



New York City, NY, USA
3-7 April (Conf. A) / 10-14 April (Conf. B)



General Assembly Second Committee Background Guide 2022

Written by: Anthony Basse and Kyle Roberts, Directors
Sebastian Hieke and Toni Müller, Assistant Directors



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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2022 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the General Assembly Second Committee (GA 2). This year's staff are: Directors Anthony Bassey (Conference A) and Kyle Roberts (Conference B), and Assistant Directors Sebastian Hieke (Conference A) and Toni Mueller (Conference B). Anthony studied Biology at Arkansas State University, and currently works for the American Red Cross. Kyle received his Master of Science in Statistics from Baruch College, and currently works as an Anti-Money Laundering Senior Associate at Grant Thornton LLP. Sebastian is enrolled at Ludwig-Maximilians-University, and studies Near and Middle Eastern Studies with a focus on Medieval Arabic Philology. Toni holds a Master of Science in International Management, Marketing, & Entrepreneurship from Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg. Currently he is a research and teaching assistant at the Chair of International Management at his alma mater.

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

1. The Convention on Biological Diversity and Its Contribution to Sustainable Development
2. Continued Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)

The General Assembly is the main deliberative body and one of the principal organs of the United Nations. As the Economic and Financial committee of the General Assembly, the General Assembly Second Committee addresses topics of development and economic policy, including international trade, sustainable development, globalization, and the eradication of poverty, among others. The Second Committee makes recommendations to the General Assembly Plenary, initiates international conferences, and requests reports to advance the topics on its agenda. The nature of the topics addressed by Second Committee makes it one of the most collaborative UN bodies; the committee adopts a majority of its draft resolutions by consensus and without a recorded vote.

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 2022 in accordance with the guidelines in the [Position Paper Guide](#) and the [NMUN•NY Position Papers](#) website.

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

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 General Assembly (GA) Department, Tobias Dietrich (Conference A) and Maxwell Lacey (Conference B), at usg.ga@nmun.org

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

Sincerely,

Conference A

Anthony Bassey, *Director*
Sebastian Hieke, *Assistant Director*

Conference B

Kyle Roberts, *Director*
Toni Mueller, *Assistant Director*

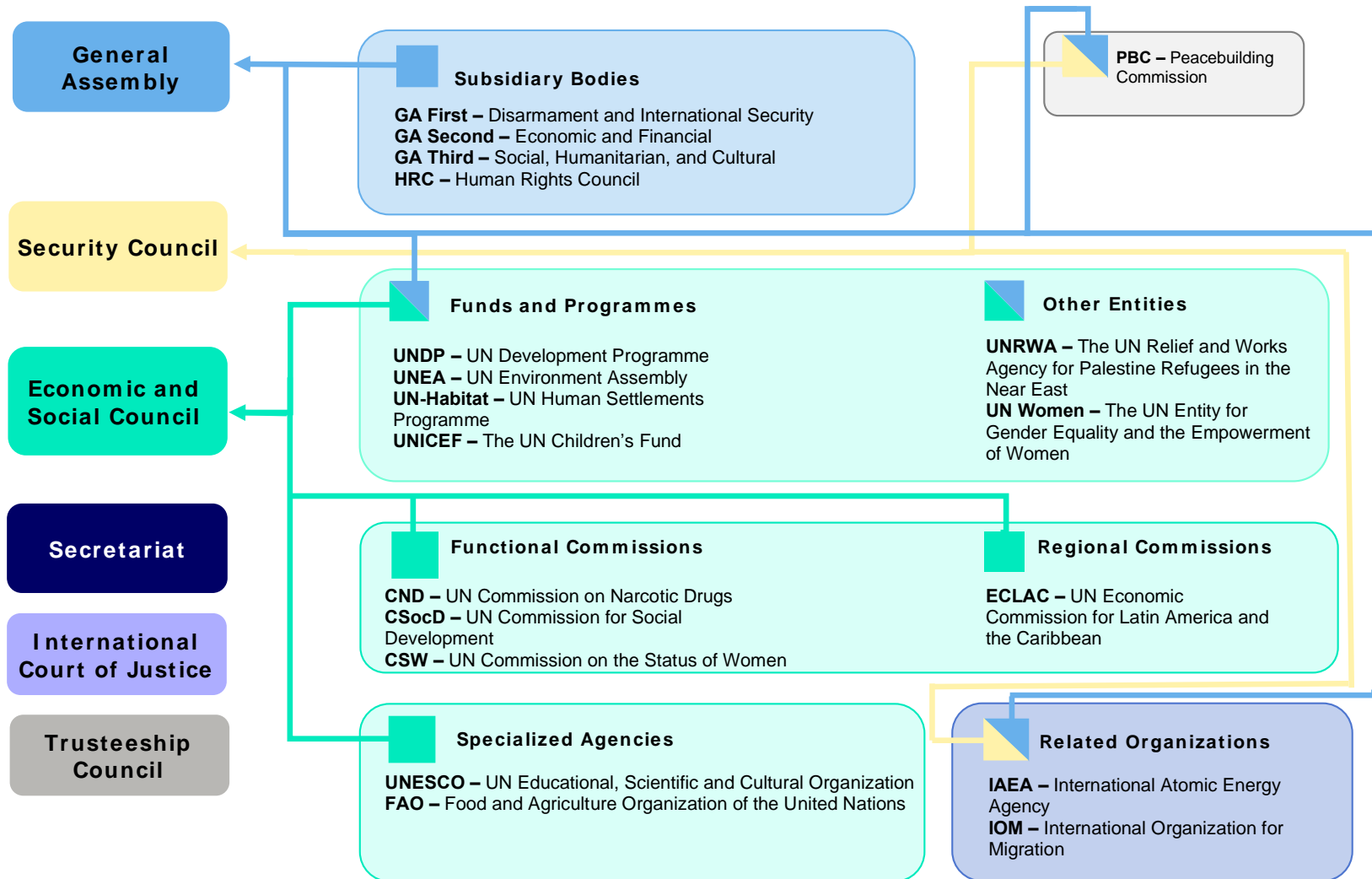


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United Nations System at NMUN•NY

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

“The real danger is not the threat to one’s economy that comes from acting. It is, instead, the risk to one’s economy by failing to act.”¹

Introduction

Article 7 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) established the General Assembly as one of the six foundational organs of the United Nations (UN).² The General Assembly is composed of six Main Committees, including the General Assembly Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee).³ The Main Committees share similar arrangements in structure, governance, membership, functions, and powers, but each Committee addresses a specific thematic area.⁴ The Second Committee represents the economic and financial aspects of the General Assembly.⁵ It addresses a variety of issues related to financing for development, information and communication technologies (ICTs), macroeconomic policy, globalization and interdependence, as well as the eradication of poverty.⁶ The work of the Second Committee involves other UN development bodies such as, but not limited to, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to complete its policy work and to bridge national action and international policies.⁷ For instance, the Second Committee partners with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), through which it gains substantive support and reports on development targets.⁸ Likewise, the Second Committee works in collaboration with the United Nations Development Group and the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination to operationalize and implement development policies and activities.⁹ Additionally, to support General Assembly resolution 70/1 on *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) (2015), the Second Committee works to implement the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA) (2015) through policy recommendations that address economic growth and development.¹⁰ The Second Committee drafts proposals, prepares recommendations, and reports back to the Main Committee of the General Assembly.¹¹

Governance, Structure, and Membership

Chapter IV of the *Charter of the United Nations* regulates its functioning, and empowers the General Assembly and its Main Committees to formulate recommendations that promote international economic and social cooperation.¹² Membership of the General Assembly Second Committee includes all 193 Member States, two observer states, numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other

¹ UN DGC, *Address to the General Assembly by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on 25 September 2018 in New York*, 2018.

² *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

³ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2021-22*, 2021, p. 17.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 23.

⁵ UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

⁶ Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, *The GA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2017, p. 71; UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

⁷ UN General Assembly, *Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the Special High-Level Meeting of the Council with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (A/69/83)*, 2014.

⁸ Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, *The GA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2017, p. 73; UN DESA, *About UN DESA*.

⁹ UN ECOSOC, *Office for Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development*, 2019.

¹⁰ UN General Assembly, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

¹¹ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2021-22*, 2021, p. 23.

¹² *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

entities.¹³ Each Member State has a single vote, while Observer States and NGOs can participate in the general debate, but may not vote.¹⁴ The General Assembly seeks to adopt resolutions by consensus, which requires a high level of cooperation among Member States.¹⁵

The General Assembly convenes annually in the third week of September and commences with General Debate and the allocation of agenda items.¹⁶ The 76th session of the UN General Assembly is scheduled from 14 September 2021 through 30 September 2021.¹⁸ The General Committee of the General Assembly allocates the agenda items for each of the Main Committees, which lays out the primary areas for discussion.¹⁷ The President of the General Assembly and 21 Vice-Presidents constitute the General Committee of the General Assembly.¹⁸ In June 2021, the General Assembly elected Honorable Abdulla Shahid of the Maldives as President and Vanessa Frazier as chair for the Second Committee for the 76th session.¹⁹ Vanessa Frazier has previously served as Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations.²⁰ From January to September, the General Committee focuses on thematic debates, consultations, and meetings through organized working groups that discuss specific topics.²¹ The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Governing councils of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) report about their activities and outcomes to the Second Committee.²² Subsequently, the Second Committee drafts resolutions and reports to the General Assembly based on each report and agenda item that is being considered.²³ The General Assembly Plenary considers these reports and votes whether to adopt the included draft resolutions from the Second Committee.²⁴

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

As part of the General Assembly, Articles 55 to 60 of the *Charter of the United Nations* mandate the Second Committee to promote higher standards of living and employment, and improved conditions of economic and social development.²⁵ The Second Committee has a strong focus on development-related

¹³ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

¹⁴ UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*; UN General Assembly, *List of non-Members States, Entities and Organizations Having Received a Standing Invitation to Participate as Observers in the Sessions and the Work of the General Assembly (A/INF/73/5/Rev.1)*, 2019; UN General Assembly, *About Permanent Observers*.

¹⁵ UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*.

¹⁶ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2021-22*, 2021, p. 17.

¹⁷ Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, *The GA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2017, pp. 18-38; UN General Assembly, *Allocation of Agenda Items to the Second Committee (A/C.2/76/1)*, 2021; UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

¹⁸ IISD, *76th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 76)*, 2021.

¹⁹ UN DGC, *Election of the 76th President of the General Assembly*, 2021; H.E. Vanessa Frazier *Elected Chair of the UN Second Committee (Economic and Financial Committee) for the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly*, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, 2021.

²⁰ H.E. Vanessa Frazier *Elected Chair of the UN Second Committee (Economic and Financial Committee) for the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly*, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, 2021.

²¹ UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

²² Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, *The GA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2017, p. 72; UN DGC, *The United Nations System*, 2019; UN Convention to Combat Desertification, *Rio Conventions Join Forces for Sustainable Development and the Future We Want*, 2012.

²³ Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, *The GA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2021, p. 72; UN DGC, *The United Nations System*, 2019.

²⁴ UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *UN Documentation: General Assembly*, 2019.

²⁵ UNEG, *UNEG Handbook for Conducting Evaluations of Normative Work in the UN System*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021; *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

topics such as international trade, poverty eradication, human settlements, globalization, financing for development, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.²⁶ To fulfill its mandate, the Second Committee drafts proposals and reports to the General Assembly Plenary on policy recommendations, convenes conferences and summits, and requests the Secretary-General to report on significant issues and host side events.²⁷ Once reports have been discussed and voted on, the General Assembly may make recommendations to Member States through resolutions.²⁸

Due to its special focus on development issues and the 2030 Agenda, the Second Committee observes the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).²⁹ To track and monitor progress on the SDGs, the Second Committee requests reports from the Secretary-General.³⁰ For example, in the report to the General Assembly on “Macroeconomic Policy Questions: External Debt Sustainability and Development,” the Second Committee requests the Secretary-General to assess the impact of investment requirements on external debt sustainability in developing states.³¹ Following this report, the General Assembly adopted resolution 73/221 on “External Debt Sustainability and Development” (2019), which requests the Secretary-General to analyze the core indicators on external debt sustainability in developing states and invites Member States to take the necessary measures to achieve SDG target 17.4.³² Additionally, the Second Committee supports Member States in enacting legislation and implementing policies.³³ For instance, the Second Committee collaborates with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development and ECOSOC to enact policy recommendations on financing for sustainable development and to implement the 2030 Agenda.³⁴

Additionally, General Assembly resolution 72/313 on “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly” (2018), seeks to improve the working methods and practices of its committees by formulating more concise, action-orientated resolutions and grouping agenda items together thematically.³⁵ As a result, the Second Committee can reduce duplications in the agendas of the Second and Third Committee, ECOSOC and its substantive bodies, and the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).³⁶ The General Assembly now conducts elections for its presidents, vice presidents, and chairs for its main committees at least three months ahead of every new session.³⁷

Further, the Second Committee may provide directions on special situations including least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and small island developing states (SIDS).³⁸ The Second Committee may also make recommendations related to international social and health issues through cultural and social cooperation and the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms.³⁹

²⁶ UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

²⁷ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2021-22*, 2021, p. 23; UN General Assembly, *Organization of Work of the Second Committee: Note by the Secretariat (A/C.2/73/L.1)*, 2018.

²⁸ UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*.

²⁹ UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

³⁰ Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Reports of Principal Organs to the General Assembly*, 2019.

³¹ UN General Assembly, *Macroeconomic Policy Questions: External Debt Sustainability and Development (A/73/536/Add.3)*, 2018.

³² UN General Assembly, *External Debt Sustainability and Development (A/RES/73/221)*, 2019; UN General Assembly, *External Debt Sustainability and Development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/74/234)*, 2019.

³³ UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

³⁴ UN DGC, *Fourth Industrial Revolution Taken Up in Report of Task Force on Financing for Development (GA/EF/3492)*, 2018.

³⁵ UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (A/72/313)*, 2018.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, *Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (A/CONF.219/3/Rev.1)*, 2011; UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

³⁹ UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

Due to the current pandemic, the UN is limiting the number of delegates allowed into the General Assembly Hall, and is utilizing a hybrid meeting format for the 76th session with some in-person attendance.⁴⁰ The agenda includes “Integrated and coordinated implementation of, and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, and related fields.”⁴¹ The Second Committee is also discussing topics including “promoting investments for sustainable development,” “education for sustainable development,” and “financial inclusion for sustainable development.”⁴²

At the 75th session, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 (2020) on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.⁴³ The General Assembly also adopted deliverables that seek to foster cooperation between the UN and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).⁴⁴ A resolution to promote a new international economic order was also adopted by acclamation.⁴⁵ In total, the General Assembly adopted 36 draft resolutions from the Second Committee.⁴⁶ Some of these resolutions focus on international trade, with emphasis on combating protectionism in all its forms with acknowledgement that protectionism is unfavorable to global trade.⁴⁷ The General Assembly also adopted a resolution on “Promoting Investments for Sustainable Development” (74/199) (2020) which highlights that Small Island Developing States and least developed countries are not being included in foreign direct investment which they need to diversify and strengthen their economies.⁴⁸ The Second Committee is also currently focused on immigration, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and the sovereignty of the Palestinian people.⁴⁹ The reports submitted by the Second Committee to the General Assembly at the 75th session include International Trade and Development, Promoting Investment for Sustainable Development, and Disaster Risk Reduction.⁵⁰ The *Macroeconomic Policy Questions Report of the Second Committee* (75/455) (2020) to the General Assembly focuses on international trade and development, international financial system and development, promoting investments for sustainable development.⁵¹ The report on “Sustainable Development” to the General Assembly includes recommendations on “ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy.”⁵² Another report on “Group of Countries in Special Situations” to the General Assembly analyses how the pandemic has stifled economic development in these Member States.⁵³

General Assembly resolution 73/223, “Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development” (2019), recalls that financing for sustainable development requires a global financial environment anchored in sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic growth.⁵⁴ Effectively, this report to the General Assembly highlights the need for further national

⁴⁰ UN General Assembly, *Agenda of the 76th Session*, 2021.

⁴¹ UN General Assembly, *Provisional Agenda of the Seventy-fifth Regular Session of the General Assembly (A/75/150)*, 2010.

⁴² UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee): Agenda Items and Periodicity*, 2021.

⁴³ UN General Assembly, *Resolutions of the 75th Session*, 2020.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ UN DGC, *Taking up Second Committee Reports, General Assembly Adopts 36 Resolutions, Including Test Calling for Building Back Better in Wake of Pandemic (GA12306)*, 2020.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) Reports to the Plenary*, 2020.

⁵¹ UN General Assembly, *Macroeconomic Policy Questions (A/75/455)*, 2020, p. 1.

⁵² UN General Assembly, *Sustainable Development (A/75/457)*, 2020.

⁵³ UN General Assembly, *Allocation of Agenda Items to the Second Committee (A/C.2/75/1)*, 2020.

⁵⁴ UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to and Implementation of the Outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (A/RES/73/223)*, 2019.

resource mobilization, partnerships and international cooperation, and investments in data and capacity.⁵⁵ To that end, the General Assembly Second Committee recommends Member States to implement the agreed conclusions of the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development that tackle a variety of issues such as debt sustainability, international trade and cooperation, and domestic and international private business and finance.⁵⁶ In 2020, for the fifth ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up, the Second Committee provided updates on this initiative.⁵⁷

The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered financial and economic disruptions, especially in areas that have limited infrastructure and fiscal capabilities.⁵⁸ As part of the UN's comprehensive response to COVID-19, the UN has created a UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund to assist the low and middle income countries in their immediate socio-economic response.⁵⁹ The Second Committee intends to strengthen multilateral cooperation to maintain and achieve the commitments set forth by the 2030 Agenda by building an inclusive and sustainable economy to help reduce these types of risks in the future.⁶⁰

During the 75th session of the General Assembly, the body continued to discuss the topic of "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly," and allocated this item to all main committees as well.⁶¹ The General Assembly tasked the Second Committee with engaging in informal dialogues at the end of 2020 through the first few months of 2021 with the objective of policy and procedural recommendations for better global engagement with the UN system in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶² In a report from the Second Committee, *Eradication of Poverty and Other Development Issues: Eradicating Rural Poverty to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/75/462/Add. 3) (2020)*, Member States reaffirmed commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda, emphasizing that poverty is still the greatest global change and urged the prioritization of its eradication.⁶³ This report states that 1.46 billion people still live in multidimensional poverty worldwide, that is, poverty that is not restricted to lack of financial resources.⁶⁴ It expressed concern that the population of people still living in extreme poverty continues to remain at high levels, whereas the wealthiest population continue to experience significant wealth growth.⁶⁵ Eradication of multidimensional poverty requires targeted programs at rural levels with specific objectives, engagement of national governments with rural stakeholders, and enhanced monitoring and implementation techniques to ensure these measures benefit all people.⁶⁶ With growing concern in the international community that SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) will not be achieved in many parts of the world by 2030, the Second Committee also recommended to the General Assembly various strategies to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture and food security.⁶⁷ It urged Member States to adopt sustainable agriculture and food systems, prioritize access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and maintenance of agricultural ecosystems, especially those already at risk of being destroyed by climate change.⁶⁸ It further urged Member States to expand existing food production systems in a sustainable manner, stressing that these are essential for the eradication of

⁵⁵ UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to and Implementation of the Outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (A/RES/73/223)*, 2019.

⁵⁶ UN ECOSOC, *Report of the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up (E/FFDF/2018/3)*, 2018; UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to and Implementation of the Outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (A/RES/73/223)*, 2019.

⁵⁷ UN General Assembly, *2020 ECOSOC Forum on FfD – Final Draft*, 2020.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ UN SDG, *United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better*, 2020.

⁶⁰ UN General Assembly, *2020 ECOSOC Forum on FfD – Final Draft*, 2020.

⁶¹ UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly*, 2018.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ UN General Assembly, *Eradication of Poverty and Other Development Issues: Eradicating Rural Poverty to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/75/462/Add. 3)*, 2020.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition (A/75/464)*, 2020.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

poverty in all its dimensions globally.⁶⁹ The Second Committee also submitted a report to the General Assembly on the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people.⁷⁰ It expressed concern about the destruction of Palestinian infrastructure by the occupied forces including water pipelines, sewage networks, and electricity distribution systems, and how these have exacerbated the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the region.⁷¹ The Second Committee also called on the occupying forces to stop the actions that are causing hardship to the Palestinian people, including the destruction of their natural environment.⁷²

In 2020, the Second Committee approved a draft resolution on *Protection of Global Climate for Present and Future Generations of Humankind (A/C.2/75/L.26/Rev.1)* in which the Assembly reemphasized the need for global commitment to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.⁷³ Currently, the UN's pledge to address the SDGs and climate change has fallen behind the pace necessary to achieve the goals by 2030.⁷⁴ The 2019 SDG Report finds that extreme poverty is still three times higher in rural areas compared with urban areas, women and girls still experience inequality; and global poverty rates are starting to rise after a 28-year reduction.⁷⁵ With regards to commitments within the *Paris Agreement*, according to the *2019 Emissions Gap Report* issued by UNEP, there is a gap in political will that must be eliminated as the current limit set for global temperature far surpasses safe levels.⁷⁶ Emission levels are rising exponentially worldwide, so the amount that governments would need to reduce emissions is also increasing rapidly.⁷⁷

Conclusion

The General Assembly Second Committee addresses the international economic and financial priorities of the UN, including those established by the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.⁷⁸ The Second Committee continues to streamline its work with the overarching goals of improving economic and financial systems worldwide and achieving the SDGs.⁷⁹ In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, measuring and reporting on the progress made towards achieving the SDGs has been limited due to meeting restrictions.⁸⁰ The Second Committee will continue to play a pivotal role in advancing efforts to promote sustainable development in the global recovery response to the ongoing pandemic.⁸¹ The 75th anniversary of the United Nations faced a series of unprecedented global challenges that required Member States to enhance multilateral cooperation in order to overcome them.⁸² The 76th session still faces challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and meetings at UN headquarters will be dependent on local COVID-19 measures, and facilitated by the Occupational Safety and Health Committee of the Crisis Operation Group.⁸³

⁶⁹ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition (A/75/464)*, 2020.

⁷⁰ UN General Assembly, *Permanent Sovereignty of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab Population in the Occupied Syrian Golan Over Their Natural Resources (A/75/465)*, 2020.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ UN DGC, *Second Committee Approves Three Resolutions, Including One on Protecting Global Climate for Present, Future Generations (GA/EF/3544)*, 2020.

⁷⁴ UN General Assembly, *Statement by H.E. Tijjani Muhammad Bande, President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly*, 2020.

⁷⁵ UN DGC, *Sustainable Development Goals Report*, 2020.

⁷⁶ UNEP, *Emissions Gap Report 2019*, 2019.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

⁷⁹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945; UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

⁸⁰ UN General Assembly, *2020 ECOSOC Forum on FfD – Final Draft*, 2020.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² UN DGC, *New General Assembly Underscores 'Necessity of Multilateralism'*, 2020.

⁸³ UN General Assembly, *Organization of the 76th Regular Session of the General Assembly, Adoption of the Agenda and Allocation of Items*, 2021.

Annotated Bibliography

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2021). *United Nations Handbook 2021-22*. Retrieved 17 September 2021 from: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Peace-Rights-and-Security/Our-work-with-the-UN/UN-Handbook-2021-22.pdf>

The United Nations (UN) Handbook provides a comprehensive look at the UN and its principal organs and committees. Delegates can find a detailed explanation of the structure, processes, and procedures of the Main Committees of the General Assembly in this source. The breakdown of the structure, membership, and functionality of these committees is a useful point for delegates to begin their research and gain an overall understanding of where the committee falls within the UN framework. In particular, the detailed listing of all current membership and leadership of key committees, as well as the structure and reporting of subsidiary organs will be a useful starting point for understanding the complicated framework of UN action.

United Nations Sustainable Development Group. (2020). *United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better*. Retrieved 20 September 2021 from: <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un-comprehensive-response-to-covid-19.pdf>

This report gives an overview over the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic on Member States and the efforts made to contain the crisis. The report further provides a roadmap with steps necessary in order for the global community to recover from the pandemic. Delegates should read the report in order to get a better overview over the UN's actions and to get a better understanding of the socio-economic impact and its long-lasting effects.

United Nations, General Assembly. (2020). *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee): Reports to the Plenary*. Retrieved 27 June 2021 from: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/second/75/reports.shtml>

This publication by the United Nations General Assembly provides information on all the approved draft resolutions and reports submitted to the General Assembly Plenary by the Second Committee for the 75th session. Each document also provides information on policy recommendations by the Second Committee to Member States. Delegates should use this compilation to find adopted draft resolutions that pertain to their research when seeking information on recent outcome documents of the Second Committee.

United Nations, General Assembly. (2021). *Organization of the 76th Regular Session of the General Assembly, Adoption of the Agenda and Allocation of Items*. Retrieved 18 September 2021 from: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/76/agenda/>

This publication includes the agenda for the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The agenda includes consideration of granting observer status to several civil society organizations, as well as topics assigned to each of the main six committees of the General Assembly. Delegates will find this useful when researching current priorities of the General Assembly, and each individual main committee. It also includes the election for the presidents, vice presidents, and chairs of all the main committees for the subsequent General Assembly session. Delegates will also find this source useful in tracking topics being discussed in other relevant committees, and how it relates to the current topics of the Second Committee.

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This publication summarizes the recommendations of the 36 adopted draft resolutions of the Second Committee that were submitted to the General Assembly Plenary. It provides a good starting point for delegates to do research on the outcome documents of the 75th session. It highlights the objectives set forth by the General Assembly for the upcoming year. One of the key areas of focus is building back better in the wake of the COVID-19

pandemic, and it outlines necessary steps and policies for Member States to undertake to build more resilient social and economic systems.

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1. The Convention on Biological Diversity and Its Contribution to Sustainable Development

“We should preserve every scrap of biodiversity as priceless while we learn to use it and come to understand what it means to humanity.”⁸⁴

Introduction

Biological diversity is defined as the variety in living organisms from all possible sources, including aquatic, terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and the diversity and complexity of the ecosystems themselves.⁸⁵ In the past 50 years, the world has lost over two-thirds of all existent different kinds of species due to factors that include pollution, unsustainable land and sea usage, and climate change.⁸⁶ The *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) (1992) is the United Nation’s (UN) overarching framework designed to recognize and conserve biological diversity for sustainable use and sustainability.⁸⁷

Biodiversity is one of the key goals when discussing ecological preservation, and represents an essential component in meeting many basic human needs, with diverse environmental components serving as medicine, energy, structure, livelihood, and nutrition for humans globally.⁸⁸ With the climate continuing to change due to human action, the foundations of all ecosystems are impacted, including losing biodiversity to habitat change, deforestation, and other human-driven impacts.⁸⁹ The full impacts of these choices may not appear immediately, as the true effects of biodiversity loss is often only realized over time.⁹⁰

Since biodiversity is integral to the continued well-being of our planet, and its loss has accelerated over the last 50 years, solutions need to be found to protect remaining biodiversity.⁹¹ If the world continues with current trends, there will continue to be incalculable biodiversity loss over time, and with it, irreversible negative impacts for humanity.⁹²

International and Regional Framework

Before the CBD, the UN first discussed topics related to biodiversity in 1973 at the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES), with a core focus on the fair and equal use of genetic resources.⁹³ Instead of the holistic definition of biodiversity afterwards utilized by the CBD, CITES was developed with goal of protecting only specific species from the effects of wildlife trade.⁹⁴

The CBD was an outcome of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, which was organized with the goal of operationalizing *Agenda 21*, the non-legally binding watershed document that forms the basis for members to meet their commitment to the CBD.⁹⁵ With its three original goals of conserving biological diversity, sustaining the use of biodiversity, and regulating equitable and fair sharing of biodiversity-related benefits, the CBD entered into force in December 1993.⁹⁶ The CBD was a landmark document as it covered the joint goals of sustainable development and protecting biodiversity for the first time, and

⁸⁴ National Science Foundation, *Edward O. Wilson*.

⁸⁵ COP CBD, *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 1992, p. 3.

⁸⁶ WWF, *Living Planet Report 2020*, 2020, p. 9.

⁸⁷ COP CBD, *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 1992.

⁸⁸ IPBES, *The global assessment report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, 2019, p. 10.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

⁹² COP CBD, *Scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity*, 2018, p. 2.

⁹³ CITES, *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*, 1983.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

⁹⁵ COP CBD, *History of the Convention*, 2021; COP CBD, *About the Initiators*, 2008.

⁹⁶ COP CBD, *Introduction*, 2021.

represents the legally binding framework through which action on the conservation of biological diversity can be taken by the international community.⁹⁷

The CBD established, in Article 23, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity as the primary means through which the CBD operationalizes its mission, further supported by the Secretariat and the two subsidiary bodies on Scientific and Technological Advancement and on Implementation.⁹⁸ The CBD's medium-to-long-term work is given structure through the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* (2010).⁹⁹ The financial mechanism for the Convention is outsourced to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and government between the Conference of Parties to the Convention and the Council of the GEF.¹⁰⁰

The CBD outlines a variety of measures on how to conserve biodiversity and, as overseen by the convention's Secretariat, offers guidance on how to incorporate aspects around regulations, technology, and finance.¹⁰¹ Additionally, it urges every party of the convention to create an individual National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) to provide a local framing of the convention and to facilitate the reporting process of achievement.¹⁰²

In 2000, the Conference of Parties (COP) to the CBD adopted the *Cartagena Protocol* specifically to address the subject of biosafety in respect of an advancing modern biotechnology.¹⁰³ The *Cartagena Protocol* enhances the original CBD by adding mechanisms to ensure the safe protection, handling, and modifying of living organisms.¹⁰⁴ Furthermore, the CBD accepted recommendations from the World Summit on Environment from 2002 to develop standards for a fair and equal share of benefits related to biodiversity.¹⁰⁵ After six years of negotiations, the *Nagoya Protocol* (2011) was adopted, providing transparency and legal clarity to users and providers of genetic resources.¹⁰⁶

As the UN's overarching framework for sustainable development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), most notably SDG 15 (life on land), share a number of important interlinkages with the CBD and aims to protect and promote biodiversity.¹⁰⁷ Examples of specific targets include target 15.9, with the goal to integrate core values of ecosystem and biodiversity protection in national and local planning and strategy, and 15.3 which aims to further combat desertification and work towards the restoration of degraded land by 2030.¹⁰⁸ The UN most recently reemphasized the importance of a biological diversity framework in the context of Sustainable Development, consistent with the SDGs, as part of the *2050 Vision for Biodiversity* (2018).¹⁰⁹

⁹⁷ Coalition for the United Nations We Need, *Timeline to 2020: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); COP CBD, Convention Bodies – Introduction*, 2021.

⁹⁸ COP CBD, *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 1992.

⁹⁹ COP CBD, *Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on its thirteenth meeting*, 2017; COP Convention on Biological Diversity, *Report of the first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity*, 1995; Convention on Biological Diversity, *Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on its fourteenth meeting*, 2018.

¹⁰⁰ COP CBD, *Memorandum of understanding between of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Council of the Global Environmental Facility (Decision III/8)*, 1996.

¹⁰¹ Secretariat of the CBD, *Sustaining life on earth*, 2000, p. 8.

¹⁰² Secretariat of the CBD, *What is an NBSAP?*, 2020.

¹⁰³ COP CBD, *Preliminary Consideration of Components of Biological Diversity Particularly under Threat and Action which could be taken under the Convention (Decision II/2)*, 1995.

¹⁰⁴ COP CBD, *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*, 2000.

¹⁰⁵ United Nations, *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/COND.199/20*)*, 2002, p. 105.

¹⁰⁶ COP CBD, *Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing*, 2011.

¹⁰⁷ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 14.

¹⁰⁸ UN DESA, *Goal 15 – Targets and Indicators*, 2021.

¹⁰⁹ COP CBD, *Long-Term Strategic Directions to the 2050 Visions for Biodiversity, Approaches to Living in Harmony with Nature and Preparation for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*, 2018, p. 2.

Role of the International System

The Second Committee of the General Assembly takes a leadership role within the UN system on addressing biodiversity.¹¹⁰ The Conference of the Parties on the CBD reports primarily to the Second Committee of the General Assembly, which in turn holds Member States accountable for meeting relevant goals based on their submitted reports.¹¹¹ The Second Committee of the General Assembly also provides strategy, coordination and oversight in line with the standards of the CBD and ensures overall globally coherent action.¹¹²

The General Assembly Second Committee focuses on topics around development, and ensures that standards are created to promote sustainable development in-line with existing biodiversity goals.¹¹³ As one of the three pillars of the CBD is the sustainable use of biodiversity, the General Assembly Second Committee also incorporates the issue of biodiversity in discussions on development.¹¹⁴ The Second Committee has addressed the issue within this context for over 25 years, including with the 1994 resolution 49/119 on *International Day for Biological Diversity*, which served to highlight the importance of the subject.¹¹⁵ In 2019, the Second Committee recalled the standards of the CBD through General Assembly resolution 73/234 on *Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development* (2019), highlighting the continued relevance of its tenets.¹¹⁶ The General Assembly also dedicated 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity.¹¹⁷

The Aichi Biodiversity targets are a key element of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* (2010), which continues 20 Targets over 5 strategic areas, each with an individual technical rationale, guiding individual NBSAPs.¹¹⁸ *The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* did highlight the issue of protecting biodiversity globally, however the UN only partially archived six of the Aichi Biodiversity targets and achieved none of them entirely.¹¹⁹

One of the immediate objectives of the COP to the CBD is to outline its next strategy, a post-2020 global biodiversity framework.¹²⁰ To achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity goal of “living in harmony with nature,” the a post-2020 global diversity framework needs to ensure that governments take direct and transformative action.¹²¹ This can be achieved by various policy means, adapted to local circumstances, including measures tackling biodiversity and climate change or measures consistent with sustainable development.¹²² A post-2020 global biodiversity framework is currently planned to be centered on the theory of change, which requests the international community to take immediate action to slow and reverse trends distinguishing biodiversity.¹²³ The proposed framework works on two levels, with a

¹¹⁰ UN General Assembly, *International Year of Biodiversity (A/RES/61/203)*, 2006, p. 1; COP CBD, *International Day for Biological Diversity – 22 May, 2021*.

¹¹¹ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development (A/RES/75/219)*, 2019.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

¹¹⁴ COP CBD, *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 1992.

¹¹⁵ UN General Assembly, *International Day for Biological Diversity (A/RES/49/119)*, 1994.

¹¹⁶ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development (A/RES/74/221)*, 2019.

¹¹⁷ UN General Assembly, *International Year of Biodiversity (A/RES/61/203)*, 2006, p. 1; COP CBD, *International Day for Biological Diversity – 22 May, 2021*.

¹¹⁸ COP CBD, *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (Decision X/2) 2011-2020*, 2010.

¹¹⁹ COP CBD, *Global Diversity Outlook 5*, 2020, p. 10.

¹²⁰ COP CBD, *Update of the Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/POST2020/PREP/2/1)*, 2020.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² COP CBD, *Long-Term Strategic Directions to the 2050 Visions for Biodiversity, Approaches to Living in Harmony with Nature and Preparation for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*, 2018, p. 2.

¹²³ COP CBD, *Update of the Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/POST2020/PREP/2/1)*, 2020, p. 2.

dedicated 2030 mission and milestones, where specific thresholds still have to be specified, which transform into outcome oriented targets for 2050.¹²⁴ Through discussions on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the General Assembly developed resolution 75/219 on “Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development” of 2020, with a focus on generating strategic plans and standards for the immediate future.¹²⁵

As a preparation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the 2020 United Nations Summit on Biodiversity was hosted and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/269 on *Scope, modalities, format and organization of the summit on biodiversity (2020)*, a summit summary was released September 2020.¹²⁶ The summit included two panel discussions, one on the topic of biodiversity loss and mainstreaming biodiversity for sustainable development, which noted the strong link to the global food supply system and the related upcoming UN Food System summit.¹²⁷ The other panel focused on knowledge applications for biodiversity and promoted the importance of multilateral projects, equal knowledge integration, and capacity-building.¹²⁸ These discussions will likely be expanded upon by additional stakeholders during the 2021 UN Biodiversity Conference, a three-meeting event meant to also host the delayed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP-15).¹²⁹ The provisional agenda currently contains a range of topics from the overall goal of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to digital sequencing of information or cooperation with other conventions and international organizations.¹³⁰

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) also advances decision-making on the topic of biodiversity to assist the General Assembly Second Committee, for example through the hosting of the High-Level Political Forum.¹³¹ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs also takes on a share of the organizational and substantive work of the Second Committee of the General Assembly, and collaborates on biodiversity and sustainable development.¹³²

The United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) is the leading body in all environmental questions in the UN system.¹³³ UNEA, UNEP’s governance body, is assigned to set standards and provide leadership on the subject on all levels.¹³⁴ On the subject of biodiversity, UNEP is currently supporting the protection of forests, sustainable land management, enabling knowledge platforms, as well as collaborating and working on National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans.¹³⁵ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), part of the UN’s Funds and Programmes, notes the importance for biodiversity in our food system, and in 2016 called for a mainstreaming of the subject and offered a platform to embed biodiversity in policymaking and in the agricultural sector.¹³⁶

¹²⁴ COP CBD, *Update of the Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/POST2020/PREP/2/1)*, 2020.

¹²⁵ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development (A/RES/74/221)*, 2019.

¹²⁶ UN General Assembly, *Summary of the president of the general assembly on the United Nations Biodiversity Summit*, 2020.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ COP CBD, *UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP 15) Update*, 2020.

¹³⁰ COP CBD, *Provisional Agenda (CBD COP 15)*, 2020.

¹³¹ UN ECOSOC, *Report towards the Sustainable Development Goals – Report of the Secretary-General*, 2021.

¹³² UN DESA, *Department of Economic and Social Affairs – What we do*, 2021.

¹³³ UN General Assembly, *Institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation (A/RES/27/2997)*, 1972.

¹³⁴ UNEA, *About the United Nations Environment Assembly*, 2021.

¹³⁵ UNEP, *UNEP and Biodiversity*, 2021; United Nations, *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan*, 2002.

¹³⁶ FAO, *FAO Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform*, 2018, p. 2.

The United Nations Environment Management Group (UNEMG) is a coordination body that aims to ensure system-wide coherence and collaboration on topics relating to the environment.¹³⁷ In May 2021, the body hosted a high-level virtual dialogue on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and focused on several topics, including a common approach of an integration of biodiversity in UN policies for sustainable development.¹³⁸ For future discussions on the new agenda, UNEMG provided two major documents: a final overview of UN input to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and an update to the consultative process it provides.¹³⁹

The subject of biodiversity is also addressed by non-UN organizations, such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).¹⁴⁰ IPBES is an independent intergovernmental body and observer organization that is responsible for many of the studies and data collection that informs the summary reports on the CBD.¹⁴¹ This includes the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* reports, the most recent of which was published in 2020.¹⁴² The work of IPBES is supplemented by NBSAPs submitted by individual governments.¹⁴³ The most recent contribution from IPBES is a *Workshop Report on Biodiversity and Climate Change* (2020), co-authored with experts from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, consisting of several scientific reports and a major list of relevant references on the subject.¹⁴⁴

On a regional level, the European Union provides their own framework to improve the status of biodiversity, structured around the three stages of protection, restoration, and enforcement.¹⁴⁵ The African Union also contribute to the decision-making on a global level, such as through the African Biodiversity Summit 2018, which preceded the UN Biodiversity Conference.¹⁴⁶ Academia also largely supports the global maintenance of biodiversity, and raises awareness for more research funding and the importance of biodiversity through holding academic dialogues on the achievement of the UN SDGs.¹⁴⁷ The University of Pretoria currently hosts the center for Wildlife Management and the Seoul National University has a specific department for maintenance of biodiversity in forests, both of which have contributed to existing UN frameworks on biodiversity.¹⁴⁸ Civil society also plays a key role in many local and regional projects to maintain biodiversity, such as for example the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, which supports the protection of biodiversity through a joint biodiversity conservation initiative between l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, and the World Bank.¹⁴⁹

¹³⁷ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements*, 1999.

¹³⁸ UN CEB, *A common approach to Integrating Biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into the UN's policy and programme planning and delivery*, 2021.

¹³⁹ UN EMG, *Update on the UN EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity, at the Time of the 2nd Meeting of the OEWG on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*, 2020; UN EMG, *An Overview of the UN System Inputs to the Development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*, 2020.

¹⁴⁰ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Program on its eleventh special session (A/RES/65/162)*, 2011.

¹⁴¹ IPBES, *About*.

¹⁴² COP CBD, *Global Diversity Outlook 5*, 2020.

¹⁴³ *Ibid.*, p. 32.

¹⁴⁴ IPBES, *Launch of the IPES-IPCC Co-Sponsored Workshop Report on Biodiversity and Climate Change*, 2021.

¹⁴⁵ FAO, *European Union's Biodiversity Agenda for 2030*, 2020.

¹⁴⁶ IISD, *African Biodiversity Summit*, 2018.

¹⁴⁷ Stenseth & Demissew, *Boost for Africa's research must protect its biodiversity*, 2021; United Nations, *#SDGsinAcademica: Goal 15*, 2018.

¹⁴⁸ Stenseth & Demissew, *Boost for Africa's research must protect its biodiversity*, 2021; United Nations, *#SDGsinAcademica: Goal 15*, 2018.

¹⁴⁹ CEFP, *Civil Society*, 2021.

Protecting Biodiversity by Knowledge Sharing

Knowledge sharing is a valuable instrument to reach international goals on biodiversity, as it is a tool equally driven by all stakeholders.¹⁵⁰ The process of knowledge sharing facilitates the distribution of best practices, tools, and resources for sustainable development, such as guidance on technology implementation, or the best means to promote transparency and effective policy-building.¹⁵¹ For instance, traditional knowledge of indigenous people also contains important information about sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.¹⁵² This knowledge, innovations, and practices are developed through experience over long periods of time, influenced by the local environment and shared through generations.¹⁵³ The knowledge is not only valuable for the communities that depend on survival for it, but also maintain potential for research applied in agriculture and other modern industries.¹⁵⁴ The UN acknowledges that not only is indigenous knowledge integral to learning more about long-term biodiversity practices, but preserving traditional indigenous knowledge should be a priority of all biodiversity frameworks in and of itself.¹⁵⁵

Similarly, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Science Advisory Board concluded in 2016 that science is key in achieving the SDGs and notes the significant potential it has in influencing pressing global topics.¹⁵⁶ Generally, these potentials have been under-utilized, as was acknowledged during a dialogue on the 2020 Biodiversity Summit.¹⁵⁷ In addition, further scientific input is needed to develop financially- and economically-sound systems that benefit biodiversity in the long term, including measures to improve the capacity for knowledge sharing.¹⁵⁸

This 2020 dialogue also noted that members and stakeholders with less available resources and lower levels of development, particularly those who were severely impacted by the pandemic, particularly need more information on integrating nature-based solution with policies and maintain sustainable biodiversity restoration.¹⁵⁹ For instance, Brazil, Indonesia, and Venezuela are key members when it comes to conserving and utilizing biodiversity for sustainable development, but these same states may lack the access to technology, funding, and knowledge of implementation.¹⁶⁰

Technology and knowledge transfer can therefore positively affect knowledge-sharing frameworks and result in economic benefits and achievements in conservation, through research to design new applications with existing technology.¹⁶¹ An example for such a transfer is the Bio-Bridge Initiative, which was initiated by the Republic of Korea during COP20 to help achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the goals of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020* (2010) by enabling a platform for technical exchange.¹⁶² In March 2017, the Bio-Bridge Initiative Web Platform was launched to promote communication between Parties and share information and resources for best practices.¹⁶³ Other positive

¹⁵⁰ UN General Assembly, *The future we want (A/RES/66/288)*, 2012.

¹⁵¹ UN OSD, *Knowledge Sharing*; COP CBD, *Global Diversity Outlook 5*, 2020.

¹⁵² UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development (A/RES/74/221)*, 2019.

¹⁵³ COP CBD, *Traditional Knowledge and the Convention on Biological Diversity*, 2011.

¹⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁶ UNESCO, *The future of scientific advice to the United Nations*, 2016.

¹⁵⁷ UN General Assembly, *Scope, modalities, format and organization of the summit on biodiversity (A/RES/74/269)*, 2020.

¹⁵⁸ UN General Assembly, *Summary of the president of the general assembly on the United Nations Biodiversity Summit*, 2020.

¹⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

¹⁶⁰ Butler, *Countries with the highest biodiversity*, 2019; UN DESA, *Climate Change: Technology Development and Technology Transfer*, 2008.

¹⁶¹ Srinivas, *Technology Transfer for Sustainable Development*, 2015.

¹⁶² Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals Scientific Council, *The Bio-Bridge Initiative and its Action Plan 2017-2020 to Support Technical and Scientific Cooperation*, 2018.

¹⁶³ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Launch of the Bio-Bridge Initiative Web Platform*, 2017.

outcomes from the Bio-Bridge Initiative include a number of projects that benefit individual ecosystems, such as *Recognizing and Building on Customary Marine Management through Audio-Visual Approaches: Milne Bay Papua New Guinea*.¹⁶⁴ In 2020, The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Project was started as a regional project in Eastern and Southern Africa with the aim of supporting monitoring and decision-making for biodiversity and sustainable development aims.¹⁶⁵ Overall, effective practices in managing and sharing information should focus on the needs of developing nations and the promotion of capacity building.¹⁶⁶

The need for overarching general standards for reaching biodiversity goals an ongoing objective of the Second Committee.¹⁶⁷ Only with political will and sufficient resources exist can knowledge sharing further enable the attainment of the SDGs.¹⁶⁸ Tools such as the United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre is a potential starting point to further investigate potential incentive setting to motivate such standards.¹⁶⁹

Biodiversity and COVID-19

COVID-19 continues to be a significant disrupter to society, with the impacts of the pandemic particularly noticeable for developing Member States.¹⁷⁰ Investigation on the origin of COVID-19 show a potential link between zoonotic diseases and biodiversity loss.¹⁷¹ The relationship between zoonotic diseases and biodiversity is not new; a loss of diversity in ecosystems tends to lead to more human-fauna interaction, and a higher risk of disease transfer for humans, as seen with the West Nile virus and Lyme disease.¹⁷² Researchers have repeatedly identified that a loss of biodiversity leads to an increased chance of human exposure to zoonotic diseases.¹⁷³

The connection between biodiversity and COVID-19 and other pandemics, has the potential to create a compounding effect.¹⁷⁴ This impact is of a twofold nature, as the degradation of biodiversity increases the likelihood of zoonotic diseases and pandemics, and pandemics accelerate biodiversity losses due to countermeasures and efforts of containment.¹⁷⁵

The pandemic can be evaluated as an opportunity to reassess members' relationship with biodiversity, as Member States reported taking pandemic to "re-conceptualize, reprioritize, and recalibrate approaches to sustainable development" and re-acknowledge the need to promote biodiversity for current and future generations.¹⁷⁶ Increased media coverage and the focus on the relationship between human health and biodiversity could be one of the factors leading to an increase of awareness on the connection between low biodiversity and disease.¹⁷⁷ Under COVID-19, the global decline in biodiversity temporally decreased, initiated by a recession of the economy.¹⁷⁸ While this could be seen as progress, this is only a temporary

¹⁶⁴ Bio Bridge Initiative, *Demonstrative Projects – Third Round*, 2021.

¹⁶⁵ *New biodiversity knowledge hub launched for Eastern and Southern Africa*, European Commission, 2020.

¹⁶⁶ UN General Assembly, *Macroeconomic policy questions: promoting investments for sustainable development*, 2020.

¹⁶⁷ UN General Assembly, *Science, technology and innovation for development (A/RES/72/228)*, 2018.

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

¹⁶⁹ UNEP, *UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre*, 2021.

¹⁷⁰ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development (A/RES/74/221)*, 2019.

¹⁷¹ WHO, *WHO-convened global study of origins of SARS-CoV-2: China Part*, 2021, p. 8.

¹⁷² Ostfeld, *Biodiversity loss and the rise of zoonotic pathogens*, 2009.

¹⁷³ Keesing & Ostfeld, *Impacts of biodiversity and biodiversity loss on zoonotic diseases*, 2021.

¹⁷⁴ IPBES, *IPBES Workshop on Biodiversity and Pandemics Executive Summary*, 2020.

¹⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 81.

¹⁷⁶ UN General Assembly, *Summary of the president of the general assembly on the United Nations Biodiversity Summit*, 2020, p. 8.

¹⁷⁷ COP CBD, *Global Diversity Outlook 5*, 2020, p. 36.

¹⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 48.

pause in an ongoing and catastrophic loss of biodiversity, that is estimated to resume consistent levels of loss as the world rebuilds from COVID-19.¹⁷⁹

The General Assembly Second Committee looks to balance their mandate of ensuring fair economic participation for everyone, and strengthening the new international economic order, with halting biodiversity loss, preventing spread of zoonotic diseases, and meeting the SDGs.¹⁸⁰ As every UN Member State is currently creating their own economic measures for economic and policy recovery from COVID-19, this period presents substantial opportunity for unification, efficacy gains and standard setting on the issue.¹⁸¹

Conclusion

A large share of biodiversity is already lost and cannot be recovered; the UN can only promote action to prevent further losses.¹⁸² The *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* (2010) achieved only six of its goals partially and fell behind international expectations.¹⁸³ With the forthcoming adoption of a new strategic period for the CBD, the ongoing COVID-10 pandemic, and the long-term ambition to achieve the *2050 Vision for Biodiversity* (2021), this is an important period for limiting biodiversity loss.¹⁸⁴ Not ensuring the protection biodiversity leads to an acceleration of future losses, and negatively impact human's ability to rely on valuable resources, such as nutrition or medicine.¹⁸⁵ There is a wide range of current initiatives active to maintain biodiversity, but ensuring political will and effective knowledge-sharing remains a priority.¹⁸⁶ The Second Committee of the General Assembly needs to find mechanisms and standards to enable all members to finance sustainable development with the protection of biodiversity as a priority.¹⁸⁷

Further Research

Delegates may begin their research by considering the following questions: Which norms and standards need to be achieved by the post-2020 global biodiversity framework? What can the Second Committee do to support Member States in overcoming the economic challenges of COVID-19 without sacrificing biodiversity? How can the Second Committee incentivize knowledge sharing of best practice and learnings in order to preserve biodiversity? How has COVID-19 helped or hindered progress towards protecting biodiversity?

Annotated Bibliography

Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. (1992). *Convention on Biological Diversity*. Retrieved 26 June 2021 from: <https://www.cbd.int/convention/text/>

This convention is the fundamental document to all activities related to biological diversity in the UN. It defines most of the core principles and mechanisms and is foundation for all future establishments within the UN. Delegates should therefore familiarize themselves with the convention to grasp the fundamentals of the subject and gain the foundation for understanding this important issue.

Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2005). *CBD Handbook (the 3rd Edition)*. Retrieved 8 August 2021 from: <https://www.cbd.int/handbook/>

¹⁷⁹ COP CBD, *Global Diversity Outlook 5*, 2020. p. 44.

¹⁸⁰ UN General Assembly, *Globalization and interdependence: globalization and interdependence*, 2020.

¹⁸¹ IMF, *Policy Responses to COVID-19*, 2021.

¹⁸² WWF, *Living Planet Report 2020*, 2020, p. 9.

¹⁸³ COP CBD, *Global Diversity Outlook 5*, 2020.

¹⁸⁴ COP CBD, *Long-Term Strategic Directions to the 2050 Visions for Biodiversity, Approaches to Living in Harmony with Nature and Preparation for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*, 2018.

¹⁸⁵ IPBES, *The global assessment report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, 2019, p. 11.

¹⁸⁶ COP CBD, *Global Diversity Outlook 5*, 2020.

¹⁸⁷ COP CBD, *Long-Term Strategic Directions to the 2050 Visions for Biodiversity, Approaches to Living in Harmony with Nature and Preparation for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*, 2018.

This handbook outlines the practical application of the CBD. It provides detailed insights and explanations on how the CBD can be used for future policy development and provides detailed descriptions on how the CBD is used in the international system. Delegates can utilize this resource to learn how mechanisms of the CBD work in order to ensure the accuracy and effectiveness of their proposals in achieving the conservation of biodiversity.

Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2020). *Global Diversity Outlook 5*. Retrieved 8 August 2021 from: <https://www.cbd.int/gbo5>

The CBD regularly provides a comprehensive outlook on potential future topics on biodiversity. This outlook provides a review of the results of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (2010), and provides avenues for further developments of the subject. It is a highly valuable source to identify future urgent needs and presents interesting potential applications for the subject of biodiversity, particularly in relation to the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework (2021). Delegates will find helpful reviews of the past development and starting points for potential topic paths. Additionally, they should carefully review the status of achievement of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2020). *Update of the Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/POST2020/PREP/2/1)*. Retrieved 8 August 2021 from: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/POST2020-PREP-01>

This document is the most recent deliverable in the discussions around the upcoming Post-2020 Global Biological Diversity Framework. The main points of the current discussion are summarized, as are the mistakes in missed achievements of the past. This resource should help delegates understand means to insert potential new ideas into the discussion. The document itself also represents a useful roadmap on subjects that delegates may discuss during the conference.

United Nations Environment Management Group. (2020). *An Overview of the UN System Inputs to the Development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*. Retrieved 8 August 2021 from: <https://unemg.org/our-work/emerging-issues/biodiversity/>

This overview summarizes all streams of discussion which are currently influencing the potential formation of the Post-2020 Global Biological Diversity Frameworks. It can assist delegates in understanding the contributions of all stakeholders to the subject. This document also helps in conceptualizing the relationship between the mandate of the General Assembly Second Committee and the work of relevant stakeholders. It is a useful resource on design stakeholder-based solutions to protect biodiversity.

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2. Continued Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)

“Let us remember that ending poverty is not a matter of charity but a question of justice.”¹⁸⁸

Introduction

Despite an increase in overall global welfare in recent decades, many people worldwide still lack a sufficient standard of living.¹⁸⁹ To express the phenomena of poverty in numbers, the United Nations (UN) system uses the threshold of an “absolute poverty measure.”¹⁹⁰ This threshold ensures comparability of extreme poverty and depicts the minimum income a person needs for everyday life.¹⁹¹ Member States, as well as the World Bank, also provide data on relative poverty, meaning national or regional poverty lines adjusted to the income situation of the location.¹⁹² Although relative poverty is less comparable between Member States, it is a consistent means of measuring this threshold and reveals insufficient living standards even in high-income economies.¹⁹³ For example, the World Bank establishes the 2018 Societal Poverty Line (SPL) as \$2.30 in Sub-Saharan Africa versus \$8.40 in Europe and Central Asia.¹⁹⁴

However, poverty in all its dimensions goes beyond monetary measures alone, and can also be demonstrated through non-income-related factors.¹⁹⁵ This is called multidimensional or non-income poverty, because criteria such as decent work or financial gain cannot cover certain basic needs alone.¹⁹⁶ As defined in the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), these needs include access to health services, quality education, and living standards.¹⁹⁷ The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index categorizes 1.3 billion people as living in multidimensionally poverty globally.¹⁹⁸ Non-income-related poverty is most persistent in developing regions and among vulnerable population groups such as women and children.¹⁹⁹ Furthermore, risk groups in rural areas are disproportionately left behind in education, working conditions, and social policy actions.²⁰⁰

To determine poverty at national levels, Member States may choose to draw upon household surveys or take data from individual or broader district or regional levels.²⁰¹ The head count ratio or incidence presents the most general measure, which illustrates an increase or decrease of poor people per Member State or sub-national area relative to its population.²⁰² While there is much data available on poverty, some understanding is lacking, because more specific information than national data is needed to highlight sub-groups by gender, ethnicity, culture, or religion, and ensure disaggregated data results.²⁰³

In the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027) (Third Decade), which was themed “accelerating global actions for a world without poverty,” Member States committed to providing

¹⁸⁸ UN DGC, *UN Chief says Ending Poverty ‘a Question of Justice’ on International Day*, 2018.

¹⁸⁹ Roser, *Our World in Data*, 2019.

¹⁹⁰ Ritchie et al., *Measuring Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2018.

¹⁹¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁹² World Bank Group, *Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune*, 2020, pp. 41-42.

¹⁹³ *Ibid.*, p. 41.

¹⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 66.

¹⁹⁵ UNDP & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020*, 2020, p. 4.

¹⁹⁶ UNDP, *Beyond Income: A Broader Picture of Poverty*, 2018.

¹⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁸ UNDP & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020*, 2020, p. 3.

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 124-125.

²⁰⁰ Bertolini, *Overview of Income and Non-Income Rural Poverty in Developed Countries*, 2019, p. 4.

²⁰¹ OECD, *The Development Assistance Committee Guidelines*, 2001, p. 40.

²⁰² UNDP & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020*, 2020, p. 6.

²⁰³ OECD, *The Development Assistance Committee Guidelines*, 2001, p. 41.

more detailed information and bring about more effective development strategies.²⁰⁴ The previous United Nations Decades for the Eradication of Poverty were themed “eradicating poverty is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind” (1997-2006) and “full employment and decent work for all” (2008-2017).²⁰⁵ At the onset of the Third Decade, the head count ratio has more than halved, decreasing from 29% in 1997 to less than 10% in 2017 worldwide.²⁰⁶ However, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Member States in the Third Decade are confronted with a prospective increase in global poverty for the first time in the 21st century.²⁰⁷

International and Regional Framework

The 2030 Agenda is the overarching UN instrument for sustainable development, grounded in the international framework for human rights, most importantly the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948).²⁰⁸ The UDHR, adopted in 1948 by the General Assembly, is part of the *International Bill of Human Rights* (IBHR) alongside the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) (1976) and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR) (1976).²⁰⁹ The *Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1976) and the *Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Aiming at the Abolition of the Death Penalty* (1990) complete the IBHR.²¹⁰ UDHR articles 22 to 27 guarantee not only the right to work, fair salary, social security, but also non-income-based aspects like the right to education, which is further specified in the ICESCR.²¹¹ The foundational character of the ICESCR led the UN system to examine negative effects of poverty on guaranteeing human rights fully.²¹² To this end, the Human Rights Council’s (HRC) mandate includes consistent dialogue on the agenda item “Extreme Poverty and Human Rights,” and in 2020 reiterated that widespread extreme poverty suppresses the enjoyment of human rights.²¹³

The Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development in 1995 identified poverty as the foremost obstacle to achieving sustainable development.²¹⁴ The outcome document of this summit called for an international framework to end poverty, and named 1996 the “International Year for the Eradication of Poverty.”²¹⁵ The World Summit subsequently suggested the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (First Decade) to be declared by the General Assembly.²¹⁶ The goals of this decade including establishing a national and international dialogue on tackling poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion.²¹⁷ The UN General Assembly Second Committee had previously discussed the topic under the title “International Cooperation for the Eradication of Poverty in Developing Countries” until 1995, and now does so primarily under the Third Decade item.²¹⁸

²⁰⁴ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)* (A/RES/73/246), 2018.

²⁰⁵ UN General Assembly, *First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty* (A/RES/51/178), 1997; UN General Assembly, *Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty* (A/RES/63/230), 2009.

²⁰⁶ Hasell & Roser, *Our World in Data*, 2019; World Bank Group, *Regional Aggregation Using 2011 Purchasing Power Parity and \$1.9/day Poverty Line*, 2021.

²⁰⁷ World Bank Group, *Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune*, 2020, p. 34.

²⁰⁸ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (A/RES/70/1), 2015, p. 4.

²⁰⁹ UN OHCHR, *Fact Sheet No.2 (Rev. 1), The International Bill of Rights*, 1996.

²¹⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

²¹² UN OHCHR, *About Extreme Poverty and Human Rights*, 2021.

²¹³ UN HRC, *Extreme Poverty and Human Rights* (A/HRC/RES/44/13), 2020, p. 2.

²¹⁴ UN World Summit for Social Development, *Report of the World Summit for Social Development: Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995*, 1996.

²¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 83.

²¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 83.

²¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 26.

²¹⁸ UN General Assembly, *International Cooperation for the Eradication of Poverty in Developing Countries: International Year for the Eradication of Poverty* (A/RES/49/110), 1995.

The adoption of the *United Nations Millennium Declaration* in 2000 and the establishment of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set the goal to halve extreme poverty by 2015, which was eventually reached five years ahead of schedule.²¹⁹ Policy recommendations repeatedly highlighted the necessity to harness synergies among the MDGs when developing national strategies.²²⁰ To this end, MDG 1 “eradicate extreme poverty and hunger” comprised cross-cutting goals on the reduction of global hunger and providing decent employment.²²¹ The subject of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (Second Decade) mirrored the latter target of MDG 1 and was incorporated under the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework, the MGD’s successor framework.²²²

The *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA), adopted in 2015, is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and the main instrument for Financing for Development (FfD) to eradicate poverty.²²³ The AAAA highlights issues that poverty and other global obstacles present to sustainable development, and thus provides a global framework to FfD.²²⁴ The areas of this policy focus on public resources at the domestic level, private enterprises at the domestic and international levels partnerships between Member States for development, international trade, and more.²²⁵ These policy areas aim to foster national financing frameworks, which are accompanied by knowledge transfer to enhance the effects of financial flows.²²⁶

The lack of resilient natural environments under ongoing global climate change manifest in new phenomena of poverty, which are captured in the *Paris Agreement* (2015), the *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* (Sendai Framework) (2015), and the *New Urban Agenda* (2016).²²⁷ While the *Paris Agreement* affirmed that the fight against poverty and limiting global warming must go hand in hand, the latter two documents are dedicated to sustainable urbanization and disaster risk reduction (DRR) management.²²⁸ Natural disasters leave lasting harm on health and health services, destroy infrastructure, and cause displacement of affected people.²²⁹ Because of the inherently global nature of climate change, the principles of the *Paris Agreement*, the Sendai Framework, and the *New Urban Agenda* are being centralized in the Third Decade to accelerate global actions for a world without poverty.²³⁰

The General Assembly Second Committee continues to approach poverty in a multi-faceted way to bring about effective strategies on global and national levels in the Third Decade.²³¹ Most importantly, the 2030 Agenda and SDG 1 (“end poverty in all its forms everywhere”) in 2015 superseded the MDGs and set the

²¹⁹ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000; UN DGC, *Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty & Hunger*.

²²⁰ UNDP, *What Will It Take to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals? – An International Assessment*, 2010, p. iv.

²²¹ FAO, *Millennium Development Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger*, 2021.

²²² UN General Assembly, *Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (A/RES/63/230)*, 2009.

²²³ UN General Assembly, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313)*, 2015.

²²⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

²²⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 7-23.

²²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

²²⁷ Conference of the Parties 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015.

²²⁸ Conference of the Parties 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015, p. 3; UN General Assembly, *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015.

²²⁹ UNDP & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020*, 2020, p. 28.

²³⁰ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027) (A/RES/73/246)*, 2018, p. 4.

²³¹ *Ibid.*

objectives of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere.²³² Accordingly, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) pledges to eradicate extreme poverty, and to leave no one below the daily income of \$1.90, determined as the minimum global threshold.²³³ SDG 1 also calls for the alleviation of multidimensional poverty according to national definitions (SDG 1.2), and the reduction of vulnerability of the poor to climate-related extreme events and shocks (SDG 1.5).²³⁴ SDG indicators, established in 2017 as a *Global Indicator Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals* (Indicator Framework), help quantify policy action in the Third Decade.²³⁵ 14 indicators measure SDG, illustrated by quantifiers such as the proportion of population living below international and national poverty lines, or the number of deaths attributed to natural disasters.²³⁶ For example, the Indicator Framework states that natural disasters caused 7000 deaths and displaced almost 19 million people in 2017.²³⁷

Role of the International System

The General Assembly Second Committee has started reviewing the Third Decade in General Assembly resolution 73/246 (2018) on “Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027).”²³⁸ Recently, the General Assembly Second Committee discussed the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on poverty eradication in General Assembly resolution 75/230 (2020).²³⁹ The resolution notes with concern a rise in the number of extremely poor people by up to 10%, as well as inadequate health infrastructure and social protection.²⁴⁰ At the same time, it recognizes that decent work still is one of the most effective income-related routes in escaping poverty.²⁴¹ The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide a report which showcases the deficiencies of the Third Decade amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁴² It will be submitted at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly.²⁴³

In 2018, the UN Secretary-General compiled the *United Nations System-Wide Plan of Action for the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)* (SWAP).²⁴⁴ This plan was created by several UN bodies as well as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and identifies areas of policy focus towards achieving poverty reduction, such as decent employment and sustainable economic growth.²⁴⁵ SWAP underscores the need for capacity-building in gathering and analyzing relevant data.²⁴⁶ The lack of reliable disaggregated statistics to measure dynamics and dimensions of poverty prevents Member States from understanding where poor people live, what they

²³² UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)* (A/RES/73/246), 2018.

²³³ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (A/RES/70/1), 2015, p. 15.

²³⁴ Ritchie et al., *Measuring Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2018.

²³⁵ UN General Assembly, *Work of the Statistical Commission Pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (A/RES/71/313), 2017; UN DGC, *UN Statistical Commission Agrees on Global Indicator Framework*, 2016.

²³⁶ Ritchie et al., *Measuring Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2018.

²³⁷ Ritchie & Roser, *Our World in Data*, 2019.

²³⁸ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)* (A/RES/73/246), 2018.

²³⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

²⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

²⁴² UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)* (A/RES/75/230), 2020, p. 13; UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027): Report of the Secretary-General* (A/75/280), 2020.

²⁴³ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)* (A/RES/75/230), 2020, p. 13.

²⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 11-16.

²⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 3, 11-16.

need, how old they are, and to what gender or ethnic group they belong.²⁴⁷ Action plans to address these issues are based on joint research, dissemination of information, and monitoring with the Indicator Framework, among others.²⁴⁸

Due to the slowdown the COVID-19 pandemic caused in poverty reduction and sustainable development, the Secretary-General has launched various response plans and briefings.²⁴⁹ These response plans are meant to address the COVID-19 pandemic among affected policy fields, populations, and regions.²⁵⁰ The Secretary-General also compiled the report “A UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19” (2020) to react to rising global poverty level.²⁵¹ The report elaborates on how inter-agency support of the UN Development System (UNDS) can help in overcoming the crisis.²⁵² It also outlines countermeasures of all UN entities involved in UNDS, ranging from the International Labour Organization (ILO), to the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and the World Health Organization (WHO).²⁵³

In June 2020, the General Assembly organized the virtual High-Level Meeting on Trends, Options and Strategies in Poverty Eradication across the World (High-Level Meeting on Poverty Eradication).²⁵⁴ High-level representatives from UN organizations and Member States agreed to intensify policy dialogues and strengthen global partnership in the fight against poverty.²⁵⁵ The High-Level Meeting also marked the inauguration of the Alliance for Poverty Eradication, streamlining bilateral and multilateral work for poverty eradication.²⁵⁶ The Alliance for Poverty Eradication consists of 39 lower-middle-income and developed Member States and will focus on non-income-related aspects of poverty, such as healthcare services, education, and nutrition.²⁵⁷

The Inter-agency Expert Group Meeting on The Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027) held a meeting in mid-2021 to assess the policy recommendations of SWAP.²⁵⁸ More than 30 experts from UN organizations, academia, think tanks, and civil society initiated this meeting with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and discussed new findings in regional poverty eradication.²⁵⁹ Their recommendations will provide the Secretary-General with information on new developments for his report on the “Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,” to be presented at the Seventy-sixth session of the General

²⁴⁷ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027): Report of the Secretary-General (A/73/298)*, 2018, p. 17.

²⁴⁸ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027): Report of the Secretary-General (A/73/298)*, 2018, pp. 10-11.

²⁴⁹ UN DGC, *UN Response to COVID-19*, 2021.

²⁵⁰ Ibid.

²⁵¹ UN Secretary-General, *A UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19*, 2020.

²⁵² Ibid., p. 32.

²⁵³ Ibid., pp. 47-49.

²⁵⁴ UN DGC, *General Assembly Virtual High-Level Meeting on Poverty Eradication*, 2020; UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-Level Meeting on “Trends, Options and Strategies in Poverty Eradication across the World” and the Inauguration of the Alliance for Poverty Eradication*, 2020.

²⁵⁵ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-Level Meeting on “Trends, Options and Strategies in Poverty Eradication across the World” and the Inauguration of the Alliance for Poverty Eradication*, 2020, p. 3.

²⁵⁶ Ibid., p. 3.

²⁵⁷ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-Level Meeting on “Trends, Options and Strategies in Poverty Eradication across the World” and the Inauguration of the Alliance for Poverty Eradication*, 2020, p. 44; Kuras, *The U.N. Initiates the Alliance for Poverty Eradication*, 2020; International Institute for Sustainable Development, *39 Countries form Alliance for Poverty Eradication*, 2020.

²⁵⁸ UN DESA, *Virtual Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027), 24-27 May 2021: Report of the Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting*, 2021.

²⁵⁹ Ibid., p. 1.

Assembly.²⁶⁰ The Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) to be held in January 2022 will likely also establish new strategies to fulfil the 2030 Agenda in countries with lowest income.²⁶¹

UN DESA also issued the quadrennial *Global Sustainable Development Report* (GSDR) in 2019, and *SDG Good Practices: A Compilation of Success Stories and Lessons Learned in SDG Implementation* (SDG Good Practices) in 2020.²⁶² The GSDR synthesizes strategies from five political fields such as human well-being and capabilities, as well as sustainable and just economies.²⁶³ GSDR stresses the transformative power of the SDGs, meaning the positive synergies Member States can harness when policy work includes multiple SDGs at the same time.²⁶⁴ For example, GSDR outlines co-benefits to be harnessed between SDG 1 (“end poverty in all its forms everywhere”) and SDG 2 (“zero hunger”), SDG 6 (“clean water and sanitation for all”), and SDG 7 (“ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”).²⁶⁵ The report shows that fragile regions affected by natural disasters and conflict will be home to eight out of ten extremely poor people in 2030.²⁶⁶ It recommends policy action, best practices, and underpins the analysis with findings on how science can advance the 2030 Agenda.²⁶⁷

With the upcoming 30th anniversary of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in 2023, the General Assembly urges UN bodies as well as regional organizations to raise awareness for poverty eradication.²⁶⁸ For example, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) is an initiative created for the socio-economic development of members of the African Union (AU).²⁶⁹ One of its tools is the SDG 2030 dashboard, which illustrates Member States’ current status on achieving each of the SDGs.²⁷⁰ The European Union (EU) also launched *The EU Strategy for the Rights of the Child* in 2020 through the European Commission to fight child poverty.²⁷¹ The strategy guides Member States on how to support the over 20% of children at risk of poverty in Europe through socio-economic inclusion, health, and education.²⁷² Oxfam International, a non-governmental organization (NGO) affiliated with over 20 independent member organizations acting around the globe, reaches communities vulnerable to impoverishment and social inequalities at a grassroots level.²⁷³ Global Citizen, another high-profile NGO, promotes advocacy against inequality in partnership with individuals and large-scale financial commitments, raised prominently with the annual Global Citizen Festival.²⁷⁴ Both NGOs are committed to reduce economic and social inequalities that lead to extreme poverty, striving to end it by 2030.²⁷⁵

²⁶⁰ UN DESA, *Virtual Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027), 24-27 May 2021: Report of the Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting*, 2021, p. 1.

²⁶¹ 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, *Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) – Doha, 23-27 January 2022*, 2021.

²⁶² UN DESA, *Global Sustainable Development Report*, 2019; UN DESA, *SDG Good Practices. A Compilation of Success Stories and Lessons Learned in SDG Implementation*, 2019.

²⁶³ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

²⁶⁴ UN DESA, *Global Sustainable Development Report*, 2019, p. xxi.

²⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

²⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, p. xxii.

²⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 111.

²⁶⁸ UN General Assembly, *Observance of an International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (A/RES/47/196)*, 1993; UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication (A/RES/75/230)*, 2020, p. 12.

²⁶⁹ African Union Development Agency, *NEPAD in Brief*, 2019.

²⁷⁰ African Union Development Agency, *Agenda Dashboard*, 2020.

²⁷¹ European Commission, *EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child*, 2020.

²⁷² Director-General for Communication of the European Commission, *The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the European Child Guarantee*, 2021.

²⁷³ Oxfam International, *Global Strategic Framework 2020-2030*, 2020.

²⁷⁴ Global Citizen, *Global Citizen Impact*, 2021.

²⁷⁵ Global Citizen, *Global Citizen Impact*, 2021; Oxfam International, *Global Strategic Framework 2020-2030*, 2020, pp. 18-20.

Addressing Non-Income-Based Forms of Poverty

Target 1.2 of SDG 1 (reducing multidimensional poverty by half until 2030) covers non-income poverty, which the MPI defines as lacking access to health services, quality education, and decent living standards.²⁷⁶ The MPI specifies these three characteristics with separate sub-categories.²⁷⁷ For example, people will enjoy a high standard of living when access to cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, and more than one additional assets like their own means of transport, cell phones, or television, are assured.²⁷⁸ In Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, significantly more people live in multidimensional poverty than those suffering from extreme poverty.²⁷⁹ In regards to education, one out of two people in Sub-Saharan Africa are deprived either of primary school attainment or access to basic infrastructure.²⁸⁰ Although the last 20 years have seen considerable progress in primary school education, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic could claim the opportunity of every second child to attain primary school education worldwide, according to the MPI.²⁸¹ This possible setback in primary school education could gravely endanger progress towards target 1.2, because low-educated households are less likely to have access to basic infrastructure, sanitation and electrification.²⁸²

Considering the MPI sub-categories of sanitation and drinking water, Europe and Central Asia also show a gap between monetary and non-income poverty, and this is also true for LDCs.²⁸³ Almost 60% of households in Sub-Saharan Africa could not afford access to basic sanitation services in 2017.²⁸⁴ Every third household in this region is not provided with basic drinking water services, access to improved sources like pipes, and consistent availability, according to the World Bank.²⁸⁵ The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) has provided additional in-depth analyses of these problems at national, regional, and global levels since 1990.²⁸⁶ In a case study in 2014, the JMP highlights that poor households often lack drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).²⁸⁷ Instead they spend money primarily on housing, food, and education.²⁸⁸ To underscore the need for access to WASH, General Assembly resolution 75/235 (2020) on “Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition” urged Member States to provide for safe drinking water and sanitation.²⁸⁹

General Assembly resolution 74/235 (2019) on “Women in Development” urges Member States to also integrate gender mainstreaming into their poverty eradication measures.²⁹⁰ The resolution builds upon the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (Beijing Declaration) (1995) and recognizes the persisting feminization of poverty, meaning the factual overrepresentation of women and girls among the global

²⁷⁶ Ritchie et al., *Measuring Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2018; UNDP, *Beyond Income: A Broader Picture of Poverty*, 2018.

²⁷⁷ UNDP & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020*, 2020, p. 4.

²⁷⁸ UNDP & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020*, 2020, p. 4; UNDP, *Human Development Reports*, 2021.

²⁷⁹ World Bank Group, *Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune*, 2020, p. 44.

²⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 44.

²⁸¹ UNDP & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020*, 2020, p. 27.

²⁸² UN DESA, *Global Sustainable Development Report*, 2019, p. 49.

²⁸³ World Bank Group, *Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune*, 2020, p. 45.

²⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 44.

²⁸⁵ World Bank Group, *World Bank Open Data*, 2021.

²⁸⁶ UNICEF & WHO, *How We Work*.

²⁸⁷ UNICEF & WHO, *The Measurement and Monitoring of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Affordability: A Missing Element of Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Targets 6.1 and 6.2*, 2021, p. 100.

²⁸⁸ UNICEF & WHO, *The Measurement and Monitoring of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Affordability: A Missing Element of Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Targets 6.1 and 6.2*, 2021, p. 100.

²⁸⁹ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition (A/RES/75/235)*, 2020.

²⁹⁰ UN General Assembly, *Women in Development (A/RES/74/235)*, 2020.

poor.²⁹¹ A case-to-case identification of non-income poverty in the group of women and girls is difficult, because the effects of poverty are normally measured at household-level.²⁹² As household surveys do not detect inequalities between persons within the household, data on gender-related poverty remains inconclusive.²⁹³ For example, lacking access to quality education and healthcare services can exacerbate health risks, such as adolescent pregnancy under the age of 20, leaving girls and young women dependent on the household partner.²⁹⁴ Maternal and infant mortality are also still prevalent in LDCs.²⁹⁵ A UN Women report *From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19* summarized responsive actions and calls for protection of women's health and well-being, prevention of domestic violence, and renewal of social protection measures as integral parts of policy responses to poverty.²⁹⁶

The Influence of Climate Change and Natural Disasters on Poverty

Climate change continues to endanger sustainable development for rural agriculture, thereby exposing poor people to the increased dangers of natural disasters.²⁹⁷ Because more than three out of four people affected by multidimensional poverty live in rural areas of developing countries, climate change may not significantly set back the eradication of poverty in developed countries, but it rather has consequences for households that primarily rely on natural resources.²⁹⁸ Target 1.5 of SDG 1 (build resilience to environmental, economic, and social disasters) describes this danger as “direct economic loss from natural disasters.”²⁹⁹ Both the direct impact of natural disasters and indirect impacts of malnutrition, air pollution, or lack of housing affect up to 160 million persons worldwide every year, according to the MPI.³⁰⁰ Gender inequality also leaves women and girls more reliant on agricultural work, and consequently more vulnerable to poverty in an event of natural disaster.³⁰¹

People at risk of poverty on small island developing States (SIDS) in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific are significantly more prone to experiencing the impact of climate hazards such as storms and sea-level rise, than in other regions due to their remoteness and geographic location.³⁰² They often rely on undiversified economies and one source of livelihood, which endangers their entire source of income in natural disasters events, and other effects of climate change such as ocean acidification.³⁰³ The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA Pathway) envisioned development models for sustainable economic growth, sustainable tourism, disaster risk reduction, and social development, among others.³⁰⁴ General Assembly resolution 75/215 on “Follow-up to and Implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action SAMOA Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States” (2020) underlines the adverse effects of climate change.³⁰⁵ The resolution calls for global action

²⁹¹ UN General Assembly, *Women in Development (A/RES/74/235)*, 2020, p. 5; UN, Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.

²⁹² World Bank Group, *Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune*, 2020, p. 100.

²⁹³ *Ibid.*, p. 100.

²⁹⁴ UNICEF, *Progress for Every Child in the SDG Era*, 2018, p. 34.

²⁹⁵ UN DESA, *Global Sustainable Development Report*, 2019, pp. 10, 38.

²⁹⁶ Azcona et al., *From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19*, 2020, p. 14.

²⁹⁷ UN General Assembly, *Eradicating Rural Poverty to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/75/232)*, 2020.

²⁹⁸ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027): Report of the Secretary-General (A/73/298)*, 2018, p. 16; UNDP & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020*, 2020, p. 28.

²⁹⁹ Ritchie et al., *Measuring Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2018.

³⁰⁰ UNDP & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020*, 2020, p. 28.

³⁰¹ UN DESA, *Global Sustainable Development Report*, 2019, p. 34.

³⁰² *Ibid.*, p. 99.

³⁰³ *Ibid.*, p. 14.

³⁰⁴ UN General Assembly, *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (A/RES/69/15)*, 2014, pp. 5-31.

³⁰⁵ UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action SAMOA Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/RES/75/215)*, 2020.

for climate resilience through financial and technical assistance.³⁰⁶ For example, sustainability technologies enable SIDS to mitigate natural shocks and diversify the income sources of those living in poverty.³⁰⁷ Furthermore, solutions such as e-commerce systems may bring remote economies closer to global market centers and provide people of such Member States an additional source of income.³⁰⁸

Conclusion

The Third Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027) draws upon the considerable progress of the Millennium Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda towards elimination of extreme poverty.³⁰⁹ Although the number of people living on less than \$1.90 a day has been cut in half in relation to 1990, the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to reverse this progress.³¹⁰ Multidimensional or non-income-based dimensions of poverty exacerbates deficiencies in health services, quality education, and decent living standards.³¹¹ Extreme and multidimensional poverty continue to disproportionately affect vulnerable groups including women, children, the older generation, indigenous peoples and local communities, internally displaced persons, and migrants.³¹² Remote areas and regions affected by climate change or conflict, tend to be deprived in particular.³¹³ Priority areas for action head by current global partnerships focus on finding the root causes of poverty, monitoring the developments with disaggregated data, and implementing sustainable, integrated, and cross-cutting strategies.³¹⁴ The possibility of addressing poverty under the 2030 Agenda through not only SDG 1 (no poverty), but multiple SDGs simultaneously, may provide a feasible pathway for the General Assembly Second Committee to move this important issue forward.³¹⁵

Further Research

When researching this topic, delegates should have the following questions in mind: What type of poverty measurement does their Member State use and how much data on extreme and multidimensional poverty is available? Which phenomena of multidimensional or non-income poverty are particularly pressing? How can the interlinkages between SDG 1 and other SDGs further emerge? How can the disproportionate effects of poverty on women, children, disabled persons, or ethnic minorities be identified and addressed? Is their Member State especially exposed to climate change or conflict? Will existing policy work still be effective for all target groups in the wake of COVID-19? Are there existing regional and global partnerships to share best practices and data that can be capitalized upon? Which long-term strategies and funding are in place to eradicate extreme poverty?

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Hasell, J., & M. Roser. (2019). How do We Know the History of Extreme Poverty? *Our World in Data*. Retrieved 16 September 2021 from: <https://ourworldindata.org/extreme-history-methods>

This report summarizes the history of global poverty and the academic methods on how to measure it. It showcases the development of different poverty measures over time and adds further accounts of income inequality, life expectancy and more. The goal of the

³⁰⁶ UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action SAMOA Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/RES/75/215)*, 2020, p. 5.

³⁰⁷ UN DESA, *Global Sustainable Development Report*, 2019, p. 87.

³⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 87.

³⁰⁹ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication (A/RES/75/230)*, 2020, p. 1.

³¹⁰ World Bank Group, *Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune*, 2020, pp. 34-35.

³¹¹ UNDP, *Beyond Income: A Broader Picture of Poverty*, 2018.

³¹² UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication (A/RES/75/230)*, 2020, pp. 4-5.

³¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 12.

³¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 9-10.

³¹⁵ UN DESA, *Global Sustainable Development Report*, 2019, p. xxi.

issuing website, “Our World in Data,” is not only to quantify the different realities of poverty, for example through access to energy or quality education, but also to make use of recent scientific findings on the matter. This report is useful for delegates looking for a primer on the multiple methods of measuring poverty.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2019). *Global Sustainable Development Report*. Retrieved 16 September 2021 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/globalsdreport/2019>
In 2019, 15 independent scientists compiled the Global Sustainable Development Report, a quadrennial supplement to the annual Sustainable Development Goals progress report issued by the UN Secretary-General. The report provides science-based knowledge for the transformation of SDGs at international and national levels along five political fields: human well-being and capabilities, sustainable and just economies, food systems and nutrition patterns, energy decarbonization with universal access, urban and mixed rural-urban development, and global environmental commons. Delegates will find this report particularly useful for information about co-benefits of interacting SDGs and for suggestions for best practices therein.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2020). *SDG Good Practices: A Compilation of Success Stories and Lessons Learned in SDG Implementation*. Retrieved 8 August 2021 from: <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/SDG%20Good%20Practices%20Publication%202020.pdf>
From 2018 to 2019, UN DESA collected several cases of SDG best practices and issued this comprehensive report, featuring first estimations on the impact of COVID-19. The best practices presented therein showcase the benefits of multiple addressed SDGs. They range from government action plans and long-term development plans to projects at a grassroots level. Delegates looking for practical examples to reduce poverty in all its dimensions will find useful information in this report.

United Nations Department of Global Communications. (2020). *General Assembly Virtual High-Level Meeting on Poverty Eradication*. Retrieved 8 August 2021 from: <https://www.unmultimedia.org/avlibrary/asset/2549/2549675/>
In June 2020, Member States gathered for a virtual high-level meeting on poverty eradication on the topic “Trends, Options and Strategies in Poverty Eradication Across the World.” This meeting marked the formal inauguration of the Alliance for Poverty Eradication to foster sustainable engagement and intensify bilateral and multilateral efforts for poverty eradication. This source will aid delegates interested in recent statements of various Member States and of UN bodies on poverty eradication.

United Nations Development Programme & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative. (2020). *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020*. Retrieved 8 August 2021 from: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2020_mpi_report_en.pdf
The annually-issued Multidimensional Poverty Index highlights data according to three dimensions of poverty: health, education, and standard of living. The focus of the report lies on the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all these three dimensions. Of the 75 countries studied, especially those in Sub-Saharan Africa suffer from multidimensional deprivations. Delegates will find this survey useful when looking for visualization of the current global statistics on poverty.

United Nations Sustainable Development Group. (2020). *A UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19*. Retrieved 8 August 2021 from: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un_framework_report_on_covid-19.pdf
This report is part of a tripartite framework by the UN Secretary-General to counter the COVID-19 pandemic with a health response, a humanitarian response, and a socio-economic response. The report identifies target groups, suggests policy areas for health services, social and job protection, and asks how to recover better. Correspondingly, it lists actions from all organizations of the UN Development System (UNDS) that are currently in place. Delegates wishing to get an overview of poverty-related measures in

the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic of the UNDS will find many insights in this document.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-fifth session. (2020). *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027) (A/RES/75/230)*. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/75/462/Add.1). Retrieved 8 August 2021 from: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/75/230>

This resolution lays out recent challenges connected to the COVID-19 pandemic, of which rising unemployment, a setback in education, social protection, and more, threaten the strategy to end extreme poverty by 2030. It reaffirms the objective of the Third Decade to foster unified and global partnerships to locate and act against all dimensions of poverty. Delegates will find that this resource provides a good entry point to additional framework documents conducive to the Third Decade.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-fifth session. (2020). *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027): Report of the Secretary-General (A/75/280)*. Retrieved 16 September from: <https://undocs.org/A/75/280>

This report of the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of the Third Decade provides delegates with a concise overview about the major poverty-related areas of conflict. The report lists UN system-wide progress that has been accomplished since the proclamation of the Third Decade in 2018. In contrast to the previous report of the Secretary-General from 2018, the summary of 2021 also comprises developments in addressing climate change and the intensification of natural hazards, as well as fighting poverty in fragile and humanitarian contexts. When looking for thematic policy recommendations to accelerate global partnerships, delegates will find this report particularly useful.

World Bank Group. (2020). *Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune*. Retrieved 16 September 2021 from: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>

This alternative to the Multidimensional Poverty Index presents data through the Multidimensional Measure, which adds to non-income factors of poverty the monetary head count. The World Bank in this survey shows data coverage updated only until 2017 but can “nowcast,” based on household surveys, statistics for data-lacking regions and the time after 2017. The report also traces the development of poverty in world regions and among different population groups. Delegates may find this report useful when interested in the correlation of income with non-income forms of poverty and alternative monetary poverty counts based on Member States’ prosperity.

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