as education levels and language skill improved.[61] Highly educated refugees achieved a 70% employment rate, and refugees with intermediate language skills achieved employment rates of 59%.[62] They looked at different factors that improve integration, and highlight that naturalization increases a refugee's chance of finding employment, but that significant challenges to integration still remain.[63] Another report, published by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), found that the countries in Europe most heavily affected by the recent refugee influx have been making many efforts to improve labor market integration, and discussed different possibilities to do so.[64] For example, the report discussed the fact that many refugees desire self-employment, but are unable to because of their legal status, showing the need for policies to address this.[65] Additionally, schools with high displaced persons populations in Europe have reported capacity problems.[66] It also notes that some countries may be trying to make themselves less appealing for refugees, such as by granting temporary asylum status, which creates an obstacle to labor market integration.[67] Finally a report published by the Bertelsmann Foundation in 2016 calls for increased reports on labor market integration for refugees and migrants.[68] The lack of data is partially due to the various visa categories under which immigrants are admitted.[69] This problem results in country-specific studies that are scattered, often outdated, and not easily comparable.[70] Within the challenges of integrating refugees, there is a growing consensus that this must be made a priority for Europe and the political.[71]

The social and economic integration of refugees remains an important topic of discussion and action, as highlighted by a number of reports and meetings. The importance of promoting improved integration for refugees will continue as refugee crises around the world have intensified and host countries must attempt to improve inclusion.[72]

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> *This report by the European Commission details the employment and social development trends for the year 2016. It contains a section dedicated to the employment and integration of refugees, which will be a valuable source for delegates to better understand what challenges European policymakers face in response to the refugee crisis. The report also breaks down what skillsets and policies can make refugees more successful in finding employment. This report can be used to help understand what might be most important in helping economically integrate refugees into new communities.*

Fóti, K., & A. Fromm. (2016). *Approaches to the labour market integration of refugees and asylum seekers*. Eurofound. Retrieved 31 January 2017 from:
http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_publication/field_ef_document/ef1646en.pdf
> *This report discusses many of the difficulties faced by refugees attempting to enter the job market and the response of European countries to these difficulties. Notably, the report reflects that political will exists to improve the living conditions of these individuals and integrate them*

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[60] European Commission, *Employment and Social Development in Europe 2016*, 2016; Fóti & Fromm, *Approaches to the labour market integration of refugees and asylum seekers*, 2016.

[61] European Commission, *Employment and Social Development in Europe 2016*, 2016, p. 15.

[62] Ibid.

[63] Ibid.

[64] Fóti & Fromm, *Approaches to the labour market integration of refugees and asylum seekers*, 2016.

[65] Ibid.

[66] Ibid., p. 44.

[67] Ibid., p. 17.

[68] Martín et al., *From Refugees to Workers Mapping Labour-Market Integration Support Measures for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in EU Member States*, 2016, p. 14.

[69] Ibid.

[70] Ibid.

[71] Fóti & Fromm, *Approaches to the labour market integration of refugees and asylum seekers*, 2016.

[72] UN DPI, *Global Forced Displacement Hits Record Highs*, 2016.

further. As a resource, this document gives information about what difficulties remain and what desire there is to overcome these obstacles.

Martín, I., et al. (2016). *From Refugees to Workers Mapping Labour-Market Integration Support Measures for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in EU Member States*. Bertelsmann Stiftung. Retrieved 28 January 2017 from: https://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/fileadmin/files/user_upload/Studie_NW_From_Refugees_to_Workers_Vol2.pdf

> *This report, published by a German foundation, goes over issues policy makers have related to labor market integration for refugees and migrants. These issues include gaps in academic literature on the subject, the difficulty in acquiring data due to scattered and varied processes and classifications, and common factors in policy successes and failures. Delegates will find this report useful e in understanding what specific issues need to be addressed for social and economic integration of refugees.*

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2016). *Nigeria Regional Refugee Response Plan* [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://www.unhcr.org/56a2351b9.pdf

> *The Nigeria Refugee Response Plan lays out the challenges and achievements regarding the economic and social welfare of refugees in the region, in addition to humanitarian concerns. It identifies needs and overviews the response, what partnerships and coordination should be applicable, and the financial requirements. Although regional, this document lays out a comprehensive plan for cooperation between Member States in addressing this issue. This document will be invaluable in helping delegates form solutions for better promoting social and economic inclusion for refugees.*

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. (2017). *Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its thirty-second session*. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://undocs.org/CEB/2016/6

> *This report reviews program coordination of the CEB's thirty-second session. Agenda item five of this document reviews UN programs regarding the resettlement of displaced persons to see if they are in line with the commitments set forward by the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. It goes over a number of UN mechanisms and organizations that are already in place that can be used to achieve the goals set forward by the New York Declaration. Delegates will find this documents useful as they look for existing UN systems working on social and economic integration for refugees and displaced persons.*

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III. Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Recent Developments

In the latter half of 2016, the international community continued to discuss the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), including access to renewable energy, infrastructure to create jobs, and good governance. In November 2016, the African Union (AU) discussed sustainable development and renewable energy at the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), hosted in Marrakech, Morocco.[73] With many potential green energy investors concerned about political instability, NEPAD had aimed for this summit to demonstrate its commitment to and leadership in fulfilling the outcome document of COP21 through collaborative efforts in creating conditions necessary to promote development.[74] The African Adaptation Initiative (AAI) and the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) were discussed as pan-African coalitions designed to meet the goals of the 2063 African Agenda through securing funding, technological innovation, and capacity building.[75] With an estimated 700 million Africans still lacking access to energy, sustainable energy, this is a key obstacle to social development and will need to be addressed by various actors.[76] The need for Africa's rapid development was also identified, in order to address humanitarian concerns and thus allow for sustainable social and economic development in the future.[77] Morocco and Senegal used COP22 to present the 3S Action Plan for the African Continent, which, in addition to goals concerning climate change and disaster risk reduction, sets ambitious goals for increasing employment.[78]

In December 2016 in Dakar, Senegal, NEPAD launched a publication in partnership with the United Nations (UN) Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) entitled "16 Infrastructure Projects for African Integration," which looks at the infrastructure projects decided on at the Dakar Financing Summit (DFS) for Africa's Infrastructure in 2014, which focus, among other priorities, on creating formal, lasting jobs, recognizing that economic security is important to social progress.[79] The guidebook is meant to attract and increase investment from the private sector in transboundary infrastructure projects in Africa, and should help secure some of the estimated $360 billion in funding needed by 2040 by exploring questions of economic viability.[80] NEPAD's Senior Energy Advisor, Mosad El Missiry, referred to the projects that were selected at the DFS in 2014 as basic requisites for achieving the agency's goals, implying they needed to be met in order to achieve more ambitious projects later on.[81] Ensuring domestic production of energy, notably solar, and other infrastructure projects have been a priority in an effort to achieve the African Power Vision's (APV) target goal of 80% of energy being produced locally by 2040 in order to achieve the Africa 2063 agenda.[82] By keeping production within the AU, it hopes to follow an example set by other UN Member States to keep economic progress sustainable, something that will be important given it is estimated that 6 percent of the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth will need to be invested towards energy in order to meet the outlined goals.[83]

The African Union Commission has also continued to prepare for a change in leadership during the end of 2016 and the beginning of 2017.[84] The shift in the African Union (AU) comes at a time when regional leaders are under intense scrutiny for not fulfilling their responsibilities to provide suitable socio-economic conditions, including those outlines in NEPAD.[85] Specifically, the current Commission Chairperson, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, mentioned in

[73] Phiri, Convincing Investors to Unlock Africa's Green Energy Potential, *Inter Press Service*, 2016.
[74] Ibid.
[75] *Africa Day at COP22: African leaders Demonstrate Commitment and Action to Address Climate Change*, Nigerian Television Authority, 2016.
[76] Ibid.
[77] Ibid.
[78] *COP22: Morocco, Senegal Present 3S Action Plan for Africa*, Morocco World News, 2016.
[79] Ramachandran, UN Partners with Africa's Development Agenda 2017-2027, *InDepthNews*, 2016; *Entrepreneurs to Get Innovation Knowledge – Uganda*, The Exchange, 2016.
[80] Ibid.
[81] *ECA and NEPAD launch an investors' guide for infrastructures in Africa*, African Business Magazine, 2016.
[82] New Partnership for Africa's Development, *Africa Power Vision*.
[83] Mayaki, *The electrification of Africa through renewable energy sources: bridging the gap*, 2017.
[84] *African Union leadership: Candidates Hold Debate*, BBC, 2016.
[85] *Dlamini-Zuma lambasts 'selfish' African leaders*, IOL, 2017.

her 2017 address that while many AU Member States did have successful democratic elections and peaceful transitions of power, civil unrest remains in many parts of the continent.[86] According to Dlamini-Zuma, 2017 will see the AU focus heavily on youth employment and education, noting that practices such as child marriage are major obstacles to social and political peace.[87] These changes to the AU will be important to track especially during a time thought to be crucial towards NEPAD's overall success.[88]

NEPAD continues to be an important part of the African Development Agenda, and has been critical to advancing economic and social development at the end of 2016.[89] As the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) discussed the "Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development" during its 54th session, this topic continues to be relevant for the body going forward.[90]

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> This news article discusses the 3S Action Plan proposal by AU Member States designed to increase youth employment and promote awareness concerning natural disasters. The African continent is disproportionately affected by climate change and youth unemployment, something the 3S Action Plan aims to address in addition to providing information to villages about natural disasters. In researching NEPAD's relationship with CSocD, it will be important to understand some of the key policy proposals that the Commission must review in order to fulfill its mandate.

ECA and NEPAD launch an investors' guide for infrastructures in Africa. (2016, December 15). African Business Magazine. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: http://africanbusinessmagazine.com/latest/eca-and-nepad-launch-an-investors-guide-for-infrastructures-in-africa/
> This article discusses the coloration between the ECA and NEPAD to overcome funding obstacles for infrastructure projects through the release of a guidebook entitled "16 infrastructure projects for African integration." The guidebook is designed to help attract private investment, something that will be necessary for Africa's development and for NEPAD to meet their goals., NEPAD and the ECA took steps to address concerns of social, economic, and political instability raised by potential investors. The topics of infrastructure and financing will also prove important to enhancing social development.

Kwibuka, E., & A. Kirezi. (2016, June 13). Next 10 years critical for Africa's transformation - NEPAD chief. *The New Times.* Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: http://www.newtimes.co.rw/section/article/2016-06-13/200734/
> This news article contains an interview with the Chief Executive of NEPAD, who discussing the priorities held by the partnership for the next ten years. He reviews some of the progress that has been made since the creation of NEPAD in 2001, and emphasizes the importance of infrastructure development and partnerships between countries. He also mentions technical vocational training to improve youth employment as an example of a large upcoming project. This interview may be useful for delegates to understand some of the priorities within NEPAD for the coming years.

Mayaki, I. (2017, January 1). The electrification of Africa through renewable energy sources: bridging the gap. *Huffington Post.* Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ibrahim-assane-mayaki/the-electrification-of-af_b_13951144.html
> This article, written by the Chief Executive Officer of the Secretariat of NEPAD, overviews the importance of clean electricity and expanding access to energy in Africa to ensure sustainable

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[86] Ibid.
[87] Ibid.
[88] Kwibuka & Kirezi, Next 10 years critical for Africa's transformation - NEPAD chief, *The New Times*, 2016.
[89] *Africa Day at COP22: African leaders Demonstrate Commitment and Action to Address Climate Change*, Nigerian Television Authority, 2016; *ECA and NEPAD launch an investors' guide for infrastructures in Africa*, African Business Magazine, 2016.
[90] UN CSocD, *54th Session of the Commission for Social Development*, 2016.

development. The author suggests utilizing national and regional energy resources to best benefit the continent, such as through fully utilizing the potential of solar power. The article also highlights some successful projects. It can be a useful source to delegates to reflect upon how to expand access to energy, which is a major barrier to social development as it makes it difficult for countries to experience sustainable economic growth.

Phiri, F. (2016, November 16). Convincing Investors to Unlock Africa's Green Energy Potential. *Inter Press Service.* Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: http://www.ipsnews.net/2016/11/convincing-investors-to-unlock-africas-green-energy-potential/

This article explains what will be necessary to help the advancement of private sector investment in African renewable energy. At COP22, several officials discussed minimizing the impact of political and economic risks companies would have to take with potential investments. Such practices include soliciting guarantors out of the African Development bank to help reduce the potential investment risk. This source can be used to help understand what objectives are still being prioritized by the AU and its Member States, namely increased private sector investment.

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