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United Nations Development Programme Background Guide 2019

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2019 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to welcome you to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This year's staff is: Director Citlali Mora Catlett (Conference A). Citlali received her BA in Political Science, Economy, and Business Administration and her MA in Political Science at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich. She is currently working for a company dedicated to providing education, advisory, and research in the area of blockchain technology.

The topics under discussion for the United Nations Development Programme are:

1. Urbanization and Sustainable Development
2. Electoral Cycle Support in Post-Conflict Settings
3. Building Climate Change Resilience through Adaptation Strategies

As one of the United Nations' (UN) operational programs, UNDP is directly involved on the ground in over 170 countries, in order to help implement policies within its three main pillars: sustainable development, democratic governance and peacebuilding, and climate and disaster resilience. In this context, UNDP works to promote and advance the objectives of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, adopted in 2015. Finally, in an effort to enhance coordination between different UN program lines, UNDP also looks for a correct allocation of resources in order to maximize the efficiency of programs related to development in several countries by administering the UN Capital Development Fund.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a [Position Paper](#) by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) on 1 March 2019 in accordance with the guidelines in the [NMUN Position Paper Guide](#).

Two resources, available to download from the [NMUN website](#), that serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions are the:

1. [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#) - explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not start discussion on the topics with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) - include the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the Conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, please contact the Under-Secretaries-General for the Development Department, Aiskell Roman (Conference A) and Marleen Schreier (Conference B), at usg.dev@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Conference A

Citlali Mora Catlett, Director

Conference B

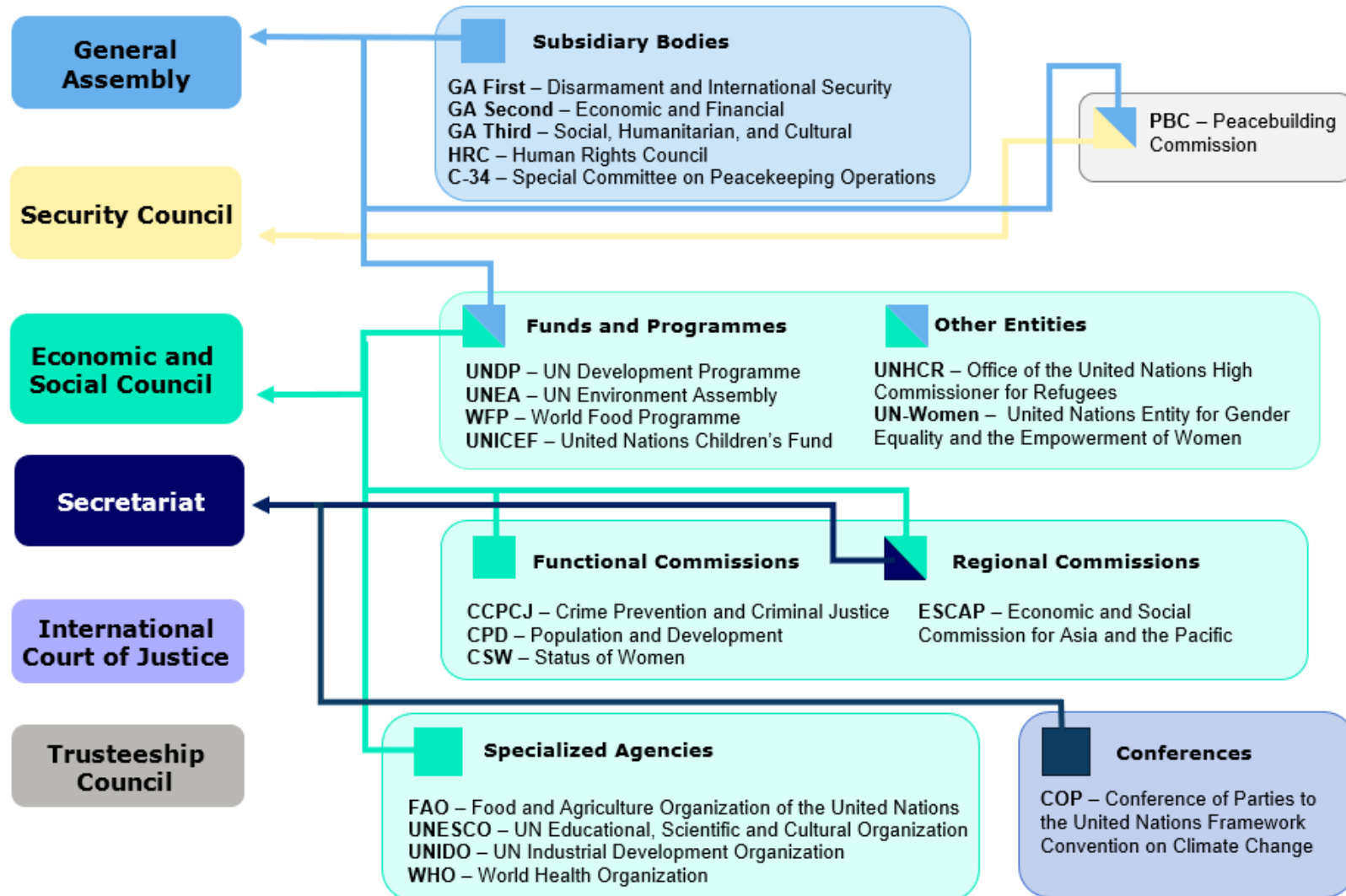
Director

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United Nations System at NMUN•NY

This diagram illustrates the UN system simulated at NMUN•NY and demonstrates the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose, and powers within the UN system.



Committee Overview

Introduction

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) embodies Article 55 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), which outlines the organization's responsibility to promote "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development" as prerequisites to peace.¹ Originally, development activities of the United Nations (UN) consisted largely of providing technical advice through the UN Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and support for pre-investment projects through the UN Special Fund, created in 1949 and 1958 respectively, for the benefit of less developed countries.² To streamline these assistance programs, General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX) of 22 November 1965 consolidated the EPTA and the UN Special Fund to establish UNDP as of 1 January 1966.³ Today, as the leader of the UN's "global development network," UNDP assists countries with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and implementing the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015).⁴

At NMUN•NY 2019, we are simulating the **Executive Board of UNDP** in terms of composition and size; however, delegates are not limited to the strict mandate of the Executive Board, as a budgetary and administrative body, during the Conference. For the purposes of NMUN•NY 2019, and corresponding with the educational mission of the Conference, the committee has the ability to make programmatic and policy decisions on issues within the mandate of UNDP in line with the overall function of the organization.

Governance, Structure, and Membership

Executive Board

UNDP leadership comprises an Administrator and an Executive Board.⁵ The Administrator is appointed by the Secretary-General and confirmed by the General Assembly for a four-year term.⁶ UNDP is led by an Executive Board that consists of 36 rotating members from five geographic groups: eight from the group of African States, seven from the group of Asian and Pacific States, four from the group of Eastern European States, five from the group of Latin America and the Caribbean States, and 12 from the group of Western European and Other States.⁷ Members typically serve three-year terms and are elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), but the group of Western European and Other States instead decides on its rotation internally.⁸

The Executive Board oversees all of UNDP's projects and ensures that projects adapt to changing situations as well as the unique needs of each country, while following policy guidance provided by the General Assembly and ECOSOC.⁹ It holds three sessions each year: one annual session and two regular

¹ UNDP JPO Service Centre, *UNDP for Beginners: A Beginner's Guide to the United Nations Development Programme*, 2015, p. 4; *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 55.

² UN General Assembly, *Expanded programme of technical assistance for economic development of under-developed countries (A/RES/304 (IV))*, 1949; UN General Assembly, *Establishment of the Special Fund (A/RES/1240 (XIII))*, 1958.

³ UN General Assembly, *Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme (A/RES/2029 (XX))*, 1965.

⁴ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2018-19*, 2018, p. 249; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015; UNDG, *The Sustainable Development Goals Are Coming to Life*, 2016.

⁵ UNDP, *Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS*, 2018.

⁶ UNDP, *About us: Our leadership*, 2018.

⁷ UNDP, *Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS*, 2018.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ UNDP, *Executive Board*, 2018.

sessions, typically held in New York City.¹⁰ The Executive Board is under the authority of ECOSOC and reports annually on its program of work and provides recommendations for field-level improvement.¹¹ The rules of procedure for the Executive Board aim for decision-making by consensus, but where a vote is needed, the rules of procedure for ECOSOC are used.¹² The Executive Board also serves as the governing body of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS).¹³

The Bureau of the Executive Board is responsible for the organization and preparation of meetings, and it supports transparency and dialogue in the decision-making of the Executive Board by organizing and coordinating meetings and selecting teams for field visits.¹⁴ The Bureau is comprised of one President and four Vice-Presidents who are elected annually at the first regular session according to geographic regions to ensure equality.¹⁵ The Presidency for 2018 is held by H.E. Mr. Jagdish Koonjul of the Republic of Mauritius.¹⁶ The Vice-Presidents for 2018 are from the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, and Switzerland.¹⁷

Budget

UNDP obtains funding from governments, multilateral organizations, the private sector, and other sources.¹⁸ Donors contribute approximately \$5 billion to UNDP annually.¹⁹ The Executive Board decides on budgets and financial plans.²⁰ Additional funding for individual projects and activities may be provided directly by organizations and governments, although UNDP remains the primary source of funding.²¹ With projects in over 170 countries, UNDP tracks allocation of its budget according to theme: for example, 28.6% of expenses have been allotted to inclusive and sustainable growth, 24.9% to basic services, 17.3% to early recovery, 10.9% to democratic governance, 5.4% to risk reduction, 2.8% to thought leadership, and 1% to gender equality.²² Depending on the project, UNDP works with state governments, political entities on a national and community level, and non-governmental organizations to ensure accountability, efficiency, and trust.²³

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX) of 22 November 1965, UNDP retained the “principles, procedures and provisions” of the EPTA and the UN Special Fund following their consolidation.²⁴ Having broadened in scope, UNDP’s present mandate is “to empower lives and build resilient nations” for sustainable human development.²⁵ As an assistance program, UNDP is “designed to support and supplement the national efforts of developing countries in solving the most important

¹⁰ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2018-19*, 2018, p. 249.

¹¹ UNDP, *Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS*, 2018.

¹² Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, *Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, of the United Nations Population Fund and of the United Nations Office for Project Services (DP/2011/18)*, 2011.

¹³ UNDP, *Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS*, 2018.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ UNDP, *Members of the Executive Board*, 2018.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ UNDP, *Our funding: Overview*, 2018.

¹⁹ UNDP, *Our funding: UNDP’s funding channels*, 2018.

²⁰ Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, *Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, of the United Nations Population Fund and of the United Nations Office for Project Services (DP/2011/18)*, 2011.

²¹ UNDP, *UNDP Transparency Portal*, 2018.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ UN General Assembly, *Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme (A/RES/2029 (XX))*, 1965.

²⁵ UNDP JPO Service Centre, *UNDP for Beginners: A Beginner’s Guide to the United Nations Development Programme*, 2015, p. 4.

problems of their economic development, including industrial development.”²⁶ Importantly, as emphasized by General Assembly resolution 59/250, national governments retain “primary responsibility” for development within their countries.²⁷

UNDP’s work is carried out through its country offices, which are focused on helping countries develop policies, institutional abilities, leadership skills, and resilience to achieve poverty eradication and the reduction of inequalities.²⁸ To assist in these efforts, UNDP also administers and utilizes the UN Volunteers program and the UN Capital Development Fund.²⁹ To function effectively across the globe, UNDP works to strengthen partnerships, build capacity, and coordinate the UN’s development activities.

Partnerships

Partnerships are crucial to the work of UNDP.³⁰ Partnerships within the UN system and with the private sector, civil society organizations, financial institutions, and various foundations enable UNDP to finance its activities and implement projects.³¹ UNDP also works with prominent individuals as Goodwill Ambassadors and advocates to raise awareness of important issues in global development.³²

Capacity-Building

Building capacity is a focus area that allows UNDP to enhance the performance of various institutions and projects.³³ This is necessary so that countries can strengthen development initiatives, public services, and aid delivery.³⁴ For example, UNDP cooperates with national partners to strengthen legal institutions and enhance access to justice.³⁵ Another example is strengthening the private sector to create new jobs and improve infrastructure.³⁶

Coordination

As numerous UN organizations and entities are involved in global development, it is essential to coordinate their activities.³⁷ To that end, UNDP plays an important role in the UN Development Group (UNDG), which is the highest-level inter-agency forum for the UN development system and comprises all UN entities whose work relates to the 2030 Agenda at the country level.³⁸ Led by the UN Deputy Secretary-General as Chair and the UNDP Administrator as Vice-Chair, the undg “provides strategic direction and oversight to ensure [UN Development System] entities deliver coherent, effective, and efficient support to countries seeking to achieve sustainable development.”³⁹ UNDP also manages the Resident Coordinator system, which provides guidance and support for operational activities for development carried out by UN entities at the country level.⁴⁰ As of November 2016, there were 129 resident coordinators leading 131 UN country teams.⁴¹

²⁶ UN General Assembly, *Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme (A/RES/2029 (XX))*, 1965.

²⁷ UN General Assembly, *Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/59/250)*, 2005, p. 3.

²⁸ UNDP, *About us: Overview*, 2018.

²⁹ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2018-19*, 2018, p. 249.

³⁰ UNDP, *Our partners: Overview*, 2018.

³¹ Ibid.

³² UNDP, *Goodwill Ambassadors and Advocates*, 2018.

³³ Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, *UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (DP/2017/38)*, 2017.

³⁴ UNDP, *Supporting Capacity Development: The UNDP Approach*, 2009.

³⁵ UNDP, *Democratic governance and peacebuilding: Access to justice*, 2018.

³⁶ UNDP, *Supporting Capacity Development: The UNDP Approach*, 2009.

³⁷ UNDP, *Our partners: Overview*, 2018.

³⁸ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2018-19*, 2018, p. 247.

³⁹ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2018-19*, 2018, p. 248; UNDP, *Our partners: Overview*, 2018.

⁴⁰ UN Development Operations Coordination Office, *The UN Resident Coordinator system – an overview*, 2016.

⁴¹ Ibid.

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

On November 28, 2017, UNDP launched its current Strategic Plan, which establishes priorities and methods of action for the 2018-2021 period.⁴² Guided by the 2030 Agenda, UNDP's vision for the plan is "to help countries to achieve sustainable development by eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, accelerating structural transformations for sustainable development and building resilience to crises and shocks."⁴³ The plan identifies six "signature solutions" that will allow UNDP to achieve this vision: keep people out of poverty; strengthen effective, inclusive and accountable governance; enhance national prevention and recovery capacities for resilient societies; promote nature-based solutions for a sustainable planet; close the energy gap; and strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.⁴⁴ Supported by an improved business model, UNDP will deliver its work through "country support platforms" for the SDGs and a "global development advisory and implementation services platform."⁴⁵

At the annual session of the Executive Board, held from 4 to 8 June 2018, current UNDP Administrator Achim Stein noted UNDP's "strong performance in 2017," which witnessed the highest delivery on record.⁴⁶ Nevertheless, securing funding remains one of UNDP's largest challenges, as deficiencies and imbalances in regular (core) funding and other (non-core) resources have "presented serious implications for UNDP's accountability to deliver and remain sustainable."⁴⁷ These financial concerns were echoed at the Executive Board's most recent session, held from 4 to 7 September 2018.⁴⁸ The Executive Board adopted decision 2018/16 on the "UNDP structured funding dialogue," which encouraged UNDP to continue prioritizing efficient resource use and to align funding practices with Member State partners.⁴⁹

As a result of ongoing efforts to reform the UN development system, UNDP's role in overseeing development operations on behalf of the UN Secretary-General will change significantly in 2019.⁵⁰ On 31 May 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 72/279 on "Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system," which created distinct roles for UN Resident Coordinators under the supervision of the UN Development Operations Coordination Office of UNDG.⁵¹ The resolution requested that the UN Secretary-General develop and report on a plan to implement these structural changes.⁵² UN Secretary-General António Guterres presented the requested implementation plan to Member States on 11 September, with implementation to begin in January 2019.⁵³ UNDP has

⁴² UNDP, *A new plan for a new era: UN development agency charts course for development in 21st century*, 2017.

⁴³ Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, *UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (DP/2017/38)*, 2017, p. 10.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 12-15.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 16-18, 20.

⁴⁶ Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, *Report of the Administrator on results for 2017 and progress on the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (DP/2018/10)*, 2018; Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, *Report of the annual session 2018 (DP/2018/17)*, 2018, p. 2.

⁴⁷ Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, *Report of the annual session 2018 (DP/2018/17)*, 2018, p. 2.

⁴⁸ Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, *Decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2018 (DP/2019/2)*, 2018.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ UN Secretary-General, *Secretary-General's implementation plan for the inception of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system*, 2018.

⁵¹ UN General Assembly, *Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/72/279)*, 2018, p. 2.

⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 4.

⁵³ UN Secretary-General, *Secretary-General's implementation plan for the inception of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system*, 2018, p. 1.

assisted in the transition.⁵⁴ While UNDP will continue to provide various services to the new Resident Coordinator system, it will do so on a fee-for-service basis only.⁵⁵

Conclusion

The UNDP Executive Board's position at the helm of three organizations, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS, as well as its cooperative function with UNDG, uniquely situates it to further development on all levels. With a wide range of working areas including crisis prevention, democratic governance, environment, and human rights, UNDP can target the most important aspects for sustainable and equal human development. UNDP continues to work toward enhancing effective and inclusive democratic governance, strengthening resilience, eradicating poverty, and reducing inequalities. UNDP is taking concrete steps to help the international community achieve the SDGs, and it remains poised to play a significant role in promoting global development and a more sustainable future for all.⁵⁶

Annotated Bibliography

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The Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 constitutes a valuable resource on UNDP's priorities and work methods. It describes current challenges for the UN development system and the landscape in which UNDP must operate, defines the vision that UNDP seeks to fulfil, and explains the approach that UNDP will take to help countries achieve the 2030 Agenda. Delegates should familiarize themselves with the signature solutions and the three development settings that they are intended to address.

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services. (2018). *Report of the Administrator on results for 2017 and progress on the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (DP/2018/10)*. Retrieved 1 November 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/DP/2018/10>

This report, submitted by the UNDP Administrator to the annual session of the Executive Board in June 2018, reviews the results achieved by UNDP in 2017 and the progress made on the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021. The report provides delegates with an excellent introduction to the practical realities and challenges associated with UNDP's work. Delegates may also use the report to compare the current Strategic Plan with its predecessor for the period 2014-2017.

New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2018). *United Nations Handbook 2018-19*. Retrieved 1 November 2018 from: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Handbooks/UN-Handbook-2018-19-pdf.pdf>

This handbook provides information not only on UNDP, but also on the complete organization of the UN. Delegates can find basic information about all programs, committees, and funds within the UN system, including a quick overview of UNDP. Furthermore, it provides information on the role of UNDP within the UN system.

United Nations Development Group. (2016). *The Sustainable Development Goals Are Coming to Life [Report]*. Retrieved 1 November 2018 from: <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/SDGs-are-Coming-to-Life-UNDG-1.pdf>

This report provides insights into the efforts taken to implement the SDGs at the country, presenting snapshots from 16 countries across all regions. It details how countries are

⁵⁴ Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, *Report of the annual session 2018 (DP/2018/17)*, 2018, p. 3.

⁵⁵ UN Secretary-General, *Presenting Reinvigorated Resident Coordinator System Plan, Secretary-General Urges Member States to Fully Support, Fund United Nations Development System Reforms (SG/SM/19206-DEV/3349)*, 2018.

⁵⁶ Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, *UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (DP/2017/38)*, 2017.

integrating the 2030 Agenda into visions and plans at the national, subnational, and local levels. The report also highlights the Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support (MAPS) approach to implementing the SDGs. Delegates should use this as a guide to see examples of national efforts to achieve the SDGs and the role of UN agencies therein.

United Nations Development Programme, Junior Professional Officer Service Centre. (2015). *UNDP for Beginners: A Beginner's Guide to the United Nations Development Programme*. Retrieved 1 November 2018 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/jposc/docs/Recruitment-documents/UNDP%20for%20Beginners%20-%205%20edition%20-%20May%202015.pdf>

This guide is a comprehensive introduction to UNDP that explains key aspects such as its structure, development, and function. Furthermore, basic questions such as what UNDP does, what its internal entities do, principles of UNDP, and funding sources are discussed and explained. This is a great starting point for delegates to gather basic information about the operations and organization of UNDP before dealing with more specific topics.

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2018 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/jposc/docs/Recruitment-documents/UNDP%20for%20Beginners%20-%205%20edition%20-%20May%202015.pdf>

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I. Urbanization and Sustainable Development

Introduction

Sustainable urbanization has been an important topic for the international community for the past 25 years as more and more people move to urban areas.⁵⁷ According to the United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs' (DESA) World Urbanization Prospect of 2018, 4.2 billion people already live in urban areas which constitutes 55% of the world population.⁵⁸ By 2030, it is projected that 1 billion more people will be living in urban areas and, by 2050, it is projected to increase to about 6.6 billion people or 68% of the world's population.⁵⁹ Almost 90% of the urban growth is going to happen in Asia and Africa due to higher rates of population growth and the movements from rural to urban areas.⁶⁰ What constitutes a city or urban area exactly varies from country to country depending on the criteria at hand and has not been universally agreed upon.⁶¹ The UN Development Programme (UNDP) looks, for instance, at the administrative or political boundary of the settlement, population size, population density, and economic function to makes its determination.⁶²

The ongoing rapid urbanization confronts Member States with unprecedented challenges.⁶³ While only between 1-3% of the world's land surface is considered urbanized currently, this number is projected to triple by 2030.⁶⁴ Making these new and growing cities inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and safe is crucial to achieving sustainable development for all.⁶⁵ Cities also play an important social, economic, and environmental role.⁶⁶ Already today, cities account for more than 80% of global gross domestic product (GDP), but at the same time they account for 70% of the total greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and 80% of energy use.⁶⁷ Social and economic inequalities, such as income or access to basic health and educational services, are prevalent.⁶⁸ Air quality and infrastructure is deteriorating in many cities while an estimated 1 billion people live in slums with limited or no access to housing, basic services, or economic opportunities.⁶⁹ In addition, as cities grow they face increasing risk of disasters.⁷⁰ Cities are becoming especially more vulnerable toward hurricanes, floods, and other natural hazards that have increased in frequency and severity due to climate change; this risk is exacerbated as over 90% of all cities are in coastal areas.⁷¹

International and Regional Framework

First concrete efforts in the realm of urbanization were taken by the UN General Assembly in 1975 with the adoption of resolution 3327(XXIX) on the "Establishment of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation."⁷² In the following year, the first UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat-I) took place which resulted in the *Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements*.⁷³ For the first time

⁵⁷ Kacyira, *Addressing the Sustainable Urbanization Challenge*, 2012.

⁵⁸ UNDESA, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision*, 2018.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2016, p. 1.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ World Bank, *3 Big Ideas to Achieve Sustainable Cities and Communities*, 2018.

⁶⁴ UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2016, p. 1; UNDESA, *Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*.

⁶⁵ UNDP, *Cities are engines for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2018.

⁶⁶ Kacyira, *Addressing the Sustainable Urbanization Challenge*, 2012.

⁶⁷ UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2016, p. 1.

⁶⁸ UNDP, *Cities are engines for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2018.

⁶⁹ World Bank, *3 Big Ideas to Achieve Sustainable Cities and Communities*, 2018.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² UN General Assembly, *Establishment of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (A/RES/3327(XXIX))*, 1975.

⁷³ Habitat I, *The Vancouver Declaration On Human Settlements*, 1976.

Member States acknowledged the importance of sustainably developing cities and the need for international cooperation and social, economic, and environmental policies to allow for urban planning amidst rapid urbanization.⁷⁴ 20 years later, in 1996, the second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat-II) took place in Istanbul.⁷⁵ Civil society as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were allowed to participate as they were recognized as crucial partners for urbanization and essential service providers in cities.⁷⁶ At the conference, Member States adopted the *An Urbanizing World: Global Report on Human Settlements 1996* calling for national development strategies that take the role of cities for sustainable development into account, their importance for economic and social growth, and more transparency and accountability on the city level.⁷⁷ Five years later, after the adoption of the *Millennium Declaration* and its eight Millennium Development Goals in 2000, the UN General Assembly reaffirmed Habitat-II and its commitment to addressing the challenges of rapid urbanization such as poverty, which resulted in the adoption of the *Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium*.⁷⁸

The latest UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat-III) took place in Quito in 2016.⁷⁹ At the third installment of Habitat, Member States adopted the *New Urban Agenda* with the aim to address the new challenges of urbanization of the 21st century.⁸⁰ The *New Urban Agenda* is the result of a participatory process and consultations over two years.⁸¹ The *New Urban Agenda* commits to creating cities that promote adequate housing and standard of living, universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, as well as food security, health, education, infrastructure and waste disposal, mobility and transportation, energy, air quality and livelihoods without discrimination.⁸² The *New Urban Agenda* further calls for gender equality, gender-and age-responsive and people-centered planning of city infrastructure, and allowing all citizens to fully participate in the social, economic, and political spheres of society.⁸³ Member States also highlight the importance of reducing the environmental impact of cities, promoting sustainable consumption and production, and designing resilient cities that are adequately equipped for climate change and the risks of disasters.⁸⁴ Based on the imperative of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda)*, the *New Urban Agenda* seeks to leave no one behind and end poverty in all forms.⁸⁵ Being the driving force in a country's economy, the *New Urban Agenda* promotes urban and inclusive economies that are fostered by innovation.⁸⁶ To move away from business as usual and achieve transformative sustainable urban development, the *New Urban Agenda* requires: new forms of holistic financing, strong governance and management of cities, and participation and cooperation among all relevant stakeholders, including international and multilateral actors, national and local governments, the private sector, and civil society groups.⁸⁷

⁷⁴ UN General Assembly, *Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (A/RES/31/109)*, 1976.

⁷⁵ International Federation for Housing and Planning, *A Roadmap to the Past Habitats and the Path to Habitat IV*, *IFHP Blog*, 2017.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷⁷ Habitat, *An Urbanizing World: Global Report on Human Settlements 1996*, 1996.

⁷⁸ UN-Habitat, *UN-Habitat at a glance*.

⁷⁹ International Federation for Housing and Planning, *A Roadmap to the Past Habitats and the Path to Habitat IV*, *IFHP Blog*, 2017.

⁸⁰ Habitat III, *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*, 2016; IFHP, *A Roadmap to the Past Habitats and the Path to Habitat IV*, *IFHP Blog*, 2017.

⁸¹ Habitat III, *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*, 2016, pp. 50-51.

⁸² *Ibid.*, pp. 5,12.

⁸³ *Ibid.*, pp. 5-7, 11.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

⁸⁵ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015; Habitat III, *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*, 2016, p. 7.

⁸⁶ Habitat III, *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*, 2016, pp. 32-33, 39.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 8-9, 32.

The commitments outlined in the *New Urban Agenda* are based on the 2030 Agenda which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.⁸⁸ The agenda lists 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that form a framework for the UN system and its Member States to work toward sustainable development.⁸⁹ Several of the SDGs are relevant to rapid urbanization and sustainable development, especially the standalone SDG 11 on sustainable cities.⁹⁰ This goal includes ensuring safe and affordable housing and transportation within urbanized areas, disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation strategies, improving air quality and waste management, and the provision of public spaces particularly for marginalized groups.⁹¹ Additionally, all of the SDGs are to some extent interlinked with SDG 11 and urbanization.⁹² For instance, sustainable infrastructure programs should take into consideration SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, and SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure.⁹³ Making basic services accessible in cities also contributes to SDG 3 on good health and well-being and SDG 4 on quality education.⁹⁴ Creating job opportunities in cities aligns with the objectives of SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth and helps fulfilling SDG 10 on reducing inequalities.⁹⁵ Reducing the environmental impact of cities is also related to SDG 9 as well as SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production and SDG 13 on climate action.⁹⁶

Considering rapid urbanization and population growth in cities, the concentration of financial and material assets in urban areas, as well as the increase in disasters and their severity, the international community recognized the importance of resilience, for example in developing disaster risk reduction (DRR) and adaptation strategies.⁹⁷ To that end, Member States met at the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 and adopted the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*.⁹⁸ The framework outlines strategies to prevent human and economic losses from disasters, calling for laws and regulations in urban planning that promote higher safety standards.⁹⁹ The framework also promotes public awareness and education efforts such as the “Making Cities Resilient: My city is getting ready” campaign.¹⁰⁰ It emphasizes four areas of action for DRR: understanding the risks, strengthening governance to manage the risks, investing in resilience, and increasing preparedness for disasters as well as recovery strategies and reconstruction efforts.¹⁰¹ As called for in the 2030 Agenda and the *New Urban Agenda*, sustainable cities are necessarily resilient cities.¹⁰²

Most recently, in February of 2018, Members States met at the ninth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF) to discuss how to implement the 2030 Agenda and the *New Urban Agenda*.¹⁰³ WUF 9 gathered 23,000 people representing government, civil society, private sector, academia, and international organizations and adopted the *Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030*.¹⁰⁴ The Kuala Lumpur Declaration strives to empower the role of local governments; promotes information sharing, innovation, and inclusive partnerships across international, regional, national, and local levels; and encourages

⁸⁸ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 11*.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² UN-Habitat et al., *Tracking Progress Towards Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements - SDG 11 Synthesis Report*, 2018.

⁹³ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ UNISDR, *Local Implementation of the Sendai Framework - Iriga City, Philippines*, 2016.

⁹⁸ UNISDR, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, 2015.

⁹⁹ Ibid., pp. 12,17.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid., p. 16.

¹⁰¹ UNISDR, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, 2015.

¹⁰² UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 11; Habitat III, New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*, 2016.

¹⁰³ UN-Habitat, *WUF9 at a glance*, 2018.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

integrated sustainable urban planning.¹⁰⁵ The declaration furthermore calls for an implementation framework of the *New Urban Agenda*, creating a monitoring and reporting system with better data collection mechanisms to assess policy impacts, exchange best practices, and strengthen dialogue among stakeholders.¹⁰⁶ This contribution network pairs Member States together that face similar issues and creates a mentoring system so that Member States can learn and take advice from each other.¹⁰⁷ The declaration and upcoming WUF build a roadmap for the international community for collaboration among Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders to find creative and innovative solutions for sustainable development of cities until 2030.¹⁰⁸

Role of the International System

The UN General Assembly is one of many relevant organizations within the UN system that engages with the topic of sustainable urbanization.¹⁰⁹ The General Assembly adopted resolution 72/226 in January 2018 following up on the “Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).”¹¹⁰ The resolution calls on Member States and the UN system to implement the *New Urban Agenda* through international cooperation, national legislation and policies, and comprehensive financing strategies, involving the international funds, Member State contributions, the private sector as well as international development banks, for sustainable urban investments.¹¹¹ The UN General Assembly tasked UN-Habitat with providing evidence-based information regarding urbanization and requested the UN Secretary-General to compile a report on these activities.¹¹²

The United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), being the primary UN organization specifically work on urbanization, has launched a number of initiatives and efforts to foster “a better urban future.”¹¹³ It is mandated with advancing socially and environmentally-sustainable urban development and guarantee housing for all delivering programs at the regional and country level.¹¹⁴ In its 2014-2019 Strategic Plan, the organization identifies seven areas for action: urban legislation, land, and governance; urban planning and design, urban economy, urban basic services, housing and slum upgrading, risk reduction and rehabilitation, and research and capacity-development.¹¹⁵ It uses advocacy, outreach and communication tools to raise awareness of the urban agenda, including through the World Urban Campaign, an international platform to exchange best practices and innovative ideas, the World Urban Forum, and other publications on the matter.¹¹⁶ It has endorsed the City Prosperity Initiative to specifically monitor progress made toward SDG 11.¹¹⁷ Lead by UN-Habitat, the international community conducted a review of the progress made on SDG 11 at the 2018 High-Level Political Forum publishing the *SDG 11 Synthesis Report* with contributions across the UN system.¹¹⁸ The report provides Member States with an overview of lessons learned, continuous challenges to be addressed, and priorities for national policies, as well as efforts to improve data collection and monitoring of results.¹¹⁹ UN-Habitat is also a member of

¹⁰⁵ UN-Habitat, *Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030*, 2018.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/RES/72/226)*, 2018.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ UN-Habitat, *UN-Habitat at a glance*.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ UN-Habitat, *UN-Habitat’s Strategic Plan 2014-2019*, 2013, pp. 8-12.

¹¹⁶ UN-Habitat, *UN-Habitat’s Strategic Plan 2014-2019*, 2013, p. 13; UN-Habitat, *World Urban Campaign*.

¹¹⁷ UN-Habitat, *UN-Habitat for the Sustainable Development Goals*.

¹¹⁸ UN-Habitat et al., *Tracking Progress Towards Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements - SDG 11 Synthesis Report*, 2018.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

the Cities Alliance initiative, together with the World Bank and other sponsors, to end slum areas in cities.¹²⁰ This alliance gives policy recommendations for rapidly urbanizing cities to help end poverty, provides urbanization strategies to end slum areas, and creates housing in developing countries.¹²¹ The Cities Alliance has given over 400 grants to 80 developing countries in the past 19 years.¹²²

UNDP works closely with UN-Habitat on strengthening national institutional and policy frameworks, providing advocacy and research, following a multi-stakeholder approach for implementing programs, and integrating sustainable urbanization in the overall development assistance of the UN.¹²³ The organization adopted its *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy* in 2016 outlining UNDP's support to sustainable, inclusive and resilient cities specifically in developing countries.¹²⁴ Its goal is to apply an "urban lens" to the existing programmatic work of UNDP and to ensure that projects and programs fit the more prevalent urban context and the unique challenges of different cities.¹²⁵ UNDP utilizes its in-country experiences, technical expertise, and national and global networks and partnerships to provide a range of services.¹²⁶ The focus lies on: urban sustainable development, meaning especially poverty eradication and reducing inequality in cities; democratic governance and civic participation in decision-making; and increasing resilience against economic and environmental shocks.¹²⁷ UNDP has different clusters to address this issue and leads or partners with many initiatives to implement the ten targets under SDG 11.¹²⁸ For instance, the UNDP works with the Global Environmental Finance Unit, Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction initiative, the Urban Health and Justice Initiative in partnership with UN Population Fund, the Cities Alliance, United Cities and Local Governments, Shack and Slum Dwellers International, and many others.¹²⁹

Other UN organizations such as the UN Development Group (UNDG), the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), and the UN Environment Programme (UN Environment) all have projects and policies that relate specifically to sustainable development in urban settings.¹³⁰ UN Environment focuses on the environmental aspects of urban development, such as resource efficiency of city infrastructure, clean cities with less pollution and improved waste management, and green cities that promote well-being and healthy urban ecosystems.¹³¹ UNDG focuses on supporting the implementation of sustainable development on the country level and promotes UN coherence in joint programs, providing leadership and strategic guidance on mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda.¹³² UNDG has, for instance, published a guide for the UN country teams located in the Asia-Pacific region on how to integrate urbanization into the overall development efforts in the country.¹³³

UNISDR spearheads the "Making Cities Resilient" campaign working together with local authorities to tackle poor urban governance, make cities safer, such as schools and hospitals, and implement sustainable urbanization principles to increase overall resilience of cities in the event of disasters.¹³⁴ The 100 Resilient Cities project, founded in 2013, helps cities to become more resilient by providing funding, capacity-building, and technical assistance.¹³⁵

¹²⁰ Cities Alliance, *Our Operations*, 2016.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Cities Alliance, *About Cities Alliance*, 2016.

¹²³ UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2016, p. 20.

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ Ibid., p. 18.

¹²⁶ Ibid., p. 19.

¹²⁷ Ibid., p. 18.

¹²⁸ Ibid., pp. 51-54.

¹²⁹ Ibid., pp. 51-54.

¹³⁰ UN Environment, *Sustainable Cities*; UNDG, *About*, 2016; UNISDR, *Making Cities Resilient*; UNISDR, *Urban Risk Reduction and Resilience*, 2014.

¹³¹ UN Environment, *Sustainable Cities*.

¹³² UNDG, *About*, 2016.

¹³³ UNDG, *Integrating Urbanization into the CCA and UNDAF – A Guide for United Nations Country Teams*, 2014.

¹³⁴ UNISDR, *Making Cities Resilient*; UNISDR, *Urban Risk Reduction and Resilience*, 2014.

¹³⁵ Armstrong, *A Focus on Impact: Evidence from the First Four Years*, 2017.

Building Resilient Cities

As cities face an increased risk not only from natural shocks but also man-made economic and social crises such as “high unemployment, inefficient public transportation systems, endemic violence or terrorist attacks, or chronic food and water shortages,” there is a need to make cities more resilient against these challenges.¹³⁶ People’s lives and livelihoods as well as cities’ economic, social, and environmental assets are constantly exposed to these risks.¹³⁷ Therefore, building resilient cities is an important aspect of urbanization and sustainable development.¹³⁸ Urban resilience is defined by the 100 Resilient Cities project as the ability “of individuals, communities, businesses, and institutions within a city to survive, adapt, and grow regardless of the kinds of chronic stresses or acute crisis they may experience.”¹³⁹

The first step in addressing the risks is the need for all cities to develop a resilience strategy.¹⁴⁰ However, having such a strategy at hand is not yet the norm.¹⁴¹ Cities might lack the national support or institutional capacity for developing a resilience strategy; or they require more technical expertise to fully assess the risks of a natural disaster occurring or identify economic and social instabilities.¹⁴² While there are initiatives such as the 100 Resilient Cities project or the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, there is no large-scale coordination of cities within or across Member States to share research, analysis, or policy practices.¹⁴³ For instance, to prevent negative impacts of economic shocks on the entire urban economy, cities should ensure that there is a diverse number of industries within their city.¹⁴⁴ In case one industry is destroyed or productivity is reduced, other sectors can continue to attract business and give citizens the possibility to find employment in other industries.¹⁴⁵ In addition, cities should build dynamic economies that grow and foster conditions generating new ideas and innovations.¹⁴⁶ Social instability and violence are often a sign of a lack of social cohesion, marginalization or disenfranchisement of populations, large migration movements, or cultural disputes.¹⁴⁷ Member States need to develop guidelines to manage cities successfully amidst such crises and emergencies.¹⁴⁸

More commonly, DRR and resilience strategies look at natural shocks, their prevention, mitigation of consequences, and more sustainable and durable reconstruction of urban infrastructure, service provision, and livelihood opportunities.¹⁴⁹ By 2030, climate change and natural disasters may cost cities worldwide \$314 billion each year and push 77 million urban residents into poverty.¹⁵⁰ More than 10,000 people have died since 2015 due to earthquakes and tsunamis.¹⁵¹ Floods are one of the most frequent natural disasters with the highest costs regarding lives lost and infrastructure being destroyed.¹⁵² The costs of floods in coastal cities alone are projected to reach about \$1 trillion annually by 2050.¹⁵³ With the adoption of the Sendai Framework, UNISDR set up an outline for Member States to use when designing resilient cities.¹⁵⁴ The scorecard’s first level looks at the Sendai Framework’s targets and indicators with 47 questions, such as: is there a disaster plan in place, is there more than one industry established, have

¹³⁶ 100 Resilient Cities, *100 Resilient Cities*, 2018.

¹³⁷ UNISDR, *Urban Risk Reduction and Resilience*, 2014.

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*

¹³⁹ 100 Resilient Cities, *100 Resilient Cities*, 2018.

¹⁴⁰ 100 Resilient Cities, *100 Resilient Cities*, 2018; UNISDR, *Urban Risk Reduction and Resilience*, 2014.

¹⁴¹ UNISDR, *Urban Risk Reduction and Resilience*, 2014.

¹⁴² *Ibid.*

¹⁴³ Brewer, What does it take to build a resilient city?, *The Guardian*, 2017.

¹⁴⁴ OECD, *Resilient Cities*, 2018.

¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁶ UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2018, p. 37.

¹⁴⁷ OECD, *Resilient Cities*, 2018.

¹⁴⁸ Watson, What makes a city resilient?, *The Guardian*, 2014.

¹⁴⁹ UNISDR, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, 2015.

¹⁵⁰ World Bank, *3 Big Ideas to Achieve Sustainable Cities and Communities*, 2018.

¹⁵¹ NASA, *Earthquakes*.

¹⁵² NASA, *NASA Flood Response Workshop*, 2016.

¹⁵³ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁴ UNISDR, *Disaster resilience scorecard for cities*, 2017.

risks been adequately identified, among others.¹⁵⁵ The second level of analysis goes much more in-depth and results in a resilience plan that is created specifically for each city.¹⁵⁶ This tool can be used to help guide cities in becoming resilient because it suggests main areas that cities need to address in the early stages of resilience building.¹⁵⁷ However, assessing the resilience of a city is difficult, requires a high-level of technical expertise, as well as technological equipment.¹⁵⁸ Technology and knowledge transfer is still limited and developing countries face a lack of resources to, first, assess the risks of their cities and, second, to make the necessary infrastructural as well as regulatory changes to counter such risks.¹⁵⁹ Lastly, the upcoming of so-called digital cities presents new opportunities and challenges for urban actors as digital infrastructure needs to be protected in case of disaster while simultaneously information and communications technology-based solutions could help increase a cities resilience.¹⁶⁰

Sustainable and Inclusive Cities

Beyond the challenges that cities face from natural and man-made shocks, cities also face problems from a lack of sustainability and inclusiveness.¹⁶¹ Often times, cities struggle with keeping all aspects of their city sustainable and environmentally friendly.¹⁶² Cities often lack the necessary investment in sustainable aspects such as green urban spaces, which could provide necessary public spaces while contributing to preserving eco-system, and standards of living.¹⁶³ Additionally, sustainable cities require substantial investment in environmentally friendly housing, such as better insulated houses that require less electricity for cooling or heating.¹⁶⁴ Cities may look into using local materials and vernacular architecture when building and planning new housing developments.¹⁶⁵ Another aspect of sustainable urban planning is the generation and efficient consumption of energy.¹⁶⁶ Installing renewable energy systems have better environmental outcomes than other forms of energy.¹⁶⁷ Cities face a dilemma of using cheap energy that impacts the environment versus clean energy that requires an upfront investment.¹⁶⁸ Another prevalent problem of rapid urbanization is high rates of pollution and water contamination negatively impacting the health of citizens.¹⁶⁹ To tackle air pollution, for instance, Member States have to look at low-emission and public transportation in cities.¹⁷⁰ Public transportation often cannot keep up with the rapid urbanization and increase in demand.¹⁷¹ Integrating new transportation comes with a high upfront cost and requires years to complete expansion.¹⁷² In the past, many developing states chose to expand roads rather than build public transportation systems.¹⁷³ Cities are increasingly making use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to create sustainable housing, green space, and transportation, but PPPs require sets of rules to prove successful.¹⁷⁴ Some Member States also favor PPPs for the provision of basic services such as

¹⁵⁵ Ibid.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

¹⁵⁷ Ibid.

¹⁵⁸ Quinlan et al., *Measuring and assessing resilience: broadening understanding through multiple disciplinary perspectives*, 2015; UNISDR, *Putting science to work for resilience*, 2018.

¹⁵⁹ UNISDR, *Putting science to work for resilience*, 2018; UNISDR, *Urban Risk Reduction and Resilience*, 2014.

¹⁶⁰ ICLEI, *Resilient Cities Report 2018: Tracking local progress on the resilience targets of SDG 11*, 2018, p. 19.

¹⁶¹ UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2018.

¹⁶² Ibid.

¹⁶³ WHO, *Urban Green Spaces*, 2018.

¹⁶⁴ UN-Habitat, *Global Network for Sustainable Housing*, 2018.

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶⁶ Tan, Cities: the best place to strive for sustainability, *Sustainable Cities Blog*, 2015.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

¹⁶⁸ Ibid.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

¹⁷⁰ Tan, Cities: the best place to strive for sustainability, *Sustainable Cities Blog*, 2015; UNDESA, *Sustainable Transport*.

¹⁷¹ UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2018.

¹⁷² Ibid.

¹⁷³ Ibid.

¹⁷⁴ UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2018; UN-Habitat, *Public-Private Partnership in Housing and Urban Development*, 2011.

education and health care.¹⁷⁵ It is important that public authorities assert sufficient oversight to ensure that these basic services are accessible and affordable for all and do not exacerbate inequalities among citizens.¹⁷⁶ However, some governments do not prioritize investment in basic infrastructure for the poorest and prefer investing in commercial expansion and building condominiums.¹⁷⁷ To address this, citizens need to be able to participate in urban planning, decision-making, budgeting, and monitoring and evaluation of urban projects as UNDP fosters in its National Urban Poverty Reduction Programme.¹⁷⁸

Conclusion

As more and more communities continue to rapidly urbanize and the overall population increases, it is crucial that urbanization is comprehensively planned, designed, and managed. Developing countries, particularly in Africa and Asia are facing significant urban growth over the next 30 years.¹⁷⁹ Sustainable urbanization decreases the probability of creating slums and enables social and economic development of Member States while ensuring environmentally conscious policies.¹⁸⁰ The current rate of urbanization puts significant pressure on Member States to mitigate the negative impact on the environment and reduce vulnerability toward disasters.¹⁸¹ Member States need to cooperate on the international, regional, and local level to find innovative policies and solutions for energy consumption and industrial activity, waste production, transportation needs, as well as demand for affordable housing, other public services and civic participation.¹⁸²

Further Research

In addition to the information provided in this guide, moving forward, delegates should consider questions such as: How can Member States address and reconcile rapid urbanization and environmental sustainability? What barriers exist to sustainable urban development? How can the international community help combating the negative impacts of unplanned rapid urbanization? What are the responsibilities for developed and developing states? What mechanisms could incentivize sustainable urban development? What steps could be taken to encourage greater compliance with commitments made in the New Urban Agenda? How can UNDP use its comparative advantage to help Member States with sustainable urbanization?

Annotated Bibliography

Adelphi & Cities Alliance. (2018). *Local and Regional Governments in the Follow-up and Review of Global Sustainability Agendas*. Retrieved 4 November 2018 from:

<https://www.adelphi.de/en/publication/local-and-regional-governments-follow-and-review-global-sustainability-agendas>

The report commissioned by the Cities Alliance looks at the localization and urban sustainability dimension of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, and the Paris Agreement. It discusses how to successfully follow-up and review local efforts made to implement these agendas. Especially relevant to the topic are the chapters on capacity-building on the local level, as well as partnerships for sustainable urban development and the process of evaluation and learning for sustainable urban development. The report offers recommendations for strengthening the follow-up and review processes regarding urbanization issues and analyzes the role of local and regional governments, local non-

¹⁷⁵ Ibid.

¹⁷⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷⁷ Brewer, What does it take to build a resilient city?, *The Guardian*, 2017.

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

¹⁷⁹ UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2016, p. 1; UNDESA, *Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*.

¹⁸⁰ UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2016, p. 1.

¹⁸¹ UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2016, p. 1; UNDESA, *Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*.

¹⁸² UN-Habitat, *Global Network for Sustainable Housing*, 2018.

governmental actors, and global urban actors. Delegates should read this report to gain an in-depth understanding of the importance of follow-up and review processes for the implementation of sustainable urban programs and how to do so successfully in partnerships.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *Sustainable Development Goal 11* [Website]. Retrieved 4 November 2018 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg11>

This web page is part of the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform informing readers about everything regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its 17 SDGs, and related events as well as monitoring and review processes. On SDG 11, the page lists the ten targets and respective indicators under the SDG and provides an overview of the progress made toward the achievement of SDG 11 from 2016 to 2018. It also highlights important figures and trends of urbanization as well as related topics to sustainable urbanization, such as DRR or transportation. Delegates should consult this page to learn about urbanization as a dimension of the 2030 Agenda, where progress has been made, and where challenges persist.

United Nations Development Programme. (2016). *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy* [Report]. Retrieved 5 July 2018 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/sustainable-urbanization-strategy.html>

This report emphasizes the importance of effective development assistance being provided specifically tailored to the urban context. It introduces both urbanization and sustainable development in a way that is very easy to understand looking at the dimensions of sustainability, inclusiveness, and resilience. UNDP uses this document to guide all of its activities regarding sustainable urbanization and is therefore a crucial document to review for delegates. It gives delegates an idea of UNDP's services, comparative advantage over other agencies and, hence, areas on which to focus UNDP's efforts. Furthermore, the annex provides delegates with detailed information on UNDP activities, initiatives, and partnerships working toward to fulfilment of each target under SDG 11.

United Nations Development Programme. (2017). *A Framework for Action* [Report]. Retrieved 5 July 2018 from:

http://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/library/reports/leveraging_urbanization_and_governance_for_growth_in_africa_a_framework_for_action.html

This report focuses on urbanization and development in Africa. While it does not focus on all Member States, it gives crucial information and recommendations on what Member States in Africa should do about the future of their urbanization considering that most urban development will take place on the African continent. Since most states in Africa are yet to go through urbanization, this report is useful in terms of information for Member States designing a sustainable urban development plan. Delegates would benefit from reading this document to learn about a comprehensive framework for urban growth enabling social and economic development and poverty alleviation. Moreover, delegates get to know the priority areas of engagement for future joint UNDP/UN-Habitat task force.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2013). *UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2014-2019*. Retrieved 6 November 2018 from: <https://unhabitat.org/un-habitats-strategic-plan-2014-2019/>

UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan includes: a strategic analysis of the current state of sustainable urbanization and why certain actions should be taken; a list of core elements of the Strategic Plan and what actions should be taken; and, lastly, a plan for the strategic implementation of activities answering the question of how initiatives should be implemented. UN-Habitat focuses on seven areas in its plan: urban legislation, land and governance, urban planning and design, urban economy, urban basic services, housing and slum upgrading, risk reduction and rehabilitation, and research and capacity-development. Delegates should read the Strategic Plan in detail to learn about

implementation strategies, UN-Habitat's partnerships, financing mechanisms, and the importance of monitoring and evaluation.

United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. (2016). *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*. Retrieved 5 November 2018 from: <http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-English.pdf>

The New Urban Agenda is the most recent global framework guiding the international community in its efforts to reconcile rapid urbanization and sustainable development overall. This document includes the vision for a sustainable urban future for all and an implementation plan to overcome the challenges and development gaps on the way to make this a reality. Delegates should familiarize themselves with the objectives and commitments Member States have agreed upon moving away from business as usual and allowing a holistic approach to planning, financing, developing, governing, and managing cities and human settlements. The New Urban Agenda is closely interlinked with the 2030 Agenda and working toward the New Urban Agenda is imperative to achieve the SDGs.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2016). *Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures* [Report]. Retrieved 5 July 2018 from: <http://wcr.unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2016/05/WCR-%20Full-Report-2016.pdf>

Although this report mostly concerns Habitat-II and the future of Habitat-III, it explains in detail some recommendations concerning urbanization and the SDGs. The report details information about the New Urban Agenda which has a very crucial connection to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The second topic of this report is "Urbanization as a Transformative Force" which discusses important dimensions of urban economy and employment, the development of urban spaces, mobility, energy, resilience, democratic participation, and the use of (information and communications) technology in the advancement of urban areas. The third chapter gives several recommendations on the issue of sustainable housing and combating the creation slums. It is recommended that delegates read this report because it gives very relevant recommendations to address the challenges of rapidly urbanizing communities.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2018). *Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030*. Retrieved 1 August 2018 from: <http://wuf9.org/kuala-lumpur-declaration/>

The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030 is a crucial document as it is the result of a participatory process among national and local governments, parliamentarians, civil society, older persons, women, youth, children, persons with disabilities, grassroots groups, indigenous peoples and local communities, private sector, foundations and philanthropies, international and regional organizations, academia, professionals and other relevant stakeholders. The declaration calls for implementation frameworks for the New Urban Agenda, including empowering local actors, dialogue and sharing knowledge as well as innovative technologies, comprehensive monitoring and reporting systems, inclusive partnerships, and an all-encompassing approach to urban development taking into account social, economic, and environmental aspects. Delegates should read this declaration because it offers recommendations for implementing the New Urban Agenda and achieving sustainable cities.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme et al. (2018). *Tracking Progress Toward Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements - SDG 11 Synthesis Report*. Retrieved 5 November 2018 from: <https://unhabitat.org/sdg-11-synthesis-report/>

The Synthesis Report is an incredibly comprehensive document on SDG 11 and international efforts toward making cities more inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. In collaboration many UN agencies have contributed to the report discussing the importance of urbanization for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda overall, what progress has been made, and most importantly how to report and measure such progress. The report discusses Voluntary National Reviews and other possible reporting

and monitoring tools, the general challenges of collecting urban data, the SDG 11 indicators, and what lessons can be drawn for the future from this review process. Delegates should read this report to be up-to-date on the developments in the urban sphere, understand why sound data collection mechanisms as well as monitoring and evaluation are important for further progress in this area, and what challenges the international community encounters regarding reporting and monitoring.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (n.d.). *Making Cities Resilient* [Website]. Retrieved 6 November 2018 from: <https://www.unisdr.org/we/campaign/cities>

This website presents efforts of UNISDR regarding DRR and resilience specifically in the urban context. It gives delegates a good overview of the Making Cities Resilient campaign, offers news on country- and region-specific DRR and resilience strategies and initiatives, and discusses local governments as both the targets and drivers for DRR initiatives. The website furthermore links to the upcoming Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction providing delegates a plethora of information on disaster risk assessments and the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

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II. Electoral Cycle Support in Post-Conflict Settings

“Winning or losing of the election is less important than strengthening the country.”¹⁸³

Introduction

Elections are a vital tool for legitimate political processes as a means for people to express their opinion and preferences, mandate their representatives, and voice their will.¹⁸⁴ Elections are also essential for establishing legitimate institutions and representatives through inclusiveness, credibility, and integrity.¹⁸⁵ Many Member States still face challenges in regard to electoral processes.¹⁸⁶ Nevertheless, effective governance by ensuring inclusive, transparent and credible electoral processes, is essential for sustainable development.¹⁸⁷ For this reason, providing assistance to elections is part of the United Nations’ (UN) work and a large part of the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) democratic governance efforts.¹⁸⁸

Electoral cycle support is a term that encompasses electoral assistance, like aiding electoral stakeholders with election-related tasks such as capacity-building, voter registration, operational knowledge sharing, technical assistance, and electoral observation with the underlying notion that electoral processes are not a single event but a dynamic, cyclical process.¹⁸⁹ Post-conflict settings are especially sensitive to the performance and outcome of elections due to the volatile security environment they have to be conducted in.¹⁹⁰ Post-conflict environments are prone to experiencing recurring violence during elections due to remaining grievances and/or incomplete reintegration of conflict parties into society, partial disarmament efforts, and missing government structures.¹⁹¹ Hence, elections are a necessary basis for governance and to induce peace, stability, and sustainable development.¹⁹²

In addition, electoral cycle support in post-conflict situations is a complex task since many election-related activities are performed for either the first time or after a long period of violent conflict and infrastructure, and therefore expertise is often missing.¹⁹³ Thus, UNDP considers inclusive and participatory political processes as an opportunity to create accountability and responsiveness in governmental institutions and as a channel to promote development and equal access to institutions.¹⁹⁴ A key aspect of electoral support is the empowerment of vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as women and youth, to strengthen political processes and institutions through participation.¹⁹⁵ Thus, UNDP intensely engages in measures to promote “sustainable and inclusive democratic societies” through its electoral cycle support programs and activities.¹⁹⁶ UNDP focuses its resources on conflict prevention, especially through electoral cycle support.¹⁹⁷ UNDP offers strategic electoral assistance to approximately 60 countries a year and every two weeks supports an election, since it considers elections as the main mechanism for

¹⁸³ The Guardian, *From the archive, 23 March 1977: Indira Gandhi loses election*, 2015.

¹⁸⁴ UNDP, *UNDP Elections and Conflict Prevention Guide*, 2009, p. 1.

¹⁸⁵ Ibid.

¹⁸⁶ UNDP, *Electoral cycle support*, 2018.

¹⁸⁷ UNDP, *Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions*, 2018.

¹⁸⁸ UNDP, *UNDP Electoral Assistance Implementation Guide*, 2009, p. 1.

¹⁸⁹ ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, *Electoral Assistance*.

¹⁹⁰ UNDP, *Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions*, 2018.

¹⁹¹ Kofi Annan Foundation, *Elections and Peacebuilding: Why the timing and sequencing of transitional elections matter*. Electoral Integrity Initiative, 2017, p. 35; von Borzyskowski, *Peacebuilding Beyond Civil Wars: UN Election Assistance and Election Violence*, 2015.

¹⁹² UNDP, *Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions*, 2018.

¹⁹³ UNDP, *Elections*, 2018.

¹⁹⁴ UNDP, *UNDP Thematic Trust Funds: 2016 Annual Report*, 2016.

¹⁹⁵ UNDP, *Inclusive political processes*, 2018; UN-Women, *Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2018, p. 95.

¹⁹⁶ UNDP, *Electoral cycle support*, 2018.

¹⁹⁷ Cutillo, *International Assistance to Countries Emerging from Conflict: Review of Fifteen Years of Interventions and the Future of Peacebuilding*, 2006, p. 22.

government legitimacy.¹⁹⁸ Overall, UNDP has assisted in more than 100 Member States' elections and referendums since it began focusing on electoral assistance in the early 1990s.¹⁹⁹ To fully understand UNDP's work in electoral cycle support in post-conflict settings, it is vital to look at the existing legal framework guiding international efforts, existing measures and policies, the distinctive challenge post-conflict environments pose to electoral assistance, and the need to include women and youth as marginalized groups into political processes.

International and Regional Framework

The international and regional framework for electoral cycle support in post-conflict situations builds on key international documents, such as the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948); Article 21 of the Declaration stresses that the will of the people is the main source for governmental authority.²⁰⁰ The *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1966) emphasizes the right of all citizens to participate in elections with universal and equal suffrage, and the right to be elected for public office.²⁰¹ Furthermore, other regional and international documents such as the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* (1969) and the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (2007) highlight the importance of inclusive and accessible political processes, for example, by providing legal frameworks against the discrimination of often marginalized groups.²⁰² The *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (1979), which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, explicitly reaffirms women's fundamental right of political participation, including the right to vote and be elected, to represent their country at international meetings, and to perform public functions.²⁰³ Furthermore, the *Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers* (2005) is an extensive elaboration of guidelines drafted by 20 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and initiated by the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD), which is endorsed by 55 intergovernmental and international organizations and as such represents a common streamlining of international efforts of electoral observation.²⁰⁴

Electoral cycle support is inherently included in the *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), also known as the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.²⁰⁵ The agenda is a plan of action including 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets building on the Millennium Development Goals to promote all economic, social, and environmental development, the dimensions of sustainable development.²⁰⁶ Electoral assistance is included as part of SDG 16, which address the need of peaceful, inclusive, and just societies with strong and accountable institutions.²⁰⁷ As highlighted by SDG 16.6 and 16.7, electoral processes are essential for development and peace because they create accountable, inclusive, and transparent institutions and decision-making.²⁰⁸

¹⁹⁸ UNDP, *Electoral cycle support*, 2018; UNDP, *Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions*, 2018.

¹⁹⁹ UNDP, *Electoral cycle support*, 2018.

²⁰⁰ UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*, 1948.

²⁰¹ UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Second Optional Protocol Aiming at the Abolition of the Death Penalty (A/RES/44/128)*, 1989.

²⁰² UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (A/RES/61/106)*, 2006; UN General Assembly, *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*, 1969; UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (A/RES/61/106)*, 2007.

²⁰³ UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979.

²⁰⁴ National Democratic Institute, *Observation and Code of Conduct for International Election Observers*, 2005.

²⁰⁵ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES70/1)*, 2015; UNDP & EC, *Youth Participation in Electoral Processes - Handbook for Electoral Management Bodies*, 2017.

²⁰⁶ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES70/1)*, 2015.

²⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 14.

²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

Role of the International System

Demand for electoral cycle support started increasing in the early 1990s.²⁰⁹ As a reaction, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 46/137 (1991) on “Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Periodic and Genuine Elections.”²¹⁰ This resolution demanded that a focal point for electoral assistance be established to coordinate international electoral assistance efforts and ensure program consistency.²¹¹ As a result, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs was designated as the focal point for electoral assistance activities.²¹² The General Assembly reiterated in its resolution 72/164 (2017) the importance, of efficiency in the election process through ongoing international and regional cooperation, transparency and oversight, and equal participation of vulnerable groups such as women and persons with disabilities for ensuring democratic process.²¹³ Furthermore, the UN Secretary-General elaborated on efforts to promote democratic transitions and elections, as well as the importance of inclusion, the attention to grievances because of exclusion and inequality, and the role of women and youth to foster international peace and security in his “Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization” (2017).²¹⁴

Youth participation is highlighted as an important factor for peacebuilding in post-conflict situations, as it promotes the inclusiveness of all segments of society, as stated in Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018).²¹⁵ Security Council resolution 1889 (2009) reiterates the positive impact women’s inclusion and participation in decision-making in post-conflict situations has.²¹⁶ Moreover, Security Council resolution 2122 (2013) highlights women’s participation during electoral processes.²¹⁷ Gender inclusion has been on the electoral cycle support agenda since Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on “Women and Peace and Security.”²¹⁸

UNDP is considered the main coordinator and implementation entity for electoral cycle support and its work is guided by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, the focal point for electoral assistance.²¹⁹ UNDP provides capacity-building for Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) and other actors to increase election credibility, provide assistance with legal reforms, provide expertise in regard to financing, support voter and civic education, and suggest strategies to increase political participation of marginalized groups.²²⁰ UNDP aims at reducing the risk of electoral conflict and violence.²²¹ In post-conflict situations, UNDP assists in restoring core functions of government while aiming at including minorities and often excluded groups such as women and youth.²²² For this reason, UNDP utilizes about \$565 million to promote inclusive governance and development at the local level.²²³ To intensify its electoral cycle support, UNDP established the Global Programme for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS) in 2009 to harmonize electoral cycle support.²²⁴ GPECS focused on the one side on global assistance,

²⁰⁹ UN DPI, *Democracy*; ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, *Electoral Assistance*.

²¹⁰ UN General Assembly, *Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections (A/RES/46/137)*, 1991.

²¹¹ ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, *Electoral Assistance*.

²¹² UN DPI, *Democracy*.

²¹³ UN General Assembly, *Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization (A/RES/46/137)*, 1991.

²¹⁴ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/72/1)*, 2017.

²¹⁵ UN Security Council, *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2250 (2015))*, 2015; UN Security Council, *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2419(2018))*, 2018.

²¹⁶ UN Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1889 (2009))*, 2009.

²¹⁷ UN Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/2122 (2013))*, 2013.

²¹⁸ UN Security Council, *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1325 (2000))*, 2000.

²¹⁹ UNDP, *Electoral cycle support*, 2018.

²²⁰ *Ibid.*

²²¹ *Ibid.*

²²² UNDP, *Peaceful. Just. Inclusive.*, 2018.

²²³ *Ibid.*

²²⁴ UNDP, *Global Programme for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS) – Summary of Achievements 2009-2013*, 2013; UNDP, *Global Project for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS Phase II 2015 -2017)*, 2018.

gender mainstreaming, knowledge, and tools, and other national and regional capacity-building activities.²²⁵ GPECS was prolonged for a second phase (2015-2017) focusing on capacity-building, regional cooperation, and gender mainstreaming in electoral cycle support.²²⁶ UNDP follows a “partnership approach” in electoral assistance by cooperating with other UN entities and organizations such as the UN Electoral Assistance Division and the European Commission, with which it has created a Joint Task Force in Electoral Assistance to provide technical assistance.²²⁷ UNDP closely cooperates with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) since 2016.²²⁸ They work to promote good governance, accountability of governmental institutions, and inclusive and credible elections by exchanging information, research cooperation, training, and enhancing the Administration and Cost of Elections (ACE) Electoral Knowledge Network.²²⁹ UNDP collaborated with government ministries and civil society organizations (CSOs) to establish the ACE network, which assists in creating transparent and credible electoral processes by providing an online portal with knowledge and information on electoral processes, with statistics, data, resources, etc.²³⁰ The main aim of the ACE network is to provide knowledge and a network for experts in the field, the Practitioners’ Network.²³¹

Among the many efforts to consolidate electoral cycle support internationally, the Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Election (BRIDGE) is a cooperation between UNDP, UNEAD, the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), and IFES.²³² BRIDGE provides knowledge sharing and expertise for electoral practitioners and stakeholders by organizing workshops and undertaking assessments.²³³ BRIDGE workshops trained more than 15,000 election professionals and key stakeholders in over 100 countries making it one of the main capacity-development packages for electoral assistance.²³⁴ The European Union and UNDP partnership focuses on electoral cycle support with a priority on promoting the SDGs and democratic governance.²³⁵ The partnership was formalized in 2006 with the Electoral Assistance Guidelines and has worked in 200 projects and more than 50 countries.²³⁶ Performance indicators were developed to measure electoral assistance projects and the EC-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance (EC-UNDP JTF) was formed as a coordination mechanism tasked with technical and advisory support for in-country and remote projects, best practice sharing and education with its publications, as well as free online courses.²³⁷ The task force is currently among others supporting electoral assistance in Afghanistan, Zambia, Kenya, and Malawi.²³⁸

Electoral Cycle Support in Post-conflict Settings

The term electoral assistance refers to a number of logistical, technical, and/or financial tasks and initiatives, such as training EMBs that help conduct elections, education programs for voters and national staff, procuring ballot boxes, etc.²³⁹ The Legal Empowerment and Assistance for the Disadvantaged

²²⁵ UNDP, *Global Project for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS Phase II 2015 -2017)*, 2018.

²²⁶ Ibid.

²²⁷ UNDP, *Electoral cycle support*, 2018.

²²⁸ UNDP, *Joint UNDP-DPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention – Annual Report 2017*, 2018.

²²⁹ UNDP, *IFES and UNDP sign a Memorandum of Understanding to expand collaboration in electoral practices*, 2016.

²³⁰ ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, *About ACE*.

²³¹ ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, *About the Practitioners’ Network*.

²³² BRIDGE, *About BRIDGE*, 2009.

²³³ Ibid.

²³⁴ UNDP, *Elections*, 2018.

²³⁵ UNDP, *Electoral cycle support*, 2018; EU & UNDP, *About us: The EC-UNDP Partnership on Electoral Assistance*.

²³⁶ UNDP & EC, *Youth Participation in Electoral Processes - Handbook for Electoral Management Bodies*, 2017.

²³⁷ UNDP & EC, *eLearnings*.

²³⁸ EU & UNDP, *Our Projects*.

²³⁹ UNDP, *Inclusive Electoral Processes: A Guide for Electoral Management Bodies on Promoting Gender Equality and Women’s Participation*, 2015, p. 6; Lühmann, *UN Electoral Assistance: Does it Matter for the Quality of Elections?*, 2016, p. 4.

(LEAD) Project has worked to improve grievance counselling and policy frameworks toward inclusion in Indonesia at the local level from 2007 to 2011.²⁴⁰ The field of electoral assistance arose to prominence in the 1990s as regional and international organizations offered short-term support to national institutions.²⁴¹ This period gave rise to the realization that short-term, ad-hoc electoral assistance is not sufficient to establish lasting peace and governance.²⁴² The understanding of effective electoral assistance, its scope, and its activities changed after the UNDP, the European Commission (EC), and IDEA presented the so-called “electoral cycle approach” in 2007.²⁴³ This electoral cycle support approach underlines the notion that elections constitute more than just what occurs on election day.²⁴⁴ Electoral processes are understood as cyclical and therefore electoral cycle support focuses on assisting electoral processes on the long-term, meaning before, during, and after elections, by providing short-term expertise, logistical, and financial support but also long-term capacity-building, constitutional and legal transition assistance, and even promoting empowerment measures throughout the electoral phases and/or cycles.²⁴⁵ This change in the understanding of electoral assistance led to electoral assistance widening not only conceptually, but also in its time, scope, and toolset.²⁴⁶ The electoral cycle concept can be applied to development policy planning and electoral assistance programs, allowing for long-term planning and engagement, for example, by fostering knowledge development and capacity-building, as well as by inclusion of short-term activities such as voter registration into a grander strategy.²⁴⁷ These efforts translate into international development measures that for example, UNDP invests on average \$565 million to help foster inclusive governance at the local level as part of their development strategy.²⁴⁸

Post-conflict settings represent an extraordinary challenge for peacebuilding and electoral assistance.²⁴⁹ After a conflict has ended, Member States find themselves confronted with an environment characterized by insecurity, resentment, and deep societal grievances.²⁵⁰ In post-conflict settings, societies have to rebuild governance capacities and the rule of law, ensure security and stability, and regain societal cohesion, and high-quality, transparent, inclusive, and credible electoral processes must be established.²⁵¹ Inclusive electoral processes are a high aim by itself and even more challenging to achieve in post-conflict settings because of the disastrous impact that the conflict have left on the economic growth and overall development of the country; post-conflict settings are often located in regions that still have to be disarmed, where social cohesion is low, and the effects of war are still very present structurally.²⁵² In addition, elections in post-conflict settings are often perceived as indicators for change and inclusive ones can help overcome grievances and resolve conflicts.²⁵³ Moreover, electoral assistance in post-conflict settings tends to focus on short-term issues and targets, thus mainly dealing with electoral institution assistance rather than electoral stakeholders.²⁵⁴ This changed with the introduction of the electoral cycle approach, which focuses on all activities relating to elections short and long-term.²⁵⁵

²⁴⁰ UNDP, *Elections, 2018*; UNDP, *The Legal Empowerment and Assistance for the Disadvantaged (LEAD)*, 2018.

²⁴¹ Lührmann, *UN Electoral Assistance: Does it Matter for the Quality of Elections?*, 2016, p. 6.

²⁴² ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, *Electoral Cycle*.

²⁴³ Lührmann, *UN Electoral Assistance: Does it Matter for the Quality of Elections?*, 2016, p. 6.

²⁴⁴ ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, *Electoral Cycle*.

²⁴⁵ UNDP Electoral Assistance Implementation Toolkit, *Core Concepts – Making Connections: Electoral Cycles*, 2010.

²⁴⁶ Lührmann, *UN Electoral Assistance: Does it Matter for the Quality of Elections?*, 2016, p. 6.

²⁴⁷ ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, *Electoral Cycle*.

²⁴⁸ UNDP, *Peaceful. Just. Inclusive*, 2018.

²⁴⁹ EU, *How the EU can support peaceful post-election transitions of power: Lessons from Africa*, 2012, p. 26.

²⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 13.

²⁵¹ EU, *How the EU can support peaceful post-election transitions of power: Lessons from Africa*, 2012.

²⁵² UNDP, *Elections and Conflict Prevention Guide*, 2009, p. 8; UNDP, *Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions*, 2018; UNDP, *Inclusive Electoral Processes: A Guide for Electoral Management Bodies on Promoting Gender Equality and Women’s Participation*, 2015, p. 3; Global Commission on Elections, Democracy & Security, *The Report of the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security*, 2012, p. iv, 28.

²⁵³ UNDP, *Elections and Conflict Prevention Guide*, 2009, p. 8.

²⁵⁴ ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, *Electoral Assistance*.

²⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

Inclusion of Marginalized Groups in Electoral Cycle Support

The term inclusive political process refers to high citizen participation.²⁵⁶ Inclusiveness is an important element of credible, transparent, and sustainable electoral cycles.²⁵⁷ The more inclusive a political process is, the more it can compensate for structural inequalities like uneven wealth distribution and access to education, remedy societal tensions, improve social cohesion, and achieve peace.²⁵⁸ This is reiterated in SDG 16 as it emphasizes the relationship between peace and development; peace is a necessary condition for sustainable development.²⁵⁹ In an environment of armed violence and insecurity, development is hindered as economic development, social cohesion, and the rule of law are affected by all forms of violence; sustainable development requires peace and stability, which strive on effective good governance.²⁶⁰ Peace and security can be achieved in post-conflict environments with inclusive and credible political processes, which depend on universal suffrage and the inclusion of groups marginalized in post-conflict settings, including women and youth.²⁶¹ Gender equality is seen as integral to reaching the SDGs.²⁶² The UN has therefore released the handbook *Women and Elections: Guide to Promoting the Participation of Women in Elections* specifying measures to promote women's participation.²⁶³ *DPKO/DFS–DPA Joint Guidelines on Enhancing the Role of Women in Post-Conflict Electoral Processes* (2007) presents measures and tools such as voter registration and training opportunities for female candidates specifically designed for post-conflict electoral cycle support.²⁶⁴ The National Democratic Institute (NDI) has gathered best practices and tool suggestions to deliver high-quality trainings to increase women's participation.²⁶⁵ The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) is also involved in gender equality in electoral cycle support as it provides assistance in all gender equality, empowerment, and gender mainstreaming issue areas.²⁶⁶ As part of its mandate, UN-Women provides training and advice on gender equality and women's participation in elections.²⁶⁷ There are still challenges remaining in the area of gender equality in elections such as inequality of capacities and/or resources, and other gender-specific limitations.²⁶⁸

Main structural barriers for youth participation in electoral processes are age requirements, participation costs, as well as social and cultural traditions fostering the exclusion of the youth.²⁶⁹ In case of young women, they often suffer of “double discrimination” by facing barriers due to their age and gender.²⁷⁰ The Youth4Peace Global Knowledge Portal is a multi-stakeholder partnership sponsored by the UNDP, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY).²⁷¹ It encourages youth to engage in peacebuilding efforts.²⁷² It regards youth's role not as victims or contributors to violence but as capable of promoting peace and security and enhancing

²⁵⁶ UNDP, *Inclusive political processes*, 2018.

²⁵⁷ Ibid.

²⁵⁸ Ibid.

²⁵⁹ Health and Human Rights Journal, *SDG SERIES: Transforming our World: Reflections on the Sustainable Development Goal for Peace*, 2015.

²⁶⁰ UNDP, *Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions*, 2018.

²⁶¹ Global Commission on Elections, Democracy & Security, *The Report of the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security*, 2012, p. 31.

²⁶² UN-Women, *Women and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*; Shair-Rosenfield et al., *Governing Well after War: How Improving Female Representation Prolongs Post-conflict Peace*, 2018.

²⁶³ UN-Women, *Women and Elections: Guide to Promoting the Participation of Women in Elections*, 2005.

²⁶⁴ UNDP, *DPKO/DFS - DPA Joint Guidelines on Enhancing the Role of Women in Post-Conflict Electoral Processes*, 2007.

²⁶⁵ National Democratic Institute, *Women as Agents of Change: Advancing the Role of Women in Politics and Civil Society*, 2010; UNDP, *Empowering Women for Stronger Political Parties: A Guidebook to Promote Women's Political Participation*, 2012.

²⁶⁶ UNDP, *Elections*, 2018.

²⁶⁷ Ibid.

²⁶⁸ UN-Women, *Elections*.

²⁶⁹ UNDP & EC, *Youth Participation in Electoral Processes - Handbook for Electoral Management Bodies*, 2017.

²⁷⁰ Ibid.

²⁷¹ Youth4Peace, *About the Youth, Peace & Security Agenda*.

²⁷² UNDP, *UNDP Thematic Trust Funds – 2016 Annual Report*, 2018.

electoral cycle support.²⁷³ In addition, the first Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security was hosted in August 2015 and further recognized the role of youth in peace and security issues, gender equality, and socioeconomic empowerment.²⁷⁴ As a result of the forum, the *Amman Youth Declaration* (2015) was adopted, which emphasizes youth's role in post-conflict transformation.²⁷⁵ The UNDP developed its Youth Strategy 2014-2017 and included recommendations for youth empowerment and inclusion through outreach, advocacy, network building, leadership, and policy debates.²⁷⁶

Conclusion

Electoral cycle support is vital to achieving socioeconomic development and realization of the SDGs; post-conflict settings represent a special challenge to international efforts in this area.²⁷⁷ Resilient governance is core to peace and security, and electoral cycle support is key for governance: without inclusive, transparent, and credible elections the trust in governmental institutions and political processes cannot be built.²⁷⁸ Without peace and security, sustainable development is not possible, as these are the starting conditions for development.²⁷⁹ UNDP has become the central coordinating entity of electoral cycle support in the UN system.²⁸⁰ Still some barriers to electoral processes remain, such as the exclusion of groups like women and youth.²⁸¹ The efforts to coordinate measures, such as for example in the case of the EC-UNDP JTF and LEAD, in and outside of the UN system have to be continued to achieve a holistic and effective electoral cycle support policy.²⁸²

Further Research

Electoral cycle support contributes to the realization of multiple SDGs and overall international peace. There are still areas for improvement. Thus, how can UNDP further improve the effectiveness of electoral cycle support, especially in post-conflict settings? How can policies be better suited for post-conflict environments? Why is inclusion and transparency of essence for credibility and societal cohesion? Are there possibilities to make international measures more inclusive? Are there possibilities to further harmonize and streamline electoral cycle support measures in post-conflict situations? What are barriers for good governance and electoral processes? What are important dimensions international electoral cycle support does not address properly or not at all? How can electoral cycle support in post-conflict situations further foster the achievement of SDGs and with it the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*? How can electoral cycle support be even better integrated in development measures?

Annotated Bibliography

ACE Electoral Knowledge Network. (n.d.). *Electoral Assistance*. Retrieved 25 July 2018 from: <https://aceproject.org/ace-en/focus/focus-on-effective-electoral-assistance/brief-history-of-electoral-assistance-2013-three-leading-actors>

The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network is a cooperative effort of multiple organizations. Its website about electoral assistance does not only provide a broad overview of important terms and historical developments but also it includes a description of the

²⁷³ Youth4Peace, *About the Youth, Peace & Security Agenda*.

²⁷⁴ Youth4Peace, *The Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2015.

²⁷⁵ Youth4Peace, *Amman Youth Declaration*, 2015.

²⁷⁶ UNDP, *UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017*, 2014.

²⁷⁷ Global Commission on Elections, Democracy & Security, *The Report of the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security*, 2012, p. iv, 28.

²⁷⁸ UNDP, *Inclusive political processes*, 2018; Halff, *The United Nations approach to electoral management support*, 2017, p. 8; UNDP, *Joint UNDP-DPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention - Annual Report 2017*, 2018, p. 4.

²⁷⁹ UNDP, *Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions*, 2018; UNDP, *Inclusive and Credible Elections for Sustainable Peace: UNDP/GPECS Approach to Electoral Assistance in Post-conflict Countries*, 2015.

²⁸⁰ UNDP, *Electoral cycle support*, 2018.

²⁸¹ UNDP & EC, *Youth Participation in Electoral Processes - Handbook for Electoral Management Bodies*, 2017.

²⁸² UNDP & EC, *eLearnings*.

electoral cycle approach and important dimensions of electoral assistance. In addition, two case studies on Bangladesh and Sudan are presented. This website offers a good source for delegates to take an introductory read on electoral assistance and get a good first glance at the topic and dimensions to keep in mind when developing electoral cycle support policies. The information provided by the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network can be viewed as international consensus as they are the result of wide collaboration between different organizations.

Halff, M. (2017). *The United Nations approach to electoral management support*. Retrieved 6 July 2018 from: <https://ecpr.eu/Filestore/PaperProposal/46d31859-750d-4d33-8fc4-215c80b5b137.pdf>

This paper by Maarten Halff gives a good overview about the tasks encompassed in UN electoral management support. It can therefore serve as a first opportunity to familiarize oneself with electoral management. The paper gives a presentation of electoral assistance in the case of Iraq explaining difficulties and challenges present in this case. Furthermore, it explains the importance of public acceptance and confidence in elections as a central dimension of successful electoral assistance. Concluding, it provides delegates with a good source to begin research in the areas of electoral acceptance and management support, as well as for understanding the connection between electoral assistance and conflict prevention.

Health and Human Rights Journal. (2015). *SDG SERIES: Transforming our World: Reflections on the Sustainable Development Goal for Peace*. Retrieved 2 August 2018 from:

<https://www.hhrjournal.org/2015/09/sdg-series-transforming-our-world-reflections-on-the-sustainable-development-goal-for-peace/>

This short article from the Health and Human Rights Journal addresses SDG 16 and its importance for human development. Furthermore, it discusses the interrelation between SDG 16, peace, and development. As this SDG is of vital importance for the UNDP's electoral cycle support, it is recommended as a tool to become more familiar with this specific goal and the implications it has for electoral cycle support. Delegates can consult it as a first guide into SDG 16 to understand what this SDG entails and how it relates to electoral cycle support in the development context.

Kofi Annan Foundation. *Elections and Peacebuilding: Why the timing and sequencing of transitional elections matter*. Electoral Integrity Initiative. Policy Brief no. 4. Retrieved 4 July 2018 from:

<http://www.kofiannanfoundation.org/app/uploads/2017/05/Elections-and-Peacebuilding.pdf>

This policy brief by the Kofi Annan Foundation sheds light on the matter of timing and sequencing of elections in post-conflict settings by presenting existing research, components of transitional elections, and recommendations regarding areas of improvement. This is an important aspect, which should not be forgotten when evaluating case studies and past, as well as current projects. Timing and sequencing are vital for successful assistance and therefore an area of interest for delegates when developing new policy recommendations for the topic at hand. In addition, the policy brief presents numerous case studies, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liberia, Tunisia, and Kosovo.

Shair-Rosenfield, S. et al. (2018). *Governing Well after War: How Improving Female Representation Prolongs Post-conflict Peace*. *The Journal of Politics*, 79: 3. Retrieved 1 August 2018 from:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1086/691056>

This article provides considers the argument that women participation in the political decision-making process could foster peace. It provides valuable insights into marginalized citizens and deals extensively with women's contribution to society as political leaders. Moreover, it gives a good overview on the academic literature and research surrounding gender empowerment and inclusion. Through its empiric analysis of the influence of women's participation on peace durability, the potential agency of women and the importance of social spending as measures for post-conflict political processes is discussed. Delegates wishing to expand their knowledge on the role of women in electoral cycle support in post-conflict situations should consult this source.

United Nations Development Programme. (2013). *Global Programme for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS) – Summary of Achievements 2009-2013*. Retrieved 8 July 2018 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Electoral%20Systems%20and%20Processes/GPECS%20Achievements%202009-2013.pdf>

This report from UNDP assesses the success of the Global Programme for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS) from 2009 to 2013. It addresses several dimensions vital to electoral cycle support including women's empowerment and electoral capacity-building. It provides an evaluation of the GPECS, which can serve as a starting point for research. Delegates should consult this source as an opportunity to familiarize oneself with a global UNDP programme. Moreover, it elaborates on differences for national electoral programming in different regions. This source is especially helpful for a better glance at the work done by GPECS. Delegates should consult this source to get a better understanding of UNDP's work to help better embed their policy recommendations in the existing UNDP framework.

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017*. Retrieved 1 August 2018 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Youth/UNDP_Youth-Strategy-2014-17_Web.pdf

The UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017 gives a very good insight into the important aspects of youth inclusion. In addition, it provides an account of challenges to youth inclusion and programs that have been conducted in the past. It also addresses developmental challenges. It covers a great variance of youth empowerment-related activities and fields. It also tackles the issue of building lasting partnerships in the area of electoral support. Capacity-development, outreach and advocacy, global debates and networks, and national policy development to promote youth participation are discussed. It gives a good account for delegates on different dimensions included in youth empowerment and measures possibly effective to foster it and serves as a good source for delegates wanting to deepen their knowledge of this focus area.

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Inclusive Electoral Processes: A Guide for Electoral Management Bodies on Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Participation*. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/2015%20UNDP_UNWomen%20EMB%20Gender%20Mainstreaming%20Guide-En-LR.pdf

This guide by UNDP gives an account of how policy-makers could restructure EMBs to better include gender equality and foster women's participation. It provides a good presentation on gender mainstreaming by staff composition, a gender-sensitive culture, voter registration and outreach. Furthermore, suggestions on how to work with different political stakeholders (political parties, the media, and CSOs). It is thus good as an orientation frame on how gender equality can be translated into policies and can assist delegates in tailoring their proposals in regard to this essential dimension of electoral cycle support.

United Nations Development Programme. (2018). *Joint UNDP-DPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention - Annual Report 2017*. Retrieved 3 August 2018 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Conflict%20Prevention/UNDP-DPA_JointProgramme_AnnualReport_2017.pdf

This report highlights the efforts of the Joint UNDP-DPA programme in regard to capacity-building for conflict prevention. It gives valuable insights into the joint program, the empowerment of stakeholders, and possibilities of conflict prevention within the UN framework. It is therefore a good starting point for further research in regard to conflict prevention and stakeholder capacity-building. Moreover, it gives a broad overview of programs that have been conducted by UNDP and DPA. Thus, it is helpful for delegates to understand in which way conflict prevention measures are implemented and how they could be improved.

United Nations Development Programme. (2018). *UNDP Thematic Trust Funds – 2016 Annual Report*. Retrieved 29 July 2018 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Cross-Practice%20generic%20theme/2016%20Annual%20report%20-%20UNDP%20Thematic%20Trust%20Funds.pdf>

The UNDP Thematic Trust Fund is one of the main UNDP financial funds for project financing. Its annual report gives an account of tasks undertaken in the time period and evaluations of the policy successes. It includes a whole chapter on democratic governance which provides fruitful insights and good explanations about the underlying rationales in electoral cycle support in regard to accountability, participation, and representation. The role of strengthening institutions and an account of UNDP's work to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs is presented. This report helps delegates embed their policy proposals in existing UNDP projects and programs, as well as find possible gap areas on which to focus to avoid duplicating existing measures.

United Nations Development Programme & European Commission, Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance. (2017). *Youth Participation in Electoral Processes - Handbook for Electoral Management Bodies*. Retrieved 1 August 2018 from:

http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Youth/2017%20-%20UNDP-EC%20-%20Youth%20Participation%20in%20Electoral%20Processes_Handbook%20for%20EMBs.pdf

This handbook provides good insights in the current debate on measures to increase youth participation in electoral processes. It was published by the UNDP-EC Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance. The handbook explains key concepts of electoral cycle support. It elaborates on why age requirements, increased candidacy costs, social and cultural traditions are obstacles for youth participation. It provides a good overview of youth inclusion measures and explains the role of youth in promoting peace and sustainability. Thus, it gives an introduction to delegates into key concepts and measures, as well as a presentation of a case study, youth empowerment in Nepal. The handbook offers a good starting point for delegates' research in regard to the inclusion of youth in political processes.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women. (2018). *Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved 25 July 2018 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2018/sdg-report-gender-equality-in-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-2018-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5653>

This report was issued by UN-Women. As the agency for gender empowerment, inclusion, and mainstreaming, it provides helpful insights in regard to gender equality and its relation to the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, gender inclusion in political processes assists in maintaining lasting peace and stability. This dimension is of essence in regard to electoral cycle support because successful, sustainable, and inclusive electoral processes rely on women's empowerment, especially in post-conflict situations in which the inclusion of women is seen as a driving factor for peace and stability. It is thus advisable for delegates to take a closer look at the role of gender equality in the SDGs to understand its importance in development policy and specifically electoral cycle support.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 6 July 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

This General Assembly resolution introduced the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is of the utmost importance to understand the SDGs as they are currently the foundation for all development policies and serve as guiding principles. Furthermore, it is of essence to take a look at all goals, as they are interrelated and interconnected. Electoral cycle support in post-conflict settings pertains into the area of SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. Although, other SDGs are connected to the aim of SDG 16 and contribute to its fulfilment by also being tackled in a holistic approach. This document is vital for delegates to fully understand the 2030 Agenda, as well as SDGs and their targets in regard to electoral cycle support and the overall development agenda guiding UNDP.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2017). *Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/72/1)*. Retrieved 22 July 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/A/72/1>

This report by the Secretary-General from 2017 subsumes the efforts and measures promoted by the United Nations. Electoral cycle support is addressed among other thematic areas next to the promotion of economic growth and sustainable development. It provides the assessment by the Secretary-General and allows delegates to identify areas of improvement. This report is well-suited for delegates to reflect on how electoral cycle support policy suggestions could fit into the overall UN efforts without creating double-structures and further supporting a holistic, multi-dimensional approach to electoral cycle support.

von Borzyskowski, I. (2015). *Peacebuilding Beyond Civil Wars: UN Election Assistance and Election Violence*. Retrieved 6 July 2018 from: <http://wp.peio.me/wp-content/uploads/PEIO8/Borzyskowski%2021.1.2015.pdf>

This article discusses election assistance in the UN context. It provides a glance at the different forms of electoral assistance measures, as well as an analysis of the effectiveness of such. The general nexus between electoral assistance and post-election conflict resolving and prevention are illuminated. As it contrasts the importance of improving election commissions' credibility and election assistance with the demand and supply for UN electoral assistance, it is suitable as a research input for the development of delegates' innovative policy suggestions.

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III. Building Climate Change Resilience Through Adaptation Strategies

Introduction

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimates that by year 2030 over 100 million people could face extreme poverty if effective and inclusive climate action-driven development initiatives are not implemented.²⁸³ According to Article 1 of the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) (1992), climate change is a change in the environment caused, in a direct or indirect manner, by human activity.²⁸⁴ In this context, adaptation is understood as the capability of natural or human-made systems to adapt to stressful environmental conditions and mitigate possible harms while experiencing or expecting climatic threats.²⁸⁵ Nevertheless, climate change adaptation (CCA) should not be mistaken with climate change mitigation; mitigation refers to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, a major precursor of climate change.²⁸⁶ Adaptation strategies are actions taken to address climate change effects, especially in vulnerable communities where adaptation efforts must be considered in public policy formulation.²⁸⁷ Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are particularly vulnerable, with limited economic and institutional capacity for resilience, adaptation, and mitigation efforts.²⁸⁸

Climate change resilience relates closely to adaptation strategies and disaster risk reduction (DRR).²⁸⁹ The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) defines DRR as the process of reducing the damage caused by natural hazards.²⁹⁰ Hence, resilience occurs when communities are able to not only resist but also to recover from a disaster while implementing strategies to preserve and restore essential basic services in a time-efficient manner.²⁹¹ Devastating natural disasters such as massive floods, fast-moving fires, and long-lasting droughts can be attributed to climate change.²⁹² That is why one of UNDP's main objectives is to build climate change resilience to confront and overcome extreme weather conditions and natural disasters.²⁹³ CCA and resilience measures support poverty alleviation because they strengthen social and economic sustainable development.²⁹⁴ Moreover, poverty and climate-related issues convene in a broad spectrum of cross-cutting topics such as risk management and resilience, gender equality, community-driven policy approaches, development funding, and peacebuilding.²⁹⁵

International and Regional Framework

The effect of climate change on societies has been widely discussed within the United Nations (UN) particularly since the Rio Earth Summit (1992) where the UNFCCC was first adopted.²⁹⁶ The UNFCCC established adaptation to climate change as a core element of the international community's commitment on climate change action.²⁹⁷ The UNFCCC Secretariat serves as an executive body responsible for

²⁸³ UNDP, *UNDP Support to the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 13 Climate Action*, 2016, p. 4.

²⁸⁴ IPCC, *Climate Change 2001: Synthesis Report*, 2001.

²⁸⁵ UNISDR, *UNISDR Terminology and Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2009, p. 4.

²⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

²⁸⁷ IFRC et al., *Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for Local Impact*, 2009, p. 2.

²⁸⁸ UNDP, *The reality of Climate Change*, 2018.

²⁸⁹ UNDP, *UNDP Support to the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 13 Climate Action*, 2016, p. 8.

²⁹⁰ UNISDR, *What is Disaster Risk Reduction?*

²⁹¹ UNISDR, *UNISDR Terminology and Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2009, p. 24.

²⁹² UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change Annual Report 2017*, 2018, p. 5.

²⁹³ UNDP, *Designing Climate Change Adaptation Initiatives*, 2010.

²⁹⁴ COP 17, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session, held in Durban from 28 November to 11 December 2011 (FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1)*, 2012, p. 9.

²⁹⁵ UNDP, *UNDP Support to the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals SDG 1 Poverty Reduction*, 2015.

²⁹⁶ UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change Annual Report 2017*, 2018, p. 8.

²⁹⁷ COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015, p. 3.

strengthening global efforts.²⁹⁸ With UNFCCC entering into force in 1994, the first Conference of Parties (COP 1) was held in Berlin in 1995.²⁹⁹ COP 1 attendees worked to revise previous commitments for developing and developed countries.³⁰⁰ The parties agreed to deliver commitments depending on Member States' capacities to comply with UNFCCC objectives in the resulting *Berlin Mandate*.³⁰¹

The *Berlin Mandate* was followed by the Kyoto Protocol of 1997, which created binding greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets for developed countries.³⁰² The protocol acknowledged the role of CCA technologies and spatial planning, and the action of coordinating local and international efforts toward shared goals as key tools for climate change adaptation.³⁰³ The *Marrakesh Accords* were adopted in 2001 to guide capacity-building efforts for adaptation.³⁰⁴ In 2005, COP 11 established the Nairobi Work Programme as a mechanism to support adaptation policies and practices, particularly in LDCs and SIDs by providing scientific, technical, and socioeconomic information about possible CCA measures.³⁰⁵ The *Bali Road Map* was adopted at the COP 13 in 2007.³⁰⁶ It emphasized the work still needed in CCA capacity-building and technology transfer and reinforced the importance of coordinated adaptation strategies for short, medium, and long-term action at local and national levels.³⁰⁷ Finally, during COP 15 the States parties to the Convention committed to the formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to generate and share valuable national climate medium- and long-term plans.³⁰⁸

The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in resolution 70/1 of 2015 as a path of action for sustainable development, introducing 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets.³⁰⁹ The SDGs are intrinsically related to CCA due to the cross-cutting nature of climate change.³¹⁰ CCA prevents further damages to people's livelihood due to extreme weather conditions which affect economic stability, food security, and health conditions, and with it promotes SDG 1 on poverty reduction.³¹¹ Similarly, both SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation and SDG 7 on clean energy address CCA as they require measures on reducing GHG emissions.³¹² In the same way, SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production, SDG 14 on life underwater, and SDG 15 on terrestrial ecosystems target climate-related issues, such as stimulating environmentally-sustainable productivity, protecting marine and coastal ecosystems, combating land desertification and degradation, promoting adequate chemicals and waste management, and planning for disaster risk reduction (DRR) to cultivate zero-carbon growth.³¹³ Finally, SDG 13 on climate action allows UNDP to address development challenges including rising sea levels, erratic rainfall patterns, severe drought, soil erosion, and ocean acidification.³¹⁴

²⁹⁸ UNFCCC, *History of the Convention*.

²⁹⁹ COP 1, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session, held at Berlin from 28 March to 7 April 1995* (FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1), 1995, p. 4.

³⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

³⁰¹ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

³⁰² UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change Annual Report 2017*, 2018.

³⁰³ COP 3, *Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1997, p. 9.

³⁰⁴ COP 7, *The Marrakesh Accords and The Marrakech Declaration*, 2001, p. 11.

³⁰⁵ COP 11, *Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change*.

³⁰⁶ UNFCCC, *Bali Road Map Intro*.

³⁰⁷ COP 13, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its thirteenth session, held in Bali from 3 to 15 December 2007* (FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1), 2008, pp. 17, 36.

³⁰⁸ COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015, p. 10.

³⁰⁹ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (A/RES/70/1), 2015.

³¹⁰ UNDP, *UNDP Support to the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2016.

³¹¹ UNDP, *UNDP Support to the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 1 Poverty Reduction*, 2015.

³¹² *Ibid.*

³¹³ UNDP, *UNDP Support to the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 13 Climate Action*, 2016.

³¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

The *Paris Agreement* (2015) was adopted at the 21st meeting of COP to further strengthen the international community's efforts to address climate change.³¹⁵ The primary aim of the *Paris Agreement* was to limit the change in global temperature to less than 2 degrees Celsius.³¹⁶ Article 7 of the agreement referred to adaptation capacities and climate change resilience as globally shared challenges placing emphasis on the approach that adaptation measures should be country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory, and transparent.³¹⁷ Additionally, Article 8 introduced areas for cooperation and facilitation to increase understanding on climate change effects and take action to build resilience in communities urgently needing it.³¹⁸

The *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)* was adopted in 2015 at the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction as a complementary instrument to the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the *Paris Agreement*.³¹⁹ It recommends incorporating CCA into DRR measures to implement comprehensive capacity-building measures at the local and national levels, such as setting early warning systems for hazards and upcoming disasters, adopting first response plans, and promoting preparedness culture to strengthen resilience by reducing vulnerability.³²⁰

Role of the International System

UNDP's efforts on combating climate change rely on strong partnerships with governments seeking assistance with development financing.³²¹ As part of its work, National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) were established to help LDCs prioritize short-term activities that could respond to urgent and immediate CCA needs.³²² NAPAs transferred existing climate change coping strategies from the local level to the national level.³²³ UNDP has assisted 31 Member States with preparing and submitting NAPAs to the UNFCCC for financing by the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF).³²⁴ NAPAs have served as an effective preparatory tool for National Action Plans (NAPs) by building better informed adaptation plans settings for future work on adaptation needs.³²⁵ NAPs involve laying the groundwork and addressing capacity gaps, working on preparatory elements such as vulnerabilities and adaptation opportunities assessments, including CCA into national planning, and monitoring to assess the progress and effectiveness of existing plans.³²⁶ UNDP and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) support countries in the formulation of their own NAPs to plan and budget sustainable development through the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP), which launched in 2013 and provides technical and institutional support to Member States working on NAPs.³²⁷

In order to specifically address CCA initiatives, the Adaptation Committee (AC) was established as part of the *Cancun Adaptation Framework* (CAF) in 2010.³²⁸ The AC was tasked with promoting adaptation efforts through technical support and guidance on means of implementation such as finance, capacity-building, and technology.³²⁹ The AC conducts the Technical Examination Process on Adaptation (TEP-A),

³¹⁵ UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change Annual Report 2017*, 2018, p. 8.

³¹⁶ COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015, pp. 4-7.

³¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

³¹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 12.

³¹⁹ UN General Assembly, *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* (A/RES/69/283), 2015.

³²⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 24-25.

³²¹ UNDP, *UNDP and Governments*.

³²² UNFCCC, *Opportunities and options for enhancing adaptation actions and supporting their implementation reducing vulnerability and mainstreaming adaptation*, 2016, p. 7.

³²³ UNDP, *The Bali Road Map: Key issues under negotiation*, 2008, p. 141.

³²⁴ UNDP, *National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)*, 2018.

³²⁵ UNFCCC, *Introducing the NAP process*, p. 2.

³²⁶ UNFCCC, *National Adaptation Plans Technical guidelines for the national adaptation plan process*, 2012, p. 25.

³²⁷ UNDP, *National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme*, 2017; UNDP, *Supporting Integrated Climate Change Strategies*.

³²⁸ UNFCCC, *Adaptation Committee*.

³²⁹ *Ibid.*

which enhances adaptation actions through the identification of specific opportunities for stakeholders for implementation.³³⁰ Additionally, the integration of CCA within the SDGs and the Sendai Framework was acknowledged by the AC as a positive approach to build resilience.³³¹

The multi-dimensional nature of poverty and its impact on people's lives also poses significant financial constraints on investment in sustainable production.³³² People's resilience to climate change and their overall welfare are not solely measured by their income, but according to their level of vulnerability to economic and climactic shocks.³³³ The United Nations Environment Governing Council originally launched the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) in 2005.³³⁴ Since 2006, it has been jointly governed by UNDP and UN Environment to support the integration of poverty reduction measures and environmentally-sustainable policies into national development agendas.³³⁵ UN Environment, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) launched the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) in 2013.³³⁶ UNDP joined PAGE in 2014.³³⁷ The partnership focuses on achieving the SDGs through the promotion of green economies, institutional and knowledge capacity-building, and climate-driven policy reform.³³⁸ Capacity-building furthers climate change resilience by building socioeconomic resilience among institutions.³³⁹

UNDP's *Strategic Plan 2018-2021* focuses on the eradication of poverty in all of its dimensions, requiring structural transformation for sustainable development and building resilience to environmental, social, or economic crises and shocks.³⁴⁰ UNDP acknowledges the need to integrate these efforts into conflict prevention and peacebuilding, given that CCA and mitigation help countries regain stability after crises occur.³⁴¹ UNDP works in partnership with Member States, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and other humanitarian to implement strategies for recovery, response, and risk management in climate-driven crises.³⁴²

Funding Climate Resilience and Adaptation

In order to provide funding to adaptation strategies, the Kyoto Protocol established the Adaptation Fund (AF).³⁴³ The Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) supervises and manages the AF under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties (CMP), which decides on the overall policies.³⁴⁴ With the World Bank as its trustee, the AF has committed \$512 million to climate adaptation and building resilience measures since 2010, supporting 77 adaptation projects with an estimate of 5.6 million direct beneficiaries.³⁴⁵ The AF directly finances CCA and resilience efforts, allowing implementing actors to directly receive financial transfers for the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of projects.³⁴⁶ While a significant part of the AF funding resources results from government and private

³³⁰ UNFCCC, *Report of the Adaptation Committee (FCCC/SB/2017/2)*, 2017, p. 9.

³³¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 9-10.

³³² UNDP, *UNDP Support to the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 1 Poverty Reduction*, 2015.

³³³ UNDP, *UNDP and the concept of measurement of poverty*, 2016, p. 4.

³³⁴ UNDP, *UNDP-UN Environment Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)*.

³³⁵ *Ibid.*

³³⁶ UNDP, *UNDP Joins Partnership for Action on Green Economy, Bringing New Resources and Opportunities for Countries*, 2014.

³³⁷ *Ibid.*

³³⁸ PAGE, *Impact*; UN Environment, *Why does green economy matter?*.

³³⁹ GEF, *Time to adapt: Insights from the Global Environment Facility's Experience in adaptation to climate change*, 2016, p. 10.

³⁴⁰ Executive Board of UNDP et al., *UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021*, 2017, p. 10.

³⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

³⁴² *Ibid.*, p. 14.

³⁴³ Adaptation Fund, *About the Adaptation Fund*.

³⁴⁴ UNFCCC, *Adaptation Fund Board*, 2013.

³⁴⁵ Adaptation Fund, *Governance*.

³⁴⁶ Adaptation Fund, *Direct Access*.

donor contributions, most of it is derived from sales of certified emission reduction (CER) credits that are issued every year under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects.³⁴⁷ Countries with emission reduction or emission-limitation commitments under the Kyoto Protocol can implement projects in developing countries to earn credits, each equivalent to one ton of CO₂, to count toward their Kyoto targets.³⁴⁸ Since the 2011-2012 drop in the carbon credits market, the AF has increasingly relied on government contributions from developed countries.³⁴⁹ The UNFCCC Secretariat has expressed concerns regarding predictable and sustainable funding for climate change action.³⁵⁰ The financial needs of CCA exceed current funding sources.³⁵¹ In addition to the overall funding shortage, UNDP has observed a substantial gap in funding for climate adaptation projects which target women.³⁵²

In addition to the AF, States parties established the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in 2010.³⁵³ Currently, this fund serves as the only multilateral financing mechanism for both the UNFCCC and the *Paris Agreement*.³⁵⁴ The fund provides equal amounts of funding to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, with special focus on LDCs, SIDS, and African States.³⁵⁵ To support developing countries in their GHG emission reduction and adaptation efforts the GCF promotes and directly finances the implementation of NAPAs, NAPs, technology need assessments, and nationally appropriate mitigation actions.³⁵⁶ These funds come from public (developed and developing countries, regions and the city of Paris) and private contributions.³⁵⁷

The UNDP Global Environmental Finance (UNDP-GEF) Unit partners with the World Bank to offer funds that target specific development issues.³⁵⁸ UNDP-GEF partners with funds managed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), such as the GEF Trust Fund (GEF TF), Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF), LDCF, and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).³⁵⁹ According to UNFCCC, the UNDP-GEF has invested over \$1.3 billion in grant financing through the LDCF, SCCF, and Strategic Priority on Adaptation for adaptation measures.³⁶⁰ Grants financed by UNDP-GEF also seek to invest in the formulation of NAPAs and NAPs under the objectives of the *Paris Agreement*.³⁶¹

The Role of Technology in Capacity-building for Adaptation Strategies

Building technical and functional capacities to achieve CCA is core to achieve sustainable development, especially in communities where structural poverty prevents proper investment in adaptation efforts.³⁶² UNDP aims to address inequalities in technology access in countries and communities where poverty thresholds such as food security are not the main concern.³⁶³ UNDP's *Strategic Plan 2018-2021* stresses the need to invest in emissions-reducing technologies during the process of achieving sustainable development.³⁶⁴ States working on NAPs are likely to face a lack of technical expertise in addition to a

³⁴⁷ Adaptation Fund, *Governance*.

³⁴⁸ UNFCCC, *The Clean Development Mechanism*.

³⁴⁹ UNFCCC, *Adaptation Fund at 10 Years: Pioneering Action Innovation and Learning*, 2017; World Bank, *State and Trends of the Carbon Market 2010*, 2011.

³⁵⁰ UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change Annual Report 2017*, 2018, p. 50.

³⁵¹ UNDP, *Designing Climate Change Adaptation Initiatives*, 2010, p. 10.

³⁵² UNDP, *Gender and climate finance*, 2016, p. 4.

³⁵³ UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change Annual Report 2017*, 2018, p. 40.

³⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 40.

³⁵⁵ GCF, *Initial strategic plan for the GCF*, 2016, p. 4.

³⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

³⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

³⁵⁸ UNDP, *UNDP's funding channels*.

³⁵⁹ UNDP-GEF, *Financing Adaptation to climate change at the Global Environment Facility*, 2017.

³⁶⁰ UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change Annual Report 2017*, 2018, p. 27.

³⁶¹ UNDP-GEF, *Financing Adaptation to climate change at the Global Environment Facility*, 2017.

³⁶² UNDP-GEF, *Empowering the Poor: Experiences from UNDP supported initiatives on adaptation*, 2015, p. 7.

³⁶³ Executive Board of UNDP et al, *UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021*, 2017, p. 13.

³⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 13.

lack of technological infrastructure.³⁶⁵ Hence, the AC has worked on building technological skills within governmental institutions through the NAPs task force, which aligns technology needs assessments (TNAs) with the NAPs process.³⁶⁶

Governments with limited access to technology also face barriers in collecting and using development data, including the outcomes of previous adaptation measures.³⁶⁷ Partnerships for knowledge sharing and technology transfers significantly increase capacity-building for climate resilience; in one example, the Regional Gateway for Technology Transfer and Climate Change Action in Latin America and the Caribbean (REGATTA) was established with the support of UN Environment and the Spanish government.³⁶⁸ REGATTA's main objective is to strengthen resilience capacities by promoting knowledge exchange on climate change strategies for mitigation and adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean.³⁶⁹

Community-based Approaches to Climate Resilience

UNDP supports projects that work toward community, country-based, and gender-responsive approaches.³⁷⁰ Focusing on communities and countries allows UNDP and its partners to gather sufficient information about local needs.³⁷¹ A specific mechanism to target issues on the local level is the Community-Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA), which measures community resilience and needs in dialogue with community members who have previously experienced extreme climate events.³⁷² Community-based adaptation (CBA) projects are crucial for mitigating the lasting effects of climate change.³⁷³

Women play a crucial role in implementing adaptation strategies, even in the face of gender-related limitations such as lack of resources, limited access to education and information, restricted mobility, and limited participation in decision-making processes.³⁷⁴ Women often manage natural resources for their households, including fetching water for consumption or agricultural activities, and have direct contact with the changing environment of their communities.³⁷⁵ Mindful of this, Member States like the Maldives and Papua New Guinea have closely coordinated their NAPs with government authorities in charge of overseeing gender equality and women's empowerment in NAPs processes.³⁷⁶ Member States in the Caribbean region are strengthening adaptation for communities through the formal institutionalization of gender issues in policy planning.³⁷⁷ In spite of recent progress, multiple challenges exist when integrating gender-sensitive approaches (GSAs).³⁷⁸ The social and cultural context within the communities where GSAs might be applied must be considered well in advance of implementation.³⁷⁹ Other barriers include knowledge gaps, which prevent adaptation measures at the local, national, and regional levels.³⁸⁰

³⁶⁵ UNDP, *Regional Briefing on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs): Africa in focus*, 2018, p. 5.

³⁶⁶ UNFCCC, *Report of the Adaptation Committee (FCCC/SB/2017/2)*, 2017, p. 10.

³⁶⁷ UNFCCC, *National Adaptation Plans Technical guidelines for the national adaptation plan process*, 2012, p. 29.

³⁶⁸ UN Environment et al., *All about Regatta*.

³⁶⁹ UNDP, *Regional Briefing on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs): Caribbean in focus*, 2018, p. 6.

³⁷⁰ UNDP, *UNDP Support to the integration of gender equality across the SDGs including Goal 5*, 2016, p. 10.

³⁷¹ UNDP, *Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA)*, 2018.

³⁷² *Ibid.*

³⁷³ ICCCAD, *Taking Effective Community-based Adaptation to Scale: An assessment of the GEF Small Grants Programme Community-Based Adaptation Project in Namibia*, 2013, p. 3.

³⁷⁴ UNDP, *Gender, Climate Change and Community-Based Adaptation*, 2010, pp. 15-18.

³⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 16-17.

³⁷⁶ UNDP, *Regional briefing on National Adaptation Plans: Asia-Pacific in focus*, 2018, p. 4.

³⁷⁷ UNDP, *Regional briefing on National Adaptation Plans: Caribbean in focus*, 2018, p. 2.

³⁷⁸ UNFCCC, *Report on the meeting on available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation needs of local and indigenous communities and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation (FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.11)*, 2014, p. 16.

³⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

³⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 21

Since the Nairobi Work Programme, the AC has also promoted discussions on the value of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices (ITKP) and the application of GSAs as tools for adaptation planning.³⁸¹ The integration of ITKP into modern scientific knowledge on adaptation measures has proven successful in seasonal forecasting for agriculture and enhancing social cohesion in pastoralists communities.³⁸² Gaps in ITKP integration tend to reflect a lack of national or regional observing systems, which allow ITKP to be overlooked in the integration of NAPs and regional CCA initiatives.³⁸³

Conclusion

The world faces many challenges in order to adapt to climate change-induced events, and existing gaps in resilience capacities must be acknowledged by the international community.³⁸⁴ Sustainable development is also hindered by capacity and financial gaps between developed and developing countries.³⁸⁵ CCA relates closely to the achievement of SDGs such as poverty alleviation, peacebuilding, environmental preservation, and gender equality as it aims to build more resilient ways of overcoming climate hazards that could potentially exacerbate poverty, social unrest, gender inequality, and/or environment degradation.³⁸⁶ In recent years, UNDP and its partners have found that the most effective CCA strategies incorporate best practices from ITKP in addition to community-driven and gender-responsive approaches.³⁸⁷

Further Research

Delegates should pay particular attention to the work of NAPs and NAPAs. Have the principle objectives of NAPs and NAPAs been effective at tackling climate adaptation issues on a global level? How can UNDP ensure that these programs and plans have a more widespread and global impact? It is also important to focus on the technical aspects of implementation plans and the gaps CCA initiatives might present. How should funding be implemented regarding climate adaptation, particularly for developing countries? How can UNDP more effectively connect local/community-based necessities with global frameworks for adaptation? How can UNDP target gender issues to climate adaptation taking into consideration the significant cultural differences experienced around the world?

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United Nations Development Programme. (2010). *Gender, Climate Change and Community-Based Adaptation A Guidebook for designing and implementing Gender-Sensitive Community-Based Adaptation Programmes and Projects* [Guidebook]. Retrieved 7 August 2018 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/climate_change/gender/gender-climate-change-and-community-based-adaptation-guidebook.html

³⁸¹ UNFCCC, *Best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (FCCC/TP/2013/11)*, 2013.

³⁸² UNFCCC, *Report on the meeting on available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, needs of local and indigenous communities and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation (FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.11)*, 2014, p. 8.

³⁸³ UNFCCC, *Best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (FCCC/TP/2013/11)*, 2013, p. 26.

³⁸⁴ UNFCCC, *Adaptation Fund at 10 Years: Pioneering Action, Innovation and Learning*, 2017.

³⁸⁵ GCF, *Initial strategic plan for the GCF*, 2016.

³⁸⁶ UNDP, *UNDP Support to the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals SDG 1 Poverty Reduction*, 2015.

³⁸⁷ UNDG, *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2015; UNFCCC, *Report on the meeting on available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, needs of local and indigenous communities and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation (FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.11)*, 2014, p. 21.

This guidebook covers core issues of CCA, such as the importance of promoting gender equality to achieve sustainable development. It highlights a gender-responsive approach for sustainable development legislation and policy planning, as well as the role of women in communities. Furthermore, it traces the existing links within the cross-cutting nature of climate change and gender equality, such as the need to facilitate equitable participation of men and women in development processes while providing valuable data on the issue. This source might be helpful to identify specific gender gaps on adaptation and resilience processes that need to be tackled by UNDP.

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *UNDP Support to the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 1 Poverty Reduction* [Report]. Retrieved 10 September 2018 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Sustainable%20Development/1_Poverty_Jan15_digital.pdf

Delegates will find this document useful in order to properly grasp the relationship of climate resilience and adaptation with poverty-related matters, particularly through cross-cutting areas such as DRR, financing for development, social conflict, and community resilience to economic shocks. This publication emphasizes importance of poverty alleviation in the context of sustainable development. It focuses on UNDP's response to challenges in countries like Bangladesh, Colombia, Syria, Yemen, and others where policy support is provided. Moreover, the document presents information on gender-responsive plans in countries that pursued climate change interventions while tackling poverty issues.

United Nations Development Programme (2016). *UNDP Support to the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 13* [Report]. Retrieved 16 September 2018 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Climate%20and%20Disaster%20Resilience/13-Climate%20Action-Feb%202017.pdf>

In this document, UNDP outlines key services and actions it provides for the implementation of all targets related to SDG 13. In particular, the document addresses UNDP's work on strengthening resilience and adaptive capacities regarding climate-induced hazards and natural disasters, integrating climate matters into national agendas, mobilizing funds committed by developed nations to address the needs of developing countries for meaningful mitigation strategies, and promoting mechanisms for capacity-building in LDCs and SIDs.

United Nations Development Programme. (2016). *UNDP Support to the integration of gender equality across the SDGs including Goal 5* [Report]. Retrieved 10 September 2018 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/SDGs/5_Gender_Equality_digital.pdf

In this document, delegates will find information on UNDP's work with gender-responsive initiatives for CCA, including the work of the Climate Change Facility on projects tackle gender-based disparities in development planning. Delegates will also find data on women's participation in policy planning for development and disaster risk management, and how those processes could further benefit from women's input. A brief overlook about gender gaps in decision-making, workplace, health and education access is also provided.

United Nations Development Programme. (2017). *UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (DP/2017/38)*. Retrieved 5 July 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/DP/2017/38>

This publication offers an in-depth look at UNDP's work in achieving sustainable development. Focusing on specific links among the strategic plans of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UN-Women, this document provides detailed information on UNDP's partners, the participation of civil society and private actors, the critical role of international financial institutions and vertical funds, as well as a list of UNDP's signature solutions. A brief evaluation of UNDP's Strategic Plan 2014-2017 is presented. The UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021 is useful to understand UNDP partnerships and approaches to achieve the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. Most importantly, it provides

delegates with insight into UNDP signature solution 3: Enhance national prevention and recovery capacities for resilient societies.

United Nations Development Programme & Global Environmental Finance Unit. (2015). *Empowering the Poor: Experience from UNDP supported Initiatives on Adaptation* [Report]. Retrieved 7 July 2018 from: <http://www.adaptation-undp.org/resources/reports/report-empowering-poor-experience-undp-supported-initiatives-adaptation>

This document reports the experience of 12 countries in which UNDP works thanks to the funding from the GEF, the AF, and the Canada-UNDP Adaptation. It provides a case-specific overview on institutional capacity, the importance of communities' participation in adaptation actions, financing adaptation measures, and policy-making for CCA. Most importantly, this report stresses the need to address the structural dimensions of poverty in order to effectively work toward CCA. Information on the importance of climate resilience for people living under poverty will provide delegates critical understanding of climate change in relation to SDG 1 on poverty alleviation.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Forty-seventh session. (2017). *Report of the Adaptation Committee (FCCC/SB/2017/2)*. Retrieved 1 September 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/FCCC/SB/2017/2>

The Adaptation Committee report for the 2016-2017 period provides valuable information on the AC work in adaptation matters. Specifically, on how the AC supports CCA initiatives such as NAPs, and GCF programmes like the Readiness Programme for adaptation. Moreover, this document contains details on how the AC addresses capacity gaps, technical support gaps and adaptation needs for developing countries. Finally, this document presents the challenges before climate policy reform on climate resilience and adaptation, and how the AC plans to work inter alia with other UN agencies to tackle the issue.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2018). *UN Climate Change Annual Report 2017*. Retrieved 5 July 2018 from: <https://unfccc.int/resource/annualreport/media/UN-Climate-AR17.pdf>

The UN Climate Change Annual Report 2017 provides key information such as projects and partner overviews, as well as outcomes and figures on how the organization's efforts toward sustainable development have performed under the UNFCCC. This report addresses concepts such as responses to climate change, building resilience through adaptation, economic sustainable and inclusive development, and presents the path to be pursued in future adaptation initiatives carried by the GEF. Additionally, this report briefly introduces key documents such as the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 5 July 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a general guidance for efforts by the international community to achieve sustainable development at all possible levels. Consequently, it contains information on the 17 SDGs. The comprehension of the document as whole is necessary to understand the context in which CCA issues are tackled by the UNDP. Even though SDG 13 is most related to the topic at hand, delegates should pay particular attention to pages 26-31 to better understand what implementation of adaptation measures imply and what the Global Partnership for Development does, specifically in terms of technology, capacity-building, and systematic issues that affect sustainable development.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2009). *UNISDR Terminology and Disaster Risk Reduction* [Publication]. Retrieved 10 July 2018 from: https://www.unisdr.org/files/7817_UNISDRTerminologyEnglish.pdf

This document assesses the key terminology for the topic before the committee. It compiles important information about the links between climate change and DRR and explains how the topics converge. Special focus has been placed in definitions of adaptation, climate change, mitigation, resilience, risk management, and DRR plans as these concepts will provide delegates with key general knowledge on the matter.

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