



NMUN • LATIN AMERICA

GALAPAGOS 2013

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND GUIDE 2013

Written By: Felipe Ante, Director; Sheila Proaño, Assistant Director



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Message from the Secretary-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2013 NMUN-LatAm Conference

At the 2013 NMUN-LatAm Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee assignment. Delegates should be aware that their role in each committee impacts the way a position paper should be written. While most delegates will serve as representatives of Member States, some may also serve as NGOs. To understand these fine differences, please refer to the Delegate Preparation Guide.

Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation's policy regarding the topic areas under discussion and establish precise policies and recommendations in regard to the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State should be identified and addressed. Making recommendations for action by your committee should also be considered. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference. NGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as position papers of countries. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in material that is entirely original. NMUN/NCCA will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism. In this regard, the NMUN Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind delegates that although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the Conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents. This plagiarism policy also extends to the written work of the Secretariat contained within the Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy will be immediately reported to faculty advisors and may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incidents of plagiarism to the Secretariat.

Delegation's position papers can be awarded as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, delegations must have met the formal requirements listed below. Please refer to the sample position paper below this message for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion. All papers must be typed and formatted in the same manner as this example. The following format specifications are required for all papers:

- Length must not exceed two single-sided pages (use standard size for your home region: A4 or 8.5x11).
- Margins must be set at 1 inch for the whole paper.
- Font must be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Body of the paper must be single-spaced.
- 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.

To be considered for awards, position papers need to be submitted by e-mail in .pdf or .doc formats by 1 December 2012. As proof of submission, include yourself as an e-mail recipient. Please use the committee name, your assignment, and delegation/school name in both the e-mail subject line and in the filename (example: CSustD_Cuba_Mars College).

1. Send one complete set of all position papers for each of your country/NGO assignments to the Secretary-General at secgen.latam@nmun.org.
2. Send a copy of your position paper for each assigned committee to the corresponding committee e-mail address listed below. Please note, the e-mail addresses will be active on 1 October 2012.

Committee	E-mail Address (after 1 Octt.)
Commission on Population and Development (CPD)	cpd.latam@nmun.org
Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)	cstd.latam@nmun.org
Commission on Sustainable Development (CSustD)	csustd.latam@nmun.org
Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)	csw.latam@nmun.org
Security Council (SC)	sc.latam@nmun.org

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

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

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff.

Sincerely,

Nicole Galindo
Secretary-General
NMUN-LatAm

Sample Position Paper

The following position paper is designed to be a sample of the standard format that an NMUN position paper should follow. Papers may be no longer than two single-sided pages. Only the first two pages of any submissions will be considered for awards.

Delegation from
Canada

Represented by
University of Jupiter

Position Paper for General Assembly Plenary

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

I. Breaking the Link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict

Canada endorses the Kimberly Process in promoting accountability, transparency, and effective governmental regulation of trade in rough diamonds. We believe the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is an essential international regulatory mechanism and encourage all Member States to contribute to market accountability by seeking membership, participation, and compliance with its mandate. Canada urges Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2007 Kimberley Process Communiqué to strengthen government oversight of rough diamond trading and manufacturing by developing domestic legal frameworks similar to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. We call upon participating States to act in accordance with the KPCS's comprehensive and credible systems of peer review to monitor the continued implementation of the Kimberley Process and ensure full transparency and self-examination of domestic diamond industries. We draw attention to our domestic programs for diamond regulation including Implementing the Export and Import of Rough Diamonds Act and urge Member States to consider these programs in developing the type of domestic regulatory frameworks called for in A/RES/55/56. Canada recognizes the crucial role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the review of rough diamond control measures developed through the Kimberly Process and encourages States to include NGOs, such as Global Witness and Partnership Africa Canada, in the review processes called for in A/RES/58/290. We urge Member States to act in accordance with A/RES/60/182 to optimize the beneficial development impact of artisanal and alluvial diamond miners by establishing a coordinating mechanism for financial and technical assistance through the Working Group of the Kimberly Process of Artisanal Alluvial Producers. Canada calls upon States and NGOs to provide basic educational material regarding diamond valuation and market prices for artisanal diggers, as recommended by the Diamond Development Initiative. Canada will continue to adhere to the 2007 Brussels Declaration on Internal Controls of Participants and is dedicated to ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective regulation of the rough diamond trade through the utilization of voluntary peer review systems and the promotion of increased measures of internal control within all diamond producing States.

II. The Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy

Canada is dedicated to integrating alternative energy sources into climate change frameworks by diversifying the energy market while improving competitiveness in a sustainable economy, as exemplified through our Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. We view the international commitment to the promotion of alternative sources of energy called for in the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Control (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations to Article 4 of the UNFCCC by continuing to provide development assistance through the Climate Change Development Fund and calls upon Member States to commit substantial financial and technical investment toward the transfer of sustainable energy technologies and clean energy mechanisms to developing States. We emphasize the need for Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2005 Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference to strengthen domestic policy frameworks to promote clean energy technologies. Canada views dissemination of technology information called for in the 2007 Group of Eight Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy Declaration as a vital step in energy diversification from conventional energy generation. We call

upon Member States to integrate clean electricity from renewable sources into their domestic energy sector by employing investment campaigns similar to our \$1.48 billion initiative ecoENERGY for Renewable Power. Canada encourages States to develop domestic policies of energy efficiency, utilizing regulatory and financing frameworks to accelerate the deployment of clean low-emitting technologies. We call upon Member States to provide knowledge-based advisory services for expanding access to energy in order to fulfill their commitments to Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Canada urges States to address the concerns of the 2007 Human Development Report by promoting tax incentives, similar to the Capital Cost Allowances and Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses, to encourage private sector development of energy conservation and renewable energy projects. As a member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, Canada is committed to accelerating the development of renewable energy projects, information sharing mechanisms, and energy efficient systems through the voluntary carbon offset system. We are dedicated to leading international efforts toward the development and sharing of best practices on clean energy technologies and highlight our release of the Renewable Energy Technologies Screen software for public and private stakeholders developing projects in energy efficiency, cogeneration, and renewable energy. Canada believes the integration of clean energy into State specific strategies called for in A/62/419/Add.9 will strengthen energy diversification, promote the use of cogeneration, and achieve a synergy between promoting alternative energy while allowing for competitiveness in a sustainable economy.

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

Canada views the full implementation of the treatment and prevention targets of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Especially in Africa, as essential to eradicating malaria and assisting African States to achieve Target 8 of Goal 6 of the MDGs by 2015. We recommend Member States cooperate with the World Health Organization to ensure transparency in the collection of statistical information for Indicators 21 and 22 of the MDGs. Canada reaffirms the targets of the Abuja Declaration Plan of Action stressing regional cooperation in the implementation, monitoring, and management of malaria prevention and treatment initiatives in Africa. To fully implement A/RES/61/228, Canada believes developed States must balance trade and intellectual property obligations with the humanitarian objective of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. We continue to implement Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health into our compulsory licensing framework through the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act. We urge Member States to support compulsory licensing for essential generic medicines by including anti-malarial vaccines and initiating domestic provisions to permit export-only compulsory licenses to domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers, similar to Canada's Access to Medicines Regime. Canada calls upon Member States to establish advanced market commitments on the distribution of pneumococcal vaccines to developing States in cooperation with PATH and the Malaria Vaccine Initiative. We emphasize the need for greater membership in the Roll Back Malaria initiative to strengthen malaria control planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation by promoting increased investment in healthcare systems and greater incorporation of malaria control into all relevant multi-sector activities. Canada continues to implement the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) New Agenda for Action on Health to reduce malaria infection rates among marginalized populations in Africa, increase routine immunizations rates, and reduce infection rates of other neglected infections. Canada will achieve the goal of doubling aid to Africa by 2008-2009 by providing assistance to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We urge Member States to increase donations to intergovernmental organizations and NGOs that support malaria programming in Africa, exemplified by CIDA's contribution of \$26 million to the Canadian Red Cross. We continue our efforts to provide accessible and affordable vector control methods to African States through the Red Cross' Malaria Bed Net Campaign and the African Medical Research Foundation Canada by supplying insecticide-treated mosquito nets and Participatory Malaria Prevention and Treatment tool kits.



Dear Delegates,

It is our immense pleasure to welcome you to the 2013 National Model United Nations Latin America Conference. With an impressive roster of universities and institutions in attendance, an array of intriguing topics, and a unique location in the Galapagos Islands, this year promises to be truly memorable. You and your team are integral in making the 2013 NMUN LatAm Conference historic.

Your Director for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) is Felipe Ante and your Assistant Director is Sheila Proaño. Felipe holds a B.A. in International Relations with minors in History and Political Science and is currently working in a political strategy consultancy company. He has been present in NMUN New York for five consecutive years (two as a delegate and three as staff member) and was staff in NMUN LatAm 2010 as well. Sheila is completing her Bachelor Degree in Law, with a corresponding minor in psychology at Universidad San Francisco de Quito. She has been a staff member on several Model United Nations Conferences at her school. This conference marks Sheila's first year as NMUN staff, after participating in NMUN in New York City twice as part of the delegation of Universidad San Francisco de Quito.

The agenda topics for discussions this year are as follows:

1. Conservation of Biological Diversity: Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity
2. Achieving Energy Security through Energy Diversity

The CSD was created to follow the progress of the goals determined in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit. Currently, the objectives of the Commission are broad, prioritizing the enhancement of international cooperation and articulating policies among countries to combine development and environmental issues. Therefore, the Commission presents innovative solutions and recommendations in order to achieve the goals presented in Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

The background guide herein will serve as a brief introduction to the topics listed but cannot replace substantive research of your own. Use it as a springboard for a deep analysis into each topic so that your delegation is empowered to harness the Commission on Sustainable Development venue to engender greater prospects for international development.

Each delegation must submit a position paper that identifies its viewpoints on the agenda topics. NMUN will accept position papers via e-mail by December 01, 2012. Please refer to the background guide for a message from your Secretary-General explaining the NMUN position paper requirements and restrictions. Delegates' adherence to these guidelines is crucial. NMUN can be one of the most rewarding academic experiences of your college career. We hope that this year's Conference will not only intrigue you to participate again, but also that you find it as beneficial as we have.

If you have any questions regarding your preparation, please feel free to contact any of the Commission on Sustainable Development substantive staff or the Secretary-General, Nicole Galindo. Good luck in your preparation for the conference. We look forward to seeing you in January!

Sincerely,

Felipe Ante
Director

Sheila Proaño
Assistant Director

History of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Introduction

In 1992, the General Assembly of the United Nations, decided to create the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) with the adoption of *General Assembly Resolution 191*¹, following a recommendation done in Agenda 21, specifically in Chapter 38 entitled "International institutional arrangements."² The CSD was established to follow the progress of the goals determined in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro on June 1992.³

Since its creation, the Commission has worked to promote development, and has been used as an international forum to discuss the means through which sustainable development can be reached.⁴ The CSD is committed to enhance international and intergovernmental cooperation in order to integrate two important scopes: environmental protection and development strategies.⁵ Some of the Commission's objectives are "to ensure effective follow-up to the Earth Summit proposals, as well as to enhance international cooperation and rationalize the intergovernmental decision-making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues."⁶ In the same way, the Commission presents innovative solutions and recommendations in order to achieve the goals presented in Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.⁷

Structure of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established in 1993 the structure of the CSD through *ECOSOC Resolution 207*.⁸ The resolution stated that the Commission should be conformed of 53 members elected among State Members of the United Nations and members of the UN Specialized Agencies for a term of three years.⁹ Regarding the allocation of seats, the resolution stressed that it will be structured as follows: "thirteen seats for African States; eleven seats for Asian States; ten seats for Latin American and Caribbean States; six seats for Eastern European States and thirteen seats for Western European and other States."¹⁰

Mandate

The CSD reports to the ECOSOC, since it is a functional Commission of this body.¹¹ Its creation was based in Article 68 of the UN Charter, which allows ECOSOC to set up commissions in economic and social fields for the promotion of human rights.¹² On December 1993, with the adoption of *General Assembly Resolution 191*, the CSD became a fully functioning subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council.¹³ Currently, the CSD work is to review the progress of Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.¹⁴

General Assembly Resolution 191 establishes the scope of action in which the Commission can act¹⁵, which is why this resolution is considered as the CSD Mandate.¹⁶ The Resolution states that the Commission should monitor the progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the activities related to developmental goals.¹⁷ Also, the CSD should review the progress in the implementation of the provisions set in Agenda 21, which include the transfer of

¹ General Assembly Resolution. *A/RES/47/191*, 1993.

² General Assembly Resolution. *A/RES/47/191*, 1993.

³ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *UN Commission on Sustainable Development, 2009*.

⁴ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *UN Commission on Sustainable Development, 2009*.

⁵ General Assembly Resolution. *A/RES/47/191*, 1993.

⁶ Commission on Sustainable Development. *Mandate*, 2011

⁷ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *UN Commission on Sustainable Development, 2009*.

⁸ Economic and Social Council. *Resolution E/1993/207*, 1993.

⁹ Economic and Social Council. *Resolution E/1993/207*, 1993.

¹⁰ Economic and Social Council. *Resolution E/1993/207*, 1993.

¹¹ Economic and Social Council. *Resolution E/1993/207*, 1993.

¹² United Nations Charter. *Chapter X Article 68*, 1975.

¹³ General Assembly Resolution. *A/RES/47/191*, 1993.

¹⁴ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *UN Commission on Sustainable Development, 2009*.

¹⁵ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *UN Commission on Sustainable Development, 2009*.

¹⁶ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *UN Commission on Sustainable Development, 2009*.

¹⁷ General Assembly Resolution. *A/RES/47/191*, 1993.

technology and financial resources.¹⁸ In addition, the Commission must receive and analyze relevant proposals made by non-governmental organizations and the private sector regarding topics related to its mandate.¹⁹ The resolution also allows the Commission “to provide appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports.”²⁰

Another important document is the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,²¹ which was adopted in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002.²² “The Summit reiterated the initial mandate and functions of the CSD as a high level forum on sustainable development, and decided to enhance its role so that it can respond to the new demands emerging from the WSSD Plan of Implementation”²³, also known as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Chapter XI of this plan states that the CSD must provide a forum for analysis and exchange of experiences on measures relating sustainable development planning.²⁴ Also, it expresses that the Commission should take into account the legal developments in the field of sustainable development²⁵, relating to international legal instruments and mechanisms.²⁶

Areas of Work

Almost twenty years have passed since the establishment of the CSD, and it is certain that the Commission, during this period of time, has reached important achievements. These accomplishments include four areas of work consisting on the integration of civil society in the decision-making process and the implementation of programs in the international, regional and national level.²⁷ The CSD has followed the objectives for sustainable development established in Agenda 21, and created the Major Groups Program of the Division for Sustainable Development.”²⁸ This program affects positively to the Major Groups (MG) which according to Agenda 21 include: “Women, Children and Youth, Farmers, Indigenous Peoples, NGOs, Trade Unions, Local Authorities, Science and Technology, Business and Industry.”²⁹ “Through this program, the Commission encourages civil participation at all levels “to enable a broad-based engagement of all economic and social sectors in making sustainable development happen.”³⁰ The program also allows the CSD to set a plan of action after recognizing the needs of the Major Groups. In addition, workshops and training information are given to the members of these groups so they can participate in the CSD sessions³¹; the most recent ones include the participation of members of the MG in the CSD-19 and Rio +20.³² In this way, the CSD accomplish its responsibility of liaising with civil society.

Important international conferences and sessions have been held with the assistance of the CSD as part of its second area of work. For example, in 2002, the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) was held in Johannesburg. The CSD is now compromised to help in the accomplishment of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation as expressed in Chapter 38 of the mentioned plan.³³ Also, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio +20 was held in June 2012 and one of the most significant outcomes of the Conference was the signature of the Declaration of Rio de Janeiro.³⁴ The CSD had an active role in the conference with its participation; this includes the support and training given to the Major Groups that participated in the Conference³⁵. Guidelines on sustainable tourism development were submitted in 2001 to the United Nations Commission on

¹⁸ General Assembly Resolution. *A/RES/47/191*, 1993

¹⁹ General Assembly Resolution. *A/RES/47/191*, 1993

²⁰ General Assembly Resolution. *A/RES/47/191*, 1993

²¹ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, 2002.

²² UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, 2002.

²³ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *How does the CSD relate to the Johannesburg Summit?*, 2002

²⁴ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, 2002.

²⁵ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, 2002.

²⁶ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, 2002.

²⁷ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *UN Commission on Sustainable Development*, 2009.

²⁸ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *About the Major Groups Programme*, 2009.

²⁹ United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - Major Group Accreditation and Pre-Registration at CSD Meetings*, 2012.

³⁰ UN Department of Social Affairs. *About the CSD Major Groups Programme*, 2009.

³¹ UN Department of Social Affairs. *About the CSD Major Groups Programme*, 2009.

³² UN Department of Social Affairs. *About the CSD Major Groups Programme*, 2009.

³³ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, 2002.

³⁴ Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development. *World Summit launches Declaration of Rio de Janeiro*, 2012.

³⁵ UN Department of Social Affairs. *About the CSD Major Groups Programme*, 2009.

Sustainable Development for discussion³⁶. These guidelines stress the importance of adopting sustainable tourism in order to reduce environmental hazards³⁷, and were adopted in the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).³⁸

As a third area of work the Commission coordinates regional actions, like the Fourth Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development³⁹ and the Regional Discussion Western Asia & Arab Region Outcome of the Regional Implementation Meetings (RIM) and CSD-18.⁴⁰ Similarly, following the World Summit for Sustainable Development the CSD made a formal invitation to the five regional commissions to be part of the RIM “in order to allow effective consideration of regional and sub-regional inputs throughout the Commission’s new two-year implementation cycles.”⁴¹ This five regional commissions included the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA or ESCWA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).⁴²

The fourth area of work of the Commission relies on national activities, considering that the CSD does not only implement programs in an international level, but also has an important role in the execution of national programs.⁴³ In this regard, the CSD has supported several programs such as the implementation of the program “Farmer Field School for up-scaling soil management technologies” in Kenya, which is currently being held in order to support the farming system in the country.⁴⁴ Also, the CSD participated in the program consisting on “Integrating climate risk management into African development operations”, which was accomplished on December 2007 and had the support of the African Development Bank.⁴⁵ Moreover, the CSD supported the United States to sign the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) in order to increase the exports of specific products to the African Region.⁴⁶ The program of “Transformational Change in Senegal: Natural Forest Management” led by the CSD and the United States Agency for International Development is another example of the achievements that the Commission reached in the national level.

Conclusion

The Commission on Sustainable Development has important accomplishments in attaining the goals and principles stated in Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.⁴⁷ The efforts employed in the involvement of civil society, as well as the creation of effective programs will contribute in the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals and the effective implementation of the international documents that the Commission supervises.⁴⁸ Authors express their concern on the implementation of the programs created by the CSD and other UN agencies⁴⁹ stating that while “many of the policy options are well known, their actual implementation has fallen short of what is desired.”⁵⁰ Also, authors express their concern regarding the implementation of mechanisms for developing countries, considering that major problems are found, such as the lack of economic support, emerging technology and effective approaches to achieve sustainable development.⁵¹

Annotated Bibliography

³⁶ UNEP. *User’s Manual on the Cbd Guidelines on biodiversity and Tourism development*, 2005.

³⁷ UNEP. *User’s Manual on the Cbd Guidelines on biodiversity and Tourism development*, 2005.

³⁸ UNEP. *User’s Manual on the Cbd Guidelines on biodiversity and Tourism development*, 2005.

³⁹ Commission on Sustainable Development. *CSD- 18: Regional Discussion Session for the UNECE region*.

⁴⁰ Commission on Sustainable Development. *CSD- 18: Regional Discussion Session for the UNECE region*.

⁴¹ Commission on Sustainable Development. *CSD- 18: Regional Discussion Session for the UNECE region*.

⁴² http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd14_rims.shtml

⁴³ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *UN Commission on Sustainable Development*, 2009.

⁴⁴ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Case Study Detail Record*, 2000.

⁴⁵ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Case Study Detail Record*, 2000.

⁴⁶ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Case Study Detail Record*, 2000.

⁴⁷ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *UN Commission on Sustainable Development*, 2009.

⁴⁸ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *UN Commission on Sustainable Development*, 2009.

⁴⁹ OECD. *Policy Brief: Sustainable development: Critical issues*, 2012.

⁵⁰ OECD. *Policy Brief: Sustainable development: Critical issues*, 2012.

⁵¹ Bob Jickling. *Studying Sustainable Development: Problems and Possibilities*, 1994.

History of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Commission on Sustainable Development (2010). *CSD- 18: Regional Discussion Session for the UNECE region*. Retrieved August 25, 2012 from <http://www.un.org/regionalcommissions/CSD18/ece.pdf>

This page provides the discussion held on the CSD-18: it contains important information on several topics such as waste managing, chemical managing and mining. This is a reference to analyze the different issues that must be solved in order to achieve sustainable development.

General Assembly (1993). Resolution A/RES/47/191.

This resolution provides information about the scope of action that the Commission has, it expresses in a detail way what the functions are and how the CSD must implement them. In this resolution the General Assembly recommends the creation of the CSD and states that it will be a functional body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2009), *UN Commission on Sustainable Development*. Retrieved July 16, 2012, from http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_aboutcsd.shtml

This webpage provides a solid overview of the Commission Sustainable Development (CSD). It includes the history of the CSD, its internal structure, and the responsibilities that the Commission has, as well as the upcoming meeting sessions information. For delegates, it is a starting point for general information on the Commission.

United Nations Department on Economic and Social Affairs (2010). *Case Studies for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved July 27, 2012 from <http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/caseStudy/public/Welcome.do>

This webpage provides valuable information on the actions that the CSD has implemented. There are 448 case studies in the database. This webpage will provide delegates with information on the status of the programs that the CSD currently has in different countries.

UN Department of Social Affairs (2009). *About the CSD Major Groups Programme*. Retrieved July 27, 2012 from <http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/>

This page provides an overview on the CSD Major Groups Programme. It also contains the information of workshops and important documents that support the work of this programme. Also, the page provides a concrete explanation of the objectives of this program and the organs participating in it.

UNEP (2005). *User's Manual on the Cbd Guidelines on biodiversity and Tourism development*. Retrieved August 25, 2012 from <http://www.cbd.int/doc/programmes/tourism/tourism-manual-en.pdf>

These Guidelines give an overview of sustainable tourism. It contains topics such as the approach to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the link that tourism has with biodiversity. It also analyzes the impact managing and mitigation that must be taken into account by governments. Delegates will find in this page significant information of sustainable tourism and the ways to implement it.

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2002). *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*. Retrieved August 25, 2012 from http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/POIToc.htm

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation is an important document that embraces several proposals in order to achieve sustainable development. It is an important document in the study of the CSD, considering that in Chapter 38 of the Johannesburg Plan, new roles were given to the Commission.

I. Conservation of Biological Diversity: Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

“Environmental sustainability is everybody’s challenge....Our goal must be to meet the economic needs of the present without compromising the ability of the planet to provide for the needs of future generations.”⁵²

Introduction

⁵² United Nations. *The Millenium Report of the United Nations Secretary General*. 2000.

The world has faced the need of environmental protection, considering that species have been disappearing from 50 to 100 times the natural rate and, according to experts of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), this is predicted to rise considerably in the future.⁵³ At the same time, an estimated of 34,000 plants and 5,200 animal species face extinction.⁵⁴ Due to these alarming facts, the United Nations has joined efforts along with world leaders in order to find cohesive solutions that will allow a reduction of environmental threats; among the most important was the adoption of the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*.

History of the Convention

Internationally co-coordinated work on the environment has been developed in order to minimize the destruction in ecosystems.⁵⁵ At the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, also known as the Stockholm Conference, UNEP was created.⁵⁶ With its creation, various regional and international agreements were signed in order to address specific topics that included the protection of wetlands and the regulation of the international trade of endangered species.⁵⁷ Among these agreements we can find the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*, which entered into force in 1975⁵⁸, the *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat* of 1976, and the *Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)* adopted in 1976.⁵⁹ Also, in 1987 the World Commission on Environment and Development established guidelines to reduce the ecological impact,⁶⁰ which refers to the negative change to land, or ecosystems as a result of any human activity.⁶¹

Following these actions, in 1992, the CBD was adopted during the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.⁶² Originally, over 150 States signed the document at the Conference and currently there are 193 parties to the Convention.⁶³ In the establishment of the Convention, three main objectives were settled: to conserve biological diversity, to use biological diversity in a sustainable way and to share the benefits of biological diversity fairly and equitably.⁶⁴ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization,⁶⁵ considers that the CBD is the most important Convention dealing with biodiversity conservation.⁶⁶

Structure of the Convention

The convention is divided in three parts that are comprised of forty-two articles and three annexes. The first part of Convention contains the general principles and guidelines in which the instrument is going to be based, including the jurisdictional scope.⁶⁷ Article 3 of the Convention stresses the importance of international law principles, which include the sovereign right that States have "to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies,"¹⁸ it also specifies the obligation that States have in order to ensure that its activities will not cause damage

⁵³ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *How the Convention on Biological Diversity promotes nature and human well-being*, 2000.

⁵⁴ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *How the Convention on Biological Diversity promotes nature and human well-being*, 2000.

⁵⁵ United Nations Global Compact. *The Origin of the Environment Principles*, 2011.

⁵⁶ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *How the Convention on Biological Diversity promotes nature and human well-being*, 2000.

⁵⁷ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *How the Convention on Biological Diversity promotes nature and human well-being*, 2000.

⁵⁸ The Encyclopedia of Earth. *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*, 2000.

⁵⁹ UNEP Regional Seas Programme. *Regional Seas Conventions and Protocols*, 2000.

⁶⁰ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *How the Convention on Biological Diversity promotes nature and human well-being*, 2000.

⁶¹ Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. *Glossary: Explanation of terms*, 2012.

⁶² Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *How the Convention on Biological Diversity promotes nature and human well-being*, 2000.

⁶³ UNEP. *Convention on Biological Diversity. List of Parties*, 2012.

⁶⁴ International Union for Conservation of Nature. *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 2010

⁶⁵ International Union for Conservation of Nature. *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 2010

⁶⁶ International Union for Conservation of Nature. *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 2010

⁶⁷ UNEP. *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 1992.

¹⁸ UNEP. *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 1992.

to the environment of other States.¹⁹ Also, the principle of benefit sharing has been expressed in Articles 15, 16, 19, 20 and 21, as well as the precautionary principle.²⁰

The second part of the Convention establishes the rights and duties given to the contracting parties. This section explains the relation with other international conventions, clarifying that it does not rescind the existing international agreements, except when it causes damage to biological diversity.²¹ This means that the rights and obligations of the Convention' contracting parties deriving from any other international agreements are not affected, except when these rights and obligations represent a threat to biological diversity or contravene the rights and obligations set forth in the Convention, as explained in its Article 22.⁶⁸ Also, the Convention creates the Conference of Parties (COP), which is a meeting that states parties have every two years in order to review the implementation of CBD.⁶⁹

The third part of the Convention creates the Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).⁷⁰ This body is in charge of providing scientific advisory to the Conference of Parties. The SBSTTA reports regularly to the Conference of Parties, is formed by government representatives and among its functions are: "providing assessments of the status of biological diversity; providing assessments of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention; and responding to questions that the COP may put to the body."⁷¹ The way in which SBSTTA carries out its work is explained in Annex III of COP Decision VIII/10.⁷²

Additionally, the CBD also explains the means for state parties to settle disputes, allowing the International Court of Justice and the application of arbitration methods to solve the controversies. Finally, the Convention explains how it will enter into force, and the allowance for the creation of additional protocols.⁷³

Precautionary Principle

The CBD integrates a precautionary approach in its preambulatory clause stating that "where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat."⁷⁴ This principle has been exhaustively studied for its importance in the implementation of the Convention. Authors explain that this principle reflects the premise that "complete certainty regarding environmental harm should not be a prerequisite for taking action to avert it."⁷⁵ In order to clarify its meaning, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established in its document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/18 that the application of the precautionary principle requires the assumption of the worst-case scenario and expressed that this should be the point of departure for mitigation or compensation measures.⁷⁶ Consequently, Member States must follow this principle at all times in order to accomplish an effective prevention of the environmental threats. An example in which this principle has been applied can be seen in the "xenotransplantation", which is the transplantation of organs from animals to human beings.⁷⁷ According to the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology the "xenotransplantation" brings serious risks, which includes infectious diseases; for this reason, the precautionary principle should be applied by avoiding the treatments that may harm individuals.⁷⁸

Protocols to the Convention

¹⁹ UNEP. *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 1992.

²⁰ Asish Ghosh of Centre for Environment & Development. *Convention on Biological Diversity: A Comparative Analysis*, 2000.

²¹ UNEP. *Convention on Biological Diversity. List of Parties*, 2012.

⁶⁸ UNEP. *Convention on Biological Diversity. List of Parties*, 2012.

⁶⁹ Pew Environment Group. *International Policy: Convention on Biological Diversity*, 2012.

⁷⁰ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)*, 2000.

⁷¹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)*, 2000.

⁷² Conference of the Parties. *Annex III of Decision COP VIII/10*, 2010.

⁷³ UNEP. *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 1992.

⁷⁴ <http://www.biotech-monitor.nl/4304.htm>

⁷⁵ Barney Dickson, Rosie Cooney. *Biodiversity and the Precautionary Principle: Risk and Uncertainty in Conservation and Sustainability. Earthscan, United Kingdom*, 2005.

⁷⁶ UNEP Document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/18.

⁷⁷ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization and the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology. *The precautionary principle*, 2005.

⁷⁸ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization and the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology. *The precautionary principle*, 2005.

The CBD has two protocols; the first one is the *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety* adopted on January 2000 by the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.⁷⁹ This protocol “seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology.”⁸⁰ The main objective of this Protocol is to ensure an effective protection in the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms.⁸¹ The need for its establishment came as a response to article 19.3 of the CBD, which stresses the need to create a protocol in charge of biosafety.⁸² This protocol entered into force on September 2003 after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification.⁸³ The second protocol to the Convention is the *Nagoya Protocol* adopted in 2010. It attempts to regulate the access to genetic resources and the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of them.⁸⁴ This second Protocol has not yet entered into force, considering that just five countries have ratified it, ergo, 45 more ratifications are needed.⁸⁵ There has been difficulties in the acceptance of this Protocol, some states “object to any direct reference to the Nagoya Protocol in favor of a more narrow substantive scope at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)”, considering that the Protocol may affect intellectual property rights with its objective of sharing benefits.⁸⁶

Scope of Action

In order to organize the work of the CBD, two important documents were created. The first one is the *Ecosystem Approach*, and the second one is the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity*.⁸⁷ The *Ecosystem Approach* was adopted in the Conference of Parties’ second meeting in 1995, as the primary framework for action under the Convention.⁸⁸ Currently, each of the Convention’s work incorporates the ecosystem approach, and it is also reflected in the Strategic Plan of the Convention.⁸⁹ The *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity* was adopted in decision X/2 by the Conference of the Parties in 2010. Its creation is of utmost importance considering that “this new plan will be the overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but for the entire United Nations system.”⁹⁰ These documents describe the work that must be done in a national and international level in order to protect the ecosystem. It is important to highlight the accomplishments made by the Secretariat of the CBD and members of the international community on three specific topics, which include: sustainable tourism, poverty alleviation and the sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources.⁹¹

Sustainable Tourism

Taking into consideration that the industry of tourism represents an important sector in the global economy and considering its growth, the implementation of sustainable tourism is considered as an effective response in order to reduce the environmental impact this kind of industry can have on the environment.⁹² Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, former Executive Secretary of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* assures that “sustainable tourism can generate employment and income, thus providing a strong incentive for conservation. It can also raise public awareness of the many goods and services provided by biological diversity, and of the needs to respect traditional knowledge and practices.”⁹³ For this reason, the challenge to state parties of the Convention is to ensure that tourism is developed in agreement with environmental concerns.⁹⁴ In this regard, the *CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development* were created in 2002 in the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties by decision VII/37.⁹⁵

⁷⁹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. About the *Cartagena Protocol* 1992.

⁸⁰ <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/background/>

⁸¹ UNIDO. *Biosafety Manual*, 2010.

⁸² UNEP. *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 1992.

⁸³ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. About the *Cartagena Protocol* 1992.

⁸⁴ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. About the *Nagoya Protocol* 1992.

⁸⁵ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Status of Signature, and ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, 2011.

⁸⁶ International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development. *Bridges Trade BioRes “Disclosure of Origin” Source of Contention in WIPO Negotiations*, 2011.

⁸⁷ UNEP. *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 1992.

⁸⁸ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *The Ecosystem Approach*, 2004.

⁸⁹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *The Ecosystem Approach*, 2004.

⁹⁰ Conference of the Parties. *Decision X/2*, 2010.

⁹¹ UNEP. *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 1992.

⁹² Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *Guidelines o Biodiversity and Tourism Development*, 2004.

⁹³ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *Guidelines o Biodiversity and Tourism Development*, 2004.

⁹⁴ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *Guidelines o Biodiversity and Tourism Development*, 2004.

⁹⁵ Conference of the Parties, *Decision VII/ 37*, 2002.

These guidelines embrace different areas of work such as the coordination with local institutions and encourage the participation of representatives of indigenous and local communities in the development and monitoring of tourism activities on the lands they inhabit.⁹⁶ At the same time, the guidelines incentives governments to follow the principles not only of the CBD but also of other international instruments as the *World Heritage Convention* of 1972 and *The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance*, also called the *Ramsar Convention* adopted in 1971, which deals with wetland tourism.⁹⁷

Poverty Alleviation

The Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation Unit was created in 2008 to pursue the proposals established in the Convention of the Parties ninth meeting (COP 9).⁹⁸ This Unit was created after confirming the linkage between poverty, development and biodiversity.⁹⁹ In this regard, some authors consider that “small-scale farmers have been the main agents responsible for land degradation activities”, this because there is not enough incentive to conserve their land.¹⁰⁰ Based on this reality, the Secretariat of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* with the support of the German and French governments created the initiative called “Biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation.”¹⁰¹ The main objective of this initiative is “to facilitate the exchange of experiences and the dissemination of lessons learned regarding the integration of biodiversity into development sectors.”¹⁰² This program has been of extreme importance considering that “70% of the world’s poor live in rural areas and depend directly on biological diversity for their livelihoods.”¹⁰³ Also, scientific investigations establish that habitat degradation is threatening the livelihood of more than 1 billion people that live in dry and sub-humid climates.¹⁰⁴ The consideration of poverty alleviation is of utmost importance for the international community; indeed, in the Millennium Declaration in 2000, a request for the fully implementation of the CBD was made.¹⁰⁵ In fact, the UN Secretary-General responded to this call by including biodiversity as an integral part of Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).¹⁰⁶

Sharing of Benefits Derived from Genetic Resources

The *Convention on Biological Diversity* is considered as the first international convention to include the issues of equity regarding the sharing of benefits resultant from genetic resources.¹⁰⁷ It tries to implement a fair sharing on the profits between those who have the resources and those who exploit them.¹⁰⁸ Important actions, such as the creation of the *Nagoya Protocol* have been made in order to implement the obligation of enterprises in sharing the profits of these activities.¹⁰⁹ The Secretariat of the CBD established the *Bonn Guidelines* in 2002 based upon the notion that this objective is considered “of particular importance to developing countries, as they hold most of the world’s biological diversity but feel that, in general, they do not obtain a fair share of the benefits derived from the use of their resources for the development of products such as high-yielding varieties, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.”¹¹⁰

These guidelines were established to assist governments and other stakeholders when establishing legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit sharing of genetic resources.¹¹¹ We must also consider that

⁹⁶ Conference of the Parties, *Decision VII/ 37*, 2002.

⁹⁷ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity . *Biodiversity for Development Newsletter*, 2008.

⁹⁸ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity . *Biodiversity for Development Newsletter*, 2008.

⁹⁹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity . *Biodiversity for Development Newsletter*, 2008.

¹⁰⁰ Southgate, D. 1988. *The Economics of Land Degradation in the Third World*. World Bank Environment Department Working Paper No. 2. Washington DC.

¹⁰¹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *How can biodiversity contribute to poverty alleviation and development?*, 2010

¹⁰² Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *How can biodiversity contribute to poverty alleviation and development?*, 2010

¹⁰³ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *How can biodiversity contribute to poverty alleviation and development?*, 2010

¹⁰⁴ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *Biodiversity for poverty alleviation*, 2010.

¹⁰⁵ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *Biodiversity for poverty alleviation*, 2010.

¹⁰⁶ UNEP. *Millenium Development Goals*, 2000.

¹⁰⁷ UNEP. *Learning from the practitioners:Benefit Sharing Perspectives*, 2009.

¹⁰⁸ UNEP. *Learning from the practitioners:Benefit Sharing Perspectives*, 2009.

¹⁰⁹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *About the Nagoya Protocol* 1992.

¹¹⁰ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *The Bonn Guidelines*,2002.

¹¹¹ UNEP. *Bonn Guidelines*, 2002.

the *Nagoya Protocol*, which endorses the same topic, has not yet entered into force due to the lack of support of States. Consequently, a binding agreement on this matter does not exist yet.¹¹² Nevertheless, some states have followed the implementation of this initiative in order to accomplish their commitment with the Convention. A country that serves as a model of implementation is India, where a community called the Kani used a plant identified as “arogypacha”, which is a wild plant used to bolster the immune system.¹¹³ With governmental assistance, the Aryavaidya Pharmacy Coimbatore Enterprise “agreed to share 50% of the license fee and the 2% royalty on profits with the Kani.”¹¹⁴ What is interesting is that a very similar event happened in Suriname and Nigeria, demonstrating the need to implement initiatives in accordance to their commitment with the Convention.¹¹⁵

Challenges to the Implementation of the CBD

Implementation at the Local Level

The necessity of national policies regarding environmental protection has increased due to the fact that urban populations have grown in the last decades, particularly in developing countries.¹¹⁶ In this regard, experts have recommended an important participation of local governments in order to settle specific plans that reflect how the cities are planned and designed.¹¹⁷ This has been particularly important for the consequences that urban growth can have on biodiversity, both directly and indirectly.¹¹⁸ Local initiatives must be considered as the “Eco-housing” initiative, which is a program created by UNEP and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT).¹¹⁹ The objective of this program is to create a concept applying sustainability principles to the housing project “considering environmentally friendly approaches to the design, material selection, energy, and waste management.”¹²⁰ Unfortunately, in spite of the efforts made by UNEP these initiatives have not been adopted in the majority of the State Parties to the Convention.¹²¹

Financial Constraints

The Secretariat of the CBD considered that “the lack of sufficient financial resources continues to be one of the main obstacles to achieving the Convention's three objectives”¹²², for this reason COP 9 Decision IX/11 was adopted.¹²³ This decision encourages Parties, as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to improve the financial aid in order to support biodiversity programs.¹²⁴ It urges governments to mobilize the private and public sector, as well as to increase South-South cooperation as a complement to the North-South cooperation.¹²⁵ The Commission on Sustainable Development gives policy guidance in order to find financial support through the participation of stakeholders, particularly international institutions and the UN Agencies.¹²⁶

Another important challenge to the implementation of the convention is the creation of a quick emergency response team to assist countries when a natural disaster has taken place. Action must be taken in an international and national level. In this sense, the United Nations has established an active role with the intervention of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and its United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC).¹²⁷ The immediate response of governments is significant to control environmental hazards.

¹¹² UNEP. *Bonn Guidelines*, 2002.

¹¹³ *International Journal of Biotechnology*, Vol. 2, Nos. 1/2/3, 2000. Bioprospecting: lessons from benefit-sharing experiences, 2000.

¹¹⁴ *International Journal of Biotechnology*, Vol. 2, Nos. 1/2/3, 2000. Bioprospecting: lessons from benefit-sharing experiences, 2000.

¹¹⁵ *International Journal of Biotechnology*, Vol. 2, Nos. 1/2/3, 2000. Bioprospecting: lessons from benefit-sharing experiences, 2000.

¹¹⁶ UNU-IAS Policy Report. *Cities, biodiversity and Governance*, 2010.

¹¹⁷ UNU-IAS Policy Report. *Cities, biodiversity and Governance*, 2010.

¹¹⁸ UNU-IAS Policy Report. *Cities, biodiversity and Governance*, 2010.

¹¹⁹ UNU-IAS Policy Report. *Cities, biodiversity and Governance*, 2010.

¹²⁰ UNU-IAS Policy Report. *Cities, biodiversity and Governance*, 2010.

¹²¹ UNU-IAS Policy Report. *Cities, biodiversity and Governance*, 2010.

¹²² Conference Of the Parties. *Decision IX/11*, 2008.

¹²³ Conference Of the Parties. *Decision IX/11*, 2008.

¹²⁴ Conference Of the Parties. *Decision IX/11*, 2008.

¹²⁵ Conference Of the Parties. *Decision IX/11*, 2008.

¹²⁶ Commission on Sustainable Development. *Role of the CSD as a High Level Forum on Sustainable Development*, 2009.

¹²⁷ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Environmental Emergencies*, 2010.

A well-known case is the oil spill that took place in San Cristobal, Galapagos in the year 2001. According to experts, “a quarter of a million gallons of diesel and bunker fuel were in the sea.”¹²⁸ However, a rapid response of the Ecuadorean Navy took place with the Assistance of the US Coast Guard,¹²⁹ and the special Environmental Unit of UNEP/OCHA.¹³⁰ With this immediate response the spill was managed and only a small number of seabirds and Galapagos sea lions were affected, reducing the threats to major environmental damage.¹³¹

International and national institutions are created to respond in case of an emergency; however, there is not enough planning, financial resources, nor national policies to allow an effective response.¹³² Consequently, the development of a quick emergency response team has become an important challenge when trying to accomplish the Convention.

Education

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), follows the guidelines set in the CBD and Chapter 36 of Agenda 21, which stresses the importance of promoting education regarding environmental conservation.¹³³ In fact, education is seen as critical “for promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of the people to address environment and development issues.”¹³⁴ For this reason, UNESCO has decided to establish the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), which started in 2005 and will last until the year 2014.¹³⁵ The DESD has three main objectives: “strengthening formal and informal education on biodiversity, strengthening the educational programs and outreach of biosphere reserves and relevant World Heritage natural sites, and enhancing the links between biodiversity and cultural diversity.”¹³⁶ During its sixth meeting held in The Hague on April 2002, the parties to the CBD adopted the *Programme of Work for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)*.¹³⁷ This program consists on assisting the parties, educators and civil society in any topic established in the Convention.¹³⁸ The need to widespread this initiative continues to be a struggle for the international community, but some of the problems countries are faced with are the lack of media sources to reach small communities in rural areas, and the need of financial resources.¹³⁹

Conclusion

The *Convention on Biological Diversity* is an important international instrument with binding dispositions, which aims to contribute in the environmental conservation and the reduction of environmental hazards. The complete implementation of this instrument is still far from been reached, considering critical factors as the existence of financial constraints and the deficient national policies regarding environmental protection. Also, the non-acceptance of certain states of specific topics that the Convention embraces such as the sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources (*Nagoya Protocol*) create further barriers on the implementation of the CBD. The implementation of the CBD brings several questions to be discussed in the committee. What are the benefits of the complete implementation of the Convention? What can governments do to overcome the negative factors such as the economic constraints when trying to implement the CBD? Why do States disapprove the Nagoya Protocol? Are non-governmental institutions and civil society important in the implementation of the CBD? How can a government establish an effective emergency response plan? What are the risks of not implementing the CBD? How can governments apply the precautionary principle? Is the precautionary principle effective on avoiding environmental harms? It is a reality that if governments and all sectors of society apply the dispositions that the Convention embraces, by making conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity a priority, we can “ensure a new relationship between humanity and the natural world for the generations to come”?¹⁴⁰

¹²⁸ Galapagos Information. *Galapagos Island Oil Spill*, 2001.

¹²⁹ Galapagos Information. *Galapagos Island Oil Spill*, 2001.

¹³⁰ USGS Research Center. *Galapagos Island oil spill*, 2001.

¹³¹ USGS Research Center. *Galapagos Island oil spill*, 2001.

¹³² Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Environmental Emergencies: Learning from multilateral response to disasters*, 2009.

¹³³ UNESCO. *UN Decade for Sustainable Development*, 2005.

¹³⁴ UNESCO. *UN Decade for Sustainable Development*, 2005.

¹³⁵ UNESCO. *UN Decade for Sustainable Development*, 2005.

¹³⁶ UNESCO. *UN Decade for Sustainable Development*, 2005.

¹³⁷ Secretariat of the Convention on biological Diversity. *Communication, Education and Public Awareness*, 2010.

¹³⁸ Secretariat of the Convention on biological Diversity. *Communication, Education and Public Awareness*, 2010.

¹³⁹ Secretariat of the Convention on biological Diversity. *Communication, Education and Public Awareness*, 2010.

¹⁴⁰ Secretariat of the Convention on biological Diversity. *How the Convention on Biological Diversity promotes nature and human well-being*, 2000.

Annotated Bibliography

I. Conservation of Biological Diversity: Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Barney Dickson, Rosie Cooney (2005). *Biodiversity and the Precautionary Principle: Risk and Uncertainty in Conservation and Sustainability*. Earthscan, United Kingdom.

This book gives a detailed description on the implementation of the Precautionary Principle. It presents the positions of different authors and exposes the theories behind this principle; also the authors explain the importance that it has on the conservation of the environment. Several examples are presented to confirm the significance and the relation that the Convention on Biological Diversity has with this principle.

Cyrille de Kemme (1993). *Biological Diversity, Conservation and Law*. IUCN, Switzerland.

The author expresses different topics related to the protection of the environment. Among the important topics that he exposes is the importance of national sovereignty. He makes an analysis on the right that States have to exploit its natural resources but also expresses the need of major limitations to this right. This book is a guideline for the analysis of the convention from a legal point of view.

David Downes (1999). *Integrating Implementation of the Convention on Biological diversity and the rules of the World Trade Organization*. IUCN, Switzerland.

This book presents the link that the CBD has with the World Trade Organization; the author explains that the trade rules that a government establishes must follow the guidelines of the CBD. He emphasizes on the need of proactive solutions, he expresses that for the CBD to be effective, governments must develop measures that mitigate trade-related threat to biodiversity. This book explains the need of the implementation of the CBD seen from an economic perspective.

International Journal of Biotechnology, Vol. 2, Nos. 1/2/3, 2000. *Bioprospecting: lessons from benefit-sharing experiences*.

This article explains the importance of the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. The writer presents the arguments in favor of accepting the sharing of benefits over genetic resources policy. It contains several examples in which this policy has already been implemented, such as the case of India and Nigeria. It also makes an important analysis on what bioprospecting is, and how it should be managed.

Lyle Glowka (1994). *A guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity*. IUCN Environmental Law Center.

The author presents a general overview of the Convention's history, its objectives and the issues behind its implementation; it describes the technical, scientific and legal issues of the CBD. It also expresses the relation of the CBD with other important conventions and international documents. The author makes an important analysis of the role that the United Nations Agencies have on the implementation of the Convention.

Secretariat on the Convention on Biological Diversity (2004). *The CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development*. Secretariat on the Convention on Biological Diversity

This document establishes a set of guidelines that were created in 2001 in a Workshop created by the Conference of the Parties and revised by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. This document presents a general overview of sustainable tourism, it explains how governments should implement it and the basic principles that stakeholders, governments and contracting parties must follow in order to achieve a sustainable tourism.

UNU-IAS Policy Report (2010). *Cities, biodiversity and Governance*. UNU- IAS.

This report explains how the cities are related to biodiversity, particularly with regard to the implementation of the CBD. It also mentions the role that UNEP has in the process of creating plans and recommendations of urbanization. This report presents the "Eco-housing" initiative presented by UNEP and UN- Habitat, and explains the benefits that an effective plan of urbanization can bring to the environment.

II. Achieving Energy Security through Energy Diversity

Introduction

In modern times, energy security has become a fundamental concern in the global agenda. Achieving energy security through energy diversity is a major goal of the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as other global and regional bodies of the United Nations. Energy Security is a joint concept that contains different considerations such as energy efficiency, access to energy, new sources of energy, and security of the existing sources itself.¹⁴¹ There are two main reasons for this relatively new approach: the first one is the radical effect of high and volatile energy prices; and the second reason is related to the need of achieving environmental sustainability and to avoid climate change effects.¹⁴²

The volatility of energy prices, supply interruptions caused by political instability, and demand increase coupled with the surprisingly fast industrialization of some countries inside the area are just some of the causes for worry about energy security.¹⁴³

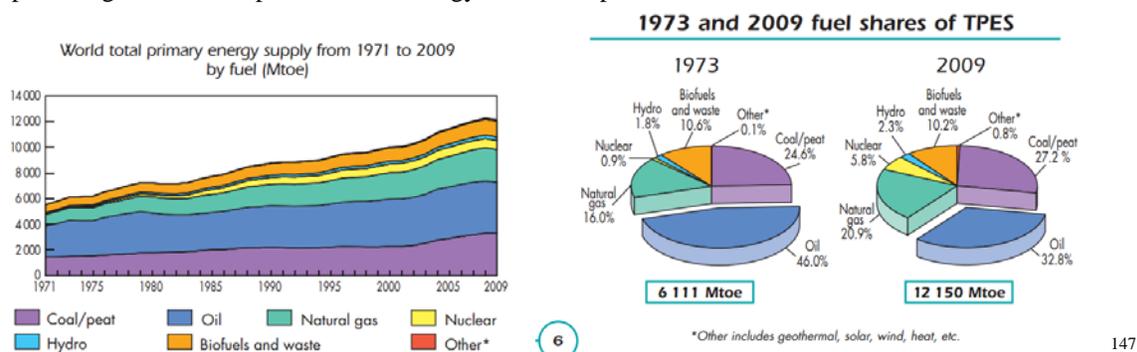
Countries are determined to accomplish greater energy security by harmonizing energy supply and demand thus ensuring reasonably priced, sustainable and available energy sources.¹⁴⁴ Some of the measures to achieve these goals include: “conserving and raising energy efficiency; rationalizing pricing and taxation systems; improving energy sector governance; and diversifying energy supplies, in particular making greater use of alternative and renewable resources.”¹⁴⁵

Basic Concepts

In order to fully understand the topic and find accurate solutions and plans of action, several definitions within the concept of Energy Security need to be explained.

Energy Supply

In numbers, the world “total primary energy supply (WPES) is made up of the world’s production + imports – exports ± stock changes.”¹⁴⁶ Below you will find a graph from the International Energy Agency (IEA) with the latest statistics on the world total primary energy supply by fuel contrasting with other sources of energy in tons as well as the percentage that each represent in the energy mix of the planet.



Energy Production

Energy production is defined as the “Production of primary energy (i.e. hard coal, lignite, peat, crude oil, NGLs, natural gas, biofuels and waste, nuclear, hydro, geothermal, solar and the heat from heat pumps) that is extracted

¹⁴¹ Heyzer, *Asia and the Pacific to rethink Energy Security*, 2008, p. 1.

¹⁴² Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report of the Secretary General on the Fourteenth Session*, 2006.

¹⁴³ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 3.

¹⁴⁴ Eng, *Energy Security Initiative*, 2003, p. 4

¹⁴⁵ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. xvi.

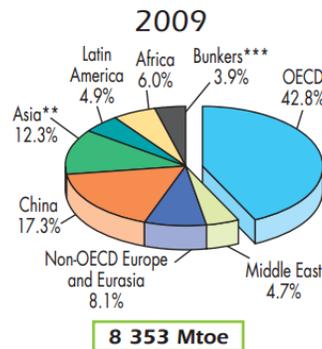
¹⁴⁶ International Energy Agency, *Key World Energy Statistics*, 2011, p. 63.

¹⁴⁷ International Energy Agency, *Key World Energy Statistics*, 2011, p. 6.

from the ambient environment. Production is calculated after removal of impurities (e.g. sulphur from natural gas).”¹⁴⁸ For example, worldwide the production of crude oil in 2010 was of 3973 Million tons (Mt).¹⁴⁹

Energy Needs

Energy self-sufficiency, meaning that a country produces enough energy to meet its needs, tends to decrease in developing countries while developed countries are growing more self-sufficient.¹⁵⁰ In this regard, the research by the Environment and Development Division predict that energy demand will increase up until 47% until 2030, 2.75 % per year, using 50% of the total energy around the world.¹⁵¹ Regional shares of energy consumption in the world in 2009 are shown in the graphic below.¹⁵²



Energy Trade

An essential element to improve trade is the establishment of necessary infrastructure which the region lacks and would enhance better possibilities in the market level.¹⁵³ To accomplish this, countries need to cooperate and complement policies on energy, trade and investment having a strong approach on a multilateral scope.¹⁵⁴

Energy Efficiency

“Energy efficiency can be defined as the effectiveness with which energy resources are converted into usable work.”¹⁵⁵ This concept has acquired importance in the last years for several reasons. “Energy efficiency is the most cost-effective means of meeting energy demand and is complementary to renewable energy for achieving a secure and clean energy future and addressing global climate change.”¹⁵⁶ There is an estimate of 25% energy savings until 2020 and over 40% until 2050 if energy efficiency is achieved.¹⁵⁷ It is important to point out that efficiency is useful for both demand and supply.¹⁵⁸ In relation to supply generation efficiency, system losses and station use are the main measures proposed to encourage energy efficiency.¹⁵⁹ In this matter, efficiency assures solutions in every area of the energy scope and increases the possibilities of having an energy-secure region.

Energy Diversity

Energy diversity refers to the access to a wide range of energy sources and the non-reliance in a single one. Currently, efforts are headed to the development and implementation of renewable and carbon-free alternatives as energy sources.¹⁶⁰ According to the IEA the share of renewable energy will increase at approximately 5% of

¹⁴⁸ International Energy Agency, *Key World Energy Statistics*, 2011, p. 62.

¹⁴⁹ International Energy Agency, *Key World Energy Statistics*, 2011, p. 11.

¹⁵⁰ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 79.

¹⁵¹ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 79.

¹⁵² International Energy Agency, *Key World Energy Statistics*, 2011, p. 30.

¹⁵³ Heyzer, *Asia and the Pacific to rethink Energy Security*, 2008, p. 3.

¹⁵⁴ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 155.

¹⁵⁵ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 10.

¹⁵⁶ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 66.

¹⁵⁷ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 10.

¹⁵⁸ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 72.

¹⁵⁹ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 72.

¹⁶⁰ The Journal of Global Health, *Energy Diversity*, 2012.

consumption in 2030; nonetheless, hydrocarbons, if still used, will keep the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ to less than 450ppm, making it remain dominant.¹⁶¹ Diversification of energy or fuel mix is composed of fuel shares in energy and electricity, non-carbon energy share in energy and electricity and renewable energy share in energy and electricity.¹⁶²

Investment and Financing

A determining point to enhance energy security with energy diversification is investment in projects of this nature. In this regard, China and India alone need to invest \$5 trillion up until 2030 and China accounts for 17% of projected world energy investment and India 6%.¹⁶³ Supply wise, the reduction in demand will definitely ask for less investment for power generation because initial investments for renewable energy and nuclear power are substantially bigger than those for traditional sources.¹⁶⁴ In this regard, the different renewable energy sources will not acquire a share in the energy mix if there are no incentives or markets where energy prices imply environmental and social costs.¹⁶⁵ The needs for investment change within different sub-regions, as needs differ between developed and developing countries. For example, industrialized countries will need greater investment in sustainable energy sources while in developing regions introducing more efficient end-use efficiency is more economic and need less capital for new power generation which demands less investment.¹⁶⁶ The needs are still high but the ways of financing are wide to counteract the deficiency in investment.

Some investors have identified the growth in demand for renewable energy, thus governments have encouraged them with incentive legislation and support methods.¹⁶⁷ Privately-owned systems have been identified as one of the best options to endorse energy production, and that is why countries like Australia and India have opened their markets so that a competitive atmosphere is promoted.¹⁶⁸ The World Bank suggests that in order to attract private capital, the energy sector would have to be reformed in a way that strength, stability and clarity are endorsed to guarantee the investment.¹⁶⁹ Other options suggest that local financial institutions finance projects through leasing and term loans, which now is an infrequently used option because of the lack of resources and information on potential projects.¹⁷⁰ One important finance source is the funding of international institutions such as the World Bank, even though these institutions ask for structural adjustment policies, but also multilateral agencies such as the United States Export Credit Agency, which has given loans for energy projects including renewable energy.¹⁷¹

United Nations work regarding Energy Security

CSD-9 Decisions

In 2001 the CSD held its ninth session (CSD-9) and energy was one of the major topics discussed during the meeting. "Countries agreed at CSD-9 that stronger emphasis should be placed on the development, implementation, and transfer of cleaner, more efficient technologies and that urgent action is required to further develop and expand the role of alternative energy sources."¹⁷² Within the recommendations done to governments, the CSD-9 encourages them to "develop locally available energy resources for greater energy diversification, where considered more environmentally sound, socially acceptable and cost-effective, with increasing use of renewable energy resources."¹⁷³ During this session, the CSD did great efforts to focus on the importance of energy in development and its role as a facilitator to combat poverty.¹⁷⁴ One of the reasons why the topic was so relevant during this session

¹⁶¹ BP, *Energy Security through Energy Diversity*, 2010.

¹⁶² International Atomic Energy Agency, *Energy Indicators for Sustainable Development: Guidelines and Methodologies*, 2005.

¹⁶³ International Energy Agency. *World Energy Outlook 2007: China and India Insights*, 2007. p. 129.

¹⁶⁴ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 99.

¹⁶⁵ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 99.

¹⁶⁶ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 99.

¹⁶⁷ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 102.

¹⁶⁸ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 104.

¹⁶⁹ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 105.

¹⁷⁰ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 108.

¹⁷¹ Environment and Development Division, *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, p. 108-109.

¹⁷² Division for Sustainable Development, *Energy*, 2009.

¹⁷³ Economic and Social Council, Commission on Sustainable Development, Report on the Ninth Session, 2001.

¹⁷⁴ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report on the 9th Session*, 2001.

was because “nearly one third of the global population of six billion, mostly living in developing countries, continues to lack access to energy and transportation services.”¹⁷⁵ The Commission considered that this issue demanded new financial resources to fit with chapter 33 of Agenda 21 as well as technology transfer.¹⁷⁶ In this sense, political commitment to develop new ways to apply energy efficient, environmentally friendly and cost-effective technologies and systems to every sector of the economy specially from the private sector.¹⁷⁷ According to the Commission in this session, energy sustainability through energy security can be achieved by providing universal access to a cost-effective mix of energy resources depending on the resources that each country or region may have.¹⁷⁸ The Commission underlined the importance of principle 16 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the context of energy policies, taking fully into account the economic, social and environmental conditions of all countries, in particular of developing countries.¹⁷⁹ The Commission also identified the challenge that represented the development and use of renewable energy technologies in the international arena.¹⁸⁰ Some of the Commission’s suggestions were the following:

1. “Develop domestic programmes to increase the contribution of renewable energies to total energy consumption;
2. Encourage the role of the private sector in the development and utilization of renewable energy technologies, through the provision of appropriate incentives and regulation;
3. Strengthen research, development, demonstration and institutional capacities in the field of renewable energy utilization, as well as the transfer of environmentally sound and advanced technologies;
4. Promote the utilization of renewable natural resources, such as solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, hydro (including mini-hydro), and ocean (wave, tidal, and thermal energy conversion) to meet part of the energy needs for sustainable development;
5. Strengthen information networks, compilation and dissemination systems and public awareness programmes on renewable energy sources and technologies;
6. Strengthen financial support to developing countries for the promotion of renewable energy.”¹⁸¹

In 2006, the CSD met in its 14th session in order to discuss principally the issue of energy.¹⁸² During this session, the CSD recognized that in order to achieve sustainable development, energy is required even though this resource causes pollution, atmospheric problems and greenhouse gas emissions.¹⁸³ Furthermore, it also recognized that even though there are efforts made to diversify the energy supply, fossil fuels are dominant in the energy mix.¹⁸⁴ The Commission also concluded that ensuring access to modern energy services for cooking and heating can have “multiple benefits, including lower indoor air pollution and improved health, better education and income opportunities for women and children, and more efficient use of energy resources.”¹⁸⁵ It also highlighted that energy efficiency provides a mutual beneficial relation as it brings better energy security, greater industrial competitiveness, and reductions in climate change detonators.¹⁸⁶ One of the most important conclusions in this session was that the implementation of projects of renewable energy has high costs which are a fundamental obstacle to increase its use.¹⁸⁷ These conclusions did not bring specific actions to be done but were still important to focus on the areas that would help mitigate any contingencies.

One year later, the CSD decided to focus its discussions, at its 15th session, again on energy.¹⁸⁸ Its conclusions were more operable and most were useful to delineate a route towards energy security. As one of its major statements, the CSD concluded that the international effort to respond to the lack of energy security and the low action of diverse energy sources will not arise from a single solution but from various measures and strategies that could be

¹⁷⁵ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report on the 9th Session*, 2001.

¹⁷⁶ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report on the 9th Session*, 2001.

¹⁷⁷ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report on the 9th Session*, 2001.

¹⁷⁸ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report on the 9th Session*, 2001.

¹⁷⁹ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report on the 9th Session*, 2001.

¹⁸⁰ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report on the 9th Session*, 2001.

¹⁸¹ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report on the 9th Session*, 2001.

¹⁸² Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report on the 14th Session*, 2006.

¹⁸³ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report on the 14th Session*, 2006.

¹⁸⁴ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report on the 14th Session*, 2006.

¹⁸⁵ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report of the Secretary General on the 14th Session*, 2006.

¹⁸⁶ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report of the Secretary General on the 14th Session*, 2006.

¹⁸⁷ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report on the 14th Session*, 2006.

¹⁸⁸ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report on the 15th Session*, 2007.

implemented at the same time.¹⁸⁹ Some of the identified measures were the enhancement of access to cleaner energy technologies, advanced fossil fuel technologies and achieving energy efficiency through cooperation understood as partnerships in a multilateral level.¹⁹⁰ Other solution was to keep on efforts on creating a framework with constant incentives and long term action plans to use market based mechanisms and expanding clean development mechanism activities.¹⁹¹ Finally, one of the most important suggestions raised in the session was to encourage governments to inform better and incentive greater involvement of economic and finance institutions within local jurisdictions to support renewable energy sources plans.¹⁹²

Agenda 21

The Agenda 21 is a comprehensive plan of action that embraces all areas of the environment and the impact humans have on it. It was adopted on the Earth Summit 1992 and was signed by 179 states. “It reflects a global consensus and political commitment at the highest level on development and environment cooperation.”¹⁹³ Action areas include protecting the atmosphere, preventing water pollution, international cooperation in the topic and others. Its successful implementation is first and foremost the responsibility of Governments; therefore, it urges countries to use Agenda 21 as a tool to develop national policies and programs that take in consideration the environment and development. Regarding energy, Agenda 21 emphasizes that “Governments should explore, in cooperation with business and industry, as appropriate, how effective use can be made of economic instruments and market mechanisms in the issues related to energy.”

Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

“In 2002 the representatives of 191 governments gathered in Johannesburg, South Africa for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), with the aim of examining the progress made on the outcomes of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, and also to reinvigorate the world’s peoples toward true sustainable development.”¹⁹⁴ Along the document, “the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation strengthened the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development in continuing international oversight monitoring progress on sustainability agreements” and at the same time addresses energy in the context of sustainable development.¹⁹⁵ The Plan of Implementation calls for action in the “improvement of access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources.”¹⁹⁶ Furthermore, in paragraph 20 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, it impules Governments to accelerate the development and combine alternative energy technologies at the same time that the diversification of energy supply takes place.¹⁹⁷

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Resolution 63/6 and Resolution 64/3

The ESCAP is an international entity that has focused to work in this topic providing interesting inputs to the international arena. Resolution 63/6 is a example of regional agreement in the “implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Small Island developing States.”¹⁹⁸ It was agreed upon in the fifth plenary meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in 2007. The report on the progress of implementation of this resolution was determined to be in the sixty-eight session of the Commission which took place in May this year (2012). Examples of the progress made are the Korea Energy Management Corporation (KEMCO), specific energy needs and subregional dialogues supported by the Russian Federation and further promotion of the pro-poor public-private partnership (5P) initiative.¹⁹⁹

¹⁸⁹ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report of the Secretary General on the 15th Session*, 2007.

¹⁹⁰ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report on the 15th Session*, 2007.

¹⁹¹ Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report on the 15th Session*, 2007.

¹⁹² Commission on Sustainable Development, *Report of the Secretary General on the 15th Session*, 2007.

¹⁹³ Agenda 21, *Preamble*, 1992.

¹⁹⁴ Earth Summit 2012, *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, 2012.

¹⁹⁵ World Summit on Sustainable Development, *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, 2002.

¹⁹⁶ World Summit on Sustainable Development, *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, 2002.

¹⁹⁷ Division for Sustainable Development, *Energy*, 2009.

¹⁹⁸ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Resolution 63/6*, 2007.

¹⁹⁹ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Resolution 68/3*, 2012.

Moreover, ESCAP Resolution 64/3 entitled “Promoting Renewables for Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific” urges member States “to lessen dependencies on fossil fuels by increasing the efficiency of energy consumption, shifting toward renewable energy sources and ensuring access to basic energy services by the poor.”²⁰⁰ These examples provide an idea on how not only global agreements are needed, but also how smaller scale programs also target the issue of energy security and energy diversity in an efficient way.

Regional and Multilateral Proceedings and Plans

Adriatic Action Plan 2020 (AAP2020)

The Adriatic Action Plan 2020 (AAP2020) was an initiative taken by the Italian and Austrian governments that afterwards reached several important partnerships.²⁰¹ Its primary themes are resumed into: institutional framework for sustainable development, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, and energy for sustainable development as a secondary theme.²⁰² Several Adriatic Action Plan 2020 objectives comprehend: dissemination of sustainable development practices through methods of "shared governance"; improvement of standards of environmental quality for all concerned communities; and increase of global efficiency in using resources, particularly in the production of consumer goods, services and commodities.²⁰³ It is important to highlight that all targets have been met already , involving all local governments of the two sides of the Adriatic region.²⁰⁴

Fostering Regional Energy Cooperation in APEC: Energy for Sustainable Development

This multilateral project has as its main area of action energy for sustainable development and as secondary targets to attain means of its implementation and change unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.²⁰⁵ One of the main objectives of this initiative is to undertake long-term policies to improve regional energy security as well as to advance on this topic through short-term actions.²⁰⁶ This program was developed so that these activities will complement the ongoing efforts to diversify the region energy mix, improve energy efficiency, deploy new and renewable energy technologies, promote clean energy, facilitate energy business and trade, improve data collection and information sharing and encourage private investment through policy and regulatory reform.²⁰⁷ The implementation office of the program has done workshops on energy investment, and a taskforce to consider investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.²⁰⁸

International Renewable Energy Alliance (IREA)

This Alliance conformed by important European Non-Governmental Organizations established two important topics of concern which are: changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and energy for sustainable development. The goal of IREA is to promote collaboration, removing market barriers, identifying and promoting successful implementation strategies, enhancing business conditions and developing markets.²⁰⁹ The Alliance build links between renewable energy stakeholders and facilitating information to other actors.²¹⁰ It also provides a platform to expose the different interests in the renewable energy community to assure the use of renewable energy in order to reduce the problems of supply security.²¹¹

²⁰⁰ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Panel Presentation*, 2009.

²⁰¹ Partnerships for Sustainable Development, *Adriatic Action Plan 2020*, 2007.

²⁰² Partnerships for Sustainable Development, *Adriatic Action Plan 2020*, 2007.

²⁰³ Partnerships for Sustainable Development, *Adriatic Action Plan 2020*, 2007.

²⁰⁴ Partnerships for Sustainable Development, *Adriatic Action Plan 2020*, 2007.

²⁰⁵ Partnerships for Sustainable Development, *Fostering Regional Energy Cooperation in APEC: Energy for Sustainable Development*, 2006.

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²⁰⁸ Partnerships for Sustainable Development, *Fostering Regional Energy Cooperation in APEC: Energy for Sustainable Development*, 2006.

²⁰⁹ Partnerships for Sustainable Development, *International Renewable Energy Alliance*, 2007.

²¹⁰ Partnerships for Sustainable Development, *International Renewable Energy Alliance*, 2007.

²¹¹ Partnerships for Sustainable Development, *International Renewable Energy Alliance*, 2007.

Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD)

“The Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD) is a United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) facilitated knowledge network of Member Centres of Excellence and Associates, and network partners worldwide.”²¹² Its main objective is “to carry out policy analysis on thematic energy issues which can facilitate in reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).”²¹³ Within the main topics discussed in this Network, there is energy access, renewable technologies and energy security; the last one is discussed in the “Energy Security Working Group.”²¹⁴ Due to the fact that these actions are being implemented at a national and a household level, the GNESD represent a great source of knowledge in the field of energy diversity and security.

Future Policy Options and Actions in the International Arena

There are some existing programs that are still working and may be crucial to work on this topic.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)

This partnership composed by several state governments, Intergovernmental Organizations and private sector is specialized in the energy area and focus basically on climate change and energy for sustainable development.²¹⁵ Its task was defined as to accelerate a global market for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient Systems (REES).²¹⁶ This body identified that financial resources from the private and public sector will be needed to meet developing and transition country’s future energy demand in a sustainable way.²¹⁷

Some of the future measures to take are: cooperating to develop renewable energy technologies; participating actively in already existing initiatives; including developing countries in the different uses of renewable energy; promoting dissemination of existing and new renewable energy technologies; involving researchers and technologists from developing countries; facilitating transfer of technologies to developing countries; making a paradigm shift from “quantity growth” to “quality growth”; implementing sustainable energy infrastructure; promoting investment and financing to develop competitiveness; modernizing energy services; creating safeguards to prevent volatility, among others.²¹⁸ These are plausible actions to take, and combined with the already existing policies, the international community can achieve energy security through energy diversification.

Conclusion

Currently, the issue of achieving energy security is a puzzling topic for every country as energy is essential for economic growth and development. However, achieving energy security may affect other areas such as the environment, which is why the diversification of sources is fundamental to accomplish the objective in an efficient and sustainable way. The Asia and the Pacific region, for example, possess a huge potential but its targets are far from being reached currently. The potential that exists around the globe is not transmitted on positive results which is why several questions arise to be discussed in the committee. How can countries develop new sustainable sources of energy? Why haven’t countries applied their resources in order to enhance energy security and exploit their potential? What can countries do to promote investment, financing and provide infrastructure? How do countries achieve energy efficiency integrally? What already existing policies leave open doors to new and more effective policies? How can states satisfy their need for energy security in a way that creates a more competitive economy while also achieves energy security? In which way can trade be pivotal to achieve energy security objectives? It is essential to understand that energy security is a determining factor for the future of state-members and the work of the commission is the most powerful tool to do so.

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²¹³ Global Network on energy for Sustainable Development, *Activities*, 2012.

²¹⁴ Global Network on energy for Sustainable Development, *Energy Security*, 2012.

²¹⁵ Partnerships for Sustainable Development, *Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnerships*, 2007.

²¹⁶ Partnerships for Sustainable Development, *Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnerships*, 2007.

²¹⁷ Partnerships for Sustainable Development, *Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnerships*, 2007.

²¹⁸ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2008). *Annual Report*. New York: Economic and Social Council. p.47; Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*. 2008. p. 2.

II. Achieving Energy Security through Energy Diversity

Commission on Sustainable Development. (2007). *Report of the Secretary General on the 15th Session*. Economic and Social Council.

The Commission on Sustainable Development, in its 15th session developed the topic of Energy Security for the last time. Due to the latest advances in energy diversity this topic earned more importance as it acquired more plausibility to be achieved. In the Secretary General Report, delegates may find the pathway to work towards an energy secure planet as well as the initiatives that were once mentioned in previous sessions of the Commission in order to enforce them or just use them as reference to develop new ones.

Environment and Development Division. (2008). *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

This book provides a deep detailed analysis about the situation regarding energy in Asia and the Pacific specifically but contains important concepts as well as applicability of actions in the international scope. The Environment and Development Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific developed a profound study about the possibilities of achieving energy security analyzing the capability of investment, infrastructure and the potentialities in countries. It also suggests measures and policies to be taken in the future regarding these issues examining the potential of energy diversity. In addition it provides tables; examples and regimes that help understand the framework around the topic and its promises towards reaching energy security.

Earth Summit 2012. (2012). *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*. Retrieved August 1, 2012 from <http://www.earthsummit2012.org/about-us/historical-documents/94-jpoi>

This document is better known as Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. This plan contains new perspectives on ways to achieve energy security and suggestions for countries to gain sustainable development through several measures; one of them is energy security and energy diversity. This document stands for a global action regarding development, giving priority to energy and scheming a global action plan to achieve sustainability.

Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development. (2012). *Energy Security*. Retrieved July 31, 2012, <http://www.gnesd.org/>

The Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development is probably the most diverse and target wide initiative in the energy framework around the globe. It is composed by Intergovernmental Organizations, nations and large representatives of the private sector. This initiative aims to develop energy plans that would assure sustainable development for developing countries and solidify development in the countries that have already reached this objective. Delegate may consult this source so they can exemplify what is been done in the field and develop complementary policies.

International Energy Agency. (2007). *World Energy Outlook 2007: China and India Insights*. International Energy Agency.

China and India are the growing super powers in the world and due to their potential, energy is basic for their long term development. This document overviews how these countries work regarding energy with a profound analysis of their resources, policies and statistics. It points out successful policies made by these two countries which can give a guide for other countries to implement measures in order to achieve energy security as well as diversity.

International Energy Agency. (2011). *Key World Energy Statistics 2011*. Retrieved July 31, 2012, http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/key_world_energy_stats-1.pdf

This document provides a huge database of statistics regarding the existence of energy sources and how the world is mobilizing towards the trend of finding new ways to be energy secure. It is interesting to look at the facts regarding energy and the reality that the world is living in this field. Delegate may find important information in order to develop their proposals. It is always necessary to have this kind of information in order to develop proposals so that delegates won't propose strategies that are improbable.

Partnerships for Sustainable Development. (2006). *International Renewable Energy Alliance*. Retrieved July 29, 2012, from <http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/2055.html>.

This web page provides information about the universe of initiatives that have been developed and are being developed currently regarding energy policies. This specific initiative is a great reference of joint policies to endorse energy diversity. Analyzing and acknowledging them in deep sense will let delegates have a wider perspective of the actions that still can be done regarding energy diversity and perhaps making a solid connection with the aim of energy security through these actions.

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Rules of Procedure

Economic and Social Council Plenary

Introduction

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

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - Dates of convening and adjournment

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

Rule 2 - Place of sessions

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

II. AGENDA

Rule 3 - Provisional agenda

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

Rule 4 - Adoption of the agenda

The agenda provided by the Secretary-General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of the agenda items shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting. Items on the agenda may be amended or deleted by the Council by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

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

Rule 5 - Revision of the agenda

During a session, the Council may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only important and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during a session. Permission to speak on a motion to revise the agenda shall be accorded only to three representatives in favor of, and three opposed to, the revision. Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a session, may be placed on the agenda if the Council so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Council decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a committee 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 Secretariat, and any such determination is final. If an item is determined to be of such a character, then it requires a two-thirds vote of the Council to be placed on the agenda. It will, however, not be considered by the Council until a committee has reported on the question. The votes described in this rule are substantive vote, and, as such, observers are not permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting means 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 Council.
2. The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the Council and be responsible for all the arrangements that may be necessary for its meetings.

Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat

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

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat

The Secretary-General, or her/his representative, may make oral as well as written statements to the Council 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 Council for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretary-General.

Rule 11 - Replacement of the President

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

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 12 - Official and working language

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

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.

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

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

Rule 15 - General powers of the President

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Council, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Council and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He or she shall rule on points of order. He or she may propose to the Council the closure of the list of speakers, a

limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each member may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

Included in these enumerated powers is the President's power to assign speaking times for all speeches incidental to motions and amendment. Further, the President is to use her/his discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference. For purposes of this rule, the President's power to propose to the Council entails her/his power to entertain motions, and not to move the body on his or her own motion.

Rule 16

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

Rule 17 - Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President. Any appeal of the decision of the President shall be immediately put to a vote, and the ruling of the President shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. Any questions on order arising during a speech made by a representative should be raised at the conclusion of the speech, or can be addressed by the President, sua sponte, during the speech. For purposes of this rule, —the members present and voting mean those members (not including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 18

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

Rule 19 - Speeches

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

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, if the President determines that the Council in large part does not want to deviate from the limits to the speaker's time as it is then set, and that any additional motions will not be well received by the body, the President, in her/his discretion, and on the advice and consent of the Secretariat, may rule as dilatory any additional motions to change the limits of the speaker's time.

Rule 20 - Closing of list of speakers

Members may only be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after having spoken. During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Council, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by decision of the Council.

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 Council. A motion to close the speakers' list is within the purview of the Council 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 Council by the representative only upon approval of the Secretariat, and in no case after voting has concluded on all matters relating to the agenda topic, during the discussion of which, the right arose.

Rule 22 - Suspension of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension of the meeting, specifying a time for reconvening. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass.

Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to the vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. After adjournment, the Council shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

As this motion, if successful, would end the meeting until the Council'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 Council.

Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of debate on the topic under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to two representatives favoring and two opposing adjournment, after which the motion shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. If a motion for adjournment passes, the topic is considered dismissed and no action will be taken on it.

Rule 25 - Closure of debate

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

Rule 26 - Order of motions Subject to rule 23, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

- a) To suspend the meeting;
- b) To adjourn the meeting;
- c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat, with the names of twenty percent of the members of the Council would like the Council to consider the proposal or amendment. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the proposal or amendment for circulation among the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be put to the vote at any meeting of the Council 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 Council 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 Council by the Secretariat.

The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of the working papers. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft resolution. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Council. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Council and, as such, the names of the original sponsors will be removed. The copying and distribution of amendments is at the discretion of the Secretariat, but the substance of all such amendments will be made available to all representatives in some form.

Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before voting has commenced, provided that it has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic

When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Council, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, so decides. Reconsideration can only be moved by a representative who voted on the prevailing side of the original motion to adjourn. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

For purposes of this rule, those present and voting means those representatives, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion is voted upon by the body.

VI. VOTING

Rule 30 - Voting rights

Each member of the Council shall have one vote.

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

Rule 31 - Request for a vote

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

For purposes of this rule, proposal means any draft resolution, an amendment thereto, or a portion of a draft resolution divided out by motion. Just prior to a vote on a particular proposal or motion, the President may ask if there are any objections to passing the proposal or motion by acclamation, or a member may move to accept the proposal or motion by acclamation. If there are no objections to the proposal or motion, then it is adopted without a vote.

Rule 32 - Majority required

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

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

Rule 33 - Method of voting

1. The Council shall normally vote by a show of placards, except that a representative may request a roll call, which shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is randomly selected by the President. The name of each present member shall be called in any roll call, and one of its representatives shall reply “yes,” “no,” “abstention,” or “pass.”

Only those members who designate themselves as present or present and voting during the attendance roll

call, or in some other manner communicate their attendance to the President and/or Secretariat, are permitted to vote and, as such, no others will be called during a roll-call vote. Any representatives replying pass, must, on the second time through, respond with either yes or no. A pass cannot be followed by a second pass for the same proposal or amendment, nor can it be followed by an abstention on that same proposal or amendment.

2. When the Council 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 Council 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 34 - Explanations of vote

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

All explanations of vote must be submitted to the President in writing before debate on the topic is closed, except where the representative is of a member sponsoring the proposal, as described in the second clause, in which case the explanation of vote must be submitted to the President in writing immediately after voting on the topic ends.

Rule 35 - Conduct during voting

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

Rule 36 - Division of proposals and amendments

Immediately before a proposal or amendment comes to a vote, a representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If there are calls for multiple divisions, those shall be voted upon in an order to be set by the President where the most radical division will be voted upon first. If objection is made to the motion for division, the request for division shall be voted upon, requiring the support of a majority of those present and voting to pass. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are involved shall then be put to a vote. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

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

Rule 37 - Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from, or revise part of another proposal.

An amendment can add, amend, or delete operative clauses, but cannot in any manner add, amend, delete, or otherwise affect perambulatory clauses.

Rule 38 - Order of voting on amendments

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

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

Rule 39 - Order of voting on proposals

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

Rule 40 - 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 41 - Credentials

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

Rule 42

The Council 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 COUNCIL

Rule 43 - Participation of non-Member States

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

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

Rule 45 - Participation of national liberation movements

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

Rule 46 - Participation of and consultation with specialized agencies

In accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies shall be entitled: a) To be represented at meetings of the Council 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 Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

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

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