



# THE 2006 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2006 National Model United Nations Conference (NMUN) and congratulations on your assignment to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). My name is James T. Mosher and it is my distinct privilege to serve as Director of UNEP at this year's conference. Currently, I am studying for a Master of Arts degree in international comparative politics at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. This will be my fourth year of NMUN involvement, and I look forward to contributing to another year of NMUN excellence.

UNEP was created in 1972 to serve as the voice of the environment at the global level. It is responsible for coordinating the development of international and regional environmental policy. This is accomplished by reviewing existing and emerging environmental issues and bringing them to the attention of the international community.

As delegates to the 2006 session of UNEP, you should be prepared to discuss the following topics:

1. Water Resource Management;
2. Review of the Montevideo Programme; and
3. Prevention of Trade in Endangered Species, Flora, and Fauna.

This background guide will provide delegates with a brief introduction to UNEP and each of the above issues. It should serve as a basis from which further research is conducted. While researching your particular country or organization's policy, you should strive to consult a wide variety of electronic and print sources. The annotated bibliography at the end of this guide will be helpful to this end, but should by no means be considered an exhaustive list of UNEP-related sources of information.

Prior to the conference, each delegation is required to submit a position paper (single-space, double sided) via e-mail. All papers must be received by **March 10, 2006**. An important message from the Director-General regarding where papers should be submitted, expectations for their content and format, and inquiring about alternatives to e-mail submission is included on pages 1-2 of this guide. It is vital that all delegates adhere closely to these instructions.

Delegates should also note UNEP is a resolution writing Committee, and all documents created during session will be in resolution format. For further information regarding resolution format, please refer to the appropriate section of the delegate preparation manual.

Again, I am looking forward to this year's conference with much excitement. Each NMUN conference with which I have been involved has been an extremely rewarding educational opportunity unlike any other. I eagerly await each delegation's thoroughly researched position paper and, come April, work in committee.

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## Message from the Director General Regarding Position Papers for the 2006 NMUN Conference

Position papers are submitted for each committee in which a State/NGO participates at the NMUN Conference. Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation's foreign policy regarding the topic areas under discussion and establish precise policies and recommendations in regard to the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State/NGO should be identified and addressed. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in material that is entirely original. The NMUN Conference will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism. In this regard, the NMUN Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind delegates that although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the Conference does not allow the verbatim recreation of these documents. This plagiarism policy also extends to the written work of the Secretariat contained within the committee background guides. Violation of this policy will be immediately reported to faculty advisors and may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incident of plagiarism to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

An important component of the awards consideration process is the format of the position papers. Please refer to the sample paper on the following page for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion. The following format specifications are **required** for all papers:

- All papers must be typed and formatted according to the example in the background guides (following the specifications below will ensure this)
- Length must **not** exceed one double-sided page (two single-sided pages is **not** acceptable)
- Font **must** be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Country/NGO name, School name and committee name clearly labeled on the first page
- Agenda topics clearly labeled in separate sections
- No binding, staples, paper clips, or cover sheets should be used on any of the papers

To be considered timely for awards, please read and follow these directions:

1. A file of the position paper (.doc or .pdf) for each assigned committee should be sent to the committee e-mail address listed below. (Each address is also listed in individual background guides who will be mailed in November.) These e-mail addresses will be active after 30 November. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt.
2. Each delegation should send one set of all position papers to: *positionpapers@nmun.org*. This set (held by the Director-General) will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments. *NOTE: This e-mail should only be used as a repository for position papers.*

Each of the above listed tasks needs to be completed no later than **March 10, 2006**. *E-mailed files should be in Microsoft Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf), or Adobe (.pdf) formats.*

**PLEASE TITLE EACH E-MAIL/DOCUMENT WITH THE NAME OF THE COUNTRY & COMMITTEE**

*A matrix of received papers will be posted online for delegations to check by March 20, 2006. If you need to make other arrangements for submission, please contact Kevin Grisham, Director General, at [dirgen@nmun.org](mailto:dirgen@nmun.org) or at 909-991-5506.*

Additionally, each delegation should submit a copy of their position paper to the permanent mission of the country you are representing along with an explanation of the Conference. Those delegations representing NGOs do not have to send their position paper to their NGO headquarters, although it is encouraged. This will assist them in preparing your mission briefing in New York.

Finally, please consider that over 1,000 papers will be handled and read by the Secretariat for the Conference. Your patience and cooperation in strictly adhering to the above guidelines will make this process more efficient and is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the conference staff, though as we do not operate out of a central office or location your consideration for time zone differences is appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Grisham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin E. Grisham  
Director-General

## Sample Position Paper

The following position paper is designed to be a sample of the standard format that an NMUN position paper should follow. While delegates are encouraged to use the front and back of a single page in order to fully address all topics before the committee, please remember that only a maximum of one double-sided page (or two pages total in an electronic file) will be accepted. Only the first double-sided page of any submissions (or two pages of an electronic file) will be considered for awards. Visit the downloads section at [www.nmun.org](http://www.nmun.org) to find an example of an award-winning position paper. When using these sources, please be mindful of the NMUN's policy against plagiarism.

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*Delegation from*  
**The State of Tranquility**

*Represented by the*  
**University of Bohemia**

### *Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary*

The issues before the General Assembly Plenary are: The Situation in Sub-Saharan Africa; Racism and Racial Discrimination, and A Comprehensive Review of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. The State of Tranquility a proud member of the Regional Alliance of Peaceful Countries and a fully supports other regional groups in their efforts to coordinated a regional plan for sustained and sustainable development. In that regard, the State of Tranquility recognizes the necessity of ensuring the full realization of the Right to Development as declared in the Declaration on the Right to Development and the Final Report of the Working Group on the Right to Development. Tranquility fully supports the implementation of national development plans with the cooperation of regional organizations, the United Nations, and the international community. Tranquility is firmly committed to addressing the underlying factors

#### **I. The Situation in Sub-Saharan Africa**

The State of Tranquility believes that the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic security lend themselves to the pacific settlement of disputes in Sub-Saharan Africa, the most ethnically diverse region in the world. The lack of development in the region constitutes the root cause of political instability and conflict. The report of the Secretary-General, *An Agenda for Peace: Recommendations*, if implemented, could enhance the work of the Organization in its efforts to bring about sustainable development in Africa. Tranquility also believes that the use of preventive development in Africa could ensure that conflicts such as those in Liberia, Rwanda, Angola, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo can be avoided before they erupt. While obstacles to be overcome are many, international support for effective national programs to ensure the relief to rehabilitation to development continuum through post-conflict peace-building, can enable Sub-Saharan Africa and the entire developing world to achieve the sustainable development which alone will guarantee regional peace and stability. The State of Tranquility fully supports the increased cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in all aspects of dispute settlement and peace-keeping. Increased support for such regional efforts, when combined with measures to eliminate the root causes of regional conflict, serves to further enhance the prospects for lasting peace, security and development in Sub-Saharan Africa and throughout the entire international community.

#### **II. Racism and Racial Discrimination**

The State of Tranquility believes that the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance offers the global community an opportunity to establish an updated plan of action to completely eradicate racism and racial discrimination throughout the world. The necessity for all Member States to sign, accede to and ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination is an integral part of this plan, as policies and practices based on racism and racial discrimination remain devastating to regional social, economic and infrastructure development. Tranquility encourage all States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to increase their efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and to provide assistance to those affected by such practices. The lack of financial resources that prevented the international community from realizing its objectives in the three previous United Nations Decades to

Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination must not continue to hinder the international community in guaranteeing the fundamental human rights of all peoples.

### **III. A Comprehensive Review of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations**

The State of Tranquility remains firmly committed in support of the continued role of the United Nations Security Council as the primary agent for the maintenance of international peace and security, as mandated under Chapters IV and V of the UN Charter. We strongly recommend the authorization, determination, composition and financing of peacekeeping operations should be determined by the Council, as authorized by Articles 24, 25 and 26 of the Charter and in conjunction with the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. Additionally, the State of Tranquility endorses the current role of the Secretary-General as administrator of the Operations established by the Council. The State of Tranquility remains a central contributor for both financial and logistical support of the United Nations Peacekeeping forces and will continue to contribute to the United Nations Peacekeeping Budget throughout the duration of the current year.

The State of Tranquility is firmly committed to addressing all threats to international peace and security through regional arrangements and multilateral forums. The international community must address the underlying causes of these conflicts and the destabilizing effects of such conflicts on entire regions. Tranquility is convinced that increased utilization of regional and sub-regional peacekeeping mechanisms can enhance the ability of peacekeeping missions to take into account historical, social, and cultural values and traditions within areas of conflict.

As operation costs continue to escalate, however, our nation strongly urges all Member States and the Secretary-General to devote greater attention to the monetary and management aspects of peacekeeping operations and provide serious consideration for the establishment of operation termination dates. The State of Tranquility further supports the proposal endorsed within A/Res/44/49, calling for Member States to develop and maintain an inventory of supplies and equipment to be made available for Operations on short-notice. In addition, the State of Tranquility calls upon Member States to recognize the need to maintain voluntary contributions for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations to reduce the continuing problems incurred by funding deficits.

## Resolution Writing and Report Writing at the NMUN Conference

The substantive output of committees at the NMUN conference generally takes the form of either resolutions or reports. At the 2006 NMUN Conference, the ICJ and the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Meeting, will adopt variations on these forms. The ICJ will create judgments and the WTO Ministerial Meeting will produce a declaration.

Please refer to the chart below which designates whether delegates will be writing resolutions or reports in the committee they are participating in at the 2006 NMUN Conference:

- | <u>Resolution Writing Committees</u>   | <u>Report Writing Committees</u>  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GA Plenary; GA First; GA Second; GA Third; and ILC</li><li>• All Security Council Committees</li><li>• ECOSOC Plenary; ECA; UNICEF; UNEP; and UNDP</li><li>• G-77; OIC; AU; and NATO</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CSTD; CESCR; WCDR; CSW</li><li>• UNAIDS and UNHCR</li><li>• IADB and APEC</li></ul> |

### ***Resolution Writing***

A resolution is the most appropriate means of applying political pressure on Member States, expressing an opinion on an important issue, or recommending action to be taken by the United Nations or some other agency. Most UN resolutions are not binding “law”; the only body which may produce resolutions that are binding upon the Member States of the United Nations is the Security Council. (In most cases, the resolutions and reports produced by the IGO committees simulated at the NMUN Conference are binding upon its individual Member States.)

Under UN rules of procedure, unlike other more generalized rules of procedure, the topic on the floor is debated in its entirety. This means that during debate, delegates should discuss the whole issue and all of the resolutions regarding that issue. When debate is exhausted, or is ended, the body then votes on each resolution and amendment and the issue are considered closed.

The National Model United Nations does not allow pre-written resolutions on any agenda topic. For this reason, delegations are not allowed to contact each other before the conference to begin caucusing. The NMUN process of writing resolutions during committee sessions is designed to teach delegates the concepts of negotiation and concession; pre-written resolutions hinder that learning process.

The goal of formal debate and caucusing is to persuade enough countries in the committee to support a particular solution to the topic under discussion. Resolutions formally state the agreed-upon solution by outlining the relevant precedents and describing the proposed actions. The committee is not limited to one resolution per topic; often the committee will pass multiple resolutions dealing with different aspects of a topic.

### ***Report Writing***

Some committees at the conference will draft reports during the course of negotiations, instead of resolutions. These reports represent the full work of the committee in question. These reports should not be confused with the summary reports of a committee’s work which are presented at the Saturday Plenary Sessions of either the General Assembly or ECOSOC. Directors of report writing committees will elaborate on the process used in reporting writing committees on opening night (Tuesday night). Prior to the NMUN Conference in April 2006, a handout with a lengthier sample report for delegates to use as a model will be posted on the NMUN Conference website at [www.nmun.org](http://www.nmun.org).

Reports are similar in nature to resolutions, with only a few key differences. Reports represent the formal recommendations and/or decisions of the committee on the agenda topics at hand, in the same manner as resolutions, but in the form of one document. Committees that write resolutions typically produce a number of draft resolutions for each topic, and each one is subject to a substantive vote by the body. In a similar manner, committees that write

reports produce several draft report segments and then vote on each one. The final report of these committees will combine the adopted draft reports into one comprehensive report at the end of the simulation.

Another key difference is the format of reports. While resolutions consist of one long sentence, reports are a series of complete sentences. Thus, where the clauses of a resolution each contain one whole concept, a report is composed of paragraphs, each constituted by a sentence or a few sentences which contain one whole concept.

## What to Expect at the Simulation of Your Committee

**Opening session:** After a brief introduction of the dais and some announcements, delegates will discuss the order in which the committee will address agenda topics while in formal and caucus sessions. The committee will then vote on a motion from the floor to set the agenda in a proposed order, and will continue to vote on such motions until one passes by a majority vote. If the committee fails to reach agreement on the agenda order by the conclusion of the first evening, the director and assistant director reserve the right to set the agenda. After the agenda has been set, the chair will entertain motions for the opening of the speakers' list to address the first agenda topic. (It should be noted due to the special procedures used by the International Court of Justice [ICJ] a variety on this process will be used. Delegates participating in the ICJ should carefully follow the delegate preparation section of the Background Guide of the ICJ.)

**Rules of procedure:** The simulation is conducted through the use of the committee rules of procedure, which are included in this background guide. The rules of procedure for this committee – located at the back of this background guide – are the rules of procedure that are only accepted during the simulation of this committee. Interpretation of these rules is left to the sole discretion of the Director-General or her/his designate. It is extremely important to develop a thorough working knowledge of the rules, including when they should be introduced, and in what capacity. The rules of procedure are enforced to facilitate the efficient workings of the committee, not to hinder them. Therefore, the director, assistant director and chair (with the approval of the director) reserve the right to rule motions out of order which may be considered dilatory or disruptive to the committee proceedings. In this respect, one of the quickest ways for a delegate to alienate him/herself within a committee is to be labeled a “rules hound,” or someone who attempts to disrupt committee proceedings with the introduction of redundant, inappropriate or time-consuming motions.

**Decorum:** Decorum is a *de facto* rule throughout the week of the simulation. In both large and small committees, the ability to conduct normal business while in formal session is an arduous task when decorum is not maintained; delegates will be asked for their assistance in this endeavor. Please see the Delegate Preparation Manual for a specific discussion of delegate decorum in committee and also, delegate behavior while at the Conference.

**Caucusing:** Caucusing is an important and logistically difficult component of the United Nations simulation. These informal meetings between voting blocs, as well as between States with positions that are diametrically opposed, often produce compromises acceptable to all parties. However, delegates are required to address issues within a week's time which, in many cases, the international community has failed resolve after years of debate and negotiation. Further, delegates to the NMUN do not have individual offices in which to convene informal meetings. As a result, the bulk of informal negotiation and the construction of working papers will occur within, or in the close proximity of, the committee chambers. In consideration for the other Conference participants, delegates are asked to respect the formal proceedings occurring both within and between all committees participating at the Conference. Finally, given the importance of decorum within committee chambers, all caucusing should occur outside of the committee chambers while committee is in session.

**Chairs and Rapporteurs:** Delegates should also take note that the director and assistant director (with the approval of the Director-General) will select a committee chair and rapporteur (committee administrative assistant) following the conclusion of interviews on the first evening of the Conference (Tuesday evening). For those interested in the opportunity to serve the committee as a chairperson or rapporteur, an application is available online at [www.nmun.org](http://www.nmun.org). The application should be completed and submitted to the director no later than the opening night of the Conference. The successful candidate for chair will demonstrate an excellent working-knowledge of the rules of procedure through a series of situations presented to her or him and exhibit qualities of leadership, patience and

humility. The rapporteur will assist the chair, the director and the assistant director with the abundance of paperwork and record keeping required in the efficient workings of the committee, as well as provide logistical support for the chair while in voting procedures. Multiple years of attendance at the NMUN Conference is preferred in candidates for the committee chair and rapporteur, but it is not the only defining characteristic used by the Directors and Assistant Directors to select chairs and rapporteur for committees.

Delegates selected to serve in these positions must forfeit their rights to participate in substantive debate within the committee. Although the chair and rapporteur continue to serve as representatives of their assigned State, their primary duty is to assist the director and assistant director in facilitating the professional operation of the committee. Additionally, delegates selected as committee chairs and rapporteurs do retain an equal eligibility for awards consideration. All delegates are encouraged to apply for these challenging and rewarding positions. Many individuals who serve as chairs and rapporteurs have in later years served as members of the NMUN Volunteer Staff.

**Attire:** In keeping with the spirit of the simulation, delegates are *required* to wear professional business attire. Further, national symbols of any kind are forbidden in committee chambers, in accordance with practices of the UN. Symbols associated specifically with the United Nations (e.g., the seal of the UN) are allowed in committee chambers.

## **Your Role as a Delegate at the 2006 NMUN Conference**

### ***Taking on the Role of a Diplomat***

The most important aspect of participating as a delegate to the NMUN is your assumption of the role of a foreign diplomat. In this role, you are acting as a representative of the government and the peoples of the Member State or NGO to which you have been assigned. The only exception is those delegates who are serving as justices on the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. In their capacities, those delegates serving as justices are serving as independent technical experts.

While in preparation for and throughout the duration of the Conference, you may find personal disagreement with the foreign policy of the country you are representing or with the policy of the NGO you are representing. Your personal opinions are entirely inapplicable during the course of the simulation. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance for all delegates to arrive well-versed in the dynamics of their State's foreign policy or in that of their NGO, and anticipate possible obstacles their State or NGO may encounter during the simulation. The simulation's quality depends on the collective preparation of its participants.

As a delegate, you should be able to demonstrate thorough knowledge of your assigned country's policies, specific issues to be discussed, and the procedures, activities, and history of your committee. Delegates should also exhibit the ability to negotiate and compromise, demonstrate leadership, and the ability to influence by gaining the professional respect of fellow delegates. States and NGOs maintain specific and adaptive foreign policy methods and goals to allow delegates to function in the negotiation process. As a representative of the NGO or State to which you have been assigned, you will be expected to work within the historical confines of your NGO or country's foreign policy at the UN. Even though many Member States and Observer States do not assume strong leadership roles in the UN, the reality of the NMUN is that each delegation will be judged on its ability to provide leadership to other delegates throughout the Conference.

Delegates are reminded that professional diplomats conduct themselves, and regard one another, with the utmost dignity and respect, regardless of foreign policy affiliation or personal feelings. Even States and NGOs who observe severely conflicting ideological perspectives will work closely together, within the UN, on diplomatic matters of mutual concern. Likewise many delegates are forced to work together despite personal conflicts.

### ***The Preparation and Introduction of Resolutions and Reports***

Resolutions and reports adopted within respective committees represent Member States' decisions and recommended courses of action with respect to the topics under discussion. Clauses within the preamble of



resolutions should provide a brief outline of historical and current perspectives and endeavors regarding the issues to be addressed within the operative clauses of the document. The operative clauses of resolutions provide the objectives and potential actions that Members designed to address the issues outlined within the preamble. More simply, the preamble states the problems before the committee in relation to the topic under deliberation and operative clauses outline the decisions of the committee for the solution of these problems.

Although delegates are encouraged to develop resolution and report writing skills, both in classroom scenarios and at regional MUN simulations, the NMUN will not accept any pre-written resolutions or reports, and which have not been developed by a plurality of the committee. This determination is at the sole discretion of the Secretariat. Due to the goal of creating an environment where the skill of compromise and conflict resolution skills can be learned, delegates may be asked to merge working documents with other individuals working on the same issue in a committee. In addition, *any delegates found to be submitting plagiarized material within resolutions will be subject to dismissal from further participation within the Conference*. Although UN documents are within the public domain, the verbatim exploitation of these documents will not be permitted at the Conference.

Resolutions and reports are developed in three stages. In the initial stage, a resolution or report is referred to as a working paper (in resolution writing committees) or a working draft report segment (in report writing committees). It is generally developed by States or experts that share common perspectives on the issues to be addressed. The working paper/working draft report segment is shared with other delegates in the committee for their input and support. Once the working paper/working draft report segment gathers the required signatories, it is to be submitted to the committee director for approval. On the approval of the director, the working paper/working draft report segment will be copied by Conference Services and introduced by the chair to the committee as a draft resolution or report.

Once the working paper/working draft report has been approved by the committee director, it will be copied by a member of the dais. Delegates in the committee are not required to copy approved working paper/working draft report. Yet, working paper/working draft report which have not been approved by the committee director will not be copied by the dais and it is the responsibility of the delegates to copy their own working paper/working draft report if they choose to share copies of the pre-approved document. Any questions concerning this issue should be directed to the committee director or the assistant director. Also, questions concerning this rule can be directed to members of the NMUN Conference Service Staff.

Once the working paper/working draft report has been introduced as a draft resolution or draft report segment, it becomes the property of the committee and all references to sponsorship, with the exception of identifying the status of amendments while in voting procedure, are formally removed. The central contributors to the contents of the draft resolution or report will continue to enlist the advice and support of as many States or experts as possible to expand upon the substance of the draft and, thereby, gain as much input and support as possible prior to the closure of debate. Once the committee moves to closure on a given topic, all draft resolutions and draft report segment will be voted upon and when adopted, it will thereafter be recognized as formal resolutions or reports.

Adopted resolutions and reports represent recommendations for States and the international community. The legal status of each document depends on which committee the resolution or report is coming from within the organization. For instance, the General Assembly's resolutions are not legally binding political treaties, but the decisions of the Security Council are binding on all Member States. Most countries avoid the embarrassing political position of failing to promote and implement the recommendations they publicly endorsed within the UN. In regard to the IGO committees simulated at the 2006 NMUN Conference (G-77; OIC; AU; APEC; IADB, and NATO), many of the documents passed by the committee are only binding on the Member States of that particular IGO. For example, decisions made by the Organizations of the Islamic Conference (OIC) are only binding on those states which belong to this body. (The decisions by these IGOs will be reported to the General Assembly at the Saturday meeting on the General Assembly.)

It is highly recommended that delegates introduce their ideas to the committee in the form of working papers/working draft report segments as soon as possible in order to contribute to the potential development and adoption of resolutions and reports which characterize the united representative strength and will of regional blocs or, ultimately, the committee as a whole. Typically, a number of working papers/working draft segments before any

committee will overlap in content, style, and substance. In this event, the director will request delegates to integrate their individual endeavors into a single and, thus, more comprehensive and internationally representative document.

### ***The Executive Bureau, the General Committee and Saturday Plenary Sessions***

By the conclusion of Tuesday night sessions, the Economic and Social Council Plenary will select four vice-presidents to assist the president (chair) as members of the Council Executive Bureau. Likewise the General Assembly will select 21 of its Members to the General Committee by Tuesday evening. The members of the Bureau and the General Committee are to be selected with regard for equitable geographic representation from: African States, Asian and Pacific States, Eastern European States, Latin American States and Western European and other States. The Bureau will meet on Friday evening, following the conclusion of regular sessions. The General Committee will be composed somewhat differently than the Bureau. It will be comprised of each committee chair from the General Assembly department. They will also meet at the end of regular sessions on Friday evening.

On Friday, the Bureau and General Committee will be briefed by a representative from each relevant committee regarding the work accomplished by their body throughout the week. After reviewing the reports and resolutions submitted by the committee representatives, the Bureau and General Committee will set the agenda for Saturday sessions to deliberate upon each committee's recommendations to the Plenary.

**ECOSOC Executive Bureau:** The Saturday ECOSOC Plenary Session will deliberate upon the work of all the committees within the ECOSOC Department, as well as other relevant bodies, including most of the specialized agencies. During the Friday evening meeting, the Bureau will set an agenda order for the review of these reports for deliberation and potential adoption during Saturday sessions. Additionally, the Saturday session of ECOSOC Plenary will be deliberating upon a fourth topic to be prepared and introduced by the director and assistant director. This topic will be made available to delegates on Friday afternoon and will encompass a broad theme that relates, as much as is possible, to issues discussed by each of the committees within ECOSOC and the specialized agencies.

**GA General Committee:** On Saturday the General Assembly Plenary will deliberate upon the work submitted by each of the committees in the GA and Security Council department, as well as relevant inter-governmental organizations and other bodies. Following the conclusion of regular sessions on Friday, the General Committee will set the agenda order for the review of these reports and resolutions and for their potential adoption during Saturday sessions.

**Saturday Sessions:** On Saturday, the final day of the Conference, the ECOSOC Plenary, General Assembly Plenary, and Security Council will convene at United Nations Headquarters. Plenary deliberations will encompass the work of all Conference committees; and all delegates are advised to participate in the Saturday sessions in order to assist Plenary representatives with their broad scope of work. Minimally, Member State representatives to the Plenary should be briefed in regard to the work of the committees that report to their respective departments. Ideally, the representatives of the committee whose work is being considered will sit with Plenary representatives as expert advisors to the State. The agenda for Saturday sessions will be made available outside Delegate Resources by 9:00 p.m. on Friday.

## **The Role of Non-governmental Organizations in the Simulation**

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are recognized in Article 71 of the *UN Charter* as consultative bodies in relationship to ECOSOC. These organizations also maintain a close working relationship with almost all ECOSOC funds and programs, specialized agencies, General Assembly committees, and regional organizations. In this role, NGOs are an invaluable resource to the UN system because they provide information on political, economic, social, humanitarian, and cultural developments in all parts of the world. Their recommendations may address potential solutions to global problems, speak to specific country or regional needs, or call attention to an emerging crisis.

NGOs are a crucial link between policy-makers and the individuals directly affected by those policies. They represent civil society and its impact on the UN system. There are two primary advantages NGOs have over the UN in terms of information gathering and program implementation. First, NGOs are often locally based and have better

knowledge of regional conditions, needs, and constraints. Second, NGOs may find it easier to gain the acceptance, trust and cooperation of the communities in which they work because they are more aware of the indigenous cultural climate than many intergovernmental organizations. If the UN attempted to gather independently all of the information available to NGOs, it would consume vast amounts of time and scarce financial resources that are better applied to actual programs.

The global summit process that characterizes much of the UN's work in the 1990s has brought new attention to NGOs. At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, participation in the NGO forum surpassed all previous records. Although they were not invited to formally participate in negotiations, the massive NGO presence indicated recognition of their importance by conference organizers. In 1993, at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, the NGO forum took place in the same building as the official meetings. This increased access to the proceedings brought NGOs to a new level of integration in global summits. At later conferences, such as the Cairo Conference on Population and Development, the Copenhagen World Summit on Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, and Habitat II in Istanbul, NGO forums grew in numbers as well as in their abilities to contribute substantively. As the international community continues to review Conferences of the past ten years, it is apparent that the influence of NGOs will set a new precedent for the incorporation of civil society into UN activity at the global level.

### **NGOs at the National Model United Nations Conference**

Over the past several years, the NMUN has integrated the presence of NGOs into committees at the conference. It is an ongoing project that improves the educational quality of the simulation and mirrors developments in the UN itself, where NGOs are gaining both visibility and respect as a resource for program design and implementation. A large number of delegates will take on the challenging task of representing NGO delegations this year.

NGO delegations maintain all of the privileges accorded to traditional country delegations, and are required to exhibit the same level of preparedness. NGO delegations are eligible for awards, based on the same criteria as country delegations, and may select head delegates to attend the Head Delegate Meetings each night. NGO representatives are also required to submit position papers reflecting the perspectives and priorities of their assigned NGO on the agenda topics at hand.

All delegates should take the role of NGOs very seriously. NGO representatives must be prepared to fully participate in all committee activities, including formal debate, caucusing and drafting working papers. In turn, Member State delegates must be prepared to engage NGO delegates in these activities. Mutual recognition and respect between NGO and country delegates is necessary to a successful conference experience.

NGO delegates maintain the following privileges in each committee to which they are assigned:

1. the right to make any procedural motion;
2. the right to vote on all procedural motions;
3. the right to speak before all assigned committees; and
4. the right to act as a signatory on working papers.

Please note that NGO delegates do not have substantive voting rights, and may not sponsor working papers. In order to ensure a positive educational experience for all delegates, these rights and privileges may not exactly reflect those granted by ECOSOC. Any alterations made by the Director General gave due consideration to existing realities and the need to provide a learning environment that encourages active participation. *Please note: Those individuals representing NGOs in the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) will be afforded the right to speak for a maximum of two minutes at the beginning of the discussion of a topic from the agenda and a maximum of two minutes prior to moving into voting procedures on a given topic. This alteration to the normal rules has been made by the Director General to better simulate the true workings of this particular committee.*

Country delegates are fully expected to work with NGO delegates in the spirit of collaboration upon which the UN was founded. The exclusion of NGOs from committee work simply because they do not have substantive voting rights is both unrealistic and unprofessional. In almost all cases, actions denigrating the participation of NGOs will

be considered extraordinarily out of character and be noted in awards consideration. NGOs are expert organizations in their respective fields that possess specialized knowledge of the subject matter at hand. The recommendations of NGO delegates maintain the same validity as those of Member States, and it is incumbent upon country delegates to ensure that those perspectives are recognized.

### **How to Prepare as an NGO Delegation**

As an NGO delegation, your preparation should be structured in the same way as a typical country delegation. The most basic pieces of this process include fundamental knowledge of the organization and of the agenda topics. Based on your research, you will decide how your assigned NGO will approach each topic, and the recommendations you will make for potential solutions. This includes identifying blocs of countries and other NGOs that may share the same perspectives and priorities and collaborate with you in committee sessions.

**NMUN Resources:** In this background guide, each agenda topic contains a section specific to NGO action. This will provide you with basic information on the general role of NGOs in that topic area. These sections may not specifically address your assigned NGO, but will provide a broad discussion of relevant NGO activities. You should not hesitate to contact the main office of your assigned NGO during the course of your preparations. In addition, you should arrange a mission briefing with the UN Liaison Office in New York City of the NGO you are representing. If you need assistance in arranging this briefing, visit the NMUN Web site at [www.nmun.org](http://www.nmun.org) or contact Tracy Kingsley, Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Affairs at [asg.internal@nmun.org](mailto:asg.internal@nmun.org) or the Director-General, Kevin Grisham at [dirgen@nmun.org](mailto:dirgen@nmun.org).

**Doing Research:** A large portion of your research will likely rely on Internet resources. Because most NGOs do not have expansive budgets that allow for the widespread reproduction and dissemination of their written materials and reports, they choose to publish such documents on their Web sites. If you have difficulty obtaining materials from these electronic sources, please contact your director, assistant director, departmental USG, or the Director General for assistance. The UN Web site, as well as the sites for many of the specialized agencies, also contains valuable information about NGO activity. Finally, do not exclude traditional resources from your preparations. Newspapers, scholarly journals, and books will provide differing perspectives on your agenda topics, and may give interesting insight into the evolving role of NGOs. In particular, there is an increasing amount of sources on the issue of civil society and its role in the UN. It is recommended that this literature be consulted as needed for your preparation.

**Position Papers:** NGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as traditional position papers. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

The most critical part of a successful NGO delegate experience at the NMUN Conference is active participation in committee sessions. This includes utilizing the rules of procedure, speaking in formal debate and contributing during caucus sessions. Although you may not sponsor working papers or vote on draft resolutions/draft report segments, you have both the right and the obligation to participate in their composition and refinement. You may act as a signatory to any working paper on the floor of your committee if you wish to illustrate your support for continued development of the document. Getting involved in the simulation is the best way to enhance your own educational experience and that of your fellow delegates.

## **The Role of Inter-Governmental Organizations in the Simulation**

IGOs are invaluable resources to the UN because they facilitate the coordination of issues and allow for the UN system to function with more relevant tools for understanding and guiding economic, political, and social policy.

IGOs, along with NGOs, are crucial links between policy-makers and the individuals directly affected by those policies. They represent civil society and its impact on the UN system. There are two primary advantages IGOs have over the UN in terms of information gathering and program implementation. First, IGOs are often regionally

based and have better knowledge of the regional conditions, needs, and constraints. Second, the UN depends on the work of IGOs to gain information that its limited time and financial resources do not allow.

IGOs allow Member States to use their organization as a tool to achieve policy objectives and push their own interests and development agendas. Being part of an IGO also helps to develop countries' infrastructure by gaining knowledge and skills from other representatives they interact with. Many IGOs are actual UN subsidiary bodies, while other is independent entities with ties to the UN system. Their decisions are regarded as decisions of the organization and not of individual member countries. IGOs continue to help set and create international rules and policies within the economic, social, and political forums, which help to bridge the divide between regions and individual countries as they aim to help countries help themselves.

### *IGOs at the National Model United Nations Conference*

Since 2005, IGOs have been invited to participate at the NMUN Conference. (This is separate from the simulation of IGOs as committees at the NMUN Conference which has occurred for many years.) This is part of the Conference's ongoing efforts to improve the educational quality of the simulation by mirroring developments in the UN itself, where IGOs have increasing visibility and respect as a resource for program design and implementation.

IGO delegations maintain all of the privileges accorded to traditional country delegations, and are required to exhibit the same level of preparedness. IGO delegations are eligible for awards, based on the same criteria as country delegations, and may select head delegates to attend the Head Delegate Meetings each night. IGO representatives are also required to submit position papers reflecting the perspectives and priorities of their assigned IGO on the agenda topics at hand.

All delegates should take the role of IGOs seriously. IGO representatives must be fully prepared to participate in all Committee activities, including formal debate, caucusing, and drafting working papers. In turn, Member State delegates must be prepared to engage IGO delegates in these activities. Mutual recognition and respect between IGOs, NGOs, and country delegates is necessary for having a successful Conference experience.

IGO delegates maintain the following privileges in each Committee to which they are assigned:

1. The right to make any procedural motion;
2. The right to vote on all procedural motions;
3. The right to speak before all assigned Committees; and
4. The right to act as a signatory on working papers.

Please note that IGO delegates do not have substantive voting rights, and may not sponsor working papers.

In order to ensure a positive educational experience for all delegates, these rights and privileges may not exactly reflect those granted by ECOSOC. Any alterations made by the Director-General were given due consideration to existing realities and the need to provide a learning environment that encourages active participation.

Country delegates are fully expected to work with IGO delegates in the spirit of collaboration upon which the UN was founded. The exclusion of IGOs from Committee work simply because they do not have substantive voting rights is both unrealistic and unprofessional. In almost all cases, actions denigrating the participation of IGOs will be considered extraordinarily out of character and be noted in awards consideration. IGOs have specialized knowledge on the subject matter at hand as well as important regional perspectives and experiences that could be applied more broadly. The recommendations of IGO delegates maintain the same validity as those of Member States, and it is incumbent upon country delegates to ensure that those perspectives are recognized.

### ***How to Prepare as an IGO Delegation***

As an IGO delegation, your preparation should be structured in the same way as a typical country delegation, but always remembering that you are representatives of a specific organization and what they stand for, not representatives of their individual members' perspectives. The most basic pieces of this process include fundamental knowledge of the organization and the agenda topics. Based on your research, you will decide how your assigned IGO will approach each topic, and the recommendations you will make for potential solutions. This includes identifying blocs of countries, NGOs, and other IGOs that may share the same perspectives and priorities and collaborate with you in Committee sessions.

**NMUN Resources:** In the background guide, each agenda topic contains a specific section on NGO action. While not fully relevant to IGOs, it can be used to provide basic information on the general role of non-country participation in that topic area. You should not hesitate to contact the main office of your assigned IGO during the course of your preparations. In addition, you should arrange a mission briefing with the UN Liaison Office in New York City of the IGO you are representing. If you need assistance in arranging this briefing, visit the NMUN Web site at [www.nmun.org](http://www.nmun.org) or contact Tracy Kingsley, Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Affairs at [asg.internal@nmun.org](mailto:asg.internal@nmun.org) or the Director-General, Kevin Grisham at [dirgen@nmun.org](mailto:dirgen@nmun.org).

**Doing Research:** Most of your research will likely rely on Internet resources. Because most IGOs do not have expansive budgets that allow for the widespread reproduction and dissemination of their written materials and reports, they choose to publish such documents on their Web sites. If you have difficulty obtaining materials from these electronic sources, please contact your Director, Assistant Director, departmental USG, ASG-Internal, or the Director-General for assistance. Finally, do not exclude traditional resources from your preparations. Newspapers, scholarly journals, and books will provide differing perspectives on your agenda topics, and may give interesting insight into the role of IGOs.

As an initial point of reference, listed below are the Web sites for the IGOs being represented at NMUN 2005.

#### Inter-Governmental Organization

African Development Bank  
Asian Development Bank  
Caribbean Community  
Council of Europe  
European Community  
Institute for Media, Peace and Security  
Inter-Parliamentary Union  
League of Arab States  
Non-Aligned Movement  
Pan-American Health Organization  
The Commonwealth  
World Bank

#### Web Site

<http://www.afdb.org>  
<http://www.adb.org>  
<http://caricom.org>  
<http://www.coe.int>  
<http://europa.eu.int>  
<http://www.mediapeace.org>  
<http://www.ipu.org/>  
<http://www.arableagueonline.org>  
<http://www.nam.gov.za>  
<http://www.paho.org>  
<http://www.thecommonwealth.org>  
<http://www.worldbank.org/>

**Position Papers:** IGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as traditional position papers. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned IGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your Committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

The most critical part of a successful IGO delegate experience at the NMUN Conference is active participation in Committee sessions. This includes utilizing the rules of procedure, speaking in formal debate, and contributing during caucus sessions. Although you may not sponsor working papers or vote on draft resolutions, you have both the right and the obligation to participate in their composition and refinement. You may act as a signatory to any working paper on the floor of your Committee if you wish to illustrate your support for continued development of the document. Getting involved in the simulation is the best way to enhance your own educational experience and that of your fellow delegates.

## **The Roles of State Delegates, Technical Experts & Independent Technical Experts at the 2006 National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference**

### ***The Variety of Roles That Delegates Simulate at the NMUN Conference***

At the National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference, delegates assume one of three roles when they participate in committee proceedings. They serve as a delegate representing the national interest of their state (state delegate), a technical expert, or an independent technical expert. At the 2006 NMUN Conference, only the justices of the International Court of Justice will serve in this capacity. Due to independent technical experts only serving in the ICJ, this role will specifically be addressed in the ICJ Background Guide.

The United Nations, particularly the General Assembly, is essentially a political organization. However, there is also a significant role within the system for technical experts in many areas. Because the UN, its subsidiary bodies, related programs, and affiliated organizations speak to such a broad range of issues, experts are often needed to properly address complex problems and make informed recommendations to the General Assembly and Member States. Several ECOSOC committees and almost all of the Specialized Agencies consist of technical experts in the field, as opposed to political representatives. It is critical that delegates representing technical experts understand the complex nature of the expert role.

The following committees at the 2006 NMUN Conference consist of technical experts: *International Law Commission (ILC)*, the *Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)* and the *Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)*.

### ***Technical Experts within the United Nations System***

The most important distinction between technical experts and political representatives is the relevance of global objectives, as opposed to national priorities. While the political needs and limitations of your individual countries and regions are important, and must be considered in the appropriate context, you are charged with serving as experts in the fields addressed by your respective committees. In other words, the top priority of a technical expert is to assess challenges and propose solutions to relevant issue areas, not to present or promote the political agenda of one particular country.

As you prepare your position papers, please keep in mind your status as technical experts. Instead of traditional, country-specific policy statements, position papers should reflect your expert opinions and recommendations on your committee's topics. This should also be kept in mind when working on documents for the committee during the NMUN Conference in April 2006.

## History of the United Nations Environment Programme

*In the long and tortuous evolution of the human race on this planet a stage has been reached when, through the rapid acceleration of science and technology, man has acquired the power to transform his environment in countless ways and on an unprecedented scale. Both aspects of man's environment, the natural and the man-made, are essential to his well-being and to the enjoyment of basic human rights the right to life itself.*<sup>1</sup>

International environmental preservation agreements can be traced back to the early 1900s. Two multilateral conventions negotiated in London, the 1900 *Convention Designed to Ensure the Conservation of Various Species of Wild Animals in Africa which are Useful to Man or Inoffensive* and 1933 *Convention Relative to the Preservation of Fauna and Flora in their Natural State*, represent early efforts to confront the problem of unsustainable exploitation of the natural environment.<sup>2</sup> The following decades saw the establishment of a variety of environment-oriented treaties and agreements, ranging from protection of plant life (1951 *International Plant Protection Convention*) to oil pollution (1969 *International Convention on civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage*).<sup>3</sup>

UNEP was established at the United Nations (UN) Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972. Member States of the UN created UNEP, “convinced of the need for prompt and effective implementation by governments and the international community of measures designed to safeguard and enhance the environment for the present and future generations of man.”<sup>4</sup> Essentially, UNEP was created to coordinate UN environmental activities, assist developing countries implement environmentally compatible policies, and encourage sustainable, environmentally sound development.<sup>5</sup>

Like many other UN established bodies, UNEP is made up of several interlinking components.<sup>6</sup> At its head is the Office of the Executive Director.<sup>7</sup> Klaus Töpfer, UN Under-Secretary and Director-General of the UN’s Nairobi, Kenya office, currently fills this position.<sup>8</sup> UNEP headquarters being located in Nairobi has symbolic significance, as it represents the UN’s commitment to social and economic development in Africa.<sup>9</sup>

The Governing Council is composed of 58 Member States, elected to four year terms by the General Assembly with consideration to equitable geographic representation (16 African, 13 Asian, 13 Western European and other, ten Latin American and Caribbean, and six Eastern European States).<sup>10</sup> The primary goal of the Council is to “promote international cooperation in the field of the environment and to recommend, as appropriate, policies to this end.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. (1972, June 16). *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment*, Principle 1. Retrieved August 9, 2005, from [http://www.mint.gov.my/policy/treaty\\_multidim/unche72\\_stockholm.htm](http://www.mint.gov.my/policy/treaty_multidim/unche72_stockholm.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Sand, Peter H. (2004, October 14). Whither CITES? The Evolution of a Treaty regime in the Borderland of Trade and Environment. *European Journal of International Law*, p.2. Retrieved August 31, 2005, from <http://www.ejil.org/journal/Vol8/No1/art2.html>

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (2005). *Environmental Law Programme: Chronological List of Environmental Agreements*. Retrieved August 9, 2005, from [http://www.unep.org/dpdl/Law/Law\\_instruments/index\\_complete\\_list.asp](http://www.unep.org/dpdl/Law/Law_instruments/index_complete_list.asp)

<sup>4</sup> United Nations General Assembly. (1972, December 15). *Institutional and Financial Arrangement for International Environmental Cooperation*, p. 1. Retrieved August 9, 2005, from [http://www.unep.org/PDF/UN\\_GA\\_2997.pdf](http://www.unep.org/PDF/UN_GA_2997.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *About UNEP*. Retrieved August 9, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=43&ArticleID=3301&l=en>

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Meet the Executive Director*. Retrieved August 9, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=43&ArticleID=3174&l=en>

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Office in Nairobi. (n.d.) *About UNON*. Retrieved August 31, 2005, from <http://www.unon.org/about.php>

<sup>10</sup> International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). (2000, June 2). Report of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum and Sixth Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council: 29 – 31 May 2000. *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, 16(9). Retrieved August 31, 2005 from <http://www.iisd.ca/vol16/enb1610e.html>

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Overview*. Retrieved August 9, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/resources/gov/overview.asp>



The Governing Council meets biennially and passes recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.<sup>12</sup>

At its drawn out 19<sup>th</sup> session in April, 1997, the Governing Council established the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials in order to “consider the international environmental agenda and to make reform and policy recommendations to the GC; provide guidance and advice to UNEP’s Executive Director; enhance UNEP’s collaboration and cooperation with other multilateral bodies, including environmental conventions and their secretariats; and help mobilize adequate and predictable financial resources for UNEP.”<sup>13</sup> Since 1999, in accordance with *Report of the Secretary-General on Environment and Human Settlement (A/RES/53/242)*, the UNEP Governing Council annually convenes as the Global Ministerial Environmental Forum “to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment.”<sup>14</sup>

UNEP also relies on eight specialized divisions to carry out its mandate.<sup>15</sup> These divisions are: the Division of Communications & Public Information; Division of Early Warning and Assessment; Division of Policy Development and Law; Division of Environmental Policy and Implementation; Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics; Division of Regional Cooperation; Division of Environmental Conventions; and Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination.<sup>16</sup>

To date, UNEP has presided over a number of impressive achievements. It currently leads international efforts to protect the world's biological diversity by administering the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which protects more than 30,000 of the world's endangered species, and has helped bring the elephant back from the brink of extinction by adopting a key role in advocating the ban on international trade in ivory and other elephant products.<sup>17</sup>

UNEP cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations resulted in the 1988 Rotterdam Convention, “covering the growing trade in hazardous pesticides and chemicals.”<sup>18</sup> The Rotterdam Convention is the first international agreement to require countries importing specific chemicals to provide explicit informed consent before they can be transported across its borders.<sup>19</sup> This convention aids developing countries lacking the scientific expertise or equipment necessary to safely deal with such chemicals.<sup>20</sup> The list of identified chemicals, including pesticides such as chlordane, heptachlor, and DDT and industrial compounds such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), have a tendency to cause a number of problems, including cancers, birth defects, and other environmental concerns.<sup>21</sup>

The Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA), a four-year UNEP-led initiative executed focusing on the problems confronting the future of shared, transboundary waters, is expected to make a major contribution to water management policies and lead to the protection and more sustainable use of international waters.<sup>22</sup> GIWA findings are expected to be “the most objective and comprehensive assessment” of transboundary water-related issues ever compiled.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> IISD, *supra*, note 10.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.) Functional Organigram. Retrieved August 31, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/Organigramme/>

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *UNEP Achievements*. Retrieved August 31, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=43&ArticleID=250&l=en>

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

Members of the Governing Council of UNEP for the Period 2004-2007 are:

Antigua and Barbuda	Ghana	Republic of Korea
Argentina	Greece	Romania
Bahamas	Hungary	Russian Federation
Bangladesh	India	Saudi Arabia
Belgium	Indonesia	Senegal
Brazil	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Somalia
Bulgaria	Israel	Sudan
Burkina Faso	Japan	Sweden
Cameroon	Kazakhstan	Switzerland
Canada	Kenya	Syrian Arab Republic
Cape Verde	Kyrgyzstan	Turkey
Chad	Mexico	Tuvalu
China	Monaco	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Colombia	Morocco	Ireland
Congo	Myanmar	United Republic of Tanzania
Costa Rica	Namibia	United States of America
Cuba	Netherlands	Uruguay
Czech Republic	Nicaragua	Zambia
France	Nigeria	Zimbabwe
Germany	Poland	

## I. Water Resource Management

*Let us also reaffirm our commitment to better management of the world's water resources, which are our lifeline for survival, and for sustainable development in the 21st century.*<sup>24</sup>

Water resource management is defined as the “decision-making, manipulative, and non-manipulative processes by which water is protected, allocated, or developed.”<sup>25</sup> Because water is necessary to address population growth, ensure a healthy citizenry, and guarantee good agricultural output, management of water resources tends to be a fundamental function of most contemporary States.

In addition, creating and enforcing water resource management strategies is a recognized development goal. The United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) call on Member States to “halve, by the year 2015, the number of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water.”<sup>26</sup> The MDGs also call for the development of national and local water resource strategies that promote equitable access to water and maintenance of adequate water supplies.<sup>27</sup>

### ***Multilateral Cooperation***

Ensuring multilateral cooperation in water resource management is an important consideration when discussing water resource shortcomings.<sup>28</sup> Several current, promising projects highlight experiences that may be used as models for future efforts.<sup>29</sup> The World Bank initiated a partnership between the private sector and non-

<sup>24</sup> Annan, Koffi. (2005, March 22). Message from the Secretary-General for World Water Day. World Water Day: Water for Life, 2005-2015. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/worldwaterday.html>

<sup>25</sup> Project Wet Tennessee. (n.d.). *Glossary of Terms*. Retrieved July 30, 2005, from <http://www.apsu.edu/wet/whatis.html>

<sup>26</sup> United Nations General Assembly. (2000, September 8). *United Nations Millennium Declaration*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/millennium.htm>

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid*, p. 6.

<sup>28</sup> Gabelnick, Tamar, et al. (1997). *Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development*. Retrieved July 30, 2005, from <http://www.mtnforum.org/resources/library/gabex97a.htm>

<sup>29</sup> The World Bank Group. (2004). *Partnerships*. Retrieved July 30, 2005, from <http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/ESSD/ardext.nsf/18ByDocName/Partnerships>

governmental organizations (NGOs) to create sustainable water management policies that include environmental protection in its formulation.<sup>30</sup> The partnership was established to create lessons learned from past experiences, collaborate on future projects, and integrate best practices into the program management of each partner organization.<sup>31</sup>

The Global Water Partnership is a coalition of government institutions, private sector entities, and NGOs working to combine knowledge of water management with effective programs in order to promote sound water management policies on regional and local levels.<sup>32</sup> This coalition has created many useful tools for such purposes. Among those is a “Toolkit” containing a compendium of knowledge on programs and policies used to create sustainable water management programs.<sup>33</sup>

The World Water Council (WWC) identifies itself as the “international water policy think tank” and provides a wealth of information on many topics related to water resource management.<sup>34</sup> The Council is a network of private and public sector institutions combining resources to “build political commitment and trigger action on critical water issues at all levels, including the highest decision-making levels, to facilitate the efficient conservation, protection, development, planning, management, and use of water in all its dimensions on an environmentally sustainable basis for the benefit of all life on earth.”<sup>35</sup> For example, the WWC’s World Water Forum brings together water policy-makers and experts and serves as a precursor to global collaboration on water security problems.<sup>36</sup>

Even UNEP has targeted appropriate water resource management in its activities. Currently, UNEP maintains a database called the Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS), which is designed to provide information on the state of global inland water quality needed for the sustainable management of the world's freshwater.<sup>37</sup> Since 1978, GEMS has maintained a global database to monitor fresh water resources in over 100 countries around the world.<sup>38</sup>

### ***River Basin Information System***

The importance of managing river basin systems in water resource management is paramount.<sup>39</sup> Degrading water quality and over-dependence on certain water systems are two components of water resource management that need to be addressed immediately.<sup>40</sup> As noted by River Basin Information System,

River basins are often economic regions, too. Patterns of settlement, agriculture and transportation along rivers have tended to integrate the economies, linking basic industries (agriculture, livestock, mining, forestry) with secondary and service industries. Thus, the main economic and demographic effects of water projects and policies are likely to occur right in the same river

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<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>31</sup> El Khodari, Nabil M. (2003, March 16). *Nile Basin Initiative: Business as Usual?* Presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum. Retrieved July 30, 2005, from <http://nile.ca/doc/NBD.doc>

<sup>32</sup> Global Water Partnership. (n.d). *Small Planet. Big Job. Our Mission.* Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.gwpforum.org/servlet/PSP?chStartupName=\\_about](http://www.gwpforum.org/servlet/PSP?chStartupName=_about)

<sup>33</sup> Global Water Partnership. (n.d). *Integrated Water Resource Toolbox.* Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://gwpforum.netmasters05.netmasters.nl/en/index.html>

<sup>34</sup> World Water Council. (2005, June 28). *About WWC.* Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/about.shtml>

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>37</sup> Global Environment Monitoring System. (n.d.). *GEMS/Water Programme.* Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.gemswater.org/common/pdfs/gems\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.gemswater.org/common/pdfs/gems_brochure.pdf)

<sup>38</sup> Global Environment Monitoring System. (n.d.). *About Us.* Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.gemswater.org/about\\_us/index-e.html](http://www.gemswater.org/about_us/index-e.html)

<sup>39</sup> Svendsen, Mark. (2001, October 14). *Integrated Management of Water in River Basins. Overcoming Water Scarcity and Quality Constraints.* Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.ifpri.org/2020/focus/focus09/focus09\\_13.htm](http://www.ifpri.org/2020/focus/focus09/focus09_13.htm)

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*

basin.<sup>41</sup> An example of this would be in the Columbia River Basin, where economic tradeoffs were evaluated against fish and wildlife stocks against economic growth strategies.<sup>42</sup>

A component of the River Basin Information System is the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.<sup>43</sup> The Millennium Assessment began in 2001 and was completed in March 2005.<sup>44</sup> The report takes both a long and short-term view of ecosystem change and provides assessments on future viability using such drivers as demographics, technological improvements, and cultural characteristics.<sup>45</sup> The assessment (the most comprehensive of its kind ever conducted) provides a wealth of information about humanity's impact on the environment, and concludes, despite extensive human depletion during the last century, "it is possible to reverse the degradation of many ecosystem services over the next 50 years."<sup>46</sup>

### ***Water Resources and Risk from Environmental Change***

Obviously, management of water resources is an age-old challenge.<sup>47</sup> In Ancient Egypt, the population would flourish or stagnate as a result of that year's flooding of the Nile River.<sup>48</sup> Today, many Egyptians remain dependent on their natural surroundings for economic activity and to maintain their standard of living, and continue to worry about the evolving Nile ecosystem.<sup>49</sup>

An example of planning for ecological change for highly dependent populations is found in a study of watershed development in rural communities in India.<sup>50</sup> This study looked at the connection between sustainable livelihoods and water management.<sup>51</sup> Other studies focus on more general strategies designed to aid adaptation to climate change.<sup>52</sup> Such adaptation has four components: adaptation to short-term climate variability and extreme events, which serves as a starting point for reducing vulnerability to longer-term climate change; adaptation that occurs at different levels in society, including the local level; policy and measurement that assesses ecological change in a development context; and a focus on proper implementation of adaptation strategy are all equally important.<sup>53</sup>

Control of water may also be wielded as a weapon.<sup>54</sup> In the past in Iraq, Saddam Hussein drained the water from the ancient marsh Arabs, destroying their home after centuries of inhabitation.<sup>55</sup> In the more distant past, Soviet policy

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<sup>41</sup> River Basin Information System. (2002). *Why a River Basin Approach?* Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/DEWA/water/RiverBasin/rbistrationale1.htm>

<sup>42</sup> Hamilton, Joel R., et. al. (1999, February 2). *River Economics: Evaluating Trade-offs in Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Programs and Policies*. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from <http://www.nwcouncil.org/library/ieab/ieab1999-1.htm>

<sup>43</sup> Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. (2005, July 12). *Frequently Asked Questions*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/about.faqs.aspx>

<sup>44</sup> Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. (n.d.). *About Us*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/about.overview.aspx>

<sup>45</sup> Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. (n.d.). *Conceptual Framework*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/conceptual.framework.ppt>

<sup>46</sup> Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, *Frequently Asked Questions*, *supra*, note 43.

<sup>47</sup> GreenFacts.org. (2005, July 30). *Scientific Facts on Ecosystem Change*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.greenfacts.org/ecosystems/millennium-assessment-3/99-main-findings-2.htm>

<sup>48</sup> Mysteries of Egypt. (2004, September 27). *Egyptian Civilization Geography*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.civilization.ca/civil/egypt/egcgeo3e.html>

<sup>49</sup> Farm Foundation. (2002, September 6). *Agriculture: The Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.farmfoundation.org/projects/99-36.htm>

<sup>50</sup> Reddy, V. Ratna, et al. (2005, June 29). Participatory Watershed Development in India: Can it Sustain Rural Livelihoods?. *Development and Change*, 35(2), p. 397. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2004.00353.x?cookieSet=1>

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>52</sup> National Communications Support Program. (n.d.). *What's New 2004*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.undp.org/cc/whatsnew.htm>

<sup>53</sup> Farm Foundation. (2002, September 6). *Agriculture: The Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.farmfoundation.org/projects/99-36.htm>

<sup>54</sup> Shiva, Vandana. (2002). *Water Wars: Privatization, Pollution, and Profit*. Cambridge, MA, p. ix.

<sup>55</sup> United States Institute of Peace. (2002, November 25). *Marsh Arabs of Iraq: Hussein's Lesser Known Victims*. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from <http://www.usip.org/newsmedia/releases/2002/nb20021125.html>

under Josef Stalin destroyed what was once one of the largest inland seas in the world, the Aral Sea.<sup>56</sup> Stalin diverted two tributaries to the Aral Sea in order to irrigate cotton fields in Uzbekistan, simultaneously shrinking the sea to a fraction of its original size and decimating the region's environment.<sup>57</sup>

### ***Case Study: Turkey's Southeastern Anatolia Project and Syrian Access to the Euphrates River***

The Southeastern Anatolia Development Project is an effort by the government of Turkey to promote development, in part by harnessing the economic benefits of the Euphrates River.<sup>58</sup> The Turkish government's objective is to provide economic progress to an underdeveloped region of the country.<sup>59</sup> However, the project also directly affects several other countries in the region.<sup>60</sup> The centerpiece of the project, the Ataturk Dam, has drastically reduced the amount of water flowing in the river. Some observers estimate the flow of the river will be reduced by as much as 50%.<sup>61</sup>

Several conclusions have been attempted to assuage other water resource boundary disputes.<sup>62</sup> Economic linkages, such as trade or pollution policy, are seen as motivators for finding solutions to disagreements.<sup>63</sup> Other motivating factors include the degree of scarcity, mismanagement, or misallocation of water in various regions; the interdependence of states regarding common water resources, which respect no political boundaries; or the geographic and historic criteria of water ownership vis-à-vis states.<sup>64</sup> Since 1983, the Joint Technical Committee for Regional Waters has been a forum for Turkey, Iraq and Syria to discuss issues related to the Euphrates River.<sup>65</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

UNEP has a great deal of work ahead on the issue of water resource management. Some of the various issues to be addressed include producing legal mechanisms for enforcement of international water resource treaties; providing a dedicated funding source for any new initiatives; and finding the right balance between new economic development and protection of the environment. How can UNEP most effectively utilize the broad array of available water management studies and other information to these ends? How can UNEP best enhance its contribution to Millennium Development effort to halve the number of number of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water? How should UNEP approach the increasingly problematic nature of freshwater-related inter-State disputes?

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<sup>56</sup> Whish-Wilson, Phillip. (2002). Aral Sea Environmental Health Crisis. *Journal of Remote and Rural Environmental Health*, p. 1. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.jcu.edu.au/jrtp/vol/v01whish.pdf>

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

<sup>58</sup> Southeastern Anatolia Project. (n.d.). *Current Status of GAP Project as of June 2000*. Retrieved August 14, 2005, <http://www.gapturkiye.gen.tr/english/current.html>

<sup>59</sup> Southeastern Anatolia Project. (n.d.). *Objectives of GAP*. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from <http://www.gapturkiye.gen.tr/english/objective/index.html>

<sup>60</sup> Cunningham, Scott L. (2000). Do Brothers Divide Shares Forever?: Obstacles to the Effective use of International Law in Euphrates River Basin Water Issues. *University of Pennsylvania Journal of International Economic Law*, p. 1.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>62</sup> Dinar, Shlomi and Ariel Dinar. (2003). Recent Developments in the Literature of Conflict Negotiation and Cooperation Over Shared International Fresh Waters. *Natural Resources Journal*, Fall 2003, p. 2.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 7.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 9.

<sup>65</sup> Embassy of Turkey to the United States of America. (1999). *Water Issues Between Turkey, Syria, and Iraq*. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from <http://www.turkishembassy.org/governmentpolitics/issueswater.htm>

## II. Review of the Montevideo Program

*Today we are faced with a challenge that calls for a shift in our thinking, so that humanity stops threatening its life-support system. We are called to assist the Earth to heal her wounds and in the process heal our own— indeed, to embrace the whole creation in all its diversity, beauty, and wonder.*<sup>66</sup>

Since its inception in 1972, UNEP has prioritized the maintenance and development of international environmental law.<sup>67</sup> In 1981, the Governing Council adopted the first of the Montevideo Programmes for the Development and Review of International Law.<sup>68</sup> Each Programme identifies UNEP's objectives in the field of environmental law for the subsequent ten years, and, through development and implementation of these objectives, allows the organization to confront the environmental challenges of each decade.<sup>69</sup>

The first Programme, *Montevideo I*, addressed the period of 1982-1992.<sup>70</sup> *Montevideo I* was developed by senior governmental officials and environmental experts to undertake “the conclusion of international [environmental] agreements and the development of international [environmental preservation] principles, guidelines and standards.”<sup>71</sup> *Montevideo II* was adopted in 1992 and heavily reflects the objectives of the *Agenda 21* agreement.<sup>72</sup> *Agenda 21* is a major international initiative administered by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development to assist primarily developing States to implement policies that support environmentally sound sustainable development.<sup>73</sup> The overall strategy of *Montevideo II* was to: “Strengthen the capacity of States, in particular developing countries, and countries with economies in transition to take measures to protect their environment, to achieve sustainable development and to participate effectively in the initiation, negotiation and implementation of international legal instruments in the field of the environment.”<sup>74</sup>

UNEP is presently implementing *Montevideo III*, the Programme for the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.<sup>75</sup> The Programme's scope, organized into 20 programme areas, is somewhat wider than that of *Montevideo II*.<sup>76</sup> Its primary objective is the promotion of adherence to environmental law via, “the widest possible participation in multilateral environmental agreements and the development of relevant strategies, mechanisms, and national laws.”<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> Maathi, Wangari. (2004, December 10). Nobel Lecture after receiving the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://nobelprize.org/peace/laureates/2004/maathai-lecture-text.html>

<sup>67</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (2005). *About the Program*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.unep.org/DPDL/law/About\\_prog/introduction.asp](http://www.unep.org/DPDL/law/About_prog/introduction.asp)

<sup>68</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (2005). *Montevideo Program*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.unep.org/dpdl/law/About\\_prog/montevideo\\_prog.asp](http://www.unep.org/dpdl/law/About_prog/montevideo_prog.asp)

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>70</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (1992). *Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s*, p. i. Retrieved September 4, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/dpdl/law/PDF/MontevideoI.pdf>

<sup>71</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Environmental Law Programme, supra*, note 3.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>73</sup> United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs Division for Sustainable Development. (2004, December 2004). *About the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/about\\_us/aboutus.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/about_us/aboutus.htm)

<sup>74</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (1992). *Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law*, p. 1. Retrieved September 4, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/dpdl/law/PDF/MontevideoII.pdf>

<sup>75</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Environmental Law Programme, supra*, note 3.

<sup>76</sup> Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme. (2004, November 4). *Implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (Montevideo Programme III)*, p. 3. Retrieved September 4, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/GC/GC23/documents/GC23-3-Add3.pdf>

<sup>77</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (2001, February 9). *Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-First Century*, p. 1. Retrieved September 4, 2005, from [http://www.unep.org/dpdl/law/PDF/GC22\\_2\\_3\\_add2\\_Montevideo%20III.pdf](http://www.unep.org/dpdl/law/PDF/GC22_2_3_add2_Montevideo%20III.pdf)

### **2004 Periodic Review of Montevideo III**

In February 2003, the Governing Council requested UNEP's Executive Director to compile a five-year review of the implementation of *Montevideo III*.<sup>78</sup> This review was commissioned in order to achieve several objectives, including compliance with and enforcement of environmental law, strengthening the development of environmental law, and identifying potential areas of focus for the remaining five years of *Montevideo III*'s duration.<sup>79</sup>

In November 2004, the review was completed and submitted to the Governing Council.<sup>80</sup> As requested, the comprehensive evaluation summarizes activities carried out in accordance with *Montevideo III* and identifies areas in which UNEP should award greater attention. One such area is the internationally agreed upon goals and benchmarks contained in the *Millennium Declaration*.<sup>81</sup> The report requests UNEP pay special attention to MDG 7 and its "specific targets for ensuring environmental sustainability" in the final five years of *Montevideo III* implementation.<sup>82</sup> It also calls for, among other things,

- continued strengthening and development of international environmental law, including the development of an international agreement regarding forests;
- the promotion of understanding of the relationship between international economic law and the environment;
- the incorporation of legal mechanisms into water policy at the national, regional, and global levels to preserve freshwater resources;
- a "revitalization" of regional seas conventions and greater attention toward heavy metal pollution of marine and coastal ecosystems, and
- planning for *Montevideo IV* to address new environmental challenges in the decade 2012-2022.<sup>83</sup>

Two of these areas of recommendation, strengthening and developing environmental law and international trade and the environment, are discussed below.

#### ***Strengthening and Developing Environmental Law: Desertification and Deforestation***

Creating and implementing a viable legal mechanism to control deforestation and desertification remains a challenge before the international community.<sup>84</sup> The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) is an international network of experts promoting best practices in conservation that has addressed this issue.<sup>85</sup> The IUCN publishes several manuals for governments to use when formulating their conservation policies and laws.<sup>86</sup>

In the past, the IUCN has published numerous recommendations for the prevention of deforestation, such as its recaps of its Intergovernmental Forums on Forests.<sup>87</sup> At its most recent forum, the IUCN produced several recommendations, including the establishment of a network of ecologically representative protected areas; recognition of the primary purpose of protected forest areas should be to conserve biodiversity and natural and associated cultural values; establishing institutional, financial, legal, and capacity-building frameworks to facilitate

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<sup>78</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (2005). *Mid-Term Review of the Montevideo Program*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.unep.org/dpdl/Law/About\\_prog/montevideo\\_review.asp](http://www.unep.org/dpdl/Law/About_prog/montevideo_review.asp)

<sup>79</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Programme for the Development*, *supra*, note 77, p. 2.

<sup>80</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Montevideo Program*, *supra*, note 68.

<sup>81</sup> Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, *supra*, note 76, p. 13.

<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*, 13-15.

<sup>84</sup> United Nations Development Programme Sustainable Energy and Environment Division. (n.d.). *Synergies in National Implementation: The Rio Agreements, Part 3*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.undp.org/seed/guide/synergies/siner3.htm>

<sup>85</sup> World Conservation Union. (n.d.). *IUCN Overview*. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from <http://www.iucn.org/en/about/>

<sup>86</sup> Hannam, Ian and Ben Boer. (2004). *Drafting Legislation for Sustainable Soils: A Guide*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.iucn.org/themes/law/pdffdocuments/EPLP52EN.pdf>

<sup>87</sup> World Conservation Union and the World Wildlife Fund. (n.d.). *International Policy Documents*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.iucn.org/themes/forests/policy/international.html>

the effective engagement of NGOs, indigenous peoples, the private sector, and local government in the planning and management of protected areas and other conservation strategies.<sup>88</sup>

The IUCN has also published several guides pertaining to desertification and soil management.<sup>89</sup> The *Guide to Drafting Sustainable Soil Legislation* is a discussion of the desertification issue and contains several recommendations for combating desertification at the local level.<sup>90</sup> The *Guide* defines its intent issue as “control of “soil erosion,” and “soil pollution,” prevention of “soil degradation,” and the “establishment of soil conservation institutions.”<sup>91</sup> According to the guide, “a compendium of laws is needed to deal with the commitments entered into by States, incentive regimes, land tenure regimes and protection codes for natural resources should be reviewed, where necessary, to integrate aspects relating to land degradation, desertification and drought, and law enforcement harmonization needs to be addressed before proper enforcement mechanisms can be successful.”<sup>92</sup>

### ***International Trade and the Environment***

As stated earlier, Goal 7 of the *Millennium Declaration* concerns integrating sustainable development policies into legal mechanisms in order to create economic growth and maintain a healthy environment.<sup>93</sup> In addition, the primary goal of the Commission for Sustainable Development is the “integration of the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in policy-making at international, regional, and national levels.”<sup>94</sup> Creating an effective system of international trade law that protects the global environment and promotes sustainable development is an important component of these efforts.<sup>95</sup>

The World Trade Organization (WTO), the principal intergovernmental organization through which the international trade regime is negotiated, has several task forces concerned with the environment and sustainable development.<sup>96</sup> The Trade and Environment Committee of the WTO operate on two principles. First, the environment is not the main concern of the WTO; rather, trade is.<sup>97</sup> Second, WTO Member States do not want the organization to impose environmental restrictions on the international trading system.<sup>98</sup> While some WTO critics have questioned this WTO policy, delegates should keep this position in mind when discussing the relationship between trade and the environment.<sup>99</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

UNEP is currently undergoing its five-year review of the Montevideo Programme. As delegates research the many issues facing the international community regarding environmental legal regime, many issue areas should be addressed. For example, how can environmental law be better integrated into national and regional legislation? What role can private enterprises and NGOs play in the enforcement of environmental law? What are the most effective strategies non-governmental organizations can use in affecting change? Should environmental issues be regarded as either a security or trade issue? These and many other areas are there for delegates to explore.

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<sup>88</sup> World Conservation Union and World Wildlife Fund. (2000, January 31). *Intergovernmental Forum on Forests: Fourth Session*, p. 1. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.iucn.org/themes/forests/policy/IFF4ProtectedAreas.pdf>

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>90</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 15-16

<sup>93</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *supra*, note 26.

<sup>94</sup> United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs Division for Sustainable Development, *supra*, note 73.

<sup>95</sup> Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development. (2004, November). *About Us*. London. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.field.org.uk/about\\_overview.php](http://www.field.org.uk/about_overview.php)

<sup>96</sup> World Trade Organization. (n.d.). *Trade and Environment*. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/envir\\_e/envir\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/envir_e.htm)

<sup>97</sup> World Trade Organization. (n.d.). *The environment: a new high profile*. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from [http://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/whatis\\_e/tif\\_e/bey2\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/bey2_e.htm)

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>99</sup> Wallach, Lori and Patrick Woodall. (n.d.). *Whose World Trade Organization? A Comprehensive Guide to The WTO*. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from <http://www.citizen.org/trade/wto/articles.cfm?ID=10448>



### III. Prevention of Trade in Endangered Species, Flora, and Fauna

*Man has a special responsibility to safeguard and wisely manage the heritage of wildlife and its habitat, which are now gravely imperiled by a combination of adverse factors. Nature conservation, including wildlife, must therefore receive importance in planning for economic development.*<sup>100</sup>

UNEP has been involved in the prevention of illegal trade in endangered species, flora, and fauna since its creation.<sup>101</sup> While illegal trade in wildlife may not get as much attention as the arms trade or trafficking of humans, exports of wildlife and wildlife products encompass a significant source of income for individuals and enterprises in a number of States, especially in developing countries.<sup>102</sup> These goods range “from live animals and plants to a vast array of wildlife products derived from them, including food products, exotic leather goods, wooden musical instruments, timber, tourist curios and medicines.”<sup>103</sup>

Though the international community has implemented instruments designed to confront this problem, unsustainable rates of harvesting have led to serious wildlife depletion and, increasingly, environmental resource exhaustion.<sup>104</sup> Though wildlife species can be considered renewable natural resources, they possess a level of reproductive capacity below which renewal becomes virtually irreversible.<sup>105</sup> For this reason, it is imperative UNEP continue to examine the trade in endangered species, flora, and fauna and communicate findings and recommendations with the world.

#### ***UNEP Efforts: CITES and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre***

On March 3, 1973, government representatives of eighty United Nations Member States met and agreed upon a convention to regulate the trade of endangered species: the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna* (CITES).<sup>106</sup> This convention encapsulated more than a decade’s worth of collaboration among its original signatories and various environmentally oriented NGOs. A voluntary international agreement between Member States, CITES aims to protect endangered populations of flora and fauna by preventing international trade from further endangering them.<sup>107</sup> Formal administration of this convention was immediately entrusted to UNEP.<sup>108</sup>

The convention currently monitors and protects approximately 33,000 species of plants and animals, which are categorized in the CITES database by species and country.<sup>109</sup> The strength and importance of CITES has increased during the 30 years since it first entered into force and its current 169 Member State signatories make it one of the largest international environmental conservation agreements.<sup>110</sup> However, the importance of protecting these species, as recognized in CITES, requires that the international community continue to work to advance the initiatives and enforcement needed to make this a strong, enforceable convention.<sup>111</sup>

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<sup>100</sup> United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, *supra*, note 1.

<sup>101</sup> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (1973, March 3). *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna*. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.shtml>

<sup>102</sup> Sand, Peter H., *supra*, note 2.

<sup>103</sup> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and fauna. (n.d.). *What is CITES?* Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/what.shtml>

<sup>104</sup> Sand, Peter H., *supra*, note 2.

<sup>105</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>106</sup> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and fauna. (2003, March 3). *CITES World: Official Newsletter of the Parties*, p. 2. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/world/30special.pdf>

<sup>107</sup> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna, *supra*, note 101.

<sup>108</sup> Sand, Peter H., *supra*, note 2.

<sup>109</sup> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (n.d.). *The CITES Species*. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/species.shtml>

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>111</sup> Skeen, Richard. (2004). Will the WTO Turn Green? Implications of Injecting Environmental Issues into the Multilateral Trading System. *Georgetown International Environmental Law Review*, p. 2.

The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) was established during a 2000 agreement between UNEP, the United Kingdom, and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre.<sup>112</sup> This centre works to educate the global community as to the importance of protecting and promoting species diversity and the need to protect endangered flora and fauna.<sup>113</sup> The Centre also researches and lists the species throughout the world in need of protection and works in conjunction with CITES, the EU Trade Regulation, the Convention on Migratory Species, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.<sup>114</sup>

### *Illegal trade in endangered species*

Despite the availability of tools such as CITES and the UNEP-WCMC, it is commonly estimated the current rate of species extinction is one of the highest in the history of the earth.<sup>115</sup> The World Conservation Union estimates the number of endangered species at 15,589 (7,266 animal and 8,323 plant and lichen species) in an evaluation released in late 2004, and some environmentalists believe this number is understated.<sup>116</sup> Human activity is largely responsible for this rapidly accelerating depletion of biodiversity, and illegal trade in endangered species is a key threat.<sup>117</sup> While the international community has resolved to combat this issue, the underlying behaviors that promote such trade need to be addressed.

The trade of endangered species occurs because their scarcity enables traders to demand a great deal of money for rare flora and fauna.<sup>118</sup> A well organized and functioning black market, accounting for \$2-3 billion per year for wildlife alone contributes to the thriving trade of endangered species.<sup>119</sup> Because such trade lowers the supply of a given species, the demand makes the price paid for it rise. This demand, in turn, drives up cost, and traders receive more and more money as they continue to deplete rare forms of flora and fauna.<sup>120</sup> This self-perpetuating cycle of trade in endangered species, in conjunction with the economic benefits that such trade brings to these regions, makes battling the issue difficult.<sup>121</sup>

As the UNEP-WCMC and CITES databases show, countries all over the world are affected by illicit flora and fauna trade.<sup>122</sup> Examples of species that have been traded to the detriment of the ecosystems they inhabit include stony corals, tortoises and freshwater turtles, musk deer, sharks, apes, and rhinoceros.<sup>123</sup> Areas that have been devastated

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<sup>112</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (2004). *Vision and Mission. UNEP-WCMC's Strategic Plan 2003/2004*, p. 2. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from [http://www.unep-wcmc.org/aboutWCMC/strategic\\_report/WCMC\\_Strat\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/aboutWCMC/strategic_report/WCMC_Strat_Plan.pdf)

<sup>113</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>114</sup> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, *Flora and Fauna, supra*, note 101.

<sup>115</sup> Stuart, Simon. (1999). *Species: Unprecedented Extinction Rate, and It's Increasing*. Retrieved September 4, 2005 from [http://www.iucn.org/info\\_and\\_news/press/species2000.html](http://www.iucn.org/info_and_news/press/species2000.html)

<sup>116</sup> MSNBC. (2004, November 17). *Species disappearing at an alarming rate, report says*. Retrieved September 4, 2005 from <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6502368/>

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

<sup>118</sup> Du Bois, Kathleen E. (1997). *Illegal Trade in Endangered Species. African Security Review*. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.iss.co.za/Pubs/ASR/6No1/DuBois.html>

<sup>119</sup> *Ibid.*; Robbins, Chris. (n.d.). *Wildlife and Plant Trade and the Role of CITES: Challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Special Forest Products: Biodiversity Meets the Marketplace*, p. 3. Retrieved August 31, 2005, from <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/gtr63/gtrwo63i.pdf>

<sup>120</sup> Shogren, Jason F. and Patricia H. Hayward. (1997). *The Endangered Species Act and Private Property. Land and Water Law Review*, p. 4.

<sup>121</sup> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (2004, October 14). *CITES: Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the parties*, p. 1. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/common/cop/13/raw-docs/IE05.pdf>

<sup>122</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (2005, August 1). *United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre*. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/>; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna, *supra*, note 101.

<sup>123</sup> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (n.d.). *Conservation and Management of Sharks*, p. 2. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/res/all/12/E12-06.pdf>; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (n.d.). *Conservation of and Trade in Great Apes*, p. 2. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/res/all/13/E13-04.pdf>; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (n.d.). *Establishment of Export Quotas for Black Rhinoceros Hunting Trophies*, p. 1. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/res/all/13/E13-05.pdf>; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (n.d.). *Conservation of and Trade in Musk Deer*, p. 2. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/res/all/11/E11-07.pdf>; Convention on International Trade in

by this environmentally destructive form of trade serve as an impetus for UNEP and the international community to continue addressing the issue. With the continuing destruction of such species as the black rhinoceros in South Africa or the musk deer in Asia, the need to address illicit trade becomes more urgent.<sup>124</sup> As such, the international community, as well as NGOs, has been working together to combat such trade in the areas most affected.<sup>125</sup>

### ***Case Study: Illegal Timber Mining***

The illicit trade in timber is an ongoing concern for the international community. While many organizations involved in the timber trade recognize the importance of maintaining healthy forests and woodlands, illegal trade in timber continues.<sup>126</sup> The hardest hit areas are in Asia, where illicit logging is an urgent problem in many countries.<sup>127</sup> Some producers see the unregulated timber industry in the region as a means to creating profits at little personal cost. Illicit traders encounter few incentives to curtail their logging at the expense of healthy forests.<sup>128</sup>

Government ineptitude and corruption can be blamed for much of the lack of enforcement of timber trade regulations.<sup>129</sup> There are numerous examples of poor forest management and official corruption leading to a depletion of timber resources.<sup>130</sup> One approach to countering this problem is to move governance of forests from national levels, where the tendency toward corruption in forest policies are more tempting, to the local level, where the effects of corruption are more directly felt.<sup>131</sup> Through this work regional NGOs are assisting indigenous communities to develop a local community council to coordinate policy and discuss differences.<sup>132</sup> Similar policies have proven successful in Thailand and may be able to stem forest depletion in other areas as well.<sup>133</sup>

Illegal timber trade has also been discussed at the World Trade Organization (WTO). At the 2003 Cancún Ministerial meeting of the Doha Round on Trade and Development, Member States raised the issue of timber trade and its relationship to poverty and the lack of prospects for future economic development.<sup>134</sup> Many of these same issues and ideas were brought up in a recent report by the chairperson of the trade negotiating committee at the 2005 Ministerial Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, and are sure to be discussed at the WTO meeting in December 2005.<sup>135</sup>

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Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (n.d.). *Convention of and Trade in Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles*, p. 2. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/res/all/11/E11-09R13.pdf>; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (n.d.). *Trade in Stony Corals*, p. 1. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/res/all/11/E11-10R12.pdf>

<sup>124</sup> Du Bois, *supra*, note 118; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, *Flora and Fauna, supra*, note 121.

<sup>125</sup> Robbins, Chris, *supra*, note 119.

<sup>126</sup> Timber Trade Federation. (2000, April 9). *Responsible Timber Purchasing*. Retrieved August 15, 2005, from <http://www.ttf.co.uk/forests/responsible/>

<sup>127</sup> Lee Yock Suan. (2000, September 4). Statement by Mr. Lee Yock Suan, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Information and the Arts to the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific. Retrieved August 15, 2005, from <http://app.mewr.gov.sg/press.asp?id=SAS550>

<sup>128</sup> Inoguchi, Akiko, et al. (2005, March). *Approaches to Controlling Illegal Forest Activities: Consideration for Southeast Asia*. Working Paper Series No. 7, p. 1. Retrieved August 15, 2005, from <http://www.asiaforestnetwork.org/pub/pub59.pdf>

<sup>129</sup> Smith, J., et al. (2003). Illegal Logging, Collusive Corruption, and Fragmented Governance in Kalimantan, Indonesia. *International Forestry Review*, 5(3), p. 1. Retrieved August 15, 2005, from [http://www.ttf.co.uk/forests/responsible/SmithetalIFR\\_Sep03-2.pdf](http://www.ttf.co.uk/forests/responsible/SmithetalIFR_Sep03-2.pdf)

<sup>130</sup> Inoguchi, et. al., *supra*, note 128, p. 9.

<sup>131</sup> Asia Forest Network. (n.d.). Community Allies: Forest Co-Management in Thailand. *Research Report Network # 2*. Retrieved August 15, 2005, from <http://www.asiaforestnetwork.org/pub/pub09.htm>

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

<sup>133</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>134</sup> Soewandi, Rini M.S. (2003, September 11). Statement by H.E. Rini M.S. Soewandi, Minister of Industry and Trade, to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization. Retrieved August 15, 2005, from [http://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/minist\\_e/min03\\_e/statements\\_e/st24.doc](http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min03_e/statements_e/st24.doc)

<sup>135</sup> Panitchpakdi, Supachai. (2005, July 28). Report of the Chairman of the Trade Negotiating Committee to the General Council, p. 6. Retrieved August 15, 2005, from [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news05\\_e/gc\\_tnc5\\_e.doc](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news05_e/gc_tnc5_e.doc)

## ***Conclusion***

The conservation of wild flora and fauna is a primary goal of the international community. There are several issues delegates should examine while conducting research in this area. For instance, what legal mechanisms may be used to create a stronger enforcement mechanism for CITES? What role should regional organizations play in enforcement? What roles can the private sector play in enforcement?

Means for combating illegal trade should also be pursued. For example, what role should international police organizations play, if any? What role should international organization play via public awareness, using such measures as black lists and white lists? What role can the international community, in general, and UNEP, in particular, play in fostering public-private partnerships in combating illicit trade in endangered species?

## Annotated Bibliography

### *History of the United Nations Environment Programme*

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). (2000, June 2). Report of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum and Sixth Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council: 29 – 31 May 2000. *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, 16(9). Retrieved August 31, 2005, from <http://www.iisd.ca/vol16/enb1610e.html>  
*Each year since 1999, the UNEP Governing Council convenes as the Global Ministerial Environment Forum to address emerging environmental issues. This report, created by the Canadian non-profit International Institute for Sustainable Development, summarizes the 2000 Ministerial. The report is an excellent example of the type of work undertaken by UNEP. Delegates should pay close attention to both the “A Brief History of the UNEP Governing Council” and “Report of the Forum” sections.*

Sand, Peter H. (2004, October 14). Whither CITES? The Evolution of a Treaty regime in the Borderland of Trade and Environment. *European Journal of International Law*, p.2. Retrieved August 31, 2005, from <http://www.ejil.org/journal/Vol8/No1/art2.html>  
*This article is mainly concerned with the CITES agreement, which is addressed in more detail in Topic III, “Prevention of Trade in Endangered Species, Flora, and Fauna.” However, the historical account of the development of this agreement in Part II exemplifies why UNEP was created. A lack of coherence in the area of illegal trade in flora and fauna resulted in the CITES agreement, and UNEP, the newly created so-called “voice of the environment” at the UN, was charged with administering it from the beginning.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *About UNEP*. Retrieved August 9, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=43&ArticleID=3301&l=en>  
*A brief history of UNEP, a list of the organization’s general responsibilities, and basic introduction to its structure are all contained in this document. It serves as an appropriate starting point from which delegates should conduct further research. This information will be especially valuable for building a basic understanding of the organization’s approach to environmental preservation.*

United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. (1972, June 16). *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment*, Principle 1. Retrieved August 9, 2005, from [http://www.mint.gov.my/policy/treaty\\_multidim/unche72\\_stockholm.htm](http://www.mint.gov.my/policy/treaty_multidim/unche72_stockholm.htm)  
*The Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was the result of a series of multilateral conferences convened to examine the effect of humanity on the environment. The final Declaration is composed of 26 principles that described the responsibilities of States with regard to environmental preservation. UNEP was established as a result of this same conference, and many of its mandates are clearly related to the principles of the above Declaration.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Meet the Executive Director*. Retrieved August 9, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=43&ArticleID=3174&l=en>  
*The profile of UNEP’s Executive Director, former German Federal Minister of the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety Klaus Töpfer, is also a valuable source. Like any other large organization, understanding the background and motivations of UNEP’s leadership is an excellent way to build an understanding of the organization’s activities. Of particular interest is the UNEP restructuring initiated by Under-Secretary Töpfer as head of UNEP.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (2005). *Environmental Law Programme: Chronological List of Environmental Agreements*. Retrieved August 9, 2005, from [http://www.unep.org/dpdl/Law/Law\\_instruments/index\\_complete\\_list.asp](http://www.unep.org/dpdl/Law/Law_instruments/index_complete_list.asp)  
*UNEP’s Environmental Law Programme maintains a database of all major international and regional environmental agreements since 1933. It is located at the above URL. Delegates should find this page especially helpful as they conduct research on all three topics.*

United Nations General Assembly. (1972, December 15). *Institutional and Financial Arrangement for International Environmental Cooperation*, p. 1. Retrieved August 9, 2005, from [http://www.unep.org/PDF/UN\\_GA\\_2997.pdf](http://www.unep.org/PDF/UN_GA_2997.pdf)  
*General Assembly Resolution 2997 created UNEP on December 15, 1972. This is the text of that document. Though most of the content is administrative in nature (stating the structure of the organization and identifying each department's role, for example), the preambular clauses illustrate the fundamental purpose and role of UNEP, which are important to bear in mind at all times. Delegates should also realize that both the organization's structure and role have evolved since its inception.*

United Nations Office in Nairobi. (n.d.) *About UNON*. Retrieved August 31, 2005 from <http://www.unon.org/about.php>  
*Both UNEP and the UN Programme for Human Settlements (UNHABITAT) are headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, at the UN Office in Nairobi. The headquarters has grown with both UNEP and UNHABITAT, and serves as a development hub for Africa in general. The location is also symbolic, as it illustrates the UN's commitment to the continent of Africa. This overview describes UNON's purpose and administrative structure, which delegates may find useful when it comes time to decide how to implement new policy. This document is an exceptionally informative description of the 2000 meeting of the UNEP Governing Council. Delegates should find it extremely useful. The "A Brief History of the UNEP Governing Council" precedes a topic-by-topic evaluation of the meeting. This information is recent enough to be particularly relevant to those conducting research for this simulation.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Overview*. Retrieved August 9, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/resources/gov/overview.asp>  
*The UNEP Governing Council is the center-piece of the organization. Almost any decision affecting the policy or course of the organization requires Governing Council approval. This overview describes the Council's founding, as well as its main functions and responsibilities. It is vital delegates understand the role of the Governing Council within UNEP.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.) *Functional Organigram*. Retrieved August 31, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/Organigramme/>  
*This chart illustrates (quite literally) the organization of UNEP. In addition, each "box" is hyperlinked to the entity it represents. The chart should be useful to delegates as they initiate their research and, later, as they begin to think about how to implement their delegation's policy within the organization.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *UNEP Achievements*. Retrieved August 31, 2005 from <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=43&ArticleID=250&l=en>  
*This UNEP-maintained list of achievements is helpful in reinforcing the type of work in which UNEP engages. Only a few of them are highlighted in the committee history section of this background guide. As can be seen, UNEP has accomplished real and important objectives since its inception.*

## **I. Water Resource Management**

Annan, Kofi. (2005, March 22). Message from the Secretary-General for World Water Day. World Water Day: Water for Life, 2005-2015. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/worldwaterday.html>  
*This quote was taken from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's message for World Water Day on March 22, 2005. World Water Day was designated by the General Assembly following Rio Conference on Environment and Development in order to promote awareness of the importance of managing and conserving the world's water resources. This is the text of the Secretary-General's message.*

- Cunningham, Scott L. (2000). Do Brothers Divide Shares Forever?: Obstacles to the Effective use of International Law in Euphrates River Basin Water Issues. *University of Pennsylvania Journal of International Economic Law*, p. 1.  
*The use and management of water is a major issue in the Middle East. This paper is a discussion of the many sides of this complicated issue, most notably transboundary water disputes. This is a valuable resource for those interested in the topic.*
- Dinar, Shlomi and Ariel Dinar. (2003). Recent Developments in the Literature of Conflict Negotiation and Cooperation Over Shared International Fresh Waters. *Natural Resources Journal*, Fall 2003, p. 2.  
*The international community is attempting to mediate issues that States can not solve on their own. This paper is a discussion of the many undertakings around the world designed to find equitable solutions to various concerns. This is a valuable resource for those interested in the topic.*
- El Khodari, Nabil M. (2003, March 16). *Nile Basin Initiative: Business as Usual?* Presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum. Retrieved July 30, 2005, from <http://nile.ca/doc/NBD.doc>  
*The Nile Basin Initiative is a major international effort to mediate access to the Nile River. As such, it necessarily involves large review conferences such as this one to determine its progress. This paper is a part of that review process.*
- Embassy of Turkey to the United States of America. (1999). *Water Issues Between Turkey, Syria, and Iraq*. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from <http://www.turkishembassy.org/governmentpolitics/issueswater.htm>  
*The complicated negotiations that have been undertaken between some States are often the result of age-old disagreement. This page from the Turkish embassy to the United States provides an overview of how Turkey approaches current disputes between it and two of its neighbors, Syria and Iraq. The study is an excellent example of the complexities that can surround shared sources of freshwater.*
- Farm Foundation. (2002, September 6). *Agriculture: The Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.farmfoundation.org/projects/99-36.htm>  
*The Farm Foundation is an agricultural think tank designed to find policies amenable to continued farming sustainability. This paper is a brief discussion of what could happen to agriculture from continued climate change. The brief description should give several directions for new research.*
- Gabelnick, Tamar, et al. (1997). *Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development*. Retrieved July 30, 2005, from <http://www.mtnforum.org/resources/library/gabex97a.htm>  
*The Wilson School of International Affairs is primarily interested in promoting the study of international relations and multilateralism. This document was produced as part of a colloquium studying natural resource management and international cooperation. It was produced as part of the five-year review of the Rio Earth Summit.*
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*The GEMS/Water Programme is a primary source of scientifically-sound information on the status of the world's supply of freshwater. This brochure provides an overview of the type of activities and assessments the Programme conducts. It also recommends methods States can use to monitor and manage their water resources.*
- Global Environment Monitoring System. (n.d.). *About Us*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.gemswater.org/about\\_us/index-e.html](http://www.gemswater.org/about_us/index-e.html)  
*The About Us page of the GEMS/Water Programme Web site contains the history, mission statement, and membership of the Global water Partnership. It also contains links to documents such as GEMS/Water Technical Advisory Paper No. 1: Improving Global Water Quality Monitoring, which delegates may find particularly useful while researching methods environmental experts believe water resources can be best monitored and preserved.*

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*GreenFacts.org provides scientific data on many global environmental questions. Using a variety of sources, this Web site has details into many topics related to UNEP's work. Delegates should find the section detailing the influence of water supply management on ecosystem change particularly useful.*
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*The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment was initiated by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2001. A detailed description of the program, its mission, and its partners are found on this page. Because the fundamental aim of the organization is to provide policy-makers and the scientific community with information on ecosystem change, it is an excellent resource for UNEP delegates.*
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*This chart is a description of how the MEA operates. It provides an easy to understand picture of the flow of work that the MEA produces. The material included here should prove beneficial to anyone interested in the topic.*
- Mysteries of Egypt. (2004, September 27). *Egyptian Civilization Geography*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.civilization.ca/civil/egypt/egcgeo3e.html>  
*Dependency on sound water management techniques is hardly a new phenomenon. This short history of the Nile Valley in Egypt demonstrates the dependency of human civilizations on water management dates back thousands of years. However, as the size of human populations in these areas expand, water supply problems become more acute.*



- National Communications Support Program. (n.d.). *What's New 2004*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.undp.org/cc/whatsnew.htm>  
*The NCSP is a team of experts tasked with developing policies designed to help the international community adapt to climate change. This Adaptation Policy Framework is a user's guide for environmental policy development. The framework focuses on assessment of and adaptation to climate change, and includes a number of case studies.*
- Project Wet Tennessee. (n.d.). *Glossary of Terms*. Retrieved July 30, 2005, from <http://www.apsu.edu/wet/whatis.html>  
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*This paper examines, in detail, the ability of shared watersheds to promote sustainable livelihoods in India. It concludes that the sharing of watersheds can improve the security of livelihoods, but is less likely to do so in environments with scarce water resources. The authors verify the challenging nature of water-related disputes, but conclude sharing watersheds can still play a role in these fragile situations.*
- River Basin Information System. (2002). *Why a River Basin Approach?* Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/DEWA/water/RiverBasin/rbisrationale1.htm>  
*The RBIS is a UNEP initiative to find policies to harness the river basin in effective water resource management policies. This is the about us page. It offers insight into why such an initiative is needed.*
- Shiva, Vandana. (2002). *Water Wars: Privatization, Pollution, and Profit*. Cambridge, MA, p. ix.  
*This short publication by Ms. Shiva studies the future of water and how it may effect humankind. Environmentally, legally, and developmentally, the issue of water will need to be addressed by the international community and national leaders. This is an essential document for delegates to refer to.*
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- Svensen, Mark. (2001, October 14). *Integrated Management of Water in River Basins. Overcoming Water Scarcity and Quality Constraints*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.ifpri.org/2020/focus/focus09/focus09\\_13.htm](http://www.ifpri.org/2020/focus/focus09/focus09_13.htm)  
*The International Food Policy Research institute is a think tank dedicated to finding policies to best feed the world population. This brief is part of a series of briefing papers on various issues related to food and water. Many other briefs that may prove beneficial to delegates can be found on the group's Web site.*

United Nations General Assembly. (2000, September 8). *United Nations Millennium Declaration*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/millennium.htm>

*In 2000, the UN General Assembly established a series of principles and measurable benchmarks to promote sustainable development objectives. The Millennium Declaration was the resulting document. Article IV, in particular, outlines a number of broad goals related to environmental preservation. Delegates should utilize the Millennium Declaration as a principle guide in their research, as it exerts a heavy influence on UNEP activities.*

United States Institute of Peace. (2002, November 25). *Marsh Arabs of Iraq: Hussein's Lesser Known Victims*.

Retrieved August 14, 2005, from <http://www.usip.org/newsmedia/releases/2002/nb20021125.html>  
*This report and project by the United States' Institute for Peace documents the many crimes of the Saddam Hussein regime against a distinct minority in Iraq. Marsh Arabs had inhabited a certain area in southern Iraq for generations. However, Hussein's government undertook specific policies to destroy the local population.*

Whish-Wilson, Phillip. (2002). Aral Sea Environmental Health Crisis. *Journal of Remote and Rural Environmental Health*, p. 1. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.jcu.edu.au/jrtp/vol/v01whish.pdf>

*This is a paper discussing the Aral Sea, which was nearly destroyed nearly fifty years ago following a massive rerouting program under Josef Stalin and Soviet Russia. The sea was reduced to a fraction of its original size. It used to be the largest body of water entirely surrounded by land. The damage caused to the destruction of the Aral Sea is still being felt today.*

The World Bank Group. (2004). *Partnerships*. Retrieved July 30, 2005, from

<http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/ESSD/ardext.nsf/18ByDocName/Partnerships>

*The World Bank is the leading international development financing institution. This project by the bank, on water resource management, is designed to finance effective international cooperation on water resource projects. These projects, primarily aimed at developing countries, are all collaborative effort at promoting quality resource management policies.*

World Water Council. (2005, June 28). *About WWC*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/about.shtml>

*At this page the description of the World Water Council, an international think tank for water policy, can be found. In addition, a list of objectives, financial resources and accomplishments are also listed. This is a valuable resource for delegates.*

World Water Council. (2005, June 28). *Financing Water Policies*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from

[http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/Water\\_financing/financing\\_index.shtml](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/Water_financing/financing_index.shtml)

*This page of the World Water Council contains information related to financing water policy projects. Financing projects is often the most difficult portion of implementing any project. The best practices that can be found on this page will help any interested party in avoiding many of the mistakes that have been made in the past.*

## **II. Review of the Montevideo Programme**

Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development. (2004, November). *About Us*. London.

Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.field.org.uk/about\\_overview.php](http://www.field.org.uk/about_overview.php)

*FIELD is a London-based NGO dedicated to the development of international environmental law. This is an excellent resource for those interested in the topic. This document gives an overview of the work and mission of the organization. As can be seen, FIELD has objectives similar to many of those contained in the Montevideo Programmes.*

- Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme. (2004, November 4). *Implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (Montevideo Programme III)*, p. 3. Retrieved September 4, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/GC/GC23/documents/GC23-3-Add3.pdf>  
*The periodic review of Montevideo III is a critically important document to consider when examining how to coordinate the Programme's implementation during the next five years. Delegates should pay special attention to Section F and the suggestions of the Executive Director with regard to UNEP's administration of Montevideo III during this period.*
- Hannam, Ian and Ben Boer. (2004). *Drafting Legislation for Sustainable Soils: A Guide*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.iucn.org/themes/law/pdfdocuments/EPLP52EN.pdf>  
*This document was produced by a team of experts to provide guidance to individuals on writing sustainable forest policy. Its target audience is government officials. However, it is also a valuable resource for those interested in the topic due to the information and suggestions contained therein.*
- Maathi, Wangari. (2004, December 10). Nobel Lecture after receiving the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://nobelprize.org/peace/laureates/2004/maathai-lecture-text.html>  
*In 2004, Kenyan peace activist Wangari Maathi won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in Kenya and elsewhere throughout Africa. Her work focused prominently on the environment, sustainable development, and the rights of indigenous peoples. The quote at the beginning of this section is from her Nobel acceptance speech, which exemplifies the concerns voiced by many environmental activists throughout the world.*
- United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs Division for Sustainable Development. (2004, December 2004). *About the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/about\\_us/aboutus.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/about_us/aboutus.htm)  
*Sustainable development is one of the primary issues being addressed by the international community. This particular division of the UN Economic and Social Council is devoted to improving policies related to sustainable development. This site gives a brief description of the purpose of the office and its objectives. Delegates should bear in mind UNEP's goal to improve cooperation with organizations such as the Division for Sustainable Development (both UN and non-UN) while conducting their research.*
- United Nations Development Programme Sustainable Energy and Environment Division. (n.d.) *Synergies in National Implementation: The Rio Agreements*, Part 3. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.undp.org/seed/guide/synergies/siner3.htm>  
*The Sustainable Energy Division of the UNDP is part of a series of exercises designed to study the role and effectiveness of most major international environmental agreements. The working group is made up of experts in the environmental field. This document is a comprehensive study of the progress completed in accordance with the "Rio Agreements" developed at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and contains a number of recommendations regarding their future implementation.*
- United Nations General Assembly. (2000, September 8). *United Nations Millennium Declaration*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/millennium.htm>  
*In 2000, the UN General Assembly established a series of principles and measurable benchmarks to promote sustainable development objectives. The Millennium Declaration was the resulting document. Article IV, in particular, outlines a number of broad goals related to environmental preservation. Delegates should utilize the Millennium Declaration as a principle guide in their research, as it exerts a heavy influence on UNEP activities.*
- United Nations Environment Programme. (2005). *About the Program*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.unep.org/DPDL/law/About\\_prog/introduction.asp](http://www.unep.org/DPDL/law/About_prog/introduction.asp)  
*The United Nations Environment Programme is the primary location for the international community to discuss environmental issues. Also, in combination with many other organs of the*

*UN system, UNEP staff work to provide leadership and guidance to Member States in environmental policy. This document is a brief explanation of UNEP's role in developing international environmental law.*

- United Nations Environment Programme. (2005). *Mid-Term Review of the Montevideo Program*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.unep.org/dpdl/Law/About\\_prog/montevideo\\_review.asp](http://www.unep.org/dpdl/Law/About_prog/montevideo_review.asp)  
*This site gives a description of the process for reviewing the Montevideo Program. The review was completed when it was accepted by the Governing Council in November 2004, and remains fundamental in steering UNEP's implementation of the final five years of Montevideo III.*
- United Nations Environment Programme. (2005). *Montevideo Program*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from [http://www.unep.org/dpdl/law/About\\_prog/montevideo\\_prog.asp](http://www.unep.org/dpdl/law/About_prog/montevideo_prog.asp)  
*Every 10 years, UNEP sets out its international environmental legal objectives in the Montevideo Programmes. This document contains a description of the purpose of these Programmes and a brief chronology of their history, from the original Montevideo I to the current Montevideo III.*
- United Nations Environment Programme. (1992). *Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law*, p. 1. Retrieved September 4, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/dpdl/law/PDF/MontevideoII.pdf>  
*This is the full text of Montevideo II. It will be helpful in understanding the evolution of the agreements of the past 30 years; how they are similar and how they differ. A main focus of Montevideo II was to address the challenges in the decade following Montevideo I. The promotion of environmentally compatible sustainable development, an emerging topic within the international community at that time, is a good example of an area Montevideo II addresses in far more detail than Montevideo I.*
- United Nations Environment Programme. (2001, February 9). *Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-First Century*, p. 1. Retrieved September 4, 2005, from [http://www.unep.org/dpdl/law/PDF/GC22\\_2\\_3\\_add2\\_Montevideo%20III.pdf](http://www.unep.org/dpdl/law/PDF/GC22_2_3_add2_Montevideo%20III.pdf)  
*Montevideo III is the current Programme being implemented by UNEP. Its primary objective is to promote environmental preservation by strengthening adherence to international environmental law and regulation, and developing new law, as necessary. Delegates should pay particularly close attention to Montevideo III and its relationship with its five-year review.*
- United Nations Environment Programme. (1993). *Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s*, p. i. Retrieved September 4, 2005, from <http://www.unep.org/dpdl/law/PDF/Montevideo1.pdf>  
*The introduction of this document is an excellent resource for understanding the underlying influences and purpose of Montevideo II. A concerted effort to focus on how to assist developing countries apply existing and develop new legal mechanisms to promote environmental conservation is evident. It is also followed by the full text of Montevideo II.*
- Wallach, Lori and Patrick Woodall. (n.d.). *Whose World Trade Organization? A Comprehensive Guide To The WTO*. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from <http://www.citizen.org/trade/wto/articles.cfm?ID=10448>  
*Lori Wallach and Patrick Woodall are two international recognized experts on international trade issues and frequent "globalization" critics. Here they provide a critique of the WTO's environmental policies, which are negotiated solely by WTO member States.*
- World Conservation Union. (n.d.). *IUCN Overview*. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from <http://www.iucn.org/en/about/>  
*The World Conservation Union is the largest conservation network in the world. It is a frequent source of environmental information for the UN, other intergovernmental organizations, and individual Member States. This document provides a brief overview of the organization and its work. The IUCN will be a valuable source of information for many delegates as they conduct their research.*

World Conservation Union and the World Wildlife Fund. (n.d.). *International Policy Documents*. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.iucn.org/themes/forests/policy/international.html>  
*This program combines the resources of two leading NGOs in order to create sustainable forest policies for the future. This site contains links to several bodies of work by the program. Discussions of several related topics can also be found here.*

World Conservation Union and World Wildlife Fund. (2000, January 31). *Intergovernmental Forum on Forests: Fourth Session*, p. 1. Retrieved July 31, 2005, from <http://www.iucn.org/themes/forests/policy/IFF4ProtectedAreas.pdf>  
*This document is the result of work at the above mentioned meeting. It provides a detailed discussion of the topic of forests policy. The development of an international agreement regarding forests was one of the recommendations to come out of Montevideo III's five-year review. Delegates may find documents summarizing IUCN/WWF findings valuable for developing solutions to environmental challenges.*

World Trade Organization. (n.d.). *Trade and Environment*. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/envir\\_e/envir\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/envir_e.htm)  
*The WTO is the principal intergovernmental organization in which international trade policy is negotiated. This document is an overview of the organization's activities with regard to the environmental regulation in international trade and contains numerous links to secondary sources of information.*

World Trade Organization. (n.d.). *The environment: a new high profile*. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from [http://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/whatis\\_e/tif\\_e/bey2\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/bey2_e.htm)  
*The WTO provides a series of documents that explain the role of the environment in the organization's trade negotiations. These policies are negotiated directly by WTO Member States and are often targeted by environmental activists. The controversial nature of the WTO's environmental engagement makes understanding the complex relationship between multilateral trade rules and the environment important for all delegations.*

### **III. Prevention of Trade in Endangered Species, Flora, and Fauna**

Asia Forest Network. (n.d.). *Community Allies: Forest Co-Management in Thailand. Research Report Network # 2*. Retrieved August 15, 2005, from <http://www.asiaforestnetwork.org/pub/pub09.htm>  
*This presentation from well-regarded Asian NGO is attempting to find a workable solution to the issue of corruption and illicit timber mining. The group provides in depth research and first person investigation to find quality recommendations. This report should be helpful to delegates, as many of the recommendations may be applicable to combating illicit trade in other items as well.*

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and fauna. (2003, March 3). *CITES World: Official Newsletter of the Parties*, p. 2. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/world/30special.pdf>  
*This official CITES newsletter provides a discussion of the history of CITES on the date of the anniversary of the agreement. Here students learn of the international environment in which CITES was created. Prior newsletters also provide a brief outline of other convention work.*

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (n.d.). *Conservation and Management of Sharks*, p. 2. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/res/all/12/E12-06.pdf>  
*This section of the CITES Web site describes current efforts at conserving current populations of sharks. This is an important aspect of the conservation debate. It also follows onto the appendices published by CITES.*

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (n.d.). *Conservation of and Trade in Great Apes*, p. 2. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/res/all/13/E13-04.pdf>  
*Here, CITES provides a description of means currently underway of preserving current populations of great apes. Apes have long been an endangered species. Recent times have shown a growing concern over the trade in bushmeat, often meat from apes and gorillas.*
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (n.d.). *Conservation of and Trade in Musk Deer*, p. 2. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/res/all/11/E11-07.pdf>  
*This portion of the CITES Web site explains current efforts to provide a safe and enduring environment for deer populations. Many species of deer populate lists of endangered species. Maintaining safe habitats for them is a priority concern for many people.*
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (n.d.). *Convention of and Trade in Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles*, p. 2. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/res/all/11/E11-09R13.pdf>  
*Safe sanctuary for turtles is the main focus of this section of the CITES Web site. Many species of turtles and tortoises are endangered, and thus providing them with a proper environment is essential. A number of other treaties have been debated by the international community targeted with protecting specific species of flora and fauna.*
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (1973, March 3). *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna*. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.shtml>  
*CITES is the central international framework from which discussion of Topic III should proceed. It is currently the international treaty that most comprehensively addresses illegal trade in plants and animals. Delegates are strongly advised to become familiar with the purpose, structure, and implementation of the convention.*
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (n.d.). *Establishment of Export Quotas for Black Rhinoceros Hunting Trophies*, p. 1. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/res/all/13/E13-05.pdf>  
*Finding solutions to problems faced by those concerned with preserving habitats often call on creative thinking. This endeavor is addressing the demand side of illegal poaching of endangered species. Implementing export quotas, while difficult, may address the level of rhino hunting.*
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and fauna. (n.d.). *What is CITES?* Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/what.shtml>  
*This Web page, describing how CITES works, provides a general description of the day-to-day operation of the convention and legal bodies. For an introductory document, this page can be very useful. Any who may be interested in the topic should look here to gain a better understanding of how the enforcement of CITES works.*
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (n.d.). *The CITES Species*. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/species.shtml>  
*One of the critical innovations of CITES is the appendix to the list, which contains lists of those species considered endangered or potentially endangered and may fall under the purview of CITES. The species, especially the location where many of the species are found, should give delegates a clue as to areas of major concern. It is a potentially valuable tool for delegates to take advantage of in their research endeavors.*
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (2004, October 14). *CITES: Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the parties*, p. 1. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/common/cop/13/raw-docs/IE05.pdf>  
*The CITES leadership holds annual ministerial meetings to discuss pressing issues. This document is the result of the deliberations. Many of the discussions taking place at such meetings*

*are recorded in meeting minutes, providing delegates with information and policy statements directly from their actual representatives.*

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna. (n.d.). *Trade in Stony Corals*, p. 1. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.cites.org/eng/res/all/11/E11-10R12.pdf>

*The Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species, Flora and Fauna (CITES), is the governing document for the trade in illicit plants and animals. UNEP is primarily concerned with the implementation and enforcement of many of the measures outlined in CITES. Finding creative and effective ways to implement many of the measures herein should be a major focus for delegates working on this topic.*

Du Bois, Kathleen E. (1997). *Illegal Trade in Endangered Species. African Security Review*. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.iss.co.za/Pubs/ASR/6No1/DuBois.html>

*This article, appearing in a journal of security studies, provides a fresh perspective on the issue of trade in endangered species. Viewing such an issue in terms of security may provide a creative new perspective for delegates. Such a new perspective can often provide benefits to those interested in the subject.*

Inoguchi, Akiko, et al. (2005, March). *Approaches to Controlling Illegal Forest Activities: Consideration for Southeast Asia*. Working Paper Series No. 7, p. 1. Retrieved August 15, 2005, from <http://www.asiaforestnetwork.org/pub/pub59.pdf>

*This report, from a leading Asian NGO, provides many recommendations on the state of illegal timber mining in Asia and what may be done to improve the circumstances. Descriptions of the challenges facing countries like Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand illustrate the complexities associated with combating the illegal timber trade. Reports such as these provide valuable insight into how complicated problems should be addressed and what may be accomplishable.*

Lee Yock Suan. (2000, September 4). Statement by Mr. Lee Yock Suan, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Information and the Arts to the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific. Retrieved August 15, 2005, from <http://app.mewr.gov.sg/press.asp?id=SAS550>

*This document provides one State's view of the current trend in increased timber mining and how it should be addressed. Finding direct statements such as these should be a prime goal for delegates. As such, they provide primary source material on policy and recommendations.*

MSNBC. (2004, November 17). *Species disappearing at an alarming rate, report says*. Retrieved September 4, 2005 from <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6502368/>

*In November, 2004 the World Conservation Union released a report regarding the number of endangered species in the world today. Though species extinction rates are often controversial, the Union's study was labeled "the most comprehensive...ever undertaken." This MSNBC news article summarizes the report's findings.*

Panitchpakdi, Supachai. (2005, July 28). Report of the Chairman of the Trade Negotiating Committee to the General Council, p. 6. Retrieved August 15, 2005, from

[http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news05\\_e/gc\\_tnc5\\_e.doc](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news05_e/gc_tnc5_e.doc)

*This report is from a member of the WTO leadership who is deeply involved in trade and environment negotiations. These negotiations are a new phenomenon at the WTO, which is facing resistance to implementing such negotiations. Many leaders believe that trade and environment are separate and should remain that way. Others see these issues as interlinked.*

Robbins, Chris. (n.d.). *Wildlife and Plant Trade and the Role of CITES: Challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Special Forest Products: Biodiversity Meets the Marketplace*, p. 3. Retrieved August 31, 2005, from <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/gtr63/gtrwo63i.pdf>

*This report discusses the work of CITES and how it is shaping the trading regime in this century. The World Wildlife Fund is a highly respected NGO. Many of the concerns they raise should be given legitimate due diligence.*

- Sand, Peter H. (2004, October 14). Whither CITES? The Evolution of a Treaty regime in the Borderland of Trade and Environment. *European Journal of International Law*, p.2. Retrieved August 31, 2005, from <http://www.ejil.org/journal/Vol8/No1/art2.html>  
*This European Journal of International Law article reviews the last 20 years of CITES implementation and examines the conventions future prospects. The probing, exploratory nature of this article make it an especially valuable source. Delegates should find the "Future Perspectives" portion helpful for committee discussions.*
- Shogren, Jason F. and Patricia H. Hayward. (1997). The Endangered Species Act and Private Property. *Land and Water Law Review*, p. 4.  
*Mr. Shogren and Ms. Hayward published this piece examining environmental issues from a legal standpoint. While the Endangered Species Act pertains solely to the United States, privacy rights and environmentalism will need to be addressed in every country. Finding a workable balance between the two is a primary concern for Member States.*
- Skeen, Richard. (2004). Will the WTO Turn Green? Implications of Injecting Environmental Issues into the Multilateral Trading System. *Georgetown International Environmental Law Review*, p. 2.  
*This document, published by the University of Georgetown Law School, is an article describing initiatives to incorporate environmental conservation policies into World Trade Organization negotiations. Linking trade and environmental concerns is an emerging issue in the international community. Many NGO experts and social activists have also pushed for such a linkage.*
- Smith, J., et al. (2003). Illegal Logging, Collusive Corruption, and Fragmented Governance in Kalimantan, Indonesia. *International Forestry Review*, 5(3), p. 1. Retrieved August 15, 2005, from [http://www.ttf.co.uk/forests/responsible/SmithetalIFR\\_Sep03-2.pdf](http://www.ttf.co.uk/forests/responsible/SmithetalIFR_Sep03-2.pdf)  
*This document provides an expert level review of the problem of timber trade and corruption. In many cases, corruption is a driving force behind illicit trade, in collaboration with lax economic development. Providing solutions to this is the primary challenge for students interested in the topic.*
- Soewandi, Rini M.S. (2003, September 11). Statement by H.E. Rini M.S. Soewandi, Minister of Industry and Trade, to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization. Retrieved August 15, 2005, from [http://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/minist\\_e/min03\\_e/statements\\_e/st24.doc](http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min03_e/statements_e/st24.doc)  
*This document, a State's official statement on issues related to the one delegates are currently addressing, is useful for many reasons. It shows delegates a first-person demonstration of the concern States have for illegal trade practices and how it affects their economy and their environment. Such statements should be highly useful to those concerned with the topic.*
- Stuart, Simon. (1999). *Species: Unprecedented Extinction Rate, and It's Increasing*. Retrieved September 4, 2005 from [http://www.iucn.org/info\\_and\\_news/press/species2000.html](http://www.iucn.org/info_and_news/press/species2000.html)  
*Simon Stuart is the head of the World Conservation Union's biodiversity assessment activities. In this article he argues the current rate of species extinction is dangerously high and in need of immediate attention. He also provides examples of successful preservation of formerly threatened species.*
- Timber Trade Federation. (2000, April 9). *Responsible Timber Purchasing*. Retrieved August 15, 2005, from <http://www.ttf.co.uk/forests/responsible/>  
*The Timber Trade Federation is a prime example of a private sector trade group showing concern for issues that may affect the sector financially. Fostering these types of relationships between the private sector and public sector NGOs is a principal goal of many experts. They view it as a highly effective way to implement many of their goals.*
- United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. (1972, June 16). *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment*, Principle 1. Retrieved August 9, 2005, from [http://www.mint.gov.my/policy/treaty\\_multidim/unche72\\_stockholm.htm](http://www.mint.gov.my/policy/treaty_multidim/unche72_stockholm.htm)



*The Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was the result of a series of multilateral conferences convened to examine the effect of humanity on the environment. The final Declaration is composed of 26 principles that described the responsibilities of States with regard to environmental preservation. UNEP was established as a result of this same conference, and many of its mandates are clearly related to the principles of the above Declaration.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (2005, August 1). *United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre*. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/>  
*The UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre provides day-to-day input on the implementation of CITES. At this site delegates can find the latest news and input on the trade in endangered species. This is a very useful Web site for delegates to use.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (2004). *Vision and Mission. UNEP-WCMC's Strategic Plan 2003/2004*, p. 2. Retrieved August 13, 2005, from [http://www.unep-wcmc.org/aboutWCMC/strategic\\_report/WCMC\\_Strat\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/aboutWCMC/strategic_report/WCMC_Strat_Plan.pdf)  
*This document is the most recent strategic plan provided by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. The document takes a survey of the current international situation vis-à-vis illicit flora and fauna trade. This may be very useful for delegates to get a background on the current situation.*

# **Rules of Procedure**

## **Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme**

### INTRODUCTION

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (hereinafter “the Council”) and shall be considered adopted by the Council prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Committee Director, the Assistant Director(s), the Under Secretaries-General, and the Assistant Secretaries-General, are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Director General, and are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Director General or his or her designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations, and in furtherance of the educational mission of that organization.
4. For the purposes of these rules, “Executive Director” shall refer to the presiding officer, or acting presiding officer of the body.

### I. SESSIONS

#### *Dates of convening and adjournment*

##### **Rule 1**

The Council shall meet every year in regular session, commencing and closing on the dates designated by the Secretary-General.

#### *Place of sessions*

##### **Rule 2**

The body shall meet at a location designated by the Secretary-General.

### II. AGENDA

#### *Provisional agenda*

##### **Rule 3**

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and communicated to members of the United Nations at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

#### *Adoption of the agenda*

##### **Rule 4**

The agenda provided by the Secretary-General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of the agenda items shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting in the body. Items on the agenda may be amended or deleted by the body by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

*The vote described in this rule is a procedural vote and as such, observers are permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, “those present and voting in the body” means those delegates, including observers, in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.*

#### *Explanatory memorandum*

##### **Rule 5**

Any item proposed for inclusion in the agenda shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents.

### III. SECRETARIAT

#### *Duties of the Secretary-General*

##### **Rule 6**

1. The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the body.
2. The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the body and be responsible for all the arrangements that may be necessary for its meetings.

#### *Duties of the Secretariat*

##### **Rule 7**

The Secretariat shall receive, print, and distribute documents, reports, and resolutions of the body, and shall distribute documents of the body to the members of the United Nations, and generally perform all other work which the body may require.

#### *Statements by the Secretariat*

##### **Rule 8**

The Secretary-General, or her/his representative, may make oral as well as written statements to the body concerning any question under consideration.

#### *Selection of the Executive Director*

##### **Rule 9**

The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall appoint, from applications received by the Secretariat, an Executive Director who shall hold office and, inter alia, chair the Council for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretary-General.

#### *Replacement of the Executive Director*

##### **Rule 10**

If the Executive Director is unable to perform her/his function, a new Executive Director shall be appointed for the unexpired term at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

### IV. LANGUAGES

#### *Official and working language*

##### **Rule 11**

English shall be the official and working language of the body.

#### *Interpretation*

##### **Rule 12**

Any representative wishing to address any United Nations body or submit a document in a language other than English shall provide translation into English.

*This rule does not affect the total speaking time allotted to those representatives wishing to address the body in a language other than English. As such, both the speech and the translation must be within the set time limit.*

#### *Quorum*

##### **Rule 13**

The Executive Director may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when representatives of at least one quarter of the members of the body are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the body shall be required for any decision to be taken.

*For purposes of this rule, "members of the body" is based on the number of total members (not including observers) in attendance for the Tuesday night session.*

## ***General Powers of the Executive Director***

### **Rule 14**

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him/her elsewhere by these rules, the Executive Director shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the body, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The Executive Director, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the body and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. She or he shall rule on points of order. She or he may propose to the body the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each member may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

*Included in these enumerated powers is the Executive Director's power to assign speaking times for all speeches incidental to motions and amendment. Further, the Executive Director is to use his or her discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference. For purposes of this rule, the Executive Director's power to "propose to the body" entails his or her power to "entertain" motions, and not to move the body on his or her own motion.*

### **Rule 15**

The Executive Director, in the exercise of his or her functions, remains under the authority of the body.

## ***Points of order***

### **Rule 16**

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the Executive Director. Any appeal of the decision of the Executive Director shall be immediately put to a vote, and the ruling of the Executive Director shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

*Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. Any questions on order arising during a speech made by a representative should be raised at the conclusion of the speech, or can be addressed by the Executive Director, sua sponte, during the speech. For purposes of this rule, "the members present and voting" means those members (not including observers) in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.*

### **Rule 17**

A representative may not, in rising to a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

## ***Speeches***

### **Rule 18**

1. No one may address the body without having previously obtained the permission of the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.
2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the body, and the Executive Director may call a speaker to order if her/his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

The body may limit the time allowed to speakers and all representatives. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the Executive Director shall call him or her to order without delay.

*In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, if the Executive Director determines that the body in large part does not want to deviate from the limits to the speaker's time as it is then set, and that any additional motions will not be well received by the body, the Executive Director, in his or her discretion, and on the advice and consent of the Secretariat, may rule as dilatory any additional motions to change the limits of the speaker's time.*

### ***Closing of list of speakers***

#### **Rule 19**

Members may only be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after having spoken. During the course of a debate the Executive Director may announce the list of speakers and, with consent of the body, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the Executive Director shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by decision of the body.

*The decision to announce the list of speakers is within the discretion of the Executive Director and should not be the subject of a motion by the body. A motion to close the speaker's list is within the purview of the body and the Executive Director should not on his own motion the body.*

### ***Right of reply***

#### **Rule 20**

If a remark impugns the integrity of a representative's State, the Executive Director may permit a right of reply following the conclusion of the controversial speech, and shall determine an appropriate time limit for the reply. No ruling on this question shall be subject to appeal.

*For purposes of this rule, a remark that "impugns the integrity of a representative's State" is one directed at the governing authority of that State and/or one that puts into question that State's sovereignty or a portion thereof. All rights of reply shall be made in writing addressed to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point or motion. The reply shall be read to the body by the representative only upon approval of the Secretariat, and in no case after voting has concluded on all matters relating to the agenda topic, during the discussion of which, the right arose.*

### ***Suspension of the meeting***

#### **Rule 21**

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension of the meeting, specifying a time for reconvening. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass.

### ***Adjournment of the meeting***

#### **Rule 22**

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to the vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. After adjournment, the body shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

*As this motion, if successful, would end the meeting until the body's next regularly scheduled meeting the following year, and in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and in furtherance of its educational mission, the Executive Director will not entertain such a motion until the end of the last session of the body.*

### ***Adjournment of debate***

#### **Rule 23**

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of debate on the topic under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to two representatives favoring and two opposing adjournment, after which the motion shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. If a motion for adjournment passes, the topic is considered dismissed and no action will be taken on it.

### ***Closure of debate***

#### **Rule 24**

A representative may at any time move the closure of debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his or her wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. Closure of debate shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. If the body favors the closure of debate, the body shall immediately move to vote on all proposals introduced under that agenda item.

### ***Order of motions***

#### **Rule 25**

Subject to rule 23, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

- a) To suspend the meeting;
- b) To adjourn the meeting;
- c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

### ***Proposals and amendments***

#### **Rule 26**

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat, with the names of twenty percent of the members of the Assembly who would like the Assembly to consider the proposal or amendment. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the proposal or amendment for circulation among the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be put to the vote at any meeting of the body unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations. The Executive Director may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or of motions as to procedure even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated. If the sponsors agree to the adoption of a proposed amendment, the proposal shall be modified accordingly and no vote shall be taken on the proposed amendment. A document modified in this manner shall be considered as the proposal pending before the body for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

*For purposes of this rule, all “proposals” shall be in the form of working papers prior to their approval by the Secretariat. Working papers will not be copied, or in any other way distributed, to the body by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of that working paper. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft resolution. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the body. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the body, and as such, the names of the original sponsors will be removed. The copying and distribution of amendments is at the discretion of the Secretariat, but the substance of all such amendments will be made available to all representatives in some form.*

### ***Withdrawal of motions***

#### **Rule 27**

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before voting has commenced, provided that it has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

### ***Reconsideration of a topic***

#### **Rule 28**

When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the body, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, so decides. Reconsideration can only be moved by a representative who voted on the prevailing side of the original motion to adjourn. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

*For purposes of this rule, “those present and voting” means those representatives, including observers, in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.*

## **V. VOTING**

### ***Voting rights***

#### **Rule 29**

Each member of the body shall have one vote.

*This section applies to substantive voting on amendments, draft resolutions, and portions of draft resolutions divided out by motion. As such, all references to “member(s)” do not include observers or NGOs, who are not permitted to cast votes on substantive matters.*

### ***Request for a vote***

#### **Rule 30**

A proposal or motion before the body for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the body may adopt proposals or motions without a vote.

*For purposes of this rule, “proposal” means any draft resolution, an amendment thereto, or a portion of a draft resolution divided out by motion. Just prior to a vote on a particular proposal or motion, the Executive Director may ask if there are any objections to passing the proposal or motion by acclamation, or a member may move to accept the proposal or motion by acclamation. If there are no objections to the proposal or motion, then it is adopted without vote.*

### ***Majority required***

#### **Rule 31**

1. Unless specified otherwise in these rules, decisions of the body shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of tabulation, the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

*All members declaring their representative states as “present and voting” during the attendance roll call for the session during which the substantive voting occurs, must cast an affirmative or negative vote, and cannot abstain.*

### ***Method of voting***

#### **Rule 32**

1. The body shall normally vote by a show of placards, except that a representative may request a roll call, which shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is randomly selected by the Executive Director. The name of each present member shall be called in any roll call, and one of its representatives shall reply “yes,” “no,” “abstention,” or “pass.”

*Only those members, who designate themselves as “present” or “present and voting” during the attendance roll call or in some other manner communicate their attendance to the Executive Director and/or Secretariat, are permitted to vote, and as such, no others will be called during a roll call vote. Any representatives replying “pass,” must, on the second time through respond with either “yes” or “no.” A “pass” cannot be followed by a second “pass” for the same proposal or amendment, nor can it be followed by an abstention on that same proposal or amendment.*

2. When the body votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by the show of placards and a recorded vote shall replace a roll call. A representative may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the body shall dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the members.
3. The vote of each member participating in a roll call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in the record.

### ***Explanation of vote***

#### **Rule 33**

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanation of their votes after the voting has been completed. The representatives of a member sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended, and the member has voted against the proposal or motion.

*All explanations of vote must be submitted to the Executive Director in writing before debate on the topic is closed, except where the representative is of a member sponsoring the proposal, as described in the second clause, in which case the explanation of vote must be submitted to the Executive Director in writing immediately after voting on the topic ends.*

### ***Conduct during voting***

#### **Rule 34**

After the Executive Director has announced the commencement of voting, no representatives shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual process of voting.

### ***Division of proposals and amendments***

#### **Rule 35**

Immediately before a proposal or amendment comes to a vote, a representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If there are calls for multiple divisions, those shall be voted upon in an order to be set by the Executive Director where the most radical division will be voted upon first. If objection is made to the motion for division, the request for division shall be voted upon, requiring the support of a majority of those present and voting to pass. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are involved shall then be put to a vote. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

*For purposes of this rule, "most radical division" means the division that will remove the greatest substance from the draft resolution, but not necessarily the one that will remove the most words or clauses. The determination of which division is "most radical" is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.*

### ***Amendments***

#### **Rule 36**

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from or revise part of another proposal.

*An amendment can add, amend, or delete operative clauses, but cannot in any manner add, amend, delete, or otherwise affect preambulatory clauses.*

### ***Order of voting on amendments***

#### **Rule 37**

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal shall be voted on first and then the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

*For purposes of this rule, "furthest removed in substance" means the amendment that will have the most significant impact on the draft resolution. The determination of which amendment is "furthest removed in substance" is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.*

### ***Order of voting on proposals***

#### **Rule 38**

If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the body decides otherwise, be voted on in order in which they were submitted.

### ***The Executive Director shall not vote***

#### **Rule 39**

The Executive Director shall not vote but may designate another member of his or her delegation to vote in his or her place.



## VIII. MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

### *Invitation to silent prayer or meditation*

#### **Rule 40**

Immediately after the opening of the first plenary meeting of the General Assembly, representatives may request to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation. This is the only time this motion will be entertained and its approval is at the discretion of the Secretariat.

**NMUN RULES OF PROCEDURE - SHORT FORM**  
**LISTED IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Debate</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Point of Order	Correct an error in procedure	None	None
Appeal of the Chair	Challenge a decision of the Chair	None	Majority
Suspension of the Meeting	Recess meeting	None	Majority
Adjournment of the Meeting	End meeting	None	Majority
Adjournment of Debate	End debate without a substantive vote	2 pro / 2 con	Majority
Decision of Competence	Declare committee unable to consider issue or resolution	None	Majority
Closure of Debate	Move to immediate vote	2 con	2/3
Declare an Important Question (applicable in GA Plen only)	Require all substantive actions to obtain a 2/3 majority to pass	2 pro / 2 con	Majority
Amendments and 1 <sup>st</sup> Vote on Divisions of the Question	Vote on sections separately, prior to voting on the entire resolution	2 pro / 2 con	Majority
Roll Call Vote	Vote by roll call, rather than show of placards	None	None
Reconsideration	Re-open debate on an issue	2 con	2/3
Set the Speakers time	Set or change the speakers time limit	2 pro / 2 con	Majority
Close the Speakers list (also applies to re-opening list)	No additional speakers added to speakers list on topic	None	Majority
Adoption of the Agenda	Approval of agenda order	None	Majority

## DIVISION OF THE QUESTION DIAGRAM

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