

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIRD COMMITTEE

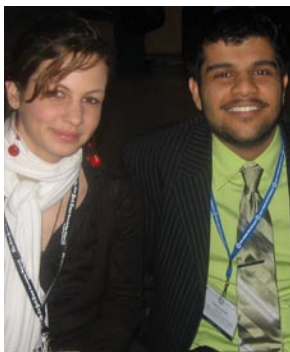
# GA3<sub>rd</sub>

NMUN•08

NATIONAL MODEL  
UNITED NATIONS

## 2008 COMMITTEE BACKGROUND GUIDE

[www.nmun.org](http://www.nmun.org)



### WRITTEN BY:

Holger Baer  
Sebastian Schindler  
Lina Ericsson  
Michael T. Ahearn

### CONTRIBUTIONS BY:

Margaret LaBorde  
Sean Graves

18-22 March  
Sheraton New York

22-26 April  
New York Marriott Marquis



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Please consult the FAQ section of [www.nmun.org](http://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

Erin Kennedy | [secgen@nmun.org](mailto:secgen@nmun.org)  
718.810.5044 phone

#### NCCA/NMUN Executive Director

Michael Eaton | [eaton@nmun.org](mailto:eaton@nmun.org)  
1.651.493.4404 phone | 1.651.484.2531 fax

#### NMUN Director-General (Sheraton)

Linda Poppe | [dirgen@nmun.org](mailto:dirgen@nmun.org)

#### NMUN Director-General (Marriott)

Galen Stocking | [dirgen@nmun.org](mailto:dirgen@nmun.org)

## NMUN•08 IMPORTANT DATES

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** To make hotel reservations, you must use the forms at [www.nmun.org](http://www.nmun.org) and include a \$1,000 deposit. Discount rates are available until the room block is full or one month before the conference – whichever comes first. **PLEASE BOOK EARLY!**

SHERATON	MARRIOTT	
31 January 2008	31 January 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm Attendance &amp; Delegate Count. (Count may be changed up to 1 March)</li> <li>Make Transportation Arrangements - DON'T FORGET!</li> </ul> (We recommend confirming hotel accommodations prior to booking flights.)
15 February 2008	15 February 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee Updates Posted to <a href="http://www.nmun.org">www.nmun.org</a>.</li> </ul>
23 February 2008	21 March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hotel Registration with FULL PRE-PAYMENT Due to Hotel - Register Early! Registration is first-come, first-served.</li> </ul>
1 March 2008	1 March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any Changes to Delegate Numbers Must be Confirmed to <a href="mailto:eaton@nmun.org">eaton@nmun.org</a></li> </ul>
1 March 2008	1 April 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two Copies of Each Position Paper Due via E-mail (See Delegate Preparation Guide for instructions).</li> </ul>
3 March 2008	1 April 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>

#### NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

#### The 2008 National Model UN Conference

- 18 - 22 March — Sheraton New York
- 22 - 26 April — New York Marriott Marquis

Two copies of each position paper should be sent via e-mail by 1 MARCH 2008 (Sheraton Venue) or 1 APRIL 2008 (Marriott Venue)

## 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 1 March (Sheraton Venue) or 1 April (Marriott Venue) 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. *Please put committee and assignment in the subject line (Example: GAPLEN\_Greece).*

## 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 committee, assignment and delegation name in the subject line (Example: Cuba\_U\_of\_ABC).* 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 FIRST COMMITTEE	galst.sheraton@nmun.org	GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE	galst.marriott@nmun.org
GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECOND COMMITTEE	ga2nd.sheraton@nmun.org	GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECOND COMMITTEE	ga2nd.marriott@nmun.org
GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIRD COMMITTEE	ga3rd.sheraton@nmun.org	GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIRD COMMITTEE	ga3rd.marriott@nmun.org
SECURITY COUNCIL	sc.sheraton@nmun.org	SECURITY COUNCIL	sc.marriott@nmun.org
SECURITY COUNCIL 2	sc2.sheraton@nmun.org	SECURITY COUNCIL 2	sc2.marriott@nmun.org
ECOSOC PLENARY	ecosoc.sheraton@nmun.org	ECOSOC PLENARY	ecosoc.marriott@nmun.org
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA	eca.sheraton@nmun.org	ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA	eca.marriott@nmun.org
UN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME	habitat.sheraton@nmun.org	UN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME	habitat.marriott@nmun.org
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN	csw.sheraton@nmun.org	COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN	csw.marriott@nmun.org
UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES	unpfii.sheraton@nmun.org	UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES	unpfii.marriott@nmun.org
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY	iaea.sheraton@nmun.org	INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY	iaea.marriott@nmun.org
UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME	unep.sheraton@nmun.org	UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME	unep.marriott@nmun.org
SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE	scsl.sheraton@nmun.org	SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE	scsl.marriott@nmun.org
UN POPULATION FUND	unfpa.sheraton@nmun.org	UN POPULATION FUND	unfpa.marriott@nmun.org
UN RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES		UN RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES	
IN THE NEAR EAST	unrwa.sheraton@nmun.org	IN THE NEAR EAST	unrwa.marriott@nmun.org
PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION	paho.sheraton@nmun.org	PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION	paho.marriott@nmun.org
AFRICAN UNION	au.sheraton@nmun.org	AFRICAN UNION	au.marriott@nmun.org
ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION	appec.sheraton@nmun.org	ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION	appec.marriott@nmun.org
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE	oic.sheraton@nmun.org	ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE	oic.marriott@nmun.org
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION	nato.sheraton@nmun.org	NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION	nato.marriott@nmun.org

## OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:

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

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# THE 2008 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

New York City, 18-22 March (Sheraton) & 22-26 April (Marriott)

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2008 National Model United Nations (NMUN). Your Directors for the General Assembly Social, Humanitarian and Cultural (GA 3<sup>rd</sup>) Committee are Sebastian Schindler and Holger Baer. Sebastian Schindler, who is pursuing a MA in Political Science at Munich University and has previously served as Director of the World Food Programme, will be the Director at the Marriott Venue. Holger Baer will be the Director at the Sheraton Venue. He was Assistant Director of the African Development Bank last year, and is pursuing a MA in Politics and Public Administration at Constance University and York University, Toronto. Sebastian Schindler will be assisted by Lina Ericsson, who is in her last year of study at Jönköping International Business School, where she is pursuing an MA in Political Science. Holger Baer's Assistant Director will be Michael T. Ahearn, who is a graduating senior from Georgia Southern University in Political Science and International Studies. Collectively, we work as a team, and we are truly looking forward to serving as your Directors and Assistant Directors.

The topics for this year's General Assembly 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee are:

1. Evaluation and Implementation of the United Nations Literacy Decade
2. Cultural Property: Illicit Trafficking and Restitution
3. Combating the Spread of Illicit Drugs

Being a delegate in the Third Committee of the General Assembly can be a challenging task. A thorough knowledge of GA 3<sup>rd</sup>'s role in the UN system is required, as the committee has a supervising and coordinating function concerning social, humanitarian and cultural affairs. This guide will aid you in developing a cursory understanding of the topics listed above and give you a starting point for your research. But it can only be a starting point. Your personal learning experience and the success of the simulation depend on the dedication and effort that you put into your preparation as a representative of your country. Thus, the preparation for the conference includes an excellent knowledge of the topics, the role of the General Assembly 3<sup>rd</sup> committee, and your country's policy positions with regard to the three topics.

Every participating delegation is required to submit a position paper prior to attending the conference. NMUN will accept position papers via e-mail by March 1, 2008 for the Sheraton Venue, and April 1, 2008 for the Marriott Venue. Please refer to the message from your Directors-General explaining NMUN's position paper requirements and restrictions in this guide. Delegates' adherence to these guidelines is crucial.

The General Assembly can be an intimidating and overwhelming committee in the beginning, but it will be an incredibly rewarding experience. We wish each of you the best as you prepare. Please do not hesitate to direct any questions or concerns via e-mail to your Director. We look forward to meeting you at the conference in spring 2008.

Sincerely yours,

*Sheraton Venue*

Holger Baer

Director

Michael Ahearn

Assistant Director

[ga3rd.sheraton@nmun.org](mailto:ga3rd.sheraton@nmun.org)

*Marriott Venue*

Sebastian Schindler

Director

Lina Ericsson

Assistant Director

[ga3rd.marriott@nmun.org](mailto:ga3rd.marriott@nmun.org)

## Message from the Directors-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2008 NMUN Conference

At the NMUN Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee it is assigned to. Delegates should be aware that their role in a respective committee has some impact on the way a position paper should be written. While most delegates will serve as Member States, some may be observers, NGOs or judicial or technical experts. To understand these fine differences, please refer to Delegate Preparation Guide.

Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation's 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 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.

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.

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.

Delegation's position papers can be awarded as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, however, delegations must have met the formal requirements listed below. 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 or .pdf) **for each assigned committee** should be sent to the committee email address listed in the Background Guide. These e-mail addresses will be active after December 1, 2007. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt.
2. Each delegation should also send **one set of all position papers** to the e-mail designated for their venue: [positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org](mailto:positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org) or [positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org](mailto:positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org). This set will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments. These copies will also be made available in Home Government during the week of the NMUN Conference

Each of the above listed tasks needs to be completed no later than **March 1, 2008 for Delegations attending the NMUN at the Sheraton venue and April 1, 2008 for Delegations attending the NMUN on the Marriott venue.**

**PLEASE TITLE EACH E-MAIL/DOCUMENT WITH THE NAME OF THE COMMITTEE, ASSIGNMENT AND DELEGATION NAME (Example: AU\_Namibia\_University of Caprivi)**

*A matrix of received papers will be posted online for delegations to check prior to the Conference. If you need to make other arrangements for submission, please contact Linda Poppe, Director-General, Sheraton venue, or Galen Stocking, Director-General, Marriott venue at [dirgen@nmun.org](mailto:dirgen@nmun.org). There is an option for delegations to submit physical copies via regular mail if needed.*

Once the formal requirements outlined above are met, Conference staff uses the following criteria to evaluate Position Papers:

- Overall quality of writing, proper style, grammar, etc.
- Citation of relevant resolutions/documents
- General consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints
- Consistency with the constraints of the United Nations
- Analysis of issues, rather than reiteration of the Committee Background Guide
- Outline of (official) policy aims within the committee's mandate

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 2,000 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.

Sincerely yours,

*Sheraton Venue*  
Linda Poppe  
Director-General

[linda@nmun.org](mailto:linda@nmun.org)

*Marriott Venue*  
Galen Stocking  
Director-General

[galen@nmun.org](mailto:galen@nmun.org)

## 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.

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**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 encourages 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.

## History of the General Assembly Third Committee

H.E. Ambassador T. Hamid al Bayati, Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations (UN) and chairman of the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural, GA 3<sup>rd</sup>) of the 61<sup>st</sup> General Assembly (GA), made the above statement at the opening session of the General Assembly 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee on October 2, 2006.<sup>1</sup> It exemplifies two dimensions of the Committee's work: First, "open and transparent" discussions form the basis of its work; the consistent striving for compromise and consensus thus is deeply rooted in its proceedings.<sup>2</sup> Second, it is GA 3<sup>rd</sup>'s mandate to examine a wide range of social, humanitarian and cultural issues, to all of which human rights are central.<sup>3</sup>

The first dimension reflects the role of the GA within the UN system in general.<sup>4</sup> As one of six principle organs of the UN, the GA is the international community's "most representative forum"<sup>5</sup> and the "chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations."<sup>6</sup> Every Member State of the UN has one vote within the GA and its six Main Committees (among them GA 3<sup>rd</sup>).<sup>7</sup> Decisions require a simple majority.<sup>8</sup> Only decisions on important questions, for instance those on peace and security, on budgetary matters or the admission of new members, require a two-thirds majority.<sup>9</sup> Although there formally is no veto power, as in the Security Council, general agreement is highly attractive, and 70-80% of all resolutions pass without objection.<sup>10</sup> Given that the GA can only make non-binding recommendations, vast majorities enhance, on the one hand, the legitimacy of decisions.<sup>11</sup> The GA is "a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment," and the work toward consensus serves this end.<sup>12</sup> On the other hand, the provisions of the Charter do not at all exclude majority decisions, and a large number of important decisions, including e.g. the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, were approved by a vote.<sup>13</sup> In his report *In Larger Freedom* of September 2005, then Secretary-General Kofi Annan criticized that "consensus (often interpreted as requiring unanimity) ha[d] become an end in itself."<sup>14</sup> He recommended that the GA "take bold measures to rationalize its work and speed up the deliberative process, notably by streamlining its agenda, its committee structure and its procedures for holding plenary debates and requesting reports."<sup>15</sup>

### GA 3<sup>rd</sup>'s mandate

The second dimension present in the statement of Ambassador al Bayati refers to GA 3<sup>rd</sup>'s mandate to discuss social, humanitarian and cultural issues relevant to the United Nations.<sup>16</sup> Human rights are especially central to its work.<sup>17</sup> Besides the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the Committee draws its legitimacy directly from the *Charter of the United Nations*.<sup>18</sup> Article 13 (1b) of the Charter states that the GA "shall initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of [...] promoting international co-operation in the economic, social, cultural, educational, and health fields, and assisting in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or

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<sup>1</sup> al Bayati, *Opening Statement to the Third Committee of the sixty-first General Assembly*, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* Cf. also United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Third Committee*, n.d.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Cf. United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Background Information*, n.d.

<sup>5</sup> Marin-Bosch, *Votes in the UN General Assembly*, 1998, p.5.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 59<sup>th</sup> Session, *In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All. Report of the Secretary-General (A/59/2005)*, 2005, Chapt.5, §158. This statement was also reaffirmed in the Millennium Declaration.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Background Information*, n.d.

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

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* Cf. also Article 18 of the UN Charter.

<sup>10</sup> Marin-Bosch, *Votes in the UN General Assembly*, 1998, pp.29, 93.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

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

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 59<sup>th</sup> Session, *In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All. Report of the Secretary-General (A/59/2005)*, 2005, Chapt.5, §159.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, §160.

<sup>16</sup> al Bayati, *Opening Statement to the Third Committee of the sixty-first General Assembly*, 2006.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

religion.”<sup>19</sup> The scope of the Third Committee distinguishes it from the other five Main Committees of the GA.<sup>20</sup> The task of all six Main Committees is to discuss the agenda items allocated to them.<sup>21</sup> They strive where possible for harmonization of the different approaches of Member States, and, finally, prepare draft resolutions and decisions for the Plenary Sessions of the GA in their respective field of work.<sup>22</sup> In the 1990s, about one-fourth to one-third of over 300 resolutions adopted every year by the GA were drafted in its Third Committee.<sup>23</sup> They addressed a vast range of problems, including discrimination of women, indigenous people, disabled persons or minorities, the protection of children, the treatment of refugees, crime prevention, criminal justice, drug control or education.<sup>24</sup>

### ***Subsidiary Organs and Collaborating Organizations***

The General Assembly has a large number of subsidiary organs.<sup>25</sup> Among them are the Executive Boards of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and of the World Food Programme (WFP), the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCHR), the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).<sup>26</sup> Since the establishment of the HRC in 2006, GA 3<sup>rd</sup> dealt in particular with reports of that Council.<sup>27</sup> At its 61<sup>st</sup> session in October 2006, GA 3<sup>rd</sup> interacted with 25 special rapporteurs, experts, and chairpersons of workings groups of the HRC.<sup>28</sup>

In addition to the HRC and the “programmes and funds” mentioned above (UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, UNHCHR, UNEP), GA 3<sup>rd</sup> works together with a number of other UN institutions in order to assist in the implementation of GA resolutions within its scope.<sup>29</sup> “Specialized Agencies,” such as the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) regularly collaborate with the Third Committee.<sup>30</sup> Cooperation efforts reflect the commitment of UN Member States in the Millennium Declaration of 2000, “to attain peace, security and disarmament along with development and poverty eradication, to protect our common environment, to meet the special needs of Africa and to strengthen the United Nations.”<sup>31</sup> Moreover, they correspond to Article 15 (2) of the UN Charter, stating that the GA “shall receive and consider reports from the other organs of the United Nations.”<sup>32</sup>

### ***Human Rights on GA 3<sup>rd</sup>’s Agenda***

At the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly in 2005, the Third Committee discussed 62 draft resolutions, half of which directly belonged to the human rights agenda item.<sup>33</sup> A number of these draft resolutions refer to the human rights situation in specific countries.<sup>34</sup> In sum, about one-third of GA resolutions each year address human rights.<sup>35</sup>

Rights of indigenous peoples have been one focus of GA 3<sup>rd</sup>’s work. In 1985, the Third Committee recommended to the GA Plenary the establishment of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations; the GA followed the recommendation.<sup>36</sup> The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, elaborated by the Human Rights

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

<sup>20</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Third Committee*, n.d.

<sup>21</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Committees*, n.d.

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

<sup>23</sup> Marín-Bosch, *Votes in the UN General Assembly*, 1998, p.94, table 3.2.

<sup>24</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Third Committee*, n.d.

<sup>25</sup> United Nations. General Assembly, *Subsidiary Organs*, n.d.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Third Committee*, n.d.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.* Especially, the Press Releases of the 61<sup>st</sup> and of earlier sessions, accessible via the Committee webpage, show that GA 3<sup>rd</sup> is well integrated into a net of UN institutions.

<sup>31</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Background Information*, n.d.

<sup>32</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

<sup>33</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Third Committee*, n.d.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>35</sup> Weiss, Forsythe, Coate & Pease, *The United Nations and changing world politics*, 2007, p. 175.

<sup>36</sup> United Nations. General Assembly, *United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (A/RES/40/131)*, 1985.

Council in 2006, was discussed in the Third Committee at its 61<sup>st</sup> session in November 2006.<sup>37</sup> Due to opposition of the group of African States, GA 3<sup>rd</sup> deferred the consideration of the Declaration.<sup>38</sup> However, it has discussed other agenda items with more success. Following the recommendation of its Third Committee, the General Assembly Plenary adopted three country-specific resolutions expressing concern over the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran and Belarus.<sup>39</sup> Moreover, a text condemning the misuse of the media to incite violence against racial, religious and other groups was adopted by a recorded vote, opposed only by the United States and Israel.<sup>40</sup>

### ***Social and Cultural Issues on GA 3<sup>rd</sup>'s Agenda***

Besides human rights, cultural affairs and social development are a second emphasis of GA 3<sup>rd</sup>'s work.<sup>41</sup> Concerning education, the 61<sup>st</sup> GA, upon recommendation of its Third Committee, adopted without a vote a resolution appealing to all Governments "to develop reliable literacy data" and "mobilize adequate national resources" in order to achieve the goals of the United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all.<sup>42</sup> In particular, it takes countries with high illiteracy rates into its focus and requests all relevant UN institutions, especially UNESCO, to work with Governments on immediate, concrete steps.<sup>43</sup> Since its thirty-seventh session in 1982, the GA has regularly discussed the item "International campaign against traffic in drugs", today entitled "International drug control."<sup>44</sup> In 2006, GA 3<sup>rd</sup> prepared a draft resolution urging all States "to implement the outcome of the twentieth special session of the Assembly on the world drug problem" and "to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime by widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions."<sup>45</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

Although its resolutions and decisions often seem to be rather vague, there can be no doubt that the Third Committee of the General Assembly deals with policies of high relevance for many of world's citizens. Social, humanitarian and cultural affairs directly concern the daily life of all human beings, and GA 3<sup>rd</sup> has a central supervising and coordinating function within the UN system in this respect. Before this background, indeed, "the importance of the work of this committee cannot be overstated."<sup>46</sup>

## **I. Evaluation and Implementation of the United Nations Literacy Decade**

*The annual celebration of International Literacy Day on 8 September is an opportunity to remind the world of the importance of literacy for individuals, families, communities and whole societies. It is also an occasion to remember that literacy remains a right that is denied to about a fifth of the world's adult population. The world's literacy challenge is to translate our recognition of the*

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<sup>37</sup> United Nations. High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Working Group on the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples*, n.d.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>39</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *General Assembly Adopts 46 Third Committee Texts on Human Rights Issues, Refugees, Self-Determination, Racism, Social Development. Resolutions, Decisions Also Adopted on Women's Advancement, Child Rights (GA/10562)*, 2006.

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

<sup>41</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Third Committee*, n.d.

<sup>42</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. Third Committee. 61<sup>st</sup> session, *Social Development. Report of the Third Committee (A/61/437)*, 2006. Cf. also: United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *General Assembly Adopts 46 Third Committee Texts on Human Rights Issues, Refugees, Self-Determination, Racism, Social Development. Resolutions, Decisions Also Adopted on Women's Advancement, Child Rights (GA/10562)*, 2006.

<sup>43</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *General Assembly Adopts 46 Third Committee Texts on Human Rights Issues, Refugees, Self-Determination, Racism, Social Development. Resolutions, Decisions Also Adopted on Women's Advancement, Child Rights (GA/10562)*, 2006.

<sup>44</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Third Committee*, n.d.

<sup>45</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *General Assembly Adopts 46 Third Committee Texts on Human Rights Issues, Refugees, Self-Determination, Racism, Social Development. Resolutions, Decisions Also Adopted on Women's Advancement, Child Rights (GA/10562)*, 2006.

<sup>46</sup> al Bayati, *Opening Statement to the Third Committee of the sixty-first General Assembly*, 2006.

*importance of literacy into practical effect so that hope is given to the millions of women, men and children who cannot read or write even their own names.*<sup>47</sup>

The promotion of universal literacy is a core aspect of the principle of human rights that forms part of the institutional framework of the United Nations (UN).<sup>48</sup> As enshrined in both the preamble and Article 1 of the *Charter of the UN*, the “purposes and principles” of the organization entail the support and endorsement of respect for human rights, equality, dignity, social progress, and fundamental freedoms among peoples without distinctions.<sup>49</sup> According to Article 26 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR),<sup>50</sup> Article 13 of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*,<sup>51</sup> and Article 28 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*,<sup>52</sup> the right to education is inalienable and should be made accessible to everyone. In the context of human rights and education, literacy constitutes an inseparable and inter-reliant tool that links up with the securitization of other rights, such as gender equality, the right to development and health, the right to freedom of expression,<sup>53</sup> individual autonomy, wellbeing, economic security, and partaking in collective and political activities.<sup>54</sup>

Although primary education forms the basis for literacy, there are over 100 million children worldwide that never register in school.<sup>55</sup> For many of those who actually enroll, the quality of initial education is often so meager that it results in a very frail comprehension of literacy.<sup>56</sup> Another complicated dilemma is the problem of adult illiteracy, which constitutes an underlying obstacle for the associated younger generation in achieving adequate literacy command.<sup>57</sup> Roughly 781 million adults are estimated to be illiterate, out of which approximately 64% are women.<sup>58</sup> These records symbolize an insult to human dignity as they characterize a negation of the right to education and considerably hinder the elimination of poverty, the achievement of gender equality, and sustainable development.<sup>59</sup> It is for this reason that literacy is also vital to the efforts in attaining the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs), as the second goal states the attainment of “universal primary education” with the target of ensuring that “all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.”<sup>60</sup> The third goal aims to achieve gender equality within all primary and secondary levels of education.<sup>61</sup> Moreover, literacy is also central to the goals of “reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, and in achieving peace and democracy,” since the construction of literate surroundings and societies is viewed as essential for sustainable human progress.<sup>62</sup>

Furthermore, experts have pointed to the connection between poverty and the demographic patterns of impoverished families with several children.<sup>63</sup> This becomes especially prevalent when these families are unable to adequately support all their children, since the investment in nourishment, health, and education for each child often exceeds the family’s financial capabilities.<sup>64</sup> Empirical data suggests, however, that increased literacy among girls generates stronger desires for fewer children.<sup>65</sup> This is an important humanitarian aspect since swift population growth also tends to aggravate poverty as it increases the strain on farm sizes and natural resources.<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> Matsuura, *Message Statement on the occasion of International Literacy Day*, 2006.

<sup>48</sup> United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, *The United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all Plan of Action*, 2002.

<sup>49</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

<sup>50</sup> *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948.

<sup>51</sup> *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 1966.

<sup>52</sup> *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 1989.

<sup>53</sup> United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, *The United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all Plan of Action*, 2002.

<sup>54</sup> United Nations. Student Conference on Human Rights, *Education for All*, 2003.

<sup>55</sup> Annan, *Message Statement on the occasion of International Literacy Day*, 2006.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>57</sup> United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Literacy*, n.d.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>59</sup> United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. 172<sup>nd</sup> Session, *United Nations Literacy Decade: Progress Report 2004-2005. Report of the Executive Board (172 EX/10)*, 2005, p. 2.

<sup>60</sup> United Nations. Millennium Development Goals, *The Goals*, n.d.

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

<sup>62</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 56<sup>th</sup> Session, *United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all (A/RES/56/116)*, 2002.

<sup>63</sup> Sachs, *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities of Our Time*, 2005, p. 65.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*

Education and literacy equips children, youth and adults with the privileged ability to reflect, make informed decisions, develop, and better engage in activities of the community and political life.<sup>67</sup> It is a pivotal component in economic and social progress and the fight against poverty as it provides people with the opportunity to enjoy a better life.<sup>68</sup> Furthermore, specialists agree that education of mothers has a strong impact on health, wellbeing of the family and fertility, and that educated girls generally have a significantly smaller risk of attracting HIV infection.<sup>69</sup>

### ***History of General Assembly Activities***

As the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural, GA3<sup>rd</sup>) examines several subjects that relate to human rights, many of the agenda items logically concern social and humanitarian affairs.<sup>70</sup> Among them the promotion of universal literacy has naturally formed part of the Committee's work.<sup>71</sup> Literacy, in particular, is interrelated to many of the fundamental issues treated by the Committee such as the addressing of social development questions, issues related to healthy and sustainable progression of equal opportunities for youth, the advancement of women, protection of children, inquiries relating to the aspects of family, and the advocacy of fundamental freedoms.<sup>72</sup>

During its 42<sup>nd</sup> session, the General Assembly (GA) raised the concern of universal literacy in resolution *A/RES/42/104*, which declared 1990 to be International Literacy Year.<sup>73</sup> The aspiration to make basic levels of education accessible to all children, youth and adults across the world helped initiate the World Conference on Education for All (WCEFA), held in Jomtien, Thailand in 1990.<sup>74</sup> At this conference the global "education for all" (EFA) initiative was launched.<sup>75</sup> All States present at the conference made formal commitments to ensure the provision of primary education for all children.<sup>76</sup> Additionally, pledges to substantially reduce adult illiteracy by the end of the decade were put forward.<sup>77</sup> Subsequently, the GA considered the EFA initiative at its 52<sup>nd</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> sessions in resolutions *A/RES/52/84* and *A/RES/54/122*.<sup>78</sup>

In April 2000, during the World Education Forum held in Dakar, Senegal, the plan and goals agreed upon at WCEFA were re-defined as six major goals.<sup>79</sup> Today these goals are commonly referred to as the Dakar Framework for Action or the EFA goals.<sup>80</sup> Subsequently to the WCEFA conference, two of the EFA goals became recognized as MDGs.<sup>81</sup> Following this, at its 56<sup>th</sup> session and as an input to the goals of EFA, the GA declared the 10-year period commencing on January 1, 2003, the United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all (UNLD).<sup>82</sup> As part of the UNLD, the Secretary-General was requested to proceed, in collaboration with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with the outline of an appropriately directed plan of action to guide the implementation of the Decade.<sup>83</sup> It was also decided that UNESCO should be given a catalyzing role in the coordination of activities on an international level.<sup>84</sup> Shortly thereafter, UNESCO submitted a draft *International Plan of Action* for the Decade to the GA at its 57<sup>th</sup> session.<sup>85</sup> The GA thus continued its consideration of the question in resolution *A/RES/57/166*.<sup>86</sup> It received the *International Plan of Action* for

<sup>67</sup> United Nations. Student Conference on Human Rights, *Education for All*, 2003.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*

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

<sup>70</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Third Committee*, n.d.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*

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

<sup>73</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 56<sup>th</sup> Session, *United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all (A/RES/56/116)*, 2002.

<sup>74</sup> United Nations. Student Conference on Human Rights, *Education for All*, 2003.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>78</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Third Committee*, n.d.

<sup>79</sup> United Nations. Student Conference on Human Rights, *Education for All*, 2003.

<sup>80</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>81</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>82</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 56<sup>th</sup> Session, *United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all (A/RES/56/116)*, 2002.

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>84</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>85</sup> United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. 172<sup>nd</sup> Session, *United Nations Literacy Decade: Progress Report 2004-2005. Report of the Executive Board (172 EX/10)*, 2005, p. 1.

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*

UNLD<sup>87</sup> and requested the Secretary-General, in assistance with the Director-General of UNESCO, to assemble a report on the completion of the *International Plan of Action* for proposition to the GA on its 59<sup>th</sup> session.<sup>88</sup> Pursuant to that resolution, at its 59<sup>th</sup> session, the GA recorded the findings of the first progress report on *Implementation of the International Plan of Action*, report A/59/267, and called for a consolidation of actions to secure universal literacy.<sup>89</sup> In resolution A/RES/59/149, the GA called on UNESCO to strengthen its chief coordinating function.<sup>90</sup> In addition, the resolution requested that the Secretary-General, with support from the Director-General of UNESCO, should ask for the perspectives of Member States on the advancement attained in implementing their national programs and strategies for the Decade.<sup>91</sup> Concurrently, they were further asked to submit progress reports on a biennial basis that outlined the progress in the implementation of the *International Plan of Action*, starting in 2006.<sup>92</sup>

Subsequently, during its 61<sup>st</sup> session, the GA reviewed the answers of a questionnaire submitted to the Member States, which formed the basis for the data compiled and presented in report A/61/151.<sup>93</sup> The report summarized the compiled information concerning the up-to-date international literacy conditions and dedications as well as the related proceedings of agencies associated with the UN.<sup>94</sup> It also examined the challenges of a shifting UN structure currently facing UNESCO, as chief agency, and other associates in their efforts of reaching the goals of the Literacy Decade.<sup>95</sup>

### ***The International Experience and Outlook***

Ever since the WCEFA conference in 1990, the capacity to measure educational accomplishments and literacy in developing countries has been identified as critical in determining the quality of learning programs on an international level and especially within developing countries.<sup>96</sup> With the onset of UNLD, a primary goal has been to decrease illiteracy rates by one-half in each country.<sup>97</sup> The achievement of that goal naturally necessitates accurate data to measure rate reductions.<sup>98</sup> The statistical data collections for the measurements concerning the UNLD progressions are chiefly presented by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).<sup>99</sup> The institute has until now almost entirely relied on information provided by Member States and the individual country definitions of what constitutes literacy.<sup>100</sup>

As children and adults alike learn most successfully in their native languages, the two most essential aspects to be considered for effective learning results are perhaps the languages of instruction and the printed material incorporated into the teaching structure.<sup>101</sup> As national language policies primarily are political, some countries have chosen a preferred or dominant language as an official one to uphold social unity and guarantee equality of opportunity.<sup>102</sup> Meanwhile, others and particularly States with a federal political system regard the respect for

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<sup>87</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade (A 61/151)*, 2006, p. 2.

<sup>88</sup> United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. 172<sup>nd</sup> Session, *United Nations Literacy Decade: Progress Report 2004-2005. Report of the Executive Board (172 EX/10)*, 2005, p. 1.

<sup>89</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade (A 61/151)*, 2006, p. 2.

<sup>90</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>95</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>96</sup> Wagner, *Smaller, quicker, cheaper: alternative strategies for literacy assessment in the UN Literacy Decade*, 2003, p. 294.

<sup>97</sup> *Ibid.*

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

<sup>99</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade (A 61/151)*, 2006, p. 3-5.

<sup>100</sup> Wagner, *Smaller, quicker, cheaper: alternative strategies for literacy assessment in the UN Literacy Decade*, 2003, p. 296.

<sup>101</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade (A 61/151)*, 2006, p. 5.

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*

linguistic diversity as a necessity for the securitization of their national unity.<sup>103</sup> Ultimately, policies on languages in national education programs reflect these larger political considerations.<sup>104</sup>

According to specialists on monitoring and development of literacy programs, however, the meaning of literacy conveys both emotional and political connotations.<sup>105</sup> Additionally, as an individual cognitive ability, literacy is extremely difficult to define.<sup>106</sup> This is particularly evident when viewed from a perspective of different cultural contexts in which the internal elements of a language and their functions carry distinct meanings.<sup>107</sup> This becomes particularly prevalent in the controversy over which languages are accounted for in literacy statistics and if the use of local mother tongue should be the principal languages of instruction in primary and adult education.<sup>108</sup> With this controversy in mind, however, the progress report on the *Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade* pointed out that those countries which had undergone major political and economic changes during the first half of the twentieth century also had elevated their literacy level.<sup>109</sup> In particular, those countries had undertaken major integrated mass literacy campaigns, with an emphasis on the promotion of both national and minority languages, alongside swift expansions of official schooling.<sup>110</sup>

Meanwhile, the international experience generally stresses the fundamental importance of access to printed material and literature.<sup>111</sup> It is an absolutely vital aspect in the outlook of the global literacy challenge.<sup>112</sup> Naturally, it also strains the demands on international book publishing and the existence or lack of an efficient book sector policy.<sup>113</sup> Consequently, this has a critical impact on the capacity of schools and adult education programs to communicate literacy skills.<sup>114</sup>

### ***Recent Progressions on the Literacy Prospect***

Besides the latest UNLD progress report of the period 2005-2006 (*A/61/151*), recent work on the promotion of universal literacy includes the undertaking of two out of six regional meetings on global literacy that are to be held before the end of 2008.<sup>115</sup> The first regional meeting was held in New York in September 2006 and went under the heading White House Conference on Global Literacy.<sup>116</sup> The American First Lady, Laura Bush, who is also Honorary Ambassador for the UNLD and UNESCO's Literacy Initiative for Empowerment, hosted the conference.<sup>117</sup> On July 31, 2007, UNESCO held the second regional meeting on global literacy in Beijing.<sup>118</sup> The meeting focused on assisting in the action against illiteracy in East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific.<sup>119</sup> While almost 92% of all people in this region are literate, figures vary greatly between nations.<sup>120</sup> Moreover, it has revealed an enduring gender gap, with women constituting a total of 70% of all people that suffer from inadequate literacy commands.<sup>121</sup> The two-day conference focused on promotion of partnerships and pioneering approaches to reducing illiteracy.<sup>122</sup>

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<sup>103</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>104</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>105</sup> Wagner, *Smaller, quicker, cheaper: alternative strategies for literacy assessment in the UN Literacy Decade*, 2003, p. 295-296.

<sup>106</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 297.

<sup>109</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade (A/61/151)*, 2006, p. 5.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>113</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>114</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>115</sup> United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Fighting illiteracy in East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific*, n.d.

<sup>116</sup> The White House. *The White House Conference on Global Literacy*, 2006.

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

<sup>118</sup> United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Education News Alert*, 2007.

<sup>119</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>120</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>121</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>122</sup> *Ibid.*

Another recent initiative took place in Hamburg, Germany, on July 11-13, 2007, when the UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning (UIL) organized a practicum on benchmarks for education and learning concerning adult people.<sup>123</sup> The practicum should serve as training for the Sixth Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI) in 2009.<sup>124</sup> A compilation of preliminary standards was sketched by UIL in cooperation with the CONFINTEA VI Consultative Group and a focal group of participants that together represented all regions of the world.<sup>125</sup> In particular, the group looked at previous documents provided by UNESCO, such as the *Nairobi Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education* (1976)<sup>126</sup> and the *CONFINTEA Agenda for the Future* (1997),<sup>127</sup> along with a broad variety of strategy documents.<sup>128</sup> In order to successfully complete the preliminary standards, the core group of participants has currently scheduled two follow-up meetings for 2008.<sup>129</sup> During these meetings the analyzed outcome from the consultation process with the Member States will be presented.<sup>130</sup>

Other recent progress on the literacy prospect include the annually assembled *EFA Global Monitoring Report: Literacy for Life*, which each year tracks improvement towards the EFA goals.<sup>131</sup> Although the projections of the *EFA Global Monitoring Report* do not entirely mirror the impact of the latest policy initiatives, it still serves as a useful tool for monitoring.<sup>132</sup> The 2006 report drew on figures from the 2002/2003 school years.<sup>133</sup> This was conducted in order to comment on changes since 1998 and to predict which countries are capable of realizing the goals of universal primary education, gender equality in primary and secondary education, and to achieve a 50% progress in levels of adult literacy by 2015.<sup>134</sup>

### ***Challenges and the Course of Action for the Future***

Although the international community has been striving to advance universal literacy through various promises and employment of a great diversity of strategies for the past 60 years, most recent data on primary school registrations and youth and adult literacy achievements worldwide are far from uplifting.<sup>135</sup> While recent data indicates continual developments on an international level since the International Literacy Year in 1990, great disparities still persist across regions, within countries and populations.<sup>136</sup>

The challenges and obstacles that stand in the way of universal literacy are still abundant.<sup>137</sup> Inadequate literacy skills and lack of numeric proficiency among adults and youth is often a product of underachievement, early dropouts and grade repetition.<sup>138</sup> For the past 20 years, concerns have especially been directed toward progress in the quality of formal schooling as well as on increasing the number of registrations.<sup>139</sup>

Above all, recent figures show that an estimated 875 million people in the world are illiterate and that girls and women are exposed to the greatest risk, as one woman in four worldwide is illiterate.<sup>140</sup> Another aspect of deep concern regards the regions of South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa where the HIV/AIDS pandemic threatens to erase

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<sup>123</sup> United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Education*, n.d.

<sup>124</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>125</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>126</sup> United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Nairobi Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education*, n.d.

<sup>127</sup> United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, *CONFINTEA Agenda for the Future*, n.d.

<sup>128</sup> United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Education*, n.d.

<sup>129</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>130</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>131</sup> United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Education for All Global Monitoring Report*, 2006.

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

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

<sup>134</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>135</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade (A 61/151)*, 2006, p. 3-4.

<sup>136</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>137</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>138</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>139</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>140</sup> United Nations. Student Conference on Human Rights, *Education for All*, 2003.

much of the progress made in improving literacy and general education.<sup>141</sup> In the most affected African countries, 10% of all teachers are expected to die as they fall victim to the pandemic.<sup>142</sup> In light of these figures, Member States and associated organizations devoted to the MDGs and the goals of EFA and UNLD are not making the continuous efforts that are necessary.<sup>143</sup>

As the universal literacy challenge evidently remains alarming, the bridging between sectors and cooperation between organizations and institutions is increasingly important.<sup>144</sup> If the goal of global literacy should be feasible, the course of action for the future needs to entail increased efforts and cooperative measures stemming from all sectors.<sup>145</sup> This was particularly highlighted by the Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon in his message statement on this year's Literacy Day on September 8, when he proclaimed: "It is a challenge that belongs to all of us – Governments, the United Nations family, other international organizations, the private sector, civil society, local groups and individuals. Each can make a contribution. All can be part of the solution."<sup>146</sup>

### ***Committee Directive***

In committee, delegates are expected to have a thorough knowledge of the current stages of their country in the process of achieving the EFA goals. Delegates should familiarize themselves with resolutions and reports cited in this background guide in order to achieve a firm and comprehensive understanding of the underlying phases preceding the current stage of evaluation. This also requires knowledge of the current issues relating to the Decade as well as a thorough comprehension of the strategies and programs of your respective Member State to follow up with the *International Plan of Action*. Accordingly, delegates are encouraged to pay particular attention when reviewing report *A/61/151*, as it summarizes the latest findings and issues related to UNLD, the related proceedings of agencies associated with the UN, and the strive for the attainment of the EFA goals. In addition, the *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006* constitutes an invaluable source of information concerning up-to-date data.<sup>147</sup>

Moreover, as the literacy challenge belongs to all sectors<sup>148</sup> delegates are encouraged to think about innovative solutions that will intend to bridge between sectors. This naturally necessitates investigations of the structures and systems in place between different UN institutions, NGOs, community-based groups, State governments and the private sector. The purpose should be to work toward improvements and collaboration between different institutions and sectors so as to create greater possibilities for generations of mutual and reciprocal benefits.

The following key-questions are closely aligned with the instructions given in the *International Plan of Action* and the report on the *Implementation of the Plan of Action (A/61/151)*, as well as the *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006*. They are intended to serve as a guide to orient relevant up-to-date aspects for topic research and discussion. What is the present condition of literacy in your country and are there appropriate language policies in effect? What is the status on the progress of literacy and how do the improvements relate to gender parity within educational institutions? What programs in these institutions have been implemented in order to advance the level of literacy and to take proper note of learners' needs? What measures have been used for the scaling up of literacy programs? What are the links between these programs and social and economic development and the EFA plans? What are the difficulties in staging these programs? Which are the priority groups in need of literacy programs and what kind of data is needed for planning further inputs for these programs? What is the share of the education budget directed to literacy programs and how can further financial support be obtained? Where do the resources that maintain literacy programs come from? What are the relationships with the private sector, bilateral resources and regional and international organizations to encourage fruitful literacy environments? What is the structure in place for preparation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of inclusive literacy programs? How can evaluations of literacy programs be more effective?

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<sup>141</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>142</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>143</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade (A 61/151)*, 2006, p. 3-4.

<sup>144</sup> Ki-moon, *Message Statement on the occasion of International Literacy Day*, 2007.

<sup>145</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>146</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>147</sup> United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Education for All Global Monitoring Report*, 2006.

<sup>148</sup> Ki-moon, *Message Statement on the occasion of International Literacy Day*, 2007.

## II. Cultural Property: Illicit Trafficking and Restitution

*“[T]he cultural heritage of a people is the memory of its living culture. It is expressed in many different forms, both tangible and intangible. The origins of this heritage are multifarious, too. In retracing its own cultural lineage, in recognizing the many different influences that have marked its history and shaped its identity, a people is better able to build peaceful relations with other peoples, to pursue what is often an age-old dialogue and to forge its future.”*<sup>149</sup>

### **Introduction**

Historically, the illicit trafficking of cultural property has occurred in both times of war and times of peace. In the last few decades, some cultural property such as an Apollo statue of Greece and an illegally imported ring from Turkey, has been recovered; additionally, institutions, conventions, and legal texts have been created to attempt to prevent the further loss of cultural property throughout the globe.<sup>150</sup>

Cultural property has been defined by the 1964 *Recommendation on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Export, Import, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property* as “moveable and immovable property of great importance to the cultural heritage of a country, such as works of art and architecture, manuscripts, books and other property of artistic, historical or archaeological interest, ethnological documents, type specimens of flora and fauna, scientific collections and important collections of books and archives, including musical archives.”<sup>151</sup> The *Recommendation*’s general definition further stipulates that “each Member State should adopt whatever criteria it deems most suitable for defining which items of cultural property within its territory should receive the protection envisaged in this recommendation by reason of their great importance.”<sup>152</sup>

Following the adoption of the *Recommendation*, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) drafted the internationally binding *Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property* in 1970, which expands upon the definition of cultural property and details specific cultural property from individual Member States.<sup>153</sup> Since the document entered into force in 1972, 102 States have ratified it.<sup>154</sup> The *Convention* can be revised by the General Conference of UNESCO; any revision being only binding to parties that ratify said revision.<sup>155</sup> The principles of the *Convention* give UNESCO the power to draft further laws on the subject, overview the transfer of cultural property, and supervise archeological projects, among others.<sup>156</sup> At the present time, the 1964 *Recommendation* and the 1970 *Convention* still remain the primary international documents governing the protection of cultural property.

### **The Issue of Cultural Property, Illicit Trafficking and Restitution within the United Nations**

Today, within the realm of cultural property, there are three main organizations that work to prevent illicit trading and protection in the United Nations (UN) System: the United Nations General Assembly (GA) and its Third Committee; UNESCO; and the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

The United Nations General Assembly, via the GA Third Committee, has elaborated and expanded upon the principles set forth in the 1970 *Convention* with resolution *A/RES/31/40 Protection and Restitution of Works of Art*

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<sup>149</sup> Kavan, *United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage*, 2002.

<sup>150</sup> Hladik, *The Theft and Redemption of History - includes Related Articles - International Agreement on Addressing the Problem of Stolen Cultural Objects*, 1998.

<sup>151</sup> *Recommendation on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Export, Import, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property*, 1964.

<sup>152</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>153</sup> *Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property*, 1970.

<sup>154</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>155</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>156</sup> *Ibid.*

as Part of the Preservation and Further Development of Cultural Values.<sup>157</sup> This resolution “affirms that the prompt restitution to a country of its *objets d’art*, monuments, museum pieces, manuscripts, and documents by another country, without charge, is calculated to strengthen international cooperation in as much as it constitutes just reparation for damage done.”<sup>158</sup> The most recent document adopted by the General Assembly is resolution A/RES/61/52 *Return or Restitution of Cultural Property to the Countries of Origin*, of February 16th, 2007, which, “calls upon all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental organizations to work in coordination with the UNESCO within their mandates and in cooperation with Member States.”<sup>159</sup> This resolution, drafted by the General Assembly Third Committee, represents a trend in the international community to enhance cooperation between Member States and international organizations in the protection of cultural property.

UNESCO protects cultural property through three main components. Firstly, UNESCO is in charge of administering the 1970 *Convention*, whose Article 9 is of particular relevance.<sup>160</sup> It states that any State party to the *Convention*, whose property is in danger of being pillaged, may call on other Member States of the *Convention* to aid them.<sup>161</sup> Other Member States may help the effected State by “participate[ing] in a concerted international effort to determine and to carry out the necessary concrete measures, including the control of exports and imports and international commerce in the specific materials concerned.”<sup>162</sup> All Member States agreeing to this shall take feasible measures to prevent irreparable damage to a States cultural heritage.<sup>163</sup> Article 5, section (f) of the *Convention* furthermore calls for and promotes the ideal of education, protection, and prevention of the illicit trade in cultural property for each State party to the *Convention*.<sup>164</sup> Secondly, in order to facilitate dialogue and cooperation among Members States, with the ultimate goal of restitution of property, UNESCO has formed the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation.<sup>165</sup> Formed in 1978, it is a 22-member body elected from the general body of the UNESCO Assembly; the purpose of the committee is to help facilitate negotiations between Member States and to assist in developing agreements about possible restitution or return of illicitly acquired cultural property.<sup>166</sup> Along with the Committee, and as a third main component, UNESCO has developed the Cultural Heritage Laws Database, which is “the main gateway to national legislation on the protection of cultural heritage.”<sup>167</sup> The database allows Members States and private dealers to quickly view and access the national laws of a particular country if there are questions about the legal origin of artifacts and determine whether they were obtained illegally.<sup>168</sup> The United Nations General Assembly and its Third Committee endorsed the Cultural Heritage Laws Database in 2005, and encouraged Member States to make available their legislation for the inclusion in the database, to provide regular updates to the database.<sup>169</sup>

Along with the Third Committee and UNESCO, there is the abovementioned ICOM, which was formed in 1946.<sup>170</sup> The ICOM is a Non-governmental Organization (NGO) that monitors the operations of museums across the globe in order to prevent the acquisition of illicit cultural property and to help facilitate the return of illicit exhibits.<sup>171</sup> The ICOM maintains formal relations with UNESCO and has a consultative status with the United Nations Economic

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<sup>157</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 31<sup>st</sup> Session. *Protection and Restitution of Works of Art as Part of the Preservation and Further Development of Cultural Values* (A/RES/31/40), 1978

<sup>158</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>159</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *Return or Restitution of Cultural Property to the Countries of Origin*, (A/RES/61/52), 2007.

<sup>160</sup> *Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property*, 1970, Article 9.

<sup>161</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>162</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>163</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>164</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>165</sup> Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation, 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Restitution and Return Committee, 2001.

<sup>166</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>167</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *The Cultural Heritage Laws Database*, 2005.

<sup>168</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>169</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>170</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>171</sup> International Council of Museums, *ICOM Mission*, 2007.

and Social Council (ECOSOC).<sup>172</sup> Cooperation between the ICOM and UNESCO comes mainly in the form of information sharing. The ICOM works with approximately 24,000 members in 150 countries in implementing their national, regional and international activities: workshops, publications, training, twinning programs, and the promotion of museums through International Museum Day, all of which are developed to encourage respect for cultural property.<sup>173</sup>

### ***International Laws Governing Illicit Trafficking and Restitution of Cultural Property***

Along with the work of UNESCO, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) has played an important role in developing International Law in regards to cultural property; particularly, UNIDROIT's 1995 *Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects*, which recognizes "the work of various bodies to protect cultural property, particularly the 1970 UNESCO Convention on illicit traffic and the development of codes of conduct in the private sector."<sup>174</sup> By expanding on the work of other bodies, the 1995 *Convention* focuses on the return and restitution of cultural objects and "applies to claims of an international character for: (a) the restitution of stolen cultural objects; (b) the return of cultural objects removed from the territory of a Contracting State contrary to its law regulating the export of cultural objects for the purpose of protecting its cultural heritage."<sup>175</sup>

There are also rules protecting cultural property during times of war. The *Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* and the *First Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* were signed and drafted in 1954, with a *Second Protocol* introduced in 1999.<sup>176</sup> This treaty was created due to the destruction of cultural heritage in the Second World War and is the first international treaty focusing exclusively on the protection of cultural heritage during an armed conflict.<sup>177</sup> The *Second Protocol's* objective is to revise the 1954 *Convention* to address non-ratifiers. In order to do this, Article 3 prohibits States bound to the *Convention* from acting outside of the limits of the treaty while in a conflict with another nation that was not bound by the document according to Article 3 of the *Convention*.<sup>178</sup>

Along with these conventions, the international community has developed laws protecting cultural property that have extended beyond the State to private actors. One example is the *International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property*, which was introduced in 1999 by UNESCO.<sup>179</sup> This ethics code is an agreement between UNESCO and dealers of cultural property that recognizes the key role that trade has traditionally played in the spread of culture and in the distribution of foreign cultural property to museums and private collectors.<sup>180</sup> Together, UNESCO and dealers in cultural property have acknowledged the worldwide concern over the traffic in stolen and illegally exported cultural property and accepted the *Code of Ethics* as the legal text binding the trade in cultural property.<sup>181</sup> The *Ethics Code* also has provisions for the punishment of those dealers who violate the code of ethics.<sup>182</sup> Violators are handled in a peer review system and all findings of the peer review will be made open to the public to ensure transparency.<sup>183</sup> Together, these documents, conventions, and treaties build a common framework that seeks to create a strong international front to combat the illicit trade and trafficking of cultural property. The effectiveness of this framework is now being tested by cases such as the Elgin Marbles.

### ***Case Study: The Elgin Marbles***

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<sup>172</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>173</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>174</sup> UNIDROIT *Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects*, 1995.

<sup>175</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>176</sup> *Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict*, 1954; *Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict*, 1999.

<sup>177</sup> *Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict*, 1954.

<sup>178</sup> *Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict*, 1999.

<sup>179</sup> *International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property*, 1999.

<sup>180</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>181</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>182</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>183</sup> *Ibid.*

Thomas Bruce, seventh Earl of Elgin, was the British ambassador to Constantinople during the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>184</sup> Between the years 1801 and 1817, cases filled with artifacts from the Parthenon in Athens were shipped to London, including numerous marble sculptures, which came to be known as the Elgin Marbles.<sup>185</sup> Bruce received permission to remove these artifacts from the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire which controlled Greece at the time.<sup>186</sup> In 1816, a committee of the British parliament examined the marbles and the means in which they were removed from the Parthenon and chose to buy them.<sup>187</sup> Since then, questions over the rightful owners of the Marbles have continued to be debated among scholars and politicians on both sides.

Both the Greek and the British claim that the marbles are essential parts of their heritage.<sup>188</sup> Over the last 200 years, the British Government has argued that the marbles have come to 'belong' in the British Museum and are now historically rooted there, as well as in Athens.<sup>189</sup> The British claim that the British Museum has preserved them thus far and that transporting the marbles back to Greece might damage them, and that they would sustain further damage in the "polluted" air of Athens.<sup>190</sup> In 2004, The Prime Minister of Greece stated that "the return of the Parthenon Marbles is a fair request of all the Greeks. It is a request of all the people, regardless of nationality, who visualise the reunification of a mutilated monument belonging to the world cultural heritage."<sup>191</sup> Currently, the law of the British Museum prohibits it from giving back parts of its collection.<sup>192</sup> However, the British Museum has, with the help of UNESCO, reopened talks about the Marbles but the question of their rightful ownership remains under contention.<sup>193</sup> Despite the question of ownership of the Elgin Marbles Greece has been able to return other artifacts that were taken from the Parthenon, most recently a stolen statue of Apollo.<sup>194</sup> The return of the Apollo statue was a result of communications between Switzerland and Greece after the artifact was sold to a collector in Switzerland by a private British collector.<sup>195</sup> The case of the Elgin Marbles, however, continues to test the validity of international law in regards to restitution of cultural property.

### **Conclusion**

In committee, delegates will look at the effectiveness of the various treaties, conventions, and codes that are in place to prevent trafficking and foster the restitution of cultural property. Delegates should evaluate the effectiveness of these documents and how the GA 3<sup>rd</sup> can help strengthen them. Delegates should also consider for their preparation the following questions: What can the GA 3<sup>rd</sup> do to return cultural property to countries where it has been removed or stolen? What pressure can the GA 3<sup>rd</sup> put on governments not willing to return artifacts? What can GA 3<sup>rd</sup> do to further the laws and conventions regarding illegally acquired cultural property in private ownership? What criteria should guide the decision on rightful ownership in cases like the Elgin Marbles? Delegates should look through the most recent resolutions passed by the General Assembly and investigate on their countries position. Therefore, the Web sites of UNESCO, the Member States' governments and ministries provide a suitable starting point.

## **III. Combating the Spread of Illicit Drugs**

*"Drugs destroy lives and communities, undermine sustainable human development and generate crime. Drugs affect all sectors of society in all countries; in particular, drug abuse affects the freedom and development of young people, the world's most valuable asset. Drugs are a grave threat to the health and well-being of all mankind, the independence of States, democracy, the stability of nations, the structure of all societies, and the dignity and hope of millions of people and their families."*<sup>196</sup>

<sup>184</sup> Beard, *Lord Elgin - Saviour or Vandal?*, 2004.

<sup>185</sup> Clair, *Lord Elgin and The Marbles*, 1998.

<sup>186</sup> Vrettos, *A Shadow of Magnitude: The Acquisition of the Elgin Marbles*, 1974.

<sup>187</sup> Hitchens. *The Elgin Marbles*, 1998.

<sup>188</sup> King, *Elgin Marbles*, 2006.

<sup>189</sup> BBC News, *Law Blocks Return of Looted Art*, 2006.

<sup>190</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>191</sup> Beard, *Lord Elgin - Saviour or Vandal?*, 2004

<sup>192</sup> Karamanlis, *Culture is a Social Investment Because the World Needs Values and Humanity*, 2004

<sup>193</sup> BBC News, *Talks Held on Elgin Marbles Row*, 2007.

<sup>194</sup> Middle East Times, *Greece Reclaims Stolen Apollo Statue*, 2007.

<sup>195</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>196</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 20<sup>th</sup> Special Session, *Political Declaration (A/RES/S-20/2)*, 1998.

## Introduction

Former United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated in the first year of his tenure that organized crime and drug trafficking were “parasitic elements” of an “uncivil society.”<sup>197</sup> The use of drugs, particularly illicit drugs, is not a new phenomenon and they have adversely affected human development throughout the years.<sup>198</sup> But the multiplicity of drugs involved and increasing global drug trafficking routes pose new challenges in combating the spread and consumption of illicit drugs.<sup>199</sup> Today, more than 200 million people worldwide abuse illicit drugs at least once a year, and of those users, 25 million can be considered “problem drug users.”<sup>200</sup> Although global drug consumption was contained in 2007, the overall picture is mixed. While opium production has fallen by more than 85% in the last decade in the Golden Triangle (Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam), at the same time the growth in opium cultivation in Afghanistan has kept overall production levels high.<sup>201</sup> Cocaine production, mostly originating in Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru, is stable and interception rates for cocaine have risen from 24% in 2000 to 42% in 2006.<sup>202</sup> Still, these advancements must be contrasted with manifold increasing seizure rates in Western Africa and Eastern Europe – indicating that these regions are increasingly used as trafficking routes to Europe and new potential markets.<sup>203</sup>

## The United Nations and Illicit Drugs

Being closely intertwined with transnational crime, organized crime, and terrorism, illicit drugs not only became an important detrimental factor for human health, but for the security of people and UN Member States.<sup>204</sup> Because of this the United Nations has played an increasingly active role in combating the spread of illicit drugs. In 1998, the General Assembly held a Special Session on the World Drug Problem, which culminated in the adoption of the *Political Declaration of the Special Session of the General Assembly on International Drug Control (A/RES/S-20/2)* that outlined a global strategy and named 2008 as a target date for the achievement of its goals.<sup>205</sup> The declaration underlined the shared responsibility of all Member States to take effective measures to reduce both demand and supply of illicit drugs, and to tackle increasing violence and money laundering accompanying drug trafficking by increasing multilateral, regional, and sub-regional cooperation, particularly in border controls and law enforcement.<sup>206</sup> The declaration’s overall goal was to “significantly reduce with a view to eliminate” the global production and trafficking of illicit drugs until 2008. While there has been some progress in reducing the overall area under cultivation, the global production of the various illicit drugs has increased.<sup>207</sup>

The General Assembly Third Committee serves as the main component of the General Assembly that annually addresses the multifaceted issues of combating the spread of illicit drugs and international drug control. During the last session the Secretary-General’s report on *International Cooperation Against the World Drug Problem (A/61/221)* detailed the progress in pursuit of the goals for 2008 and underlined the fact that comprehensive measures against drugs and crime are essential for a State’s sustainable development.<sup>208</sup> The subsequent report of the Third Committee, and resolution *A/RES/61/183 International Cooperation Against the World Drug Problem* by the General Assembly Plenary, reaffirmed the UN’s commitment to reduce both the supply and demand for illicit drugs and to develop comprehensive strategies that include alternative development measures; the prevention of

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<sup>197</sup> Annan, *Incremental Adaptations Will Not Suffice*, 1997.

<sup>198</sup> Gootenberg, *Cocaine: Global Histories*, 1999; Zheng, *The Social Life of Opium in China, 1483-1999*, 2003.

<sup>199</sup> European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, *Drug Profiles*, n.d.

<sup>200</sup> United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2007*, 2007, p. 30ff.

<sup>201</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10f.

<sup>202</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 12f.

<sup>203</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>204</sup> United Nations. Department on Public Information, *Uncivil Society: Crime, Illicit Drugs and Terrorism*, 2004, p. 199f.

<sup>205</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 20<sup>th</sup> Special Session, *Political Declaration (A/RES/S-20/2)*, 1998.

<sup>206</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>207</sup> United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2007*, 2007, p. 11ff.

<sup>208</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *International Cooperation Against the World Drug Problem, Report of the Secretary-General (A/61/221)*, 2006.

illicit drug manufacturing; increased information sharing and legal cooperation among Member States; as well as the use of collaborative efforts in border controls and against money laundering.<sup>209</sup>

At the forefront of the United Nations' efforts to combat the abuse and trafficking of illicit drugs stands the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which provides leadership and expertise for the Secretariat and all other UN organs, as well as its Member States, monitors the implementation of drug control conventions, and supports national drug control structures.<sup>210</sup> The UNODC keeps a multitude of national and regional field offices that consult national governments in law enforcement, drug control strategies, conduct research, and work on crime-related issues, such as corruption, transnational organized crime, and money laundering.<sup>211</sup> A variety of organizations work with the UNODC to contain the spread of illicit drugs. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) are the two main bodies assigned to administer the three major UN drug conventions: the 1961 *Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*, the 1971 *Convention on Psychotropic Substances*, and the 1988 *Convention on the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances*. The CND's main task is to draw the INCB's attention to matters of importance and to revise, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the four different drug schedules of the 1961 and 1971 conventions.<sup>212</sup> The INCB's task is to monitor and ensure compliance of parties to the conventions and to ensure the solely scientific and medical use of the concerned drugs.<sup>213</sup>

### ***International Drug and Related Conventions***

The *Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*, which was adopted in 1961, attempts to limit the manufacturing, distribution, trade, possession, and use of drugs except for scientific and medical purposes. Its 1972 amending protocol underlined the importance of treatment and rehabilitation measures undertaken by Member States.<sup>214</sup> The original Convention has 153 parties, whereas the amended Convention currently has been ratified by 183 States.<sup>215</sup> Article 36 requests Member States to penalize "subject to its constitutional limitations" the "cultivation, production, manufacture, extraction, preparation, possession, offering, offering for sale, distribution, purchase, sale, delivery on any terms whatsoever, brokerage, dispatch, dispatch in transit, transport, importation and exportation of drugs."<sup>216</sup> To this date, conflicts have arisen with two principles outlined in the Convention: the traditional chewing of coca leaves and the use of cannabis. The Bolivian Government intervened at the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the CND in 2006 in order to legalize, in the Andean regions, the traditional chewing of coca leaves, which is currently outlawed under the Convention.<sup>217</sup> The second dispute concerns the formal compliance with the Convention, but *de facto* toleration of consumption of various illicit drugs, particularly cannabis, in some Member States, which has evoked criticism, especially by the INCB.<sup>218</sup>

The ban on narcotic drugs under the *Single Convention*, led to a substitution effect in drug consumption in favor of hallucinogenic drugs, which prompted the International Community to adopt the *Convention on Psychotropic Substances* in 1971.<sup>219</sup> The treaty creates an international drug control system for psychotropic substances based on the principles of the 1961 *Single Convention*.<sup>220</sup> There are currently 183 parties to the Convention.

The 1988 *United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances* intensified the struggle against global drug trafficking by promoting "co-operation among the Parties so that they

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<sup>209</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *International Cooperation Against the World Drug Problem (A/RES/61/183)*, 2007.

<sup>210</sup> United Nations. Secretariat. *Organization of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (ST/SGB/2004/6)*, 2004.

<sup>211</sup> United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. *Annual Report 2007: Making the World Safer from Crime, Drugs and Terrorism*, 2007.

<sup>212</sup> *Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*, 1961, Article 8; *Convention on Psychotropic Drugs*, 1971, Article 2.

<sup>213</sup> *Ibid.*, Article 9; *Ibid.*, Article 5.

<sup>214</sup> United Nations. Department on Public Information, *Uncivil Society: Crime, Illicit Drugs and Terrorism*, 2004, p. 201.

<sup>215</sup> United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. *Status of Treaty Adherence Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*, 2007.

<sup>216</sup> *Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*, 1961. Article 36,.

<sup>217</sup> Transnational Institute. *Coca yes, Cocaine, no?*, 2006.; International Narcotics Control Board. *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2006*, pp. 27f.

<sup>218</sup> International Narcotics Control Board. *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2006, 2007* pp. 28f.

<sup>219</sup> United Nations. Department on Public Information, *Uncivil Society: Crime, Illicit Drugs and Terrorism*, 2004.

<sup>220</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 201.

may address more effectively the various aspects of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances having an international dimension.”<sup>221</sup> Such measures include the penalization of the intentional “possession, purchase, or cultivation of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances for personal consumption” (Article 3), the confiscation of drugs and proceeds (Article 5), the extradition of suspects (Article 6) and the provision of “the widest measure of mutual legal assistance” (Article 7) in criminal investigations.<sup>222</sup>

Other international legal instruments that respond to the increasing linkage of drug trafficking and other forms of uncivil behavior include the *UN Convention Against Corruption* (A/RES/58/4), the *Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime* (A/RES/55/25) and its Protocols and the *International Convention on the Suppression of the Financing for Terrorism* (A/RES/54/109), all of which address various aspects of the international drug problem.

### ***Dimensions of the Illicit Drug Problem***

There are three major areas in which the spread of illicit drugs poses serious problems to the international community: public health, the development of new markets, and the development of illicit economies. The challenges in the field of public health are both treatment of affected people and the reduction of the consumption of illicit drugs.<sup>223</sup> Special attention should be drawn to the single most consumed illicit drug – cannabis – which is used by an estimated 162 million people or 80% of all users of illicit drugs.<sup>224</sup> In contrast to various national governments’ policies, the INCB and UNODC claim on the basis of recent studies that the health risks posed by consuming cannabis are significantly higher than sometimes argued.<sup>225</sup> New and more potent cannabis has led to more health episodes and long-term psychological problems, such as psychosis, schizophrenia, and altered brain functions, leading to a higher demand for rehabilitation measures for cannabis users.<sup>226</sup>

Along with increasing public health concerns, the development of new markets poses an increasing threat to containing the spread of illicit drugs. While there have been significant changes in global cocaine consumption, the United States still remains the single largest market in the world.<sup>227</sup> Two regions – Europe and Africa – face growing cocaine consumption rates, which has increased concerns for safety and stability in these regions.<sup>228</sup> The main trafficking route to European markets is from Latin America via Western Africa to Europe, where it enters mainly through Spain, which now has the highest cocaine consumption rate in the world.<sup>229</sup> To address this concern, the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union has announced to give priority to increased cooperation with West African States on border controls.<sup>230</sup> While drug traffickers are attracted by growing European demand and prices, Western African States mirror this development as they are used as a trans-shipment point and thus also explored as a potential market.<sup>231</sup> Within Western Africa, the lack of strong law enforcement and border controls, in combination with low human development and prevalent corruption provide a conducive environment for the trafficking of cocaine to Europe and opiates to North America.<sup>232</sup> The negative spill-over effects of trafficking and increased drug use due to greater prosperity account for Africa’s growing importance as a future consumer market.<sup>233</sup>

The view of the cultivation of drugs as an illicit economy problem has two basic implications: a) it serves as a source of income for different persons involved; and b) a sustainable solution must provide a viable alternative

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<sup>221</sup> *Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances*, 1988.

<sup>222</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>223</sup> United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2006*, 2006.

<sup>224</sup> United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2006. Chapter 2. Cannabis: Why We Should Care*, 2006, p. 156.

<sup>225</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 172ff.

<sup>226</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 177 ff.

<sup>227</sup> United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2007*, 2007, pp. 71ff.

<sup>228</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>229</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 90ff, 243.

<sup>230</sup> Council of the European Union, *Programme of the Portuguese Presidency in the Field of Drugs*, 2007.

<sup>231</sup> United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2007*, 2007, p. 77.

<sup>232</sup> Walt, *Cocaine Country*, 2007.; Akyeampong, *Diaspora and Drug Trafficking in West Africa: A Case-Study of Ghana*, 2005.

<sup>233</sup> United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2007*, 2007, p. 35.; Integrated Regional Information Network, *South Africa: The Drug Trade’s Bitter Taste*, 2007.

income, or else farmers will soon return to former habits.<sup>234</sup> The basic goal of alternative development strategies is the substitution of illicit drugs with legal cash crops as a mean to reduce the supply of drugs with the support of law enforcement, as well as preventive and treatment measures to reduce the demand for drugs.<sup>235</sup> In order for the successful implementation of alternative development strategies, adequate security and stability must be achieved throughout a country.<sup>236</sup> Overall, the success of alternative development is remarkable. Throughout the international community the area cultivating coca has fallen to 43% from 1995 till 2003; the area cultivating opium poppies – excluding Afghanistan – has decreased from 1994 till 2004 to 32%.<sup>237</sup> The most remarkable reduction cultivation was achieved in the Golden Triangle region, where the opium poppy producing area dropped by 85% between 1998 and 2006 due to eradication measures by the governments and a decreasing potential opium production on poor soils.<sup>238</sup> The main reason that global opium production in total has not fallen, and even increased in 2006, was the huge annual growth in Afghan opium production that today accounts for 92% of the potential heroin production.<sup>239</sup>

### ***Case Study: Afghanistan***

Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan has been on a steady increase for the last twenty years, with 2001 being the only true exception.<sup>240</sup> This development is dominated by Afghanistan's southern provinces, who account for more than 60% of total Afghan opium cultivation.<sup>241</sup> In contrast to South-East Asia, environmental conditions for opium cultivation in Afghanistan are good and are expected to lead to a further increase in cultivation in 2007.<sup>242</sup> The UNODC furthermore noted that more secure regions have cultivated less opium poppy and vice versa, also citing evidence that in fragile regions insurgents encouraged and even threatened the local population to grow opium.<sup>243</sup> Surveys have shown that cultivation is mostly driven by the economic needs of the farmers, and 98% of them are willing to substitute opium cultivation for alternative crops, if they can provide a decent income.<sup>244</sup> Farmers that aren't growing opium explained their decision that it is either against Islam, against the decisions by the village council, or the general adherence to the government's prohibition of cultivation.<sup>245</sup>

The Economic and Social Council has expressed its support for the Afghan Government's hybrid strategy to increase the number of alternative development projects, such as legal rural livelihoods, and to continue the eradication of poppy, particularly in remote mountainous regions where infrastructure rehabilitation is too expensive.<sup>246</sup> ECOSOC further recommended a need to focus on the expansion of state institutions to support the national counter-narcotics policy, the reduction of demand for opium, and the fight against the drug trade.<sup>247</sup> At the same time, ECOSOC has rejected, in accordance with the INCB, the proposal by the non-governmental Senlis Council to license opium cultivation in Afghanistan in order to meet the medical needs for morphine in undersupplied developing countries.<sup>248</sup>

<sup>234</sup> United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session, *International Cooperation Against the World Drug Problem, Report of the Secretary-General (A/61/221)*, 2006, p.14.

<sup>235</sup> International Narcotics Control Board. *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005. Chapter 1. Alternative Development and Legitimate Livelihoods*, 2006.

<sup>236</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.; United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Alternative Development. A Thematic Evaluation*, 2005.

<sup>237</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>238</sup> United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Opium Poppy Cultivation in the Golden Triangle*, 2006, p. 7-12.

<sup>239</sup> United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2007*, 2007, p. 37, 40.

<sup>240</sup> United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2006*, 2006. p. 3.

<sup>241</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 4f.

<sup>242</sup> United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan Opium Winter Rapid Assessment Survey*, 2007, p. 7f.

<sup>243</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 13.

<sup>244</sup> United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2006*, 2006. p. 10.

<sup>245</sup> United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan Opium Winter Rapid Assessment Survey*, 2007, p. 13.

<sup>246</sup> United Nations. Economic and Social Council, *Support for the National Drug Control Strategy of the Government of Afghanistan (E/RES/2006/32)*, 2006.; International Narcotics Control Board. *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005. Chapter 2. Alternative Development and Legitimate Livelihoods*, 2006, p. 2f.

<sup>247</sup> United Nations. Economic and Social Council, *Support for the National Drug Control Strategy of the Government of Afghanistan (E/RES/2006/32)*, 2006.

<sup>248</sup> Senlis Council, *Feasibility Study on Opium Licensing in Afghanistan for the Production of Morphine and Other Essential Medicines*, 2005, p. 23ff.

The Afghan example also shows the connection between the economic dimension, instability and the financing for terrorism. Instability and war have led in the past to circumstances, in which the cultivation of illicit crops has remained the only viable option for farmers to secure their survival.<sup>249</sup> Further, research provides evidence for the direct and indirect involvement and benefiting of groups such as the FARC in Colombia and the Taliban in Afghanistan.<sup>250</sup>

## **Conclusion**

Although some advancement has been made in the last years, the spread of illicit drugs remains a very important issue that requires international cooperation. The diverse impacts of the global drug trade on the various people and States involved pose a multitude of challenges and affect all Member States of the United Nations. The cultivation of higher potent drugs; rising consumption levels in many parts of the world; and the connection between illicit drugs, organized crime, and terrorism remain pressing issues. Alternative development measures need to be refined and accompanied by other measures, such as eradication and law enforcement. Demand reduction and rehabilitation measures need to be improved as well, in order to ease the worldwide burden by illicit drugs on human development.

Delegates should consider both the way in which their State is involved in the spread of illicit drugs and in which way it is affected by drug consumption, as well as what measures it takes in order to counter these developments. A first orientation can be found in the Annual Reports Questionnaire collected by the UNODC from each State, or a national plan of action. Are there any lessons learnt to be shared with the international community, or developments that need to be tackled by international cooperation? It will also be important to revise the results of the *Political Declaration on International Drug Control*, as well as your State's achievements and problems in this regard. Which international and regional drug conventions have been ratified by your State? Has your country any experience with alternative development measures?

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*H.E. Ambassador T. Hamid al Bayati is the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the UN. He was chairman of the Third Committee of the 61<sup>st</sup> GA. In this function, he had the honour to make the opening statement of the session.*

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.*

Marin-Bosch, M. (1998). *Votes in the UN General Assembly*. The Hague, Netherlands: Kluwer Law International.  
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<sup>249</sup> GTZ. Development-Oriented Drug Control Programme. *Drugs and Conflict*, 2007, p. 9f.

<sup>250</sup> Labrousse, *The FARC and the Taliban's Connection to Drugs*, 2005.

*This web page lists all subsidiary organs of the UN General Assembly. They include Boards, Commissions, Committees, Councils, Panels, Working groups and other institutions. Among the most prominent subsidiary organs, delegates will find the Executive Boards of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and of the World Food Programme (WFP), the Disarmament Commission, United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council (HRC), the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) etc.*

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Weiss, T. G., Forsythe, D. P., Coate, R. A., & Pease, K.-K. (2007). *The United Nations and changing world politics* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Cambridge, MA: Westview Press.

*Delivering a comprehensive introduction to the UN system, the authors of this book address three aspects of the United Nations and changing world politics: international peace and security, human rights and humanitarian affairs, and sustainable human development. It can serve as an introduction to delegate research on many topics.*

### ***I. Evaluation and Implementation of the United Nations Literacy Decade***

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*As the preceding Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan made this message statement for the occasion of International Literacy Day. The overarching theme of the International Literacy Day on September 8, 2006 was "Literacy Sustains Development." The theme purposed to emphasize the connection between human development and literacy. Relating to this are also aspects of economic growth, poverty abolition, protection of the natural resources and sustainable development.*

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/>.*

Convention on the Rights of the Child, November 20, 1989.

*The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was adopted by the General Assembly on November 20, 1989. Once a Member State chooses to ratify the convention they become legally responsible to upholding its content. CRC is an international convention that outlines the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of children. The convention sets out the human rights of all children and the principles to which governments must aim in realizing these rights. The United Nations' Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), consisting of members from nations worldwide, has as its main task to monitor this convention. Member States that have ratified the CRC are obligated to report to, and appear before, the UNCRC on a regular basis in order to examine the status of child*

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*As the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon made this statement for the occasion of International Literacy Day. This year's Literacy Day was particularly important as it marks the halfway phase in the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012). The overarching theme of the International Literacy Day on September 8, 2007 was "Health and Literacy." The theme purposed to emphasize the essential role of literacy in support of improved global health conditions.*

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*As the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura made this message statement for the occasion of International Literacy Day. The theme of the year was "Literacy Sustains Development." The statement highlights both progress and remaining challenges of the decade. In particular, focus was directed toward literacy as "one of the most powerful tools of development."*

Sachs, J. D. (2005). *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities of Our Time*. Toronto, ON: Penguin Group. *Jeffrey D. Sachs is a prominent economist famous for his work of counseling countries in economic calamity. In this book, he provides a deep insight into the success achieved in many developing countries in the fight against poverty and aspiration of sustainable development. Through a holistic approach to development Sachs shares his professional experience of the challenges facing an interconnected world. As such, useful information concerning poverty eradication and economic development is exposed. The book is particularly insightful as it penetrates many of the problematic situations underpinning the complexity of global destitution.*

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*The Fifth International Conference on Adult Education held in Hamburg, 14-18 July 1997, adopted the CONFINTEA document, which is commonly referred to as the Hamburg Declaration on Adult Learning. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized the conference*

*together with a number of partners. The conference assembled almost 1500 participants to debate on how to develop a holistic vision of adult and life long learning, which could integrate all sectors and facilitate partnerships of governmental and non-governmental actors and the private sector. The document represents multilateral agreements, primarily by governments aspiring to give momentum to the global shifts in adult learning. Furthermore, this document has had a very important function in highlighting the significance of women's learning for gender parity and strengthening of women's roles in local communities.*

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*On this webpage, additional information concerning the follow up to the aforementioned CONFITEA is provided. It outlines the recent occasion of a three-day practicum on benchmarks for adult education and learning. The workshop was confined to Hamburg, Germany between July 11 and July 13, 2007. The UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning (UIL) organized the event in preparation for the Sixth Conference on Adult Education (CONFITEA VI) in 2009.*

United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2006). *Education for All Global Monitoring Report*. Retrieved August 23, 2007, from [http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=43047&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=43047&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html).

*This webpage outlines important information regarding the most up-to-date progresses made toward the goals of EFA. The full 2006 report can be downloaded and additional information concerning EFA is excessively provided. Also, it will display the coming report of 2007 from October 26, 2007. As the EFA Global Monitoring Report every year assesses where the world stands on its devotion to achieve universal literacy the 2007 report will supply crucial up-to-date information.*

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*On this webpage, great facts on the second conference, in a series of Regional Conferences in Support of Global Literacy, are available. The conference accorded particular focus to the regions of East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific. UNESCO organized the Conference, which was confined to the 31 July and continued until 1 August 2007 in Beijing. The Government of the People's Republic of China hosted this event.*

United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (n.d.). *Literacy*. Retrieved August 17, 2007, from [http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=40338&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=40338&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html).

*The Literacy Portal intends to improve the propensity of the catalyzing role of UNESCO throughout the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD). The portal also strives to enhance the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE), which is an international considered framework for achieving the goals of the Decade. Moreover, a variety of information concerning other literacy actors such as nongovernmental organizations and community-based organizations is presented. Also, general information relating to the state of literacy in different world-regions is available.*

United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. (n.d.). *Nairobi Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education*. Retrieved August 17, 2007, from [http://www.unesco.org/education/nfsunesco/pdf/NAIROB\\_E.PDF](http://www.unesco.org/education/nfsunesco/pdf/NAIROB_E.PDF)

*The Nairobi Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education is a result of the 19th General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization held in Nairobi, Kenya in 1976. The recommendations stated in the document are intended to coordinate the efforts made by Member States in the advancement of programs relating to adult education. The document particularly stresses the importance of adult learning as an integral part of opportunities to life-long education programs and its vital significance to economic and cultural development. Also, it states specific principles that are intended to function as a foundation for successful programs of adult learning and literacy.*

- United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (2002). *The United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all Plan of Action*. Retrieved August 17, 2007, from <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s33/project/unld.pdf>.  
*The document articulates several recommendations that are intended to support Member States in policy reforms and planning of educational programs. These guidelines aspire to promote universal access to basic education. The plan of action is put forward by UNESCO and is especially designed to increase the possibilities of implementing EFA policies. Also, it attempts to encourage cooperative action by all literacy actors in their coalition effort to reach the EFA goals.*
- United Nations. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. 172<sup>nd</sup> Session. (2005-2005). *United Nations Literacy Decade: Progress Report 2004-2005. Report of the Executive Board (172 EX/10)*. Retrieved August 18, 2007, from <http://www.google.se/search?q=172%2FEX%2F10&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a>.  
*This document describes advancements made since May 2004 on the UNLD International Plan of Action. Also, the contributions made toward the achievements of the EFA goals are listed. Furthermore, the document delivers a profound understanding of the vital role played by UNESCO throughout the Decade. It also reports on development within different programs worldwide that accords the UNLD objectives.*
- United Nations. General Assembly. 56<sup>th</sup> Session. (2002). *United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all (A/RES/56/116)*. Retrieved August 17, 2007, from [http://secap480.un.org/search?q=A%2FRES%2F56%2F116&site=&Submit=Search&ie=utf8&output=xml\\_no\\_dtd&client=UN\\_Website\\_English&proxystylesheet=UN\\_Website\\_English&oe=utf8&as\\_q=&q=&lr=lang\\_en&adv=true](http://secap480.un.org/search?q=A%2FRES%2F56%2F116&site=&Submit=Search&ie=utf8&output=xml_no_dtd&client=UN_Website_English&proxystylesheet=UN_Website_English&oe=utf8&as_q=&q=&lr=lang_en&adv=true).  
*The Third Committee the General Assembly (GA) adopted this resolution on January 18, 2002. By this espousal the GA proclaimed the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD) for the period 2003-2012. The document marks the coordinating role of UNESCO at the international level throughout the Decade. Also, it appeals to all Member States as well as national and transnational economic and financial institutions, to aid larger financial and material support in the efforts of improving universal literacy and attaining the goals of the Decade. In particular, the document appeals to all Member States to advance inclusive policy-making and approaches for reaching the most marginalized individuals with educational programs.*
- United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session. (2006). *Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade (A 61/151)*. Retrieved August 20, 2007, from [http://secap480.un.org/search?q=A%2F61%2F151&site=&Submit=Search&ie=utf8&output=xml\\_nodtd&client=UN\\_Website\\_English&proxystylesheet=UN\\_Website\\_English&oe=utf8&as\\_q=&q=&lr=lang\\_en&adv=true](http://secap480.un.org/search?q=A%2F61%2F151&site=&Submit=Search&ie=utf8&output=xml_nodtd&client=UN_Website_English&proxystylesheet=UN_Website_English&oe=utf8&as_q=&q=&lr=lang_en&adv=true).  
*The report examines the global literacy situation, as well as the challenges facing UNESCO as chief-coordinator for the Decade. The document also reviews the commitments and actions of the partner organizations working with the UN throughout the Decade and the results of a questionnaire sent out to the Member States. It emphasizes lessons learned from the international experiences that have been achieved in working toward the EFA goals. Also, it reviews actions and efforts that have been made in the work of the Decade worldwide. Moreover, it also recognizes the remaining challenges of the Decade as it coordinates future action and progress.*
- United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session. (n.d.). *Third Committee*. Retrieved August 23, 2007, from <http://www.un.org/ga/61/third/third.shtml>.  
*This webpage outlines significant information concerning the work of the Third Committee of the 61<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. Information concerning agenda items, news, activities and documents can be accessed. Also, an excellent search engine provides quick access to relevant documents, resolutions and reports. The webpage links-up with several other UN pages that also provides interrelated information about the work of the Committee and the UNLD.*
- United Nations. Millennium Development Goals. (n.d.). *The Goals*. Retrieved August 23, 2007, from

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>.

*Crucial information regarding the Millennium Development Goals can be found on this webpage. The webpage outlines all the goals and their significance for sustainable human development. Also, it supplies up-to-date information regarding the progresses made in the mission of achieving the goals. Accordingly, it also outlines the remaining challenges and hindrances that stand in the way of reaching the MDGs.*

United Nations. Student Conference on Human Rights. (2003). *Education for All*. Retrieved August 15, 2007, from <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/student/2003/theme.html>.

*This webpage offers access to a basic background of human rights issues and data concerning several social and humanitarian aspects that relates to the EFA goals. In addition, it outlines the six main goals set in Dakar, 2000 and highlights the importance of EFA. The challenges that severely hinder the goals of the Decade are discussed as well as interrelated activities by other UN bodies. The webpage also provides access to additional documents and links that relate to the Decade.*

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

*The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 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>.*

Wagner, D. A. (2003). *International Journal of Educational Research*, Chap 8, 39, 293-309. "Smaller, quicker, cheaper: alternative strategies for literacy assessment in the UN Literacy Decade." *Daniel A. Wagner is both Professor and Director at the National Center on Adult Literacy/International Literacy Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. As a specialist in the field of scientific research concerning literacy, Wagner has made great contributions to the informative aspects that relates to the development of literacy projects worldwide. Wagner has in particular worked closely with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the contribution of a paper commissioned for the 2005 EFA Monitoring Report. This article provides a profound insight in the many obstacles facing especially developing countries but also the more developed countries in the assessment process of literacy. Delegates who review this article will gain valuable insights to many of the complex contexts that constitute hindrances to the ultimate goal of universal literacy.*

### ***Additional Sources***

Cole, M. & Scribner, S. (1999). *The Psychology of Literacy*. iUniverse Publisher.

*The book deals with the essential distinctions between the literate and the illiterate mind. By using the case study of the small West African Group called the Vai people, the significance of informal education and literacy programs is highlighted. The Vai people have developed their own scheme of writing, which flourishes today, even though none of them have received formal schooling. Delegates who read this book will acquire deeper insights to the complexities of what actually constitutes literacy. Additionally, from the information provided in this study parallels can be drawn to many of the arguments underpinning the support for informal education programs. As such, it provides an interesting complement of information to many of the issues raised in regards to the implementation of the UNLD.*

Graham, A. C. (2004). *Report on Higher Education Sustainability Activities*. Retrieved September 19, 2007, from <http://scholar.google.com/scholar?q=un+literacy+decade+scholarly+&hl=sv&client=firefox-a&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&um=1&ie=UTF-8&oi=scholar>.

*Dr. Amanda C. Graham is the Education Program Director of energy, environmental and sustainability education at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The Report on Higher Education Sustainability Activities discusses the international planning and implementation of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). The report treats the DESD as a correlated aspect of the EFA goals, the MDGs and the UNLD. The report emphasizes the importance to bridge the*

*divide between different sectors in order to achieve fruitful results. Delegates who review this report will gain greater insight into the issues of cooperation between sectors as they work to achieve the EFA goals.*

Horn, A. S. (2007). *Defining Literacy and Illiteracy*. Retrieved September 19, 2007, from <http://scholar.google.com/scholar?q=un+literacy+decade+scholar&hl=sv&client=firefox-a&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&hs=SR0&um=1&ie=UTF-8&oi=scholar>.

*Alice Horning is professor of Rhetoric and Linguistics at Oakland University, California. This article outlines a thorough review of literacy and its definitions. The complexity of literacy is scrutinized from a multilingual perspective as it discusses different levels of literacy command from the perspective of first, second and third languages. The article continues with a critical examination of how literacy is constituted at different levels of literacy command.*

Olson, R. D. & Torrance, N. (1991). *Literacy and Orality*. Cambridge, NY: Cambridge University Press. *In this book a group of sixteen distinguished scholars all provide their perspectives of orality and its connection to literacy. The study, in particular, discusses the social and psychological aspects of literacy. In particular, the different ways of utilizing speech and writing on an individual level provides for a discussion on the relationship between speaking and writing. By using examples of different places and languages in different points of time a rich discourse is developed in support of a functional view of literacy.*

Tertiary Education Commission. (n.d.). *Success Stories-Literacy: Viscount Plastics, Auckland*. Retrieved September 16, 2007 from <http://www.tec.govt.nz/templates/standard.aspx?id=1060>. *The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) was established on January 1, 2003 under Section 159C of the New Zealand Education Act of 1989. The primary role of TEC is to implement reformed tertiary education programs in cooperation with the country's Ministry of Education and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. As lead agency for educational administration and policy advancements, the TEC works closely with the tertiary education sector and the government. Also, cooperation with other government organizations are prioritized as the Commission is assigned the "responsibility for developing New Zealand's knowledge society." The TEC has a dynamic function in assisting tertiary partnership and relationship building with New Zealand businesses, communities and larger enterprises.*

Wagner, D. A. (1992). *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 520, 12-26. "World Literacy in the Year 2000."  
*Daniel A. Wagner is both Professor and Director at the National Center on Adult Literacy/International Literacy Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. As a specialist in the field of scientific research concerning literacy, Wagner has made great contributions to the informative aspects that relates to the development of literacy projects worldwide. Wagner has in particular worked closely with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the contribution of a paper commissioned for the 2005 EFA Monitoring Report. This article examines "research on literacy and makes some educated guesses about literacy research and policy in the current decade and beyond." Subjects dealt with consist of defining literacy, literacy achievement, continuation of literacy and literacy results. The article concludes with some proposals on prospective literacy programs within the EFA framework. Delegates will profit from examining this source as it specifically treats suggestions of enhanced education programs within the EFA framework of the Decade.*

## **II. Cultural Property: Illicit Trafficking and Restitution**

BBC News. *Law Blocks Return of Looted Art*. (2005, May 27). Retrieved September 21, 2007, from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/entertainment/4587291.stm>  
*The most recent British ruling that prohibits the return of items from the British Museum. Delegates can research the laws that British say prevent them from returning the Elgin Marbles. This Web site explains the British law regarding the return of cultural property in their possession that did not originate in their State.*

- BBC News. *Talks Held on Elgin Marbles Row*. (2007, May 10). Retrieved September 23, 2007, from [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/6578661.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/6578661.stm)  
*The most recent BBC article on the Elgin Marbles. The British Museum considers and talks about the loan of the marbles to the Athens Museum. Delegates can research progress made in the case study and the opinions of the British Museum on the topic.*
- Beard, M. (2004, July 30). *Lord Elgin - Saviour or Vandal?* Retrieved September 26, 2007, from BBC History Web site: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/greeks/parthenon\\_debate\\_05.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/greeks/parthenon_debate_05.shtml)  
*This is another research article on the Elgin Marbles. This is a British article on the subject. This article gives both sides of the story of the marbles and lets the reader decide if they feel Lord Elgin is a savior or vandal in history.*
- Clair, W. S. (1998). *Lord Elgin and The Marbles*. Oxford University Press, USA.  
*A 1998 book documenting the Elgin Marbles. This is another possible source of information for the marbles if the other books cannot be found. This 1998 book describes the history of the marbles and what has been done in regards to the marbles to that point in time.*
- Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Nov. 14, 1970, 823 U.N.T.S. 231. Retrieved August 24, 2007, from [http://www.unesco.org/culture/laws/1970/html\\_eng/page2.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/culture/laws/1970/html_eng/page2.shtml)  
*The Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property is the first document to work on the subject and lays out the groundwork for every other document on the topic. Delegates should look at this instrument first because most of the newer sources on the issue use this as their starting point.*
- Elginism*. Retrieved September 19, 2007, from <http://www.elginism.com/>  
*This is a Greek database on articles related to Cultural Property returns around the world. The sites main focus is the Elgin Marbles and the news surrounding them. The database also links to news sources around the world and gives opinions on the article, although delegates should be cautioned not all are scholarly opinions.*
- Hladik, J. (1998, Fall). *The Theft and Redemption of History - includes Related Articles - International Agreement on Addressing the Problem of Stolen Cultural Objects. UN Chronicle*. Retrieved September 23, 2007, from [http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m1309/is\\_3\\_35/ai\\_54259354](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1309/is_3_35/ai_54259354)  
*Citing the significance of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), this 1998 article contains examples of returned cultural property. Delegates should look to this as another example of the methods countries use when negotiating the return or restitution of cultural property.*
- Hitchens, C. (1998). *The Elgin Marbles*. New York: W W Norton & Co Inc.  
*This book was used in researching the case study and is a good source for the history and the debate over the future of the marbles. Delegates can turn to it for a history of the marbles and the history of the negotiations regarding the marbles.*
- International Council of Museums. (2007, July 12). *ICOM Mission*. Retrieved August 24, 2007, from <http://icom.museum/mission.html>  
*The Non-governmental Organization (NGO) International Council of Museums (ICOM) and its mission statement and history may serve delegates as a source of further information for use in their research. This Web site also links to more information on the current work of ICOM and what they are doing/planning on doing to promote the protection of cultural property.*
- Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation (2001, May 6). *12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Restitution and Return Committee*. Retrieved September 26, 2007, from UNESCO Web site: [http://www.unesco.org/culture/legalprotection/committee/html\\_eng/index\\_en.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/culture/legalprotection/committee/html_eng/index_en.shtml)

*This site links to the 11th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation. The site also gives a brief description of the responsibilities of this committee. Delegates can research the committee here and also access links to other relative information.*

*International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property. (1999, January). Retrieved August 25, 2007, from UNESCO Web site: [http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=13095&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13095&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)*

*Here delegates will find the International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This will best help with research into private sector illicit trade and trafficking. This site gives examples of private sector trading and will help delegates research the international laws binding private traders within their borders.*

*Karamanlis, C. (2004, June 4). Culture is a Social Investment Because the World Needs Values and Humanity. Retrieved September 14, 2007, from the Hellenic Ministry of Culture Web site: <http://odysseus.culture.gr/a/1/12/ea121.html>*

*The speech reflects the official Greek position on the parliament marbles. It also explains why they feel the marbles should be returned. The Web site links to the new Athens museum and various other Greek cultural heritage sites will help delegates when researching the case study.*

*Kavan, J. (2002, Dec. 12). United Nations Year of Cultural Heritage. Retrieved September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 from UN Web site: <http://www.un.org/ga/president/57/pages/speeches/statement021204-Heritage.htm>*

*This is the 2002 speech for the United Nations (UN) year of cultural heritage. This speech is where the opening quote of the topic is derived from. The site the speech is located on links to UN documents and Web sites that will help delegates in their research of Cultural Property and heritage.*

*King, D. (2006). The Elgin Marbles. London: Hutchinson.*

*Published in 2006, this is the most recent book on the Elgin Marbles. It contains some of the recent developments of the marbles along with the history of the marbles. This book would be the best source to start researching the history of the case study.*

*Middle East Times. (2007, June 14). Greece Reclaims Stolen Apollo Statue. Retrieved September 21, 2007, from <http://www.metimes.com/storyview.php?StoryID=20070614-105550-7776>*

*Referring to the recovery of a stolen Apollo statue, this article provides a great example for the returning of cultural property as it relates to the case study. The article also explains what processes were used to secure the item and the transfer. Delegates could use this as a model for future exchanges of cultural property.*

*Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. (1999, March 24), 38 ILM 769. Retrieved September 3, 2007, from [http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=15207&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=15207&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)*

*Here delegates can view the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999. Delegates can view the evolution and change in the document from the first to second protocol. Delegates can also research how the provisions of the convention have changed overtime.*

*Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. May 14, 1954, 249 U.N.T.S. 240. Retrieved September 3, 2007, from [http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=8450&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=8450&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)*

*Here delegates will find a summary and links to the English text of the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. This summary will help better understand the document and its highlights. Delegates may also view the ratifications and the original text from this site.*

UNESCO (2005, February). *Cultural Heritage Laws Database*. Retrieved September 1, 2007, from [http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=24840&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=24840&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)  
*The Cultural Heritage database is a great resource for delegates to find national laws from their states and other Member States. This database will also allow delegates to research the laws of like-minded States. The data base also links to UNESCO's Web site which has links to international law.*

UNESCO (1964). *Recommendation on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Export, Import, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property*. (1964, November 19). Retrieved August 25, 2007, from [http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=13083&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13083&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)  
*The Recommendation on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Export, Import, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property will help provide delegates with a historical starting point for their research. This recommendation will give delegates the opportunity to assess the progress of the UN in addressing the matter.*

United Nations. General Assembly. 28<sup>th</sup> Session. (1973, December 18). *Restitutions of Works of Art to Countries Victims of Expropriation (A/RES/3187)*, Retrieved September 15, 2007, from UN Search database: <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/28/ares28.htm>  
*Restitutions of Works of Art to Countries Victims of Expropriation (A/RES/3187) represents the first document the United Nations drafted on the topic. Delegates can use this document as a historical starting point. This resolution is a good source for delegates looking at the restitution for the illicit transfer of cultural property and how the topic has evolved over the years.*

United Nations. General Assembly. 61<sup>st</sup> Session. (2007, February 16). *Return or Restitution of Cultural Property to the Countries of Origin (A/RES/61/52)*. Retrieved September 12, 2007, from <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/r61.htm>  
*This is the most recent resolution drafted by the General Assembly on the topic. Delegates can use this as a gateway to other resolutions and to get an understanding of the direction the UN is taking on the subject. Delegates can use this document to research other documents that pertain to illicit cultural property trafficking and it also reflects the most recent concerns and successes on the topic.*

UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects. June 24, 1995, 34 ILM 1322 (1995). Retrieved August 23, 2007, from UNIDROIT Web site: <http://www.unidroit.org/english/conventions/1995culturalproperty/1995culturalproperty-e.htm>  
*Delegates will find this Web site one of the most useful and recent conventions on the restitution and return side of the topic. Delegates can also access the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) Web site from here. Delegates may also research the unification of private law and how it affects cultural property from this Web site.*

Vranopoulos, E. (1985). *The Parthenon and the Elgin Marbles*. Retrieved September 12, 2007, from <http://www.museum-security.org/The%20Parthenon%20and%20the%20Elgin%20Marbles.htm>  
*Giving an overview of the Lord Elgin Marbles, delegates should consult this source only to get a brief summary of the Lord Elgin Marbles. This source was originally a short pamphlet handed out to spread awareness of the case.*

Vrettos, T. (1974). *A Shadow of Magnitude: The Acquisition of the Elgin Marbles*. G.P. Putnam's Sons.  
*This book focuses on how the Elgin Marbles were acquired. Delegates can look to this source for a detailed look at the acquisition of the marbles from the Parthenon. It allows for a detailed look at how the marbles were purchased by the British Government and taken to Britain.*

### **III. Combating the Spread of Illicit Drugs**

Akyeampong, E. (2005). Diaspora and Drug Trafficking in West Africa: A Case-Study of Ghana. *African Affairs*, 104(416), 429-447.  
*The author discusses Western Africa's position in the global drug trade, starting in the early 20th century and closing with recent developments. He shows how Western Africa has become the*

*middleman for illicit drug trafficking on two main routes: of cocaine from Latin America to Europe and of opium from the Golden Crescent (Afghanistan and Pakistan) to North America. Particular emphasis is put on the role of transnational networks - diasporas - claiming to work to overcome "the unequal distribution of wealth in the global economy."*

Annan, K. (1997, Fall). Incremental Adaptations Will Not Suffice. *UN Chronicle*, 3, 1997. Retrieved August 1, 2007, from United Nations Web site: <http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle-arch/1997/annual.htm>  
*Former United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Kofi Annan underlined in his first annual report in the UN Chronicle the hardships of the institutional reforms. He further pointed to the global threat posed by "uncivil elements of society," such as organized crime and drug trafficking, even to the strongest Member States.*

*Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances*, Dec. 20, 1988, U.N. Doc. E/CONF.82/15 (1988). Retrieved July 3, 2007 from UNODC Web site: [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention\\_1988\\_en.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention_1988_en.pdf)  
*The convention enhances international cooperation against drug trafficking with special regard to legal issues, such as extraditions, as well as the tracing, freezing and confiscation of assets originating from illicit drugs. Further, the convention demands its parties to prohibit the possession of illicit drugs for private usage, if this does not infringe national constitutional regulations.*

*Convention on Psychotropic Substances*, Feb. 21, 1971, 1 019 U.N.T.S. 175. Retrieved July 3, 2007 from UNODC Web site: [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention\\_1971\\_en.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention_1971_en.pdf)  
*As a reaction to the substitution of illicit drugs pursuant to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs with psychoactive drugs, the convention includes a number of hallucinogenic psychotropic drugs in a drug control scheme based on the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.*

Council of the European Union. (2007, July 2). *Programme of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Field of Drugs*. Retrieved August 1, 2007, from Council of the European Union Web site: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/07/st11/st11433.en07.pdf>  
*The document contains the objectives of, and events during, the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2007. The Presidency puts its main attention to the cooperation with Western Africa in order to curb the influx of cocaine on this route.*

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. (n.d.). *Drug Profiles*. Retrieved August 2, 2007, from EMCDDA Web site: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/index.cfm?nnodeid=25328>  
*The Web page provides the reader with a scientifically sound overview on the drugs controlled by the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances.*

Gootenberg, P. (1999). *Cocaine – Global Histories*. London: Routledge.  
*The book presents an historical view on cocaine consumption, outlining the drug's diverse histories in various countries at different times in the 19th and 20th century. Starting from its birth "in a German lab from dried Peruvian coca leaf" in 1860, the authors trace cocaine's first medical use to its global spread as a drug, its worldwide prohibition and re-emergence in the 1970's. The book shows that international chains in cocaine production and consumption are not a discovery of the recent past, but have already been observed more than a century ago.*

GTZ. Development-Oriented Drug Control Programme (2007). *Drugs and Conflict – How the Mutual Impact of Illicit Drug Economies and Violent Conflict Influences Sustainable Development, Peace and Stability*, Eschborn. Retrieved July 29, 2007, from GTZ Web site: <http://www2.gtz.de/dokumente/bib/07-0470.pdf>  
*The research paper provides insight into the value-added chain of drugs from their production to their point of destination and describes the interplay of drug production, trafficking, and consumption. The author further elaborates on the self-enforcing relationship between the illicit drug economy and violent conflict spurred. It presents response measures taken in Bolivia and Afghanistan and gives further recommendations for development-oriented drug control cooperation.*

Integrated Regional Information Network. (2007, May 17). *South Africa: The Drug Trade's Bitter Taste*. Retrieved August 4, 2007, from Reuters Foundation Web site:

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/7a2243c4bb78762570a146d4487ea4f6.htm>

*The article reports on the significantly increased abuse of hard drugs in South Africa, most notably heroin, cocaine and methamphetamines. It emphasizes that nearly half of the criminals convicted for serious crimes tested positive for illicit drugs. Remarkably, as well, is that drug users are on average only 22 years old, male and often members of gangs that are in charge of the trafficking of drugs.*

International Narcotics Control Board. (2006, March 1). *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005. Chapter 1. Alternative Development and Legitimate Livelihoods*. New York. Retrieved July 28, 2007, from INCB Web site: [http://www.incb.org/pdf/e/ar/2005/incb\\_report\\_2005\\_full.pdf](http://www.incb.org/pdf/e/ar/2005/incb_report_2005_full.pdf)

*The International Narcotics Control Board's (INCB) annual report for 2005 pays particular attention to alternative development measures and their impact on the cultivation of illicit drugs. It identifies preconditions for successful alternative development and presents the results in various States.*

Labrousse, A. (2005). The FARC and the Taliban's Connection to Drugs, *Journal of Drug Issues*, 35(1), 169-184.

*The article compares the Colombian FARC movement and the Taliban in Afghanistan arguing that, although both groups are completely different, their relationship to the illicit drug trade is very similar. While in the beginning both opposed the cultivation of coca and opium respectively, and took countermeasures, until discovering that illicit drug cultivation provided a certain income for both rural farmers, and in the form of "taxes" for the provision of security also for the FARC and the Taliban. While the direct involvement into cultivation and processing is considered stronger for the FARC, the author is certain that both groups have used the illicit drug trade as a mean to finance their activities.*

Senlis Council. (2005, September). *Feasibility Study on Opium Licensing in Afghanistan for the Production of Morphine and Other Essential Medicines*. Retrieved August 4, 2007, from [http://www.senliscouncil.net/modules/publications/008\\_publication](http://www.senliscouncil.net/modules/publications/008_publication)

*The paper outlines the envisioned licensed opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan that would both serve to meet the medical needs for morphine in developing countries and to create a licit source of income for farmers in Afghanistan's most vulnerable provinces. It further argues that the proposal is compatible with Afghanistan's formal and informal legal system and that licensed opium production for medical uses is working in other countries.*

*Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*, Mar. 30, 1961, 520 U.N.T.S. 204. Retrieved July 3, 2007 from UNODC Web site: [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention\\_1961\\_en.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention_1961_en.pdf)

*The convention can be seen as a consolidation of earlier treaties on illicit drugs and an extension by including cannabis into the regime. It aims to outlaw all production of narcotic drugs for non-medical and non-scientific uses and requires its parties to put these goals into national legislation.*

Transnational Institute. (2006, May). *Coca yes, Cocaine, no? Legal Options for the Coca Leaf*. Amsterdam. Retrieved August 3, 2007, from TNI Web site: <http://www.tni.org/reports/drugs/debate13.pdf>

*This research paper argues that the inclusion of the coca leaf in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs was a "historical error" and thus picks the debate initiated by the Bolivian government at the session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2006 to undo this decision. It further presents scientific research on coca consumption, as well as various current policy positions on the matter.*

United Nations. Department on Public Information. (2004). *Uncivil Society: Crime, Illicit Drugs and Terrorism. In Basic Facts about the United Nations* (pp. 199 - 204). New York.

*The book provides a very basic overview into the multiplicity of UN related topics and the various organs and agencies involved in policy-making in these fields. The section gives an overview on the UN bodies and conventions involved in the struggle against illicit drugs.*

United Nations. Economic and Social Council. (2006, July 27). *Support for the National Drug Control Strategy of the Government of Afghanistan (E/RES/2006/32)*. Retrieved August 4, 2007, from ECOSOC Web site: <http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/documents/2006/resolutions/Resolution%202006-32.pdf>

*The ECOSOC resolution expresses its support for the counter-narcotics strategy of the Afghan government and gives recommendations for future priorities, such as the disruption of the drug trade and the developing of central and provincial institutions in charge of the implementation of the strategy. It explicitly rejects the proposal by the Senlis Council for the licensing of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan.*

United Nations. General Assembly. 20th Special Session. (1998, June 10). *Political Declaration of the Special Session of the General Assembly on International Drug Control (A/RES/S-20/2)*. Retrieved July 6, 2007, from UN Web site: <http://www.un.org/ga/20special/poldecla.htm>  
*The General Assembly Plenary held in 1998 its 20<sup>th</sup> Special Session on the World Drug Problem and passed the Political Declaration as its main document. Aiming at substantial progress in reducing both supply and demand, the declaration provides policy recommendations and underlines the global dimension and thus the need for international cooperation on this topic. The declaration has set 2008 as its year of reference until which to achieve "significant reductions with a view to the elimination" of illicit drugs.*

United Nations. General Assembly. 61st Session. (2006, August 1). *International Cooperation Against the World Drug Problem, Report of the Secretary-General (A/61/221)*. Retrieved August 3, 2007, from UN Web site: <http://www.un.org/ga/61/third/item99summary.shtml>  
*The report outlines recent trends in the production and consumption of illicit drugs and the institutional cooperation between the various UN bodies involved in drug control. It introduces various regional approaches to limit the production or trafficking of illicit drugs and affirms the threat illicit drugs pose for sustainable human development.*

United Nations. General Assembly. 61st Session. (2007, March 13). *International Cooperation Against the World Drug Problem (A/RES/61/183)*. Retrieved July 6, 2007, from UN Web site: <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/r61.htm>  
*The most recent resolution by the General Assembly on international drug control reaffirms the call upon all Member States to strive to achieve the goals set out in the General Assembly's 1998 Political Declaration. It further underlines the need for the integration of measures reducing the supply and the demand for illicit drugs, such as alternative development, international cooperation in law enforcement, the prevention of the laundering of proceeds and early intervention against drug abuse.*

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2005, March). *Alternative Development. A Thematic Evaluation*. Retrieved August 4, 2007, from UNODC Web site: [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Alternative\\_Development\\_Evaluation\\_Dec-05.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Alternative_Development_Evaluation_Dec-05.pdf)  
*The report provides a synthesis from various alternative development projects conducted in South-East Asia and Latin America. It provides statistical information on those projects, summarizes their basic insights, and gives policy recommendations for successful alternative development strategies.*

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2006). *World Drug Report 2006. Chapter 2. Cannabis: Why We Should Care*. Vienna. Retrieved August 2, 2007, from [http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/world\\_drug\\_report\\_2006.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/world_drug_report_2006.html)  
*In addition to providing general information on the development of illicit drugs, the report puts a focus on cannabis, by far the world's most popular illicit drug. Although being subject to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs cannabis is treated with much greater leniency in various Member States.*

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2006, October). *Opium Poppy Cultivation in the Golden Triangle*. Vienna. Abstract retrieved August 2, 2007, from UNODC Web site: [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/Golden\\_triangle\\_2006.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/Golden_triangle_2006.pdf)  
*The survey illustrates the successes in the elimination of opium poppy cultivation in Lao PDR, Thailand, and Myanmar and contrasts this with the development in Afghanistan. It summarizes the positive and negative consequences of opium cultivation, as well as counter-strategies developed.*

- United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2007). *World Drug Report 2007*. Vienna. Retrieved July 6, 2007, from UNODC Web site: [http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/world\\_drug\\_report.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/world_drug_report.html)  
*The World Drug Report 2007 provides an overview on the global drug situation, identifies positive and negative developments and contains a comprehensive statistical database. Its general message is a containment of the market for illicit drugs with considerable variation.*
- United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2007, July 13). *Status of Treaty Adherence to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)*. Retrieved August 3, 2007, from UNODC Web site: [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/treaty\\_adherence\\_convention\\_1961.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/treaty_adherence_convention_1961.pdf)  
*The document lists the 183 Member States to the Convention and their dates of ratification, accession, or succession. It further contains declarations and reservations made by the parties.*
- United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, & Government of Afghanistan. Ministry of Counter-Narcotics. (2006, September). *Afghanistan Opium Survey*. Kabul. Retrieved August 2, 2007, from UNODC Web site: [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/AFG05%20\\_full\\_web\\_2006.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/AFG05%20_full_web_2006.pdf)  
*The survey documents the development of opium cultivation in Afghanistan between 2005 and 2006. It provides details on the regional differences of opium poppy cultivation, as well as reasons of opium farmers for and against the crop growing.*
- United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, & Government of Afghanistan. Ministry of Counter-Narcotics. (2007, February). *Afghanistan Opium Winter Rapid Assessment Survey*. Kabul. Retrieved August 2, 2007, from UNODC Web site: [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/2007\\_ORAS.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/2007_ORAS.pdf)  
*The report investigates the motivation of farmers to grow opium and thus evaluates the prospects for alternative development measures. Further, it concludes that insurgency is one of the main factors driving drug cultivation, partly explaining the huge differences between Afghan provinces.*
- United Nations. Secretariat. (2004, March 15). *Organization of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (ST/SGB/2004/6)*. Retrieved August 3, 2007, from UNODC Web site: [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/sgb\\_2004\\_6\\_unodc.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/sgb_2004_6_unodc.pdf)  
*The document outlines the purpose and functions of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, its relationship to other UN bodies and its internal organization. It is important for delegates to understand the powers that can and cannot be undertaken by bodies such as the UNODC while discussing the topic.*
- Walt, V. (2007, July 9). Cocaine Country. *TIME*, 22-27.  
*The article covers recent developments in Guinea-Bissau that has, according to the article, developed as the main reloading point for cocaine from Latin America on its way to Europe. It reports linkages between the military and Colombian supposed drug dealers preventing proper law enforcement by the police and courts, as well as the challenges facing and initiatives taken by some European governments*
- Zheng, Y. (2003). The Social Life of Opium in China, 1483-1999, *Modern Asian Studies*, 37(1), 1-39.  
*The article picks up the question how the demand for the – originally foreign – opium in China thrived and was sustained for more than 500 years. Opium smoking is discussed as a social phenomenon that is embedded in everyday life and culture of the Chinese people, often considered en vogue and thus pursued by the masses. The author argues that although the decline of opium consumption in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was remarkable, the economic reforms and the associated opening-up have lead to a revival of opium and its modern derivatives, such as heroin.*

### ***Additional Sources***

- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. (2004, July). *An Overview of Cannabis Potency in Europe*. Luxembourg. Retrieved August 7, 2007, from EMCDDA Web site: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.AttachmentDownload&nNodeID=2950&slanguageISO=EN>  
*The report analyzes the European cannabis market and draws comparisons with other non-European States. Two distinctive consumption patterns - with a domination of either cannabis resin or herbal*

*cannabis - can be found throughout the Member States. Although indoor cultivation account for some share in the market, the majority of cannabis consumed is imported, mostly from North Africa.*

Garcés, L. (2005). Colombia: The Link between Drugs and Terror. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 35(1), 83-105. *The article investigates the history and nature of the relationship between terrorist groups and illicit drug manufacturing in Colombia. It shows how the two, in the beginning independently coexisting interest groups, aligned and what long-term effects this “alliance” had on Colombia. Two phases of this are identified: prior to 1990, when drugs were used by criminals as an instrument to achieve certain goals, and post 1990 characterized by the growth the illicit drug industry and an “auto-reproduction of violence.”*

Integrated Regional Information Network. (2007, July 7). *West Africa: Impunity and Low Risk Make Region “Haven” for Traffickers*. Retrieved August 1, 2007, from Reuters Foundation Web site: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/4d539f453c62610226a01f767af366a1.htm> *The article outlines the overwhelming importance of Western Africa for drug trafficking and the reasons that have led to such a development. The region has increasingly become a transshipment region for cocaine on its way to Europe and heroin destined for North America.*

International Narcotics Control Board. (2007, March 1). *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2006*. New York. Retrieved August 3, 2007, from INCB Web site: <http://www.incb.org/pdf/e/ar/2006/annual-report-2006-en.pdf> *The INCB’s annual report provides a comprehensive overview on adherence of Parties to the UN drug conventions and discusses national discrepancies from the way in which the INCB reads the conventions. Further, it provides an analysis of the world drug situation for major regions of the world, as well as policy recommendations to the various organizations the INCB is cooperating with.*

Lijun, C. (2006). China-ASEAN Cooperation Against Illicit Drugs from the Golden Triangle, *Asian Perspective*, 30(2), pp. 97-126. *The article reviews the collaborative efforts between China, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Golden Triangle States in order to counter illicit drug trafficking. The author provides further insight into the recent history of drug cultivation, trafficking and the emergence of “drug armies” controlling the production of opium and heroin. Besides other obstacles, such as historical or geographical ones, as well as political struggles, the de facto lack of compatibility of national laws and international agreements remains an important obstacle for a common response to drug cultivation and trafficking in the region.*

United Nations. Economic and Social Council. (2006, July 27). *Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation Against Illicit Drugs and Related Matters: A Vision for the Twenty-First Century*. Retrieved August 2, 2007, from ECOSOC Web site: <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/docs/resdec.asp?file=1084> *The Baku Accord is a regional initiative by the Member States from the Near and Middle East working in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs’ (CND) subcommission on illicit drug traffic and related matters. It aims to foster cooperation in law enforcement and border controls, the establishment of coordination centers, the development of drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation measures and supports the INCB’s undertakings to prevent the dissemination of precursors.*

United Nations. Economic and Social Council. (2006, July 27). *The Need for a Balance Between Demand for and Supply of Opiates Used to Meet Medical and Scientific Needs*. Retrieved August 1, 2007, from ECOSOC Web site: <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/docs/resdec.asp?file=1088> *The resolution notes States varying licit demand for narcotic drugs for medical purposes, especially in developing countries. It further calls on governments to strictly adhere to the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and thus rejects proposals for the legalization of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan.*

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2003, May). *Paris Pact*. Retrieved August 3, 2007, from <http://www.paris-pact.net>

*The Paris Pact is an international initiative by States along the opium trafficking route from Afghanistan to European markets to increase collaboration in this matter. It aims to facilitate consultation between all Member States, while the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is supposed to work as a “clearing house” for a more integrative approach to drug trafficking by the UNODC, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.*

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2007, July 13). *Status of Treaty Adherence - Convention on Psychotropic Drugs*. Retrieved August 3, 2007, from UNODC Web site: [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/treaty\\_adherence\\_convention\\_1971.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/treaty_adherence_convention_1971.pdf)

*The document lists the 183 Member States to the Convention and their dates of ratification, accession or succession. It further contains the declarations and reservations made by the parties.*

Vargas, R. (2005). Strategies for Controlling the Drug Supply: Policy Recommendations to Deal with Illicit Crops and Alternative Development Programs. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 35(1), 131-150.

*The article describes the experiences in reducing illicit crop cultivation in Colombia and Bolivia. It underlines that eradicating coca on the ground is the most cost-effective mean, but needs to be accompanied by alternative development measures, especially by strengthening the rule of law. Although being less effective, manual eradication is recommended over aerial fumigation which is criticized for intensive chemical use and detrimental environmental and health effects.*

## **Rules of Procedure**

### **General Assembly Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (GA3rd)**

#### ***Introduction***

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the General Assembly Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (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 7 - 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.

**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 first night’s 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 - Ommitted****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.