

BACKGROUND GUIDE

www.nmun.org



NATIONAL MODEL | UNITED NATIONS | 2010

The World's Largest College Model United Nations

18 - 22 MARCH - SHERATON NEW YORK HOTEL

20 - 24 MARCH - NEW YORK MARRIOTT MARQUIS HOTEL

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY

WRITTEN BY:
Amanda Brown
Kristy Mordhorst
Cyril Philip
Timur Topalgoekceli

Please consult the FAQ section of www.nmun.org for answers to your questions. If you do not find a satisfactory answer you may also contact the individuals below for personal assistance. They may answer your question(s) or refer you to the best source for an answer.

NMUN Secretary-General

Amierah Ismail | secgen@nmun.org

1.845.764.7050 phone

NCCA/NMUN Executive Director

Michael Eaton | eaton@nmun.org

1.651.493.4404 phone | 1.651.484.2531 fax

NMUN Director-General (Sheraton)

Jacob Schanzenbach | dirgen@nmun.org

NMUN Director-General (Marriott)

Tracy Kingsley | dirgen@nmun.org

NMUN IMPORTANT DATES | 2017

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To make hotel reservations, you must use the forms at www.nmun.org and include a \$1,000 deposit. Discount rates are available until the room block is full or 18 February - WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. **PLEASE BOOK EARLY!**

31 January 2007

(Wednesday)

- Confirm Attendance & Delegate Count. (Count may be changed up to 1 March)
- Make Transportation Arrangements - DON'T FORGET!
(We recommend confirming hotel accommodations prior to booking flights)

15 February 2007

(Thursday)

- Committee Updates Posted to www.nmun.org

22 February 2007

(Thursday)

- Discount Hotel Rates Expire. REGISTER EARLY - REGISTRATION IS FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVED
- Position Papers Due Via E-mail *(see next page for instructions)*

1 March 2007

(Thursday)

- Full Pre-Payment Due to Hotel
- Any Changes to Delegate Numbers Must be Confirmed to eaton@nmun.org
- All Conference Fees Due to NMUN for confirmed delegates. (\$100 per delegate if paid by 1 March; \$125 per delegate if received after 1 March. Fee is not refundable after this deadline)

March 2007

The 2007 National Model UN Conference

- 18 - 22 March - Sheraton New York
- 20 - 24 March - New York Marriott Marquis

TWO COPIES OF EACH POSITION PAPER SHOULD BE SENT VIA E-MAIL BY 22 FEBRUARY 2007

1. TO COMMITTEE STAFF

A file of the position paper (.doc or .pdf) for each assigned committee should be sent to the committee e-mail address listed below. Mail papers by 22 February to the e-mail address listed for your particular venue. These e-mail addresses will be active after 15 November. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt.

2. TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

- Each delegation should send one set of all position papers for each assignment to the e-mail designated for their venue: positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org or positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org. This set (held by each 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.
- The head delegate or faculty member sending this message should cc: him/herself as confirmation of receipt. (Free programs like Adobe Acrobat or WinZip may need to be used to compress files if they are not plain text.)
- Because of the potential volume of e-mail, only one e-mail from the Head Delegate or Faculty Advisor containing all attached position papers will be accepted. *Please put the school or delegation's name in the subject line.* If you have any questions, please contact the Director-General at dirgen@nmun.org.

COMMITTEE	E-MAIL SHERATON	COMMITTEE	E-MAIL MARRIOTT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY:	gaplenary.sheraton@nmun.org	GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY:	gaplenary.marriott@nmun.org
GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOURTH COMMITTEE:	ga4th.sheraton@nmun.org	GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOURTH COMMITTEE:	ga4th.marriott@nmun.org
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT:	cd.sheraton@nmun.org	CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT:	cd.marriott@nmun.org
UN COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINEANPEOPLE:	ceirpp.sheraton@nmun.org	UN COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINEANPEOPLE:	ceirpp.marriott@nmun.org
SECURITY COUNCIL (Main)	sc.sheraton@nmun.org	SECURITY COUNCIL (Main)	sc.marriott@nmun.org
SECURITY COUNCIL (Additional)	sc2.sheraton@nmun.org	SECURITY COUNCIL (Additional)	sc2.marriott@nmun.org
ECOSOC PLENARY:	ecosoc.sheraton@nmun.org	ECOSOC PLENARY:	ecosoc.marriott@nmun.org
COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE:	ccpcj.sheraton@nmun.org	COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE:	ccpcj.marriott@nmun.org
COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS:	cnd.sheraton@nmun.org	COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS:	cnd.marriott@nmun.org
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	eclac.sheraton@nmun.org	ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	eclac.marriott@nmun.org
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA:	escwa.sheraton@nmun.org	ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA:	escwa.marriott@nmun.org
UN WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION:	unwto.sheraton@nmun.org	UN WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION:	unwto.marriott@nmun.org
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME:	wfp.sheraton@nmun.org	WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME:	wfp.marriott@nmun.org
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION:	who.sheraton@nmun.org	WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION:	who.marriott@nmun.org
INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME	ihp.sheraton@nmun.org	INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME	ihp.marriott@nmun.org
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA:	icty.sheraton@nmun.org	INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA:	icty.marriott@nmun.org
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES:	oas.sheraton@nmun.org	ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES:	oas.marriott@nmun.org
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK:	adb.sheraton@nmun.org	AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK:	adb.marriott@nmun.org
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM:	asean.sheraton@nmun.org	ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM:	asean.marriott@nmun.org
COUNCIL OF EUROPE:	ce.sheraton@nmun.org	COUNCIL OF EUROPE:	ce.marriott@nmun.org
JOINT OPEC-IEA WORKSHOP:	opec-ia.sheraton@nmun.org	JOINT OPEC-IEA WORKSHOP:	opec-ia.marriott@nmun.org

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:

Entire Set of Delegation Position Papers (due 22 February):	positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org
(send only to e-mail for your assigned venue)	positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org
Executive Director	eaton@nmun.org
Secretary-General	secgen@nmun.org
Director(s)-General	dirgen@nmun.org

www.nmun.org
for more
information



THE 2007 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

New York City, 18-22 March (Sheraton) & 20-24 March (Marriott) • www.nmun.org

Michael Eaton
Executive Director

Amierah Ismail
Secretary-General

Tracy Kingsley & Jacob Schanzenbach
Directors-General

Jennifer Radford
Chief of Staff

Rachel Schutte
Special Events Coordinator

Michael Gaspar and Jennifer Hathaway
Deputy Chiefs of Staff

Erin Kennedy & Linda Poppe
Under-Secretaries-General
General Assembly

Vera Bardarska & Robert Mitchell
Under-Secretaries-General
Economic and Social Council

Jill Dawson & Galen Stocking
Under Secretaries-General
Specialized Agencies

Christa Clinchy & Rabia Razaq
Under-Secretaries-General
Inter-Governmental Organizations

Jennifer Contreras & Adam Storm
Under-Secretaries-General
Conference Services

ADVISORY BOARD

Vivian Bernstein
Lilli de Brito Schindler
Co-Chiefs

Group Programmes Unit
UN Dept. of Public Information

Dr. Jean Gazarian
Senior Fellow

UN Institute for Training and Research
Dominic Gosselin
Senior Policy Analyst

Economic Policy and Programs Division
Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Stephen Halloway
Senior Advisor

Office of External Relations
Inter-American Development Bank

The Hon. William H. Luers
President and Chairman
UNA-USA

Carolyn L. Willson, Esq.
Christopher Woodthorpe
Chief, UN Publications

NCCA BOARD of DIRECTORS

The Hon. Joseph Melrose, President

Steven Sutow, Vice-President

Rachel Holmes, Treasurer

Jennifer "J.J." Stewart, Secretary

Professor Dino Bozonelos

Jennifer Franco

Sean Killen

Professor Chaldeans Mensah

Professor Richard Murgu

Vivian Nilsson

Professor Richard Reitano

Professor Shelton Williams

Professor Karen Young

Members Ex-Officio

Professor Andrés González

Kevin Grisham

November 2006

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Directors, Assistant Directors, Senior and Executive Staffs, and the National Collegiate Conference Association, we would like to take this time to welcome officially you to the 2007 National Model United Nations Conference. Our staff has worked most diligently throughout the year to provide you with what we believe are outstanding preparation materials for your participation in this year's conference. It is our sincere hope that these materials serve you well in your preparation for March.

We are also very excited about the dual venues of this year's conference. While the second venue has posed challenges, we believe it will act as an effective method in greater facilitation of delegation and faculty member needs. The addition of Deputy Chiefs of Staff for both venues will also allow us to assist further you during the course of the conference. Should you find that you need assistance of any type throughout the week of your venue participation, please feel free to call on any member of staff, as they are all trained to be of assistance to and best facilitate you, our valued participants. It is important to remember that, although the conference is divided into two venues, the continuity of the conference remains intact for the 2007 conference. No one venue is more important than the other and our staff has been trained to ensure this continuity as well.

This manual has been provided as a resource for your preparation for the 2007 conference. In it you will find answers to many pressing questions delegates and faculty may have about the conference and delegate preparation. To continue further the educational aspect of the conference, we are pleased to announce that we have introduced several new committees this year. In an attempt to place greater emphasis on the promotion of the preservation of our global environment, we have introduced the simulation of the International Hydrological Programme and the United Nations World Tourism Organization, which will focus on environmental issues that take great priority on the United Nations agenda. In addition, we are simulating the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, which we believe will be an extremely interesting simulation for delegates at both venues. We are very excited about these variations, as we believe that they will provide very interesting and educational experiences for their participants.

We are also very excited to not only provide more educational materials regarding the environment this year, but also in taking great strides to promote its protection during the course of both venues. Our first effort to this end is only to provide electronic copies of all conference materials, thus greatly reducing the incredible amount of paper the conference uses every year. The background guides that are sent out each year use an incredible amount of paper that could easily be saved. We are also committed to using only recycled paper during the course of the conference, as well as recycling the paper that is used in each committee of both venues. Our conference T-shirts this year will use only environmentally friendly inks and a portion of the proceeds of their sale will go to an environmental charity. It is the firm belief of this year's staff that, in order to promote our sincere goals of further protection of our planet, we must first practice what we preach. We are extremely proud of all efforts we are taking to preserve our planet in any method we can.

Please note that all position papers must be sent, via electronic mail, to two individual addresses this year. One copy of your papers, as a whole, must be sent to your delegations appropriate venue (either positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org or positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org). This address will serve as a depository for all papers submitted to each venue. We, the Directors-General, will maintain a database of all submitted papers, which will be crosschecked against the individual submissions. The individual committee papers should be sent to the email addresses included on the front page of your committee background guides. It is very important that all directions for emailing these guides, as outlined in both the background guides and in the Delegate Prep guide, be followed. With the dual venues, we are making every effort possible to ensure that their proper committee Directors receives all papers. We also recommend that delegations carbon copy themselves on all electronic submissions to ensure proper tracking of your position papers. Should any delegation require any assistance in the delivery of their papers, please contact us, as we will be happy to facilitate any problems that may arise in this process.

We sincerely look forward to meeting and working with you at the upcoming conference. We both have worked hard to do what we can to provide you with the materials you need to have an amazing experience in March. Should you find that you have any questions regarding the published materials, parliamentary procedure, delegate preparation, or the rules of the conference, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are happy to be of assistance in any way that we can. Our primary goal is to provide you with an outstanding educational experience.

Sincerely yours,

Jacob Schanzenbach
Director-General
Sheraton venue
dirgen@nmun.org

Tracy L. Kingsley
Director-General
Marriott venue
dirgen@nmun.org

History of the General Assembly Plenary (GA)

The General Assembly Plenary

As one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), Article 7 of the Charter of the United Nations established the General Assembly (GA) in 1945.¹ The main characteristic differentiating the GA from the other UN organs is the universal representation of all Member States – thus making the General Assembly literally a “parliament of nations” and the embodiment of the UN’s mission to find peaceful conflict resolution through diplomacy and dialogue.² When created in the devastating aftermath of the Second World War, the UN reflected the hope for a just and peaceful global community. As mirrored in the GA, the UN is indeed, “the only global institution with the legitimacy that derives from universal membership.”³

Today, the 192 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly.⁴ According to Chapter II Article 4 of the *Charter of the UN*, the admission of any State to membership is decided by a vote in the GA upon the recommendation of the Security Council (SC).⁵ Most nations, who apply to the United Nations, are accepted once they fulfill the membership requirements detailed in the *Charter of the UN*.⁶ However, some are not members due to the lack of international recognition or opposition from other States, such as happened in the case of the Republic of China (Taiwan).⁷ Next to full membership, certain entities may also participate in GA meetings as observers, which allow them to speak, but not vote in General Assembly meetings.⁸ The Palestinian National Authority (Palestine) is perhaps the most famous example of an observer State, not being recognized by enough States as sovereign to become a Member State.⁹ The Holy See on the other hand is the only sovereign State, which has declined full membership and therefore remains a permanent observer in the UN.¹⁰

Meanwhile, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), such as the African Union or the League of Arab States also have an assured place at GA meetings as observers.¹¹ Furthermore, it should be noted that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play an increasingly important role in the working of the General Assembly and the *Charter of the UN* recognizes NGOs in Article 71 as consultative bodies in relationship to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).¹² Moreover, both NGOs and IGOs also maintain a close working relationship with the GA and its Main Committees, where they are an invaluable resource to the UN System, providing information on political, economic, social, humanitarian, and cultural developments in all parts of the world.¹³

The Working of the GA Plenary – Its Functions and Powers

According to the *Charter of the UN*, the United Nations has five main purposes: to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to cooperate in solving international problems; to promote respect for human rights; and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.¹⁴ At the centre of this is the GA,

¹ Charter of the United Nations, June 26, 1945, 59 Stat. 1031, TS No. 993, 3 Bevans 1153, III, art.7.

² Taylor, Paul & Curtis, Devon. (2005). *The United Nations*. In John Baylis & Steve Smith (Eds.), *Globalization of World Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press, p. 409.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ General Assembly: Frequently Asked Questions. (2005). *Dag Hammarskjöld Library*. Retrieved July 5, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/gafaq.htm>.

⁵ Charter of the United Nations, *supra* note 1, II, art.4.

⁶ Taylor, *supra* note 2, p. 406.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 414.

⁸ General Assembly: Frequently Asked Questions, *supra* note 4.

⁹ Taylor, *supra* note 2, p. 414.

¹⁰ United Nations. General Assembly. 59th Session. (2005, November 30). *List of Non-Member States, Entities and Organizations Having Received a Standing Invitation to Participate as Observers in the Sessions and the Work of the General Assembly (A/INF/59/4/Add.1)*. Retrieved July 21, 2006, from <http://www.itu.int/wsis/participation/accreditation/lists/standing-invitation.pdf>.

¹¹ General Assembly: Frequently Asked Questions, *supra* note 4.

¹² Charter of the United Nations, *supra* note 1, X, art. 71.

¹³ NGOs and the United Nations Department of Public Information. (2005, November). *UN Department of Public Information*. Retrieved July 23, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/brochure.htm>.

¹⁴ Taylor, *supra* note 2, p. 410.

which is concerned with any matter that is within the scope of the *Charter of the UN*, unless the SC is currently concerned with it.¹⁵ However according to its Uniting for Peace resolution of November 1950, the GA may also take action if the SC fails to act in a case where there appears to be a threat to peace, breach of peace, or act of aggression, owing to a veto of a permanent member of the SC.¹⁶

Being the United Nations' main deliberative organ, the GA meets to consider the world's most pressing problems and thereby faces a wide range of issues and challenges on its agenda.¹⁷ The topics and types of issues that may be discussed at the 61st plenary session include globalization; terrorism; human rights; economic relations; HIV/AIDS; conflict in Africa and how to help new democracies; and of course recent challenges including the UN reform, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as monitoring of the newly established Peace Building Commission and Human Rights Council.¹⁸ Some questions and issues at stake are considered only in plenary meetings, while most of them are discussed in the GA's six Main Committees: the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security), the Second Committee (Economic and Financial), the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural), the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization), the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) and the Sixth Committee (Legal).¹⁹ All issues discussed in these committees are voted on in plenary meetings. This usually takes place towards the end of the regular GA session, after the authoring committees have completed their consideration of the issues and submitted draft resolutions to the GA Plenary.²⁰ It should be noted that all the Main Committees are membership wise a reflection of the GA Plenary with all the 192 Member States present.

Furthermore, Article 22 of the *Charter of the UN* gives the General Assembly the power "to establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions."²¹ Making use of this competence, the GA gradually established a whole series of subsidiary organs of a permanent nature for pursuing special purposes. Today the list of subsidiary organs of the GA is long, including boards, commissions, committees, councils, a panel, as well as several working groups.²² Moreover, even the ECOSOC and the Trusteeship Council – while being other principal organs of the UN – have a subordinate position with respect to the GA.²³

In the General Assembly, each Member State has one vote and in most circumstances, voting in committees is by simple majority.²⁴ Votes taken on designated important questions such as recommendations on peace and security; election of members to organs; admission, suspension, and expulsion of members; or budgetary matters require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.²⁵ In recent years, a special effort has been made to achieve consensus, rather than deciding by a formal vote, thus strengthening support for the General Assembly's decisions.²⁶ This is important because the GA's decisions are not legally binding and only the weight of the many leans importance to the GA's findings.²⁷ The President, after having consulted and reached agreement with delegations, can propose that a resolution is adopted without a vote.²⁸ Furthermore, when dealing with voting procedures, it is

¹⁵ Conforti, Benedetto. (2004). *The Law and Practice of the United Nations. Legal Aspects of International Organizations*. Boston: Brill Academic Publishers, p. 88.

¹⁶ United Nations. General Assembly. 5th Session. (1950, November 3). *Resolution 377: Uniting for Peace*. Retrieved July 22, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/landmark/pdf/ares377e.pdf>, p. 10.

¹⁷ Background Information. (n.d.). *United Nations General Assembly*. Retrieved July 5, 2006, from http://www.un.org/ga/60/ga_background.html.

¹⁸ United Nations. General Assembly. 61st Session. (2006, February 14). *Preliminary List of Items to be Included in the Provisional Agenda of the Sixty-First Regular Session of the General Assembly (A/61/50)*. Retrieved July 23, 2006, from [http://disarmament.un.org/library.nsf/f860ad0cf3d61a518525711f006bb390/c5064adb4eb7c7eb8525711f006b4bf9/\\$FILE/agenda61.50.pdf](http://disarmament.un.org/library.nsf/f860ad0cf3d61a518525711f006bb390/c5064adb4eb7c7eb8525711f006b4bf9/$FILE/agenda61.50.pdf).

¹⁹ Press Kit. General Information. (n.d.). *United Nations General Assembly* Retrieved July 22, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/ga/60/presskit/geninfo.htm>.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ Charter of the United Nations, *supra* note 1, IV, art.22.

²² Subsidiary Organs. (n.d.). *United Nations General Assembly*. Retrieved July 19, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/ga/subsidiary/>.

²³ Conforti, *supra* note 15, p. 89.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ Charter of the United Nations, *supra* note 1, IV, art. 18.

²⁶ Press Kit, *supra* note 19.

²⁷ Taylor, *supra* note 2, p. 412.

²⁸ Press Kit, *supra* note 19.

essential to mention another practical aspect: there are various voting blocks, which are mainly based on regional or economic partnership. Thus, members of a certain IGO often work together; important blocks being for instance the Group of 77 or the European Union.

The election of the President of the General Assembly, as well as its twenty-one vice-presidents and the chairpersons of the GA's six Main Committees, takes place at least three months before the start of the regular session.²⁹ To ensure equitable geographical representation, the presidency of the General Assembly rotates each year among States from the five regional groups defined by the UN.³⁰ The GA's regular annual session begins every year on the third Tuesday of September and is suspended in mid-December.³¹ Special sessions may be invoked by the Secretary-General "at the request of the Security Council or of a majority of the members of the United Nations."³² For instance, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), outlining the particularly grave issues facing the world that need to be addressed in a timely manner, developed out of a special session held in September 2000.³³ More recently, the GA convened for the 2005 World Summit for a recalibration of the MDGs and efficacy of the UN in general.³⁴

Criticism and Suggestions to Strengthen the General Assembly

Making the work of the GA, more focused and relevant became a major priority over the last years. In this sense, the 58th session, during which *A/RES/58/126* and *A/RES/58/316* were passed, marks a turning point.³⁵ Resolution 58/126, adopted on 19 December 2003, sets out measures to enhance the authority and the role of the General Assembly and improve its working methods.³⁶ Recalling *A/RES/58/126*, resolution 58/316, adopted on 1 July 2004, furthermore lays out concrete steps to organize and structure a more focused agenda, reform the working methods and practices of its Main Committees, and to give new weight and consideration to the role of the General Committee.³⁷ The 59th and the 60th session have continued to assess the implementation of those mandates and to find additional ways and means to revitalize further the work of the GA, including the strengthening of the role and authority of the President.³⁸ Paragraph four of *A/RES/59/313* for instance decided to establish an ad hoc working group open to all Member States to elaborate ways to enhance further the role, authority, and effectiveness of the General Assembly.³⁹

Furthermore, engaging an active civil society is a core aspect of UN Secretary-General Annan's reform plan for the GA.⁴⁰ With restructuring taking place across the UN, Secretary-General Annan stressed in his report *In Larger Freedom* the need to make the UN "more useful to its members" and to forge partnerships in many areas with "civil society and the private sector." With restructuring taking place across the UN, Secretary-General Annan stressed in his report *In Larger Freedom* the need to make the UN "more useful to its members" and to forge partnerships in many areas with "civil society and the private sector."⁴¹ It is fundamental to understand that involving NGOs in the

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ Conforti, *supra* note 15, p. 88.

³² *Ibid.*

³³ United Nations Millennium Assembly Website. (n.d.). *United Nations*. Retrieved July 22, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/millennium/>.

³⁴ 2005 World Summit Website. (n.d.). *United Nations General Assembly*. Retrieved July 22, 2006, from http://www.un.org/ga/59/hl60_plenarymeeting.html.

³⁵ Press Kit, *supra* note 19.

³⁶ United Nations. General Assembly. 58th Session. (2004, January 13). *Resolution 126: Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly*. July 29, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/apps/docs/ws.asp?m=A/RES/58/126>.

³⁷ United Nations. General Assembly. 58th Session. (2004, July 13). *Resolution 316: Further Measures for the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly*. Retrieved July 29, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/apps/docs/ws.asp?m=A/RES/58/316>.

³⁸ Press Kit, *supra* note 19.

³⁹ United Nations. General Assembly. 59th Session. (2004, July 13). *Resolution 313: A strengthened and revitalized General Assembly*. Retrieved July 29, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/apps/docs/ws.asp?m=A/RES/59/313>.

⁴⁰ United Nations. General Assembly. (n.d.) *Background Note. Revitalization of the General Assembly*. Retrieved July 29, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/ga/president/60/summitfollowup/060302b.pdf>.

⁴¹ United Nations. General Assembly. 59th Session. (2005, March 21). *In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All. Report of the Secretary-General*. Retrieved on July 10, 2006 from http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/gaA.59.2005_En.pdf, V, sec.155

global community is a key feature for the active participation of civil society.⁴² NGOs are crucial links between policy-makers and the individuals directly affected by those policies.⁴³ They represent civil society and enhance its impact on the UN System. Those organizations are often regionally based and have better knowledge of the regional conditions, needs, and constraints.⁴⁴ Moreover, NGOs 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 State governments.⁴⁵ Upon recommendation of the ECOSOC (*E/1996/297*), the GA, at its 51st session, examined the question of the participation of NGOs in all areas of work of the UN and subsequently created a sub-group on NGOs which examines issues of NGO access, particularly with regard to the General Assembly.⁴⁶

Mr. Annan further adds that the General Assembly should “take bold measures” to rationalize its work and speed up the deliberative process.”⁴⁷ In order to reach this goal, he proposes and strongly calls for “streamlining the GA’s agenda, its committee structure, and its procedures for holding plenary debates and requesting reports, and for strengthening the role and authority of its President.”⁴⁸ In his report, the Secretary-General repeatedly stresses that without those measures, “the Assembly’s performance will continue to disappoint the Member States.”⁴⁹ In order to implement the goals put forward by Mr. Annan, the Ad Hoc Group on Revitalization of the General Assembly was established during the 60th plenary session in 2005.⁵⁰ Its role is to develop and submit reports with recommendations to the GA.⁵¹ The thematic meetings will cover the issues and goals outlined by Mr. Annan – with the ultimate aim to carry on with the revitalization of this important UN organ.⁵²

Conclusion

Despite the GA’s central position in the UN and universal membership, its powers are limited to the “power to adopt recommendations,” which “promote[s] cooperation among the States by means of treaties, acts that require the ratification of each State before entering into force.”⁵³ The impact of the GA on the international system, however, should not be underestimated. Beyond providing a forum for multilateral negotiation, the GA has initiated actions – political, economic, humanitarian, social, and legal – that have affected the lives of millions of people throughout the world. In addition, the work of the UN derives largely from the decisions of the GA.⁵⁴ This is carried out by the Main Committees and those subsidiary bodies established by the GA to study and report on their assigned specific issue.⁵⁵ Although the decisions of the GA have no legally binding force for governments, they carry the weight of world opinion, as well as the moral authority of the world community.⁵⁶

Within the context of the ongoing UN reform, the change in the role of the UN reflects the changes in perceptions of the international society and the nature of sovereign States.⁵⁷ Over the last years, concern has expanded to include not only the protection of the rights of States, but also the rights of individuals.⁵⁸ Yet obtaining the agreement of governments to principles of individual rights is “only a first step in building a more orderly and just world.”⁵⁹

⁴² Conforti, *supra* note 15, p. 88.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ Willetts, Peter. (2005). Transnational Actors and International Organizations in Global Politics. In John Baylis & Steve Smith (Eds.), *Globalization of World Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press, p. 435.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ United Nations, *In Larger Freedom*, *supra* note 42, V, sec. 155.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, V, sec.164.

⁵¹ Progress Report on UN Reform. (2006). *Reform the UN*. Retrieved July 29, 2006, from <http://www.reformtheun.org/index.php/eupdate/2270>.

⁵² *Ibid.*

⁵³ Press Kit, *supra* note 19.

⁵⁴ Conforti, *supra* note 15, p. 87.

⁵⁵ Press Kit, *supra* note 19.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

⁵⁷ Press Kit, *supra* note 19.

⁵⁸ Taylor, *supra* note 3, p. 412.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

I. Structuring and Implementation of the New Human Rights Council

*We have reached a point where the [Human Rights] Commission's declining credibility has cast a shadow on the reputation of the United Nations system as a whole, and where piecemeal reforms will not be enough.*⁶⁰

Human Rights within the Framework of the United Nations and the Commission on Human Rights

The promotion and protection of human rights are central to the principles and purposes of the United Nations (UN).⁶¹ The interpretation of human rights as natural rights represents the evolution of centuries of social debate on the philosophy of standard human dignities and tolerance that emanated from religious doctrines, enlightenment principles, and onwards into the codes of law.⁶² When World War II brought to witness some of the most horrific pitfalls of humanity in modern time, a mission to establish standards and norms for universal human rights translated into the creation of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in 1946, a year after the signing of the *Charter of the United Nations*, which also internalized the responsibility of the international community to protect human rights.⁶³ The CHR represented a functional body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which is charged with creating "commissions in the economic and social field and for the promotion of human rights."⁶⁴ The CHR formulated documents that became the bedrock of standard human rights guidelines, namely the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)*, the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)* and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)*.⁶⁵ The *UDHR* in particular is recognized as the "foundation upon which the international system for protection and promotion of human rights has been built" and according to most experts, denotes binding obligation due to its wide acceptance.⁶⁶ Today, human rights standards find relevance in most bodies of and debates in the UN, but the need for reconciliation between the normative guidelines of UN bodies and the daunting task of their localized implementation remains.⁶⁷

The UN human rights framework acts to translate standards into practice through follow-up data collection initiatives and public awareness campaigns to increase public expectations for standards of human dignity.⁶⁸ UN critics commonly observe that the organization presents lofty but unrealistic ideals that provide high-paying bureaucratic jobs but do little to put effective programs on the ground.⁶⁹ However, even as States arrantly resisted practicing their ordained commitment to upholding human rights, UN bodies and other international organizations such as the World Bank began to embrace the human rights dimension in their policies for aid and assistance.⁷⁰ Moreover, communication development and media attention on human rights campaigns linked national social movements to wider international campaigns. For example, the Civil Rights Movement in the United States of America (USA) forced the US government to change its ambivalent approach to racial inequality in the country during the 1960s and later influenced the US government to denounced political persecution, civil infringement, and racial discrimination in South Africa's apartheid regime.⁷¹ The resulting trend of calling for real action continues today and represents one of the UN Secretary-General's main points for reforming the UN human rights machinery.⁷²

⁶⁰ Secretary-General's Address to the Commission on Human Rights. (2006, April 7). *Press Release*. Retrieved July 14, 2006, from United Nations Office of the Spokesman Web site: <http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=1388>.

⁶¹ Bayefsky, A. F. (2002). *How to Complain to the UN Human Rights Treaty System*. Ardsley, NY: Transnational Publishers, p. xi.

⁶² Kennedy, P. M. (2006). *The Parliament of Man: The Past, Present and Future of the UN*. NY: Random House, p. 178.

⁶³ Mertus, J. A. (2005). *The United Nations and Human Rights: A Guide for a New Era*. New York: Routledge, p. 178.

⁶⁴ United Nations. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (n.d.). *Human Rights Fact Sheet No. 27: Seventeen Frequently Asked Questions About UN Special Rappateurs*. Retrieved August 23, 2006 from <http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/docs/factsheet27.pdf>.

⁶⁵ Mertus, *supra* note 4, p. 2.

⁶⁶ United Nations. Human Settlements Programme. (2002, April). *Rights and Reality: Are Women's Equal Rights to Land Housing and Property Implemented in East Africa?* Nairobi, Kenya: Author.

⁶⁷ Mertus, *supra* note 63, p. 2.

⁶⁸ Kennedy, *supra* note 62, p. 184.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 185.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 196-197.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, p. 195.

⁷² Secretary-General's Address to the Commission on Human Rights, *supra* note 1.

The UN, its subsequent bodies, and the bodies' findings are often and necessarily the subject of harsh critique regarding their effectiveness. The UN's weaknesses were exploited almost immediately after its conception and became painfully apparent within human rights practices.⁷³ The CHR wielded no powers beyond its ability to report and advise the ECOSOC, which cannot enforce its resolutions upon the international community or the agenda of the Security Council (SC).⁷⁴ In the midst of Cold War politics, the five permanent members of the SC protected their allies even as they committed egregious human rights violations. For example, China guarded the Khmer Rouge massacres in Cambodia and the US sustained authoritarian regimes in Latin American, Asian, and African countries in exchange for pro-West alignment.⁷⁵

Furthermore, with growing treaties and mandates, the human rights mechanisms of the UN System became increasingly bureaucratic, unwieldy, and burdensome without implemented follow-up.⁷⁶ At the 1992 World Conference on Human Rights, the luminary *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA)* created the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the position of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to promote the coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness of UN human rights treaties and bodies through centralized leadership.⁷⁷ Laudably, the international community intended for the High Commissioner to bridge the widening human rights enforcement gap.⁷⁸ However, doubts on the ability of the UN human rights system to succor the travesties against individuals deepened in the 1990s after gross human tragedies in the Balkan conflicts and genocide in Rwanda occurred despite the newly created OHCHR.⁷⁹ Through the OHCHR mandate in GA resolution 48/141, the High Commissioner is assigned the task of supporting the work of UN human rights mechanisms and coordinating human rights issues across the UN System.⁸⁰ However, a budget of only US\$ 86.4 million, lack of adequate resources and operational capacities, coupled with uncoordinated demands by the Commission on Human Rights, the General Assembly, and other UN bodies severely impede the fulfillment of the OHCHR's mandate.⁸¹

Increasingly, global attitude towards the CHR continued to question its highly politicized debate and resolutions that sidestepped calling out States, who severely violated human rights, ignored glaring human rights crises, and utilized regional voting blocks to protect allies.⁸² Allowing States that disregard human rights to sit on the CHR further plagued the body's attempts to take concrete actions.⁸³ Certain States also noted that the dominant culture towards adopting resolutions by consensus permitted those States with egregious records to substantially weaken strong actions in resolutions and protect themselves.⁸⁴ Additionally, the CHR's mandate to convene once a year for six weeks limited its ability to address human rights crises in a timely manner and further exemplified its stolid, political response to violent events.⁸⁵

Faced with the dismissal of human rights by autocratic regimes, the global economy, and non-state actors, there exists a need for stronger international human rights institutions to condemn violations of human rights and their perpetrators.⁸⁶ Despite the CHR's aptitude at highlighting the prominence and instance of human rights issues across the globe and creating documents that codified standard human dignity, the body became a casualty of the wide sweeping and continuing UN reforms. The fifty-three members of the CHR convened for the last time in

⁷³ Kennedy, *supra* note 62, p. 183.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 183.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 187-188.

⁷⁶ Mertus, *supra* note 63, p. 10-11.

⁷⁷ Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, June 25, 1993, 32 I.L.M. 1661.

⁷⁸ Mertus, *supra* note 63, p. 11.

⁷⁹ Kennedy, *supra* note 62, p. 193; Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, *supra* note 77.

⁸⁰ United Nations. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2005 May). *The OHCHR Plan of Action: Protection and Empowerment*. Retrieved on August 1, 2006 from <http://www.ohchr.org/english/planaction.pdf>.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

⁸² *United States Congress Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights, and International Operations*, 109th Cong. (2005).

⁸³ *Ibid.*

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ Secretary-General's Address to the Commission on Human Rights, *supra* note 60.

⁸⁶ Mertus, *supra* note 63, p. 164.

March of 2006.⁸⁷ During debate at the 2005 World Summit in September, the General Assembly Plenary (GA) considered the recommendations of Secretary-General Annan to adopt the creation of the Human Rights Council (HRC).⁸⁸ The GA disbanded the CHR in hopes of ameliorating the past record and reputation of the UN's largely ineffective human rights machinery, establishing the HRC to provide for the revitalization of the weighted role of human rights as accorded by the *Charter of the UN*.⁸⁹

The Human Rights Council Framework

Secretary-General Annan's report *In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All* declared, that to meet the international communities' needs, the UN must "perfect the triangle of development, freedom and peace" and pointed to the interdependent and interconnected relationship of each concept to the other two.⁹⁰ He further articulated that this three-pronged approach should be exemplified by three councils covering international peace and security; economic and social issues; and human rights respectively.⁹¹ The first two councils already have existing frameworks in the form of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, but they both need strengthening to become more effective.⁹² The third council is the product of Secretary-General Annan's vision for leading the overhauling and upgrading of the UN's human rights machinery. In his report, he outlines the framework of the Human Rights Council as a smaller standing body to replace the CHR, whose members would be directly elected by the GA with a two-thirds majority.⁹³ At the 2005 World Summit, over 170 Heads of State—the largest meeting of world leaders in history—called one another to task on improving development, security, and human rights, as well as implementing UN reforms to create a more effective and efficient framework for enacting these goals as expressed throughout *In Larger Freedom*.⁹⁴ During the High-level Plenary Meeting of the GA, representatives outlined the initial parameters and functions of the HRC establishing it "as a subsidiary organ of the GA to be based in Geneva, in placement of the Commission on Human Rights."⁹⁵ Moreover, the delegates at this meeting established that the HRC would be reviewed by the GA within five years for possible transformation into a principle organ of the UN.⁹⁶

The General Assembly took action quickly following the end of the 2005 World Summit, passing *A/RES/60/251* at its 60th session, officially establishing the Human Rights Council.⁹⁷ *A/RES/60/251* affirmed the UN's commitment to address human rights crises and violations, "ensuring universality, objectivity and non-selectivity in the consideration of human rights issues, and the elimination of double standards and politicization."⁹⁸ The GA directly elects the fifty-seven Member States of the HRC to three-year terms without eligibility of immediate re-election.⁹⁹ Each UN geographic region is allotted seats proportional to population: African States, thirteen; Asian States,

⁸⁷ United Nations. Commission on Human Rights. (n.d.). *Commission on Human Rights*. Retrieved July 25, 2006, from Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Web site: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/index.htm>.

⁸⁸ United Nations. General Assembly. 59th Session. (2005, August 5). *A/59/HLPM/CRP. 1/Rev.2. Revised Draft Outcome Document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly of September 2005 Submitted by the General Assembly*. Retrieved on July 12, 2006 from http://www.un.org/ga/59/hlpm_rev.2.pdf.

⁸⁹ Eliasson, J. (2006, February 23). Statement by the President of the United Nations General Assembly. In *About the Human Rights Council*. Retrieved August 10, 2006, from United Nations Human Rights Council Web site: <http://www.un.org/ga/president/60/speeches/060223b.pdf>.

⁹⁰ United Nations. General Assembly. 59th Session. (2005, March 21). *A/59/2005: In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All. Report of the Secretary-General*. Retrieved July 10, 2006 from http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/gaA.59.2005_En.pdf, p. 5

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 42.

⁹² *Ibid.*

⁹³ *Ibid.*, p. 45.

⁹⁴ United Nations. General Assembly. 59th Session. (2005, July). *The World Summit: An Overview*. Retrieved August 3, 2006 from <http://www.un.org/ga/documents/overview2005summit.pdf>.

⁹⁵ United Nations, *A/59/HLPM/CRP. 1/Rev.2, supra* note 88.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

⁹⁷ United Nations. General Assembly. 60th Session. (2006, March 15). *General Assembly Establishes New Human Rights Council by Vote of 170 in Favor to 4 Against, with 3 Abstentions*. Retrieved July 5, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/ga10449.doc.htm>.

⁹⁸ United Nations. General Assembly. 60th Session. (2006, April 3). *A/RES/60/251: Human Rights Council*. Retrieved July 23, 2006 from http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/A.RES.60.251_En.pdf.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

thirteen; Eastern European States, six; Latin American and Caribbean States, eight; and Western European and other States, seven.¹⁰⁰ In line with the UN's integral focus on human rights, the HRC will be a standing body meeting no less than three times per year, no fewer than ten weeks in total, and with the ability to hold special sessions to discuss timely human rights crises at the request of any HRC member and the support of one-third of the entire HRC.¹⁰¹ Furthermore, Member States not elected to the HRC, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), and other relevant international and national bodies may participate as observers and consult HRC members on issues germane to their expertise.¹⁰² The final vote in the GA tallied 170 in favor of *A/RES/60/251*, four against and three abstentions; however, the debate on the document before and after the vote highlighted representative apprehensions inter alia regarding the HRC's ability to circumvent similar failures of the Commission on Human Rights.¹⁰³

Recognizing the successes of the CHR, the Human Rights Council inherited the large body of existing mandates that detail international norms and standards for human rights and the Special Procedures that represent the greatest legacy of the defunct CHR.¹⁰⁴ However, the Human Rights Council embodies new procedures to surmount expectantly the less reputable characteristics of the CHR. Improving the membership of the HRC from the notorious roster of Commission on Human Rights members is catalyzed in the consideration of the State elect's contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights at home and abroad.¹⁰⁵ During compromise and revisions of draft resolution *A/RES/60/251*, the provision requiring two-thirds of Member States present and voting for membership to the HRC was replaced by a simple majority vote of all Member States, which at times may set a higher standard for election.¹⁰⁶ Furthermore, development of the Universal Periodic Review, the peer review function of the HRC, requires an interactive and voluntary process whereby all Member States are subject to an evaluation regarding implementation and protection of human rights as obligated by the *Charter of the UN*.¹⁰⁷ The GA may suspend the membership of any State in the HRC found to commit "gross and systematic violations of human rights" by a two-thirds majority vote.¹⁰⁸ The council's position as a standing body with the ability to meet anytime to address imminent crisis relieves the politically charged sessions of the CHR and allows for more substantive debate.¹⁰⁹ In addition, the HRC reports directly to the GA, giving the body further authority in the UN System.¹¹⁰

A fundamental component of strengthening the UN human rights system and ensuring the success of the HRC is cooperation with a strengthened OHCHR.¹¹¹ As mentioned in *A/RES/60/251*, the HRC will "assume the role and responsibilities of the [CHR] relating to the work of the [OHCHR] as decided by the [GA] in its resolution *A/RES/48/141* of 20 December 1993."¹¹² The Secretary-General's report, *In Larger Freedom*, calls for stabilized funding for the OHCHR from the regular UN budget, as well as an inclusive role for the High Commissioner in the Peace Building Committee and in relevant discussions by the Security Council.¹¹³ Prior to the formation of HRC, the CHR seconded the recommendations by the Secretary-General's report and encouraged the election of the High

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰² *Ibid.*

¹⁰³ United Nations, *General Assembly Establishes New Human Rights Council by Vote of 170 in Favor to 4 Against, with 3 Abstentions*, *supra* note 97.

¹⁰⁴ United Nations. General Assembly. 59th Session. (2005, April 14). *Addendum 1: Human Rights Council Explanatory Note by the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General's Proposal*. Retrieved on July 5, 2006 from <http://www.un.org/largerfreedom/add1.htm>.

¹⁰⁵ U.N. Reform Summit Q and A. (2005, September 8). *Human Rights News*. Retrieved July 10, 2006, from Human Rights Watch Web site: <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2005/09/08/global11704.htm>.

¹⁰⁶ Lyons, S. R. (2006, March 27). The New United Nations Human Rights Council. In *ASIL Insights*. Retrieved August 2, 2006, from The American Society of International Law Web site: <http://www.asil.org/insights/2006/03/insights060327.html>.

¹⁰⁷ United Nations, *A/RES/60/251*, *supra* note 98.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁹ United Nations, *Addendum 1: Human Rights Council Explanatory Note by the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General's Proposal*, *supra* note 45.

¹¹⁰ United Nations, *A/RES/60/251*, *supra* note 98.

¹¹¹ United Nations, *A/59/2005*, *supra* note 89, p. 37.

¹¹² United Nations, *A/RES/60/251*, *supra* note 98.

¹¹³ *Ibid.*

Commissioner by a two-thirds majority in the GA to strengthen the position's authority.¹¹⁴ The High Commissioner, Louise Arbour, submitted *The OHCHR Plan of Action* to the UN Secretary-General per his request to outline the office's goals and strategies to improve human rights initiatives within the UN.¹¹⁵ The plan of action purports that the High Commissioner will enact the pronouncements and recommendations of UN human rights bodies through mobilizing governments, civil society, and other actors in support of closing the gaps of enforcement and increasing the protection of human rights.¹¹⁶ Certainly, empowering the OHCHR to exercise greater leadership over the coordination of human rights within the UN System will increase the effectiveness of relevant UN bodies including the HRC.¹¹⁷

Moving Forward: First Session of the Human Rights Council

Following the official disbandment of the CHR on June 16, 2006, the first session of the HRC began on June 19, 2006 in Geneva, where the forty-seven elected members gathered to discuss opinions regarding special procedures; the Sub-Commission and treaty bodies; as well as debate inter alia the implementation of General Assembly resolution *A/RES/60/251*, the status of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, the human rights of migrants, and the place of human rights defenders in campaigning and protecting human rights.¹¹⁸ Opening statements were made by the president of the General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and high-ranking government representatives, reminding the HRC of its responsibility in "becoming the world's foremost human rights body without falling into the errors of the Commission on Human Rights."¹¹⁹ By the end of its inaugural session, the HRC produced three decisions, eight resolutions, and two statements by the president of the council, Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba of Mexico.¹²⁰

Many of the HRC's resolutions established working groups to address the General Assembly resolution *A/RES/60/251*. Two resolutions formulate a two-year open-ended working group on an optional protocol to the *ICESCR*, which will prepare a draft text for the formulation of a formal complaint mechanism for the *ICESCR* to be presented to the Human Rights Council.¹²¹ The Universal Periodic Review is the subject of another resolution whereby an open-ended intergovernmental and inter-sessional working group will report to the HRC on developing modalities of the peer review mechanisms according to *A/RES/60/251*.¹²² The OHCHR will assist this working group by providing "background information on existing mechanisms for periodic review [...] and to compile the contributions of all stakeholders."¹²³ Similarly, a resolution on the existing mandates, mechanisms, functions, and responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights provides for their one-year extension in order to prevent gaps in humanitarian efforts and to allow time for the review and assessment of all special procedure reports by the HRC working group.¹²⁴ The HRC also recognized timely issues in the human rights arena by adopting the text of the *International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance* and *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.¹²⁵

¹¹⁴ United Nations. General Assembly. 59th Session. (2005, June 21). *A/59/847: Summary of the Open-Ended Informal Consultations Held by the Commission on Human Rights Pursuant to Economic and Social Council Decision 2005/217, Prepared by the Chairperson of the Sixty-First Session of the Commission*. Retrieved August 2, 2006 from http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/summary_En.pdf.

¹¹⁵ United Nations, *A/59/2005*, *supra* note 90, p. 38.

¹¹⁶ United Nations. *The OHCHR Plan of Action: Protection and Empowerment*, *supra* note 80.

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁸ United Nations. Office at Geneva. (2006, June 30). *Human Rights Council Concludes First Session*. Retrieved July 14, 2006, from <http://www.unhcr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/13C5B111105739B5C125719F0077680D?opendocument>.

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*

¹²¹ United Nations. Human Rights Council. 1st Session. (2006, June 28). *A/HRC/1/L.4/Rev.1: Open-Ended Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. Retrieved July 18, 2006 from http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/sdpage_e.aspx?b=10&se=2&t=4.

¹²² United Nations. Human Rights Council. 1st Session. (2006, June 29). *A/HRC/1/L.12: The Universal Periodic Review*. Retrieved July 18, 2006 from http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/sdpage_e.aspx?b=10&se=2&t=4.

¹²³ *Ibid.*

¹²⁴ United Nations. Human Rights Council. 1st Session. (2006, June 29). *A/HRC/1/L.12: Extension by the Human Rights Council of All Mandates, Mechanism, Functions and Responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights*. Retrieved July 18, 2006 from http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/sdpage_e.aspx?b=10&se=2&t=4.

¹²⁵ First Session of the Human Rights Council: A Step in the Right Direction. (2006, July 3). *News Release*. Retrieved July 5, 2006, from Amnesty International Web site: <http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/document.do?id=ENGIOR410112006>.

The HRC decided on the last day of its regular session to convene a Special Session on July 5, 2006 to consider the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the subject of a resolution passed by the body during the previous two weeks of regular session.¹²⁶ At this meeting, the HRC passed a contentious resolution on the issue, demanding that Israel end its military operations in Palestine and dispatched a Special Rapporteur to assess the humanitarian situation in the area.¹²⁷ Many States who opposed this resolution cited that it did not provide for balanced language towards both parties and urged the council to not overlook other less publicized human rights crises around the globe.¹²⁸

Conclusion

Following its first meetings, the Human Rights Council received mixed reviews from prominent NGOs, the media, and Member States. Amnesty International heralded the HRC's Special Session on the OPT and advised the body to implement standard setting and institution building in its work on every urgent country situation.¹²⁹ While Human Rights Watch (HRW) agreed with convening the Special Session on the OPT, it chided the HRC for the biased resolution that neglected to investigate human rights violations within Palestinian armed groups as well as Israeli troops.¹³⁰ Moreover, HRW urged the HRC "to avoid the selectivity that discredited its predecessor and urged it to hold special sessions on other urgent situations, such as Darfur."¹³¹ Media sources furthermore question the strength of the HRC to ensure membership to only those States with stellar human rights records when Cuba, Saudi Arabia, China, and Russia won seats despite notable human rights violations.¹³² Furthermore, Member States are cautiously watching the development of the HRC and its impact on the UN System in upcoming meetings.¹³³ At its first session, the HRC outlined its first year work schedule, focusing on reports of mechanisms and mandates; review and institution building; and other substantive issues.¹³⁴

In committee, delegates will focus on up-to-date actions of the HRC. This requires current knowledge of the committee's meetings scheduled for September 2006, December 2006, March 2007, and any Special Sessions called in the interim.¹³⁵ The GA is responsible for recognizing weaknesses and strengths in the HRC over its inaugural year. Does your State suggest any changes to the structure of the HRC? What measures may be taken to encourage the success of the HRC? How can the GA quickly respond to any human rights crises overlooked by the HRC? How can the GA support the review of CHR special procedures? Which human rights issues will your State wish to see discussed in the HRC? Guardianship of human rights represents a main responsibility of the United Nations. The UN human rights framework achieved many victories over the past six decades, but the international community ignored too many human rights crises for political alliance, forsaking the individuals the UN swore to protect. Most of all, committee work should promote strong human rights mechanisms that seek precautionary and reactionary action against every actor committing sustained and gross human rights violations.

II. Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*

¹²⁷ United Nations. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2006, July 6). *Human Rights Council Decides to Dispatch Urgent Fact Finding-Mission to the Occupied Palestinian Territories*. Retrieved August 3, 2006, from [http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/6382E27860145DA7C12571A3004D1F19?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/6382E27860145DA7C12571A3004D1F19?OpenDocument).

¹²⁸ *Ibid.*

¹²⁹ First Session of the Human Rights Council: A Step in the Right Direction, *supra* note 125.

¹³⁰ U.N.: Mixed Start for New Human Rights Council. (2006, June 30). *Human Rights News*. Retrieved July 10, 2006, from Human Rights Watch Web site: <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/06/30/global13685.htm>.

¹³¹ *Ibid.*

¹³² Cage, S. (2006, June 19). New U.N. Human Rights Council Debuts Amid Hopes, Doubts. In *Associated Press Newswires*. Retrieved July 5, 2006, from Associated Press Web site: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2006-06-19-rights-un_x.htm.

¹³³ *Ibid.*

¹³⁴ United Nations. Human Rights Council. 1st Session. (2006, June 29). *A/HRC/I/L.13: Programme of Work for the First Year*. Retrieved August 3, 2006 from http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/sdpage_e.aspx?b=10&se=2&t=4

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*

“Great importance must be given to the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons belonging to groups which have been rendered vulnerable, including migrant workers, the elimination of all forms of discrimination against them, and the strengthening and more effective implementation of existing human rights instruments.”¹³⁶

According to Article 2, Section 1 of the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*, a migrant worker is defined as “a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national.”¹³⁷ There are approximately 175 million migrants worldwide.¹³⁸ The term “migrant” includes migrant workers, refugees, and displaced and Stateless people.¹³⁹ In 2004, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that the number of migrant workers worldwide was approximately 80.3 million.¹⁴⁰ The large percentage of migrant workers moves from less developed nations to the more developed nations in Asia, Europe, and North America.¹⁴¹ Many individuals migrate because of economic instability or persecution in their homeland and eventually settle in the country to which they migrated.¹⁴² The majority of developed States have limitations on the number of legal migrants that are allowed to enter their boundaries.¹⁴³ This forces many migrant workers to enter illegally through underground networks sometimes associated with criminal activity.¹⁴⁴ Many migrant workers are then subjected to suffering and a denial of basic rights in their new homes.¹⁴⁵ With the large flow of migrant workers, many are at risk of discrimination due to terrorism, unemployment, drugs, and crime.¹⁴⁶

The ILO was at the forefront of the creation of rights for migrant workers.¹⁴⁷ The two most significant ILO conventions applicable to migrant workers are *The Migration for Employment Convention* of 1949 and *The Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention* of 1975.¹⁴⁸ *The Migration for Employment Convention* establishes a clear framework of equality in regards to labor between nationals and migrants.¹⁴⁹ *The Migration for Employment Convention* introduced the idea of legal equality of migrant workers when compared to domestic labor.¹⁵⁰ This equality includes the right for migrant workers to join labor unions and have rights under established labor law.¹⁵¹ However, the Convention failed to provide protection for existing inequalities and placed the responsibility for the protection of migrants on the usually indifferent States of employment.¹⁵² *The Migrant Workers Convention* expands upon the previous convention’s protection of migrant workers.¹⁵³ States are encouraged to actively pursue equality of migrant workers rather than deferring to established law as in the previous convention, this prevents

¹³⁶ World Conference on Human Rights. (1993, June 25). *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*. Retrieved July 5, 2006, from Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Web site: [http://www.unhcr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/\(Symbol\)/A.CONF.157.23.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/(Symbol)/A.CONF.157.23.En?OpenDocument).

¹³⁷ United Nations Working Group. (1990, December 18). *The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*. Retrieved July 1, 2006, from Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Web site: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/cmw.htm>.

¹³⁸ Sivakumaran, S. (2004, Fall). The Rights of Migrant Workers One Year on: Transformation or consolidation? *Georgetown Journal of International Law*, 36(1), pp. 113-154.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁰ International Labour Organization. (2004). *Towards a Fair Deal for Migrant Workers in the Global Economy* (92nd Session No. 6). International Labour Conference: International Labour Organization.

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁴² *Working Far From Home – Migration and Discrimination*. (2001, July 6). Retrieved July 3, 2006, from The World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance Web site: <http://www.un.org/WCAR/e-kit/migration.htm>.

¹⁴³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁵ Sivakumaran, *supra*, note 138, p. 113.

¹⁴⁶ *Working Far From Home – Migration and Discrimination*, *supra*, note 142.

¹⁴⁷ Sivakumaran, *supra*, note 138, p. 118

¹⁴⁸ *Fact Sheet #24, The Rights of Migrant Workers*. (1995). Retrieved July 1, 2006, from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Web site: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/docs/fs24.htm>.

¹⁴⁹ Sivakumaran, *supra*, note 138, pp. 118-120.

¹⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 120.

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁵² *Ibid.*

¹⁵³ *Ibid.*, p. 119.

upholding unfair laws toward migrant workers.¹⁵⁴ The Convention expands the previously defined equality to include the rights of assembly, information, and expression.¹⁵⁵ Despite these steps forward, political rights were not guaranteed to migrant workers per the *Employment Convention*.¹⁵⁶

The ILO Conventions set up a framework for the labor rights of migrant workers; however it is not the goal of the ILO to establish clear human rights.¹⁵⁷ Therefore, there was a need for a multi-lateral agreement that defined the human rights of migrant workers and came to fruition with the creation of the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families* (ICRMW).¹⁵⁸ The ICRMW was adopted by Resolution 45/158 on December 18th, 1990, at the forty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly.¹⁵⁹ After 13 years of debate, the ICRMW received its 20th ratification and entered into force.¹⁶⁰ According to Article 37 of the resolution, before migration occurs, migrant workers and their families should be informed of their rights and the laws they must obey, including changes in those rights and laws created by the State of employment.¹⁶¹ The human rights of migrants, such as the right to satisfactory living and working conditions and the right to medical care, are a major component of the ICRMW.¹⁶² Expulsion or division of family members during migration is also not tolerated by the provisions of the ICRMW.¹⁶³ There are 34 States that have ratified the ICRMW.¹⁶⁴ Almost all of the States are those who have a high number of citizens who are foreign workers.¹⁶⁵

The entrance into force of the ICRMW authorized the creation of the Committee on Migrant Workers.¹⁶⁶ The Committee is a board of experts on international migration who enforce the ICRMW.¹⁶⁷ Participating countries provide detailed reports of the conditions of migrant workers in their State.¹⁶⁸ This framework created by the Committee for Protection of Migrant Workers is limited to the States that ratified the ICRMW.¹⁶⁹ Most Western European States and the United States, both areas with many migrant workers, have not ratified the treaty and are not obligated to submit reports to the Committee.¹⁷⁰

Undocumented Migrants and Illegal Migration

Illegal migration has been highly debated issue for many individual States, as well as the international community.¹⁷¹ The debate on the rights of undocumented migrants came about with the introduction of the ILO's *Migrant Workers Convention* of 1975, which focused on illegal migration.¹⁷² Many States were wary of giving rights to undocumented migrants because they essentially violated the sovereignty of the State by entering without permission.¹⁷³ The definition of the term "undocumented migrant worker" varies in many States, but the generally agreed upon definition is a migrant worker who is in a State without authorization to be there, is employed in another State without permission, or who resides in a country past a designated visa period.¹⁷⁴ Undocumented

¹⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 120.

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 137.

¹⁵⁹ Robinson, M. (2005). The Protection of Human Rights in Migrant Flows. *Migration World Magazine*, 29(3), p. 5.

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁶¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁶² Committee on Migrant Workers. (2006). *Committee on Migrant Workers - Frequently Asked Questions*. Retrieved July 2, 2006, from <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmwf/faqs.htm>.

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁴ Committee on Migrant Workers. (2006). Main Page. In *Committee on Migrant Workers*. Retrieved July 1, 2006, from <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmwf/members.htm>.

¹⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁶ Committee on Migrant Workers. *Committee on Migrant Workers - Frequently Asked Questions*, *supra*, note 162.

¹⁶⁷ Committee on Migrant Workers. Main Page, *supra*, note 164.

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁷¹ Bosniak, L. S. (1991, Winter). Human Rights, State Sovereignty and the Protection of the Undocumented Migrants Under the International Migrant Workers Convention. *International Migration Review*, 25(4), pp. 737-770.

¹⁷² Sivakumaran, *supra*, note 138, pp.121-122.

¹⁷³ *Ibid.*, p 122.

¹⁷⁴ Note: This is a general definition of the undocumented worker. United Nations Working Group, *supra*, note 137.

migrants are also referred to as illegal migrants.¹⁷⁵ According to Article 68 of the ICRMW, it is the duty of the State to prevent internal support that facilitates illegal migration.¹⁷⁶

The issue is not the only the rights of the undocumented worker, but also the rights and responsibilities of the States in which they reside. A sovereign State has the authority to expel anyone in its territory without prior permission.¹⁷⁷ Hence, when undocumented workers enter a State, they violate that State's sovereignty.¹⁷⁸ Many States have focused more on deportation of undocumented migrants rather than working to eradicate the underlying cause of illegal migration, which in most cases is the protection of the employer of undocumented migrants.¹⁷⁹ Many States fear giving rights to undocumented workers as they believe it would only create another incentive for undocumented migrants to enter and work illegally in their State.¹⁸⁰

The following example serves to illustrate the human rights violations that many undocumented migrant workers face. In 2002, two American brothers in the southern US state of Florida used violence and intimidation to force as many as 700 undocumented workers to work until a transportation debt of \$1,000 was paid in full.¹⁸¹ These workers were earning wages that would never allow them to pay off the debt.¹⁸² Even in developed States, many undocumented workers still face hardships akin to slavery in their everyday lives.¹⁸³ Many supporters of undocumented migrant workers also wish to eliminate opportunities for illegal labor in a country because it would limit the risk of abuse at the hands of employers.¹⁸⁴ In the minds of these supporters, illegal employment of undocumented workers is the cause of abuse.¹⁸⁵ It is important to note that under the ICRMW, the rights of undocumented migrant workers are still protected.¹⁸⁶

Women in Migrant Labor

There has been a growing trend in the number of women migrating for labor in past decades.¹⁸⁷ Labor recruitment for women equals that of their male counterparts.¹⁸⁸ Women are also affected by migrant labor when their husbands go abroad as workers, leaving the women to take care of other dependants such as children and the elderly.¹⁸⁹ Although there is a large amount of information regarding women migrant labor available in the past couple of decades, there is a limited amount of information regarding female migrant laborers before the mid 1980's as many assigned the presence of women in migration simply as the dependant of their husbands.¹⁹⁰ An example of the impact of female migrant workers can be seen in the large Caribbean migration before 1960, where many women followed men to countries in Central America.¹⁹¹ Women tend to be at a higher risk than men for human rights violations including sexual abuse and exploitation because of the limited choices of occupations available to them.¹⁹²

There are numerous reasons why women migrate for labor. As shown in the Caribbean example, women often migrate with their husbands.¹⁹³ After their husbands have lived and worked in an area for some time, their wives

¹⁷⁵ Note: The term Illegal Migrant is looked down upon in the international community, it tends to devalue the migrants right to exist, hence the term Undocumented Worker is preferred. Sivakumaran, *supra*, note 138, p. 119.

¹⁷⁶ United Nations Working Group, *supra*, note 137.

¹⁷⁷ Bosniak, *supra*, note 171, p. 743.

¹⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁹ Gee, J. (2003, November). Study Finds Israel's Migrant Workers Endure A Contemporary Form of Slavery. *The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, 22(9), pp. 44-54.

¹⁸⁰ Bosniak, *supra*, note 171, p. 743.

¹⁸¹ Mokhiber, R. (2002, December). Servitude in Sunshine. *Multinational Monitor*, 23(12), 29.

¹⁸² *Ibid.*

¹⁸³ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 749.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ United Nations Working Group, *supra*, note 137, Article 30.

¹⁸⁷ Hune, S. (1991, Winter). Migrant Women in the Context of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. *International Migration Review*, 25(4), pp. 800-817.

¹⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 802.

¹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 802-803.

¹⁹¹ Aymer, P. (2005, June). Caribbean Women: Labor Migrants and Traders. *Ahfad Journal*, 22(1), p. 97.

¹⁹² Hune, *supra*, note 187, p. 807.

¹⁹³ Aymer, *supra*, note 191, p. 99.

often relocate and find some permanent work as housemaids.¹⁹⁴ Many women also migrate for social benefits, such as greater freedoms and the ability to provide for their family in a role other than in the caretaker or child-bearer role that are considered traditional roles for many women.¹⁹⁵ Many women are able to attain a better social standing in new countries because of the limitations of social mobility in their home States.¹⁹⁶ For example, many Mexican women laborers who go to Canada find themselves to have more rights in terms of their relationship to men.¹⁹⁷

Singapore has over 100 thousand female migrant laborers.¹⁹⁸ It is estimated that there is one foreign maid to every eight Singapore households.¹⁹⁹ Due to the large influx of women migrants who serve as maids, the Singapore government has made efforts to try to relieve the flow of migrants by instituting a “levy” of around SGD\$345 per maid.²⁰⁰ The fact that this tax has not had any affect on the demand of foreign maids highlights the fact that women laborers are highly demanded in the migrant labor market.²⁰¹ However, even with the high demand, the Singapore government has placed stringent rules upon employers regarding these housemaids, including medical check for pregnancy and diseases every six months, a SGD\$5,000 fine if a maid is found to be pregnant and the acquisition of a minimum SGD\$10,000 insurance policy for the maid by the employer.²⁰² Despite all these regulations, Singapore does not recognize the rights of these foreign workers as employees and leaves their wages to be decided depending on what any employer is willing to pay.²⁰³ In many cases, domestic workers can complain to the Singapore Government through the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and receive restitution when not paid or paid unfairly for services.²⁰⁴ However, Human Rights Watch has reported that in many of these cases, domestic laborers accepted sums much lower than what they earned.²⁰⁵

The effect of a new culture on female migrant workers can be seen in Canada. Canada is also a major area of migration for labor, especially for Central and South America.²⁰⁶ Although the migrant labor market was once male dominated, many Mexican women are entering Canada for labor by using Canada’s Seasonal Agricultural Worker’s Program (SAWP).²⁰⁷ Through SAWP, 20 thousand migrant laborers are allowed to enter Canada with temporary visas for a period of up to eight months and assigned to a certain employer during that time.²⁰⁸ Like many other migrant workers, many female Mexican laborers find a new culture in which gender relations are very different from Mexico.²⁰⁹ These gender relations arise from the large number of male laborers in comparison to the small number of females.²¹⁰ Women are at an advantage in choosing a husband and this creates a dynamic that gives the woman more power.²¹¹ Women are given many more social freedoms in Canada, including freedom of movement and the ability to converse with different men.²¹² These vast changes in culture will only increase as more women decide to enter Canada as migrant laborers.²¹³

¹⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁵ Hune, *supra*, note 187, p. 806.

¹⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁷ Preibisch, K. (2005, Summer). Gender Transformation Odysseys: Tracing the Experiences of Transnational Migrant Women in Rural Canada. *Canadian Woman Studies*, 24(4), p. 91.

¹⁹⁸ Yeoh, B. S. A., Huang, S., & Gonzalez, J., III. (1999, Spring). Migrant Female Domestic Workers: Debating the economic, social and political impacts in Singapore. *The International Migration Review*, 33(1), pp.144-167.

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 117.

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁰¹ *Ibid.*, p. 118.

²⁰² *Ibid.*, p. 117.

²⁰³ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁴ Human Rights Watch. (2005, December). *Maid to Order: Ending Abuses Against Migrant Domestic Workers in Singapore* (Vol. 17 No. 10). Section: Response of the Singapore Government.

²⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, Section: Response of the Singapore Government.

²⁰⁶ Preibisch, *supra*, note 197.

²⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 95.

²¹⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹¹ *Ibid.*

²¹² *Ibid.*

²¹³ *Ibid.*

Despite the situation in Canada, many women still face certain discrimination and do not fight against intolerance in the workplace.²¹⁴ In pre-1960's migrations, Caribbean female migrant laborers were not treated fairly in their new homelands.²¹⁵ Many women still find themselves at the forefront of discrimination, especially when migrant women are cast solely as dependants, as well as the abuse at the hands of employers.²¹⁶ As more women migrate for work, these problems will only continue to grow.²¹⁷

Case Study: Sri Lankan migration to Arabian Gulf States

Over the past two decades, migration from Sri Lanka has grown to almost one million people per year.²¹⁸ The growth has been a key asset to the government of Sri Lanka because labor migration brings in foreign exchange.²¹⁹ Sri Lankan migrant workers send back the equivalent of US\$1.564 trillion to relatives in Sri Lanka, the largest amount of foreign exchange in Sri Lanka.²²⁰ Although the number of migrants is not spectacular compared to neighboring Asian States such as India, the percentage of the total population is one of the highest in comparison.²²¹ The most common labor associated to Sri Lankans who migrate to the Middle East is housework, usually in female housemaids.²²² Around 80% of migrant Sri Lankan women laborers who go to the Middle East work as housemaids.²²³ Labor migration of Sri Lankans is regulated by a government agency known as The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE).²²⁴ Sri Lankan labor migration to the Middle East is predominantly female.²²⁵ Although many men also serve as domestic workers, the general labor migration trends of male Sri Lankans depends on the number of labor intensive jobs, which tend to vary year by each year.²²⁶ Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates are the major locations for labor migration in the Middle East.²²⁷

The major reason for migration is a chance for economic gain.²²⁸ Sri Lankans can earn around US\$400- US\$600 more than the average annual wage of US\$1,025 abroad in the Middle East.²²⁹ There is also a growing view of migrant workers as role models for the younger generation; the foreign worker is an independent women figure that goes beyond the Sri Lankan traditional roles of women.²³⁰ The type of migration that most Sri Lankans follow is known as contact migration; contact migration occurs when the laborer intends to return to their home State and also retains economic ties with their home country.²³¹ This is opposed to settlement migration, in which a migrant wishes to settle in another country for an extended time and does not provide economic ties with their former State as with the situation with contact migration.²³² It is important to note that labor migration to the Middle East is not limited to Sri Lankans; there is also a substantial amount of women from Indonesia and the Philippines, where 60-70 percent of total labor migration are female domestic laborers to the Middle East, Singapore, Malaysia, and Hong Kong.²³³ Also an estimated half million Indians also migrated to the Gulf in 2005.²³⁴

²¹⁴ Hune, *supra*, note 187, p. 806.

²¹⁵ Note: The social system of the time had the white landowners at the top, the citizen laborers in the middle, and the migrant laborers at the bottom. Aymer, *supra*, note 191, p. 104.

²¹⁶ Hune, *supra*, note 187, p. 806.

²¹⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 814-815.

²¹⁸ Gamburd, M. R. (2004, Spring). Money That Burns Like Oil: A Sri Lankan Cultural Logic of Morality and Agency. *Ethnology*, 43(2), p. 167.

²¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²²⁰ Wijsekera, M. (2005, July 5). Sri Lanka: Pitiful Heroines of Sri Lanka. *Women's Feature Service*.

²²¹ Eelens, F., & Speckmann, J. (1990, Summer). Recruitment of Labor Migrants for the Middle East: The Sri Lankan Case. *International Migration Review*, 24(2), pp. 297-322.

²²² *Ibid.*

²²³ Note: 2003 estimate from the Sri Lankan Bureau of Foreign employment. Gamburd, *supra*, note 218.

²²⁴ Wijsekera, *supra*, note 220.

²²⁵ Eelens, *supra*, note 221, p. 299.

²²⁶ *Ibid.*

²²⁷ Wijsekera, *supra*, note 220.

²²⁸ *Ibid.*

²²⁹ *Ibid.*

²³⁰ *Ibid.*

²³¹ Athukorala, P. (1990, Summer). International Contract Migration and the Reintegration of Return Migrants: The Experience of Sri Lanka. *International Migration Review*, 24(2), pp. 323-346.

²³² *Ibid.*

²³³ Human Rights Watch, *supra*, note 204

²³⁴ Arora, N. (2006, April 28). Over Half a Million Indian Workers Migrated to the Gulf in 05. *News India - Times*, p. 12.

There have been documented instances of human rights violations for many of domestic laborers.²³⁵ In 2004, there were a reported 123 deaths of Sri Lankan female migrant workers for a variety of reasons including abuse at the hands of employers and cases of unfit working conditions.²³⁶ It is estimated that about 20% of all Sri Lankan housemaids endure some sort of physical, sexual, or mental abuse during employment.²³⁷ Abuse of foreign workers is not limited to the Middle East, as Southeast Asia and Europe have similar reports as well.²³⁸ The ICMRW is able to clearly define protections that would limit these reports, however until more labor importing nations ratify the treaty there is little recourse.²³⁹

Conclusion

In today's global economy, migrant workers are highly demanded in many areas.²⁴⁰ These workers provide a key workforce for many economies. As the world economy grows, so does the number of migrant workers and with that a greater chance that their rights will be violated. The recent entry into force of the ICRMW opens a avenue for discussion and resolution to the issues regarding the rights of migrant workers, and it is up to the international community to act. Consider the following questions in addressing this issue:

Even with preventative measures against illegal migration, the inevitable cause, economic and political disarray in the home countries, will most likely remain. Would it be prudent to correct these problems rather than focusing efforts against illegal migration? What specific guidelines do your countries have regarding the rights of Migrant workers? Do they coincide with the guidelines set by the ICRMW? Does your specific country support the ICRMW? Even with a unified stance regarding Migrant workers on an International scale, many migrants will not be informed of these rights when they enter a country. This ignorance can lead to exploitation and suffering. What possible actions could mitigate this problem? Is the ICRMW itself adequate to cover all the rights of Migrant workers, for example many believe that the ICRMW does not take into account the special circumstances of women laborers, what action would be necessary in order to resolve these issues? The above mentioned concerns are paramount in the discussion of the rights of migrant workers, what other issues still need to be resolved so that there will be an international consensus regarding migrant workers?

III. Developing International Partnerships to Combat Diseases Resulting from Environmental Degradation

*Today the destabilization of global environmental systems and the accompanying global health crisis are driving us toward another interval of reflection and the reordering of priorities and policies to reprogram international development.*²⁴¹

As the human population has expanded, access to natural resources has declined.²⁴² Human activities, such as urbanization, population growth, conflict, and development of industries have disturbed both the structure and functions of the earth's ecosystems and altered native biodiversity.²⁴³ The human population is entirely dependent

²³⁵ Wijesekera, *supra*, note 220.

²³⁶ *Ibid.*

²³⁷ Note: This is according to a Study by Migrant Services Centre in Sri Lanka. Fernando, V. (2003, Fall). Sri Lanka: Violence against Women Working Overseas. *WIN News*, 29(4), p. 34.

²³⁸ *Ibid.*

²³⁹ Human Rights Watch, *supra*, note 204.

²⁴⁰ Yeoh, *supra*, note 198.

²⁴¹ Epstein, P. R., & Guest, G. (n.d.). International Architecture for Sustainable Development and Global Health. In G. Guest (Ed.), *Globalization, Health and the Environment: An Integrated Perspective* (pp. 239 - 258). (Original work published 2005).

²⁴² *Biodiversity: It's Importance to Human Health*. (2006). Retrieved July 11, 2006, from Harvard Medical School, Center for Health and Global Environment Website: <http://chge.med.harvard.edu/publications/>.

²⁴³ *Ibid.*

upon the Earth's ecosystem and the food, water, disease, and climate regulation that it provides.²⁴⁴ When the ecosystem is altered, it can have a devastating impact on the health, economy, politics, and social wellbeing not only of a local region, but also of the entire globe.²⁴⁵ Today approximately 25% of the global disease burden and one-third of the disease burden among children is a result of environmental factors.²⁴⁶ Many of these diseases can be avoided through access to clean water and improved health infrastructures.²⁴⁷ As the impact of diseases resulting from environmental degradation can also have political, economic, and social implications, it is imperative for the international community to work together to combat the root causes of these diseases.

Environmental Degradation, Disease, and the Millennium Development Goals

Environmental degradation is the destruction of the environment due to human activity, when natural resources are consumed faster than they can be replenished.²⁴⁸ The impact of environmental degradation to health can be devastating.²⁴⁹ The most common diseases attributed to modifiable environmental factors are "diarrhea; lower respiratory infections; 'other' unintentional injuries; and malaria."²⁵⁰ Populations can feel the health impact of environmental degradation across the globe.²⁵¹ However, those in developing States are especially affected.²⁵² Currently a large gap exists between the rates of diseases caused by environmental factors in developing versus developed States, especially in the case of children.²⁵³ The total number of years of life lost due to environmental factors is 15 times higher in developing versus developed States.²⁵⁴ This is attributed to the different environmental factors those in developing countries are exposed to, which are related to a lack of resources and health infrastructure.²⁵⁵ The majority of the populations of developed States have access to clean water, sanitation and medical services.²⁵⁶

In 2000, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution *A/55/L.2*, also known as the *Millennium Declaration*.²⁵⁷ This document outlines the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).²⁵⁸ The goals aim to improve the lives of the world's poorest populations by 2015.²⁵⁹ While diseases caused by environmental degradation are related to the achievement of all eight of the MDGs, it specifically relates to the goals on health, environmental sustainability, and development.²⁶⁰ The mortality rate of children under the age of five resulting from environmental factors is 180 times higher in poor regions; this problem is discussed in the fourth MDG.²⁶¹ By addressing the causes of diarrhea and respiratory infections in children, it is estimated that over 2 million lives can be saved each year.²⁶² Over half a million people die each year from malaria, a disease that results from modifiable environmental factors, usually land use, irrigation and agricultural practices.²⁶³ Examining and solving issues related to environmental sustainability, is necessary for combating diseases such as diarrhea.²⁶⁴ Contamination of

²⁴⁴ Ecosystems and Human Well - Being: A Framework for Assessment. (2005). Island Press. Retrieved July 10, 2006, from Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Web site: <http://www.maweb.org/en/Products.EHWP.aspx#downloads>.

²⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁶ World Health Organization. *Preventing Disease Through Healthy Environments: Towards an Estimate of the Environmental Burden of Disease*. (2006). Retrieved July 13, 2006, from World Health Organization Web site: http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/publications/preventingdisease/en/index.html.

²⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁸ Epstein, *supra*, note 241.

²⁴⁹ *Biodiversity: Its Importance to Human Health*, *supra*, note 242.

²⁵⁰ World Health Organization, *supra*, note 246.

²⁵¹ *Biodiversity: Its Importance to Human Health*, *supra*, note 242.

²⁵² *Ibid.*

²⁵³ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁴ World Health Organization, *supra*, note 246.

²⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁷ United Nations General Assembly. (2000). *Millennium Development Declaration (A/55/L.2)*. Adopted September 8, 2000. Retrieved July 12, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>.

²⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁹ *The UN Millennium Development Goals*. (n.d.). Retrieved July 7, 2006, from United Nations Web site: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/index.html>.

²⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁶¹ World Health Organization, *supra*, note 246.

²⁶² *Ibid.*

²⁶³ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

water and the air are leading causes of diseases resulting from environmental degradation.²⁶⁵ MDG 8 calls for the development of international partnerships for development.²⁶⁶ As the effects of environmental destruction can travel across international boundaries and impact diverse populations across the globe, existing partnerships must be strengthened and new ones created.

Numerous international partnerships to counter the effects of environmental destruction already exist. Those that currently exist have become focused on furthering the MDGs, such as The Health and Environment Linkages Initiative (HELI).²⁶⁷ “HELI is a global effort by WHO (World Health Organization) and UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme) to promote and facilitate action in developing countries to reduce environmental threats to human health, in support of sustainable development objectives.”²⁶⁸ HELI has developed partnerships with diverse civil society sectors to achieve greater success in its projects.²⁶⁹ The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) seeks to engage the private sector, foundations, and civil society with governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in comprehensive partnerships.²⁷⁰ Engaging the private sector brings expertise in infrastructure, technology, and management while foundations contribute to the mobilization of funds, advocacy, information gathering, and learning.²⁷¹ UNFIP currently works with corporations such as The Coca-Cola Company, Ericsson, and Cisco Systems as well as foundations including, Aga Khan Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Rotary International.²⁷² These corporations and foundations have contributed to projects that address environmental issues, such as protecting biodiversity in the Democratic Republic of Congo.²⁷³ Pharmaceutical companies, such as Pfizer, have launched their own programs to increase global access to medicines.²⁷⁴ The Diflucan Partnership Program, launched in 2000, provides Diflucan medicine to governments and NGOs to treat fungal infections that arise from HIV/AIDS.²⁷⁵ “A good partnership takes time to build. It is much like a courtship in which partners need to listen to each other, learn from each other’s differences and be sensitive to each other’s strengths and weakness. Ideas, not money, create a successful collaboration.”²⁷⁶

The Aral Sea Crisis

The Aral Sea, located in Central Asia, was once the fourth largest inland sea in the world.²⁷⁷ It is bordered by Uzbekistan in the south and Kazakhstan in the north.²⁷⁸ During the time of Soviet Union, the two main rivers that feed into the Aral Sea, the Amu and Syr Darya, were utilized to produce cotton, a crop that requires heavy irrigation.²⁷⁹ The diversion of waters from the Amu and Syr Darya rivers and inefficient irrigation practices have resulted in the shrinking of the Aral Sea and contamination of the water from pollution and increased salinization.²⁸⁰ With its two main sources of water diverted for agriculture, over 3.6 million hectares of seabed have been exposed over the past 40 years.²⁸¹ The exposed seabed is composed of salt encrusted sands and contaminated by pesticides, including organochlorines dichlorodiphenyl-trichlorethans (DDTs), which were banned in the 1970s but remained in

²⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁷ What is HELI? (n.d.). *The Health and Environment Linkages Initiative (HELI)*. Retrieved July 10, 2006, from World Health Organization, UN Environmental Programme Web site: <http://www.who.int/heli/aboutus/en/pri>.

²⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁰ Dossal, A. A. (2004). UNFIP: Partnerships Beyond Borders. *UN Chronicle Online Edition*. Retrieved July 15, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2004/issue1/0104p6.asp>.

²⁷¹ *Ibid.*

²⁷² *Ibid.*

²⁷³ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁴ Pfizer. (n.d.). *2005 Corporate Citizenship Report*. Retrieved July 15, 2006, from Pfizer Web site: http://www.pfizer.com/pfizer/subsites/corporate_citizenship/report/improve_access.jsp.

²⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁶ Dossal, *supra*, note 270.

²⁷⁷ Ataniyazova, M. Sc., O. A., PhD. (2003, March 18). *Health and Ecological Consequences of the Aral Sea Crisis*. Retrieved July 5, 2006, from http://www.adb.org/Documents/Presentations/RC_Shared_Water/Ataniyazova.pdf.

²⁷⁸ Whish - Wilson, P. (2002, Summer). The Aral Sea Environmental Health Crisis *Journal of Rural and Remote Environmental Health*, 1(2), 29 - 34.

²⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁸¹ *Ibid.*

use in the region.²⁸² The exposed sands are transported throughout the region via many large dust storms that occur annually and reach as far as Turkmenistan, located south of Uzbekistan.²⁸³ The sea once provided a moderating effect on the local climate; however, with the loss of 80% of its volume the climate has altered dramatically leading to shorter, drier summers and longer, colder winters affecting local agricultural production.²⁸⁴

The region most adversely affected has been the Republic of Karakalpakstan, a semi-autonomous region within Uzbekistan.²⁸⁵ Infant mortality rates have been as high as over 100 per 1000 births, and anemia has been found in 87% of female teenagers, 91% of non-pregnant women and 99% of pregnant women.²⁸⁶ It is estimated that 87% of newborn babies are also anemic, which poses a high risk for brain damage and weak immune systems.²⁸⁷ “One in every 20 babies is born with abnormalities, a figure approximately 5 times higher than European countries.”²⁸⁸ Infertility has also increased in males, “from 30 – 40% in the 1980s to 65% in the late 1990s.”²⁸⁹ Access to safe drinking water has been severely limited.²⁹⁰ It is estimated that over 150 thousand tons of toxic chemicals have contaminated the water in the last 10 years.²⁹¹ Over 20 million people throughout the Aral Sea region suffer from poor health as a result of the environmental degradation.²⁹² There have been unprecedented increases in throat and lung cancers, kidney diseases, asthma, hepatitis, tuberculosis, bronchitis, anemia, birth defects, infant mortality, and gastro-intestinal ailments.²⁹³

International efforts so far have produced limited results.²⁹⁴ In 1994, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) initiated a program to provide safe drinking water to 426 of the worst effected communities.²⁹⁵ The program ended in 1998 after findings that many of the water pumps were improperly installed and the water sources contaminated after one year.²⁹⁶ The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through bilateral agreements, initiated projects to provide clean water, such as the development of a desalinization plant in Turkmenistan.²⁹⁷ In 1994, the States of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan came together to create the International Aral Sea Rehabilitation Fund (IFAS).²⁹⁸ In 1997, the founders of IFAS presented the *Almaty Declaration* to the General Assembly (A/52/112) calling on the international community to assist with the crisis in the Aral Sea region.²⁹⁹ IFAS has developed regional and international partnerships to address the ecological aspect of the Aral Sea crisis.³⁰⁰ The World Bank, an IFAS partner, has achieved some success with helping restore water flow to the northern section of the Aral Sea.³⁰¹ While there has been much work on environmental factors, few relief organizations have effectively addressed the health crisis.³⁰² The restoration of portions of the Aral Sea and projects to provide safe drinking water will alleviate some of the health risks but they

²⁸² *Ibid.*

²⁸³ Ataniyazova, *supra*, note 277.

²⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁰ Whish - Wilson, P., *supra*, note 278.

²⁹¹ *Ibid.*

²⁹² Kriner, S. (2002, April 10). *Aral Sea Ecological Disaster Causes Humanitarian Crisis*. RedCross.org. Retrieved July 10, 2006, from <http://www.redcross.org/news/in/asia/020410aral.html>.

²⁹³ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁶ Owen, J. (n.d.). *Aral Sea*. The Water Page. Retrieved July 13, 2006, from <http://www.thewaterpage.com/aral.htm>.

²⁹⁷ *Eco-friendly Development Builds Hope for a Greener Future*. (n.d.). USAID.org. Retrieved July 11, 2006, from United States Agency for International Development Web site: http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/press/reach/eco_dev.html.

²⁹⁸ Owen, J., *supra*, note 295.

²⁹⁹ United Nations General Assembly. (1997). *The Almaty Declaration (A/52/112)*. Adopted March 18, 1997. Retrieved July 12, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/52/plenary/a52-112.htm>.

³⁰⁰ Owen, J., *supra*, note 295.

³⁰¹ *Ibid.*

³⁰² *Ibid.*

do not fully address the issues of air pollution and lack of health infrastructure in many areas of the Aral Sea region.³⁰³

Impact of Conflicts

Conflicts by their very nature cause destruction. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the number of conflicts occurring around the globe has increased, specifically the number of intrastate conflicts.³⁰⁴ Environmental degradation and the resulting health implications can be caused by conflict, mainly through the destruction or contamination of water and food sources.³⁰⁵ Environmental degradation can also be a cause of conflict.³⁰⁶ Environmental degradation can be caused by conflict, both intentionally and unintentionally.³⁰⁷ Water sources, such as irrigation systems, dams, canals, and wells have often been targets in conflicts.³⁰⁸ The United States bombed irrigation systems in the 1960's in what was then North Vietnam, and dikes to the Red River, also in Vietnam, in the 1970's.³⁰⁹ After the first US Gulf War, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein drained the marshland homes of the Marsh Arabs in southern Iraq to quell opposition to his government.³¹⁰ Environmental degradation can also be unintentional. The establishment of military bases and posts, training and testing weapons, use of tanks and other military vehicles as well as the use of weapons in conflict all cause damage to the environment.³¹¹ One example is the use of the US military of depleted uranium in tank shells during the first US Gulf War, some of which have now contaminated water sources and have led to an increase in cancer and other diseases in Iraq.³¹² Conflict also unintentionally creates large numbers of refugees, many whom end up in refugee camps, where there is high population density, inadequate food, water, and sanitation.³¹³ There is often high malnutrition, which, in combination with the living conditions, can lead to outbreaks of disease.³¹⁴ "Various risk factors interact to produce a higher incidence of diarrheal diseases, acute respiratory infections, and vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles and vector-borne diseases such as malaria."³¹⁵ Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS are also major health concerns in these situations.³¹⁶

While conflicts are never exclusively environmental in nature, they can be one of the root causes.³¹⁷ Water has been one of the causes in numerous conflicts, including disputes between Israel and Syria, which concerns the Golan Heights and access to the Sea of Galilee.³¹⁸ The instances of conflict revolving around the issue of access to water are likely to increase in the future as population expands and availability declines.³¹⁹ Access to other valuable resources such as diamonds, oil, and the growing of narcotics has led to both environmental degradation and violent conflict.³²⁰ The strain of refugees on other communities can also lead to violence and spread of a current conflict.³²¹ In Northern Uganda, an area ravaged by two decades of conflict between the Ugandan government and the Lord's

³⁰³ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁴ Polkinghorn, B. D. (2000). The Social Origins of Environmental Resource Conflicts: Exposing the Roots of Tangible Disputes. In S. Byrne & C. L. Irvin (Eds.), *Reconcilable Differences: Turning Points in Ethnopolitical Conflicts* (pp. 79 - 95). West Hartford, Connecticut: Kumarian Press.

³⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁷ Westing, A. H., Fox, W., & Renner, M. (2001). Environmental Degradation as Both Consequence and Cause of Armed Conflict. Retrieved July 5, 2006, from <http://www.institute-for-nonviolence.com.au/downloads/pdf/EnvirDegrad.pdf>

³⁰⁸ Gleick, P. H., PhD. (2005). *The World's Water: Water Conflict Chronology*. Retrieved July 13, 2006, from Pacific Institute Web site: <http://www.worldwater.org/conflictchronology.html>.

³⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

³¹⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹¹ Westing, A. H., Fox, W., & Renner, M., *supra*, note 307 .

³¹² Johnson, L. (2002, November 12). *Iraqi Cancers, Birth Defects Blamed on U.S. Depleted Uranium*. Seattlepi.com. Retrieved July 13, 2006, from http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/95178_du12.shtml.

³¹³ *WHO Programme on Disease Control in Humanitarian Emergencies (DCE)*. (n.d.). Retrieved July 13, 2006, from World Health Organization Web site: http://www.who.int/diseasecontrol_emergencies/en/.

³¹⁴ *Ibid.*

³¹⁵ *Ibid.*

³¹⁶ *Ibid.*

³¹⁷ Polkinghorn, B. D., *supra*, note 304.

³¹⁸ *Ibid.*

³¹⁹ *Ibid.*

³²⁰ *Ibid.*

³²¹ Westing, A. H., Fox, W., & Renner, M., *supra*, note 307.

Resistance Army (LRA), an estimated 90-95% of the population lives in refugee camps.³²² Refugees living in overcrowded camps with poor sanitation and water have suffered outbreaks of diseases such as malaria, respiratory, and intestinal infections.³²³ Medecins sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has been working in the region since 2004 and has been able to install water pumps and drill wells that now provide up to 600 thousand liters of clean water each day.³²⁴ Angola, the second largest producer of oil in Africa and the fourth largest producer of diamonds in the world, has been ravaged by 27 years of civil war.³²⁵ War has devastated all health infrastructures, cost over 1.5 million lives, and left two-thirds of the population living in poverty.³²⁶ Organizations such as Oxfam have been working to provide clean water and sanitation and have also been working with the UN on education of HIV/AIDS transmission.³²⁷ The WHO, along with Western donors and 23,000 Angolan health workers have launched a program to immunize the country's 3.5 million children.³²⁸ The program will vaccinate against measles, polio, and will provide vitamin A supplements and de-worming medication.³²⁹ The current under-five mortality rate is 50%, the highest in the world.³³⁰ Malaria remains the single largest killer of children in Angola; however, insecticide-treated mosquito nets will also be provided across the country.³³¹

The destruction of vital water and food resources, as well as health infrastructure during conflict contributes to a significant rise in disease among local populations.³³² Access to medical attention and aid is crucial in conflict situations, and may be hampered by the violence.³³³ While the international community through intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) such as the UN and WHO and NGOs, including Red Cross/Red Crescent Society and MSF address immediate humanitarian concerns.³³⁴ There is no international framework to deal with the environmental degradation caused by conflict and its long-term health impact.³³⁵ Protocol I Additional to the *Geneva Convention* prohibits use of methods to cause damage to the environment during wartime.³³⁶ The World Conservation Union (IUCN), representing governments and NGOs, produced the *Draft Covenant on Environment and Development* of 1995, which addresses conflict and the environment, however does not address enforcement.³³⁷ Once damage to the environment has occurred, it can take years and substantial amounts of money to repair.³³⁸ In ongoing, protracted conflicts, it has been exceptionally difficult to deal with the degradation of the environment and accompanying health crisis.³³⁹

Climate and Health

³²² *Providing Health Care in Northern Uganda's Paper District*. (2006, June). Medecins Sans Frontieres. Retrieved July 26, 2006, from Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) Web site: <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/news/2006/06-19-2006.htm>.

³²³ *Ibid.*

³²⁴ *Ibid.*

³²⁵ Angola: Programme Overview. (2006). Angola. Retrieved July 26, 2006, from Oxfam Website: http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/where_we_work/angola/programme.htm.

³²⁶ *Ibid.*

³²⁷ *Ibid.*

³²⁸ Comprehensive Child Health Care Campaign Underway. (2006, July 13). *UN Integrated Regional Information Networks*. Retrieved July 26, 2006, from <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200607130658.htm>.

³²⁹ *Ibid.*

³³⁰ *Ibid.*

³³¹ *Ibid.*

³³² Westing, A. H., Fox, W., & Renner, M., *supra*, note 307.

³³³ *Ibid.*

³³⁴ *Ibid.*

³³⁵ *Ibid.*

³³⁶ Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol 1). (1977). Adopted by the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts. Entered into force on December 7, 1979. Retrieved July 26, 2006 from <http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu3/b/93.htm>.

³³⁷ Armed Conflict and the Environment. (2003, February/March 21). *The World Conservation Union (IUCN)*. Retrieved July 15, 2006, from The World Conservation Union (IUCN) Web site: http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2001_2005/press/iraqstatement210303.pdf.

³³⁸ *Ibid.*

³³⁹ *Ibid.*

During the 20th century, the average surface temperature of the earth increased by approximately 0.6 degrees Celsius.³⁴⁰ Over two-thirds of this increase occurred after 1975.³⁴¹ The impact of global warming on the health of populations across the globe is devastating.³⁴² Some positive results of global warming, such as increased production of agriculture in temperate regions, are shadowed by the increase in certain diseases, such as malaria, and a substantial rise in deaths resulting from extreme temperatures and natural disasters.³⁴³ In 2002, 3.3 million deaths can be attributed to climate-sensitive diseases, with 29% of these deaths occurring in Africa.³⁴⁴ There are three main effects climate change has on health: infectious diseases, extreme temperatures, and natural disasters.³⁴⁵

Infectious diseases, such as malaria and yellow fever, are spread through mosquitoes, which breed near stagnant water.³⁴⁶ Mosquitoes also need warmer temperatures to breed and as the surface area temperature of the globe rises, these diseases can spread out to new areas, increasing the occurrence of disease.³⁴⁷ Already the United States and Europe have seen increases in the West Nile virus, Cholera, and Lyme disease.³⁴⁸ Malaria cases have also occurred, but have been successfully contained.³⁴⁹ Most developing States currently lack the resources to identify and contain outbreaks of such diseases, which result in the higher number of deaths attributed to them in developing regions.³⁵⁰ Extreme temperatures can also cause a high number of deaths, especially to the elderly and young, who are more vulnerable.³⁵¹ In 1995, a heat wave in the US city of Chicago killed more than 700 people.³⁵² The 2003 summer heat wave in Europe has been associated with more than 27,000 deaths.³⁵³ Extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, and landslides have increased in number and severity.³⁵⁴ The majority of deaths that occur from natural disasters occur in poor countries, which lack resources and infrastructure to respond to such emergencies.³⁵⁵

Much of global warming is attributed to the increase of greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide.³⁵⁶ It is estimated that within the last 100 years the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased 30%, allowing more heat to be trapped in the lower atmosphere.³⁵⁷ Global emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are continuing to increase.³⁵⁸ Further increases will continue to result in changes in climate across the globe and impact the health of the world population.³⁵⁹ Some international action is being taken to reduce emissions, such as the *Kyoto Protocol*.³⁶⁰ The United Nations Climate Change Secretariat recently announced that the *Kyoto's* clean development mechanism (CDM) is estimated to generate more than 1 billion tons of emission reductions by the end of 2012.³⁶¹ This number corresponds to the current annual emissions in Spain and the United Kingdom

³⁴⁰ World Health Organization. (2003). *Climate Change and Human Health - Risks and Responses*. Retrieved July 26, 2006, from World Health Organization Web site: <http://www.who.int/globalchange/climate/en/ccSCREEN.pdf>.

³⁴¹ *Ibid.*

³⁴² *Ibid.*

³⁴³ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁴ Fact Sheet. (2005, July). *Climate and Health*. Retrieved July 15, 2006, from World Health Organization Web site: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs266/en/>.

³⁴⁵ *Climate change and human health - Risks and responses, supra*, note 340.

³⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

³⁵¹ *Ibid.*

³⁵² Fact Sheet, *supra*, note 344.

³⁵³ *Ibid.*

³⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁵⁶ *Climate change and human health - Risks and responses, supra*, note 340.

³⁵⁷ Fact Sheet, *supra*, note 344.

³⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁵⁹ Fact Sheet, *supra*, note 344.

³⁶⁰ Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (1997). Entered into force on February 16, 2005. Retrieved July 15, 2006, from <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.html>.

³⁶¹ *Emission Reductions from Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism Pass the One Billion Tonnes Mark*. (2006, June). United Nations. Retrieved July 15, 2006, from http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/20060608_cdm_1_billion_tonnes-english.pdf.

combined.³⁶² However, the largest producer of emissions, the United States, has yet to sign the *Kyoto Protocol*.³⁶³ There is also currently little international effort to help poor regions deal with the health effects resulting from climate change.³⁶⁴

Conclusion

Environmental degradation and disease is a multi-faceted issue. It will be difficult to develop a single comprehensive solution. The development of partnerships amongst States, IGOs, NGOs, scientists, experts, and local communities is imperative for any attempt at addressing this issue. While some diseases caused by environmental degradation can be diminished through partnerships combating root causes, such as lack of water, others are far more complex such as the Aral Sea. How can the international community maintain the costs and initiative to deal with environmental disasters such as the Aral Sea? In the meantime, what can be done to help local populations experiencing unprecedented health crises?

Conflicts cause massive devastation to local communities. It is often difficult for international organizations to go into conflict situations because of the danger to their staff. What can international organizations or States do to protect natural resources during a conflict? Does this violate State sovereignty? What alternatives can be explored when dealing with conflicts resulting from limited resources, such as water, oil, or diamonds?

The Millennium Development Goals are an important initiative to help those in the poorest regions of the world. The poor suffer disproportionately from diseases caused by environmental factors. What responsibilities do developing States have to help achieve these goals as they relate to disease and environmental degradation? What incentives are there for developing States to spend large amounts of money on these issues around the globe? What are some simple, cost-effective methods to decrease pollution to air and water supplies that are easy to implement in rural areas of the developing world? What are the most effective partnerships to deal with these issues?

Annotated Bibliography

History of the General Assembly Plenary

2005 World Summit Website. (n.d.). *United Nations General Assembly*. Retrieved July 22, 2006, from http://www.un.org/ga/59/hl60_plenarymeeting.html.

This is the official website of the General Assembly (GA) World Summit held in September 2005. It provides delegates with important information about this special session, ranging from videos, press releases, and speeches to the draft outcome document and, of course, the resolutions passed. Delegates should be familiar with the content of this summit, which set out and dealt with all of the topics that are on the agenda of this committee at the NMUN Conference.

Background Information. (n.d.). *United Nations General Assembly*. Retrieved July 5, 2006, from http://www.un.org/ga/60/ga_background.html.

This is the official website of the General Assembly, dealing with the background information of the committee, therefore being crucially relevant as reference concerning the structure, functions, and workings of this United Nations (UN) organ. Delegates will find answers to a broad range of questions. This site is an indispensable starting point for understanding the working of the GA.

Charter of the United Nations, June 26, 1945, 59 Stat. 1031, TS No. 993, 3 Bevans 1153.

When mentioning or working on the structure of the United Nations, this text is indispensable, being in fact the core document, which literally outlines the backbone of the organization. Chapter 7, which defines the United Nations' main organs, is especially relevant to the study of the GA. The Charter forms the legal basis of the UN and besides that, quoting or referring to paragraphs from this document is always a great

³⁶² *Ibid.*

³⁶³ Global Warming Can be Fought on the Local Level. (2006, July 20). The Arizona Daily Star. Retrieved July 26, 2006, from <http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/138597>

³⁶⁴ *Climate Change and Human Health - Risks and Responses*, *supra*, note 340.

way of illustrating one's research and thus showing a solid understanding of the structure and working of the whole organization. The UN charter can be found at <http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter>.

Conforti, B. (2004). *The Organs*. In *The Law and Practice of the United Nations. Legal Aspects of International Organizations*. Boston: Brill Academic Publishers.
As anticipated by the title, this book offers a legal perspective on the issue. The working of the GA Plenary is being presented together with the origins and purposes of the United Nations. Before explaining in detail the legal framework of the UN, the author presents an excellent introduction to the UN bodies by underlining their historical background. Delegates will benefit from this accurate and detailed description of the organization by an expert on international law.

General Assembly: Frequently Asked Questions. (2005). *Dag Hammarskjöld Library*. Retrieved July 5, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/gafaq.htm>.
Providing answers to common questions about the General Assembly's activities, an abridged version of the principles of the Charter of the UN and the committees that compose the General Assembly, and links to other areas of the General Assembly system, this page covers a great part of the basic issues. Delegates will find especially helpful the ordered nature of frequently asked questions and the links indicated to elaborate further on a specific issue.

NGOs and the United Nations Department of Public Information. (2005, November). *UN Department of Public Information*. Retrieved July 23, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/brochure.htm>.
This is a "questions and answers" website of the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI). It deals with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and their cooperation with this department. The website also provides information on NGOs in general and on the prospects, they have if they cooperate with the DPI.

Press Kit. General Information. (n.d.). *United Nations General Assembly*. Retrieved July 22, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/ga/60/presskit/geninfo.htm>.
This source offers general information and overall a straightforward explanation of the working of the GA. Its powers, rights, and responsibilities are listed and discussed. It is necessary for the delegates to familiarize themselves with the content of this document as it also offers more insight on the inner workings of the GA. It is an excellent starting point for delegates to fully understand those processes and bring this knowledge into play at the NMUN Conference.

Progress Report on UN Reform. (2006). *Reform the UN*. Retrieved July 29, 2006, from <http://www.reformtheun.org/index.php/eupdate/2270>.
This website provides up-to-date information and resources about the UN reform. It is conformably being updated and therefore requires to be checked regularly. Delegates will find the links to numerous recent documents particularly useful for their research, such as country statements or UN resolutions, reports and statements. Overall, this website is an excellent source for the latest developments concerning UN reform.

Subsidiary Organs. (n.d.). *United Nations General Assembly*. Retrieved July 19, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/ga/subsidiary/>.
This website provides a list of all the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly as well as the links to their official websites. The GA's subsidiary bodies range in complexity and status from temporary committees to semiautonomous institutions that maintain their own secretariats or administrative departments. Some of the subsidiary bodies in turn set up their own subsidiary units – working groups, subcommittees, and the like. This site enables delegates to find precise information about a specific subsidiary organ as well as links to the resolution by which the respective organ was established.

Taylor, Paul & Curtis, Devon. (2005). *The United Nations*. In John Baylis & Steve Smith (Eds.), *Globalization of World Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press.
With its analytic approach, this source presents a new perspective of the GA Plenary, situating the United Nations and its organs in the context of international relations and changing world politics. Therefore, it helps to assess the General Assembly's capability to react to the changing realities of everyday and new pressing issues.

- United Nations. General Assembly. 5th Session. (1950, November 3). *Resolution 377: Uniting for Peace*. Retrieved July 22, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/landmark/pdf/ares377e.pdf>.
In 1950, the members of the United Nations recognized that due to the permanent member's veto powers, impasses would occur within the Security Council. This resolution provides that, if because of the lack of unanimity among permanent members of the Security Council, the SC cannot maintain international peace; the General Assembly shall consider the matter immediately. The GA can meet within twenty-four hours to consider such a matter and can recommend collective measures to maintain or restore international peace and security. This resolution has continuously been mentioned in the context of the GA reform; however, it has hardly gained any practical value.
- United Nations. General Assembly. 58th Session. (2004, January 13). *Resolution 126: Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly*. Retrieved July 29, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/apps/docs/ws.asp?m=A/RES/58/126>.
This resolution is commonly seen as the first concrete step towards a sustainable UN reform. It sets out measures to enhance the role and the authority of the General Assembly and to improve its working methods. Delegates should be aware that this resolution marks an important starting point for the further revitalization processes of the GA.
- United Nations. General Assembly. 58th Session. (2004, July 13). *Resolution 316: Further Measures for the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly*. Retrieved July 29, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/apps/docs/ws.asp?m=A/RES/58/316>.
Together with A/RES/58/126, this resolution is considered one of the basic revitalization resolutions for the General Assembly, even though the active consideration of this issue can be traced back to earlier GA plenary sessions. However, before A/RES/58/316 was passed, only individual elements of revitalization (such as issues of documentation and the consolidation of agenda items) appeared separately. Some of the points put forward in this resolution can also be found in Mr. Annan's reform plan for the GA.
- United Nations. General Assembly. 59th Session. (2005, March 21). *In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All. Report of the Secretary-General*. Retrieved on July 10, 2006 from http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/gaA.59.2005_En.pdf.
The plan released by H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan aims at the most important restructuring of the United Nations in its sixty-year history. The document is of outmost importance for this committee, as one of its central aspects is the General Assembly reform. Among the many reform projects, Kofi Annan recommended streamlining the General Assembly's agenda, committee structure, and procedures as well as strengthening the role and authority of its President.
- United Nations. General Assembly. 59th Session. (2005, November 30). *List of Non-Member States, Entities and Organizations Having Received a Standing Invitation to Participate as Observers in the Sessions and the Work of the General Assembly*. Retrieved July 21, 2006, from <http://www.itu.int/wsis/participation/accreditation/lists/standing-invitation.pdf>.
This is a simple list of non-member States, entities and organizations enjoying observer status at the GA. Delegates representing observer States may use this link to find out which other State, entity or organization they will be sharing this status with. It might also be useful to find out who can be a possible partner in certain domains.
- United Nations. General Assembly. 60th Session. (2005, December 23). *Statement by the President of the United Nations General Assembly H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson at the Conclusion of the First Part of the Sixtieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly*. New York: Author. Retrieved July 29, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/ga/president/60/speeches/051223.pdf>.
In this speech, the President of the 60th GA session, H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson recapitulates the outcome of the first part of the 60th session. He stresses the importance of the work that has been done so far and names important agreements that have been reached, such as the ones on the Peacebuilding Commission or on the Central Emergency Response Fund. Meanwhile, <http://www.un.org/ga/president/60/speeches/> provides the delegates with all the statements made by Mr. Eliasson as president of the GA.

United Nations. General Assembly. 61st Session. (2006, February 14). *Preliminary List of Items to be Included in the Provisional Agenda of the Sixty-First Regular Session of the General Assembly*. Retrieved July 23, 2006, from

[http://disarmament.un.org/library.nsf/f860ad0cf3d61a518525711f006bb390/c5064adb4eb7c7eb8525711f006b4bf9/\\$FILE/agenda61.50.pdf](http://disarmament.un.org/library.nsf/f860ad0cf3d61a518525711f006bb390/c5064adb4eb7c7eb8525711f006b4bf9/$FILE/agenda61.50.pdf).

This document presents a preliminary list of questions, which the General Assembly is called upon to consider at its 61st plenary session. Although unfinished and yet to be completed, it identifies the issues at stake by regrouping them into eight main and several sub-categories and points out decisions and resolutions already passed on a specific matter. Some of the main concerns are international peace and security; promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development; promotion of human rights, justice and international law; coordination of humanitarian assistance; disarmament; and combating international terrorism. Delegates should check these items in order to keep up-to-date with the 'real' work of this UN body. It is essential to look at the main points and to understand how broad the spectrum of issues is, which the GA has to deal with.

United Nations. General Assembly. (n.d.) *Background Note. Revitalization of the General Assembly*. Retrieved July 29, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/ga/president/60/summitfollowup/060302b.pdf>.

This source provides delegates with an overview of the revitalization process of the GA and offers an indication of items implemented and partially implemented. With the aim to facilitate consideration and examination of the status of GA revitalization by Member States, it also flags the reporting requirements of the 60th plenary session emerging from the revitalization resolutions of the 58th and 59th sessions. Delegates will particularly benefit from the sections on the background of the GA revitalization and the implementation of the measures put forward in the last years.

United Nations Millennium Assembly Website. (n.d.). *United Nations*. Retrieved July 22, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/millennium/>.

This is the official website of the United Nations Millennium Assembly. It provides delegates with all relevant information on this special GA session. A great part of the issues currently at stake has already been mentioned there. Delegates may read the Millennium Report, which is one of the most important UN documents of the last years and its full implementation is yet to be reached.

Willets, Peter. (2005). *Transnational Actors and International Organizations in Global Politics*. In John Baylis & Steve Smith (Eds.), *Globalization of World Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press.

In his essay, Peter Willets deals with the changing role of transnational actors and international organizations in global politics. He outlines the problems of a state-centric approach when analyzing global politics and demonstrates how, in the context of ongoing globalization, the role of transnational actors and especially international organizations nowadays is greater than ever. The sections on NGO and inter-governmental organizations (IGO) participation as structures in global politics are particularly relevant and help to explain the changing nature of the UN. IGOs are international organizations, in which full legal membership is limited to States and the decision-making authority lies with representatives from governments. IGOs allow Member States to use their organization as a tool to achieve policy objectives and push their own interests and development agendas. Delegates will benefit from the academic nature of the analysis.

Additional Sources

NGO Status at the UN. (2000). *Global Policy Forum*. Retrieved July 29, 2006, from <http://www.globalpolicy.org/ngos/ngo-un/info/status.htm>.

This short text provides basic information on NGOs. It outlines the most important resolutions and other official arrangements on NGOs' presence at the UN. This is a perfect starting point for research as it explains not only the legal basis of NGOs' presence in the UN bodies, but mainly their role and status at the UN in general.

Paper on NGO Participation at the United Nations. (2006). *Global Policy Forum*. Retrieved July 29, 2006, from <http://www.globalpolicy.org/ngos/int/un/access/2006/0328participation.htm>.

This paper, which has been submitted to the President of the General Assembly by a group of renowned institutes, forums, and organizations, advocates a stronger participation of civil society in the UN. In reply to the request by the GA's President for comments and input on NGO/UN relations, it emphasizes several points and measures as a way to strengthen NGO participation at the UN. Delegates should be familiar with this document in order to stay up to date with recent evolutions in the field of NGO participation at the UN and the ongoing debate on its improvement and progress.

Peterson, M. J. (2005). *The United Nations General Assembly*. New York: Routledge.

This book not only examines the history and evolution of the UN General Assembly, while focusing on the development of this key UN organ in terms of adapting to different world geopolitical circumstances, but it also presents a look ahead to potentially different futures. Moreover, it also covers in depth the different criticisms of the General Assembly. Delegates will benefit from the expert analysis of this core UN organ.

United Nations Publications. (2004). *Basic Facts About the United Nations*. Lanham, Maryland: Bernan Press.

This updated edition brings important information about the many changes that are taking place at the UN. Besides that, it offers a general introduction on the role and functions of the United Nations and its related agencies, outlining the main objectives and achievements of the organization. Delegates should consider this source as a further important framework to understand and analyze the working of the UN.

I. Structuring and Implementation of the New Human Rights Council

Bayefsky, A. F. (2002). *How to Complain to the UN Human Rights Treaty System*. Ardsley, NY: Transnational Publishers.

This book outlines the principal United Nations (UN) human rights treaties and goes over the basic definition and application of international treaties. The author goes on to describe the process of applying for individual grievances against States, which have committed violations of treaties. Delegates may access this resource for further information on relevant UN human rights documents for a better understanding of major UN human rights treaties.

Cage, S. (2006, June 19). New U.N. Human Rights Council Debuts Amid Hopes, Doubts. In *Associated Press Newswires*. Retrieved July 5, 2006, from Associated Press Web site:

http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2006-06-19-rights-un_x.htm.

This article, penned in Geneva, corresponds to the opening day of the council's first session. The article gives good general information on the proceedings and quotes prominent people at the council. Delegates will appreciate the basic information provided by the article.

Commission on Human Rights. (n.d.). *Commission on Human Rights*. Retrieved July 25, 2006, from Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Web site

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/index.htm>.

This website is the gateway into the database for further information on past Commission on Human Rights (CHR) sessions. It provides a brief history of the CHR as well as links out to recent documents leading up to the bodies dismantling. Delegates will appreciate the at-a-glance information of this site as well its ability to provide channels to other resources.

Eliasson, J. (2006, February 23). Statement by the President of the United Nations General Assembly. In *About the Human Rights Council*. Retrieved August 10, 2006, from United Nations Human Rights Council Web site:

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/60/speeches/060223b.pdf> .

This statement by H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson provides a context to the General Assembly (GA) resolution A/RES/60/251 as it was presented to the body in draft form. Eliasson outlines steps already taken by the GA to resolve shortcomings of the UN and urges Member States to view the draft resolution as a work of compromise and high importance. Delegates may use this resource as a guide to understanding the components of the resolution.

First Session of the Human Rights Council: A Step in the Right Direction. (2006, July 3). *News Release*. Retrieved July 5, 2006, from Amnesty International Web site:

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/document.do?id=ENGIOR410112006>.

This article by Amnesty International reports on the outcome of the first session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) held on June 19-30, 2006. Amnesty International finds that the work of the HRC was satisfactory on promoting current human rights issues and overall praises the documents that resulted from the session. This source provides delegates with prominent non-governmental organizations (NGO) perspective of the council and enhances their comprehensive understanding of the topic.

Lyons, S. R. (2006, March 27). The New United Nations Human Rights Council. In *ASIL Insights*. Retrieved August 2, 2006, from The American Society of International Law Web site:

<http://www.asil.org/insights/2006/03/insights060327.html>.

This article describes the debate and provisions of the HRC. It gives basic information on the HRC's structure and mandate. Delegates will enjoy the clear presentation of facts and may benefit from the sources attached to the article.

Mertus, J. A. (2005). *The United Nations and Human Rights: A Guide for a New Era*. New York: Routledge.

This book provides a clear and concise analysis of the transformation of international human rights from standard setting to implementation with institutionalization and enforcement. The author, Julie A. Mertus, has figured prominently in multiple human rights organizations including UNHCR and OXFAM. Delegates will benefit from this source's introspective look at recent developments in human rights programs, the new reforms of UN treaty bodies, annotated bibliography, and directory of relevant international human rights bodies.

Kennedy, P. M. (2006). *The Parliament of Man: The Past, Present and Future of the UN*. NY: Random House.

In this book, Paul Kennedy details the history of the United Nations and its relevance to the global scene today. Kennedy also engages the difficulties that the organization encounters when trying to secure a better world through the highly politicized debate of Member States. Delegates will receive a better understanding of the contributions made by the UN with an objective analysis of its failures as well.

Secretary-General's Address to the Commission on Human Rights. (2006, April 7). *Press Release*. Retrieved July 14, 2006, from United Nations Office of the Spokesman Web site:

<http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=1388>.

The address is a unique perspective of information given that the Secretary-General is addressing a body that he recommends abolishing. As always, he gives an eloquent argument on the reasons for establishing a new human rights body. This source provides a good background for the establishment of the Human Rights Council.

United Nations. General Assembly. 59th Session. (2005, March 21). *A/59/2005: In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All. Report of the Secretary-General*. Retrieved on July 10, 2006 from http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/gaA.59.2005_En.pdf.

In his report, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan outlines the pivotal position of the UN at this junction in time. Included is the need to reorganize the UN System into a more current and responsive force to deal with peace and security, development and human rights. Delegates will find the sections on human rights importance and restructuring particularly pertinent for discussions.

United Nations. General Assembly. 59th Session. (2005, June 21). *A/59/847. Summary of the Open-Ended Informal Consultations Held by the Commission on Human Rights Pursuant to Economic and Social Council Decision 2005/217, Prepared by the Chairperson of the Sixty-First Session of the Commission*. Retrieved on August 2, 2006 from http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/summary_En.pdf.

In this source, the chairperson of the 61st session of the CHR gives a summary of the committee's findings on reform measures of the UN human rights mechanisms as recommended by the UN Secretary-General. Particularly relevant are the chapters on the Human Rights Council and the role of Office of High Commissioner on Human Rights. Delegates will gain a unique perspective of the CHR's summaries on the new body that eventually replaced the CHR as well as the statements made by Member States and NGOs.

- United Nations. General Assembly. 59th Session. (2005, July). *The World Summit: An Overview*. Retrieved on July 14, 2006 from <http://www.un.org/ga/documents/overview2005summit.pdf>.
This report gives a then pre-summit perspective on issues to come in September 2005. It details the theme of the summit: Freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in dignity. This source provides delegates with further information on actions leading up to the creation of the Human Rights Council.
- United Nations. General Assembly. 59th Session. (2005, August 5). *A/59/HLPM/CRP. 1/Rev.2: Revised Draft Outcome Document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly of September 2005 Submitted by the General Assembly*. Retrieved on July 12, 2006 from http://www.un.org/ga/59/hlpm_rev.2.pdf.
This document holistically outlines the topics to be considered and points to be made at the 2005 World Summit plenary session of the General Assembly. It covers a myriad of timely topics to Member States including the Millennium Development Goals and UN reform. Delegates will particularly benefit from the sections on human rights and the Human Rights Council.
- United Nations. General Assembly. 60th Session. (2006, March 15). *General Assembly Establishes New Human Rights Council by Vote of 170 in Favor to 4 Against, with 3 Abstentions*. Retrieved July 5, 2006 from <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/ga10449.doc.htm>.
This press release is especially useful for its behind the scenes look at the debate that preceded and followed the creation of the council. It also includes background information on the topic. Delegates will possibly find speeches by their government's representative.
- United Nations. General Assembly. 60th Session. (2006, April 3). *Resolution 251: Human Rights Council*. Retrieved on July 23, 2006 from http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/A.RES.60.251_En.pdf.
This is the resolution that officially enacted the Human Rights Council. It provides for the mandate and functions of the council as well as details the council's first meeting time and place and disbands the CHR. Delegates should study this document to understand the council's mission and this topic's relevance. It is an indispensable resource for understanding this topic.
- United Nations. General Assembly. 59th Session. (2005, April 14). *Addendum 1: Human Rights Council Explanatory Note by the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General's Proposal*. Retrieved on July 5, 2006 from <http://www.un.org/largerfreedom/add1.htm>.
The Secretary-General's report In Larger Freedom contains three addendums to explain further his recommendations. This addendum speaks directly to the proposals made to strengthen the human rights mechanisms of the UN. This source will help delegates to further their understanding in the points of weakness concerning the UN human rights bodies and suggestions on how to improve them.
- United Nations. Human Rights Council. 1st Session. (2006, June 28). *A/HRC/1/L.4/Rev.1: Open-Ended Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. Retrieved on July 18, 2006 from http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/sdpage_e.aspx?b=10&se=2&t=4.
This draft resolution gives delegates an example of the type of work to come out of the Human Rights Council. It covers the council's interest in establishing a complaint mechanism for the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Complaint mechanisms such as these are an important process to human rights enforcement.
- United Nations. Human Rights Council. 1st Session. (2006, June 29). *A/HRC/1/L.12: Extension by the Human Rights Council of all Mandates, Mechanism, Functions and Responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights*. Retrieved on July 18, 2006 from http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/sdpage_e.aspx?b=10&se=2&t=4.
This document gives the continued authorization of the ongoing works of the CHR. This source ensures that there will be no gaps in previous humanitarian efforts until a thorough review of every mandate, mechanism, function, and responsibility may be investigated. Delegates will need to review this document to have a better understanding of the review work ahead of the council.

- United Nations. Human Rights Council. 1st Session. (2006, June 29). *A/HRC/I/L.13: Programme of Work for the First Year*. Retrieved on July 18, 2006 from http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/sdpage_e.aspx?b=10&se=2&t=4.
This draft agenda for the HRC's first year of meetings gives an excellent listing of initiatives to be discussed at meetings and the meetings' dates. Delegates must look at this draft agenda to understand further the structuring and implementation of the Human Rights Council.
- United Nations. Human Rights Council. 1st Session. (2006, June 29). *A/HRC/I/L.12: The Universal Periodic Review*. Retrieved on July 18, 2006 from http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/sdpage_e.aspx?b=10&se=2&t=4.
The document passed by the council details the creation of a working group to put into place a Universal Periodic Review for all UN Member States. This review is an important step for ensuring that States are upholding their obligations to human rights. Delegates are advised to watch the future developments that transpire through this working group on this matter.
- United Nations. Human Settlements Programme. (2002, April). *Rights and Reality: Are Women's Equal Rights to Land Housing and Property Implemented in East Africa?* Nairobi, Kenya: Author.
This document breaches topical issues, but contains good information on different types of legal instruments. While its focus is on gender and housing, relevant human rights treaties and their impact are presented. Delegates may use this resource as good background information on prominent treaties, declarations and such used to advocate for human rights.
- United Nations. Office at Geneva. (2006, June 30). *Human Rights Council Concludes First Session*. Retrieved July 14, 2006 from <http://www.unhchr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/13C5B111105739B5C125719F0077680D?opendocument>.
This press release details the outcomes of the first session of the Human Rights Council and gives a thorough interpretation of the bodies first resolutions and actions. The press release also details the comments of States represented in the HRC. Delegates will benefit from the analysis and behind the scenes debate information.
- United Nations. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2006, July 6). *Human Rights Council Decides to Dispatch Urgent Fact Finding-Mission to the Occupied Palestinian Territories*. Retrieved July 10, 2006 from [http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/6382E27860145DA7C12571A3004D1F19?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/6382E27860145DA7C12571A3004D1F19?OpenDocument).
This press release goes over the first Special Session held by the council on the status of human rights violations in Palestine. It details the proceedings of the session as well as discusses points made during substantive debate. Delegates will benefit from this recollection and behind the scenes account of the meeting.
- United Nations. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (n.d.). *Human Rights Fact Sheet No. 27: Seventeen Frequently Asked Questions About UN Special Rapporteurs*. Retrieved on August 23, 2006 from <http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/docs/factsheet27.pdf>.
The Human Rights fact sheet series considers specific questions on human rights that are currently and frequently relevant. This fact sheet highlights the particular role of CHR experts in relation to the UN, CHR, and other UN bodies. This source benefits delegates by informing them of the usefulness of such experts and their mandates.
- United Nations. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2005 May). *The OHCHR Plan of Action: Protection and Empowerment*. Retrieved on August 1, 2006 from <http://www.ohchr.org/english/planaction.pdf>.
The Secretary-General establishes multiple areas for improvement in the UN. The efficacy of the human rights mechanisms is dependent on cooperation between the decision-making bodies, treaty systems, and follow-up procedures. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) details its role in the strengthening of the human rights bodies especially in closing the enforcement gap. This source

introduces important aspects of this topic in considering the communication between the HRC with all other relevant bodies and offices in the UN System.

United States Congress Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, 109th Cong. (2005).

This source documents the US hearing on the effectiveness of the CHR. Despite being a State authored source, there are testimonies from relevant actors including UN officials and NGO representatives that offer unbiased opinions. Delegates will gain further insight into the problems of the CHR and hear reasons for the establishment of the council.

U.N.: Mixed Start for New Human Rights Council. (2006, June 30). *Human Rights News*. Retrieved July 10, 2006, from Human Rights Watch Web site: <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/06/30/global13685.htm>.

In this source, Human Rights Watch (HRW) provides the NGO's analysis of the first session of the HRC and the Special Session that followed on human rights violations in Occupied Palestinian Territories. HRW finds that the sessions established positive foundations for the HRC but cautions against the one sided findings of the Special Session resolutions. Delegates will be discussing the pros and cons of the HRC's initial meetings, and this source offers a perspective on the measurement of the body's success.

U.N. Reform Summit Q and A. (2005, September 8). *Human Rights News*. Retrieved July 10, 2006, from Human Rights Watch Web site: http://hrw.org/english/docs/2005/09/08/global11704_txt.htm.

This source offers an NGO perspective on the 2005 World Summit. This press release is especially pertinent to this topic because it outlines the hopeful strengths to the UN's human rights mechanism that will accompany the council's creation. Delegates will benefit from this expert analysis on the HRC.

Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, June 25, 1993, 32 I.L.M. 1661

When the World Conference on Human Rights convened, the international community poised to reaffirm its commitments to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other human rights treaties. At the conference, many NGOs came to participate in the discussion but were barred from the debate. The Vienna Declaration also institutionalized the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to streamline implementation of human rights standards and a system for follow-up. The declaration can be found at <http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/vienna.htm>.

Additional Sources

Charter of the United Nations, June 26, 1945, 59 Stat. 1031, TS No. 993, 3 Bevans 1153.

The UN Charter is an excellent resource that provides working background knowledge of the duties of the principle UN bodies. The UN Charter additionally stipulates how these bodies work together. Delegates will benefit from the perusal of this source in understanding UN purpose and workflow. The UN Charter can be found at <http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/>.

O'Flaherty, M. (2002). *Human Rights and the UN: Practice Before the Treaty Bodies* (2nd ed.). The Hague, the Netherlands: Kluwer Law International.

This book provides additional information on human rights treaties in the UN from a litigation point of view. The author describes the roles of NGOs and reporting procedures in regards to humanitarian law. Delegates may also benefit from the tables and annexes notably listing country reports.

United Nations. Commission on Human Rights. 57th Session. (2001). *E/CN.4/2001/CRP. 1: Organization of the Work of the Session: Main Rules and Practices Followed by the Commission on Human Rights in the Organization of its Work and Conduct of Business*. Retrieved August 3, 2006 from <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/compilation99-05.pdf>.

In this document, the chairperson of the CHR rules on the body's conduct of business, rules, and practices. Furthermore, this document shows that attempts of reforming the CHR's structure predated the recommendations to creation of the Human Rights Council. Delegates may use this resource to draw

conclusions on the efficiency and effectiveness of the CHR that cannot be further explored in the background guide for brevity.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, December 10, 1948, GA res. 217A (III)

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the General Assembly on December 10, 1948, initiating the international community's commitment to universal human rights in a real way. Following the GA's adoption of the UDHR, the UN urged governments to display the text in public places for their citizens to see. Delegates who view this document will understand how it created the foundation for human rights standards and legislation that followed. The UDHR can be found at <http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/index.htm>.

II. Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers

Arora, N. (2006, April 28). Over Half a Million Indian Workers Migrated to the Gulf in 05. *News India – Times*. Arora introduces the labor migration of Indian people to the Middle East. The information in the article draws parallels to the situation in Sri Lanka. The article also provides an update to the statistics of labor migration in South Asia.

Athukorala, P. (1990, Summer). International Contract Migration and the Reintegration of Return Migrants: The Experience of Sri Lanka. *International Migration Review*, 24(2). Athukorala provides a social analysis of labor migration. The introduction to contact and settlement migration is detailed and informative. The article uses Sri Lanka as an example to explain how many migrant workers who return home often end up in economic despair due to cultural barriers.

Aymer, P. (2005, June). Caribbean Women: Labor Migrants and Traders. *Ahfad Journal*, 22(1). In order to understand the problems that face women migrant workers it is essential to analyze the history behind the first female migrant workers. This article is a historical analysis of Caribbean women who were among the first women to become migrant workers. Although the Caribbean migrations occurred in the 1960's, the problems such as discrimination and hardships for migrant workers still occur today.

Bosniak, L. S. (1991, Winter). Human Rights, State Sovereignty, and the Protection of the Undocumented Migrants Under the International Migrant Workers Convention. *International Migration Review*, 25(4). The issue of undocumented workers within the bounds of the ICRMW is examined in detail within this article. It examines the limitations of the Convention due to the rights of sovereign States and compares them to the rights given to Undocumented migrants via the Convention. It is also a good introduction to the history behind the undocumented worker. It achieves that through examining the past Conventions regarding illegal migrant flows.

Committee on Migrant Workers. (2006). Main Page. In *Committee on Migrant Workers*. Retrieved July 1, 2006, from Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Web: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/members.htm>. The Committee on Migrant Workers Web site is important to understanding the current enforcement of the Convention. The Web site provides links to both the Convention and records of its meetings. Also, there are links to the most current reports on migrant laborers and their rights completed by countries that ratified the ICRMW as outlined by the convention.

Committee on Migrant Workers. (2006). *Committee on Migrant Workers - Frequently Asked Questions*. Retrieved July 2, 2006, from Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Web site: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/faqs.htm>. The FAQ section details the protection granted by the Convention. There is also some information regarding migrants including a general definition. The method of filing a complaint if rights are violated is also explained.

Eelens, F., & Speckmann, J. (1990, Summer). Recruitment of Labor Migrants for the Middle East: The Sri Lankan Case. *International Migration Review*, 24(2).

This source is a clear analysis of Sri Lankan labor migration to Gulf States in the Middle East. Eelens and Speckman examine the distinction between male and female migration in Sri Lanka. The article also mentions the types of labor for which many migrant workers in the Middle East are enlisted.

Fact Sheet #24, The Rights of Migrant Workers. (1995). Retrieved July 1, 2006, from Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Web site: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/docs/fs24.htm> .

The UNHCR provides a clear outlined view of the Convention and what led to the creation of the Convention. It also highlights many key issues of controversy including illegal migrants and terrorism. The source highlights the key articles of the Convention that are necessary to understand the issue. This is very useful in summarizing the main issues of the Convention.

Fernando, V. (2003, Fall). Sri Lanka: Violence against Women Working Overseas. *WIN News*, 29(4).
WIN News is a source of recent statistics regarding labor migration to the Middle East. The article mentions specific examples of abuse. An examination of the affect of the abuse on Sri Lankan women is also included.

Gamburd, M. R. (2004, Spring). Money That Burns Like Oil: A Sri Lankan Cultural Logic of Morality and Agency. *Ethnology*, 43(2).
Gamburd analyzes the effect of large numbers of migrant workers on the culture of Sri Lanka. The article includes discussion about the increasing number of women in labor migration. Also gender issues in a cultural context for Sri Lankans are discussed in detail.

Gee, J. (2003, November). Study finds Israel's Migrant Workers Endure a Contemporary Form of Slavery. *The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, 22(9),
The migrant labor situation in Israel that is explained through this article is not dissimilar to those in other countries. The analysis of different States' approach to migration of labor is also important. Gee provides a valuable connection between the situation described in Israel to the International problem.

Human Rights Watch. (2005, December). *Maid to Order: Ending Abuses Against Migrant Domestic Workers in Singapore* (Vol. 17 No. 10).
Human Rights Watch provides an in depth report into the rights of female migrant domestic laborers in Singapore. The report begins with an introduction into labor migration trends throughout Asia, and then narrows the information down into the human rights problems apparent with the current system of Singapore as an example. Finally, the report concludes with a section regarding the current actions of World Governments in response to the abuse of female migrant laborers.

Hune, S. (1991, Winter). Migrant Women in the Context of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. *International Migration Review*, 25(4).
Hune examines how the ICRMW protects the rights of women. Women and men are guaranteed equal protection under the Convention. However, differences in the types of work available to women are not specifically mentioned as are the needs of women as both workers and child caretakers. This source also provides historical information regarding women as migrant laborers.

International Labour Organization. (2004). *Towards a Fair Deal for Migrant Workers in the Global Economy* (92nd Session No. 6). International Labour Conference: International Labour Organization.
This is a descriptive report that outlines in detail the global situation of migrant workers. The report begins with a general introduction to the nationality of migrant workers as well as the areas to which they migrate. Afterwards, there is discussion regarding the general working conditions broken down by occupations. Furthermore, the report delves into the current international standards of regulation of migrant workers by world organization. Finally, the report concludes with a discussion on methods of managing migrations as well as an outline for a plan of action to correct some of the problems of migration of labor.

Mokhiber, R. (2002, December). Servitude in Sunshine. *Multinational Monitor*, 23(12).

There are also accusations of human rights violations in developed States with migrant workers. The treatment of undocumented workers is expressed as commonplace in the article. This is a key example to aid research into North American labor migration.

Preibisch, K. (2005, Summer). Gender Transformation Odysseys: Tracing the Experiences of Transnational Migrant Women in Rural Canada. *Canadian Woman Studies*, 24(4).

The disparity between the treatment of female and male migrant workers through the context of a Canadian migrant worker program is provided by Preibisch. The insight provided by Preibisch explains why women need to be considered when discussing the rights of migrant workers. This article also provides insight into governmental programs that involve migrant workers.

Robinson, M. (2005). The Protection of Human Rights in Migrant Flows. *Migration World Magazine*, 29(3).

Robinson provides an updated look at labor migration. The article serves to outline the recent developments by the UN community in regards to the rights of migrant workers. Robinson gives a picture of the current situation of migrant workers.

Sivakumaran, S. (2004, Fall). The Rights of Migrant Workers One Year on: Transformation or Consolidation? *Georgetown Journal of International Law*, 36(1).

This source is essential to deducing what effect on Migrant Workers' rights the Convention has had since its entry into force in 2003. It also serves to analyze the Convention and its creation. The source includes references to current and past UN action regarding migrant workers. In addition, it serves as a guide into what changes still remain to be made. Also a clear and thorough analysis of both ILO conventions is made, along with a history of past UN bodies/organizations and their involvement with the rights of migrant workers.

United Nations Working Group. (1990, December 18). *The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*. Retrieved July 1, 2006, from Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Web site: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/cmw.htm>.

This document serves as the standard regarding the rights of Migrant Workers, as it clearly defines the rights of migrant workers and the obligations of States in regard to migrant workers. This is recommended reading to understand the issue at hand. It is important to pay attention to the articles regarding illegal migrants. Also a clear understanding of the rights attributed to workers is necessary.

Wijesekera, M. (2005, July 5). Sri Lanka: Pitiful Heroines of Sri Lanka. *Women's Feature Service*.

Wijesekera reviews the rights of migrant workers in Sri Lanka with a special emphasis on how the Sri Lankan government responds to having a large portion of the labor force being migrant workers. This article also provides examples of rights violations that are commonplace to migrant workers. The article is from a feminist news service and explains the situation of women migrant workers well in Sri Lanka.

Working Far From Home – Migration and Discrimination. (2001, July 6). Retrieved July 3, 2006, from The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance Web site: <http://www.un.org/WCAR/e-kit/migration.htm>.

The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance is a good source regarding many human rights issues including labor migration. It provides some insight into recent actions regarding international migration and rights violation. The article also reflects the urgency of the issue and calls for action to protect the rights of these individuals.

World Conference on Human Rights. (1993, June 25). *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*. Retrieved July 5, 2006, from Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Web site:

[http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/\(Symbol\)/A.CONF.157.23.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/(Symbol)/A.CONF.157.23.En?OpenDocument).

The Vienna Declaration is a standard for human rights throughout the international community. Although not directly centered on Migrant Workers, the Declaration serves as an example of the rights that are needed for migrant workers. The Declaration notes the still vulnerable position of migrant laborers and recognizes the need of discussion and resolution.

Yeoh, B. S. A., Huang, S., & Gonzalez, J., III. (1999, Spring). Migrant Female Domestic Workers: Debating the Economic, Social and Political Impacts in Singapore. *The International Migration Review*, 33(1). *Singapore is a major destination for labor migration. This article provides details into actions of the Singapore government, which does not wish to have a large amount of migrant workers. Yeoh, et. all, provide insight into the growth of demand of foreign housemaids.*

III. Developing Partnerships to Combat Diseases Resulting from Environmental Degradation

Angola: Programme Overview. (2006). *Angola*. Retrieved July 26, 2006, from Oxfam Web site: http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/where_we_work/angola/programme.htm. *Oxfam is one of many NGOs that work in conflict areas such as Angola. They provide an example of the important role NGOs play in providing health and infrastructure support during conflicts. Delegates should examine the types of programs Oxfam is involved and their impact on combating diseases.*

Armed Conflict and the Environment. (2003, February/March 21). *The World Conservation Union (IUCN)*. Retrieved July 15, 2006, from The World Conservation Union (IUCN) Web site: http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2001_2005/press/iraqstatement210303.pdf. *This article describes some measures being taken to confront environmental degradation resulting from armed conflict. IUCN is an international body, with representation from governments and NGOs. The article contains a diverse range of measures dealing with environmental degradation.*

Ataniyazova, M. Sc., O. A., PhD. (2003, March 18). *Health and Ecological Consequences of the Aral Sea Crisis*. Retrieved July 5, 2006, from http://www.adb.org/Documents/Presentations/RC_Shared_Water/Ataniyazova.pdf. *One of the most affected areas of the shrinking of the Aral Sea is the region of Karakalpak in Uzbekistan. This document studies the extreme health crisis the local population has faced due to this environmental disaster. The article describes some regional partnerships that have attempted to reverse some of the environmental damage.*

Biodiversity: Its Importance to Human Health. (2006). Retrieved July 11, 2006, from Harvard Medical School, Center for Health and Global Environment Web site: http://chge.med.harvard.edu/publications/documents/Hi_res_IES_2nd_Prtg.pdf. *This report is on the loss of native biodiversity and its impact on human health. It provides technical information on roles of predators, prey, and insects in spread of disease. The report describes differing ways that human activity has negatively impacted biodiversity.*

Comprehensive Child Health Care Campaign Underway. (2006, July 13). *UN Integrated Regional Information Networks*. Retrieved July 26, 2006, from <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200607130658.htm>. *This article examines a joint program in Angola to provide immunization to children. It is important to review for information on successful partnerships and the impact they can have on fighting diseases caused by environmental degradation during conflict. This article provides an example of the long term impact of conflict on environmental degradation and human health.*

Dossal, A. A. (2004). UNFIP: Partnerships beyond borders. *UN Chronicle Online Edition*. Retrieved July 15, 2006, from <http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2004/issue1/0104p6.asp>. *This article is from the UN Chronicle on the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships. It provides important information on what UNFIP is and what it does. The article lists names of companies and foundations that UNFIP is partnered. There is also information on the various types of projects that UNFIP works on, which can be used as examples of successful international partnerships.*

Eco-friendly Development Builds Hope for a Greener Future. (n.d.). USAID.org. Retrieved July 11, 2006, from United States Agency for International Development Web site: http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/press/reach/eco_dev.html. *USAID has been involved in projects to provide fresh water to residents of the Aral Sea region. The article from the USAID Web site provides some information of one of the more successful USAID projects. The project is an example of a successful international partnership with a state in the Central Asian region.*

Ecosystems and Human Well - Being: A Framework for Assessment. (2005). Island Press. Retrieved July 10, 2006, from Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Web site:

<http://www.maweb.org/en/Products.EHWP.aspx#downloads>.

This report, from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, was released in 2005 and focuses on how human activities have altered the Earth's natural ecosystem and its effect on human well-being. Detailed information is provided on the effects of environmental degradation on human health. The report also details possible future scenarios of health and environmental degradation.

Emission Reductions from Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism Pass the One Billion Tonnes Mark. (2006, June). *United Nations*. Retrieved July 15, 2006, from

http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/20060608_cdm_1_billion_tonnes-english.pdf.

The Kyoto Protocol is an example of an international partnership attempting to combat environmental degradation and its impact on the globe. This press release provides updated information on the Kyoto Protocol. It examines how the Protocol is affecting development projects in regions such as Africa.

Epstein, P. R., & Guest, G. (n.d.). International Architecture for Sustainable Development and Global Health. In G. Guest (Ed.), *Globalization, Health and the Environment: An Integrated Perspective* (pp. 239 - 258). (Original work published 2005).

This chapter examines the connection between globalization and human health. The author looks at historical context of change in worldview on health and environment. It is important to examine the recommendations on possible alternatives to current international order on dealing with environment, health, and development.

Fact Sheet. (2005, July). *Climate and Health*. Retrieved July 15, 2006, from World Health Organization Web site:

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs266/en/>.

The WHO provides detailed information on the effects of climate on health. The information is broken down to look at rise of infectious diseases, extreme temperatures, and natural disasters. The report examines how developed vs. developing countries are able to respond to all three.

Gleick, P. H., PhD. (2005). *The World's Water: Water Conflict Chronology*. Retrieved July 13, 2006, from Pacific Institute Web site: <http://www.worldwater.org/conflictchronology.html>.

This Web site provides a detailed list of how water has been involved in various conflicts throughout time. The detailed information from the Web site includes: dates, States involved, and actions taken against water resources. It examines the importance throughout time of water resources and their vulnerability in conflict.

Global Warming Can be Fought on the Local Level. (2006, July 20). *The Arizona Daily Star*. Retrieved July 26, 2006, from <http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/138597>.

This article examines how some local US officials are finding their own ways to combat global warming, despite the federal government's resistance to treaties such as Kyoto Protocol. It also discusses some of the different types of programs that can be initiated locally to combat global warming. A variety of local initiatives that have been taken in the US are listed.

Johnson, L. (2002, November 12). Iraqi Cancers, Birth Defects Blamed on U.S. Depleted Uranium. *Seattlepi.com*. Retrieved July 13, 2006, from http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/95178_du12.shtml.

The article discusses the issue of possible health implications of US using depleted uranium in tank shells during US first Gulf War. This is an example of unintentional environmental degradation. Often parties in conflicts inflict damage to the "enemy" during war and do not realize the long-term health impacts such destruction causes.

Kriner, S. (2002, April 10). *Aral Sea Ecological Disaster Causes Humanitarian Crisis*. RedCross.org. Retrieved July 10, 2006, from <http://www.redcross.org/news/in/asia/020410aral.html>.

The NGO perspective on humanitarian situation in the Aral Sea region is an important element to . The article discusses the lack of humanitarian workers dealing with the health issues. It provides information on the major health concerns for those living in the Aral Sea region.

Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (1997). Entered into force on February 16, 2005. Retrieved July 15, 2006 from <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.html>
The Kyoto Protocol is an important treaty to attempt to reduce emissions. The treaty also specifies setting up clean alternatives for development projects. However, not all States have signed the treaty.

Owen, J. (n.d.). *Aral Sea*. The Water Page. Retrieved July 13, 2006, from <http://www.thewaterpage.com/aral.htm>.
It is important to have an understanding of the background information on the Aral Sea crisis. There is also information on some of the international efforts that have been made to halt the shrinkage of the Aral Sea. The author provides some comments on the feasibility of some of the projects and their possible impact on the region.

Pfizer. (n.d.). *2005 Corporate Citizenship Report*. Retrieved July 15, 2006, from Pfizer Web site: http://www.pfizer.com/pfizer/subsites/corporate_citizenship/report/improve_access.jsp.
The pharmaceutical company Pfizer had many initiatives to increase global medicine supplies. It is important to look at the valuable companies such as Pfizer can play in combating diseases, especially curable diseases. Information is also provided on other programs in which Pfizer takes part.

Polkinghorn, B. D. (2000). *The Social Origins of Environmental Resource Conflicts: Exposing the Roots of Tangible Disputes*. In S. Byrne & C. L. Irvin (Eds.). *Reconcilable Differences: Turning Points in Ethnopolitical Conflicts* (pp. 79 - 95). West Hartford, Connecticut: Kumarian Press.
This book provides information on conflicts with environmental causes. The complexities involved when attempting to resolve environmental conflicts are examined in the book. The author poses possible methods to advert conflicts over environmental resources.

Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol 1). (1977). Adopted by the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts. Entered into force on December 7, 1979. Retrieved on July 26, 2006 from <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/93.htm>.
This Protocol is important because it specifically prohibits the deliberate destruction of the environment during times of war. This means that care must be taken to protect infrastructure, which could damage the health of the population. Protocol details the various enforcement methods.

Providing Health Care in Northern Uganda's Paper District. (2006, June). Doctors Without Borders. Retrieved July 26, 2006, from Doctors Without Borders (MSF) Web site: <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/news/2006/06-19-2006.htm>.
This article examines the role of NGOs that provide medical care in areas of conflict. This article provides on the ground information of the health problems that arise out of conflict and its impact on the local environment. It is important to examine the role that NGOs play in developing partnerships to combat disease.

The UN Millennium Development Goals. (n.d.). Retrieved July 7, 2006, from United Nations Web site: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/index.html>.
The Millennium Development Goals are an integral part to the understanding of what needs to be done to eradicate the spread of disease in the developing world. This Web site provides background and information on the original Millennium Declaration and progress reports. Delegates should consult the Web site regularly to gain the latest news on the MDG from around the globe. There are relevant links to related organizations and Web casts on the MDGs.

United Nations General Assembly. (1997) *The Almaty Declaration (A/52/112)*. Adopted March 18, 1997. Retrieved July 12, 2006 from <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/52/plenary/a52-112.htm>.

The Almaty Declaration is an example of an international effort to respond to the Aral Sea crisis. The Declaration was drafted by states of the Aral Sea region. The states of the Aral Sea region express their specific perceptions on the major problems related to the Aral Sea crisis.

United Nations General Assembly. (2000). *Millennium Development Declaration (A/55/L.2)*. Adopted September 8, 2000. Retrieved July 12, 2006 from <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>.

All eight of the Millennium Development Goals will be unattainable if the issues of health and environmental degradation are not addressed. Use this document as the foundation when formulating solutions to this issue. The Declaration outlines specific goals that all states should address.

Westing, A. H., Fox, W., & Renner, M. (2001). *Environmental Degradation as Both Consequence and Cause of Armed Conflict*. Retrieved July 5, 2006, from <http://www.institute-for-nonviolence.com.au/downloads/pdf/EnvirDegrad.pdf>.

The authors examine the connection of environmental degradation as consequence of conflict as well as being a cause of conflict. It provides information on different types of environmental degradation related to conflict. It is important to consider possible international laws relevant to dealing with this issue.

What is HELI? (n.d.). *The Health and Environment Linkages Initiative (HELI)*. Retrieved July 10, 2006, from World Health Organization, UN Environmental Programme Web site: <http://www.who.int/heli/aboutus/en/print.html>.

HELI is playing an important role in creating international partnerships. The Web site provides important information about current international partnerships working towards environmental goals. Information is provided on the contributions of governments and civil society to improving health around the globe.

Whish - Wilson, P. (2002, summer). The Aral Sea environmental health crisis. *Journal of Rural and Remote Environmental Health*, 1(2), 29 - 34.

The article examines the widespread health situation within the greater Aral Sea region. In order to understand the conflict, delegates must understand the background information on the role of the Soviets in the diversion of the water and specific details of amount of water depleted. Information is provided on the health impact of the desiccation of the sea on local populations.

World Health Organization. *Preventing Disease Through Healthy Environments: Towards an Estimate of the Environmental Burden of Disease*. (2006). Retrieved July 13, 2006, from World Health Organization Web site: http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/publications/preventingdisease/en/index.html.

Unhealthy environmental factors are a major cause of disease. This portion of the World Health Organization's Web site discusses how disease prevention is greatly aided by a clean environment. An estimate of how much the environment contributes to disease globally is provided on this Web site.

World Health Organization. (2003). *Climate Change and Human Health - Risks and Responses*. Retrieved July 26, 2006, from World Health Organization Web site: <http://www.who.int/globalchange/climate/en/ccSCREEN.pdf>.

Produced by the WHO, WMO, and UNEP, this report discusses the effects of climate change on human health. This document provides important detailed information on health risks around the globe. There is also valuable information on responses to these health risks.

WHO Programme on Disease Control in Humanitarian Emergencies (DCE). (n.d.). Retrieved July 13, 2006, from World Health Organization Web site: http://www.who.int/diseasecontrol_emergencies/en/.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has a program to deal with the outbreak of diseases in humanitarian emergencies. Specifically the program addresses the issue of refugees, who are fleeing areas of conflict and end up in refugee camps. The program also works to develop international partnerships to deal with this issue.

Additional Sources

Alarming Medical and Sanitary Situation in Ituri, DRC. (2006, July 21). *Medecins Sans Frontieres*. Retrieved July 26, 2006, from Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) Web site:

<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/pr/2006/07-21-2006.cfm>.

MSF provides an example of how an NGO is able to go into conflict situations and work to provide medical assistance. However, there is a limit to what can be done. This article highlights the risks and limitations that can be done by NGOs.

Donohoe, M. (2003). Causes and Health Consequences of Environmental Degradation and Social Injustice. *Social Science and Medicine*, 56, 573 - 587.

Donohoe looks at connection between environmental degradation and social justice. The article breaks down the health and social consequences of environmental degradation by types of environmental degradation. This is a good source to use when considering the far-reaching impact of disease and destruction of the environment.

Globalization and Infectious Diseases: A Review of the Linkages (Special Topic No. 3). (n.d.).

UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO/TDR. Retrieved July 11, 2006, from WHO Web site:

http://www.who.int/tdr/publications/publications/pdf/seb_topic3.pdf.

The report explores the links between globalization and infectious diseases. It provides information on different types of environmental degradation and its impact on infectious diseases on local populations. One of the links that is examined is the use of technology and travel in the spread of disease.

Supplemental Conference Information

Message from the Directors-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2007 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
- 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

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

1. A file of the position paper (.doc, .pdf or .rtf) for each assigned committee should be sent to the appropriate committee email address for the appropriate venue in which you are participating. Each address is also listed in individual background guides, which will be posted by November 15, 2006. These e-mail addresses will be active after November 15. 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 **February 22, 2007**. *E-mailed files should be in Microsoft Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf), or Adobe (.pdf) formats.*

PLEASE NOTE IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF THE E-MAIL/DOCUMENT THE NAME OF THE COUNTRY & COMMITTEE.

*A matrix of received papers will be posted online for delegations to check by March 1, 2007. If you need to make other arrangements for submission, please contact **Jacob Schanzenbach**, Director-General, Sheraton venue or **Tracy Kingsley**, Director-General, Marriott venue at dirgen@nmun.org.*

Additionally, each delegation should submit a copy of their position paper to the permanent mission of the country being represented, 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 preparation for the 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.

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 download section at www.nmun.org to find an example of an award-winning position paper. When using these sources, please be mindful of the NMUN policy against plagiarism.

Delegation from (*Insert Member State/NGO Name*)

Represented by (*Insert Delegation Name Here*)

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

Please refer to the Delegate Preparation Manual available at www.nmun.org for a detailed instruction on resolution and report writing.

The substantive work of committees at the NMUN conference generally takes the form of either resolutions or reports. At the 2007 NMUN Conference, the ICTY will adopt a variation on these forms. The ICTY will create judgments. 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 2007 NMUN Conference:

Resolution Writing Committees

- GA Plenary, GA 4th, CD, SC
- CCPCJ, ECOSOC Plenary, CND
- ADB, ARF, CoE, OAS
- WFP, WHO

Report (or variation thereof) Writing Committees

- CEIRPP
- ICTY, IHP, UNWTO
- ECLAC, ESCWA, OPEC-IEA

Resolutions

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. 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. 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.

Please reference the Delegate Preparation Manual available at <http://www.nmun.org> for an example of the style used at NMUN, as well as other helpful information necessary to draft appropriately a resolution.

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. Prior to the NMUN Conference in March 2007, 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.

Reports are similar in nature to resolutions, with only a few key differences. Reports represent the formal recommendation and/or decision 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.

Please also reference the Delegate Preparation Manual available at <http://www.nmun.org> for an example of the style used at NMUN, as well as other helpful information necessary to draft appropriately a report.

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 Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia [ICTY] a variation of this process will be used. Delegates participating in the ICTY should carefully follow the delegate preparation manual for the ICTY, the various sections of the Background Guide of the ICTY, and refer to the ICTY portion of the NMUN website for a separate copy for perpetration.

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 in the middle 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 Directors-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 as 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.

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 Directors-General) will select a committee chair and rapporteur (committee administrative assistant) following the conclusion of interviews on the first evening of the Conference. For those interested in the opportunity to serve the committee as a chairperson or rapporteur, an application will be available online at www.nmun.org after January 1, 2007. 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 2007 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 Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). 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, a working paper/working draft report which has not been approved by the committee Director will not be copied by the dais. It is the responsibility of the delegates to copy their own working paper/working draft report if they choose to share copies of the document which has not been submitted for approval. 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.

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 Plenary Sessions

By the conclusion of the first night session, 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 the conclusion of the first evening meeting. 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 the evening prior to the Plenary session, following the conclusion of the regular session. 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 the same evening.

The night before the Plenary session,, 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 the Plenary sessions to deliberate upon each committee's recommendations to the Plenary.

ECOSOC Executive Bureau

The 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 prior evening's meeting, the Bureau will set an agenda order for the review of these reports for deliberation and potential adoption during Plenary sessions. Additionally, the ECOSOC Plenary session will deliberate upon a fourth topic to be prepared and introduced by the Director and Assistant Director.

This topic 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

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 non-governmental organizations and other bodies. Following the conclusion of regular sessions on the last evening of session, the General Committee will set the agenda order for the review of these reports and resolutions and for their potential adoption during the Plenary sessions.

Plenary Sessions

On 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. All delegates are advised to participate in these 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 these sessions will be made available to all delegates.

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.

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. This process 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. 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.

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 Directors-General gave 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 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.

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 Directors-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 academic 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 Roles of State Delegates, Technical Experts, and Independent Technical Experts at the 2007 National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference

The Variety of Roles That Delegates Simulate at the NMUN Conference

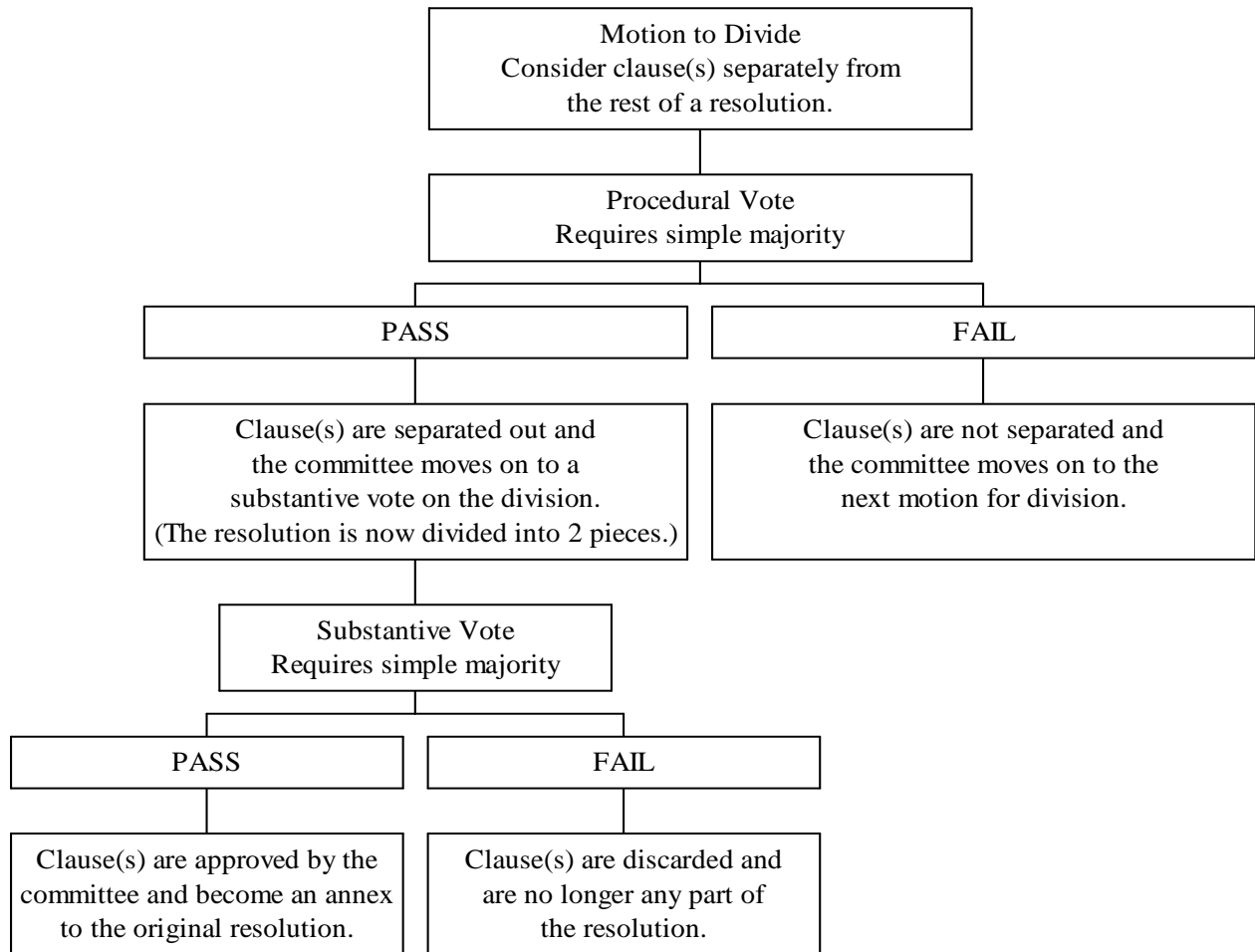
At the National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference, delegates assume one of three roles when they participate in committee proceedings. They serve as a delegate representing the national interest of their state (state delegate), a technical expert, or an independent technical expert. At the 2007 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 ICTY, this role will specifically be addressed in the ICTY 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.

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

Please Note: This form is only for assistance in your preparation at the NMNU Conference. It however is not an exhaustive list of rules, nor is it the official list for your committee. The official rules are located at the end of the individual Committee Background Guide.

Motion	Purpose	Debate	Vote
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 st 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



Committee Rules of Procedure

Rules of Procedure General Assembly Plenary

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the General Assembly Plenary (hereinafter referred to as “the Assembly”) and shall be considered adopted by the Assembly prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Plenary 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 her or his 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, “President” shall refer to the chairperson or acting chairperson of the Assembly.

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - Dates of convening and adjournment

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

Rule 2 - Place of sessions

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

II. AGENDA

Rule 3 - Provisional agenda

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

Rule 4 - Adoption of the agenda

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. Items on the agenda may be amended or deleted by the Assembly 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” means those delegates, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote.

Rule 5 - Revision of the agenda

During a session, the Assembly may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only important and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during a session. Permission to speak on a motion to revise the agenda shall be accorded only to three representatives in favor of, and three opposed to, the revision. Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a session, may be placed on the agenda if the Assembly so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the General Assembly decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a committee has reported on the question concerned.

As the General Assembly Plenary determines the agenda for its Committees, this rule is applicable only to the Plenary body. Items cannot be amended or added to the agenda by any of the Committees of the Assembly. For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item of an “important and urgent character” is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final. If an item is determined to be of such a character, then it requires a two-thirds vote of the Assembly to be placed on the agenda. It will, however, not be considered by

the Assembly until a committee has reported on the question, or a second two-thirds vote is successful to keep the Plenary body seized of the matter. The votes described in this rule are substantive vote, and, as such, observers are not permitted to cast a vote. 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 6 - Explanatory memorandum

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

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule - Duties of the Secretary-General

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

Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat

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

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat

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

Rule 10 - Selection of the President

The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall appoint, from applications received by the Secretariat, a President who shall hold office and, *inter alia*, chair the Assembly for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretary-General. The Assembly shall have twenty-one Vice-Presidents, based on the same apportionment as the Vice-Presidents recognized in the Assembly.

Rule 11 - Replacement of the President

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

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 12 - Official and working language

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

Rule 13 - Interpretation (oral) or translation (written)

Any representative wishing to address any United Nations organ or submit a document in a language other than English shall provide interpretation or 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 interpretation must be within the set time limit.

V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 14 - Quorum

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

For purposes of this rule, “members of the Assembly” means the total number of members (not including observers) in attendance at the Tuesday night meeting.

Rule 15 - General powers of the President

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Assembly, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Assembly and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He or she shall rule on points of order. He or she may propose to the Assembly 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 President’s power to assign speaking times for all speeches incidental to motions and amendment. Further, the President is to use her/his 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 President’s power to “propose to the Assembly” entails her/his power to “entertain” motions, and not to move the body on his or her own motion.

Rule 16

The President, in the exercise of her or his functions, remains under the authority of the Assembly.

Rule 17 - Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President. Any appeal of the decision of the President shall be immediately put to a vote, and the ruling of the President 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 President, sua sponte, during the speech. For purposes of this rule, “the members present and voting” mean those members (not including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 18

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

Rule 19 - Speeches

1. No one may address the Assembly without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President 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 Assembly, and the President may call a speaker to order if her/his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The Assembly may limit the time allowed to speakers and all representatives may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives favoring and two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call her or him 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 President determines that the Assembly 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 President, in her/his 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.

Rule 20 - Closing of list of speakers

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 President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Assembly, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by decision of the Assembly.

The decision to announce the list of speakers is within the discretion of the President and should not be the subject of a motion by the Assembly. A motion to close the speakers list is within the purview of the Assembly and the President should not act on her/his own motion.

Rule 21 - Right of reply

If a remark impugns the integrity of a representative's State, the President may permit that representative to exercise her/his 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 interventions in the exercise of the right of reply shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point of order or motion. The reply shall be read to the Assembly 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.

Rule 22 - Suspension of the meeting

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.

Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting

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 Assembly shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

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

Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate

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.

Rule 25 - Closure of debate

A representative may at any time move the closure of debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified her/his 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 Assembly favors the closure of debate, the Assembly shall immediately move to vote on all proposals introduced under that agenda item.

Rule 26 - Order of motions

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.

Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments

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 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 Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations. The President 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 Assembly 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 Assembly by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of the working papers. 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 Assembly. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Assembly 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.

Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions

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.

Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic

When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Assembly, 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 meeting during which this motion is voted upon by the body.

VI. VOTING

Rule 30 - Voting rights

Each member of the Assembly shall have one vote.

This rule 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, who are not permitted to cast votes on substantive matters.

Rule 31 - Request for a vote

A proposal or motion before the Assembly for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Assembly 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 President 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 a vote.

Rule 32 - Majority required

1. Unless specified otherwise in these rules, decisions of the Assembly 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 meeting during which the substantive voting occurs, must cast an affirmative or negative vote, and cannot abstain.

Rule 33 - Important questions

1. The Assembly may declare a question as important. Motions to declare a topic an important question must be made at the outset of the voting procedure for that topic; such motions may only be made by the Assembly. On such a motion, two members may speak in favor of the motion and two may speak against it. The motion shall then be immediately put to the vote, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. Decisions of the General Assembly on important questions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. These questions shall include: recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security, the election of non-permanent members of the Security Council, the election of members of the Economic and Social Council, the election of the members of the Trusteeship Council, the admission of new Members to the United Nations, the suspension of the rights and privileges of membership, the expulsion of members, questions relating to the operation of the trusteeship system, and budgetary questions.
2. Decisions of the Assembly on amendments to proposals relating to important questions, and on parts of such proposals put to the vote separately, shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 34 - Method of voting

1. The Assembly 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 President. 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 President 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 Assembly votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of placards and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote. A representative may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the Assembly 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.

Rule 35 - Explanations of vote

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 President 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 President in writing immediately after voting on the topic ends.

Rule 36 - Conduct during voting

After the President 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.

Rule 37 - Division of proposals and amendments

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 President 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.

Rule 38 - Amendments

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 perambulatory clauses.

Rule 39 - Order of voting on amendments

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.

Rule 40 - Order of voting on proposals

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

Rule 41 - The President shall not vote

The President shall not vote but may designate another member of her/his delegation to vote in her/his place.

VII. CREDENTIALS

Rule 42 - Submission of credentials

The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General prior to the opening of a session.

Rule 43 - Credentials Committee

A Credentials Committee, consisting of nine members, shall be appointed by the Secretary-General at the beginning

of each session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report without delay. The Main Committees shall be bound by the actions of the Plenary in all matters relating to credentials and shall take no action regarding the credentials of any Member State.

Rule 44 - Provisional admission to a session

Any representative to whose admission a member has made objection shall be seated provisionally with the same rights as other representatives until the Credentials Committee has reported and the Assembly has given its decision.

VIII. GENERAL COMMITTEE

Rule 45 - Composition

The General Committee shall comprise the President of the Assembly, who shall preside, the twenty-one Vice-Presidents and the Chairpersons of the six Main Committees.

Rule 46 - Functions

In considering matters relating to the agenda of the Assembly, the General Committee shall not discuss the substance of any item except in so far as this bears upon the question whether the General Committee should recommend the inclusion of the item in the agenda and what priority should be accorded to an item the inclusion of which has been recommended.

Rule 47

The General Committee shall assist the President and the Assembly in drawing up the agenda for each plenary meeting, in determining the priority of its items, and in coordinating the proceedings of all committees of the Assembly. It shall assist the President in the general conduct of the work of the General Assembly which falls within the competence of the President. It shall not, however, decide any political question.

Rule 48 - Participation by members requesting the inclusion of items in the agenda

A member of the Assembly which has no representative on the General Committee and which has requested the inclusion of an item in the agenda shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the General Committee at which its request is discussed and may participate, without a vote, in the discussion of that item.

IX. MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

Rule 49 - Invitation to silent prayer or meditation

Immediately after the opening of the first plenary meeting of the 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.

X. COMMITTEES

Rule 50 - Establishment of committees

The Assembly may establish such committees as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

Rule 51 - Categories of subjects

Items relating to the same category of subjects shall be referred to the committee or committees dealing with that category of subjects. Committees shall not introduce new items on their own initiative.

Rule 52 - Main Committees

The Main Committees of the Assembly are the following:

- a) Political and Security Committee (First Committee)
- b) Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)
- c) Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee)
- d) Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
- e) Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee)
- f) Legal Committee (Sixth Committee)

Rule 53 - Organization of work

Each committee, taking into account the closing date of the session, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete consideration of the items referred to it.

Rule 54 - Discussion of reports of Main Committees

Discussion of a report of a Main Committee in a plenary meeting of the Assembly shall take place if at least one third of the members present and voting at the plenary meeting consider such a discussion to be necessary. Any proposal to this effect shall not be debated but shall be immediately put to a vote.

XI. ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rule 55 - Applications

Any State which desires to become a Member of the United Nations shall submit an application to the Secretary-General. Such application shall contain a declaration, made in formal instrument that the State in question accepts the obligations contained in the Charter.

Rule 56 - Notification of applications

The Secretary-General shall, for information, send a copy of the application to the General Assembly, or to the Members of the United Nations if the Assembly is not in session.

Rule 57 - Consideration of applications and decisions thereon

If the Security Council recommends the applicant State for membership, the Assembly shall consider whether the applicant is a peace-loving State and is able and willing to carry out the obligations contained in the Charter and shall decide, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, upon its application for membership.

Rule 58

If the Security Council does not recommend the applicant State for membership or postpones the consideration of the application, the General Assembly may, after full consideration of a special report of the Security Council, send the application back to the Council, together with a full record of the discussion in the Assembly, for further consideration and recommendation or report.

Rule 59 - Notification of decision and effective date of membership

The Secretary-General shall inform the applicant State of the decision of the Assembly. If the applicant is approved, membership shall become effective on the date on which the Assembly takes its decision on the application.