



NMUN • NY

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA



NATIONAL MODEL
UNITED NATIONS

5-9 April 2009 - Sheraton
7-11 April 2009 - Marriott

www.nmun.org

BACKGROUND GUIDE 2009



NATIONAL
COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE
association™

WRITTEN BY:
June Findlay
Thera Watson

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

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NMUN•NY 2009 IMPORTANT DATES

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

SHERATON

MARRIOTT

31 January 2009

31 January 2009

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

15 February 2009

15 February 2009

- Committee Updates Posted to www.nmun.org.

1 March 2009

1 March 2009

- Hotel Registration with FULL PRE-PAYMENT Due to Hotel - Register Early! Registration is first-come, first-served.
- Any Changes to Delegate Numbers Must be Confirmed to karen@nmun.org
- Two Copies of Each Position Paper Due via E-mail
(See opposite page for instructions).
- ***All Conference Fees Due to NMUN for confirmed delegates.***
(\$125 per delegate if paid by 1 March; \$150 per delegate if received after 1 March.) Fee is not refundable after this deadline.

NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The 2009 National Model UN Conference

- 5 - 9 April – Sheraton New York
- 7 - 11 April – New York Marriott Marquis

Two copies of each position paper should be sent via e-mail by 1 MARCH 2009

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 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
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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
NMUN Director of Programs	karen@nmun.org
Secretary-General	secgen@nmun.org
Director(s)-General	dirgen@nmun.org

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THE 2009 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

New York City, 5-9 April (Sheraton) & 7-11 April (Marriott) • www.nmun.org

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2009 National Model United Nations (NMUN)! We are very pleased to be serving as your Directors for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) at the Sheraton and Marriott venues this spring.

We would like to introduce ourselves, as we will be your first contacts for your questions or suggestions which we will be more than happy to receive. June Findlay will be your director at the Sheraton venue. She holds a degree in International Studies and French-English translation from York University and is currently working in the financial sector in Toronto, Canada, where she resides. Thera Watson will be your director at the Marriott venue. She holds a MA in Political Science and a BA in International Relations. This year's topics are:

1. Combating Social Exclusion and Human Rights violations in the ESCWA Region
2. Improving Technological Capabilities to Promote Sustainable Development in the ESCWA Region
3. Facilitating Trade in the ESCWA Region through the Strengthening of Regional Partnerships and Frameworks

The ESCWA is intensely focused on the concept of regional integration and cooperation between Member States as a means to improve the level of economic and social developmental success throughout the region. The Commission provides a setting in which Member States can discuss how to coordinate and intensify cooperation for development; to promote peace and security, and to intensify international cooperation within the framework of the UN. Delegates have the responsibility to apply available resources wisely and with respect to regionally diverse needs. These tasks require profound knowledge of the role of the Commission, economic coherences, and their social and environmental consequences.

Every delegation is required to submit a position paper prior to attending the conference. NMUN will accept position papers via e-mail by March 1st for both venues. Please refer to the message from your Director-General explaining NMUN's position paper requirements and restrictions, as adherence to these guidelines is of utmost importance.

Your experience in the ESCWA will be challenging, but very enriching at the same time. We know about the demanding preparation for the participation in your committee's work. Please do not hesitate to direct any questions or concerns toward your Director. With a compassionate effort of everyone involved in these promising sessions, we are confident that our conference will be a great success. We look forward to meeting you in New York and wish you all the best.

Sincerely yours,

Sheraton Venue

June Findlay

Director

escwa.sheraton@nmun.org

Marriott Venue

Thera Watson

Director

escwa.marriott@nmun.org

Message from the Directors-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2009 NMUN Conference

At the 2009 NMUN New York 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 representatives of Member States, some may also serve as 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. Discussing recommendations for action to be taken by your committee is another portion of the position paper that should be considered. 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 re-creation 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.
- Margins must be set at 1 inch for whole paper
- Country/NGO name, School name and committee name clearly labeled on the first page; the use of national symbols is highly discouraged
- 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 November 15, 2008. 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 or 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, 2009 for Delegations attending the NMUN conference at either the Sheraton or 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 Sarah Tulley, Director-General, Sheraton venue, or Lauren Judy, Director-General, Marriott venue at 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
Sarah Tulley
Director-General

sarah@nmun.org

Marriott Venue
Lauren Judy
Director-General

lauren@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.

Delegation from
Canada

Represented by
(Name of College)

Position Paper for General Assembly Plenary

The topics before the General Assembly Plenary are: Breaking the link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict; the Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy; and the Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa. Canada is dedicated to collaborative multilateral approaches to ensuring protection and promotion of human security and advancement of sustainable development.

I. Breaking the link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict

Canada endorses the Kimberly Process in promoting accountability, transparency, and effective governmental regulation of trade in rough diamonds. We believe the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is an essential international regulatory mechanism and encourage all Member States to contribute to market accountability by seeking membership, participation, and compliance with its mandate. Canada urges Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2007 Kimberley Process Communiqué to strengthen government oversight of rough diamond trading and manufacturing by developing domestic legal frameworks similar to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. We call upon participating States to act in accordance with the KPCS's comprehensive and credible systems of peer review to monitor the continued implementation of the Kimberley Process and ensure full transparency and self-examination of domestic diamond industries. We draw attention to our domestic programs for diamond regulation including Implementing the Export and Import of Rough Diamonds Act and urge Member States to consider these programs in developing the type of domestic regulatory frameworks called for in A/RES/55/56. We recommend Member States implement the 2007 Brussels Declaration on Internal Controls of Participants and, in cooperation with established diamond industries, increase controls for record keeping, spot checks of trading companies, physical inspections of imports and exports, and maintenance of verifiable records of rough diamond inventories. Pursuant to Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations and in conjunction with S/RES/1346, we support renewed targeted sanctions on Côte d'Ivoire, initiated under Paragraph 1 of S/RES/1782, and recommend the Security Council use targeted sanctions and embargos to offset illicit exploitation of diamond trading. Canada recognizes the crucial role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the review of rough diamond control measures developed through the Kimberly Process and encourages States to include NGOs, such as Global Witness and Partnership Africa Canada, in the review processes called for in A/RES/58/290. We urge Member States to act in accordance with A/RES/60/182 to optimize the beneficial development impact of artisanal and alluvial diamond miners by establishing a coordinating mechanism for financial and technical assistance through the Working Group of the Kimberly Process of Artisanal Alluvial Producers. Canada calls upon States and NGOs to provide basic educational material regarding diamond valuation and market prices for artisanal diggers, as recommended by the Diamond Development Initiative. Canada will continue to adhere to the 2007 Brussels Declaration on Internal Controls of Participants and is dedicated to ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective regulation of the rough diamond trade through the utilization of voluntary peer review systems and the promotion of increased measures of internal control within all diamond producing States.

II. The Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy

Canada is dedicated to integrating alternative energy sources into climate change frameworks by diversifying the

energy market while improving competitiveness in a sustainable economy, as exemplified through our Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. We view the international commitment to the promotion of alternative sources of energy called for in the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Control (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations to Article 4 of the UNFCCC by continuing to provide development assistance through the Climate Change Development Fund and calls upon Member States to commit substantial financial and technical investment toward the transfer of sustainable energy technologies and clean energy mechanisms to developing States. We emphasize the need for Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2005 Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference to strengthen domestic policy frameworks to promote clean energy technologies. Canada views dissemination of technology information called for in the 2007 Group of Eight Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy Declaration as a vital step in energy diversification from conventional energy generation. We call upon Member States to integrate clean electricity from renewable sources into their domestic energy sector by employing investment campaigns similar to our \$1.48 billion initiative ecoENERGY for Renewable Power. Canada encourages States to develop domestic policies of energy efficiency, utilizing regulatory and financing frameworks to accelerate the deployment of clean low-emitting technologies. We call upon Member States to provide knowledge-based advisory services for expanding access to energy in order to fulfill their commitments to Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Canada emphasizes the need for States to establish domestic regulatory bodies similar to the Use, Development, Deployment, and Transfer of Technology Program to work in cooperation with the private sector to increase the transfer of alternative energy technologies. Highlighting the contributions of the Canadian Initiative for International Technology Transfer and the International Initiative for Technology Development Program, we urge Member States to facilitate the development and implementation of climate change technology transfer projects. Canada urges States to address the concerns of the 2007 Human Development Report by promoting tax incentives, similar to the Capital Cost Allowances and Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses, to encourage private sector development of energy conservation and renewable energy projects. As a member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, Canada is committed to accelerating the development of renewable energy projects, information sharing mechanisms, and energy efficient systems through the voluntary carbon offset system. We are dedicated to leading international efforts toward the development and sharing of best practices on clean energy technologies and highlight our release of the Renewable Energy Technologies Screen software for public and private stakeholders developing projects in energy efficiency, cogeneration, and renewable energy. Canada believes the integration of clean energy into State specific strategies called for in A/62/419/Add.9 will strengthen energy diversification, promote the use of cogeneration, and achieve a synergy between promoting alternative energy while allowing for competitiveness in a sustainable economy.

III. Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Canada views the full implementation of the treatment and prevention targets of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Especially in Africa, as essential to eradicating malaria and assisting African States to achieve Target 8 of Goal 6 of the MDGs by 2015. We recommend Member States cooperate with the World Health Organization to ensure transparency in the collection of statistical information for Indicators 21 and 22 of the MDGs. Canada reaffirms the targets of the Abuja Declaration Plan of Action stressing regional cooperation in the implementation, monitoring, and management of malaria prevention and treatment initiatives in Africa. To fully implement A/RES/61/228, Canada believes developed States must balance trade and intellectual property obligations with the humanitarian objective of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. We continue to implement Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health into our compulsory licensing framework through the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act. We urge Member States to support compulsory licensing for essential generic medicines by including anti-malarial vaccines and initiating domestic provisions to permit export-only compulsory licenses to domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers, similar to Canada's Access to Medicines Regime. Canada calls upon Member States to establish advanced market commitments on the distribution of pneumococcal vaccines to developing States in cooperation with PATH and the Malaria Vaccine Initiative. We emphasize the need for greater membership in the Roll Back Malaria initiative to strengthen malaria control planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation by promoting increased investment in healthcare systems and greater incorporation of malaria control into all relevant multi-sector activities. Canada continues to implement the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) New Agenda for Action on Health to reduce malaria infection rates among marginalized populations in Africa, increase routine immunizations rates, and reduce infection rates of other neglected infections. Canada will achieve the goal of doubling aid to Africa

by 2008-2009 by providing assistance to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We urge Member States to increase donations to intergovernmental organizations and NGOs that support malaria programming in Africa, exemplified by CIDA's contribution of \$26 million to the Canadian Red Cross. We continue our efforts to provide accessible and affordable vector control methods to African States through the Red Cross' Malaria Bed Net Campaign and the African Medical Research Foundation Canada by supplying insecticide-treated mosquito nets and Participatory Malaria Prevention and Treatment tool kits. We support the Initiative to Save a Million Lives Now 2007 Campaign to improve healthcare for impoverished mothers and children and reaffirm the need for standardization of healthcare systems to ensure adequate training of healthcare officials. We call upon Member States to assist in the capacity building of developing States' healthcare frameworks to provide adequate training, equipment, and deployment to new and existing African healthcare personnel. Canada places strong emphasis on ensuring increased accessibility to health services, improved standards of living, and reduction in mortality rates through our \$450 million contribution to the African Health Systems Initiative. Pursuant to Article VII of the A/55/2, we will continue to exhibit leadership in the implementation of A/RES/61/228 to mitigate the effects of malaria in developing States, particularly in Africa, and remain dedicated to the strengthening of healthcare systems to improve malaria prevention and treatment.

History of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Introduction

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), headquartered in Beirut, Lebanon, is one of the five regional commissions under the administrative direction of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).¹ The ESCWA was established in 1973 as the successor to United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut (UNESOB).² In 1985, the organization's name was changed from The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) to The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in order to highlight the social aspect of the Commission's regional work.³ The Commission was created to promote economic and social development throughout Western Asia through regional and sub-regional cooperation, integration initiatives and provide Member States with services that help them facilitate their own development efforts.⁴ In addition, ESCWA is also responsible for developing regional programs and frameworks that promote knowledge sharing, replication of good practices and south-south cooperation among Member States.⁵

Committee Structure

The Ministerial Session is the governing body of the Commission.⁶ Every two years the session is held, in accordance with *ESCWA Resolution 196(XVII)*.⁷ In 2008, the twenty-fifth Ministerial Session of ESCWA met in Sana'a, Yemen.⁸ Furthermore the Secretary General Bulletin ST/SGB/2002/16 which establishes the essential functions and operational provisions of the organization, mandates that the Secretariat of ESCWA be divided into several organizational units or specialized units headed by chiefs who are accountable to the Executive Secretary.⁹ The seven specialized divisions that report to the Ministerial Session in accordance with *ESCWA Resolution 223 (XX)* are: the Statistical Committee, the Committee on Social Development, the Committee on Energy, the Committee on Water Resources, the Committee on Transport, the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization, and the Committee on Women.¹⁰ Likewise, the Secretariat is under the direction of the Executive Secretary who is accountable to the United Nations' Secretary General.¹¹ The administrative budget of ESCWA is funded by both financial resources from the United Nations' budget and additional extra budgetary funds that they receive from other governmental and non-governmental donors and or partners.¹² For example, the Canadian Fund for Social Development and the Canadian Fund for local Initiatives finance on going economic and social development projects in the region which provide sustainable housing, vocational training and establish schools.¹³ ESCWA is a report writing committee and the membership is comprised of 13 Member States which are: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.¹⁴

Scope

ESCWA fulfils its operational goals by utilizing a wide scope of programs, initiatives and frameworks based on

¹ ESCWA, Home Page About ESCWA, 2008.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ ESCWA, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic Social Commission for Western Asia: Committee Information Guide, n.d.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ ESCWA, Home Page About ESCWA, 2008.

⁷ ESCWA, *Twenty-fifth Session 2008 Streamlining the Work of the Commission (E/ESCWA/25/6 (Part I)/Add.2)*, 2008.

⁸ Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia Ministerial Session [25th Ministerial Session Home Page].

⁹ ESCWA, *Secretary General's Bulletin: Organization of the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ST/SGB/2002/16)*, 2002.

¹⁰ ESCWA, Home Page About ESCWA, 2008.

¹¹ ESCWA, *Secretary General's Bulletin: Organization of the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ST/SGB/2002/16)*, 2002.

¹² ESCWA, Home Page About ESCWA, 2008.

¹³ ESCWA, *Modern Technologies for Employment Creation and Poverty Reduction in the ESCWA Region*, 2008.

¹⁴ ESCWA, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic Social Commission for Western Asia: Committee Information Guide.

normative and analytical research that is focused in specialized areas.¹⁵ For example, ESCWA provides technical assistance to Member States that is focused on improving the level of development within the region through recommendations and policy advice, workshops and training courses.¹⁶ Furthermore, the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) provide several overarching objectives for the day to day operations of the Commission.¹⁷

The Commission coordinates many of its activities with other United Nations organizations, specialized agencies, and intergovernmental organizations, in order to avoid duplication of programs and services offered to the region.¹⁸ For example, a memorandum of understanding between ESCWA and the Lebanese Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture was signed in 2003 at the United Nations House in Beirut.¹⁹ This agreement prompted an increase in information exchange, market studies and projects which fostered development within the private sector in the region.²⁰ The Commission's Executive Secretary Ms. Mervat Tallawy said "that the process is in line with the policy of the United Nations that advocates cooperation not only with governments, but with the representatives of the private sector as well."²¹ In 2003 the Union of Arab Banks organized the "Forum for Financing and Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME)" which was held in Cairo and cosponsored by the Commission to raise awareness of the SME arena and encourage banks and lending institutions to increase their financial support of SME development projects.²² Notable examples of the success of the SME project are first in Dubai, where a majority of the industrial companies have less than one hundred employees and second in Jordan, where a majority of income and jobs are created by SMEs.²³ At the forum Mr. Hasan Charif, head of the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division delivered a presentation on: "ESCWA Activities in Support of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME)."²⁴

The Seminar on Rural Development: Policies, Strategies and Institutions of 2004, was held in Beirut by the Commission to promote knowledge and awareness of sustainable rural development issues within the region.²⁵ The seminar introduced several alternatives to existing rural development policies and economic platforms, by promoting concepts that focused on fostering and enhancing the transparency and the removal of inconstant government regulation in development programs, while also providing a way to gather research in order to critically analyze their success and/or failures going forward.²⁶ In addition the Seminar highlighted other issues that affect the success of development such as the lack of food security and the need to increase participation among all Member States in the region.²⁷ The Commission also coordinates regional activities as Chair of the Regional Coordination Group (RCG), in this capacity the Commission and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) have a strong partnership and are able to utilize this partnership to provide advance technical support to the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) and Member States as they try to implement varying degrees of development projects and fiscal policy.²⁸ In addition this partnership has allowed them to jointly work on the implementation of three major regional programs on water resources and allocation, inter-regional trade focusing on resource protection as well as projects on protecting environment and resource renewal and to providing a stable energy supply for the region.²⁹ The Commission played a major role with CAMRE setting up a Joint Secretariat to coordinate project development in the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), helping Member States develop a common vision of development and economic growth goals for the region that

¹⁵ Abdulrazzak, M., & Chatnilbandh, K. ESCWA Information Sheet, 2007.

¹⁶ Abdulrazzak, M., & Chatnilbandh, K. ESCWA Information Sheet, 2007.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ ESCWA, Home Page About ESCWA, 2008.

¹⁹ .ESCWA, Signs Memorandum of Understanding, 2003.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² The Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD), Forum for Financing and Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, 2003.

²³ ESCWA, Impact of Industrial policies on the Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, 2007.

²⁴ The Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD), Forum for Financing and Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, 2003.

²⁵ ESCWA, *Seminar on Rural Development: Policies, Strategies and Institutions Report (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2005/7)*, 2005.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Western Asia Booklet.

help shape the principles and provisions of the Arab Initiative for Sustainable Development which focus on enhancing participation of Arab countries, providing peace and security, and poverty alleviation.³⁰ Likewise in 2004, a meeting was held between ESCWA and the Communication and Information Regional Advisor for the Arab States, in order to collaborate on regional preparatory activities as well as formulate a consensus on the needs of the region in preparation for the Second Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).³¹

Conclusion

The ESCWA region has made some progress in attaining goals outlined in the “Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2005” however their progress has been hindered by several issues such as conflict and political instability and a regional infrastructure that is not suitable for robust import/export of goods.³² In addition issues such as border and customs irregularities, inconsistent tariff and tax practices, and access to visas, also pose barriers to full regional integration and economic development.³³ The Commission must find a way to implement more cohesive interregional relationships, strengthen social development policies and provide sustainable development that is gender neutral in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals.

I. Combating Social Exclusion and Human Rights Violations in the ESCWA Region

“Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world...and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people...”³⁴

The United Nations *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1945) is the one of the premiere human rights treaty of the international community. Its purpose is to declare the fundamental human rights and freedoms that are guaranteed the citizens of the global community; in addition, it holds Member States responsible to uphold these rights by ensuring their application within their respective societies. In the ESCWA region, this is of particular importance, as it is a region that has been plagued by human rights abuses for a number of years.³⁵ Long regarded as an optional element in the maintenance of civil society due to cultural traditions, human rights remain as a figurative concept to the people and governments of ESCWA Member States. Contrary to the Declaration, the “highest aspirations of the common people” are not nearly as recognized as they should be.³⁶ Along with the Universal Declaration, the Islamic community has been active in developing and promoting human rights based on their particular beliefs and standards, in particular on Shar’iah law. These human rights are enshrined in the *Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam* (CDHRI) of 1990, which is administered by the Organization of the Islamic Conference.³⁷

The Root of all Separation: The fundamentals of social exclusion in the ESCWA region

To understand the current state of social structure, human rights and exclusion in the region, one must understand that the region itself was shaped by many culturally defining factors, one of which was the powerful influence of the Ottoman Empire.³⁸ In the 19th century, the Ottoman Empire embraced a cosmopolitan culture in which diversity was tolerated; one could practice their respective religion, align themselves with their ethnic group, all while still considered loyal to the empire.³⁹ In addition, the Ottomans governed the Middle East as a single region, which was united along overlapping factors of language, religion, government, education, and cultural assumptions.⁴⁰ When the Ottoman Empire fell and ceded power to new states in the region, what was also ceded was a culture of power,

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ The Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action, Gender and Development e-Brief, 2004.

³² ESCWA, Seminar on Rural Development: Policies, Strategies and Institutions Report, 2005 (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2005/7).

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948.

³⁵ Anderson, *The Middle East: Geography and Geopolitics*. p 4.

³⁶ United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948.

³⁷ Organization of Islamic Conference, *Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam*, 1990.

³⁸ *Ibid*, p 5.

³⁹ *Ibid*, p 19.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

where one major entity ruled over the people, as opposed to a Western ideal of democracy where the common people elect their leader.⁴¹ Correspondingly, this type of governance has led to reliance on traditional and cultural notions of society in order to maintain a certain standard of living for the common people. It has also created an atmosphere of social exclusion for those who do not necessarily fit into an identifiable group.⁴²

In the Arab world, the organization of public life is remarkably segregated, its peoples identifying themselves through religious groups, strong kinship bonds, or ethnic groups.⁴³ In her article *Kinship, Class and Ethnicity*, Laurie King-Irani identifies the phenomena of kinship and ethnicity as “social constructs, political resources and emotionally charged symbolic expressions of belonging.”⁴⁴ In addition, King-Irani explains that kinship “is the dominant mode of forming the larger groupings central to social and political life in pre-industrial societies, providing solutions to ecological and organizational challenges in space and time.”⁴⁵ Since group identity and classification is the norm of Middle Eastern society, the affiliation or lack thereof with said identity can either guarantee or deny the right to social interaction, involvement in culture, access to social services and most importantly, knowledge of and involvement in the political spectrum of the state.⁴⁶ This instance can be considered as a violation of human rights, specifically, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As stated in Article 2 of the Universal Declaration, “everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth...without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”⁴⁷ The CDHRI begins in a similar way, stating in Article 1 that “All men are equal in terms of basic human dignity and basic obligations and responsibilities, without any discrimination on the basis of race, colour, language, belief, sex, religion, political affiliation, social status.”⁴⁸ Furthermore, social exclusion denies those living in the areas in which it occurs, the chance to fulfill their lives as members of their local communities as well as their role in the national fabric of their respective country.

The ESCWA’s challenge and progress in combating social exclusion

The United Nations, through the ESCWA’s Social Development Division (SDD) has long been involved in finding the root causes and required solutions to remedy the unfavourable social situation in the region, mainly through research and consultation. Its main purpose is to “promote, institutionalize implement and sustain and integrated social policy understanding policy formulation mechanisms and implementation and monitoring tools.”⁴⁹ ESCWA’s SDD serves as an adviser to Member States on policy, program and monitoring options that are required to achieve a higher level of social equity and well being for the people of the region.⁵⁰

The SDD, in its 2007 *Literature Review on Social Exclusion in the ESCWA Region*, sets down guidelines in order to define and distinguish the issue of social exclusion and how it contradicts crucial human rights principles outlined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.⁵¹ The SDD defines social exclusion as “the placing of a subject at an unfair disadvantage from others similarly situated; it results in the curtailment of that person’s social, economic and/or political rights, their access to goods and services as well as the ability to be an active member in society.”⁵² It also incorporates the definitions of other authors in describing social exclusion, discussing two important aspects. The first is much like the previous statement, while also underlining the importance of the presence of exclusionary relationships based on power between individuals (the affected) and the groups who exclude them based on social or cultural criteria, such as ethnic origin.⁵³ The second aspect is the result of an “accumulation of processes with

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ Irani-King, *Kinship, Class and Ethnicity*, 2004. p 303.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 311.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ Organization of Islamic Conference, *Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam*, 1990, Article 1.

⁴⁹ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Social Development Division Programmes*, 2008.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Social Development Division, *Social Exclusion in the ESCWA Region*, 2008.

⁵² *Ibid.*, p 4.

⁵³ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Literature review of social exclusion in the ESCWA region*, 2007, pg 3.

successive ruptures between the affected individual and the society, arising from the heart of the economy, politics and the public spectrum.⁵⁴ These occurrences gradually distance and place persons, groups, communities and territories into positions of inferiority in relation to center powers, resources and prevailing values”.⁵⁵

According to the SDD, individuals and groups who are outside the social order--that is, those who cannot participate in economic, political or social activities-- are the most vulnerable to exclusion.⁵⁶ Furthermore, this is contrary to Articles 21 and 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which state that “everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country...to take part in the government of their country, directly or through freely chosen representatives...everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international cooperation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.”⁵⁷

Illiteracy, gender inequality, unemployment and economic disparities are among some of the major causes and effects of social exclusion.⁵⁸ The material basis for social exclusion can relate to the access by means of subsistence and is characterized by instances of systematic denial and cumulative disadvantages such as poor nutrition, poor housing and lack of access to public services.⁵⁹ Mehran Kamrava in his book *Challenges facing the Middle East* discusses what he calls “glaring deficits”, which are the deficit in human capability and knowledge relative to income.⁶⁰ To this end, while performing its research, the SDD presents the theory that social exclusion encompasses structures, systems, and norms that situate a person at a disadvantage and at a distance from access and opportunity.⁶¹ These structures and norms can be cultural or social, be a part of official or public institutions (such as schools or organizations) or dominant institutions (such as the family).⁶² To date, the ESCWA has used research-based initiatives, worked to implement the Millennium Development Goals, and enhanced cooperation with other bodies of the UN to monitor the progress of the elimination of social exclusion in the region, as outlined in its *Literature Review*.⁶³

The Dispossessed: The Kurdish People in the ESCWA region

Numbering over 25 million, the Kurds are one of the largest ethnic nations to exist without a defined geographical and political state.⁶⁴ They are the most numerous in the ESCWA region states, with ample populations residing in Syria, Iran, Turkey and Iraq, where they are the most politically active. The Kurdish Diaspora has grown significantly, with principal representation in Western Europe and in North American countries such as Canada, where about 60,000 Kurds live.⁶⁵ The spirit of Kurdish nationalism--that is, those who identify themselves as Kurds rather than with the nationality of the country in which they live--has increased in the last thirty years. In the 1965 Turkish census (the last time when citizens were asked to provide their primary language), 4 million people identified themselves as Kurdish speakers; this number jumped to about 10 million at the turn of the 21st century.⁶⁶

Despite the marked presence of the Kurds and their adaptation to the social customs of the countries in which they live, they are regarded by many of these countries such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Syria to be problems to their societies and therefore outcasts. For example, during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, Saddam Hussein and his forces

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, p 8.

⁵⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948, Articles 21 & 22.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

⁵⁹ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Literature review of social exclusion in the ESCWA region*, 2007, pg. 5.

⁶⁰ Kamrava, *Challenges Facing the Middle East*, 2005, pg. 359-360.

⁶¹ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Social Development Division, *Social exclusion in the ESCWA region: A draft report*, 2008, pg. 8.

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Literature review of social exclusion in the ESCWA region*, 2007, pg. 5.

⁶⁴ Halliday, *Can we write a modernist history of Kurdish nationalism?*, 2006, p. 11

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ Van Bruinessen, *Kurdish paths to nation*, 2005, p. 21.

used poisonous gases to crush the mounting resistance from the Kurdish population.⁶⁷ Several more uprisings against the Iraqi government were led by the Kurds, but unfortunately were met with crippling counter-attacks.⁶⁸ In Syria, the Kurdish population has been met with much disregard for their presence in everyday life. According to a written statement by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Human Rights Commission, the Kurd segment of the Syrian population is approximately 10 percent.⁶⁹ Of this segment, about 150,000 people have been denied Syrian citizenship, among other systematic violations of human rights, including the denial of the use of Kurdish names and the barring of Kurdish political initiatives (i.e. political parties) in the government.⁷⁰ The use of excessive force to disperse peaceful protests has also been documented, with incidents that see civilians experiencing severe retaliation for what would otherwise be regarded as an expression of free speech.⁷¹

However, there has been significant progress in regards to the Kurdish Diaspora in the ESCWA region, especially when it is considered that the Kurds have been able to achieve some recognition and make the most out of their social exclusion from the countries in which they live. One example of this can be seen in Iraq where the Kurdish population has maintained autonomy in the northern region of the country since the 1991 Gulf War.⁷² *A de facto* independence from Iraqi jurisdiction, the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq (the KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) have a political alliance with several smaller parties that form the Kurdistan Regional government.⁷³ In addition, the international community has recognized the importance of the Kurdish population in Iraq and the positive effects that they have in their country. Furthermore, the Kurds have participated in the military life of Iraq by contributing their forces, known as *pashmerga*, to the U.S.-led Operation Iraqi Freedom, which led to the downfall of the Hussein government.⁷⁴ The situation of the Kurds in Iraq is perhaps one of the better one's in the region but there is still much more work that needs to be done to further integrate them into society, both in Iraq and in neighboring states.

Conclusion

Social exclusion is an overall effect of the entrenchment of cultural values in society especially where the ESCWA region is concerned. Due to the complex history, influences and social norms of its people, social exclusion has manifested in everyday life and continues to affect many. What is important to note is that social exclusion is not only a form of discrimination against certain individuals or a groups based on their identity, but a hindrance of the progress of the society in which those individuals or groups live by preventing them from contributing to it. There is still much to be done in terms of identifying, discussing, researching and acting against social exclusion and its elements in the ESCWA region but with the increasing successes of grassroots efforts, the work of the United Nations and Member States themselves, the culture of social exclusion can be transformed to one of inclusion; where all members of civil society can be part of a progressive path towards barrier-free prosperity.

As you prepare your Member State's views on this issue, consider the following:

How does social exclusion appear in the everyday occurrences of the people living in the ESCWA region? What is the status of minorities and women within your country? How can their situation be better improved in your country and throughout the region? Is it blatantly apparent, or does it subtly hide itself in the various institutions of society and politics? Who is affected, and how far-reaching are the effects? How can Member States take action to reduce the occurrence of institutional and systematic social exclusion, and what tools can they use to do so? What is your country's view of human rights and what types of bodies and agencies have you developed to promote human rights and combat social exclusion? What are some of the ways that people are socially excluded from society in the ESCWA region? How does social exclusion prevent the full enjoyment of human rights of people of the region? What can ESCWA do to further aid in achievement of human rights in the region? What types of coordination does ESCWA undertake with other human rights bodies, such as the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights? How could this coordination be developed or enhanced?

⁶⁷ Lynch, *Lives on hold: the human cost of statelessness*, 2005, p. 14.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

⁶⁹ Van Bruinessen, *Kurdish paths to nation*, 2005, p. 22.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, p. 23.

⁷² United Nations News Centre, *Iraq: elections mark start of new phase where national dialogue vital, Annan says*, 2005.

⁷³ Van Bruinessen, *Kurdish paths to nation*, 2005, p. 24

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

II. Improving Technological Capabilities to Promote Sustainable Development in the ESCWA Region

“... We believe that people can build a future that is more prosperous, more just and more secure. [The Brundtland Report] is not a prediction of ever-increasing decay, poverty and hardship in an ever more polluted world among ever decreasing resources. We see instead the possibility for a new era of economic growth, one that must be based on policies that sustain and expand the environmental resource base.”⁷⁵

Introduction

After many years of speculation, debate and discussion, the majority of the global community now acknowledges that the environment is increasingly becoming a priority in the equation of basic human survival and the maintenance of States.⁷⁶ Several summits, such as the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and its follow-up, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, have attempted to rally governments on the importance of implementing sustainable development policies in their respective states (as opposed to mere awareness of environmental viability), but unfortunately have seen their once revolutionary statements fade into the background of economic progress.⁷⁷ There is growing concern over the lack of implementation, compliance with, and effectiveness of multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs), such as *Agenda 21* (1992). In addition, there is also concern about their coherence with each other and with multilateral economic and trade agreements, especially those drafted by the World Trade Organization.⁷⁸ There remains a significant lack of dialogue, financial support, and transfers and provision of access to technology between Member States, all of which are vital in improving Member States abilities to address the environmental aspect of sustainable development.⁷⁹

Despite this lack of cooperation and its impact on sustainable development policies, there are members of the academic community who have stressed the importance of sustainable development and its direct link to human security. In *One with Nineveh*, Paul and Anne Ehrlich present the World Scientists' Warning to Humanity, which encompasses various principles for the global community to follow closely.⁸⁰ Included among these principles is the need to bring environmentally damaging activities under control to restore and protect the integrity of the Earth's system on which we depend by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.⁸¹ The United Nations (UN) has also been committed to finding innovative yet practical means to improve sustainable development issues in the global community. For example, the UN's Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) has formed a Technical Cooperation Division (TCD), whose mandate is to “formulate, implement and execute multidisciplinary projects dealing with key aspects of sustainable development.”⁸² In particular, the TCD provides technical expertise and support to developing nations at the national and international level in the fields of water, natural resources and energy, among others.⁸³ While these represent important steps, there is still a need for increasing attention to be paid to the complex issue of sustainable development, since it encompasses not only the present quality of life for the peoples of the ESCWA region, but also the ongoing security of the international community.⁸⁴

What sustainable development means for the global community

According to the 1987 *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development; Our common future* (otherwise known as the Brundtland Report), sustainable development is “development which meets the needs of the

⁷⁵ United Nations General Assembly, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development; Our common future*, 1987, p 18.

⁷⁶ Dalal-Clayton and Bass, *The need for strategic responses*, 2002, p 14,.

⁷⁷ *Ibid*, p 15.

⁷⁸ *Ibid*.

⁷⁹ *Ibid*.

⁸⁰ *Ibid*.

⁸¹ *Ibid*, p 14.

⁸² United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, Division for Sustainable Development, *Technical Cooperation*,

⁸³ *Ibid*.

⁸⁴ *Ibid*.

present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”⁸⁵ At the center of this concept is the notion that social, economic and environmental objectives, or the three pillars, should be complementary and interdependent in the development process.⁸⁶ Sustainable development entails the balancing of the three pillars and integrating them when possible through mutually supportive policies and practices, and making trade-offs when they are not possible.⁸⁷

The provision of technology to Member States, both developing and developed, to enact sustainable development programs and policies is vital to the stable growth of states in the global community.⁸⁸ Of particular importance is the development and dissemination of environmentally sound technologies. According to Chapter 34 of *Agenda 21*, environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) are a total system in which know-how, procedures, goods and services, equipment as well as organizational and managerial procedures are implemented.⁸⁹ For example, innovations in the management of storm water and wastewater are considered ESTs due to their direct impact on the environment—without it, the hazardous by-products of these types of water can have short and long-term negative effects.⁹⁰ *Agenda 21* further states that when the integration of EST into government policy is considered, the aspects of human resource development and local capacity-building aspects of technology choices should be discussed.⁹¹ In addition, ESTs are also dependent on the context of the local community where they are to be applied. Long-term sustainability depends upon the pooling of community resources in order to fund the technology and continue its operation.⁹² The cooperative elements of ESTs bring together the economic, social, cultural and institutional settings of the community in which they are used in order to improve the environment on which these settings are all dependant.⁹³

It is important to note that the concept of sustainable development has been interpreted by many developing and least-developed countries as a solely environmental issue for developed states—that is, the South sees this issue as one that the North is responsible for, since they typically have the resources to address the issue.⁹⁴ This can lead to the ignorance of the universal power and utility of the concept in its integration of economic and social development in the context of high quality environmental management.⁹⁵ Given these complexities, it is understandable that the concept of sustainable development presents a challenge to communicate, especially when translating the message to the North and South.⁹⁶ Thus, while sustainable development is a universal challenge, many practical responses can only be defined nationally and locally, according to the method in which the aforementioned three pillars are interpreted in a state.⁹⁷

Sustainable Development and the ESCWA Region

For the Member States of the ESCWA region, sustainable development and ESTs have increasingly become a question of how best to incorporate ESTs and sustainable development policies within their respective societies, rather than if they should incorporate both, especially given that the majority of the inhabitants of the region rely on the environment to survive.⁹⁸ Access to freshwater resources are considered a key environmental issue in the region, due to the arid climate throughout most of the region.⁹⁹ These resources are at an alarmingly low level, with the

⁸⁵ United Nations General Assembly, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development; Our common future*, 1987, p 50.

⁸⁶ Dalal-Clayton and Bass, *The need for strategic responses*, p 13, 2002.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

⁸⁹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development, *Agenda 21: Chapter 34 Transfer of environmentally sound technology, co-operation and capacity-building*, 1992.

⁹⁰ United Nations Environmental Programme, *International sourcebook on Environmentally Sound Technologies for wastewater and stormwater management*, 2000.

⁹¹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development, *Agenda 21: Chapter 34 Transfer of environmentally sound technology, co-operation and capacity-building*, 1992.

⁹² United Nations Environmental Programme, *International sourcebook on Environmentally Sound Technologies for wastewater and stormwater management*, 2000.

⁹³ *Ibid.*

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, p 13.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

region having access to only 0.4 percent of the world's renewable water supply; at the same time, it supports 3 percent of the world's population, making the ever-growing demand exceeding the supply of water resources.¹⁰⁰ Population growth is at an all-time high in the region, especially in the urban areas of Member States. Total urban population in the region increased from 55 million in 2003 to 62 million in 2005, with the majority of the regions population, 56%, now living in urban centers.¹⁰¹ The implementation of sustainable development policies, is therefore, vital to the ESCWA region since they would address some of the most serious concerns of the regions population and ensure the overall survival of the region.

With this cross-section of statistics, there is no question that the ESCWA region is under a looming crisis in terms of its natural resources, its population and its economic growth, thus inhibiting its ability to promote sustainable development initiatives.¹⁰² Discussions between Member States at the WSSD revealed that the majority of countries in the region have insufficient technological, human and financial resources to adequately implement sustainable development policies; decision makers face the challenge of integrating multi-sector sustainable development policies into a joint strategy.¹⁰³ While efforts have been developed to avoid the current slow and intermittent approach, regional governments of Member States remain far from achieving coherence in policy initiatives.¹⁰⁴

ESCWA, through its Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD), has been active in technological and policy implementation research with the aim of designing a sustainable development plan for the region to follow; through the holding of various intergovernmental meetings and UN events the SDPD is working to bring wider knowledge of sustainable development and technologies to the region. The main purpose of the SDPD is "to promote regional integration and cooperation among ESCWA member countries through an intensive approach to integrated sustainable management of water and energy and the production sectors."¹⁰⁵ One of the primary functions of the SDPD is to help Member States introduce science and technology principles into development planning to further sustainable development policies.¹⁰⁶ In addition, it strives to facilitate capacity building within its Member States to promote the productivity, competitiveness and environmental capability of the service industry and agricultural outputs.¹⁰⁷ Most importantly, it lists the monitoring of the implementation of *Agenda 21* in the region while assisting states in formulating and developing their environmental policies.¹⁰⁸ One division of the SDPD that is of particular relevance is the Technology and Enterprise Development Team (TED). The aim of the TED is to "enhanc[e] the productivity and competitiveness of the production sectors, particularly S[mall] and M[edium] E[nterprise]s, by disseminating best practices and building capacities, networking and clustering, and harnessing technology and innovation."¹⁰⁹ Enhancing the role of sustainable technologies for SMEs is an important step as these business' represent a large majority of economic providers for citizens throughout the region.

ESCWA has also involved non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the development and implementation of sustainable environmental and technological policies and programs by transforming their role from service providers to that of social advocates in terms of making civilians aware of public awareness of access to environmental information and public participation to initiate policy changes.¹¹⁰ The development of relationships between ESCWA, NGOs and national governments will continue to play an important role in the future.

Uncharted Territory: The Tourism Industry and Sustainable Development

There is no doubt that the tourism industry is one of the fastest-growing industries in the global community.¹¹¹ According to the *Guide to Efficient Energy Management in the Tourism Sector* (2003), the tourism industry

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid*, p 22.

¹⁰¹ *Ibid*, p 28.

¹⁰² *Ibid*.

¹⁰³ *Ibid*.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid*.

¹⁰⁵ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. *Sustainable Development and Productivity Summary of Work*, 2008.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid*.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid*.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid*.

¹⁰⁹

¹¹⁰ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. *Summary of the World Summit for Sustainable Development: Assessment report for the ESCWA region*, 2002. p 5.

¹¹¹ *Ibid*.

produced returns of approximately \$462 billion dollars in 2001 within average of \$1.3 billion dollars a day within the ESCWA region.¹¹² Tourism has grown exponentially in developing and Least-Developed Countries (LDCs), providing them with much-needed revenue and employment growth.¹¹³ Tourism contributes significantly to the overall service sector in developing countries, 70.6%, and LDCs, 43.3%.¹¹⁴

Service-driven trends continue in the ESCWA region, where many Member States are using tourism to improve their economic status in the global community while moving away from traditional sources of revenue, such as agriculture and oil products. The development of the tourism industry and adjacent urban developments, such as resorts and entertainment facilities, has more than doubled between the years of 1986 and 1996, according to the ESCWA's Assessment Report of 2002.¹¹⁵ While the growth of these industries are a bold effort by Member States to promote themselves as an economic and cultural phenomenon, there are several consequences that serve as an effect to Member States. These consequences include increasing strain on marine and coastal resources, freshwater and potable water resources, litter and improper waste disposal, and the deterioration of biodiversity in various areas of the ESCWA region.¹¹⁶

The primary factor uniting the many negative aspects of the trends of tourism is the lack of awareness by people and Member States of the region of the effects that increasing tourism has on the environment, especially where financial and technological support is concerned. The governments of ESCWA Member States tend to be hesitant in adopting and implementing environmentally sound technologies, especially since they typically do not have the capacity to implement them.¹¹⁷ For example, environmental monitoring of development activities, according to the aforementioned Assessment Report, is "hindered by poor institutional frameworks, limited co-ordination, a shortage of experienced personnel and financial resources, inaccessibility to data and the absence of indicators."¹¹⁸

With some Member States, there has been some progress in the private (i.e. hotel) and public sectors in terms of both awareness and action towards sustainable tourism development.¹¹⁹ The Tata Group of Companies, a multinational hospitality conglomerate which operates 5-star hotels and resorts throughout Asia, has adopted an environmental education and development plan that it calls EARTH (Environmental Awareness and Renewal at Taj Hotels), where it incorporates the "preservation of arts, culture and wildlife and promoting sustainable, environmentally sound operations."¹²⁰ In addition, it encourages the reduction of current energy consumption levels, the use of non-biodegradable materials and the use of environmentally-friendly detergents in laundry.¹²¹

Energy consumption is equally important when it comes to sustainable tourism development, especially since the eco-tourism and "green company" labels have become positive incentives for many corporations to improve their image.¹²² Many hotels, resorts and other tourism attractions are changing the way in which they build their facilities. Building components and systems such as energy efficient steam generators, efficient lighting systems, and "passive building designs" (that is, buildings that use solar energy to displace traditional energy sources in order to heat or cool within their spaces) are being incorporated into new tourist facilities.¹²³ The benefits of these technologies include lower heating and cooling costs, improvements in efficiency by 25-30 %, and long-term use, despite their initial costs which can be extremely expensive.¹²⁴ Such technology can be implemented into efficient energy consumption in the simplest forms; for example, swimming pools, whirlpools and spas can be made to

¹¹² United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *A guide to efficient energy management in the tourism sector*, 2003. p 3.

¹¹³ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁵ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. *Summary of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: Assessment for the ESCWA Region*, 2002. p 3.

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁸ *Ibid*, p 8.

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*

¹²¹ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *A Guide to efficient energy management in the tourism sector*, 2003. p 13.

¹²² *Ibid.*

¹²³ *Ibid*, p 28; Solar Energy Society of Canada Inc, *Passive solar energy*.

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*

operate efficiently simply by installing heating timers (in order to save energy after hours), keeping the temperature between 80-82 degrees, and sheltering outdoor pools from windy weather (to prevent unnecessary use of heating energy).

One specific benefit that can be seen in developing sustainably orientated, tourism projects utilizing new technologies can be seen in Lebanon. There, the tourism industry has played an important role in reviving that country's economy, once in serious trouble due to a Civil War that lasted 15 years.¹²⁵ Recently, the Lebanese government has promoted itself as an eco-friendly tourism destination, complete with advertising campaigns and a 30 million dollar loan from the World Bank to improve its archaeological areas, which are popular with tourists.¹²⁶ With the rise of the number of tourists—more than 1.3 million in 2003—the number of hotels to accommodate them has increased rapidly; consequently, hotels represent a major source of energy consumption in the tourism industry.¹²⁷ As such, the Lebanese government has been working in conjunction with the many hotel chains that operate in the country to ensure that legislation and codes of practice are implemented in the daily operation of their hotels.¹²⁸ There has been much success, especially in the case of the Metropolitan Palace Hotel, a five-star deluxe hotel located in the capital city of Beirut.¹²⁹ Its energy consumption has been greatly reduced thanks to a number of environmentally sustainable measures taken by its Head Office, including monthly consumption audits.¹³⁰ In addition, energy conservation methods such as double-glazed outside windows and doors (which save heating costs), compact fluorescent lights in common areas (which conserve electricity) and the training of staff on conservation methods have not only greatly decreased operating costs for the hotel, but have greatly improved the image of sustainable development through the practical use of environmentally sound technologies.¹³¹

Conclusion

Sustainable development is essential to the long-term growth of the economies of the global community, especially where developing Member States are concerned. The introduction, dissemination and implementation of environmentally sound technologies is also an important element for governments to consider when formulating new policies or reviewing existing ones that seek to address environmental concerns across the board. Together, these initiatives can prove to be an effective and innovative method in improving the quality of life for present and future inhabitants of the state. The United Nations, including the ESCWA, has already begun to make headway in advising its Member States that they are capable of accessing and using the newly-available methods of sustainable development, whether through public or private ventures.¹³²

Some questions to consider when formulating your Member State's position for committee session include the following: How can a critically dependant region become a region which implicates sustainable development in order to maintain (or, in some cases, improve) the current standard of living and progress to one where future generations can meet their needs? What will it take for the governments of Member States to change their policies to reflect the various MEAs before they find their inhabitants experiencing an environmental crisis as a result of a lack of action on the part of their governments? How, if at all, can the Member States of the ESCWA region attempt to gain the "know-how, skill and financial support required in order implementing technological initiatives in terms of sustainable development"?

III. Facilitating Trade in the ESCWA Region through the Strengthening of Regional Partnerships and Frameworks

Introduction

As the principle of integrating economies and forming trade partnerships becomes more and more of a prevalent

¹²⁵ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Energy management in the tourism sector in Lebanon in A guide to efficient energy management in the tourism sector*, 2003. p 41.

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*

¹²⁷ *Ibid.*

¹²⁸ *Ibid.*

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, p 43.

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*

¹³¹ *Ibid.*, p 44.

¹³² *Ibid.*

feature in the global economy, creating policies that encourage the smooth transition of goods and services between United Nations (UN) Member States has become a necessary condition to increase economic growth. To this end one of the guiding mandates of Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is the promotion of sharing of trade standardizing principles and facilitate coordination among its Member States.¹³³ Thus in relation to the objectives of ESCWA's Regional Workshop on Facilitating Trade through the Application of a Single Window it is quite possible to use these prerequisites as a standard to measure the strength of economic partnerships.¹³⁴ In comparison to other trading blocs or regions in the global economy the level of participation of ESCWA Member States until the last five to ten years has been, for the most part up, modest both collectively and singularly in respect with consideration for the size and population of the region.¹³⁵ Likewise the level of intraregional trade among Arab States has also been pale in comparison to others economic and political entities such as the European Union (EU), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).¹³⁶ The concept of enhancing trade through economic policies and frameworks that focus on developing stronger regional integration and economic partnerships has been a part of the agenda of many ESCWA Member States since the establishment of the League of Arab States (LAS) in 1945.¹³⁷

Challenges to Previous Regional Trade Integration

As a result of efforts to combat the lack of trade within the region, many agreements were drafted. Some of the most prevalent are: the Agreement to Facilitate Trade Exchange and Transit Trade Rules of 1953, the Arab Common Market of 1964, and the Agreement on the Facilitation and Development of Trade Exchange between the Arab Countries of 1981.¹³⁸ While the Agreement to Facilitate Trade Exchange and Transit Trade Rules of 1953 just focused on eliminating tariffs on most agricultural goods and industrial products, the Arab Market Agreement focused on creating an Arab Free Trade Zone.¹³⁹ Furthermore the Agreement on the Facilitation and Development of Trade Exchange between the Arab Countries of 1981 mirrored the Arab Market Agreement, except in addition to establishing a Free Trade Zone it also called for full exemption of tariffs.¹⁴⁰ Despite the immense work that went into drafting of these and other agreements, and the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), initiatives to form a stable regional trading block within the Arab world that eliminates tariffs has seen little to no consistent success.¹⁴¹ While there are many reasons for the ineffectiveness of previous cooperative programs, two principle obstacles have been cited. First, a number of Member States within the ESCWA region currently have national trade policies that are very restrictive and are not favorable towards regional integration.¹⁴² Secondly, several ESCWA Member States lack the infrastructure to allow for the full implementation of transport systems for imports and exports and are thus unable to benefit from regional trade integration.¹⁴³ Likewise a majority of the economic stabilization policies implemented in the region during the past 25 years have failed to imitate substantial economic growth and a consistent reduction of poverty.¹⁴⁴ In addition, attempts at establishing stronger partnerships within the ESCWA region, achieved little success because of inadequate economic trade policies and trade practices that perpetuated the use of goals that favored "short-term national interests overriding long-term common regional rather than those that focused solely on regional success."¹⁴⁵ Thus, to combat these and other issues surround the

¹³³ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Trade Facilitation Through the Application the Single Window (E/ESCWA/GRID/2007)*, 2007.

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*

¹³⁵ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Annual Review of Developments in Globalization and Regional Integration in the Countries of the ESCWA Region (E/ESCWA/GRID/2004/6)*, 2004.

¹³⁶ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, 2003-2004 (E/ESCWA/EAD/2004/4)*, 2004.

¹³⁷ *Ibid.*

¹³⁸ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Macroeconomic Policy Analysis for Regional Cooperation in the ESCWA Region: The Effect of Real Exchange Rate Variability on Intraregional Trade (E/ESCWA/EAD/2003/1)*, 2003.

¹³⁹ Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, *The Great Arab Free Trade Area: Impact on Arab Economies*, 2003.

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁴¹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Macroeconomic Policy Analysis for Regional Cooperation in the ESCWA Region: The Effect of Real Exchange Rate Variability on Intraregional Trade (E/ESCWA/EAD/2003/1)*, 2003.

¹⁴² Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Trade Facilitation Through the Application the Single Window (E/ESCWA/GRID/2007)*, 2007.

¹⁴³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁴ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region 2005-2006 (E/ESCWA/EAD/2006/1)*, 2006.

¹⁴⁵ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Macroeconomic Policy Analysis for Regional Cooperation in the ESCWA Region: The Effect of Real Exchange Rate Variability on Intraregional Trade (E/ESCWA/EAD/2003/1)*, 2003.

lack of regional partnerships, ESCWA works with the Regional Coordination Group (RCG), which was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1998 to facilitate the exchange of information, coordinate and promote joint action, reinforce synergies and increase interregional trade.¹⁴⁶

Recent Developments

Recent years have witnessed a renewed interest in Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) in the global economy, making them a prevalent feature of economic policy, nearly all the members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are equally members of some form of RTA.¹⁴⁷ Moreover, many ESCWA members are a part of several RTAs including agreements with countries that are even inside the region.¹⁴⁸ In fact, ESCWA Member States are in some part affiliated with at least 64 international and regional environmental conventions and agreements, the implementation of them varies significantly across the region.¹⁴⁹ Likewise, many Member States find themselves in overlapping agreements that so far prove not to be any more of a hindrance to economic growth than any of the other factors that have been covered.¹⁵⁰

In 1995, a task force was created by the League of Arab States (LAS) to study the possibility of implementing a Free Trade Agreement that focused especially on the economic needs and interest of the Arab States.¹⁵¹ It was the hope that this task force would be able to identify successful methods that could be used to develop a framework and feasible implementation plan that would potentially avoid the same obstacles that caused former regional integration initiatives to fail.¹⁵² From these efforts, The Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) was established in 1997, and fully implemented through phases; the final phase was concluded in 2005.¹⁵³ It is designed to increase in cross-border trade through the lifting of trade barriers and include all Arab countries, and currently has 14 members, including all ESCWA member countries except Palestine and Yemen.¹⁵⁴ Presently there are still many political, technical and social barriers that prevent the success of regional integration that could be argued have not been soundly addressed by the fundamental principles of the GAFTA agreement.¹⁵⁵ Moreover, it has also been recognized by the Commission that persistent instability must be eradicated in order to ensure the success of regional trade.¹⁵⁶ With the acceptance of the Declaration on Pan-Arab Free Trade Area in 1997, as a method to increase regional trade, there has been growing political effort within the region to draft economic agreements that focus primarily on the removal of all tariff barriers through the inclusion of more provision that call for their systematic reduction.¹⁵⁷ Thus, ESCWA continues to advocate the economic benefits of utilizing regional trade agreement and frameworks such as GAFTA in addition to establishing successful regional trade partnerships that operate in accordance with rules and guidelines set by the World Trade Organization (WTO) as a means to foster stable economic development through out the region.¹⁵⁸

In comparison to previous attempts at establishing regional partnerships, the principles codified in GAFTA represent a new approach to the methods, planning and implementation of RTAs in the Arab Region.¹⁵⁹ At a high level,

¹⁴⁶ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Programme Planning & Technical Cooperation, 2008.

¹⁴⁷ World Trade Organization, *List of Regional Trade Agreements Notified to the GATT/WTO and in Force by type of Agreement*, 2008.

¹⁴⁸ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Progress Made by the ESCWA Member Countries in the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (E/ESCWA/GRID/2005/5)*, 2005.

¹⁴⁹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *World Summit on Sustainable Development Assessment Report for the ESCWA Region (E/ESCWA/ENR/2002/19)*, 2002.

¹⁵⁰ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Progress Made by the ESCWA Member Countries in the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (E/ESCWA/GRID/2005/5)*, 2005.

¹⁵¹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Macroeconomic Policy Analysis for Regional Cooperation in the ESCWA Region: The Effect of Real Exchange Rate Variability on Intraregional Trade (E/ESCWA/EAD/2003/1)*, 2003.

¹⁵² *Ibid.*

¹⁵³ Afifi, *Egypt in an Arab-African-Sandwich: Are GAFTA and COMESA to be implemented?*, 2005.

¹⁵⁴ World Trade Organization, *Trade Policy Review Report by Egypt (WT/TPR/G/150)*, 2005.

¹⁵⁵ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Progress Made by the ESCWA Member Countries in the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (E/ESCWA/GRID/2005/5)*, 2005.

¹⁵⁶ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Toward an Integrated Knowledge Society in the Arab World: Strategies and Implementation Modalities (E/ESCWA/ICTD/2005/3)*, 2005.

¹⁵⁷ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Implementation of 2004-2005 Biennium Regular Budget Activities Report (E/ESCWA/23/5 (Part I)/Add.1)*, 2005.

¹⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

GAFTA seems to be working in accordance with the provisions that it established for the region, because goods and services are being imported and exported among Arab Member States.¹⁶⁰ GAFTA is indeed the most extensive one because it not only includes all the countries in the Arab region, but also it utilizes the political structure provided by the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab League.¹⁶¹ However, GAFTA like previous agreements still seems to fall short in solidifying a method of implementing a plan that is able to quell unfair trade practices or bring trading standards such as tariffs and import/ export regulations into unison across the region.¹⁶² For example, though January 2005 marked the final reduction of tariff and quota barriers, in the Middle East and North African (MENA) region, there has been little to no progress in bolstering trade or developing partnerships between Member States of ESCWA and MENA Member States even though GAFTA framework encourages it.¹⁶³

Case Study: The Single Window Approach

Since one of the most apparent barriers to the success to developing sustainable trade relations within the region has been the ability to simply move goods and services between the Member States, many new initiatives that focus on inter-regional policy reform have been developed to combat this issue.¹⁶⁴ As a result the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization created by *ESCWA Resolution 214(XIX)* recommended the Single Window Approach framework *E/ESCWA/GRID/2007* as a viable alternative to previous methods and encouraged its use across the region.¹⁶⁵ Furthermore it was concluded at the Trade and Development Board's Expert Meeting on Trade Facilitation as an Engine for Development, that the concept implementing strategies such as those found in the Single Window Approach which move to ease border crossing issues for exports was imperative to the success of development.¹⁶⁶

The notion of utilizing a Single Window framework, giving special attention to tax and tariff reform is an idea that has been culminating since 2003 among ESCWA Member States and was most recently discussed at the last ESCWA Regional Workshop in Cairo.¹⁶⁷ Under the framework the Commission strives to implement plans that would create an environment that simplifies the exchange of trade related information between Member States by focusing on opening channels of communication between those who export/import goods and the governments within the region.¹⁶⁸ For example a successful application of this approach can be seen in the United Arab Emirates, under the Dubai Technology, Electronic Commerce and Media Free Zone where in addition to the free movement of goods open access has also been granted to those seeking governmental approvals, visa's and work permits.¹⁶⁹ However there are some issues and objections raised against the validity of wide spread success of this method that center on the prevalent need to address including modern border crossing standards and control techniques in addition to just infrastructure standards to expedite the transport of goods.¹⁷⁰

Further Focus

After many years of economic immobility, some of the ESCWA Member States have witnessed consistent growth in their economies by a considerable amount.¹⁷¹ Beginning in 2004, a lot of work was been done to develop an integration strategy that included principles of debt reduction, resources allocation, and environmental protection.¹⁷²

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁶¹ Abedini & Péridy, *The Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA): An Estimation of the Trade Effects.*

¹⁶² Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Progress Made by the ESCWA Member Countries in the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (E/ESCWA/GRID/2005/5)*, 2005.

¹⁶³ EL-Anis, *GAFTA and its Impact on the MENA Agricultural Industry.*

¹⁶⁴ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Progress Made by the ESCWA Member Countries in the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (E/ESCWA/GRID/2005/5)*, 2005.

¹⁶⁵ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *The Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region Report (E/ESCWA/GRID/2007/IG.2/7)*, 2007.

¹⁶⁶ Trade and development Board, *Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development Expert Meeting on Trade Facilitation as an Engine for Development (TD/B/COM.3/EM.24/3)*, 2005.

¹⁶⁷ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *The Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region Report (E/ESCWA/GRID/2007/IG.2/7)*, 2007.

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁹ Shalhoub, & Qasimi, *Profile of the Information Society in The United Arab Emirates 2003 (E/ESCWA/ICTD/2003/11/Add.2)*, 2003.

¹⁷⁰ 4th RTAP Review Workshop Report, *Regional Transport Action Plan*, 2006.

¹⁷¹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region 2005-2006 (E/ESCWA/EAD/2006/1)*, 2006.

¹⁷² Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Progress Made by the ESCWA Member Countries in the Implementation*

In addition studies have also been done by the Commission analyze the effect of other factors such as indebtedness and inadequate dispute resolution policies may have on integration and the establishment of regional partnerships.¹⁷³ As a result of the Role of the Indebtedness Workshop held in 2004 which presented studies on impact of debt and lack of income on development, ESCWA has developed new strategies to achieve regional integration.¹⁷⁴ Many of the new strategies focus on improving regional social conditions in conjunction with strengthening economic policy in order to generate increased regional and sub- regional cooperation within the region thus building up to total integration.¹⁷⁵ Through utilizing the principles of Technical Cooperation, ESCWA seeks to utilize lessons learned from the past failures of trade agreements and incorporate those findings into the operational activities, without losing focus of its commitment to serve the needs and priorities Member States.¹⁷⁶ Thus far due to the introduction of this new mechanism both 2006 and 2007 were recoded as years of regional economic expansion, except for those areas that are stricken with political conflict and social distress such as Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine.¹⁷⁷

Conclusion and Questions for Consideration

ESCWA Member States are committed to achieving economic success and continue to work towards the goal of facilitating trade through the establishment of regional economic partnerships and see this as a conceivable outcome for the future given the recent success the region has accomplished.¹⁷⁸ However, given the periods of economic instability due to political and social unrest in parts of the region, providing the necessary political and social policies that provide an environment that will grant stable economic integration and partnerships on a regional scale for the Commission continues to be a mounting challenge.¹⁷⁹ Though ESCWA Member States have been struggling with various social problems and political instability due to ongoing conflicts in the region, Member States must find a way to implement a framework that not only fosters trade but sound regional partnerships, good governance as well as political and social stability.¹⁸⁰ While the Commission has worked to overcome several of these issues by drafting new trade policies that focus on eliminating tariffs and improving custom and border standardization, the lack of having a well equipped transport system still proves to be a barrier to achieving enhanced regional trade.¹⁸¹ Consistent sustainable development depends on the vital by products of economic policy stabilization and standardization trade regulations which are provided by regional integration.¹⁸²

As regional and global liberalization proceeds, the ESCWA region can no longer afford to let past failures preclude them from establishing sound economic development policy.

What steps should ESCWA take to see that the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Region, the Arab Mashreq International Road Network and the Regional Transport Network are utilized to their full potential? Moreover, how can these transport systems be utilized to enhance regional trade? What type of integration policy objectives should the Commission have to address the development issues surrounding the exploitation of natural resources and a decline in the manufacturing sector? In context of regional integration, what role if any should the creation of

of the Monterrey Consensus (E/ESCWA/GRID/2005/5), 2005.

¹⁷³ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Implementation of 2004-2005 Biennium Regular Budget Activities Report (E/ESCWA/23/5 (Part I)/Add.1)*, 2005.

¹⁷⁴ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Report on the Activities of the Commission-The Technical Cooperation Strategy (E/ESCWA/23/5(Part III)/Add.1)*, 2005.

¹⁷⁵ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Annual Review of Developments in Globalization and Regional Integration in the Arab Countries 2006 (E/ESCWA/GRID/2006/3)*, 2006.

¹⁷⁶ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Report on the Activities of the Commission-The Technical Cooperation Strategy (E/ESCWA/23/5(Part III)/Add.1)*, 2005.

¹⁷⁷ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Summary of the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region, 2006-2007 (E/2007/20)*, 2007.

¹⁷⁸ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Survey of the Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region 2006-2007 (E/ESCWA/EAD/2007/4)*, 2007.

¹⁷⁹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Macroeconomic Policy Analysis for Regional Cooperation in the ESCWA Region: The Effect of Real Exchange Rate Variability on Intraregional Trade (E/ESCWA/EAD/2003/1)*, 2003, pg. 9.

¹⁸⁰ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Ten-year Review of the Implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action in the ESCWA Region*, 2005.

¹⁸¹ Trade and development Board, *Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development Expert Meeting on Trade Facilitation as an Engine for Development (TD/B/COM.3/EM.24/3)*, 2005.

¹⁸² Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *World Summit on Sustainable Development Assessment Report for the ESCWA Region (E/ESCWA/ENR/2002/19)*, 2002.

strategies focused on achieving a knowledge based economy have?

Annotated Bibliography

History of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Abdulrazzak, M., & Chatnilbandh, K. (2007, August 10). *ESCWA Information Sheet* [Fact Sheet]. Retrieved July 3, 2008, from <http://www.undg.org/docs/7972/ESCWA.pdf>

The authors provide an overview of the Commission history and highlight some of the projects that have been completed over the years. It also gives an overview of the UN entities as well as other organizations the Commission has worked with to foster development in the region. Finally the fact sheet discusses the mission and purpose of the Commission and how these ideals have been implemented over the years.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia [Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic Social Commission for Western Asia: Committee Information Guide]. (n.d.). Retrieved July 4, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/rules-e.pdf>

In this document one can find the official procedure and rules guideline for the Commissions. The document discusses the history of the Commission in brief, along with guidelines for membership and the overall structure of the Commission. It also describes the purpose of the Commission along with the goals and objectives that guide their actions. Likewise it also includes references to the resolutions that speak to the establishment and authority of the Commission.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (n.d.). *Modern Technologies for Employment Creation and Poverty Reduction in the ESCWA Region*. Retrieved September 15, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/mtecpr/projects.asp?country=Lebanon>

ESCWA has reviewed their progress in regional employment creation and in this document discusses the work that is being done to establish Multipurpose Technology Center. In addition, it also describes key elements and programs that are being utilized under this initiative to combat poverty and unemployment. Some of the key programs that are highlighted here focus on providing local communities with access to technical assistance and vocational training programs. Furthermore the site also provides access to all of the current projects and initiatives that are going on in the region.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002, December 27). *Secretary General's Bulletin: Organization of the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia* (ST/SGB/2002/16). Retrieved July 1, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/sect.pdf>

The Secretary General's bulletin offers information on the establishment and the organizational and the structure of the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. It describes the role and focus of each unit as well as their individual project and scope of their authority. It also describes the level of accountability of each internal division.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2007, December 11). *Impact of Industrial policies on the Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises* [E/ESCWA/SDPD/2007/7]. Retrieved September 15, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/sdpd-07-7-e.pdf>

This study provides an overview of the work that ESCWA has done in the process of implementing measures that focus on improving development, sustainability and productivity of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) within the region. In addition, this study also provides case studies of SME success along with policy failures and recommendations. Likewise a considerable amount of this study does focus on the lack of access to trade information and the need to standardize regulations in order to increase competitiveness.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2008, April 11). *Twenty-fifth Session: 2008 Streamlining the Work of the Commission* (E/ESCWA/25/6 (Part I)/Add.2). Retrieved July 10, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov/session25/upload/freq25e.pdf>

Here the Commission provides information on the current meeting schedule of the Commission as well as

the internal specialized division. It also highlights some of the challenges the region has met while responding to the emerging needs of Member States on the path to implementing sustainable development plans. In addition the document also discusses the latest tools and techniques used by the commission to foster regional integration and suggestions for future actions.

Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia Ministerial Session [25th Ministerial Session Home Page]. (n.d.). Retrieved July 4, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov/session25/maine.asp?lang=e>

The information presented here is on the Commission's Ministerial Session which is the governing body of the Commission. In addition to discussing the various activities that went on in the region, the session also discussed the draft strategic framework that is to be put into place prior to the 2011 deadline. The twenty-fifth session of the Commission addressed many key issues in the Western Asia region and reviewed several approaches to obtaining sustainable development within the region.

ESCWA Signs Memorandum of Understanding. (n.d.). Retrieved July 5, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/main.asp?division=sdpd>

This document focuses on enhance information exchange, market studies and projects between ESCWA and the Lebanese Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture. Likewise the project was created to expanded development throughout the region. Here the Commission provides a good example of a regional partnership, developed to address a specific need in the region.

Rahman, K. A. (2008, May 31). Success Stories from the Regional Commission. Message posted to <http://amrif.blogspot.com/2007/05/success-stories-from-regional.html>

Rahman present his research on the on regional commission on a forum designed for Non Governmental Organizations around the world to highlight activities, ideas and success stories, on work that they are currently doing within their specific area of expertise. Through is research he able to compare efforts made by ESCWA in relation so other like entities in response to achieving the MDGs. The information is shared here in the hope that it will advance the mission of the United Nations, particularly focusing on the Millennium Development Goals.

Regional Office for Western Asia Booklet. (n.d.). Retrieved August 5, 2008, from <http://www.unep.org/drc/documents/ROWAbookletEnglish.pdf>

This booklet is produced by the UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia which was established to promote intergovernmental policy dialogue and regional cooperation and turn global policies into regional action. The booklet provides a high level overview of some problems have been tackled and displays the success that they have achieved within the region. In this issue, one can find highlights of progress made by the Commission within the region.

The Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD) [Forum for Financing and Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises]. (n.d.). Retrieved August 5, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/main.asp?division=sdpd>

Here one can find information on the commission's participation at this particular forum as well as information on the development points that were presented. It also gives some incite on the success and failures of the past, and on the goals set out by the attendees at the meeting. The participation in the forum provides a key to understanding the overall work of the Commission.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Home Page [About ESCWA]. (n.d.). Retrieved July 1, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/main.asp>

This is the home page for the Commission. Here one can find news on all of the current and past project of each internal division and it is updated regularly. It provides information on the goals and objectives of the Commission as well as its organizational structure. It also provides information on past and present projects as well as resolutions and documents drafted by the commission. In addition it also provides information on collaboration between the commission and other UN and political entities.

Additional Sources

The Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action [Gender and Development e-Brief]. (2004,

September 14). Retrieved August 5, 2008, from <http://crt-da.org.lb/en/content/issue-14-september-17-2004>
The Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action (CRTD.A) is a non-governmental organization based in Beirut. This site provides information on social development projects that are going on in the region. In this e-Brief the meeting between ESCWA and the Communication and Information Regional Adviser for the Arab States is highlighted. The focus of this meeting was to collaborate on regional activities in prep for the Second Phase of the WSIS in 2005. In addition the work done on the Arab Domain Names project is also highlighted.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1973, August 9). *Establishment of ESCWA Committee Resolution* [1818 (LV)]. Retrieved July 1, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/resolution.htm>
Here is the resolution that provides information on the establishment of the Commission. It explains the reasoning and thought process behind utilizing a specialized entity to address development issues in the region. It lists the function and scope of the Commission, along with the membership requirements. It also addresses the roles and responsibilities and establishes a chain of accountability.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002, November). *Regional Commission Development Update* [Activities of the Regional Commissions]. Retrieved July 2, 2008, from <http://www.un.org/Depts/rcnyo/newsletter/NL13/Activities%20-%20ESCWA.htm>
In this newsletter that is produced by the Regional Commissions Office and provides information on the efforts the Commission to reach its social and economic development goals such as eradicating poverty and empowering women throughout the region. It also discusses the success of training methods and programs that were established based on the requirements set forth by the agreement with the Lebanese News Broadcasting Network that was signed in 2002. It also lists a calendar of events for the Commission and a few Commission publications.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2005, July 11). *Seminar on Rural Development: Policies, Strategies and Institutions Report* (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2005/7). Retrieved August 5, 2008, from http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/div_editor/Download.asp?table_name=other&field_name=ID&FileID=151
This is a report that provides general information on the purpose and goals of the seminar that was held in Beirut in December of 2004. The seminar focused promoting knowledge and sharing development programs and ideas between Member States. It also covers some of the suggestions and approaches that were discussed geared toward fostering sustainable rural development. In addition the report highlights work that has been done to address key issues such as widespread poverty and the lack of food security that have been hindering the development process. Furthermore the report also covers policy recommendations and options that deal with income generating and the establishment of financial assistance programs to aid those in need in the region.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2007, July 17). *Literature Review on Engendering the Millennium Development Goals and Identifying Barriers to Gender Equality in the ESCWA Region* (E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/WP.5). Retrieved July 15, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/sdd-07-WP5-e.pdf>
In this literature review one can find an account of the work that has been done in parallel to the Development Account Project entitled "Inter-regional cooperation to strengthen social inclusion, gender equality and health promotion in the Millennium Development Goal process". This review seeks to give an account of gender issues and their effect on development, as well as a critique of the work that has been done to combat this issue. It also gives a comparison of methods and their results that can be used to identify possible other reasons and factors outside of infrastructure and border requirements that have caused regional development plans to fall short of their goals.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2008, July 16). *Toward an Integrated Knowledge Society in the Arab World: Strategies and Implementation Modalities* (E/ESCWA/ICTD/2005/3). Retrieved August 5, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/ictd-05-3.pdf>
ESCWA presents a study was done based on the reports gathered in conjunction with field studies that were completed in Lebanon and Yemen. This study provides a framework and guidelines for the implementation

of strategies used these countries to foster development with respect to the goals presented at the World Summit on the Information Society. In also presents some general recommendations that could be applied through out the region to improve information technology and standards.

United Nations [Charter of the United Nations]. (1945, June 26). Retrieved July 1, 2008, from

<http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/>

One of the most basic documents in the context of the United Nations, this chapter of the Charter deals with the Economic and Social Council. Originally, Article 61 provided that ECOSOC would consist of 27 members, but in 1965 the Charter was amended to expand ECOSOC to 54 members. Chapter 10 Article 62 empowers ECOSOC to “make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, and educational, health, and related matters” and to make recommendations “promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.” Article 64 gives ECOSOC concurrent power, along with the UN General Assembly, to receive reports from specialized agencies, provided that the subject matter falls within ECOSOC’s purview. Article 68 empowers it to “set up commissions in economic and social fields and for the promotion of human rights.”

United Nations Economic and Social Council [Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs Supplement No. 7 Supplement to Article 69]. (n.d.). Retrieved July 16, 2008, from

http://untreaty.un.org/cod/repertory/art69/english/rep_supp7_vol4-art69_e_advance.pdf

The Supplement provides information on the extensions of the provisions granted by Article 69 to the subsidiary organs of the Council. It provides the text of Article 69, as well as information on previous supplements. Furthermore is includes a general survey of past actions and participation of UN Member States.

I. Combating Social Exclusion in the ESCWA region

Anderson, E. W. (2000). *The middle east: Geography and Geopolitics*. London: Routledge.

Part almanac (it describes the climate, vegetation and natural resources contained within the region), part history textbook (it outlines the historical geography of the region), part sociology textbook (it gives an account of the many and varied peoples and their societies) and part political science textbook (it points out the important geopolitical and diplomatic relations between middle eastern states themselves and those states outside of the region), this book is vital for anyone needing a “crash course” about a vital part of international relations.

Arnove, A. (Ed.). (2000). *Iraq under siege*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press.

This book is an account of the current situation in Iraq, extending to the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s and the Gulf War of the 1990s. It outlines the roots of conflict between the various peoples living in Iraq as well as the rest of the global community, and points out solutions needed in order to improve the lives of the Iraqi people and secure the future of the Middle East--a key region in regards to international security.

Beinin, J., & Stork, J. (Eds.). (1997). *Political Islam: Essays from Middle East report*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

An in-depth look into the heart of the powerful and influential relationship between Islam and politics in the Middle East. This book describes the aspects of said relationship, such as the effects of Islam (and its various denominations and sects) on civil society, the growing role of religious fundamentalism on the state, and the complex ties between gender, Islam and the state. Delegates will gain insight into the thoughts of various political figures through the interviews that are presented, and will overall gain a genuine general understanding of the region, which may lead to further research into other complex issues surrounding this fascinating area of the world.

Choueiri, Y. M. (2005). *A companion to the history of the Middle East*. Oxford, England: Blackwell.

This book provides a detailed overview of the numerous yet important complex issues surrounding the Middle East’s history. It also outlines the fundamental elements of the understanding of the region, such as Islam, religious cultural traditions and social structures. Modern issues discussed include the relationship between politics and religion and the new states-system in the Middle East.

Gerner, D. J., & Schwedler, J. (Eds.). (2004). *Understanding the contemporary Middle East, Understanding: Introductions to the states and regions of the contemporary world*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers. *In this book, the authors oversee a very comprehensive survey of the Middle East and the states within it. Using devices such as personal anecdotes, historical narration, and current issues, this book gives its readers the basic knowledge that is required to begin to understand the Middle East, then offers a challenge to think about what factors affect the region itself and the global community.*

Haviland, W. A., Crawford, G. W., & Fedorak, S. A. (2002). Kinship and descent. *Cultural anthropology*, 303-333. Toronto: Thomson Nelson. *The case of group identity and subsequent exclusion in society is presented in the article. It identifies the various types of groups—specifically, that of the family—and goes on to explain to the reader the effects that they can have on the individual, those around them and the society in general.. In addition, this article outlines the long-term effects of kinship on a society, such as the economy, public and civil life and population growth.*

Human Rights Watch. (2007, November). *Exported and exposed: Abuses against Sri Lankan domestic workers in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates*. Retrieved August 21, 2008, from <http://hrw.org/reports/2007/srilanka1107/srilanka1107web.pdf> *This report published by Human Rights Watch describes the abuses of the people who migrate to various ESCWA region Member States in order to improve the quality of life for themselves and their families. Recognizing that migrant workers are a complex issue, HRW outlines the many ripples of effect of these workers on the societies in which they work, from remittances to living conditions. It also outlines the responses of the countries in which the workers reside, defining current initiatives to improve the current situation.*

Human Rights Watch. (2008, July). *As if I am not human: Abuses against Asian domestic workers in Saudi Arabia*. Retrieved August 15, 2008, from <http://hrw.org/reports/2008/saudiArabia0708/saudiArabia0708web.pdf> *Like its counterpart report also written by Human Rights Watch, this report documents the experiences of migrant workers, but specifies the case of Saudi Arabia. Detailed personal accounts, research and supporting data are presented to its audience in order to begin to fully understand the violation of human rights towards migrant workers.*

Jabar, F. A., & Dawod, H. (Eds.). (2006). *The Kurds: Nationalism and politics*. London: SAQI. *This collection of articles takes a look at one of the world's most understated peoples, taking a particular interest in the history of their nationalist sentiments (despite not having a geographical territory in which to reside) and their involvement in the evolution of the Middle East. The various authors address issues such as the survival of the Kurdish language (the main identifier of the Kurdish people), their trials at the mercy of several states, and their overall survival as a people.*

Kamrava, M. (2005). *The modern Middle East: A political history since the First World War*. Berkeley: University of California Press. *The author sets the pace of this book with a concise discussion of the evolution of Islam and the religion's profound role in the region. He then looks at, in turn, the rise and fall of the Ottomans, the trials of independence and state-building, the emergence and fiery spread of nationalism, the Iranian Revolution, and the two Gulf Wars and beyond, including discussion of the invasion of Iraq by the United States. He also examines issues that will shape the future: population growth, environmental pollution, and water scarcity.*

Lynch, M. (2005, February). *Lives on hold: The human cost of statelessness*. Retrieved August 25, 2008, from http://www.refugeesinternational.org/files/5051_file_stateless_paper.pdf *Refugees International, an NGO based in Washington, D.C. publishes this report on a particular instance of the violation of human rights; the denial to a nationality. The primary causes of statelessness, the effects on the individuals violated and the society in which they live and the findings of a research project by RI are among the many chapters that make up this document intended for public use and action.*

Mawdudi, A. A. (1990). *Human Rights in Islam*. Leicester, UK: The Islamic Foundation.

A translation of a talk given by Mawlana Mawdudi at the invitation of Civic Rights and Liberties forum, this account by an influential writer and thinker in the Islamic community gives a testimony of sorts to the norms in Islamic society in regards to human rights. Mawdudi discusses the emergence of modern society and the importance of the need for the Islamic community to adhere to its roots as public life evolves. Basic human rights, the rights of citizens in an Islamic state and even the rights of enemies in war are also discussed.

Smith, D. (2006). *The state of the Middle East: An atlas of conflict and resolution*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

The first step in understanding the geopolitical importance of the ESCWA region, this book outlines the vast history and its effects and consequences on the peoples of the Middle East in a concise manner. Using colourful maps, helpful and clear charts and tables and even using images from various artworks in history, the author presents a proper introduction of the Middle East and its complex issues to the ready and willing reader.

United Nations. (2002, September). *World conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance*. Retrieved August 26, 2008, from <http://www.un.org/WCAR/durban.pdf>

The benchmark document that defines the official consensus of the UN Member States who attended the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. This resolution clearly defines the aforementioned instances of violations against human rights, and also recognizes that these are a part of globalization that must be dealt with. Also, it advises Member States to create conditions in which to eliminate these injustices in their respective societies.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Social Development Division. (2007, July 13). *Literature review on social exclusion in the ESCWA region*. Retrieved July 15, 2008, from

<http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/sdd-07-WP4-e.pdf>

ESCWA's findings in its ongoing research of the region in terms of social development. Commissioned by the ESCWA's Social Development Division, this document takes various works (written by other UN bodies such as the International Labour Organization) into the discussion of the roots and consequences of social development as seen in the Middle East. This document is a precise introduction into the various terminology used when discussing social issues, such as social exclusion.

United Nations. Economic and Social Committee. Commission on Human Rights. (2006, March 7). *Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination: Written statement submitted by the Society of Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status (E/CN.4/2006/NGO/218)*. Retrieved August 25, 2008, from

<http://www.unhcr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/TestFrame/32a5a24c17b46f78c1256b760043dabb?Opendocument>

A footnote to its counterpart, the Declaration of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the Society for Threatened Peoples (an NGO) addresses the case of the Kurdish population in Syria in this report. It identifies current human rights abuses and addresses to the Commission the various requirements necessary in order to alleviate the situation of the Kurdish people, such as sending investigators into the country and policy changes.

United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia. Social Development Division. (2008, July). *Social exclusion in the ESCWA region: A draft report*. Retrieved July 20, 2008, from

http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetings/editor/Download.asp?table_name=eventDetails&field_name=id&FileID=1386

This report discusses major findings in recent research undertaken by the ESCWA's Social Development Division (SDD). First, it uses its own definition and that of scholars consulted for the report to define and explain the concept of social exclusion, then outlines the history and evolution of the term in social policy. Several instances of social exclusion in Member States are used to illustrate its application in society, and recommendations and suggestions are given in order to advise Member States on what they can do to eliminate it.

United Nations. General Assembly 3rd Committee. (1997, February 7). *International convention on the protection*

of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families (A/RES/51/85). Retrieved August 19, 2008, from <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/51/ares51-85.htm>

This brief resolution adopted by the General Assembly Third Committee addresses the perspective of the families of migrant workers whose rights are abused while working in a foreign country. It urges Member states to consider signing and/or ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by some Member States.

United Nations. General Assembly. 4th session. (1948, December 10). *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

Retrieved July 14, 2008, from <http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>

The fundamental human rights document, this resolution, adopted by the General Assembly in the UN's pioneer era is a cornerstone for the many documents that have followed suit in addressing and encouraging Member States to identify human rights abuses everywhere in the global community. This document is essential for any student of social issues for the purpose of understanding what rights we are entitled to (and what should be protected) as citizens of the global community.

Additional Sources

Alvi, H. (2005, June). The Human Rights of Women and Social Transformation in the Arab Middle East. *Middle East Review of International Affairs*, 9(2). Retrieved November 11, 2008 from
One group that faces particular discrimination and exclusion from society in many Middle Eastern countries is women. Women are often subject to violations of their basic human rights and fundamental freedoms in both rich and poor countries of the region. In this article, the author examines the progress and regression that has been made in the region in regards to the achievement of human rights for women and concludes that continued progression is needed in this area to ensure that the region as a whole is able to keep pace with the growing global community.

Ghanea-Hercock, N. (2004). Human Rights of Religious Minorities and of Women in the Middle East. *Human Rights Quarterly*, 26(3), 705-729.

Religious minorities in the region are often subjected to human rights abuses. This article examines the various human rights abuses that are suffered throughout the region and how these fit in the context of Muslim legal standards. It also examines how women fit into the region as well and the many obstacles they face in realizing their full human rights.

International Institute for Labor Studies. (1996). *Social Exclusion and Anti-Poverty Strategy*. Retrieved November 9, 2008 from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/inst/papers/synth/socex/index.htm#toc>

A historical analysis of social exclusion will help delegates in understanding what still needs to be done today. This report of the IILS, of the International Labor Organization, examines the history of the term social exclusion, the various modalities of exclusion, the patterns and causes of exclusion, and how exclusion impacts policy.

Munck, R. (2005). *Globalization and Social Exclusion: A Transformationalist Perspective*. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press.

As globalization continues to spread throughout the globe, many believe that the world is becoming more equal. However, as the author examines, there are a number of examples of how the people in the world, particularly those in poor regions, are facing greater inequality. The author does this by examining the disparities in living conditions throughout the globe; the ever increasing feminization of poverty and the continued growth of the global sex trade; the effects of racism, migration, and multiculturalism, particularly in developed countries.

Silver, H. (2007, December 12). Social Exclusion: Comparative Analysis of Europe and Middle East Youth. *The Middle East Youth Initiative Working Paper* from the Wolfensohn Center for Development and Dubai School of Government, No. 1. Retrieved November 9, 2008 from

<http://www.shababinclusion.org/content/document/detail/558/1>

One group of citizens that can be overlooked in the discussion of social exclusion are youth. The author of this article examines youth exclusion in both Europe and the Middle East and the similarities and differences that exist between the two populations. The author points out that continuing cross cultural

analyses of exclusion will further help researchers in determining patterns of exclusion and the best policies to be implemented in order to combat exclusion.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (n.d.). *Literature Review on Engendering the MDGs*. Retrieved November 9, 2008 from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNum=790E>
Similar to the literature review on social exclusion that was conducted by ESCWA, this literature review examines how successful or not the countries of the region have been in integrating women more into the economic and political spheres within their respective countries. As it is related to the role of women in the region and the achievement of the MDGs, the paper shows that women have not been integrated enough to enable the region to meet a number of the MDGs. This will provide delegates with an excellent overview of the status of both women and achievement of the MDGs throughout the region and steps that still need to be taken.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2008, August). *Expert Group Meeting on Social Exclusion in the ESCWA Region*. Retrieved November 9, 2008 from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNum=790E>
In August of 2008, ESCWA held a expert group meeting on social exclusion in order to address the regional specific concerns related to the topic. The meeting placed a specific emphasis on how social exclusion fits into the MDGs, and how certain disadvantaged groups are not adequately addressed by the general targets of the MDGs.

Waltz, S.E. (2004). Universal Human Rights: The Contribution of Muslim States. *Human Rights Quarterly*, 26(4), 799-844.
There has been a lot of discussion within the international community in regards to how Islam and human rights can work together. The author discusses the major international human rights treaties and the role that the Muslim world played in developing said treaties, which is an often overlooked topic. She then discusses issues of concern relating to international human rights standards and how they work with the tenets of Islam.

World Health Organization. (n.d.). *Social Exclusion Knowledge Network*. Retrieved November 9, 2008 from http://www.who.int/social_determinants/knowledge_networks/exclusion/en/index.html
The World Health Organization has developed a social exclusion knowledge network to examine the processes that lead to exclusion within societies, particularly within the social and community aspects. It also examines exclusion and how it affects the physical health of people throughout the globe.

II. Improving Technological Capabilities to Promote Sustainable Development in the ESCWA Region

Cordesman, A. H. (2004). *Energy development in the Middle East*. Westport, CT: Rager Publishing.
This book describes the current situation in the MENA region (consisting of ESCWA states, Maghreb states and others) and their growing importance in the global community in terms of their energy production and output. It gives ample background information (country profiles, brief histories) in order for readers to understand reasons for the current situation. It also describes the current initiatives of various states towards sustainable development and discusses future issues that may arise.

Dalal-Clayton, B., & Bass, S. (Eds.). (2002). *Sustainable development strategies*. London: Earthscan Publications.
A collaborative effort between the United Nations Development Programme, the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development and the International Institute for Environment and Development, this presentation of statistical findings as the result of extensive research gives the reader a look into the many dimensions that sustainable development entails. Very detailed information coupled with visual elements (in the form of charts and graphs) provides an understanding to a complex issues within sustainable development, such as the nature of sustainable development strategies and current practices, their financial basis, and strategic decision making.

Ehrlich, P., & Ehrlich, A. (2004). *One with Nineveh: Politics, consumption and the human future*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press.

Celebrated and seasoned academic authors Paul and Anne Ehrlich provide a very real and stern warning to governments about the current attitude of ignorance towards the degradation of the environment on which we survive. Brief histories and current anecdotes give insight into the current problems regarding the state of the planet and what governments must do to remedy the situation. Chapters discuss the use of technology, population growth and the culture of consumption and their roles in the improvement (or deprivation) of the environment.

- Haviland, W. A., Crawford, G. W., & Fedorak, S. A. (2002). Anthropology and the future. *Cultural anthropology*, pp. 499-525. Toronto: Thomson Nelson.
This chapter outlines the challenges, possibilities and realities of the global community in realizing their potential and duty to address and discuss the future of the planet as it applies to their respective communities. This chapter also addresses the importance of adapting the universal message of sustainable development to the community, rather than the downloading of larger, sometimes irrelevant policies to smaller groups of peoples.
- Mallon, K. (Ed.). (2006). *Renewable energy policy and politics: A handbook for decision-making*. London: Earthscan Publishing.
This book gives the reader a look into applying global renewable and sustainable energy efforts on a national level, including case studies on the US, UK and India, the process of writing and drafting legislation that reflects international agreements and the successful tendencies of markets that that employed sustainable energy in their everyday operations.
- Smith, F. (Ed.). (1997). *Environmental sustainability*. Boca Raton, FL: St. Lucie Press.
A collection of articles from various academic scholars, this volume brings together the many perspectives of sustainability as they apply to the various regions of the global community. An important element in this book is the constant comparisons and perspective of the Northern and Southern hemispheres of the world and their views of one another when it comes to environmental responsibility. Case studies on countries such as China, South Africa, and indigenous peoples in North America give the reader a well-rounded view of this important concept.
- The International Council for Science (ISCU), The Initiative on Science and Technology for Sustainability (ISTS) and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World ad hoc advisory group. (2005). *Harnessing science, technology and innovation for sustainable development*. Retrieved August 18, 2008, from http://www.hks.harvard.edu/sustsci/ists/docs/consortium_ahag_rpt_0503.pdf
This multi-collaborative effort is an excellent perspective on the important field of technology for sustainable development. It focuses on the partnership of international organizations (such as the UN) to help integrate broader perspectives for the science and technology community in order to bring about new ideas and processes in which to implement technologies that help to solve the challenge of sustainable development.
- The World Bank. (2003). *Trade, investment and development in the Middle East and North Africa*. Washington, D.C.: Author.
This report is a collection of findings of research performed by the World Bank, outlining the current problems within the ESCWA region (in addition to Northern Africa), including various missed opportunities for globalization due to inadequate preparedness (low performance in tourism, etc) and presenting the various requirements in order for the region(s) to prosper economically while being mindful of the use of the resources around them.
- United Nations. (2002, September). *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*. Retrieved August 13, 2008, from <http://www.world-tourism.org/sustainable/wssd/final-report.pdf>
This resolution is considered a pillar in the progress of the international community when considering sustainable development. A review of the targets and indicators first presented at the Earth Summit in Rio ten years before, this UN document is a valuable starting point for anyone interested in informing themselves about the "rules book" for sustainable development.
- United Nations. Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Panel on Technology for Basic Needs.

(1997). *An assault on poverty*. Ottawa, ON: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, International Development Research Centre.

This book is a relevant and invaluable resource for learning about the importance of technology and its implementation in the adaptation of sustainable development in the policies of developed and developing nations alike. This book outlines the current efforts of the United Nations and individual contributions to solve this ongoing challenge for the future.

United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Division for sustainable development. (2005, February 7). *Sustainable tourism-Decisions of the GA and CSD*. Retrieved August 8, 2008, from http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/tourism/tourism_decisions.htm

This document is one of many resolutions passed by the UN's Commission for Sustainable Development in regards to "sustainable tourism". It provides suggestions for Member states to take into account when designing and operating their tourism industries, such as informing tourists of their environmental surroundings and the awareness of the environmental impact that the industry is taking on the land.

United Nations. Division of Economic and Social Affairs. Division for Sustainable Development. (1992). *Agenda 21*. Retrieved August 15, 2008, from <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/english/agenda21toc.htm>

Probably one of the first international multilateral environmental agreements of its era, Agenda 21 is still regarded today as a landmark in terms of the awareness and action of Member states to act on the increasing challenge of maintaining their environments and economies at the same time. The document provides several principles for Member states in order to keep the global community a secure one--financially, environmentally and in the context of international security.

United Nations. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000, September 13). *Application of sustainable development indicators in the ESCWA region member countries: Analysis of results*. Retrieved August 15, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/ed-00-4-e.pdf>

This source provides focused indicators on the progress of sustainable development practices as they apply to the ESCWA region. It also presents various factors that may pose a challenge to the development of said practices, mainly the issues of poverty, population growth and the ongoing attempt to keep up with the rest of the developing world in terms of their economy.

United Nations. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). *Summary of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: Assessment report for the ESCWA region*. Retrieved August 22, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/ENR-02-19-Sum.pdf>

This document is best viewed in comparison with its source, the final report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; it is meant to be read as a follow-up to the calls to action given at the summit. The ESCWA responds with an ample view into the challenges that face this particular region, including sections on the major influences on sustainable development (ex. industrial development and oil production).

United Nations. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2003). *A guide to efficient energy management in the tourism sector*. Retrieved August 19, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/sdpd-03-20.pdf>

An insightful look into the effects of business specifically tourism, on energy and sustainable development. Statistics demonstrate the issues that the report addresses, such as the number of tourists to ESCWA region states, their expenditures and the rate of consumption of various tourist businesses (including hotels). Issues such as consumption patterns, the environmental impact of tourism and energy supply alternatives help the reader to understand the importance of the overall issues.

United Nations. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2003, April 9). *Review of sustainable development and productivity activities*. Retrieved August 20, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/sdpd-03-2-e.pdf>

This recent review of the ESCWA region's progress in sustainable development provides the reader with a realistic view of the current state of several factors such as water supply, enterprise development, technology and agriculture. It also provides statistics which help to visualize the text. Topical papers/case

studies are also provided to compare statistics with real examples of these theories and research presented in the document.

United Nations. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2007, March 30). *Compendium of environment statistics in the ESCWA region*. Retrieved August 15, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/scu-2007-2.pdf>
An excellent source of recent statistics and findings for a quick look into the general issues of the ESCWA's environment. Links to the Millennium Development Goals makes this document a multi-disciplinary view into the sustainable development of the ESCWA region. Ample findings are presented for each of the ESCWA's members.

United Nations. Economic Commission for Western Asia. (n.d.). *Sustainable development and productivity*. Retrieved August 12, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/main.asp?division=sdpd>
The main web page for the ESCWA's Sustainable Development and Productivity Division. This site is a portal into the SDPD's activities and initiatives for this important mandate of the ESCWA, and provides links to many publications, current news and external links, many of these to the governments of the ESCWA's Member States.

United Nations. General Assembly. (1987, August 4). *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development; Our common future*. Retrieved August 9, 2008, from <http://www.worldinbalance.net/pdf/1987-brundtland.pdf>
Another of the founding documents regarding the environment and sustainable development, the Brundtland report is essential to understanding the beginning of the international community's awareness of the state of the Earth's natural resources. As the major report that outlines exactly what the concept of sustainable development is, delegates should familiarize themselves with the report and the proposals and topics covered.

United Nations. General Assembly. (1992, August 12). *Report of the United Nations conference on environment and development*. Retrieved August 8, 2008, from <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm>
This document is the result of the Earth Summit of 1992, the first time that many states joined together to discuss the importance of the environment in the processes of economic and social development. It provides many suggestions for Member States to follow when implementing them into their national and local policies.

Additional Sources

Dernbach, J. (2003). Achieving Sustainable Development: The Centrality and Multiple Facets of Integrated Decision-making. *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies*, 10.1, 247-285.
This article discusses the future of operationalization of sustainable development policies that should occur throughout the globe in the coming years and how Member States can best implement these policies, namely through integrated decision-making. It provides an excellent overview of how this should occur and what Member States should look for when developing sustainable development policies.

International Environmental Technology Centre. Division of Technology, Industry and Economics. United Nations Environment Programme (2003, May 21). *Environmentally Sound Technologies for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved November 9, 2008 from http://technologies.ew.eea.europa.eu/resources/legislation/F1042117509/SustDev_EST_background.pdf/download
This paper provides an excellent overview of the role that ESTs play within sustainable development. It discusses all of the important issues that are related to ESTs and sustainable development, including how ESTs fit into energy development, how technology can be applied throughout various aspects of development importance and what States should do to further develop and implement ESTs throughout their country. Delegates will find this sources useful based on the sheer amount of information that is contained within and because it is an excellent introduction to the topic as a whole.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. (2007). *Integrating Science and Technology into Development Policies: An International Perspective*. Retrieved November 9, 2008 from <http://www.sourceoecd.org/vl=488391/cl=26/nw=1/rpsv/cw/vhosts/oecdthemes/99980134/v2007n5/contp1-1.htm>

The utilization of science and technology in the developing world is one of the key aspects of promoting economic development. In this report, the OECD examines how international cooperation in science and technology can further the three areas of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental development practices. The report focuses on the aspects of water and energy and international cooperation within these two arena's, both of which are incredibly important to the Western Asia region.

Tolba, M.K. and Saab, N.W. (Eds). (2008). Arab Environment: Future Challenges. *Arab Forum for Environment and Development Report*. Retrieved November 9, 2008 from <http://www.afedonline.org/afedreport/>
The Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED) is, according to their website, a "not-for-profit regional non-governmental organization, grouping experts together with the civil society, business community and media, to promote prudent environmental policies and programmes across the Arab region." This report that was commissioned by the AFED, covers the most pertinent issues relating to environment and development for the Arab Region. Broken up into individual chapters, it provides delegates with easy access to topics of relevance to all Member States.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. Commission on Science and Technology for Development. (n.d.). *Commission on Science & Technology for Development (CSTD)*. Retrieved November 9, 2008 from <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=2696&lang=1>
The CSTD was established by ECOSOC 1992 in order to address the specific concerns related to science and technology in development. This link is the homepage to the CSTD and from here delegates will be able to find links to important documents of the CSTD that are relevant to the region and to the topic at hand. Of particular interest may be the ninth session of the CSTD which discussed the topic of bridging the technology gap between and within nations.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. Commission on Sustainable Development. (2001, March 2). *Transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building, Environmentally Sound Management of biotechnology* (E/CN.17/2001/PC/11). Retrieved November 9, 2008 from <http://daccess-ods.un.org/TMP/4223547.html>
The Commission on Sustainable Development is the main body within the United Nations organization that is dedicated to the discussion of sustainable development, in particular in developing policies and assistance for the implementation of Agenda 21. This report is focused particularly on the implementation of Chapter 34 of Agenda 21 and how governments can improve their use of Environmentally Sound Technologies, as well as increase transfers of ESTs. While also discussing the use of biotechnology and increasing utilization and transfer of such technologies, the main focus of the report remains on ESTs and their role in development.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002, July). *Report of the Forum on Technology, Employment and Poverty Alleviation in the Arab Countries* (E/ESCWA/TECH/2002/2). Retrieved November 9, 2008 from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/pubdetails.asp?division=sdpd>
The dissemination of technology throughout the Western Asia region is important to further development prospects for the region. The Forum on Technology, Employment and Poverty Alleviation in the Arab Countries, that was organized by ESCWA and the International Labour Organization (ILO) discussed the role that technology can and should play within employment generation and poverty reduction programs. Along with this the forum discussed the role that new technologies have within sustainable development and ways to achieve sustainable development with technology.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2003, October 23). *Governance for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region: Institutions and Instruments for Moving Beyond an Environmental Management Culture*. Retrieved November 9, 2008 from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/pubdetails.asp?division=sdpd>
In order to ensure that sustainable development policies are developed and implemented, national governments must take continued and concerted action. In this paper, it is recognized that environmental

efforts throughout Western Asia still remain inadequate to meet the priorities that have been set forth in numerous international environmental agreements. This documents provides an excellent overview of the evolution of environmental policy in the region, the various bodies established by Member States, and perhaps most importantly, information on what Member States still need to do to develop and implement sustainable development policies.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2001). *Water Desalination Technologies in the ESCWA Member Countries*. Retrieved November 9, 2008 from

<http://www.escwa.un.org/information/pubdetails.asp>

Due to limited access to freshwater resources throughout the Arab region, many Member States have to rely on desalination plants to ensure access to water, as well as ensuring continued socio-economic development. However, in the past, these technologies have been expensive to obtain and difficult to implement; however, with new technological developments, more and more Member States have been able to take advantage of these useful and necessary technologies. The study provides an overview of the technologies that were available in the region at the time of the study as well as examines the trends for desalination technologies and how the region would be able to take advantage of new technologies.

United Nations Environment Programme. Regional Office for West Asia. (n.d.). *Homepage*. Retrieved November 9, 2008 from <http://www.unep.org.bh/>

While the Commission on Sustainable Development is solely dedicated to discussing sustainable development issues, UNEP is the main body within the United Nations that discusses all aspects of environmental concerns. In order to carry out their work UNEP has numerous offices based in each global region, of which Western Asia is one. On their website delegates will be able to find information on all the important environmental concerns of the region, of which the ROWA has listed as: Freshwater – quantity and quality; Land degradation; Degradation of the coastal and marine environment; Loss of biodiversity; Air quality; Chemicals and Waste Management; Implementation of Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements—all of which are important to achieving sustainable development in the region.

United Nations Environment Programme. Regional Office for West Asia. (n.d.) *General Framework of Islamic Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved November 9, 2008 from

<http://www.unep.org.bh/Publications/default.asp>

This report of the ROWA highlights the major areas of work within sustainable development that are needed for the Western Asia region. Challenges to achieving sustainable development within the region include poverty, illiteracy, accumulation of foreign debts, and degradation of economic and social conditions, among others. Thus, this document provides delegates with an excellent overview of policies that should be developed by Member States in all areas to ensure sustainable development is achieved.

Nour, S.S. (2005, August). Science and Technology Development Indicators in the Arab Region: A Comparative Study of Gulf and Mediterranean Arab Countries. *Science Technology & Society*, 10(2), 249-274. Retrieved November 9, 2008 from <http://sts.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/10/2/249?rss=1>

This report examines the use of science and technology in Arab countries. The report finds that the region as a whole has not utilized or implemented S&T effectively, and is thus lagging behind other regions, in particular other parts of Asia. This has hurt their ability to promote development throughout the region.

III. Facilitating Trade in the ESCWA Region through the Strengthening of Regional Partnerships and Frameworks

4th RTAP Review Workshop Report [Regional Transport Action Plan]. (2006, April 7). Retrieved September 4, 2008, from

http://www.euromedtransport.org/fileadmin/download/maincontract/RTAP/4th_RTAP_workshop_report.pdf

This is the report that compiles the data and research used to formulate the Regional Transport Action Plan as directed under the EuroMed Transport Project. It reviews the work Representatives from Algeria, Jordan, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey did to address Rail transport of goods as well as Customs and Border issues with in the region. It also list the specific actions that need to be taken in the form of milestone in order to achieve the stability and policy requirements needed for the success of the single application

approach.

- Abedini, J., & Péridy, N. (n.d.). The Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA): An Estimation of the Trade Effects. Retrieved September 17, 2008, from <http://economics.ca/2007/papers/0300.pdf>
The author's work here in this paper is designed to provide some insight on GAFTA and the impact the agreement had on trade developments and economic growth in the region. In addition this paper pulls together theoretical research and analysis the outcome based on the expectations of research models. Furthermore they introduce their own research model and try to determine impact it has had on trade both intra-GAFTA trade as well as that of foreign trade.
- Afifi, T. (2005, June). Egypt in an Arab-African-Sandwich: Are GAFTA and COMESA to be implemented? [Conference on Middle East and North African Economies: Past Perspectives and Future Challenges]. Retrieved September 17, 2008, from http://www.ecomod.net/conferences/middle_east_2005/middle_east_2005_papers/Afifi.pdf
Afifi's research deals with two specific Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) signed by Egypt the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The paper discusses the present economic success and the potential future success of Egypt under the two RTAs if the implementation was not delayed or weakly enforced. It also discusses the need to structurally improve both RTAs because of lingering tariff and border crossing issues.
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2007, May 31). *Survey of the Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region 2006-2007* (E/ESCWA/EAD/2007/4). Retrieved August 23, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/ead-07-4-e.pdf>
This is a Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region which incorporates the lessons learned by officials in the region from the previous oil boom and outlines the policy successes and failures. It also discusses the research that has been done to find financial and development policy alternatives geared towards the utilization of financial and human resources within the region. As a result, this survey also analysis the connection between the requisites of development as prescribed in the MDGs and basic human rights.
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002, June 3). World Summit on Sustainable Development Assessment Report for The ESCWA Region (E/ESCWA/ENR/2002/19). Retrieved September 17, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/sdpc/wssd/pdf/assess.pdf>
Here is an assessment report for was completed in preparation for the WSSD. The assessment discusses the regional preparatory process completed by the regional Joint Secretariat. It discusses in detail the particular actions and results of the thematic roundtable for eminent persons and the regional forums for non-governmental organizations held to discuss industry improvements. The report discusses past achievements and challenges that are being currently faced in the ESCWA region as it tries to achieve sustainable development. It concludes with a platform of priorities for action.
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2003, March 31). *Macroeconomic Policy Analysis for Regional Cooperation in the ESCWA Region: The Effect of Real Exchange Rate Variability on Intraregional Trade* (E/ESCWA/EAD/2003/1). Retrieved August 17, 2008, from http://signe.krogstrup.com/library/MacroPolCor_MiddleEast2003.pdf
ESCWA Researchers provide a study that analyses the correlation between the apparent macroeconomic instability in the region and the lack of advanced regional trade. It focuses on the aspects of integration in the ESCWA region, and compares their progress to other regionally integrating parts of the world. Moreover, policy recommendations for the region are also shared here in addition to general data economic and political policy with respect to trade within the region.
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2004, July 19). *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region 2003-2004* (E/ESCWA/EAD/2004/4). Retrieved August 18, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/ead-04-4-e.pdf>
In this Survey, ESCWA argues that in order to achieve successful trade and integration, one must first utilize investments and regional protection methods of capital and labor resources. In addition there needs to be accountable public sectors developed that can help facilitate public/ private funding the proposed

development programs. Under this system economic cooperation investment returns can be secured as well as spread the risk across a broader portion of the market throughout the region protecting Member State as equally as possible.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2004, December 23). *Annual Review of Developments in Globalization and Regional Integration in the Countries of the ESCWA Region, 2004* (E/ESCWA/GRID/2004/6). Retrieved August 17, 2008, from

<http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/grid-04-6-e.pdf>

This is the third issue of this publication that provides an assessment of globalization and the resulting economic change that has happened in the Arab countries. It also gives information on the specific and techniques that are used to measure the level of progress toward the goal of full Arab regional integration. This review also provides a critique of the unique challenges that currently effect the level of integration that the need to be overcome in the Arab Region.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2005, February 15). *Ten-year Review of the Implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action in the ESCWA Region*. Retrieved August 17, 2008, from <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/contrib/ESCWA.doc>

Listed here is an analytical review of the steps undertaken by the Commission to implement the commitment of creating an economic, political and cultural environment that is geared to foster development and regional integration success. It also includes a glimpse at some of the work that has been done to overcome development issues that have hindered the success of many of the RTAs and integration projects. This review provides some historical background on policy development within the region.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2005, May 17). *Implementation of 2004-2005 Biennium Regular Budget Activities Report* (E/ESCWA/23/5 (Part1\I)/Add.1). Retrieved August 17, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov/session/Performe.pdf>

This report provides a review of the specific work that has been done to meet the goals and objectives laid out in the ESCWA development projects for that respective year. This is a performance report that can be used to identify the successes and failures of the six development subprograms based on the data set that was collected. In addition to the raw data you can also review the results they achieved in light of the clear expectations that are listed.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2005, June 1). *Toward an Integrated Knowledge Society in the Arab World: Strategies and Implementation Modalities* (E/ESCWA/ICTD/2005/3). Retrieved September 17, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/ictd-05-3.pdf>

This study provides information on the framework and guidelines used to development and implement strategies to foster the development of an integrated knowledge society within the ESCWA region. It also presents information on the aspect of creating knowledge-based economies in accordance with the goals and mandates from WSIS. The study also provides an overview of the recommendations and proposes integration strategies specific to the needs and conditions of the Arab world.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2005, September 6). *Progress Made by the ESCWA Member Countries in the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus* (E/ESCWA/GRID/2005/5). Retrieved September 1, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/grid-05-5.pdf>

This study was done to track the progress of ESCWA Member States with respect to implementing the principles delivered at the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico. This study focuses primarily on the challenges facing the region when it comes to bridging the gap between coordinating financing plans for development and actually executing them consistently throughout the region. Furthermore, the study provides some information on the methods used to encourage the continued involvement of Member States in order to fully implement the goals discussed at the conference.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2006, April 5). *Survey of Economic and Social developments in the ESCWA Region 2005-2006* (E/ESCWA/EAD/2006/1). Retrieved August 17, 2008, from http://ricardo.ecn.wfu.edu/~cottrell/OPE/archive/0806/att-0106/03-summary_2006.pdf

This is a Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region which incorporates the lessons learned by officials in the region from the previous oil boom and outlines the policy successes and

failures. It also discusses the research that has been done to find financial and development policy alternatives geared towards the utilization of financial and human resources within the region. As a result, this survey also analysis the connection between the requisites of development as prescribed in the MDGs and basic human rights.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2006, December 18). *Annual Review of Developments in Globalization and Regional Integration in the Arab Countries 2006* (E/ESCWA/GRID/2006/3). Retrieved August 18, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/grid-06-3-e.pdf>
The fifth edition of the Annual Review provides an assessment of the progress made integrating Arab economies into the global economy. In addition it also discuss the extent of regional integration that has been has been achieved. The review puts into perspective the recommendations based on data that was retrieved and also provides some information on steps that could possibly be taken to achieve success. A historical reference to the Arab World and the global economy is given in order to shed light on the benefits on GAFTA and the need for RTAs

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2007, May 4). *ESCWA Annual Report* (E/ESCWA/OES/2007/1). Retrieved September 17, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/oes-07-1-e.pdf>
This report analyzes some of the most significant economic and social developments that took place in the ESCWA during 2006. It reflects upon the conflicts that took place as several initiatives that where introduced. In addition an account of the work done by the Commission including details of subprogram success are also mentioned.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2007, May 24). *The Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region Report* (E/ESCWA/GRID/2007/IG.2/7). Retrieved September 4, 2008, from http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/div_editor/Download.asp?table_name=other&field_name=ID&FileID=803
This report contains a review of the issues and concerns discussed in the 5th session and list the recommendations of the Committee. It also discusses actions the Committee has taken in the past on the Doha Agenda as well as steps taken compared to the performance of the region in the development sector. In conjunction it also discusses the progress of the region in implementing the tools from the Monterrey Consensus as well as other financing ideas presented.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2007, May 28). *Trade Facilitation through the Application of the Single Window* E/ESCWA/GRID/2007/ Retrieved August 17, 2008, from http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetings/editor/Download.asp?table_name=eventDetails&field_name=id&FileID=127
Here is a report that discusses methods that work to increase integration of economies around the world through crafting a framework that increases the free flow of trade information among member States. This report provides relevant data and observations of the small to Medium size business development area and the need to encourage Single Window Access in the form of Paperless Trading. It also puts in perspective the relationship that the lack of information exchange has on the present shortfall of regional partnerships and economic growth.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2008, March 19). *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region 2007-2008 Summary* (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2008/2). Retrieved August 18, 2008, from http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/div_editor/Download.asp?table_name=news&field_name=ID&FileID=737
This survey builds on this argument and focuses on two significant social and economic concerns, which are capital flight and unemployment that seem to be on the rise in the region. It presents these issues in a historical context and promotes that they have been an outstanding barrier to development in the region. It also promotes that there is a great need to incorporate a new developmental framework which utilizes improving social policies as the main focus. The results of the survey also indicate that more work needs to be done to discouraging military and political conflict.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2008, April 17). *Strengthening regional cooperation for*

achieving the MDGs (E/ESCWA/25/4 (Part II)/A). Retrieved August 17, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov/session25/upload/stren25e.pdf>

Provided here is a document that provides a summary of the work done by the GCC countries as they strive to achieve the MDG targets. In addition it also discusses the work done by ESCWA to achieve strong partnerships that focused on promoting a more open and fair trade system. It also discusses methods used to create international finance and trade practices that are geared to increasing development assistance and enhancing the regional commitment to implement good governance. There is also work discussed here that focuses on poverty reduction in hand with social reform to foster development.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2008, August). *Programme Planning & Technical Cooperation*. Retrieved August 18, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/pptcdc.asp?id=4&teams=What%20We%20Do&text=Coordination#inc>
Here the work of The Commission is highlighted as it takes the lead role in program and project coordination among United Nations entities involved the development work at the regional level in Western Asia. Furthermore, it also discusses the work of ESCWA in conjunction with other regional commissions as they work closely together to enhance the regional dimension of the work of the United Nations and to promote inter-regional cooperation.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2005, March 7). *Report on the Activities of the Commission- The Technical Cooperation Strategy (E/ESCWA/23/5 (Part III)/Add.1)*. Retrieved September 1, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/pptcd/upload/TechnicalCooperationStrategy.pdf>
The technical cooperation (TC) strategy document aims to help clarify the Commission's strategic position with respect to TC provision, improve the delivery, effectiveness and efficiency of TC, and lay the ground for the development of such cooperation. The document outlines the challenges to and the comparative advantages of the provision by ESCWA of TC services, and addresses the subject from the dual perspective of doing the right things and doing things right. The document also sets out a number of recommendations and future actions.

Economic and Social Council. (2007, April 19). *Summary of the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region, 2006-2007 (E/2007/20)*. Retrieved August 17, 2008, from <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/312/37/PDF/N0731237.pdf>
This survey was done to highlight the lessons learned from the previous oil boom in the region and display research gathered from the study of economic policy alternatives. Some of these policies focused on retaining financial and human resources within the region in order to foster sustainable development. In addition the tones of the policies presented here classify meeting the requisites of development as a human right and a vital step to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1997, April 25). *Implementation of Agenda 21: Review of Progress made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992*. Retrieved September 17, 2008, from <http://www.un.org/esa/earthsummit/ecwa-cp.htm>
This is a review of past and current sustainable development policy that is in place throughout the ESCWA region. It discusses the various laws, and institutions that have been created and their effect on development. It gives an overview of the economic development concerns and the new policies that are being drafted to bridge the gaps between the public and private sectors. In addition it also discusses the role of regional initiatives and the positive effect they will have on increasing Member State long-term involvement.

EL-Anis, M. H. (2006-2007, December/January). *GAFTA and its Impact on the MENA Agricultural Industry. The Middle East & North Africa Affairs Review, 1(3)*.
Almost two years after the General Arab Free Trade Agreement came into full force amongst party-states the effects of trade barrier removal are being felt in varying degrees throughout the region and across different industrial sectors. Murad H. EL-Anis assesses some of the key impacts of GAFTA on one of the region's most sensitive industries - agriculture and links some of the major developments within the regional agricultural economy to the conditions of the FTA. He also provides some incite on possible opportunities for economic harmonization and stability in the MENA agricultural sector.

Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform. (2003, October 22). The Great Arab Free Trade Area: Impact on Arab Economies. Retrieved September 16, 2008, from http://www.napcsyr.org/dwnld-files/proceedings/en/10_gafta_impact_en.pdf

This analysis was done as a result of the meeting that was held to discuss the current Agriculture Policy framework and the need for Agricultural Policy reform. The goal of this forum was to promote the debate on policy issues and identify any recommendations that could be implemented. In addition this document lists the previous trade agreements as well as a brief history and outline of their goals.

Regional Coordination Group for the Arab Region. (2006, June). Retrieved August 18, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/rcg/documentation/2006/FinalReport11thMeeting.pdf>

At this session, presentations were made that explained how the action plans would enable UN entities such as ESCWA meet the developmental requirements and needs with respect to institutional capacity. The presentations were also geared to display post crisis response in relation to developmental project response within respective regions. In this respect it was determined that the role of the Commission be outlines clearly, to engage Member State support of goals and obligations.

Shalhoub, Z. K., & AL Qasimi, L. (2003, October 23). Profile of the Information Society in the United Arab Emirates 2003 (E/ESCWA/ICTD/2003/11/Add.2). Retrieved September 4, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/wsis/reports/docs/UAE-E.pdf>

This document discusses the policies and strategies used in the UAE in light of the emerging global economy. It also provides a critique of efforts made to create legal frameworks that cover issues of privacy and security to capacity building. The document also provides some incite of the efforts to address infrastructure needs and the logistical requirements of trade.

Trade and Development Board (2005, November 14). Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development Expert Meeting on Trade Facilitation as an Engine for Development (TD/B/COM.3/EM.24/3). Retrieved September 4, 2008, from http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/c3em24d3_en.pdf

The trade development Board's report discusses issues surrounding trade, mainly the free flow of goods and how inadequate transport facilitation policies and methods could cause barriers and hinder economic development. In addition it also presents several policy alternatives that would work in conjunction with most prevalently used development plans of Member States. In the end recommendations for framework and policy development are given in order to engage Member States to adopt this mode of thinking.

World Trade Organization. (2005, June 28). Trade Policy Review Report by Egypt (WT/TPR/G/150). Retrieved September 4, 2008, from http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/g150_e.doc

The WTO provides a detailed review of Egypt's Trade policy and their recommendations based on their observation of the success and failures of trade agreements. It also covers some background information on GAFTA discussing how it has evolved since its initial implementation. In addition, the success that Egypt has had based on RTA utilization is also compared here in respect to each of the agreements that EGYPT is party to.

World Trade Organization. (2008, August 10). List of Regional Trade Agreements Notified to the GATT/WTO and in Force by type of Agreement. Retrieved September 1, 2008, from http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/region_e/type_e.xls

This is a detailed list of all of the RTA's that have been both notified to the GATT/WTO and enforced. It is a good source to use in order to understand the prominence of RTA in our global economy. In addition to listing them by type and associating them with the appropriate GATT/WTP provisions, it also gives the dates so the reader can compare those created during the surge that studies say started in the late 90s.

Additional Sources

Arab States Embrace Free Trade Pacts. (2002, April 13). Middle East Economic Survey, 45(13). Retrieved July 15, 2008, from <http://www.mees.com/postedarticles/finance/general/a45n13b01.htm>

Middle East Economic Survey is an authority on oil and gas industry in the Middle East North African Region (MENA). This weekly newsletter provides a comprehensive source of news and analysis of energy

market as well as, financial and political policy developments. The newsletter from time to time also includes information on the effect the energy market has on the region. In addition to surveys and studies the newsletter also highlights the work of specific countries as they try to compete globally and foster local development.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002, September 4). *The Effect of Socioeconomic Inequity on Sustainable Development in the ESCWA Region-Briefing papers* (E/ESCWA/SDP/2002/17). Retrieved September 17, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/sdpd/wssd/pdf/17.pdf>
These are the briefing papers on Energy, water and development that were written in response to ESCWA's work on Agenda 21. The papers present proposals and discuss methods that would help them achieve sustainable development within the region. It also discusses the water sector and the need to provide enough water to meet the demands caused by economic growth.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2005, June 15). *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region 2004-2005* [(E/ESCWA/ EAD/2005/6)]. Retrieved September 17, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/ead-05-6-e.pdf>
This annual Survey reviews economic and social developments that took place in the ESCWA region. It analyzes the region's overall improvements and failures of policy initiatives that were created to address economic and social issues that have plagued their development process. In addition it also discusses the work that is being done to promote regional integration policies that focus more on the human rights aspect of development and not just acquiring financial resources.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2008, March 7). *Programme Performances Report for the Biennium 2006-2007* (E/ESCWA/25/5 (Part I)). Retrieved August 18, 2008, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov/session25/upload/perfm25e.pdf>
The ESCWA's performance report provide an overview of the past projects and highlights some of the achievements and lessons learned based on the results achieved from each of the seven substantive sub-programs. This is a performance report that can be used to identify the successes and failures of the seven development subprograms based on the data set that was collected. It also highlights integration methods that were used to respond to the need to join the global economy. In addition to the raw data you can also review the results they achieved in light of the clear expectations that are listed.

Makdisi, K., & Cherfane, C. C. (2005, April). *Arab Region Resource Paper* [Southern Agenda on Trade and Environment Phase II]. Retrieved August 18, 2008, from http://www.trade-environment.org/output/southernagenda/arab/arab_backgroundpaper.pdf
This paper provides a summary of relevant trade related information specific to the Arab region. The paper also provides background information pressing economic, social, and environmental issues that seem to be uniformly affecting the Arab region in a negative manner and preventing development. In light of these issues the paper also reflects on the challenges that trade and integration policy must address, as well as environmental and capital resource issues.

Rules of Procedure

Economic Commission for Western Asia

Introduction

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

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - Dates of convening and adjournment

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

Rule 2 - Place of Sessions

The Commission 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 members of the United Nations at least 60 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 in the Commission. Items on the agenda may be amended or deleted by the Commission by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

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

Rule 5 - Revision of the agenda

During a session, the Commission 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 Commission so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item as of “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 Commission to be placed on the agenda. The votes described in this rule are substantive votes, and as such, observers are not permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, “the members present and voting” means 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 his/her designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the Commission.
2. The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the Commission 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 Commission, and shall distribute documents of the Commission to the Members of the United Nations, and generally perform all other work which the Commission may require.

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat

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

Rule 10 - Selection of the President

The Secretary-General or his/her designate shall appoint, from applications received by the Secretariat, a President who shall hold office and, inter alia, chair the committee 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 his/her function, a new President shall be appointed for the unexpired term at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

IV. LANGUAGES

Rule 12 - Official and working language

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

Rule 13 - Interpretation

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

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

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 Commission are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the body concerned shall be required for any decision to be taken.

For purposes of this rule, "members of the Commission" and "members of the body" are based on the number of total members (not including observers) in attendance for the first night's session

Rule 15 - General powers of the President

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him/her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, 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 Commission and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. She or he shall rule on points of order. She or he may propose to the Commission 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 his or her discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference. For purposes of this rule, the President's power to "propose to the Commission" entails his or her power to "entertain" motions, and not to move the body on his or her own motion.

Rule 16

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

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 session 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 Commission 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 Commission, and the President may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call him or her to order without delay.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, if the President determines that the Commission 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 his or her discretion, and on the advice and consent of the Secretariat, may rule as dilatory any additional motions to change the limits of the speaker's time.

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 consent of the Commission, 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 Commission.

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 Commission. A motion to close the speaker's list is within the purview of the Commission and the President should not on his own motion move the body.

Rule 21 - Right of reply

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

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

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 Commission shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

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

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 only to two representatives favoring and two opposing the 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 his or her wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. Closure of debate shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. If the Commission favors the closure of debate, the Commission shall immediately move to vote on all proposals introduced under that agenda item.

Rule 26 - Order of motions

Subject to rule 21, 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 representatives present who would like the Commission 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 Commission 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 body for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

For purposes of this rule, “representatives present” is based on the number of total representatives (including observers) in attendance at the first night’s session. 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 Commission by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of that working paper. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft resolution/report. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution/report and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Commission. These draft resolutions/reports are the collective property of the Commission, 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 Commission, 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” mean those representatives, including observers, in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.

V. VOTING

Rule 30 - Voting rights

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

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

Rule 31 - Request for a vote

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

For purposes of this rule, “proposal” means any draft resolution/report, an amendment thereto, or a portion of a draft resolution/report 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 acclimation, or a member may move to accept the proposal or motion by acclimation. If there are no objections to the proposal or motion, then it is adopted without vote.

Rule 32 - Majority required

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

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

Rule 33 - Method of voting

1. The Commission 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

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

Rule 34 - Explanation 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 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 immediately after voting on the topic has come to an end.

Rule 35 - 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 connections with the actual process of voting.

Rule 36 - 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 37 - 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 38-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 39 - Order of voting on proposals

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

Rule 40 - The President shall not vote

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

VII. CREDENTIALS

Rule 41 - 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 42

The Commission shall be bound by the actions of the General Assembly in all credentials matters and shall take no action regarding the credentials of any member.

VII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Rule 43 - Participation of non-Member States

1. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Commission and any other State, to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.
2. A committee or sessional body of the Commission shall invite any State that is not one of its own members to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.
3. A State thus invited shall not have the right to vote, but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote on request of any member of the body concerned.

If the Commission considers that the presence of a Member invited according to this rule is no longer necessary, it may withdraw the invitation again. Delegates invited to the Commission according to this rule should also keep in mind their role and obligations in the committee that they were originally assigned to. For educational purposes of the NMUN Conference, the Secretariat may thus ask a delegate to return to his or her committee when his or her presence in the Commission is no longer required.

Rule 45 - Participation of national liberation movements

The Commission may invite any national liberation movement recognized by the General Assembly to participate, without the right to vote, in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that movement.

Rule 46 - Participation of and consultation with specialized agencies

In accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies shall be entitled:

- a) To be represented at meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary organs;
- b) To participate, without the right to vote, through their representatives, in deliberations with respect to items of concern to them and to submit proposals regarding such items, which may be put to the vote at the request of any member of the Commission or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

Rule 47 - Participation of non-governmental organization and intergovernmental organizations

Representatives of non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations accorded consultative observer status by the General Assembly and other non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or a continuing basis by the Commission on the recommendation of the Bureau, may participate, with the procedural right to vote, but not the substantive right to vote, in the deliberations of the Commission on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.

X. MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

Rule 48 - Invitation to silent prayer or meditation

Immediately after the opening of the first meeting of the Commission, representatives may request to observe one minute