

Recent developments: General Assembly

The links below are intended to guide delegates through their final stages of research. They were compiled by Committee Director Katharina Weinert. For any question, please contact Katharina at ga.korea@nmun.org or Deputy Secretary-General Hannah Birkenkötter at dsg.korea@nmun.org. Please do not forget that Position Papers are due on November 1, 2013! For more information on Position Papers, check out NMUN•Korea's Web site: http://nmun.org/korea_position_papers.html

General Assembly Plenary – general updates

The 68th session of the General Assembly started on September 24, 2013 in New York. The new president of the General Assembly, John William Ashe, chose the theme “The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage!”. The two major objectives under this theme are overcoming poverty and insecurity as well as ensuring sustainable development. This Web site provides more background info on the theme and outlines the six high-level meetings to be convened under this theme: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/settingthestage/>

From this Web Site, delegates can access all speeches of the General Debate of the 68th session of the General Assembly: <http://gadebate.un.org/>

On September 25, 2013, the Heads of State and Governments and heads of delegations came together in a Special Event during the 68th session of the GA to discuss and review the progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They acknowledged the progress made so far but also expressed concerns regarding the gaps in MDG achievement. They agreed to hold a high-level summit in September 2015 to adopt a new set of goals balancing the three elements of sustainable development: providing economic transformation and opportunity to lift people out of poverty, advancing social justice and protecting the environment.

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Outcome%20documentMDG.pdf>

Other High-level meetings that took place dealt with nuclear disarmament, financing for the development and other issues. The complete list can be accessed from this Web site: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/>

Schedule of all plenary and related meetings of the 68th session of the General Assembly

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/info/meetings/68schedule.shtml>

Improving the Coordination of Efforts Against Trafficking in Persons

Given the latest boat tragedy off the coast off Lampedusa (Italy), the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, called for renewed efforts to fight smuggling and trafficking in persons from Eritrea and Somalia. More than 300 people, mostly from Eritrea, died when their boat caught fire half a mile off the coast, leading the vessel to capsize in the same area. About a week later, in another accident, 27 people were killed trying to reach Lampedusa.

<http://www.africa-news.eu/immigration-news/italy/5703-lampedusa-tragedy-un-calls-for-increased-efforts-to-fight-human-trafficking.html>

The report “After Trafficking: Experiences and Challenges in the (Re)Integration of Trafficked Persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region” was published in October 2013. It emphasizes that victims of human trafficking do not receive adequate help for reintegration into their communities in the South-East Asian region. The report was prepared by the NEXUS Institute, an independent international human rights research and policy center, with

support from the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP), the UN and several civil society partners concerned with this issue.

<http://www.no-trafficking.org/content/Publication/pdf/COMMIT%20Reintegration%20Web.pdf>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46263&Cr=human+trafficking&Cr1=#.U16srVDgQgc>

The Australian Walk Free Foundation considered 162 countries to create the first edition of the Global Slavery Index. It provides an estimate, country by country, of the number of people living in modern slavery today. The numbers are based on data from governments, non-governmental organizations as well as journalists and combined with studies undertaken by the Walk Free Foundation.

<http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/>

The report “The Global Slavery Index 2013” offers extensive background information on this issue.

<http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/report/>

Water and disasters

The Budapest Water Summit was held from October 8-11, 2013, in the Hungarian capital and ranks among the most high-profile water events of the year. Representatives of UN agencies, governments and the private sector, civil society organizations as well as scientific and educational institutions came together to discuss water-related development goals. The outcome document includes targets that also address improving the resilience to water-related disasters and the importance of disaster risk reduction programs.

<http://www.budapestwatersummit.hu/>

http://www.budapestwatersummit.hu/data/images/Budapest_Water_Summit_Statement_Final_11_October_2013.pdf

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed the participants of the Budapest Water Summit and emphasized the importance of water for sustainable development.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46214&Cr=water&Cr1=#.U18SfNKGq1Q>

In recent months, the nuclear power plant in Fukushima (Japan) has been hit by a series of toxic water leaks causing concern that the contaminated water is mixing with groundwater that is flowing into the sea.

<http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/2013/daiichistatement.html>

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/energy/2013/08/130807-fukushima-radioactive-water-leak/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-24445242>