

# UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

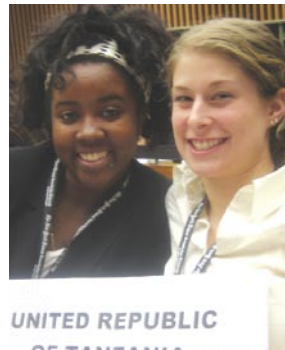
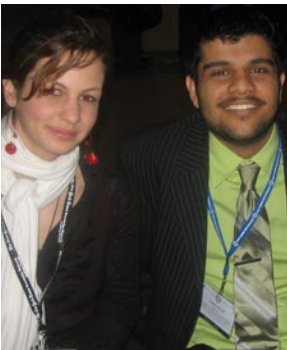
# UNEP

NMUN•08

NATIONAL MODEL  
UNITED NATIONS

2008 COMMITTEE BACKGROUND GUIDE

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



WRITTEN BY:  
Trish Rennie  
Sameer Kanal  
Jee Hee Yoon  
Imane Tounsi

18-22 March  
Sheraton New York

22-26 April  
New York Marriott Marquis

 NATIONAL  
COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE  
association™

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

**NMUN Secretary-General**

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

**NCCA/NMUN Executive Director**

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

**NMUN Director-General (Sheraton)**

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

**NMUN Director-General (Marriott)**

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

## NMUN•08 IMPORTANT DATES

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

SHERATON	MARRIOTT	
31 January 2008	31 January 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm Attendance &amp; Delegate Count. (Count may be changed up to 1 March)</li> <li>Make Transportation Arrangements - DON'T FORGET! (We recommend confirming hotel accommodations prior to booking flights.)</li> </ul>
15 February 2008	15 February 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee Updates Posted to <a href="http://www.nmun.org">www.nmun.org</a>.</li> </ul>
23 February 2008	21 March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hotel Registration with FULL PRE-PAYMENT Due to Hotel - Register Early! Registration is first-come, first-served.</li> </ul>
1 March 2008	1 March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any Changes to Delegate Numbers Must be Confirmed to <a href="mailto:eaton@nmun.org">eaton@nmun.org</a></li> </ul>
1 March 2008	1 April 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two Copies of Each Position Paper Due via E-mail (See Delegate Preparation Guide for instructions).</li> </ul>
3 March 2008	1 April 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Conference Fees Due to NMUN for confirmed delegates. (\$100 per delegate if paid by 1 March; \$125 per delegate if received after 1 March. Fee is not refundable after this deadline.</li> </ul>

**NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

**The 2008 National Model UN Conference**

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

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

1. TO COMMITTEE STAFF

A file of the position paper (.doc or .pdf) for each assigned committee should be sent to the committee e-mail address listed below. Mail papers by 1 March (Sheraton Venue) or 1 April (Marriott Venue) to the e-mail address listed for your particular venue. These e-mail addresses will be active after 15 November. Delegates should carbon copy (cc) themselves as confirmation of receipt. Please put committee and assignment in the subject line (Example: GAPLEN\_Greece).

2. TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

- Each delegation should send one set of all position papers for each assignment to the e-mail designated for their venue: positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org or positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org. This set (held by each Director-General) will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments. Note: This e-mail should only be used as a repository for position papers.
- The head delegate or faculty member sending this message should cc: him/herself as confirmation of receipt. (Free programs like Adobe Acrobat or WinZip may need to be used to compress files if they are not plain text.)
- Because of the potential volume of e-mail, only one e-mail from the Head Delegate or Faculty Advisor containing all attached position papers will be accepted. Please put committee, assignment and delegation name in the subject line (Example: Cuba\_U\_of\_ABC). If you have any questions, please contact the Director-General at dirgen@nmun.org.

COMMITTEE	E-MAIL   SHERATON	COMMITTEE	E-MAIL   MARRIOTT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY	gaplenary.sheraton@nmun.org	GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY	gaplenary.marriott@nmun.org
GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE	galst.sheraton@nmun.org	GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE	galst.marriott@nmun.org
GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECOND COMMITTEE	ga2nd.sheraton@nmun.org	GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECOND COMMITTEE	ga2nd.marriott@nmun.org
GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIRD COMMITTEE	ga3rd.sheraton@nmun.org	GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIRD COMMITTEE	ga3rd.marriott@nmun.org
SECURITY COUNCIL	sc.sheraton@nmun.org	SECURITY COUNCIL	sc.marriott@nmun.org
SECURITY COUNCIL 2	sc2.sheraton@nmun.org	SECURITY COUNCIL 2	sc2.marriott@nmun.org
ECOSOC PLENARY	ecosoc.sheraton@nmun.org	ECOSOC PLENARY	ecosoc.marriott@nmun.org
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA	eca.sheraton@nmun.org	ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA	eca.marriott@nmun.org
UN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME	habitat.sheraton@nmun.org	UN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME	habitat.marriott@nmun.org
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN	csw.sheraton@nmun.org	COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN	csw.marriott@nmun.org
UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES	unpfii.sheraton@nmun.org	UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES	unpfii.marriott@nmun.org
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY	iaea.sheraton@nmun.org	INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY	iaea.marriott@nmun.org
UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME	unep.sheraton@nmun.org	UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME	unep.marriott@nmun.org
SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE	scsl.sheraton@nmun.org	SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE	scsl.marriott@nmun.org
UN POPULATION FUND	unfpa.sheraton@nmun.org	UN POPULATION FUND	unfpa.marriott@nmun.org
UN RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST	unrwa.sheraton@nmun.org	UN RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST	unrwa.marriott@nmun.org
PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION	paho.sheraton@nmun.org	PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION	paho.marriott@nmun.org
AFRICAN UNION	au.sheraton@nmun.org	AFRICAN UNION	au.marriott@nmun.org
ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION	apec.sheraton@nmun.org	ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION	apec.marriott@nmun.org
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE	oic.sheraton@nmun.org	ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE	oic.marriott@nmun.org
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION	nato.sheraton@nmun.org	NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION	nato.marriott@nmun.org

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:

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

[www.nmun.org](http://www.nmun.org)  
for more  
information



# THE 2008 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

New York City, 18-22 March (Sheraton) & 22-26 April (Marriott) • [www.nmun.org](http://www.nmun.org)

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## Welcome Delegates!

The 2008 National Model United Nations (NMUN) is underway. You, as delegates have been working hard on preparing for the Conference, along with your head delegates and faculty advisors. Congratulations on being part of a large, dynamic group; this week will be a lot of hard work but it will also be a lot of fun. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is an important Committee which we are proud to serve as staff on. It is an agency that works on global environmental issues that affect all peoples and all countries.

The Director of UNEP at the Sheraton this year is Trish Rennie. It is her second year on staff and her third year being involved with NMUN. She studied Environmental Issues in University, and has a minor in Geography and Environmental Studies, with a major in Political Studies. Joining Trish as Assistant Director is Imane Tounsi from Morocco. She studied Politics as well and has been participating in various Model UN conferences, both as a delegate and staff. She will be helping to run the committee, and both Trish and Imane will do their utmost to make this year a memorable and enjoyable learning experience for all of you.

The Marriott venue's Director is Sameer Kanal. This is his second year on the NMUN staff and his seventh in Model United Nations. He attends the University of Washington in Seattle and is finishing a degree in Political Science and Economics. The Marriott venue will also have Kathy Yoon as our Assistant Director of UNEP. She lives in New York, working on a degree in International Relations with a minor in Philosophy. She and Sameer will work together not only in the preparatory work, but at the Conference itself, to facilitate the committee and give delegates the best experience they can.

The topics for this year's UNEP are:

1. Protecting Water Resources in a Changing World;
2. Post-Disaster and Post-Conflict Environmental Programs;
3. Chemicals Management.

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

The NMUN experience can be demanding, but it will be incredibly rewarding. We wish each of you the best as you prepare. Please regularly check the NMUN website at [www.nmun.org](http://www.nmun.org) for updates. Also, we strongly recommend the Delegation Preparation Guide available at the NMUN website.

Feel free to email us prior to the Conference if you have any questions relating to the UNEP or the Conference and we will do our best to answer them. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely yours,

*Sheraton Venue*

Patricia Rennie

Director

Imane Tounsi

Assistant Director

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

*Marriott Venue*

Sameer K. Kanal

Director

Kathy Yoon

Assistant Director

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

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

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

Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation's policy regarding the topic areas under discussion and establish precise policies and recommendations in regard to the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State should be identified and addressed. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference.

NGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as traditional position papers. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

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

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

- All papers must be typed and formatted according to the example in the Background Guides
- Length must **not** exceed one double-sided page (two single-sided pages is **not** acceptable)
- Font **must** be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Country/NGO name, School name and committee name clearly labeled on the first page
- Agenda topics clearly labeled in separate sections

To be considered timely for awards, please read and follow these directions:

1. **A file of the position paper** (.doc or .pdf) **for each assigned committee** should be sent to the committee email address listed in the Background Guide. These e-mail addresses will be active after December 1, 2007. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt.
2. Each delegation should also send **one set of all position papers** to the e-mail designated for their venue: [positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org](mailto:positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org) or [positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org](mailto:positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org). This set will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments. These copies will also be made available in Home Government during the week of the NMUN Conference

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

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

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

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

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

Each delegation should submit a copy of their position paper to the permanent mission of the country being represented, along with an explanation of the Conference. Those delegations representing NGOs do not have to send their position paper to their NGO headquarters, although it is encouraged. This will assist them in preparation for the mission briefing in New York.

Finally, please consider that over 1,000 papers will be handled and read by the Secretariat for the Conference. Your patience and cooperation in strictly adhering to the above guidelines will make this process more efficient and is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff, though as we do not operate out of a central office or location your consideration for time zone differences is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

*Sheraton Venue*  
Linda Poppe  
Director-General

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

*Marriott Venue*  
Galen Stocking  
Director-General

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



## Sample Position Paper

The following position paper is designed to be a sample of the standard format that an NMUN position paper should follow. While delegates are encouraged to use the front and back of a single page in order to fully address all topics before the committee, please remember that only a maximum of one double-sided page (or two pages total in an electronic file) will be accepted. Only the first double-sided page of any submissions (or two pages of an electronic file) will be considered for awards.

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Delegation from *(Insert Member State/NGO Name)*

Represented by *(Insert Delegation Name Here)*

### *Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary*

The issues before the General Assembly Plenary are: The Situation in Sub-Saharan Africa; Racism and Racial Discrimination, and A Comprehensive Review of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. The State of Tranquility a proud member of the Regional Alliance of Peaceful Countries and a fully supports other regional groups in their efforts to coordinated a regional plan for sustained and sustainable development. In that regard, the State of Tranquility recognizes the necessity of ensuring the full realization of the Right to Development as declared in the Declaration on the Right to Development and the Final Report of the Working Group on the Right to Development. Tranquility fully supports the implementation of national development plans with the cooperation of regional organizations, the United Nations, and the international community. Tranquility is firmly committed to addressing the underlying factors.

#### **I. The Situation in Sub-Saharan Africa**

The State of Tranquility believes that the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic security lend themselves to the pacific settlement of disputes in Sub-Saharan Africa, the most ethnically diverse region in the world. The lack of development in the region constitutes the root cause of political instability and conflict. The report of the Secretary-General, *An Agenda for Peace: Recommendations*, if implemented, could enhance the work of the Organization in its efforts to bring about sustainable development in Africa. Tranquility also believes that the use of preventive development in Africa could ensure that conflicts such as those in Liberia, Rwanda, Angola, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo can be avoided before they erupt. While obstacles to be overcome are many, international support for effective national programs to ensure the relief to rehabilitation to development continuum through post-conflict peace-building, can enable Sub-Saharan Africa and the entire developing world to achieve the sustainable development which alone will guarantee regional peace and stability. The State of Tranquility fully supports the increased cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in all aspects of dispute settlement and peace-keeping. Increased support for such regional efforts, when combined with measures to eliminate the root causes of regional conflict, serves to further enhance the prospects for lasting peace, security and development in Sub-Saharan Africa and throughout the entire international community.

#### **II. Racism and Racial Discrimination**

The State of Tranquility believes that the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance offers the global community an opportunity to establish an updated plan of action to completely eradicate racism and racial discrimination throughout the world. The necessity for all Member States to sign, accede to and ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination is an integral part of this plan, as policies and practices based on racism and racial discrimination remain devastating to regional social, economic and infrastructure development. Tranquility encourages all States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to increase their efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and to provide assistance to those affected by such practices. The lack of financial resources that prevented the international community from realizing its objectives in the three previous United Nations Decades to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination must not continue to hinder the international community in guaranteeing the fundamental human rights of all peoples.

### **III. A Comprehensive Review of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations**

The State of Tranquility remains firmly committed in support of the continued role of the United Nations Security Council as the primary agent for the maintenance of international peace and security, as mandated under Chapters IV and V of the *UN Charter*. We strongly recommend the authorization, determination, composition and financing of peacekeeping operations should be determined by the Council, as authorized by Articles 24, 25 and 26 of the *Charter* and in conjunction with the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. Additionally, the State of Tranquility endorses the current role of the Secretary-General as administrator of the Operations established by the Council. The State of Tranquility remains a central contributor for both financial and logistical support of the United Nations Peacekeeping forces and will continue to contribute to the United Nations Peacekeeping Budget throughout the duration of the current year. The State of Tranquility is firmly committed to addressing all threats to international peace and security through regional arrangements and multilateral forums. The international community must address the underlying causes of these conflicts and the destabilizing effects of such conflicts on entire regions. Tranquility is convinced that increased utilization of regional and sub-regional peacekeeping mechanisms can enhance the ability of peacekeeping missions to take into account historical, social, and cultural values and traditions within areas of conflict. As operation costs continue to escalate, however, our nation strongly urges all Member States and the Secretary-General to devote greater attention to the monetary and management aspects of peacekeeping operations and provide serious consideration for the establishment of operation termination dates. The State of Tranquility further supports the proposal endorsed within A/Res/44/49, calling for Member States to develop and maintain an inventory of supplies and equipment to be made available for Operations on short-notice. In addition, the State of Tranquility calls upon Member States to recognize the need to maintain voluntary contributions for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations to reduce the continuing problems incurred by funding deficits.



# History of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

## *Introduction*

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) deals with environmental activities and helps Member States implement environmentally sound policies at both the global and regional level.<sup>1</sup> UNEP was founded as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in June 1972.<sup>2</sup> Recognizing that environmental problems have impacts that range from the local to the global, this conference urged governments to improve cooperation for the preservation and improvement of the environment for the benefit of all the people and for their prosperity.<sup>3</sup> UNEP is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya and has further regional offices in Thailand, Switzerland, Mexico, the United States and Bahrain.<sup>4</sup> UNEP's mission is "[t]o provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations."<sup>5</sup>

UNEP's Governing Council consists of 58 Member States, each of which serves a four-year term; the seats are allocated according to geographical regions.<sup>6</sup> The Programme reports to the United Nations General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).<sup>7</sup> UNEP works with many partners including other United Nations entities, international organizations, national governments, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), business, industry, the media and civil society.<sup>8</sup> Apart from a contribution derived from the United Nations regular budget, UNEP depends on voluntary support to raise funds.<sup>9</sup> The Environment Fund is the main source of funding for UNEP's activities.<sup>10</sup> In addition to the Environment Fund, funding for specific UNEP activities is provided through trust funds and earmarked contributions.<sup>11</sup> A total of 128 Member States pledged or contributed to the Environment Fund in 2003 after the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC) was introduced in the previous year.<sup>12</sup> This was 72% above the average number of 74 countries paying annually to the Environment Fund in the previous 30 years.<sup>13</sup>

## *UNEP Functions and Objectives*

UNEP coordinates the development of environmental policies and brings emerging issues to the attention of governments and the international community for action; it also encourages new partnerships within civil society and the private sector.<sup>14</sup> Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is an example of a world-wide network of collaborating centers with a strong assessment partnership and a focus for building capacity at various levels.<sup>15</sup> GEO supports multi-stakeholder networking, provides a platform for the exchange of knowledge, promotes intra and inter-regional cooperation in identifying and addressing key environmental issues and concerns and builds capacity at many levels.<sup>16</sup>

UNEP furthermore helps in developing international agreements such as the *Montreal Protocol* to restore the ozone layer; as well as the growing number of treaties that govern the production, transportation, use, release and disposal

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP, *UNEP: Organization Profile*, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> UNEP, *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment*, (n.d.); UNEP, *UNEP: Organization Profile*, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP, *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment*, (n.d.).

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> UNEP, *UNEP: Organization Profile*, 2006.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> UNEP, *UNEP: Environment for Development*, 2006

<sup>9</sup> UNEP, *UNEP: Organization Profile*, 2006.

<sup>10</sup> UNEP, *Financing of UNEP*, (n.d.).

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

<sup>12</sup> UNEP, *VISC: Assessment of the Extended Pilot Phase*, (n.d.).

<sup>13</sup> UNEP, *Financing of UNEP*, (n.d.).

<sup>14</sup> UNEP, *UNEP: Organization Profile*, 2006.

<sup>15</sup> UNEP, *About GEO: Keeping the Global Environment under Review* (n.d.).

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

of chemicals; and treaties that protect global biodiversity.<sup>17</sup> The *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer* was agreed on September 16, 1987 but did not enter into force until January 1, 1989.<sup>18</sup> Its widespread adoption and implementation is an example of exceptional collaboration and an important achievement for UNEP.<sup>19</sup>

UNEP's energy program furthermore addresses the environmental consequences of energy production and use, including global climate change and local air pollution.<sup>20</sup> UNEP is concerned with renewable energy, energy efficiency, transport, energy finance, and policy issues.<sup>21</sup> UNEP also provides access to environmental data and information for planning for sustainable development.<sup>22</sup> UNEP assists both government and private sector decision makers to make environmentally conscious choices. The Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD) is the main effort through which UNEP seeks to influence energy sector decisions in developing countries by strengthening capabilities for sound policy analysis.<sup>23</sup> The Network provides an umbrella for joint activities involving 20 centers of excellence in developing and developed countries. Network members collaborate on information exchange; learning, analysis and study; policy support; and capacity building, with a focus on issues of concern to developing countries.<sup>24</sup>

UNEP has eight divisions which assist in the promotion and facilitation of sound environmental management programs for sustainable development: Early Warning and Assessment, Policy Development and Law, Environmental Policy Implementation, Technology, Industry and Economics, Regional Cooperation, Environmental Conventions, Communications and Public Information, Global Environment Facility (GEF) Coordination.<sup>25</sup>

### ***Important Conferences: The Stockholm Conference and the Earth Summit***

One of UNEP's means to raise awareness is through the contribution to multilateral and international conferences. After its establishment in 1972, UNEP for example arranged for the Stockholm Conference which greatly contributed to raising understanding and awareness of critical environmental issues such as the increasing scarcity of fresh water, the degradation of the marine environment, and the pollution of the atmosphere over the past three-plus decades, and it provided the impetus for new regional and international environmental policies around the world.<sup>26</sup> Two decades later, many conferences and conventions were held to tackle various environmental issues: conserving endangered species, reversing the depletion of the ozone layer, and controlling the movement of hazardous wastes.<sup>27</sup>

In 1992, UNEP held the Conference on Environment and Development - the Earth Summit - in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.<sup>28</sup> The purpose of this summit was to examine progress made since the Stockholm Conference, and to come up with new strategies and policies to promote a sustainable environment to which all countries have contributed.<sup>29</sup> This summit gave birth to two major conventions—the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* and the *Convention on Biological Diversity*.<sup>30</sup> The Earth Summit reaffirmed the principles first elaborated in Stockholm twenty years earlier, while Agenda 21 gave the world an action program for building sustainable development into the 21st century.<sup>31</sup> These conferences and their outcomes continue to shape the work of UNEP today and illustrate principles and guideless for the work of its members.

### ***Conclusion***

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

<sup>18</sup> UNEP, *Evolution of the Montreal Protocol*, (n.d.).

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

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> UNEP, *UNEP: Environment for Development*, 2006.

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

<sup>23</sup> UNEP, *A Summary of the Energy Programme of UNEP*, (n.d.).

<sup>24</sup> GNESD, *Activities of GNESD*, (n.d.).

<sup>25</sup> UNEP, *UNEP: Organization Profile*, 2006.

<sup>26</sup> The United Nations Library in Nairobi, *Stockholm Documents of 1972*, 2006; UNEP, *UNEP: Environment for Development*, 2006.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> United Nations Department of Public Information, *Earth Summit. UN Conference on Environment and Development*, (n.d.).

<sup>29</sup> Global Ministerial Environment Forum, *Malmö Ministerial Declaration*, (n.d.).

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>31</sup> Sovereignty International, Inc, *Agenda 21*, (n.d.).

The UNEP provides a voice for the environment in the UN System. It is an advocate, educator, catalyst and facilitator aiming to promote sustainable development.<sup>32</sup> However, despite the fact that UNEP's funding is improving, contributions to the Environment Fund continue to fall short of the budget approved by UNEP's Governing Council, forcing UNEP to scale down its work program.<sup>33</sup>

The 21<sup>st</sup> session of UNEP's Governing Council re-confirmed the crucial importance of stable and predictable United Nations Environment Programme to strengthen its role as the principal body of the United Nations in the field of the environment, ways must be sought to assure financial stability for the implementation of the global environmental agenda.”

## I. Protecting Water Resources in a Changing World

*” [...]as glaciers retreat, water supplies are being put at risk. And for one-third of the world's population living in dry lands, especially those in Africa, changing weather patterns threaten to exacerbate desertification, drought and food insecurity. We cannot go on this way for long. We cannot continue with business as usual. The time has come for decisive action on a global scale.”<sup>34</sup>*

### **Introduction**

The questions of both water quality and water quantity have been plaguing the international community for many years. With 20% of the global population lacking access to safe drinking water, clean water supplies and sanitation remain major problems in many parts of the world.<sup>35</sup> Some of the queries relating to water supply have been answered in the past by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and regional initiatives such as the Rainwater Partnership Program in Africa.<sup>36</sup> However, some of the issues have yet to be addressed. What actions can be taken to protect water resources and our drinking-water supply? What is the impact of climate change on the world's oceans? Who will be most affected, and how soon? And, perhaps most importantly, can the international community meet the policy challenge of ensuring that any action that is undertaken is sustainable and environmentally-friendly?

In Latin America, for example, many sub-regions experience problems with either flooding or droughts, which are exacerbated by a lack of strong water policies and legal frameworks. This affects people, livestock, and consequently, the economy.<sup>37</sup> Urban areas face a different, yet equally serious, problem of water pollution, which also needs to be addressed.<sup>38</sup> The UNEP has been active in this region, working with Ministries of Environment and similar institutions to collaborate with government, supporting both regional and national planning.<sup>39</sup> Much of Asia faces a similar spread of water-related problems, with a strong mix of urban and rural concerns. The high population density of this region places pressure on the small amount of freshwater, essentially creating a higher demand than supply.<sup>40</sup> Examples include excessively high levels of heavy metals in water bodies in South-East Asia, shrinking glaciers in Himalaya, and trans-boundary water issues in Central Asia.<sup>41</sup> UNEP presence in the Asia Pacific region includes numerous studies to determine problems, workshops to promote awareness, and meetings to encourage trans-boundary cooperation.<sup>42</sup> On the other side of the spectrum, West Asia faces issues such as desertification and desalination.<sup>43</sup> Here, regional UNEP offices are working to determine the main contributors to

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<sup>32</sup> UNEP, *UNEP: Organization Profile*, 2006.

<sup>33</sup> UNEP, *Financing of UNEP*, (n.d.).

<sup>34</sup> Ki-Moon, *Climate Change as a Global Challenge*, 2007.

<sup>35</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Vital Water Graphics Report*, 2002.

<sup>36</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Rainwater Partnership*, (n.d.).

<sup>37</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean*, (n.d.).

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

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>40</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Regional Office for Asia Pacific*, (n.d.).

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>43</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Regional Office for West Asia*, (n.d.).

these problems as well as creating reasonable solutions to deal with them.<sup>44</sup> Given the arid climate of this region, however, renewable freshwater resources are limited, making chronic water shortage a potential crisis.<sup>45</sup> As with the Asia Pacific Region, trans-boundary concerns must also be addressed in determining both questions and answers of water quality and quantity.<sup>46</sup>

These subjects are extremely important in order to address the lack of access to clean drinking water around the world, especially since access to water is considered by the UNEP to be a universal right.<sup>47</sup> As such, ensuring access to enough safe and clean water is a global task, rather than only a local one. Further, it is extremely difficult to solve a problem that hasn't been fully identified; for instance the impacts of climate change. Water resources are changing - whether for the better or worse is difficult to determine; however, human action is changing as well, thus altering the way we think about water in our world.<sup>48</sup>

### ***Case Study: Rainwater Partnership Program in Africa***

With regards to water resources, the UNEP has taken a variety of initiatives. One such program is that of the Rainwater Partnership, established on October 14, 2004 in The Hague, the Netherlands, to promote and mainstream rainwater harvesting activities.<sup>49</sup> Spawned out of the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation* and the Millennium Development Goals, the Rainwater Partnership Program in Africa attempts to deal with water shortages directly by harvesting rainwater.<sup>50</sup> With very low costs and simple techniques associated with rainwater harvesting, the program endeavours to alleviate water-related poverty.<sup>51</sup>

The two specific objectives of the Rainwater Partnership Program are the (i) promotion of the mainstreaming of rainwater policies into water policies and strategies within the integrated water resources management (IWRM) framework, and (ii) the promotion of the implementation of these policies and strategies, which should result in the allocation of necessary financial, human and institutional resources for its use.<sup>52</sup>

The Rainwater Partnership has been implemented in parts of Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.<sup>53</sup> However much scrutiny has been devoted to the Kenyan efforts, for both the successes of this type of program and the lessons to be learned from it.<sup>54</sup> Kenya has sufficiently developed a network for sharing information on rainwater harvesting to trade information with other countries in eastern and southern Africa.<sup>55</sup> Additionally, Kenya has managed to use both local and national government ministries to assist with this program, and form bilateral partnerships, not to mention the help from the UNEP and other United Nations (UN) agencies.<sup>56</sup> This is not to say that every rainwater endeavor has been successful in Kenya, as poor planning in early stages has caused more harm than good.<sup>57</sup> However, positive lessons have emerged as well: the first of these is that poor planning in early stages has ramifications on later stages.<sup>58</sup> Secondly, community involvement is of continuing importance, and must be appropriate to the specific community involved.<sup>59</sup> Finally, capacity building is crucial when aiming for sustainability, making training and the sharing of knowledge and technology vital.<sup>60</sup>

### ***Further and Future Focuses***

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<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>47</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Rainwater Partnership*, (n.d.).

<sup>48</sup> Steiner, *Speech by Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director to the 6th International Convention on Environment and Development*, 2007.

<sup>49</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Rainwater Partnership. Maps*, (n.d.).

<sup>50</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Rainwater Partnership*, (n.d.).

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>52</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *What is the Rainwater Partnership*, (n.d.).

<sup>53</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Rainwater Partnership*, (n.d.).

<sup>54</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Rainwater Harvesting: A Viable Option for Kenya*, (n.d.).

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*

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

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*

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

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*

In addition to the specific activities previously mentioned, the UNEP has undertaken or assisted with numerous water related enterprises. One of the cornerstones of global water action is *Agenda 21*, also known as the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*.<sup>61</sup> Certain priority actions of *Agenda 21* include a focus on urban water supplies; environmentally sound management of wastes and sewage; and managing fragile ecosystems.<sup>62</sup> While these may not, on the surface, sound like issues related to the changing nature of water in our world, they are, given that the number of people living in urban areas is increasing; and with a growing global population, waste management is becoming ever more challenging; and more and more ecosystems are becoming endangered as water levels change around the globe.<sup>63</sup> Examples have already been given as to how high urban density and its related activities affect water in the Asia Pacific region, and how fragile ecosystems, as in West Asia, can cause damage to either water quality or quantity, and often both. However, the Rio Summit of 1992 is hardly a new approach. Indeed, given that it is more than a decade old, are its goals still relevant? Which of *Agenda 21*'s goals must still be met, and in which areas has the international community achieved success from which to expand on? Is the world in general and the UNEP in particular, simply reacting and cleaning up after damage has been done? In Asia Pacific, a concentrated effort has been made to identify the agents or acts causing the damages, and in the African Rainwater Partnership countries, a discussion has been made of ensuring local participation to ensure sustainability, but have there been enough examples of a proactive approach? Which should the world focus on today?

In 2004, the UNEP has for example held a training workshop on assessing the vulnerability and adaptation of coastal zones to climate change, to “increase awareness, use, and application of methods for the assessment of sea level rise impacts and adaptation options, as well as extreme events.”<sup>64</sup> Another plan the UNEP is involved with is the Water and Sanitation Banner, which involves working with dozens of other UN and non-UN agencies under a common banner to share information and knowledge on water resources, collectively called the World Water Assessment Programme.<sup>65</sup> Additionally, this Programme publishes a biennial World Water Development Report.<sup>66</sup>

First published in 2000 by the UNEP, the Vital Climate Change Graphics Report presented numerous graphics on the “environmental and socio-economic impacts of climate change”.<sup>67</sup> In 2005, it was updated as information changed.<sup>68</sup> Covering topics from changes in weather patterns and subsequent effects to the role of the carbon cycle, the report also focused on solutions and costs.<sup>69</sup> Acknowledging the *Kyoto Protocol*, emission trading, and other emission-reduction programs, this report focused heavily on countries in transition and developing countries such as Eastern European and Latin American Countries, due to the industrialization of many countries in these regions.<sup>70</sup> While this again may not clearly demonstrate a concern for water resources, it may actually go further back than many initiatives in terms of problem-solving, as it focuses on prevention and reduction, rather than impact mitigation.

In February 2007, the UNEP presented their progress report on the implementation of their updated water policy and strategy.<sup>71</sup> This update included outcomes of various commissions in relation to the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the draft water policy created by the UNEP, which is aligned with the *Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-Building*, and focuses on:

“building national and regional capacity, promoting stakeholder participation and building on existing programmes [...] and the promoting ecosystem-based approaches; contributing to sound

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<sup>61</sup> Sovereignty International, Inc, *Agenda 21*, (n.d.).

<sup>62</sup> United Nations, *The Global Partnership for Environment and Development: A Guide to Agenda 21*, 1993.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>64</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Climate Change*, (n.d.).

<sup>65</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *World Water Assessment Programme*, (n.d.).

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

<sup>67</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Vital Climate Change Graphics*, 2005.

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

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

<sup>70</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Vital Climate Change Graphics*, 2005.

<sup>71</sup> United Nations Environment Program. Governing Council, *Updated Water Policy and Strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme: Progress Report on the Implementation of Decision 23/2*, 2006.

economic and social development, including poverty reduction through integrated assessment and management of water resources and associated ecosystems; and addressing risks.”<sup>72</sup>

Further, the Governing Council requested additional development of the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) water program in various countries, and produced a related document, entitled *Water Quality for Ecosystem and Human Health* and an e-learning platform for modular training in monitoring and analysis.<sup>73</sup> Finally, the report contains a discussion of other initiatives, such as a youth project, the creation of environmental science centres, e-learning, and increased interagency cooperation.<sup>74</sup>

### **Conclusion**

What are the remaining challenges to be faced? In 2007, Achim Steiner, current Executive Director of the UNEP, cited specific challenges to be identified and addressed, such as understanding how poor rural communities are dependent on managing their environmental resources.<sup>75</sup> Secondly, he stated that we must shift our focus from local environmental issues to a larger scope, both in terms of moving from individual locations to the global environment, and from isolated responses to linking action, cause, and effect.<sup>76</sup>

This leads back to the original question as to whether the current projects are enough of a response to meet the current challenges. What about future challenges and how can they best be addressed within the UNDP framework? Which factors have accounted for the success of previous projects, which for failure? What constitutes the quality of water and how can it be verified? What are effects on development and the realization of basic human rights? How can we have the best common use of water? What is the possibility to increase and to change water use technology? What needs to be done to implement such changes on the ground? Which role should be given to non-State actors and how can they contribute to the work of the UNDP? How can adequate finance for water management projects be assured? How can regional cooperation be improved to enhance water management capabilities? Which conflicts exist between water management and sectors like energy or agricultural? What should the short and long term goals be for the UNEP, and how can they be achieved? What is the relationship between prevention and mitigation of water shortage and which specific measures need to be applied?

## **II. Post-Disaster and Post-Conflict Environmental Programs**

*“When a nation strives to make war ‘nice,’ or accepts limitations on the use of force beyond those required by the law of war, it does so at its own peril. A less-moral nation will take advantage of its opponent’s constraint, often to the detriment of the civilian population in the battle zone, as well as the army fighting with restraint.”<sup>77</sup>*

Conflicts and disasters have grave negative effects upon the populations suffering through them.<sup>78</sup> Conflicts and disasters also have a secondary, indirect effect upon those populations by affecting the environment in a location, which leads to long-term negative consequences in the region.<sup>79</sup> These long-term effects also can lead to future continuation of conflict, or the introduction of conflict into a region that has recently been struck by a natural disaster.<sup>80</sup> As the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch states, “because conflicts and disasters are so closely intertwined with the environment, proper environmental management and governance is essential for long-term peace, stability and security in any conflict- or disaster-prone country.”<sup>81</sup>

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

<sup>73</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Global Environment Monitoring System*, (n.d.).

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>75</sup> Steiner, *Speech by Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director to the 6th International Convention on Environment and Development*, 2007.

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

<sup>77</sup> Garrett, *The Army and the Environment: Environmental Considerations During Army Operations*, 1996, p. 45..

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>80</sup> Wolf, Kramer, Carius, & Dabelko, *Water Can Be A Pathway To Peace, Not War*, 2006.

<sup>81</sup> United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), *UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch*, n.d.

Natural disasters, a term usually used to describe events rather than long-term adverse environmental trends such as desertification or even global climate change, often disrupt every facet of life in the affected regions; it is important to recognize that in the wake of a disaster the environment is rarely the primary concern of the region's government or population.<sup>82</sup> In the area of post-disaster environmental work, UNEP works with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the Joint UNEP-OCHA Environment Unit.<sup>83</sup> The Joint Environment Unit is primarily active in the fields of providing environmental assistance after a disaster and providing assistance in response preparedness.<sup>84</sup> Furthermore, it acts as the Secretariat of the Environmental Emergencies Partnership, which coordinates Member States with donor organizations and international organizations in efforts to "reduce the frequency and severity of environmental emergencies through more effective preparedness, prevention and response."<sup>85</sup>

Conflicts affect the regions in which they take place in a multitude of ways: from the collection of armies in the past, which "destroyed the harvest and turned the battlefield to mud," to the modern increase in "the destructive power of weaponry and maneuver," environmental consequences cannot be avoided during combat and conflict.<sup>86</sup> These impacts include chemicals used in weaponry and armor having an adverse environmental impact, as well as the deliberate damage inflicted to an adversary using tactics detrimental to the environment.<sup>87</sup> During the 1991 Gulf War, the United States-led coalition fired 11,000 depleted uranium rounds due to the fact that "the combat power of the US military was enhanced ... due to the better armor piercing capability of depleted uranium munitions."<sup>88</sup> However, the uranium's long-term effects during and after the completion of the Gulf War have included harm to the natural environment and "physiological effects to soldiers and noncombatants."<sup>89</sup> Deliberate damage, on the other hand, is evidenced by Iraqi assault upon Kuwaiti oil infrastructure and oil being spilled intentionally into the Persian Gulf.<sup>90</sup> It is estimated that decades will pass before the consequences of the oil spills and the responding American "precision air strikes" are fully mitigated.<sup>91</sup>

The United Nations Environmental Programme responds to the environmental effects of conflicts and disasters primarily through its Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (PCDMB), though other mechanisms such as the Joint UNEP-OCHA Environment Unit are used as well.<sup>92</sup> PCDMB operates or has operated in over twenty countries, including current operations or assessments underway in Afghanistan, Liberia, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Indonesia.<sup>93</sup>

### ***History of UNEP Post-Disaster and Post-Conflict Endeavors***

Environmental concerns, prior to the recent past, were generally considered necessary consequences of a war or conflict, or "associated [these concerns] with long-term 'green' issues such as ecosystems."<sup>94</sup> In 1996, however, the International Court of Justice stated "that the environment is not an abstraction but represents the living space, the quality of life and the very health of human beings, including generations unborn."<sup>95</sup> In the same ruling, the ICJ wrote that environmental concerns are included in the laws of war applying to "necessity and proportionality."<sup>96</sup> Similarly, environmental modification was renounced by major powers prior to their viability on the battlefield, in

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<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>83</sup> UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit*, 2007.

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

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*; UNEP, *Intro to Partnership*, 2004.

<sup>86</sup> Garrett, *The Army and the Environment: Environmental Considerations During Army Operations*, 1996, p. 45.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*, p.42.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*

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

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

<sup>92</sup> UNEP, *UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch*, n.d.

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

<sup>94</sup> Parisetti, *Strengthening the International System for Environmental Response*, 2007.

<sup>95</sup> United Nations, International Court of Justice, *Advisory Opinion of 8 July 1996: Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, 1996.

<sup>96</sup> Dinstein, *Protection of the Environment in International Armed Conflict*, 2001.



the *Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques*, which entered into force in 1978.<sup>97</sup>

This ICJ ruling generalized the more specific finding of the Security Council in 1991, expressed in the post-Gulf War Resolution 687, which found that Iraq would be “liable for ‘any direct loss, damage, including environmental damage, and the depletion of natural resources’ inflicted during the invasion of Kuwait.”<sup>98</sup> The Security Council further declared the universal aspects of environmental damage’s importance in the same resolution, stating that the resolution should be used as “a deterrent for States in order to take environmental factors seriously when engaging in armed conflict.”<sup>99</sup>

However, all of these more recent changes are those of enforcement and public outrage, not necessarily changes in law; ever since the inception of international humanitarian law, there has been a restriction on activities taken in conflict that were not necessary to the weakening of the enemy’s military.<sup>100</sup> The concept of proportionality also indicates that “the only acts of war permitted are those that are proportional to the lawful objective of a military operation and actually necessary to achieve that objective;” hence an action such as Iraq’s oil field destruction and oil spilling, which are considered unnecessary for achieving a lawful military objective, are considered illegal under international law.<sup>101</sup> All of the legal issues raised regarding environmental degradation helped to galvanize international support for dealing with environmental emergencies, especially those in post-conflict settings.<sup>102</sup>

While UNEP had conducted multiple assessments of environmental degradation, the first endeavor falling under the mandate of PCDMB that translated into UNEP-led response in the form of an environmental program was in the Balkans.<sup>103</sup> In the aftermath of the Kosovo Crisis, UNEP entered the region and began a post-conflict environmental assessment, which was soon followed by two supplemental assessments on the impact of the use of depleted uranium in Serbia & Montenegro and Kosovo.<sup>104</sup> The assessment was conducted by the UNEP-created Balkan Task Force with the aid of the governments of both Serbia & Montenegro and Kosovo.<sup>105</sup>

The Serbia & Montenegro program, which will be discussed further in detail, continued with a feasibility study of 27 technical project proposals at four environmental “hot spots,” or locations that needed the most immediate help.<sup>106</sup> After a fundraising, partnership creation and preparation period, 22 of these projects were begun under UNEP auspices; UNEP followed its completion of the project and handover of management to Serbian and Montenegrin administration, as well as transfer of UNEP management from PCDMB to the UNEP Regional Office for Europe (ROE), with a post-program report in 2004.<sup>107</sup> The operations in Kosovo itself were more limited, including (as did the Serbia and Montenegro program) support for sustainable development, environmental management, and environmental awareness in times of both peace and conflict.<sup>108</sup>

Since the three post-Kosovo Crisis assessments (the initial assessment and the two assessments pertaining to depleted uranium) were initially conducted, the framework of assessments, followed by feasibility studies and cleanup work, all of which takes place concurrently with the strengthening of environmental protection infrastructure and institutions, has been considered by UNEP a success and adopted in post-conflict situations by PCDMB.<sup>109</sup> UNEP’s work, along the lines of this “proven model,” had progressed to the assessment phase or beyond by 2004 in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and Liberia.<sup>110</sup>

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<sup>97</sup> United States Department of State, *Environmental Modification Convention*, n.d.

<sup>98</sup> Reyhani, *The Protection of the Environment during Armed Conflict*, n.d.

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>100</sup> Bouvier, *Protection of the environment in time of armed conflict*, 1993.

<sup>101</sup> *Ibid.*, par. 6.

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

<sup>103</sup> UNEP, *From Conflict to Sustainable Development: Assessment and Clean-up in Serbia and Montenegro*, 2004.

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

<sup>105</sup> *Ibid.*

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

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.* p. 1, 11.

<sup>108</sup> UNEP, *UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (Kosovo)*, n.d.

<sup>109</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>110</sup> UNEP, *From Conflict to Sustainable Development: Assessment and Clean-up in Serbia and Montenegro*, 2004.

On 26 December 2004, an earthquake and ensuing tsunami struck in the Indian Ocean.<sup>111</sup> Immediately after the tsunami struck land in Southeast Asia, Australia and Eastern Africa, and during non-environmental emergency response efforts, UNEP assessed the consequences of the tsunami and created recommendations as to how the international community and affected countries should respond.<sup>112</sup> The assessment was not limited to a given country, but designed to lead to responses to all areas affected by the tsunami; consequently, UNEP conducted its assessment in Indonesia, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Seychelles, Yemen and Somalia.<sup>113</sup> After its assessment, UNEP began operations in Indonesia, the Maldives and Sri Lanka to respond to the Tsunami.<sup>114</sup> As of the publication of *After the Tsunami: UNEP's Rapid Environmental Assessment Report* in early 2005, UNEP estimated that the damage totaled over \$10 billion US, and that a quarter of a million people had died from the earthquake and tsunami's direct impact alone.<sup>115</sup>

Following this initial assessment, further assessments and country-specific recommendations were conducted by UNEP in the Seychelles, the Maldives and Sri Lanka.<sup>116</sup> These assessments were conducted by the coordination of individual governments in the assessment process with the UNEP Asian Tsunami Disaster Task Force (ATDTF), created two days after the initial earthquake to coordinate UNEP efforts relating to the tsunami.<sup>117</sup> The ATDTF coordinated UNEP's aid to affected governments as they sought "to assess and respond to the environmental affects of the tsunami."<sup>118</sup> This process is similar to how the Balkan Task Force had coordinated the assessments and responses between multiple affected States and UNEP itself.<sup>119</sup> It is also notable that while the assessment was conducted on both a disaster-wide level and a country-specific level, responses were enacted on a country-specific basis; this became a model used by PCDMB for post-disaster work since the commencement of post-tsunami environmental programs.<sup>120</sup>

Using the Balkans and the tsunami as examples of how to conduct post-conflict and post-disaster environmental responses, UNEP's Post-Disaster work began in its current form in 2004, whereas the Post-Conflict portion began with the post-Balkan work in Bosnia in 1999.<sup>121</sup> PCDMB also has operations that do not easily fit into either a "post-disaster" or "post-conflict" label; recent assessments underway in Nigeria have to do with oil drilling by Shell International in the Ogoniland region dating back to the 1950s.<sup>122</sup> However, this falls under PCDMB because Nigeria requested the assessment "as part of a broader peace and reconciliation process in Ogoniland."<sup>123</sup>

### ***Overview of Operations and Current UNEP Capabilities***

From 1995 to 2006, PCDMB's work has operated in over twenty countries, for an average of nearly two country operations per year.<sup>124</sup> PCDMB's work has accelerated with the growing interest and knowledge of environmental damages after a conflict or disaster, with PCDMB singularly conducting six country operations in 2007 alone.<sup>125</sup> PCDMB's work in Tsunami affected countries continues as well, with three of those six country operations in Tsunami-affected States.<sup>126</sup> UNEP states that PCDMB's work includes "conducting environmental assessments [...] mitigating environmental risk [...] strengthening institutions for environmental governance [...] integrating

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<sup>111</sup> UNEP, *UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (Indonesia)*, n.d.

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

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

<sup>114</sup> UNEP, *UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (Somalia)*, n.d.; UNEP also commenced operations in Somalia, but they were a post-conflict assessment and operation related to the civil strife in Somalia, rather than a post-disaster response

<sup>115</sup> UNEP, *After the Tsunami: Rapid Environmental Assessment*, 2005, p. 10.

<sup>116</sup> UNEP, *UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch*, n.d.

<sup>117</sup> UNEP, *After the Tsunami: Rapid Environmental Assessment*, 2005, p. 10.

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.*

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

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

<sup>121</sup> UNEP, *UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch*, n.d.

<sup>122</sup> UNEP, *UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (Nigeria)*, n.d.

<sup>123</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>124</sup> UNEP, *UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch*, n.d.

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

<sup>126</sup> *Ibid.*

environmental considerations in reconstruction [and] strengthening international and regional environmental cooperation;” some or all of these operational areas are used in each country, depending upon its specific needs.<sup>127</sup>

The Joint Environment Unit defines its function as “mobiliz[ation] and coordinat[ion of] international assistance.”<sup>128</sup> This international assistance is provided for “responding to environmental emergencies” and “helping countries improve their preparedness to respond to environmental emergencies.”<sup>129</sup> The Environmental Emergencies Section (EES) responds in a variety of ways, including notification of other States, assessing impacts of a disaster, opening contacts between donor countries and affected countries, coordination of multilateral projects to help, and financial aid including “OCHA Emergency Cash Grants of up to US \$50,000 to meet immediate emergency response needs.”<sup>130</sup>

The Environmental Emergencies Partnership (EEP), which the Joint Environment Unit acts as a Secretariat for, describes its duties in three major areas:

“Engaging a broader range of stake stakeholders in emergency preparedness, prevention and response, and ensuring more effective means of co-ordination between existing stakeholders. This includes, for example, greater engagement of the private sector, and harmonizing efforts between stakeholders where appropriate [...] Developing and more effectively sharing knowledge related to environmental emergency prevention, preparedness and response. This includes, for example, understanding, sharing and using the ‘lessons learned’ from disasters and emergencies [...] Building capacity, particularly in developing countries. This includes, for example, training and building the capacity to share and use information related to environmental emergencies.”<sup>131</sup>

However, there are significant limitations to current capabilities of all three UNEP-affiliated endeavors. The Joint Environment Unit is understaffed; a paper commissioned by the Joint Environment Unit recommended “increased use of interns” and the transfer of staff rather than simply money, technology or information by States to the Unit.<sup>132</sup> Operations are limited, in part due to this concern; in the short term, rapid response is essential, especially in dire cases.<sup>133</sup> In Serbia and Montenegro, for example, long-term environmental degradation was the secondary reason for recommendation of UNEP action, the primary reason being immediate humanitarian concerns that require immediate action.<sup>134</sup> Consequently, in the long term, “Stronger environmental management is needed to ensure that short-term economic gains are not detrimental to the longer term prospects for environmentally sustainable development.”<sup>135</sup>

### ***Relevance of Environmental Problems***

It is vital to recognize the importance of environmental problems to ensure that they are treated as a priority in a post-conflict or post-disaster setting.<sup>136</sup> Environmental degradations are not conceptual; after the Kosovo Crisis, the Serbia and Montenegro assessment found that “the environmental situation at four ‘hot spot’ locations in Serbia was so severe that urgent clean-up action was recommended on humanitarian grounds.”<sup>137</sup> These problems are significant enough to be of international, rather than State-specific, concern; Serbia was unable to remedy the situation on its own and needed “international assistance [...] for implementing the required measures.”<sup>138</sup>

Degradation of water supplies, both through conflict or disaster, poses another immediate danger and highlights the importance of environmental issues. In 1995, World Bank Vice President Ismail Serageldin stated that “the wars of

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<sup>127</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>128</sup> UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit*, 2007.

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

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

<sup>131</sup> UNEP, *Intro to Partnership*, 2004.

<sup>132</sup> Parisetti, *Strengthening the International System for Environmental Response*, 2007, p. 14-15.

<sup>133</sup> UNEP, *From Conflict to Sustainable Development: Assessment and Clean-up in Serbia and Montenegro*, 2004, p. 12.

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

<sup>135</sup> *Ibid.*, p.10.

<sup>136</sup> United Nations. International Court of Justice, *Advisory Opinion of 8 July 1996: Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, 1996.

<sup>137</sup> UNEP, *From Conflict to Sustainable Development: Assessment and Clean-up in Serbia and Montenegro*, 2004.

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

the next century will be about water.”<sup>139</sup> This is most clearly observed in the Levant area of the Middle East; of the 37 water-driven conflicts of the last 50 years, 30 of them occurred between Israel and one of its neighbors.<sup>140</sup> Water also poses an excellent example of how environmental concerns can provide a pathway to peace, when properly managed; 1228 cooperative events dealing with water over that period vastly outnumber the 507 conflict-related events, even when the definition of a conflict-related event includes verbal communications.<sup>141</sup>

One of the Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian conflicts’ less-obvious causes is water, as well.<sup>142</sup> Twenty-five percent of Israel’s water supplies are dependent upon the Golan Heights; a Syrian effort to divert water from the Sea of Galilee in 1965-66 was one of the causes of the Six-Day War.<sup>143</sup> The implications of Syrian control, should the Golan Heights be returned to Syria, of one quarter of Israel’s water supply make the situation so bleak that “Israel may have to choose between water and peace with Syria.”<sup>144</sup> Israel’s settlements in the West Bank closely mirror the boundaries of a mountain aquifer partially within this territory; in total, that aquifer supplies another quarter of Israel’s water supply.<sup>145</sup> The situation is set to deteriorate further, as water supplies in Syria are threatened by increasing population and their sewage and waste disposal policies, and those in the West Bank are threatened by “unauthorized Palestinian drilling” of wells.<sup>146</sup> It is important to note that one major grievance against Israel leveled by Palestinians in the West Bank is that an Israeli citizen is allegedly allotted three to five times as much water as a Palestinian citizen.<sup>147</sup>

### **Conclusion**

The sentiment of the initial quote regarding limitations on use of force outlines one of the fundamental challenges remaining in reducing and responding to environmental degradations caused by conflict, the perceived self-weakening of a military when it excludes options that may degrade the environment.<sup>148</sup> It is considered in many ways inconceivable to preclude any option that will advance a military cause.<sup>149</sup>

Another issue facing the international community today deals with sovereignty and limitations of law within borders.<sup>150</sup> Those affected by armed conflict within a State’s borders do not have recourse to the same laws, or laws that are as well developed, as those affected by armed conflict between States.<sup>151</sup> The 1949 Geneva Conventions, which relate to laws of war, say nothing regarding civil wars; additional protocols have added to the international law system related to non-international armed conflict, but it is still likely that the victor of a conflict within a State’s borders will not have paid as significant attention to environmental degradations during the conflict, and is even less likely to respond to an environmental emergency occurring in the regional base of the vanquished.<sup>152</sup> The shift in international events away from traditional wars between States to wars within State borders, as well as the tendency of existing environmental degradations from past disasters and conflicts to create conditions suitable for future conflicts, will continue to pose the fundamental challenges faced by UNEP in the future.

Delegates and UNEP Member States, as well as the international community at large, must concern themselves with the questions of how to address each of the specific issues stated: the limitation of law within borders, strains on the capacities of UNEP and related organizations such as the Joint Environment Unit and the Environmental Emergencies Partnership, and the fundamental resistance to self-limit one’s military in pursuit of environmental goals. Additionally, ensuring that environmental degradation does not cause further conflicts or disasters should be of primary concern to delegates.

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<sup>139</sup> Wolf, Kramer, Carius, & Dabelko, *Water Can Be A Pathway To Peace, Not War*, 2006.

<sup>140</sup> *Ibid.*

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

<sup>142</sup> Global Policy Forum, *Water in Conflict*, n.d.

<sup>143</sup> Bard, *Water or War*, 2007, par. 2.

<sup>144</sup> *Ibid.*, par. 3.

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

<sup>146</sup> *Ibid.*, par. 2 &4.

<sup>147</sup> Global Policy Forum, *Water in Conflict*, n.d.

<sup>148</sup> Garrett, *The Army and the Environment: Environmental Considerations During Army Operations*, 1996, p. 45.

<sup>149</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>150</sup> Bouvier, *Protection of the environment in time of armed conflict*, 1993, Part 5.

<sup>151</sup> *Ibid.*

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

### III. Chemical Management

*“We will promote the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes as a priority in national, regional and international policy frameworks, including strategies for sustainable development, development assistance and poverty reduction.”<sup>153</sup>*

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, because of the enormous growth in many industries and technology advancements, the international community has suffered from various chemical hazards.<sup>154</sup> The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been working tirelessly and in cooperation with the international community to improve the poor management of the chemicals in each member state.<sup>155</sup> Chemical Management has become one of the top priorities in the UNEP, because chemicals play a very important role in improving people’s living standards as related to disease eradication as well as safe drinking water.<sup>156</sup> In addition, Chemical Management is very critical for environmental sustainability.<sup>157</sup> Moreover, the Millennium Declaration specifies goals that are similar to the UNEP’s sound management of chemicals, which is to promote environmental sustainability.<sup>158</sup>

The UNEP states that the poor management of chemicals comes mostly from weak policies, in both legal and institutional framework in the international community.<sup>159</sup> The UNEP’s Chemicals Branch focuses mostly on the UNEP’s activities including sound management of hazardous chemicals.<sup>160</sup> The Branch’s main goal is to assist countries in building greater capacity and acquiring access to information on toxic chemicals by implementing the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions.<sup>161</sup> The Branch also works closely with the international community, United Nations bodies, Inter-governmental Organizations (IGOs), and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs).<sup>162</sup>

The UNEP’s Chemical Management Branch promotes the importance of chemical management by listing the following as the three most important and most recent initiatives: the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM), Lead and Cadmium, and Mercury Programme.<sup>163</sup> These initiatives play an important role in improving people’s living standards, which is related to disease eradication and safe drinking water.<sup>164</sup>

#### ***Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM)***

One of the UNEP’s central initiatives in Chemical Management is the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM), which is based on three core texts: the *Dubai Declaration*, the *Overarching Policy Strategy*, and a *Global Plan of Action*.<sup>165</sup> Each of these documents set the foundation of SAICM. First, the *Dubai Declaration* states the promises to SAICM by Ministers of States, representative of civil society, and the private sector.<sup>166</sup> Second, the *Overarching Policy Strategy* lays out the framework of SAICM including its authority, financial and institutional arrangements, knowledge, and information.<sup>167</sup> Finally, *A Global Plan of Action* sets out the plans and activities of SAICM.<sup>168</sup> This important initiative is being implemented in the global community to promote responsible management of hazardous chemicals.<sup>169</sup>

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<sup>153</sup> Implementing the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals, 2006, *Implementing SAICM: the importance of and responsibility for implementing SAICM*, p.24

<sup>154</sup> United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals, 2007, *Chemicals Management*, p 1.

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

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

<sup>157</sup> *Ibid.*

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

<sup>159</sup> Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, *Chemicals Management*, 2006, p.3.

<sup>160</sup> United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals, 2007, *Chemicals Management*, p.1.

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

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

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

<sup>164</sup> *Ibid.*, p.2-3.

<sup>165</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Chemicals: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, SAICM Focal Points*, 2007, p, 2-3.

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

<sup>167</sup> *Ibid.*

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

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

SAICM was adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) on February 6, 2006 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.<sup>170</sup> SAICM is a policy framework for international action on chemical hazards, to ensure that by the year 2020, chemicals will be produced and used in ways that decrease significant harmful impacts on the environment and human health.<sup>171</sup> SAICM sets four different frameworks for Chemical Management, divided by national, regional, non-governmental, and inter-governmental organizations.<sup>172</sup>

Initially, SAICM's central goal at the national level is to help nations that have acceded to SAICM to participate in fluent communication with each other.<sup>173</sup> As of July 2, 2007, there were approximately 136 Member States in SAICM, including countries such as Uganda, Angola, and Venezuela.<sup>174</sup> Second, SAICM lists "regional" participation as an important focus.<sup>175</sup> SAICM stipulates the need for meetings to be held regionally and to communicate how the Strategic Approach is being implemented within the region.<sup>176</sup> As of April 20, 2006, Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Western Europe had each created regional bases in several different countries – Nigeria, Romania, Japan, Argentina, and the United Kingdom, respectively.<sup>177</sup> Third, SAICM's main goal for NGOs is to ensure that the Strategic Approach is implemented through their organizations as they interact with Member States.<sup>178</sup> So far, forty NGOs are working to implement chemical management programs that are set by SAICM.<sup>179</sup> Finally, SAICM's central goal for IGOs is to communicate with SAICM in order to provide feedback and request assistance in SAICM implementation.<sup>180</sup> Nine IGOs were nominated to implement the Strategic Approach including the Organization for Economic and Co-Operation and Development (OECD) and World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>181</sup>

Sweden is a good example of SAICM's national integration within its Member States.<sup>182</sup> Since the First Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), Sweden has been supportive in the development of SAICM and helping other nations implement SAICM's Chemical Management programs.<sup>183</sup> Sweden has donated roughly \$3.7 million to the Quick Start Programme (QSP) trust fund.<sup>184</sup> The QSP was developed to support developing countries that are in transition, by helping to implement Chemical Management programs from developed countries.<sup>185</sup> In June 2007, Sweden facilitated the regional meetings as well, which strengthen the sound management of chemicals in developing countries with economies in transition.<sup>186</sup> Even though there are many important points in SAICM and successful cases such as Sweden, many countries, such as China and Mexico, still cannot implement SAICM's goals on their own.<sup>187</sup>

### ***Lead and Cadmium Case Study***

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<sup>170</sup> *Ibid.*, p.1-2.

<sup>171</sup> *Ibid.*

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

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

<sup>174</sup> Secretariat for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, *SAICM National Focal Points*, 2007, p. 1-22.

<sup>175</sup> United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, *SAICM Focal Points*, 2007, p.1-2.

<sup>176</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>177</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>178</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>179</sup> Secretariat for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, *SAICM NGO Focal Points*, 2007, p.1-7.

<sup>180</sup> United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, *SAICM Focal Points*, 2007, p.1-2.

<sup>181</sup> Secretariat for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, *SAICM Focal Points of Intergovernmental Organizations*, 2007, p.1-2.

<sup>182</sup> Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management, *Newsletter 5, Sweden Support to SAICM Implementation*, 2007, p.3.

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

<sup>184</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>185</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>186</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>187</sup> United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals, 2007, *Chemicals Management*, p 1.

In February of 2007, the UNEP Governing Council mandated the UNEP Chemical Management Branch to take on a number of activities relating to lead and cadmium.<sup>188</sup> Before 2006, the UNEP Chemical Management Branch focused their activities toward developing scientific information on lead and cadmium, specifically “focusing on long-range environmental transport in order to inform any future decisions of the Governing Council on the possible global action that are related to lead and cadmium.”<sup>189</sup> Statements by the UNEP’s Chemical Management Branch at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 concluded that the Programme would focus on leaded gasoline in sub-Saharan Africa and to eliminate leaded petrol world-wide by 2008.<sup>190</sup> The First meeting of the Lead and Cadmium Working Group was held in Geneva in September of 2006.<sup>191</sup> In accordance with the UNEP Chemicals Management, Working Group Member States reflected on previous reports concerning the scientific information on lead and cadmium.<sup>192</sup>

The 2006 *Report of the First Meeting of the Lead and Cadmium Working Group* states the scientific findings of the health affects of both lead and cadmium.<sup>193</sup> According to the report, lead has highly hazardous properties, such as a toxicant, which could cause “neurological, cardiovascular, renal, gastrointestinal, hematological, and reproductive effects.”<sup>194</sup> Lead also can influence the environment, including plants, animals, and micro-organisms.<sup>195</sup> The source of the toxin usually comes from lead-based waste, such as an old paint, dust, and soil.<sup>196</sup> The report also reviews scientific information on cadmium, which is a toxic chemical that affects the kidney and skeleton system of humans, and is usually inhaled.<sup>197</sup> Cadmium is toxic to “plants, animals, and micro-organisms, and it is persistent – it cannot be broken down into less toxic substances in the environment.”<sup>198</sup>

There is a significant difference between developed and developing countries’ goals as to how lead and cadmium will be regulated in the future. An example of one developed country’s lead and cadmium management is Norway.<sup>199</sup> In 2005, the government of Norway set goals to reduce the use of lead and cadmium in certain industries as well as the integration of international agreements into their government’s legislation.<sup>200</sup> On the other hand, many developing countries, such as Morocco, in their *Summary of the Report on Lead and Cadmium*, have taken only a few national measures to decrease the use of lead and cadmium and in only a few industries.<sup>201</sup> The report also states that Morocco needs to develop a constructive strategic plan to implement regulations into their national legislations.<sup>202</sup> By comparing the reports from developed and developing countries, it shows that there is a dramatic difference in environmental sustainability between developing and developed countries.<sup>203</sup>

### ***Mercury Programme Case Study***

In 2006, the UNEP’s Mercury Programme was established in order to raise the awareness of mercury pollution problems through regional workshops.<sup>204</sup> Additionally, the Mercury Programme helps Member States to identify, understand, and implement actions to lessen mercury threats within their borders.<sup>205</sup> According to the *Global Mercury Assessment*, the toxicity of mercury and its effects can differ due to its form.<sup>206</sup> However, whether it has

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<sup>188</sup> United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals, *Lead and Cadmium Activities*, 2007, p.1.

<sup>189</sup> *Ibid.*

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

<sup>191</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>192</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>193</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, *Report of the First Meeting of the Lead and Cadmium Working Group*, 2006, p.6.

<sup>194</sup> *Ibid.*

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

<sup>196</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>197</sup> *Ibid.*, p.13.

<sup>198</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>199</sup> Vike, *National Priority Substances Whose Emissions are to be Substantially Reduced, at the Latest by 2010*, 2005, p.5-6.

<sup>200</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>201</sup> Ministry of Health of Morocco. *Summary of the Report on Lead and Cadmium*, 2005, p.11-12.

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

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

<sup>204</sup> United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals, *Mercury Programme*, 2007, p.1,

<sup>205</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>206</sup> United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals, *Global Mercury Assessment*, 2002, p.35.



one chemical form or another, it influences both human health and the environment greatly.<sup>207</sup> Some methods by which mercury travels into the human body have been previously cited as: consuming fish, using skin-lightening creams, and soaps that contains mercury.<sup>208</sup> The *Assessment* also notes that mercury known to risk people's health is usually transported in water that was contaminated by mercury from mines.<sup>209</sup> It further states that this mercury, known as methyl mercury, is absorbed and accumulates easier than any other form of mercury in the food chain, which is likely to be included in fish or other sea mammals.<sup>210</sup>

The *Global Mercury Assessment* report was introduced to the Governing Council for deliberation at its 22<sup>nd</sup> session in February 2003.<sup>211</sup> Based on the assessments in the report, the Governing Council decided that the report included enough evidence to show that mercury is harmful to human health and environment.<sup>212</sup> Moreover, the Council concluded that the international community should take action in national, regional, and global capacities to alleviate both short and long-term affects.<sup>213</sup> The Governing Council further requested UNEP to "initiate technical assistance and capacity building activities to support the efforts of countries to take action regarding mercury pollution."<sup>214</sup> In reaction to the Governing Council, UNEP has initiated and implemented a mercury program in the international community.<sup>215</sup> In February 2007, UNEP's Governing Council held its 24<sup>th</sup> Session on the environment, which discussed the risk, toxicity, and the impact of mercury on human beings and the environment.<sup>216</sup>

### **Conclusion**

The growth of technology and industry has made Chemical Management one of the most important topics in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.<sup>217</sup> Countries like India and China, where many major industries are moving their factories, are particularly suffering from the burden of the produced chemicals.<sup>218</sup> Chemicals can spread in many ways, including water, air, and food, and can drastically affects people's health and their environment.<sup>219</sup> Moreover, chemicals not only damage the first generation affected by poor chemical management, but also future generations.<sup>220</sup>

To ensure people's health and their living environment, UNEP believes that Member States that have not implemented SAICM would be well served to implement its proposals through their national government, NGOs, or IGOs before their country's environment is at stake.<sup>221</sup> In addition, UNEP would like to see Member States conduct scientific research on lead, cadmium, mercury, and other chemicals to make sure to develop solutions to problems that is occurring or might occur in the future.<sup>222</sup> Finally, chemical management programs are expensive, so experience has shown that when Member States, especially developed countries, share resources and best practices with developing countries, their ability to improving the sound management of the chemicals rises, ensuring not only their safety, but also international safety.<sup>223</sup>

As you approach the topic, you should thoroughly examine your State's position towards and record on Chemical Management. Is your State part of the SAICM and how is your State implementing the SAICM goals in sound management of chemicals? What are some initiatives or goals that your State has in order to improve the Chemical

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<sup>207</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>208</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>209</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>210</sup> *Ibid.*, p.50.

<sup>211</sup> United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals, *Mercury Programme*, 2007, p.1-2.

<sup>212</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>213</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>214</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>215</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>216</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>217</sup> United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals, 2007, *Chemicals Management*, p 1.

<sup>218</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>219</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>220</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>221</sup> United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, *SAICM Focal Points*, 2007, p, 2-3.

<sup>222</sup> United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals, *Lead and Cadmium Activities*, 2007, p.1.

<sup>223</sup> United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals, 2007, *Chemicals Management*, p 1.

Management? Has your country been reviewed in *Report of the First Meeting of the Lead and Cadmium Working Group* and how are the results addressed? If your State has not been reviewed in the Report, does your State have separate research on lead and cadmium and what are your State's goals? As you look into different initiatives that were presented by developed and developing countries it is important to compare the data and goals towards better sound management of chemicals.

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*Environment for Development is a brief report published by the UNEP on its mission, mandate, main activities and some of the measures taken under each of its main fields of work. This guide is an excellent summary of the work of UNEP which will assist delegates in getting a first grasp of the Programme or to refresh their memory about key points.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *VISC: Assessment of the Extended Pilot Phase*. Retrieved August 30, 2007, from <http://unep.org/GC/GC24/download.asp?ID=131>

*An important amount of contributions was generated thanks to the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC). The VISC was first introduced in Cartagena in order to extend the base of contributions and help realize some of the activities of the UNEP*

## ***I. Protecting Water Resources in a Changing World***

American Chemical Society. (1999). UNEP Helmsman Töpfer Addresses Environmental Challenges. *American Chemical Society. Publications Division*, 33(1), 18-23. Retrieved July 2, 2007, from

<http://pubs.acs.org/hotartcl/est/99/jan/interview.html>

*Mr. Töpfer, a previous Director General of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), offers suggestions as to the challenges facing the UNEP in the 21st century. While being somewhat outdated, his speech is a tool to allow the marking of progress in the areas that he defined as challenges. Likewise, it can be used to help define problem areas that either have not been addressed or have not been dealt with sufficiently. The article also makes an excellent counterpoint to the speech by the current Director General Achim Steiner, providing a basis for the comparison of past and future UNEP activities.*

Ki-Moon, B. (2007, July 31). *Climate Change as a Global Challenge*. Address Presented at United Nations Headquarters, New York City, United States.

*The address of new United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to the General Assembly thematic debate on Climate Change as a Global Challenge highlights the issues relating to the problem that he feels will define our era and even our global legacy. He discusses both abstract concepts, such as increasing political awareness and cooperation, and specific actions such as the forming of commissions, instructional workshops, and the “Greening the United Nations” initiative. The address can be found at <http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/13725/print>*

Sovereignty International, Inc. (n.d.) *Agenda 21*. Retrieved July 8, 2007, from <http://www.sovereignty.net/p/sd/a21/>  
*Sovereignty International offers a storehouse of information related to United Nations (UN) policies, American politics and many other issues. Please be aware of biases of some of the sources however. In this webpage, there is Agenda 21 with all its 40 different reports.*

Steiner, A. (2007, July 4). *Speech by Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director to the 6th International Convention on Environment and Development*. Speech Presented at the International Convention on Environment and Development, Havana, Cuba.

*This recent speech highlights challenges that impede environmentally-sound economic development, in an effort to manage the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the 21st century. United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director Steiner discusses previous environmental thought, and what must be changed to meet today's local, regional, and global environmental issues. This speech is key in understanding the direction of the UNEP in the near future, as it provides insight into the issues Director Steiner feels are most important. The speech can be found at [http://www.unep.org/PDF/steiner\\_cuba.pdf](http://www.unep.org/PDF/steiner_cuba.pdf)*

The World Commission on Environment and Development. (1987). *Our Common Future*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

*A classic in this field, Our Common Future makes an excellent reference guide as to how far we've come in meeting environmental challenges. It shows what problems were important 20 years ago, and allows comparison for what is important now, thereby illustrating our shortcomings in environmental issues. It specifically addresses climate change issues and offers suggestions for policy and legal framework.*

United Nations. (1993). *The Global Partnership for Environment and Development: A Guide to Agenda 21 (Post Rio Edition ed.)*. Author. (Original work published 1992)

*This book discusses the Rio Declaration on the Environment, as well as Agenda 21. Covering topics from efficient resource use to the participation and responsibilities of citizens, this book is an excellent place to begin thinking about the past, present, and future of the UNEP and its programmes.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (2005). *Vital Climate Change Graphics*. Retrieved July 30, 2007, from United Nations Environment Programme Web site:

[http://www.vitalgraphics.net/documents/clmate\\_change\\_update.v15.pdf](http://www.vitalgraphics.net/documents/clmate_change_update.v15.pdf)

*Created by the GRID subdivision of the UNEP, “Vital Climate Change Graphics” discusses climate change and its related myths. Scientific information on the carbon cycle, greenhouse gases, and temperature changes allows for a comprehensive overview of climate change, before discussing current trends and challenges. This is followed up with a discussion of potential solutions to be undertaken by the global community.*

- United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Climate Change*. Retrieved July 30, 2007, from United Nations Environment Programme Web site: [http://www.unep.org/themes/climatechange/Focus\\_area/index.asp](http://www.unep.org/themes/climatechange/Focus_area/index.asp)  
*One of the "focal areas" of the UNEP, "Climate Change" discusses a Training Workshop on Climate Change issues, that took place in 2004. In addition to discussing the goals of the goal workshop and the targets thereof, the information is placed into a broader policy context. After the list of the four main objectives of the workshop, this site provides many links to the presentations and information provided at the workshop as well as outside links.*
- United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Freshwater*. Retrieved July 2, 2007, from United Nations Environment Programme Web site: [http://unep.org/themes/Freshwater/Programmes\\_And\\_Activities/index.asp](http://unep.org/themes/Freshwater/Programmes_And_Activities/index.asp)  
*A key tool for provoking thought and accessing information, the "Freshwater" site offers a list of Programmes and Activities underway with the UNEP. The main page offers brief overviews of each activity, with more detail available on the sub-pages. The links to the Rainwater Harvesting and Water & Sanitation links will be especially useful for delegates, as it includes information on these programs from technical information to documents and policies relating to these topics.*
- United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Global Environment Monitoring System*. Retrieved July 2, 2007, from *Global Environment Monitoring System Web site*: <http://www.gemswater.org/>  
*The Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) offers a look at overall world water quality, in terms of accessibility, quantity, and quality. It contains recent reports, such as the Annual Report, and the Water Quality Outlook Report. Additionally, it contains links to news releases, brochures, and a section aimed at youth. Further information includes partners included in the project; something to consider when examining the scope of global water issues.*
- United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Rainwater Partnership*. (n.d.). Retrieved July 2, 2007, from United Nations Environment Programme Web site: <http://www.unep.org/depi/rainwater/>  
*The homepage for the Rainwater Partnership Program, this website has numerous valuable sub-pages. The homepage itself is also highly useful, with the mission statement and brochure of the program. Additionally, it contains information on World Water Week, links to the water-related Millennium Development Goals, and the Right to Water. Further links will take you the World Water Council and information on the International Decade for Action called "Water for life" 2005 - 2015.*
- United Nations Environment Project. (n.d.). *What is the Rainwater Partnership*. Retrieved July 2, 2007, from United Nations Environment Programme Web site: <http://www.unep.org/depi/rainwater/RainwaterPartnership/>  
*These pages contain most of the relevant information about the Rainwater Partnership. From technical information about the project to specific case studies, this website is highly comprehensive. Further, it contains a draft report on the project that discusses successes to date. Finally, there are links to policy papers that govern sustainable water management, making it a valuable resource for finding documentation on this sort of initiative.*
- United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Rainwater Partnership. Maps*. Retrieved July 2, 2007, from United Nations Environment Programme Web site: <http://www.unep.org/depi/rainwater/Maps/>  
*The maps page of the Rainwater Partnership contains information on geographical information systems (GIS) and many of the project's more technical details. Links are provided to the maps of specific Rainwater Partnership locations, namely in Africa. The maps vary from land use to population, and protected areas to rainfall. While being highly technical, it allows for a visual understanding of water issues in Africa.*
- United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Rainwater Harvesting: A Viable Option for Kenya*. Retrieved July 30, 2007, from United Nations Environment Programme Web site: <http://www.unep.org/GC/GCSS-VIII/Kenya%20-%20Sanitation.doc>  
*"A Viable Option for Kenya" from the UNEP Web site, is a discussion of how rainwater harvesting techniques can be beneficial to the African country of Kenya. It discusses partners,*



*policies, and the issues ranging from environmental to economic and social. The inclusion of other rainwater programs allows for comparisons to be made, but perhaps more useful is the lessons to be learned through the development, promotion, and implementation of rainwater harvesting techniques.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP)*. Retrieved July 21, 2007, from United Nations Environment Programme Web site:

<http://unep.org/themes/Freshwater/Regions/index.asp?case=roap>

*Pertinent facts of the Asia Pacific region and the problems arising thereof are covered within these pages. It discusses activities that have taken place in recent years, and tracks the workshops and actions that are currently taking place or set to occur soon. This is a valuable resource for both generalized and specific information on freshwater in this particular region.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)*. Retrieved July 21, 2007, from United Nations Environment Programme Web site:

<http://unep.org/themes/Freshwater/Regions/index.asp?case=rolac>

*Covering the regional information for Latin America and the Caribbean, this is another branch of the UNEP freshwater site. The focus of this page is on the generalized water resource activities supported and encouraged by the UNEP, for that region. Additionally, the site discusses who the UNEP's regional partners are and future needs to ensure regional water stability.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA)*. Retrieved July 21, 2007, from United Nations Environment Programme Web site:

<http://unep.org/themes/Freshwater/Regions/index.asp?case=rowa>

*West Asia's regional office website extensively covers the background of water and related issues in the regional, as well as ongoing meetings, projects, and collaboration on water issues. It offers a multitude of facts on the issues, the actions, conferences, workshops, and meetings held in the region. Much of this information is highly specific as to topics of discussion, making it an excellent place to begin research on all things relating to West Asian water issues.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Vital Water Graphics Report*. Retrieved July 2, 2007, from United Nations Environmental Programme Web site:

<http://www.unep.org/dewa/assessments/ecosystems/water/vitalwater/>

*Published 10 years after the Rio Summit of 1992, Vital Water Graphics focuses on the critical issues of water quantity, quality, and availability. It contains many maps, graphs, and charts, all relating to water issues around the globe. Specifically, it contains information on freshwater availability, problem areas, and regional water quantity distributions. Within this document, chapters 17 and 18 of Agenda 21 are discussed, which address coastal and marine waters and freshwater, respectively.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Who We Are. UNEP Rainwater Partnership*. Retrieved July 2, 2007, from United Nations Environment Programme Web site:

<http://www.unep.org/depi/rainwater/WhoWeAre/>

*Part of the Rainwater Partnership website, the Who We Are section describes part of the rainwater harvesting ideals and the objectives the program wishes to achieve. It contains details about the formation of the Partnership, and the main initiatives of the project. Written in from the perspectives of the planners, the site contains the urgings and recommendations related to the project, including directives to governments, policy-makers, and financial institutions.*

United Nations Environment Program. Governing Council. (2006, November). *Updated Water Policy and Strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme: Progress Report on the Implementation of Decision 23/2*. Retrieved July 30, 2007, from United Nations Environment Programme Web site:

[http://www.unep.org/civil\\_society/GCSF8/pdfs/water-gc-24-4-english.pdf](http://www.unep.org/civil_society/GCSF8/pdfs/water-gc-24-4-english.pdf)

*From the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Nairobi, the report of the Executive Director discusses the implementation of a specific water policy created by the United Nations Environment Program. As such, it is an excellent example of*

*technical writing along United Nations guidelines, as well as informative as to the results of a policy goal, rather than simply the goal itself, making it something a valuable tool for those writing resolutions and/or policies.*

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (n.d.). *World Water Assessment Programme*. Retrieved July 30, 2007, from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Web site: <http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/partners/index.shtml>

*The World Water Assessment Program (WWAP), while being located on a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) page, is a UN-wide programme. This site discusses the WWAP's initiatives, practices, and policies, and the overall goal of improving both the quality and quantity of global freshwater resources. The site is designed to help navigate through the various UN agency pages that work on this program, making it a valuable starting point for research. Finally, it contains summaries of the main water-related activities of each UN-partner agency and the challenges which the WWAP must address.*

## **II. Post-Disaster and Post-Conflict Environmental Programs**

*African Union Mission in the Sudan*. (2007). Retrieved July 1, 2007, from African Union Web site: <http://www.amis-sudan.org/>

*The African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) has brought African Union peacekeepers to the conflict areas in Sudan to promote stability and monitor the ceasefire between North and South Sudan. It has since been modified to react to the reality of further conflict in the West of Sudan, in Darfur. Delegates will find the information on the conflicts and inter-African responses to the conflicts in Sudan useful.*

Bard, M. (2007, August 1). *Water or War*. Retrieved September 7, 2007, from Global Policy Forum Web site: <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/natres/water/2007/0801orwar.htm>

*Water has had considerable impact on the Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian conflicts. This article notes two primary sources of Israel's water that are partially or fully contained in Syrian or Palestinian land. In both cases, Israel has occupied the land. Noting that Israel may have to choose between water and peace, it points out the challenges both sides, and the international community concerned with peace, face when attempting to secure both Israeli water security and Syrian and Palestinian territorial integrity, as well as Palestinian water rights and human rights.*

Bouvier, A. (1993, November 17). *Protection of the environment in time of armed conflict*. Retrieved October 2, 2007, from International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Web site: [http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/8DA60E8AB11FACE0C1256C22003B8520?OpenDocument&Style=Custo\\_Final.3&View=defaultBody2](http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/8DA60E8AB11FACE0C1256C22003B8520?OpenDocument&Style=Custo_Final.3&View=defaultBody2)

*This source references international law related to protection of the environment during conflicts between States. It also is one of the few sources available that concentrates a section upon conflicts within a State's borders. Delegates will find this most useful for an introduction into the distinctions within international law related to conflicts within a State and between multiple States, and environmental damages caused by each.*

Dinstein, Y. (2001). *Protection of the Environment in International Armed Conflict*. Retrieved October 8, 2007, from [http://www.mpil.de/shared/data/pdf/pdfmpunyb/dinstein\\_5.pdf](http://www.mpil.de/shared/data/pdf/pdfmpunyb/dinstein_5.pdf)

*This paper outlines a legal argument under the laws of war against environmental degradation. It notes that there are rules preventing military actions that do not fall within what is necessary and what is proportional to accomplish a legitimate objective. Notably, this paper deals with "international" armed conflict, and does not refer strongly to the potential for armed conflict within the borders of a singular State. Delegates will find this useful to determine which environment-affecting actions are legal and which are not under international law.*

*Environmental Modification Convention*. (n.d.). Retrieved October 2, 2007, from United States Department of State Web site: <http://www.state.gov/t/ac/trt/4783.htm>



*This document outlines the United States' involvement in the Convention against Environmental Degradation, as well as the Convention text itself. Delegates will find it most useful for finding an earlier example of international agreements banning deliberate environmental modification, for military or other hostile purposes. It will also be useful as a reference for the specific text of the Convention.*

Garrett, J. G. (1996). The Army and the Environment: Environmental Considerations During Army Operations. In R. J. Grunawalt, J. E. King, & R. S. McClain (Eds.), *International Law Studies 1996: Protection of the Environment During Armed Conflict* (Vol. 69, pp. 42-56). Newport, Rhode Island: Naval War College. *This volume contains a series of papers presented at an International Law Studies symposium hosted by the Naval War College. The particular paper is written from the perspective of a Brigadier General in the United States Military on prevention during, rather than after, armed conflict. Delegates will find this most useful for determining the military considerations (or lack thereof) taken during and before operations to avoid a multitude of environmental problems faced after conflicts prior to environmental degradation.*

Global Policy Forum. (n.d.). *Water in Conflict*. Retrieved October 4, 2007, from Global Policy Forum Web site: <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/natres/waterindex.htm>  
*The Global Policy Forum focuses on a variety of national security related issues. This web site is a listing of papers written for the Global Policy Forum related to Water's effects on conflict. It contains a chronological listing of papers ranging from specific water conflicts in specific countries to more generalized analysis of how water scarcity, lack of water quality, and perceptions of both lead to conflict.*

International Court of Justice. (1996, July 8). Advisory Opinion of 8 July 1996. In *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*. Retrieved October 5, 2007, from International Court of Justice Web site: <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/95/7495.pdf>  
*One of the first known recognitions within international jurisprudence of the threat against the environment as a reason to prevent certain actions, this source is the advisory opinion of the ICJ related to the threat or use of nuclear weapons. Delegates will find this most useful in pursuing legal arguments against environmental degradation during conflict.*

Pariseti, P. C. (2007, June 13). *Strengthening the International System for Environmental Response*. Retrieved October 1, 2007, from <http://www.gignos.ch/rep/AGEE.pdf>  
*The Joint Environmental Unit commissioned this paper in preparation for the 2007 meeting of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE). It asks and attempts to answer the questions of how international response to environmental emergencies can be improved, and how the United Nations system can be further involved in it. Delegates will find this most useful for seeking a method to improve the UNEP response capabilities, as recommended by the author.*

Reyhani, R. (n.d.). *The Protection of the Environment during Armed Conflict*. Retrieved October 4, 2007, from [http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=roman\\_reyhani](http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=roman_reyhani)  
*A number of international agreements and laws govern protection of the environment, and this outlines them. It also outlines enforcement and monitoring provisions and mechanisms currently in existence. Delegates will find this source most useful for its references to specific instances where international law was used in regards to environmental degradations, such as its citing of UNSC Resolution 687, which condemned Iraq for environmental issues related to their invasion and occupation of Kuwait.*

SUDAN: Environmental issues affecting relief efforts in Darfur. (2004, November 15). *IRIN News*. Retrieved July 3, 2007, from IRIN News Web site: <http://www.irinnews.org/reporttest.aspx?reportid=52051>  
*This article notes the UN's report on the Sudanese environmental situation with particular regard to Darfur. It covers issues faced by internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees relating to the environment, such as poor water quality in the camps and waste management, and their impact on disease and poor health among IDPs and refugees. It also notes that foreign aid at the time was only meeting the needs of 40-54% of IDPs.*

- Sudan Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment*. (2007, June). Retrieved July 3, 2007, from United Nations Environmental Programme Web site: [http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/UNEP\\_Sudan.pdf](http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/UNEP_Sudan.pdf)  
*UNEP created, through fieldwork in 2006, an environmental assessment of the Sudan by June 2007. It covers natural disasters, conflicts, social issues, water, flora and fauna, and other issues, as well as their impact upon the environment. This document also has a section on the international aid given to Sudan and how this affects the Sudanese environmental situation.*
- UNEP. (2004). *From Conflict to Sustainable Development: Assessment and Clean-up in Serbia and Montenegro*. Nairobi, Kenya: United Nations Environmental Programme. Retrieved August 2, 2007, from United Nations Environmental Programme Web site: <http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/sam.pdf>  
*This publication outlines UNEP's post-conflict work in Serbia and Montenegro. It is a follow-up report to the initial post-Kosovo Conflict report of 1999, concentrating specifically on the Serbia and Montenegro region and the work of UNEP's PCDMB in the Balkans. Delegates will find this useful for background information on one of the first major post-conflict UNEP initiatives and the framework used by PCDMB to accomplish its goals.*
- United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). (2005). *After the Tsunami: Rapid Environmental Assessment*. United Nations Environmental Programme. Retrieved July 29, 2007, from UNEP Asian Tsunami Disaster Task Force Web site: [http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/dmb\\_tsunami.pdf](http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/dmb_tsunami.pdf)  
*The report covers post-disaster environmental conditions in the areas around the Indian Ocean affected by the tsunami of late 2004. The report covers damages and recommendations in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Thailand, Seychelles, Yemen, and Somalia. Delegates will find this report useful in a general sense for determining overall shared traits of areas affected by the tsunami.*
- UNEP Environmental Assessment of the Areas Disengaged by Israel in the Gaza Strip*. (2006, March). Retrieved July 4, 2007, from United Nations Environmental Programme Web site: [http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/UNEP\\_Gaza\\_web.pdf](http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/UNEP_Gaza_web.pdf)  
*UNEP created an environmental assessment of the areas disengaged by Israel in Gaza in March 2006. In addition to giving context on the issue and recent history of the land, it assesses the area on a site-by-site basis rather than issue-by-issue, showing the similarities of various areas in Gaza in terms of specific environmental degradations faced. The documents also analyzes responses, noting which pertained directly to Israeli disengagement and which did not.*
- UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch*. (n.d.). Retrieved July 6, 2007, from United Nations Environmental Programme Web site: <http://postconflict.unep.ch/index.php>  
*UNEP maintains a website for its specific responses to post-disaster and post-conflict environmental problems. This site lists overall capabilities and strategies, as well as citing specific responses and linking to country-specific assessments. Delegates will find this information useful when researching UNEP's capabilities regarding responses to environmental issues occurring after a disaster or conflict.*
- UNEP (2004, August 10). Intro to Partnership. In *Environmental Emergencies Partnership*. Retrieved July 29, 2007, from <http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/eep/introtopartnership.htm>  
*One of the three major goals of the Joint Environment Unit, the partnership between OCHA and UNEP, is the coordination of the Environmental Emergencies Partnership. This source outlines the Environmental Emergencies Partnership and what its basic goals are. Delegates will find this useful in determining the goals of the EEP and its relation to the Joint Environment Unit.*
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2007, August 2). *Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit*. Retrieved July 7, 2007, from UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Web site: <http://ochaonline.un.org/AboutOCHA/Organigramme/EmergencyServicesBranchESB/EnvironmentalEmergenciesSectionEES/tabid/1276/Default.aspx>  
*This source explains the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, or Joint Environment Unit, which is a project the two organizations use to coordinate environmental responses. It briefly describes*

*the three primary functions of the Joint Environment Unit, and then the mechanisms for the accomplishment of the primary functions. Delegates will find this most useful for the information it contains on how humanitarian needs are incorporated into environmental responses.*

Wolf, A. T., Kramer, A., Carius, A., & Dabelko, G. D. (2006, July). *Water Can Be A Pathway To Peace, Not War*. Retrieved October 5, 2007, from Wilson Center Web site: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/NavigatingPeaceIssue1.pdf>

*This source is a paper on water's ties to conflict, and to the eradication of conflict. Unlike many analyses of the linkages between water scarcity and conflict, this paper focuses on the collaborative projects between States related to water, and how States that collaborate on water issues conflict less, and less seriously when they do. Delegates will find this most useful to find what the international community is pursuing, rather than its current challenges.*

WSSD (Ed.). (2004, January 4). *WSSD Environmental Emergencies Partnership: Partnership Overview*. Retrieved August 1, 2007, from Environmental Emergencies Partnership Web site: <http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/eep/docs/WSSD%20EEP%20concept5.pdf>

*This source outlines the Environmental Emergencies Partnership. The brochure contains an overview of what the partnership does, including information sharing, coordinated responses, and early warning and detection mechanisms. Delegates will find this source most useful as additional information on the partnership which showcases one method UNEP uses to respond to post-disaster environmental problems.*

#### ***Additional Sources***

Earthquake Report: An Assessment of Environmental Risks and Needs. (2004). *IUCN Pakistan*. Retrieved October 3, 2007, from World Conservation Union Web site: <http://www.iucn.org/places/pakistan/ne45.htm>

*Conducted by the World Conservation Union, this is a report focusing on the environmental impacts, damages and recommendations for responses after the Pakistani earthquake disaster. It focuses on damages within Pakistan and neighboring countries to the environment such as water pollution, fish farms, and infrastructure damage; it also concentrates on the massive amount of debris requiring cleanup.*

*Engineering and Organizational Issues Before, During And After Hurricane Katrina*. (2006). Retrieved October 8, 2007, from University of Buffalo Web site: <http://mceer.buffalo.edu/publications/Katrina/default.asp>

*This source is specifically concentrated on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina on the American Gulf Coast. It is a series of documents assessing the impacts of the hurricane, including a report on Health and Environmental Issues. Delegates will find this most useful for looking at a specific national response to a disaster, and the relationship between health and environmental issues after either a disaster or conflict.*

*The Kosovo Conflict: Consequences for the Environment and Human Settlements*. (1999). Retrieved October 4, 2007, from United Nations Environment Programme Web site: <http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/finalreport.pdf>

*This document is the final report of the first UNEP Environmental Assessment, in Kosovo. Taken after the Kosovo Conflict had mostly subsided in 1999, this document assesses the overall impact of the Kosovo Conflict in the Balkans rather than focusing on specific areas such as Serbia & Montenegro. Delegates will find this useful to look at an assessment less focused on national borders and response on a national scale and more focused on the conflict's borders, and overall response.*

*Reporting in a Post-Conflict Environment*. (1996, September). Retrieved October 1, 2007, from Project on Ethnic Relations Web site: [http://www.per-usa.org/rep\\_post.htm](http://www.per-usa.org/rep_post.htm)

*This document is both an abstract on the issues journalists face when covering post-conflict situations and a summary of a discussion held in 1996 between Bosnian and Croat journalists. The former portion is used more than the latter for this topic. While it does not directly deal with*

*environmental issues, delegates will find this source useful for the indirect benefit of understanding the limitations on information coming from post-conflict settings.*

UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch: About. (n.d.). Retrieved October 7, 2007, from United Nations Environmental Programme Web site: <http://postconflict.unep.ch/index.php>  
*UNEP maintains a website that includes information on the thematic area of environmental responses to conflicts and disasters. This source gives information on the whole of PCDMB's activities, and an overview as to how the branch is structured. Delegates will find this most useful for information on how PCDMB functions.*

## **II. Chemical Management**

Basel Convention. (2007). *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal*. Retrieved July 30, 2007 from the Web site: <http://www.basel.int/>  
*The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal is the most comprehensive global environmental agreement on hazardous waste and its disposal. The Basel Convention came into the force in 1992. The website contains documents and information based on Parties to the Basel Convention. There is also a special section for the general public explaining issues involving hazardous waste.*

Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme. (2006). *Twentieth-Fourth session of the Governing Council: Chemicals Management*. Retrieved July 30, 2007, from [http://unep.org/civil\\_society/GCSF8/pdfs/chemicals-gc-24-7-english.pdf](http://unep.org/civil_society/GCSF8/pdfs/chemicals-gc-24-7-english.pdf)  
*This document provides background information on supporting the Governing Council's deliberations, which are divided into four different parts: cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations; the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management; lead and cadmium; and the mercury programme.*

Rotterdam Convention. (2007) Retrieved on July 30, 2007 from the Web site: <http://www.pic.int/>  
*The Rotterdam Convention is one of the conventions that helped to establish the fundamental goals for SAICM. This Convention was adopted on September 10, 1998, and entered into force on February 24, 2004. This website contains the overview, provisions, PIC procedures and regulations, and chemical managements. Delegates should consider browsing this website carefully in order to comprehend SAICM along with other documents that are listed in the background guide.*

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. (2007). Retrieved on July 30, 2007 from the Web site: <http://www.pops.int/>  
*The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty to protect human health and environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). This Convention also has a significant effect on SAICM and its development, and establishing goals for other chemical management programs. The website gives delegates an in-depth information on Stockholm Convention and its' implementations, evaluations, reports, and related information. Delegates should consider exploring this website along with other important documents that were implemented to create SAICM goals.*

The Center for International Environment Law. (2007) *Chemicals Publications*. Retrieved on July 30, 2007 from the Web site: <http://www.ciel.org/Publications/pubpops.html>  
*This Center for International Environment Law web site contains several different documents, presentations, and publications that can be easily accessed for further reading. Most of the articles and publications are related to environmental law and chemical management, but it also contains some valuable information that delegates can obtain to expand their further knowledge on the environment.*



The International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS). (2007). *International Programme on Chemical Safety*. Retrieved July 30, 2007 from the Web site: <http://www.who.int/ipcs/en/>  
*The International Programme on Chemical Safety (ICPS) was established in 1980 and is a joint programme of ILO, UNEP, and WHO. Through coordination, these three organizations can better implement activities related to chemical safety. The World Health Organization is the Executive Agency of the IPCS and its main roles are to establish the scientific basis for safe use of chemicals, and to strengthen national capabilities and capacities for chemical safety.*

United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals. (2002) *Global Mercury Assessment*. Retrieved June 30, 2007, from <http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/Report/Final%20report/final-assessment-report-25nov02.pdf>  
*The Global Mercury Assessment was published in 2002 in Geneva by the UNEP Chemicals Management Branch, which explains mercury in detail. In particular, this includes mercury's chemistry, toxicity, its exposures and risk evaluations for humans and environment, and its' natural source in human ecology. This website is very helpful for delegates in terms of understanding Mercury in depth.*

United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals. (2007). *Guidance, training materials, and toolkits relevant to mercury*. Retrieved on July 30, 2007 from the Web site:  
<http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/Guidance-training-materials.htm>  
*Testing for mercury is a difficult task, so this website contains information about how Member States should do so. It is very important to refer to this web site in order to understand the level of mercury program implementation in each delegate's country.*

United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals. (2007) *Mercury Programme*. Retrieved June 30, 2007, from United Nations Programme Chemicals Web site:  
<http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/>  
*The Mercury Programme website explains the Mercury Programme in UNEP in detail through links to several publications, including reports from Governing Council meetings. The other links on the website briefly explain the work of Mercury Programme and its progress. Delegates will find these reports and summaries to be helpful in their topic research.*

United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals. (2007) *Lead and Cadmium Activities*. Retrieved June 30, 2007, from United Nations Programme Chemicals Web site:  
[http://www.chem.unep.ch/Pb\\_and\\_Cd/Default.htm](http://www.chem.unep.ch/Pb_and_Cd/Default.htm)  
*The Lead and Cadmium Activities web site briefly explains the overview of Lead and Cadmium Activities, which were initiated by UNEP and its Working Groups. It includes several different press releases, Activities' mandates, its progress, and the latest reviews of scientific information on lead and cadmium. This source will brief the delegates with information about latest activity on lead and cadmium and the reports from the Governing Councils meetings.*

United Nations Environment Programme: Lead and Cadmium Working Group, First Meeting. (2006, September 18-22). *Report of the First Meeting of the Lead and Cadmium Working Group*. Retrieved June 30, 2007, from [http://www.chem.unep.ch/Pb\\_and\\_Cd/WG/Docs/K0653416%20-%20Lead%20Cadmium%20Report.pdf](http://www.chem.unep.ch/Pb_and_Cd/WG/Docs/K0653416%20-%20Lead%20Cadmium%20Report.pdf)  
*This Report was the result of the First Meeting of the Lead and Cadmium Working Group at Geneva in September 18-22, 2006. It includes the purpose of the meeting, summary and particularly the scientific result of lead and cadmium on human health and environment. Delegates should refer to this document in order to find scientific results and explanations on both chemicals.*

United Nations Environment Programs Chemicals. (2007). *Lead and Cadmium Activities: First meeting of the Lead and Cadmium Working Group Meeting Documents*. Retrieved on July 30, 2007 from the Web site:  
[http://www.chem.unep.ch/Pb\\_and\\_Cd/WG/WG-meeting-documents.htm](http://www.chem.unep.ch/Pb_and_Cd/WG/WG-meeting-documents.htm)  
*The First meeting of the Lead and Cadmium Working Group Meeting Documents web site contains several documents related to the First meeting of the Lead and Cadmium Working Group, such as provisional agenda, organization of work, some scientific measures, and goals towards implementing SAICM incorporation with lead and cadmium. It also lists the working*

*group members' countries. Delegates may access the website to see Member States' scientific measures and their goals to lessen the use of lead and cadmium.*

United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals. (2007). *Lead and Cadmium Activities: Submissions received from Stakeholders*. Retrieved on July 30, 2007 from the Web site:

[http://www.chem.unep.ch/Pb\\_and\\_Cd/SR/Responses.htm](http://www.chem.unep.ch/Pb_and_Cd/SR/Responses.htm)

*This web site contains documents that the UNEP Chemical Management branch has received from the international community regarding their status in the use of lead and cadmium. The documents are divided into three different groups: governmental, inter-governmental, and non-governmental. Delegates can find exact scientific data on their country's document, which are organized by each country and their future goals towards alleviating the use of lead and cadmium.*

United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals. (2007). *Persistent Organic Pollutants*. Retrieved on July 30, 2007 from the Web site: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/pops/default.html>

*Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are chemical substances that persevere in the environment, specifically through bioaccumulation in the food web, and result in adverse effects to human health and the environment. This website gives more detail on POPs, which delegates can explore as another example of Chemical Management.*

United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals. (2007). *Preparations for the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum*. Retrieved on July 30, 2007 from the Web site:

<http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/GC24/Preparations.htm>

*The 24th session of the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum was an important meeting; it took place in February, 2007. In this meeting, the Governing Council made decisions on chemical management, especially on mercury programs and lead and cadmium. This web site includes several documents that were used to prepare for the forum, mercury fact sheets from the council, and other useful web sites.*

United Nations Environment Programs Chemicals. (2007). *Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management*. Retrieved on July 30, 2007 from the Web site: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/>

*The Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management website gives detail information on SAICM. Through the web site, delegates can access SAICM's implementations, newsletters, which explain the progress of SAICM in the international community, and SAICM's recent developments. It is very important to obtain basic knowledge of what SAICM is and how it is implemented in each delegate's countries.*

United Nations Environment Programs Chemicals. (2007). *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: SAICM Main Documents*. Retrieved on July 30, 2007 from the Web site:

<http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/SAICM%20texts/SAICM%20documents.htm>

*This web site is the gateway to a general, but in-depth knowledge of SAICM's texts such as the Dubai Declaration, the Overarching Policy Strategy, and the Global Plan of Action. By understanding these three important documents, delegates can comprehend main goals of SAICM. Furthermore, delegates should refer to the Report of the first session of the ICCM, which is comprised of the SAICM texts and the four ICCM resolutions.*

United Nations Environment Programs Chemicals. (2007). *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: Quick Start Programme (QSP)*. Retrieved on July 30, 2007 from the Web site:

<http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/qsp.htm>

*The Quick Start Programme (QSP) web site gives in-depth information on QSP by providing a background, business plans, oversight bodies, upcoming and past meetings, and documents from past meetings. The QSP is a voluntary, time-limited trust fund, administered by the UNEP. The most important objective of QSP is to support developing countries that need financial help in order to implement Chemical Management programs in their government.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (2007) *United Nations Environment Programme: Chemical Management*.

Retrieved June 30, 2007, from United National Environment Programme Web site:

[http://unep.org/civil\\_society/GCSF8/chemicals.asp](http://unep.org/civil_society/GCSF8/chemicals.asp)

*This web site is the gateway to the further information on the Chemical Management Branch of UNEP. It provides brief background documents from the Government Council of UNEP sessions, links to various Inter-governmental initiatives and conventions, and other major Non-governmental groups. Delegates will gain brief knowledge on UNEP Chemical Management initiatives from this website and through many links; they will be able to find other resources that can be helpful in the topic.*

United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals. (2007) *Useful Links to Other Sources of Information on Mercury*. Retrieved on July 30, 2007 from the Web site:

<http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/useful-links.htm>

*This web site contains various links and references to other web sites that include information on mercury management. The links are listed by governmental organizations, inter-governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations. It is important for delegates to explore these web sites at least once to gather information on mercury programs and other chemical management initiatives.*



## **Rules of Procedure United Nations Environment Programme**

### ***Introduction***

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the United Nations Environment Programme (hereinafter referred to as “the Programme”) and shall be considered adopted by the Programme 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 Programme.

### **I. SESSIONS**

#### **Rule 1 - *Dates of convening and adjournment***

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

#### **Rule 2 - *Place of sessions***

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

### **II. AGENDA**

#### **Rule 3 - *Provisional agenda***

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

#### **Rule 4 - *Adoption of the agenda***

The agenda provided by the Secretary-General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of the agenda items shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting. Items on the agenda may be amended or deleted by the Programme 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 Programme 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 Programme so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Programme 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 Programme to be placed on the agenda. It will, however, not be considered by the Programme 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 those members (not including observers) in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.*

**Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum**

Any item proposed for inclusion in the agenda shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents.

III. SECRETARIAT

**Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General**

1. The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the Programme.
2. The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the Programme 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 Programme, and shall distribute documents of the Programme to the Members of the United Nations, and generally perform all other work which the Programme 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 Programme 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 Programme 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 Programme.

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

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

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

V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

**Rule 14 - Quorum**

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

*For purposes of this rule, "members of the Programme" 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 Programme, 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 Programme 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 Programme 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 Programme" 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 Programme.

**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 Programme 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 Programme, and the President may call a speaker to order if her/his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The Programme 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 Programme 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 Programme, 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 Programme.

*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 Programme. A motion to close the speakers list is within the purview of the Programme 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 Programme 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 Programme shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

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

**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 Programme favors the closure of debate, the Programme 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 Programme would like the Programme 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 Programme 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 Programme 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 Programme 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/report. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution/report and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Programme. These draft resolutions/reports are the collective property of the Programme 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 Programme, 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 Programme shall have one vote.

*This rule applies to substantive voting on amendments, draft resolutions/reports, and portions of draft resolutions/reports 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 Programme for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Programme may adopt proposals or motions without a vote.

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

**Rule 34 - Method of voting**

1. The Programme 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 Programme 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 Programme shall dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the members.
3. The vote of each member participating in a roll call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in the record.

**Rule 35 - Explanations of vote**

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

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

**Rule 36 - Conduct during voting**

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

**Rule 37 - Division of proposals and amendments**

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

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

**Rule 38 - Amendments**

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

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

**Rule 39 - Order of voting on amendments**

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

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

**Rule 40 - Order of voting on proposals**

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

**Rule 41 - The President shall not vote**

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

## VII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE PROGRAMME

**Rule 42 - 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 Programme, may participate, with the procedural right to vote, but not the substantive right to vote, in the deliberations of the Programme on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.

## VIII. MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

**Rule 43 - Invitation to silent prayer or meditation**

Immediately after the opening of the first plenary meeting of the Programme, representatives may request to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation. This is the only time this motion will be entertained and its approval is at the discretion of the Secretariat.