



WASHINGTON, DC
31 October - 2 November 2014
nmun.org/nmun_dc.html



UN CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND GUIDE 2014

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



NMUN•DC Position Papers Guidelines

Due 1 October 2014

Each committee topic should be addressed in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned country. You should identify and address international and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action that are relevant to the policy of your country. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. A delegate's role as a Member State, Observer State, or NGO should affect the way a position paper is written. The [Delegate Preparation Guide](#) will provide you with additional information.

A position paper should be submitted for each assigned committee.

- The two page position paper should cover all the topics in the background guide, not a separate paper for each topic.
- Do not submit papers for committees not assigned to your country (see [DC matrix](#)).
- No more than two delegates can represent a single country in a committee. If you assign two delegates to represent a country on a committee, they submit one position paper jointly, not separate position papers from each individual.
- NMUN position papers are not cited as is required for an academic paper. They are written as if they are a policy statement coming from the foreign ministry. While they may reference UN data or past UN Resolutions, like in our samples, formal citations are not used.

Please pay careful attention to the following guidelines when drafting and submitting your position papers. Only those delegations that follow the guidelines and meet the submission deadline will be eligible for [position paper awards](#).

Follow the layout in our [Sample Position Paper](#) using the standards below:

- Length must not exceed two pages
- Margins must be set at 1 inch or 2.54 cm. for the whole paper
- Font must be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Country/NGO name, school name, and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page
- Agenda topics must be clearly labeled in separate sections
- National symbols (headers, flags, etc.) are deemed inappropriate for NMUN position papers
- Convert your paper to pdf format

Please note that position papers must be comprised of entirely original writing. **NMUN will not tolerate plagiarism**, including copying from Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy may result in dismissal from the conference. Although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, we do not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents.

How to Submit Your Position Papers

- One person, preferably the faculty advisor or head delegate, should submit all papers from your delegation.
- Complete a separate form for each country/assignment.
- Use the committee name and your assignment in the filename (example: GA1_Cuba).
- Submit all papers as pdf documents.

Use the link on the [DC position paper page](#), following the guidelines above, to submit your position papers. If you have questions or concerns about the position paper submission process, please email the Secretary-General at secgen.dc@nmun.org. Please do not submit position papers to this email account.

If you are requesting an [Embassy Briefing](#), we encourage your delegation to also submit a copy of your position papers to the embassy for the country you've been assigned along with an explanation of the conference.

Many, many papers will be read by the Secretariat. Your patience and cooperation in adhering to the above guidelines is greatly appreciated.



Official Welcome

On behalf of the committee staff of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, welcome to the 2014 National Model United Nations Washington D.C. (NMUN•DC) Conference. This year, Rubai Aurora will be your Director and Emma Ogg will be your Assistant Director. Rubai is a Master of Public Administration Candidate at the George Washington University focusing on International Development Management. This will be her fifth year on NMUN staff. Emma is a graduate of University of Colorado at Boulder with a degree in International Affairs and this is her fifth NMUN conference.

Throughout the year, NMUN•DC staff has worked to prepare background guides and materials to help you prepare for this conference and to also provide you with an experience that will give you a greater appreciation for global affairs. Model United Nations serves as a truly unique opportunity for delegates to improve important skills, including public speaking, research, writing, and negotiation and cooperation. More importantly, it is an opportunity to find innovative solutions to important issues that are currently affecting our world. This background guide is a tool to help you begin research on your country's policies on the committee's topics. The topics before the committee reflect the priorities for setting the post-2015 development agenda and creating a sustainable future for all countries. UNCTAD plays a particularly important role in defining the path to development and best economic interests for developing countries.

Please take note of the [NMUN Policies and Codes of Conduct](#) on the Website and in the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#) regarding plagiarism, codes of conduct/dress code/sexual harassment, awards philosophy/evaluation method, etc. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory. All the best preparing for the conference, and we look forward to meeting you in Washington, D.C. in October!

The NMUN•DC Staff

History of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is comprised of 194 Member States formulating policy on economic development issues relating to international trade. UNCTAD was founded in 1964 with its first conference in Geneva, Switzerland. It continues to meet every four years in varying host countries. It was initially designed as a forum to address the needs of developing countries through the promotion of North-South dialogue and international trade policy commitments. UNCTAD's work at this time aims to improve developing countries' access to international markets and give them a voice in trade agreements. As stated in the 2013 budget priorities, its main objective is to "assist developing countries...in integrating beneficially into the global economy." UNCTAD does this by focusing on helping countries meet their development goals in the context of globalization, with specific support and mention of Africa. UNCTAD focuses on providing technical assistance, and addressing issues related to international investment and trade negotiations. Its three main functions are research and analysis, building consensus around policies and strategies, and implementing development strategies with the goal of achieving sustainable levels of growth. More recently and especially since their last conference in Doha, Qatar, in 2012, UNCTAD has been discussing the sustainable development goals (SDGs) it would like to see included in the post-2015 agenda.

UNCTAD's quadrennial conferences are its highest decision-making body where Member States debate issues and form policy responses. In between conferences, the Trade and Development Board continues UNCTAD's work and is comprised of the same 194 Member States as the quadrennial conferences. This board oversees three Commissions: Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities; Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues; and Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development. UNCTAD's current Secretary-General is Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi of Kenya who was appointed by United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 1 September 2013. UNCTAD's secretariat is structured around its five subprograms: globalization, interdependence and development; investment and enterprise; international trade; technology and logistics; and Africa, least developed countries, and special programs. The majority of UNCTAD decisions are based on consensus, exemplifying its collective political will. In the event that a consensus cannot be reached, a 2/3 majority can also pass decisions. UNCTAD is funded with an approximate budget of \$68 million from the UN and \$40 million from trust funds (contributions from donors), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN program

budget. Some programs within UNCTAD, however, like technical cooperation, which provides assistance to developing countries, are funded bilaterally from Member States and other actors.

As the UN focal point for integrating trade and development and achieving development-centered globalization, UNCTAD works closely with other UN agencies and other bodies. UNCTAD is a subsidiary program of the UN General Assembly, and submits reports to the General Assembly from both the quadrennial conferences and annual meetings of the Trade and Development Board. UNCTAD leads the UN Inter-Agency Cluster on trade and productive capacity, which also includes United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNDP, International Trade Center (ITC), World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations Environment Programme, and International Labor Organization among others. UNCTAD works especially closely with UNDP as UNCTAD has no field representatives and uses UNDP country offices to conduct research. As of June 2013, 144 intergovernmental organizations and 211 non-governmental organizations participated in UNCTAD's activities. While UNCTAD focuses more on development and the WTO on trade policies, they do coordinate technical assistance and some joint studies, and together they also sponsor the ITC. UNCTAD also makes macro-economic and trade recommendations to the governments of its Member States, but they are not legally binding.

UNCTAD has recently been focused on forming post-2015 sustainable development goals in concert with the Open Working Group assigned the task of writing the SDGs. The Zero Draft of these goals was just published in late June and includes many trade related targets on which UNCTAD will be working. Their last quadrennial conference in April 2012 in Doha, Qatar, was almost exclusively concentrated on ensuring sustainable growth and development in an inclusive manner. While the last three quadrennial conferences have focused on the larger issue of globalization and economic growth, setting such a specific agenda will allow UNCTAD to re-define actions that need to be taken in order to address the challenges of inequality in economic growth until its next conference in 2016. UNCTAD hopes to mainstream and expand the topic of trade from the Millennium Development Goals in order to arrive at a comprehensive post-2015 agenda founded on sustainable development. The topics before the committee this session reflect recent trends in UNCTAD's work and are: pursuing a blue economy, supporting remittances for international development, and financing sustainable development.

I. Pursuing a Blue Economy

- How do we engage all stakeholders of the Blue Economy from small fishing communities to global corporations in the dialogue and commitments for environmental sustainability?
- What types of laws and regulations does the international community need to be able to hold different actors accountable?
- How can national governments work together to foster international and regional cooperation for creating support systems for developing countries requiring both financial and technical assistance?

The concept of the Green Economy was a focal point of discussion during the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20-22 June 2012. Similarly, the concept of the Blue Economy arose from these discussions and addresses how the policy of a Green Economy relates to coastal countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Specifically, the Blue Economy is a framework for sustainable development of oceans and marine-based livelihoods. The Blue Economy and Green Economy share the principle goals of: 1) lowering carbon emissions; 2) improving resource efficiency; and, 3) creating social inclusion in economic development. This movement has grown to provide an in-depth look at how ocean and sea-based economies can be better protected through internationally coordinated efforts. Additionally, 2014 is the International Year of Small Island Developing States, which will be commemorated on September 1-4 in Apia, Samoa, with the UN Conference on SIDS. Coastal countries and SIDS have led the movement, with the support of all countries with marine-based economic interests, in linking priorities to global climate change and sustainable development, largely because they are significantly dependent on ocean and sea economies. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has focused its efforts in supporting SIDS in their economic development through the incorporation of the Blue Economy principles through three main outputs. These include: 1) conducting policy-focused research and analysis on building resilience to changes in the economic climate; 2) providing guidance and advisory services for SIDS who are in the process of graduating from least developed country (LDC) status; and, 3) enhancing SIDS credibility as a platform for special investment for development partners.

Oceans cover 72% of the Earth's surface and provide a significant sustenance for global food security, livelihoods, and global trade. Other industries, including tourism and energy production also heavily rely on oceans as a resource. However, as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) concludes, over 85% of the world's fish and sea-life based resources have been fully or over exploited. Additionally, increased pollution and environmental disasters have permanently threatened the biodiversity and ecosystems of the world's oceans. The Blue Economy designates oceans as "development spaces" that require a sustainable development approach, where natural resources are managed and extracted responsibly with the intention of protecting the environment from exploitation. The underlying approach to this form of sustainable development is equality. Equality ensures that developing countries can: 1) all benefit from the development of marine based economies; 2) increase overall gender equality in access to livelihood opportunities and sustainable income generation; and, 3) safely engage in international governance and stewardship of shared oceans and seas. The emphasis of mainstreaming equity into the discussion is to ensure that the overarching goal of poverty reduction and environmental management is met. The inclusion of equity in development planning is an essential aspect of UNCTAD's strategy for facilitating sustainable development of SIDS and other developing countries in graduating from LDC status. Another core concept of the Blue Economy that it shares with the Green Economy is the "de-coupling" of socio-economic development and environmental degradation. De-coupling is a concept that encourages governments and development actors to develop policy and conduct business through the efficient and regulated use of natural resources. The concept emphasizes that economic growth does not have to come about at the expense of the environment. For example, currently ocean-based energy production represents less than 1% of all renewable energy production. In order for marine-based renewable energy to reach its potential there needs to be significant investments in research and development of technology. Further, investing in green tourism can reduce costs and enhance the value of ecosystems and cultural heritage. Energy efficiency helps to improve waste management systems, saves money for small businesses, and creates jobs.

The *Rio Ocean Declaration* came out of The Oceans Day meeting during Rio+20 on 16 June 2012 and highlighted the priority areas of the Blue Economy. The declaration outlined the main threats to sustainable economic development including ocean acidification and pollution, overfishing, unregulated and unreported fishing, and destruction of marine life habitat. Additionally, under the mitigation umbrella, the declaration addresses carbon emissions and the development of ocean-based renewable energy such as offshore wind power and wave energy. It further outlined the need to mitigate marine pollution including debris, heavy metals, and nitrogen-based compounds; to develop programs to address marine litter at the regional level; to increase national budgets to support better infrastructure around coasts and major waterways; and to develop programs that discourage populations from using harmful materials such as plastics. In response to the identification of threats, many organizations made open commitments to address these issues. For example, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was designated the lead entity for addressing the issue of sustainable maritime and shipping industry development. Further, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) took the lead on the marine litter initiative in collaboration with the United Nations Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Regional Seas Programmes. The priorities outlined include developing and scaling up coordinated ecosystem management approaches, incorporating the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and the push towards a low-carbon based economy. Importantly, the *Rio Ocean Declaration* also emphasized the need for capacity building and government level support for SIDS through increased financial and technical support services. In this regard, UNCTAD has worked to develop an official SID status declaration to facilitate specific and specialized capacity building and investment to account for limited human capital and natural capacities. This work has included holding consultations on the special development requirements of SIDS and recommending specific improvements to trade and transportation infrastructure.

The Blue Economy Summit held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in January 2014 assessed the progress of the Blue Economy commitments of national governments for furthering the agenda for action and placed a renewed emphasis on the importance of long-term and sustainable planning of marine based economies. The summit also emphasized that biodiversity, protection of marine ecosystems, and food security require concerted efforts from international development actors, including UNCTAD. At present, 40% of the world's coral reefs have been destroyed or significantly damaged, the cover of mangroves has reduced by 30 – 50%, and about 30% of sea-grass habitats have been completely destroyed. The solution lies in scientific management and planning of fisheries and other marine economies. The international target for the amount of government-protected ocean is at 10%; however, currently only 2% is protected. Change in the management of fisheries and the aquaculture sector is essential, but to achieve it requires comprehensive governance frameworks for addressing externalities. It also requires

implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture that promotes ownership and responsibility for the environment by local communities and governments that extract from oceans. Further, ensuring that fisheries and aquaculture are included in national and city-based coastal area management, watershed development, and overall development planning is essential. The shipping industry also requires an international framework to coordinate its conservation efforts. However, because of ambiguous borders and undefined roles and responsibilities in contested international waters, the environmental management of the shipping industry is lacking. The IMO has provided the basis for a global regulatory framework for the protection of this environment, but it requires further strengthening and commitment from the international community through decision-making bodies like UNCTAD to actually make an impact. Relating to food security over 1 billion people, mostly in developing countries, depend primarily on seafood and marine-based industry for nutrition. However, oceans are becoming increasingly acidic because of the increased absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Another threat is from extreme weather events such as hurricanes and floods that have devastating effects on sea and ocean based economies. Further, industries such as aquaculture or aquafarming, which is the act of developing sea life populations for human consumption as opposed to capturing wild sea life, needs efficient and sustainable approaches that focus on providing employment and quality food for dependent populations. Aquaculture is the fastest growing food sector and provides almost 50% of seafood around the world. However, the aquaculture industry has not been regulated or sustainably developed. In many areas the industry has rapidly taken over important natural coastal habitats and effected ecosystems.

There are thus three aspects of the Blue Economy that are particularly relevant to UNCTAD. The first is fishing subsidies negotiations, particularly in referring to international trade and the World Trade Organization. The second is sustainable tourism since it accounts for more than 30% of employment in most SIDS and over 50% of GDP. The third is international mechanisms of economic support for SIDS. Many SIDS are also considered under the category of least developed countries and lack the financial infrastructure, governmental infrastructure, and human capacity to address issues affecting them. There are only 29 SIDS and therefore an international commitment to their support is manageable and practical to implement at a regional level. Further, economic sustainability and growth is strongly linked to environment management and safety, and requires holistic and future orientated thinking to protect the livelihoods of people that are dependent on the oceans. In addition, in support of the 2014 International Year of Small Island Developing States discussion should focus on developing clean goals, standards, and commitments from UNCTAD Member States on the protection of their people and livelihoods.

II. Supporting Remittances for International Development

- How could UNCTAD formalize and regulate the flow of remittances from migrant populations into developing countries to ensure reliable, safe, and efficient flow of funds?
- How can UNCTAD and national governments encourage migrant and Diaspora communities to invest in infrastructure development and investment in local and small businesses to further economic growth?
- What policies need to be in place to ensure that migrant worker populations and recipient families are able to access financial and banking services and technological advances in banking to promote the flow of remittances to least developed countries?

Remittances are an essential contribution to poverty reduction and economic stability in many developing countries, and they allow for investment in local economies and contribute to local infrastructure as well. Remittances are private monetary contributions or transfers from migrants to their home countries, and are primarily used to support living costs for relatives. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat reports a growing percentage of migrant workers contributing to economic and social development in all parts of the world. Further, The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) estimates a total increase in migrant workers from 195 million to 215 million between 2005 and 2010 due to rapid globalization in trade and transportation, and the number of international migrants is projected to rise to over 400 million by the year 2050. Additionally, there has been an increase not only in South-North migration, but South-South migration as well, especially between the Middle East and North Africa. These factors make it especially important that UNCTAD address this issue and make it easier for the positive benefits of remittances to be shared by all.

The positive impacts of remittances at the household level are both in terms of poverty reduction and as a risk-mitigation strategy to diversify income sources. Remittances have also been able to contribute to overall poverty reduction and development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For example, Nepal's

incidence of poverty has reduced by one percentage point annually from the mid-1990s onwards due to remittances coupled with urbanization and higher wages. Moreover, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) over 4 million people living in the Philippines are able to live above the poverty line with the assistance of remittances. The countries with the largest amount of incoming migrants in 2009 were the United States, the Russian Federation, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Canada. However, when measured against their total population, the Gulf States, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait were the largest receiving countries for migrant workers. The top industries for migrant workers include construction, tourism, and manufacturing. For remittances, recipient countries are located across the globe, and are concentrated in Asia and Latin America. In terms of recipient countries, Bangladesh, China, India, Pakistan, and the Philippines are ranked the highest, followed by Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico. For the least developed countries (LDCs) such as the Gambia and Haiti, remittances account for more than 10% of gross national income (GNI); such statistics can make major impacts on an LDC's economy. For example, in 2007 the West African state Cabo Verde, was able to rise out of its LDC status because of the significant contribution of remittances to its economy. The trends and impact analysis found that remittance receipts for LDCs in 2011 reached \$27 billion, much more than foreign direct investment (FDI) or any other form of official development assistance (ODA). Most of the money sent home is to cover basic needs such as food, clothing, and housing and can also extend to local economic development once those immediate needs are met. Additionally, Diaspora communities, migrants who have permanently resettled, play an essential role in providing assistance. For example, in the early 1990s, Indian Development Bonds targeted Diaspora Indian communities with tax credits and incentives in order to assist the Indian economy through its financial crisis. Contributions from Diasporas have led to many infrastructure-based developments such as schools and hospitals and can contribute heavily to the development of tourism industries in many countries.

In 2006, the United Nations High-Level Dialogue, the Global Migration Group (GMG) created by the UN Secretary-General, and the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) initiated the discussion on addressing the concerns of migrant workers and the developing countries they support. GFMD developed a set of strategies in 2010 to further concrete action on the issue of monitoring remittances. The framework focuses on sharing experiences and knowledge to further human development and protect human rights as well as the interests of marginalized populations for a more comprehensive approach to support the use of remittances for international development. This approach requires clear goals and priorities for policymakers that seek to strengthen regulatory mechanisms and the capacity of governance institutions. Further, clear strategies must be developed to establish laws, investment policies, and investment opportunities to ensure that the full development potential of remittances are realized. The framework also requires investment in secure and reliable methods of transfer with advanced communication and technological investments. To further the GFMD strategies, UNCTAD held its Expert Meeting on Maximizing the Development Impact of Remittances from 14-15 February 2011. This meeting was organized to address UNCTAD's mandate and responsibility to develop policy and recommendations for the global trade community in regards to maximizing the benefits of remittances to developing countries. The participants reviewed the trends in migration and remittance flows and analyzed the impacts of remittances on poverty reduction and development. They also shared learning, experiences, and promising practices from programs that have successfully used remittances for development purposes.

UNCTAD is focused on addressing the barriers that restrict the flow of remittances, and are primarily based in unregulated and unreliable methods of cash transfer. The cost of transferring money is a major barrier; the lower the transaction costs, the higher the likelihood of frequent and easy flow of money from migrant to recipient. So far, companies offering low transaction costs are limited to the Latin American and South Asian regions; however, these also remain unregulated and unreliable methods. High transaction costs including fees and bribes paid to those who transport or transfer the funds significantly prevent the poorest populations from migrating in the first place or having access to avenues of transferring funds, if at all. Further, tax policy on remittances is a major obstacle that can restrict the flow of remittances by raising transaction costs for the consumer as the transfer company raises fees to pay larger taxes. Innovative efforts have been made through international organizations such as the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD) to pioneer efforts to increase access and lower transaction costs. For example, the use of mobile banking to reach rural and remote areas has made significant progress in this regard. However, laws, regulations, and coordinated efforts between public and private entities are still lacking and prevent the full benefits of such innovations from being achieved.

The migration policies of developed and destination countries also play a very important role in the flow of remittances. Most significantly, the legal or illegal status of a migrant worker impacts the free and safe flow of

money. For example, many migrant workers are working under an undocumented status and therefore do not feel safe using documented or formal methods of money transfers described above. Allowing migrant workers to invest in pension and social security policies creates sustainable growth and income security in the long-term. Migrant workers also face uncertainty in labor markets; with economic downturns in many developed countries, these workers are forced to suffer unemployment or face significant wage reductions because of the seasonal and unregulated nature of their work. Further, migrant women and girls often encounter significantly stricter visa challenges but are often the only earning member of a family. As such, they are the most vulnerable to violations of labor rights including equal access, safety, and equal pay. Migrant women and girls are also especially susceptible to gender-based violence (GBV) and exploitation due to issues such as language barriers, lack of legal protection in host countries, dependence on employers, and culturally low social status.

Given the above constraints, international regional and domestic development policies aimed at inducing private investments in development are essential to channeling remittances for positive development. Private investment may include appropriate financial and regulatory reforms to reduce transaction costs and promote greater financial inclusion and credit provision for small- and medium-sized enterprises. This requires laws and governance mechanisms that protect and provide good financial counseling, and laws and regulations that ensure these investments are protected and not dependent on local and unstable credit markets. In this regard, regional trade and cooperation agreements are important mechanisms to monitor cross-border concerns and improve access to goods and services, including the transfer of remittances. For example, the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) mode 4 commitments are an avenue for reforming trade barriers and improving the economic security of migrant workers and the families they support. The formalization of remittances as a source of income can also lead to increased investment, the use of credit and loans to fund education and housing, and the creation of effective market access for small businesses. Remittances contribute significantly to providing credit and investment to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which are especially important to the livelihoods of agriculture-based communities. With all of these opportunities, UNCTAD has a role in promoting and developing trade and cooperation guidelines for the establishment of remittance policies through GATS and other related frameworks.

III. Financing Sustainable Development

- What improvements can be made to UNCTAD’s recommendations on financing sustainable development?
- Given the challenges in financing, how can UNCTAD’s present goals be modified to meet more realistic expectations and support the post-2015 agenda?

The 1992 United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development first defined sustainable development in *Our Common Future* as, “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” At the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the United Nations (UN) adopted Agenda 21, a 300-page framework for sustainable development, and recognized sustainable development as a balance between environmental protection, economic growth, and social development. In the last 14 years, actions by UN bodies, non-governmental organizations, and governments have mainstreamed the concept of sustainable development into the international development discussion. Further, Agenda 21 has been officially reviewed twice and remains the central standard for measuring progress in sustainable development initiatives. The outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012, *The Future We Want*, reaffirms global political commitment to sustainable development. While *The Future We Want* invited the UN system to coordinate funding and trade measures, it did not offer any specific suggestions. Therefore, as the only UN body charged with the relationship between trade and sustainable development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is a natural candidate to fill this deficit and offer the international community solutions to sustainable development financing.

As UNCTAD’s Secretary-General Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi recently said, “...a new set of development goals will be meaningless without complimentary progress on financing. The implementation and scaling up of financing for development...is a key catalyst for development progress post-2015.” UNCTAD’s first post-2015 policy brief also recognizes that, although there has been much discussion on new development goals, relatively little attention has been focused on mobilizing resources to meet those goals. UNCTAD’s Secretary-General Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi has also called for increased investment to create clean technologies, sustainable infrastructure, and new trade systems. Since its last conference in Doha in 2012, UNCTAD has drafted post-2015 sustainable development goals,

contributing to the first draft of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which focus on promoting sustainability in all directions: economically, socially, politically, and environmentally. UNCTAD now must continue to build on its work to meet these goals by addressing the challenges and opportunities of financing sustainable development.

There are several challenges, gaps, and areas for improvement in sustainable development financing, including inadequate public funding, the effective management of available funds, and coordination at the international level. According to UNCTAD's first post-2015 policy brief and the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, increasing efficiency and effectiveness, in addition to finding and facilitating new sources of funding, will be critical in financing the future of sustainable development. Firstly, a lack of public funds, especially since the international financial crisis, means that setting new sustainable development goals will be futile without creative new sources of funding. The biggest obstacle still remains a lack of domestic funding in developing countries, and inequality within those countries. Consequently, the people who most need access to not only livelihood opportunities, but also the ability to sustain any economic well-being, are often least able to afford it. In this regard, UNCTAD has a role in attracting new sources of financing through international cooperation and coordination.

Even with sufficient levels of funding, implementing sustainable development practices requires support across many areas including improving education, developing new technologies, building new infrastructure, and constructing new legal frameworks. Sustainable development also requires an increased level of creativity, accountability, and coordination among financiers of any sustainable development goal. In addition to a deficit of public resources to finance sustainable development in developing countries, poor regulatory infrastructure precludes responsible foreign direct investment (FDI) to increase development. Without regulatory infrastructure, FDI cannot be used to its full potential as investors hesitate to participate in the economies of countries without assurances. Further, the lack of monitoring and enforcement infrastructure limits the ability to determine the effectiveness of funding and programs in developing countries. Evaluating sustainable development programs will help ensure that the limited funds available are being used efficiently. Although difficult in some countries, setting clear goals and using effective impact indicators can make this a less daunting task. Improving development cooperation will be required to combat system fragmentation at the international level due to bilateral and regional agreements, which often compete with or undermine larger development goals. Under the present system, only 2/3 of FDI and 1/5 of bilateral investment relationships are protected. UNCTAD can establish a formal agreement on differential treatment, which is applicable at the different levels of international trade agreements.

To help tackle these challenges, UNCTAD has been developing policy recommendations and actions to improve financing for sustainable development. UNCTAD's Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (IPFSD) proposes a set of core principles for investment policymaking at both the national and international levels, focusing on trade and economic policies. Further, the framework recommends increasing investor confidence, strengthening regulation and strategic decision making at the national level through the effective use of domestic resources, and encouraging FDI to help finance sustainable development. At the international level, the IPFSD stresses the importance of negotiating International Investment Agreements (IIAs), which incorporate sustainable development needs. The IPFSD encourages increased cooperation and consensus building to improve effectiveness of financing. UNCTAD's Investment Facilitation Compact focuses more specifically on attracting FDI and tailoring it to meet development needs of specific countries. Since 1990, individual countries can also request that UNCTAD perform an Investment Policy Review to receive advice particular to their financing needs. Continuing to coordinate IIAs with other international agreements will be a key way to increase efficiency in sustainable development financing. A standard set of assurances for FDI investors will perform a similar role at the national level, provided they work within international agreements the country has signed.

Figures from the International Energy Agency and the United Nations Environment Programme show sustainable development will require increased funding of between 1-2.5% of global gross domestic product (GDP). While aid flows have increased as a result of Millennium Development Goal 8 on global partnership for development, it has been falling in real terms since 2010 as a result of the international financial crisis. A key target in development assistance financing remains persuading donors to fulfill their existing commitments of contributing 0.7% of gross national product, commitments to climate finance, and commitments to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Despite recent challenges in public funding due to the general global economic recession, public funds remain a

central component of sustainable development financing. Renewing, with timelines, commitments to existing development goals, responsible sovereign borrowing and lending, increased focused on low carbon investment, and policy coordination are some of the ways public aid and official development assistance can continue to help meet the needs of sustainable development financing laid out in the post-2015 development agenda. UNCTAD can facilitate partnerships and trade agreements that ensure a predictable engagement that also takes into consideration the balance between results-based giving of aid and needs-based policy space in developing countries between the G20 and other UN bodies.

Looking ahead, three sources to mobilize for new financing for sustainable development, as suggested by Financing for Sustainable Development in the Global Partnership Beyond 2015, are domestic public and private resources (investment by companies or individuals who build enterprises that support sustainable development), external private resources (companies or individuals outside the country), and external public resources. Reducing the risk and lowering capital costs for sustainable development financing should attract more private investors and longer-term FDI. Additional ideas for new financing sources may be found in the *Doha Declaration on Financing for Development*, which looks to increase global cooperation to create opportunities for remittances to be used for development purposes, and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an important source for international structure on financing. Changes in the financial sector, in addition to changes at the national and international levels, may also be necessary to make financing sustainable development from sources other than public funds feasible in the long term.

As evidenced by its recent Geneva Dialogue near the end of June 2014, UNCTAD is looking to new ways to improve financing to ensure that the SDGs can be realized. Most of UNCTAD's previous recommendations have been to individual countries on a national level. Although UNCTAD has had some successes in these recommendations of trade and investment policies, these actions will not be enough to fully implement a new sustainable development agenda that is adequately resourced to meet the challenges of funding, regulatory structures, international cooperation, and evaluation. Given these constraints and Secretary-General Kituyi's call to action for more financing, UNCTAD is currently working on finding innovative ways to increase funding for sustainable development and also to certify that those funds are being used efficiently and effectively. Building on experiences since the 2012 Doha Conference, UNCTAD is in a unique position to fulfill both its original mandate of providing development research and policy advice, and expanding to address the pressing need in the international community to provide a framework for financing the next step forward in sustainable development.

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History of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Mills, J. (2012). *The Development Agenda of UNCTAD-the issues from Accra to Doha*. Retrieved 18 June 2014 from: http://unctadxiii.org/en/Documents/uxiiiibook_03_President-of-Ghana.pdf

This is an introduction to the UNCTAD XIII conference in Doha, Qatar, in 2012 written by the President of Ghana, which hosted the 2008 UNCTAD XII conference. Although quite brief, this introduction gives a good recent overview of topics UNCTAD has worked on since the 1990s, including the shift to focus on sustainable development. Delegates may wish to read this document to get a sense of the context of the last UNCTAD conference and the importance of choosing such a relatively narrow focus.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2004). The Organizational Structure of UNCTAD. *UNCTAD XI* [Website]. Retrieved 19 May 2014 from: http://www.unctadxi.org/templates/Page_472.aspx

Although this Website was prepared for the 2004 conference in Brazil, it gives a far better overview of the internal structure of UNCTAD than more recent sources. It includes easy to understand summaries as well as flowcharts of the various divisions, subprograms, and commissions. Delegates, especially those who are visual learners, will gain a clear picture of complexity of UNCTAD's organization and hierarchy by visiting this Website.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2006). *UNCTAD: A Brief Historical Overview, 2006* [Report]. Retrieved 4 May 2014 from: http://unctad.org/en/Docs/gds20061_en.pdf

This paper, authored by UNCTAD, provides a much more in-depth early history of the conference than that found in About UNCTAD, which is listed below. Chapter 1 describes the background of the founding of UNCTAD, and Chapter 2 details UNCTAD's changing international context including the uncertainty of the 1970s and the Cold War. This is a good resource for those delegates wishing to gain a more detailed understanding of UNCTAD's history and past actions including the General System of Preference, debt management, and the Global Trade Point Network.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2012). *Thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIII)* [Website]. Retrieved 17 May 2014 from: <http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=58>

This is a good resource for introductory research into UNCTAD's recent actions, especially in the field of sustainable development. This link is the section of UNCTAD's Website for the last quadrennial conference in Doha, Qatar, in 2012. It has access to the conference's key issues, the agenda, and the documents the conference produced. Delegates will find this a useful resource on UNCTAD's recent activities and on what a UNCTAD conference does.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2014). *About UNCTAD* [Website]. Retrieved 3 May 2014 from: <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/AboutUs.aspx>

This is an excellent place for delegates to begin their research on UNCTAD. In addition to a short introduction of what UNCTAD is, this Website quickly summarizes UNCTAD's current actions and programs. There are links to other Websites used in the writing of this background guide including A Brief History of UNCTAD, Membership of UNCTAD, UNCTAD Conferences, and UNCTAD's Programme Budget and Financing of Technical Cooperation Activities.

I. Pursuing a Blue Economy

Stockholm Environment Institute. (2012). *Valuing the Ocean Extended Executive Summary*. Retrieved 7 May 2014 from: <http://www.sei-international.org/mediamanager/documents/Publications/SEI-Report-ValuingTheOcean-ExtendedSummaryReport-2012.pdf>

This report provides a scientific and easy to understand overview of the different types of environmental and man-made threats to oceans and dependent economies. Specific topic overviews include: overuse of marine resources, pollution, and ocean acidification. The report also provides multiple key policy recommendations prioritizing areas for policy makers. Strengthening ocean governance, closing knowledge gaps, and addressing global climate change are three of the key recommendations made.

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. (2012). *Blue Economy Concept Paper*. Retrieved 7 May 2014 from: <http://www.sids2014.org/content/documents/275BEconcept.pdf>

The Blue Economy Concept Paper was developed to ensure that the interests and concerns of developing countries and small-island developing states dependent on marine-based economies were represented in the debate over sustainable development goals. The concept of the Green Economy was not representative enough of the growing need to address sustainable growth in relation to the exploitation of ocean and sea resources. This document provides an extensive overview to the concept of the Blue Economy and why it is relevant to the economic trade and development dialogue.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (20 January 2014). *Statement by Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD at the Blue Economy Summit, Abu Dhabi*. Retrieved 7 May 2014 from: <http://unctad.org/en/pages/SGStatementDetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=69>

This statement from the Secretary-General of UNCTAD provides a good overview of the issue of the Blue Economy. He outlines the three major areas of concern to UNCTAD in detail. Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi's statement highlights the key concepts related to UNCTAD's role in administering the Blue Economy and sets the tone for the necessity in prioritizing action in relation to climate change. The Website also provides access to other links and documents on UNCTAD and its work regarding the Blue Economy.

United Nations Development Programme & Global Environment Facility. (September 2012). *Catalysing Ocean Finance Volume I Transforming Markets to Restore and Protect the Global Ocean*. Retrieved 7 May 2014 from:

http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/Catalysing%20Ocean%20Finance%20Vol%20I%20Final%20Oct1_1.pdf

This report summarizes the effectiveness of different strategies for catalyzing financial flows through presenting six case studies, each on a different strategy. The report also presents options for scaling these strategies to address present and future threats to coastal and ocean resources. The publication's purpose is to provide policy makers with options and recommendations on creating protections and incentives for the sustainable development of marine-based resources. This publication will be useful in understanding where the gaps in regulation are.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2012). *Green Economy in a Blue World*. Retrieved 7 May 2014 from: http://www.unep.org/pdf/green_economy_blue.pdf

This report was published in preparation for the Rio+20 discussion on the relationship between the Blue and Green Economy. The report analyzes how key sectors and industries in marine and coastal environments can be linked to Green Economy policies. The report covers industries including shipping, fisheries, tourism, marine-based renewable energies, and agriculture. It also outlines the issues that fall under climate change including the rise in sea level, coral bleaching, and changed migration patterns of marine life. Most relevant to UNCTAD, it highlights the importance of technical assistance and capacity building programs and increased innovations in technology for sustainable development.

II. Supporting Remittances for International Development

Ratha, D. (September 2013). *Policy Brief: The impact of Remittances on Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction*. Retrieved 7 May 2014 from: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/impact-remittances-economic-growth-and-poverty-reduction>

This policy brief provides a detailed, yet easy to understand overview of the economic trends of remittances and their relationship to poverty reduction. The document focuses on a more academic analysis of the issues, but is aimed at providing clear target areas for policy makers. The policy brief is also an introduction to the work of the Migration Policy Institute and for further exploration of their work to develop ideas for policy recommendations and action through UNCTAD.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (29 July 2009). *Contribution of migrants to development: trade, investment and development linkages, Note by the UNCTAD secretariat*. Retrieved 7 May 2014 from: http://www.remittancesgateway.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=139&Itemid=2

The UNCTAD secretariat developed this paper to provide an outline of key issues and analysis of the importance of migration to international development and economic growth to UNCTAD Member States. This note reviews recent international migration trends and their impacts on development and policies that countries have implemented to maximize the positive development impacts of international migration. It also reviews the impact of the financial and economic crisis on migrants including remittance flows to developing countries.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (15 February 2011). *Report of the Expert Meeting on Maximizing the Development Impact of Remittances*. Retrieved 7 May 2014 from: http://unctad.org/en/Docs/ciem4d3_en.pdf

The summary of the Expert Meeting on Maximizing the Development Impact of Remittances held on 14 and 15 February 2011 highlights key concepts that were discussed and agreed upon during the expert meeting. It also provides a detailed reference to the priority areas for further discussion. The expert meeting is an important reference point because the group consists of representatives from the major UN expert agencies including the Global Migration Group, International Organization for Migration, and the International Labor Organization.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2012). *Maximizing the Development Impact of Remittances*. Retrieved 7 May 2014 from: <http://thediologue.org/PublicationFiles/UNCTAD-Maximizingdevelopmentimpact.pdf>

This document expands on the key concepts outlined by the report of the Expert Meeting on Maximizing the Development Impact of Remittances. It provides further analysis on those concepts and provides comprehensive policy recommendations on the gaps between policy and necessary action. The document

also outlines the link between remittances, development, poverty reduction, and the importance of engaging Diaspora communities.

United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service. (2011). *UNCTAD Expert Meeting on Maximizing the Development Impact of Remittances*. Retrieved 7 May 2014 from: http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?page=article_s&id_article=3253

This document provides a comprehensive summary of the important issues discussed and decisions made during the Expert Meeting on Maximizing Development Impact of Remittances. It also expands and details areas that were only briefly touched upon during the meeting including the importance of addressing issues specific to women and ensuring gender-sensitive approaches to policy-making. This summary is a great starting point to research individual country perspectives and to continue the discussion on maximizing benefits from remittances.

III. Financing Sustainable Development

International Institute for Sustainable Development. (2013). *What is Sustainable Development?* [Website]. Retrieved 4 May 2014 from: <http://www.iisd.org/sd/>

The International Institute for Sustainable Development is an international public policy research institute founded in 1990. The Institute provides a good overview of the concept and growth of sustainable development. This page on their Website also provides links to information on the older history of sustainable development including the text of Agenda 21, which delegates who wish to research the background and origins of sustainable development should find useful.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2011). *UNCTAD 2012-2013 Proposed Programme Budget*. Retrieved 3 May 2014 from: http://unctad.org/meetings/en/Miscellaneous%20Documents/N1131920_en.pdf

Although somewhat lengthy and technical, this budget details UNCTAD's recent structure and finance. Delegates will be able to use the budget to answer specific questions about program funding that comes through UNCTAD's general operating budget. The budget is also helpful as it lists the various programs and goals of UNCTAD under their respective subprograms or commissions. Delegates may also find the budget helpful in explaining the types of programs and initiatives that UNCTAD has already administered. UNCTAD's commitment to sustainable development is mentioned multiple times in the overview as well as more specific goals under subprogram three with an overall budget of over \$22 million. In fact, the budget sets a goal of 34 developing countries implementing policies of sustainable development and 17 developing countries participating in biotrade and biofuels initiatives.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2012). *Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved 5 May 2014 from: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/diaepcb2012d5_en.pdf

This paper was authored by UNCTAD in the context of the last quadrennial conference in Doha, Qatar. The policy framework is a very in-depth look at UNCTAD's current recommendations to Member States for financing sustainable development. Chapter 1 gives an overview of financing in sustainable development including the challenges. Chapter 2 lays out UNCTAD's core principles of investment policymaking, and Chapters 3 and 4 chart specific policy recommendations at different levels of the global trade system. The importance of FDI as a very valuable package of assets and its potential to finance sustainable development is discussed at length. Delegates will get a good background as well as a very good sense of what kinds of recommendations and actions UNCTAD can take in this issue area by reading this framework.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (November 2013). *Post-2015 Policy Brief No. 1: UNCTAD and the Post-2015 Agenda*. Retrieved 5 May 2014 from: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/presspb2013d3_en.pdf

This is the first in a series of three policy briefs, authored more recently than the Doha conference, which explains UNCTAD's current goals and opinions of sustainable development. This policy brief gives a general background in the importance of economic development, moves on to sustainable development, and concludes with specific goals UNCTAD would like to see made with regards to financing sustainable development. Delegates should read these policy briefs so as to get a better picture of the direction in which UNCTAD would like to see sustainable development financing and goals progress.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (November 2013). *Post-2015 Policy Brief No. 2: Growth and Poverty Eradication: Why Addressing Inequality Matters*. Retrieved 5 May 2014 from: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/presspb2013d4_en.pdf

This is the second in a series of three policy briefs, authored more recently than the Doha conference, which explains UNCTAD's current goals and opinions of sustainable development. This policy brief focuses more specifically on poverty eradication and inequality and puts forth challenges and ideas relating to financing sustainable development. Delegates interested in the importance of China's economic growth in this discussion should read this policy brief in addition to Dr. Kituyi's statement referenced below. Delegates should read these policy briefs in order to get a better picture of the direction in which UNCTAD would like to see sustainable development financing and goals progress.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (25 November 2013). *Statement by Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD: Fifth Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*. Retrieved 5 May 2014 from: <http://unctad.org/en/pages/SGStatementDetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=66>

Dr. Kituyi's call to action shortly after his appointment gives an overview of UNCTAD's understanding of sustainable development goals and ways to overcome challenges in sustainable development financing in the months after the conference at Doha, Qatar. Dr. Kituyi specifically references China's economic record, which ties in well with the second UNCTAD and the post-2015 agenda policy brief above. Delegates will gain a general understanding of the current status of UNCTAD's thinking on sustainable development by reading his statement.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2014). *UNCTAD and the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda* [Website]. Retrieved 12 May 2014 from: <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/About%20UNCTAD/Post-2015.aspx>

This is the section of UNCTAD's Website that provides information on UNCTAD's extensive involvement with developing the post-2015 agenda, including the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda. Delegates will be able to find the latest news, statements, and other documents from UNCTAD on this issue through links on this page, including the documents from the third Geneva dialogue in June. Delegates will find this Website to be a wealth of information both on UNCTAD's background in sustainable development and on its current actions. UNCTAD's work on financing sustainable development, which is more recent than the writing of this background guide, will also be posted here.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (April 2014). *Post-2015 Policy Brief No. 3: Trade, Gender and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. Retrieved 5 May 2014 from: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/presspb2014d2_en.pdf

This is the third in a series of three policy briefs, authored more recently than the Doha conference, which explains UNCTAD's current goals and opinions of sustainable development. This policy brief is specifically focused on the gender aspects of trade and investment policies including three country case studies. This third policy brief is a good place for delegates to begin exploring the gender dynamics of the topic not fully covered in the background guide. Delegates should read these policy briefs so as to get a better picture of the direction in which UNCTAD would like to see sustainable development financing and goals progress.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20. *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform* [Website]. Retrieved 10 May 2014 from: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/rio20.html>

*The UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform Website from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs has information about the Earth Summit 2012 or Rio+20 Conference. Delegates will find this Website useful for researching more recent background information on sustainable development in the international context of the UN. The easy to access links provide follow-up documentation of the conference as well as the text of *The Future We Want*. Delegates can access additional information on the Open Working Group developing the Sustainable Development Goals. Delegates may also find the link to the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing helpful in starting their own more advanced research.*

United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. (January 2013). *Financing for Sustainable Development in the Global Partnership Beyond 2015*. Retrieved 5 May 2014 from: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/thinkpieces/21_thinkpiece_financing_development.pdf

This thematic think piece was co-authored by UNCTAD and the rest of the United Nations System Task Team established by the UN Secretary-General in 2011 to prepare for the post-2015 agenda. The joint paper lays out objectives to finance sustainable development and concrete partnership goals to achieve an adequate international allocation of resources. Delegates will find this source helpful in researching more specific policy recommendations that promote cooperation on how to finance sustainable development on a more inclusive basis than those resources authored solely by UNCTAD.

Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules that apply to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) and shall be considered adopted by the Committee prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Director, the Assistant Director, and the Director of Conference Services are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, and are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General or her/his designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations (NMUN) 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 Committee, which can be any member of the Secretariat or their designate.
5. The practice of striving for consensus in decision-making shall be encouraged. NMUN also acknowledges it may sometimes be necessary for a Member State to abstain or vote against a resolution it cannot support for policy reasons.

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - *Dates of convening and adjournment*

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

Rule 2 - *Place of sessions*

The Committee 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 Deputy Secretary-General and communicated to the members of the Committee at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

Rule 4 - *Adoption of the agenda*

The agenda provided by the Deputy 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.

The vote described in this rule is a procedural vote and, as such, observers are permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, those present and voting means those Member States and observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote. Should the Committee not reach a decision by conclusion of the first night’s meeting, the agenda will be automatically set in the order in which it was first communicated.

Rule 5 - Revision of the agenda

During a session, the Committee 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. Debate on the inclusion of an item in the agenda shall be limited to three speakers in favor of, and three against, the inclusion. 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 Committee so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Committee decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a commission has reported on the question concerned.

For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item of an important and urgent character is subject to the discretion of the Deputy Secretary-General, or his or her designate, 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 Committee 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 her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the Committee.
2. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Deputy Secretary-General, shall provide and direct the staff required by the Committee and be responsible for all the arrangements that may be necessary for its meetings.

Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall receive and distribute documents of the Commission to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Committee may require.

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat

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

Rule 10 - Selection of the President

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

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 12 - Official and working language

English shall be the official and working language of the Committee during scheduled sessions (both formal and informal) of the Committee.

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

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

This rule does not affect the total speaking time allotted to those representatives wishing to address the body in a language other than English. As such, both the speech and the interpretation must be within the set time limit. The language should be the official language of the country you are representing at NMUN.

V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 14 - Quorum

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

For purposes of this rule, members of the Committee means the total number of members (not including observers) in attendance at the first night's meeting (session).

Rule 15 - General powers of the President

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Committee, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Committee and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He or she shall rule on points of order. The President may propose to the Committee the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the speakers time 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 power to assign speaking times for all speeches incidental to motions and amendment. Further, the President is to use her/his discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference and is limited to entertaining motions.

Rule 16 - Authority of the Committee

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

Rule 17 - Voting rights on procedural matters

Unless otherwise stated, all votes pertaining to the conduct of business shall require a favorable vote by the majority of the members "present and voting" in order to pass.

For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this rule is applied. Note that observers may vote on all procedural votes; they may, however, not vote on substantive matters (see Chapter VI). Every delegation must cast a vote in procedural votes. Further, there is no possibility to abstain or pass on procedural votes

Rule 18 - Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. They should be used exclusively to correct an error in procedure. 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 (on her/his own accord), during the speech. For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 19 - Speeches

No representative may address the Committee 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. The President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, the Secretariat will set a time limit for all speeches which may be amended by the Committee through a vote if the President, at his or her discretion, decides to allow the Committee to decide. In no case shall the speaker's time be changed during the first scheduled session of the Committee. Consequently, motions to alter the speaker's time will not be entertained by the President. The content of speeches should be pertinent to the agenda as set by the Committee.

Rule 20 - List of Speakers

Members may only be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after having spoken. During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Committee, declare the list closed. Once the list has been closed, it can be reopened upon by a vote of the Committee. 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 Committee.

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 Committee. A motion to close the speakers list or reopen (if the list has already been closed) is within the purview of the Committee and the President should not act on her/his own motion.

Rule 21 - Right of reply

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

For purposes of this rule, a remark that impugns the integrity of a representative's State is one directed at the governing authority of that State and/or one that puts into question that State's sovereignty or a portion thereof. All interventions in the exercise of the right of reply shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point of order or motion. The reply shall be read to the Committee 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. The right of reply will not be approved should it impugn the integrity of another State.

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. Delegates should not state a purpose for the suspension.

This motion should be used to suspend the meeting for lunch or at the end of the scheduled board session time. Delegates should properly phrase this motion as "suspension of the meeting," and provide a length of time when making the motion.

Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move to 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 Committee shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

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

Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Two representatives may speak in favor of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

Rule 25 - Closure of debate

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

Rule 26 - Order of motions

Subject to Rule 18, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

1. To suspend the meeting;
2. To adjourn the meeting;
3. To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
4. To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments

Proposals and amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat. Any proposal or amendment that relates to the substance of any matter under discussion shall require the signature of twenty percent of the members of the Committee [sponsors].

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 Committee 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 Committee for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

For purposes of this rule, all proposals shall be in the form of working papers prior to their approval by the Secretariat. Working papers will not be copied, or in any other way distributed, to the Committee by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of the working papers. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft resolution during formal speeches. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Committee. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Committee 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. Should delegates wish to withdraw a working paper or draft resolution from consideration, this requires the consent of all sponsors.

Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic

When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Committee, 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. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

Rule 30 - Invitation to silent prayer or meditation

Immediately after the opening of the meeting and immediately preceding the closing of the final meeting, the President shall invite the representatives to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation with the motion to do so by a representative.

VI. VOTING

Rule 31 - Voting rights

Each member of the Committee shall have one vote.

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

Rule 32 - Request for a vote

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

For purposes of this rule, proposal means any draft resolution, an amendment thereto, or a portion of a draft resolution divided out by motion. Just prior to a vote on a particular proposal or motion, the President may ask if there are any objections to passing the proposal or motion by acclamation, or a

member may move to accept the proposal or motion by acclamation. If there are no objections to the proposal or motion, then it is adopted without a vote. Adoption by “acclamation” or “without a vote” is consistent not only with the educational mission of the conference but also the way in which the United Nations adopts a majority of its proposals.

Rule 33 - Majority required

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

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

Rule 34 - Method of voting

1. The Committee 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 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, when requested a second time, respond with either a yes or no vote. A pass cannot be followed by a second pass for the same proposal or amendment, nor can it be followed by an abstention on that same proposal or amendment.

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

Rule 35 - Explanations of vote

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

All explanations of vote must be submitted to the President in writing before debate on the topic is closed, except where the representative is of a member sponsoring the proposal, as described in the second clause, in which case the explanation of vote must be submitted to the President in writing immediately after voting on the topic ends. Only delegates who are sponsors of a draft resolution that has been adopted with an unfriendly amendment, whom subsequently voted against the draft resolution may explain their vote.

Rule 36 - Conduct during voting

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

For purposes of this rule, there shall be no communication among delegates, and if any delegate leaves the Committee room during voting procedure, they will not be allowed back into the room until the Committee

has convened voting procedure. Should a delegate who is also serving as Head Delegate leave the room, they may reenter but they may not retake their seat and participate in the vote.

Rule 37 - Division of proposals and amendments

Immediately before a proposal or amendment comes to a vote, a representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If there are calls for multiple divisions, those shall be voted upon in an order to be set by the President where the most radical division will be voted upon first. If an 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 approved shall then be put to a vote. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

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

Rule 38 - Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from, or revise part of another proposal. Permission to speak on the amendment shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against.

An amendment can add, amend, or delete entire operative clauses, but cannot in any manner add, amend, delete, or otherwise affect preambular clauses or sub-clauses of operative clauses. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule. These speeches are substantive in nature.

Rule 39 - Voting on amendments

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

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

Rule 40 - Order of voting on proposals

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

Rule 41 - The President shall not vote

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

VII. CREDENTIALS

Rule 42 - Credentials

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

Rule 43 - Authority of the General Assembly

The Committee 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 COMMITTEE

Rule 44 - Participation of non-Member States

The Committee shall invite any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Committee and any other State, to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.

A sub-board or sessional body of the Committee 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. 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 Committee considers that the presence of a Member invited, according to this rule, is no longer necessary, it may withdraw the invitation. Delegates invited to the Committee 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 board when his or her presence in the Committee is no longer required. Delegates may request the presence of a non-member of their board simply by informing the President that this is the desire of the body, there is no formal procedural process.

Rule 45 - Participation of national liberation movements

The Committee 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.

National liberation movements are only represented at NMUN in two ways: (1) if their delegation has been assigned explicitly the national liberation movement itself; or (b) should the Security Commission wish to hear from a representative of the movement in their deliberations, the Secretariat shall provide the appropriate representative.

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 Committee 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 Committee or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

NMUN does not assign delegations to Specialized Agencies.

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

Representatives of non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations accorded consultative observer status by the Economic and Social Council and other non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or a continuing basis by the Committee 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 Committee on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.

NMUN will assign delegations an NGO instead of a Member State upon request.