



NMUN • NY

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2010



www.nmun.org



NATIONAL MODEL
UNITED NATIONS

28 March - 1 April 2010 - Sheraton
30 March - 3 April 2010 - Marriott

WRITTEN BY: Julian Böcker, Stefanie Jachimiak, Edward Clarke, Sonia Patel

CONTACT THE NMUN

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

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 Ronny Heintze | dirgen@nmun.org

NMUN•NY 2010 Important Dates

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

31 January 2010	31 January 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm Attendance & Delegate Count. (Count may be changed up to 1 March) • Make Transportation Arrangements - DON'T FORGET! (We recommend confirming hotel accommodations prior to booking flights.)
15 February 2010	15 February 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Updates Posted to www.nmun.org
1 March 2010	1 March 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel Registration with FULL PRE-PAYMENT Due to Hotel - Register Early! Group Rates on hotel rooms are available on a first come, first served basis until sold out. Group rates, if still available, may not be honored after that date. See hotel reservation form for date final payment is due. • Any Changes to Delegate Numbers Must be Confirmed to: karen@nmun.org • Two Copies of Each Position Paper Due via E-mail (See Delegate Preparation Guide for instructions). • Preferred deadline for submission of Chair / Rapp applications to Committee Chairs
1 March 2010	1 March 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Conference Fees Due to NMUN for confirmed delegates. (\$125 per delegate if paid by 1 March; \$150 per delegate if received after 1 March. Fee is not refundable after this deadline.
NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS		<p>The 2010 National Model UN Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 March - 1 April – Sheraton New York • 30 March - 3 April – New York Marriott Marquis

POSITION PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

Two copies of each position paper should be sent via e-mail by 1 MARCH 2010

1. TO COMMITTEE STAFF

A file of the position paper (.doc or .pdf) for each assigned committee should be sent to the committee e-mail address listed below. Mail papers by 1 March to the e-mail address listed for your particular venue. These e-mail addresses will be active when background guides are available. 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.

www.nmun.org
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COMMITTEE

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General Assembly Plenary	gaplenary.sheraton@nmun.org
General Assembly First Committee	ga1st.sheraton@nmun.org
General Assembly Second Committee	ga2nd.sheraton@nmun.org
General Assembly Third Committee	ga3rd.sheraton@nmun.org
Security Council	sc.sheraton@nmun.org
Security Council 2	sc2.sheraton@nmun.org
SC Working Group: Children and Armed Conflict	caac.sheraton@nmun.org
International Court of Justice	icj.sheraton@nmun.org
ECOSOC Plenary	ecosoc.sheraton@nmun.org
Committee for Development Policy	cdp.sheraton@nmun.org
Commission for Sustainable Development	csustd.sheraton@nmun.org
Commission on the Status of Women	csw.sheraton@nmun.org
Econ. Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean	eclac.sheraton@nmun.org
International Atomic Energy Agency	iaea.sheraton@nmun.org
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees	unhcr.sheraton@nmun.org
United Nations Children's Fund	unicef.sheraton@nmun.org
World Food Programme	wfp.sheraton@nmun.org
African Union	au.sheraton@nmun.org
Association of Southeast Asian Nations	asean.sheraton@nmun.org
North Atlantic Treaty Organization	nato.sheraton@nmun.org
Organisation of The Islamic Conference	oic.sheraton@nmun.org

COMMITTEE

EMAIL - MARRIOTT

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General Assembly First Committee	ga1st.marriott@nmun.org
General Assembly Second Committee	ga2nd.marriott@nmun.org
General Assembly Third Committee	ga3rd.marriott@nmun.org
Security Council	sc.marriott@nmun.org
Security Council 2	sc2.marriott@nmun.org
SC Working Group: Children and Armed Conflict	caac.marriott@nmun.org
International Court of Justice	icj.marriott@nmun.org
ECOSOC Plenary	ecosoc.marriott@nmun.org
Committee for Development Policy	cdp.marriott@nmun.org
Commission for Sustainable Development	csustd.marriott@nmun.org
Commission on the Status of Women	csw.marriott@nmun.org
Econ. Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean	eclac.marriott@nmun.org
International Atomic Energy Agency	iaea.marriott@nmun.org
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees	unhcr.marriott@nmun.org
United Nations Children's Fund	unicef.marriott@nmun.org
World Food Programme	wfp.marriott@nmun.org
African Union	au.marriott@nmun.org
Association of Southeast Asian Nations	asean.marriott@nmun.org
North Atlantic Treaty Organization	nato.marriott@nmun.org
Organisation of The Islamic Conference	oic.marriott@nmun.org

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Entire Set of Delegation Position Papers	positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org
(send only to e-mail for your assigned venue)	positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org
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Dear Delegates,

We are pleased to welcome you to the 2010 National Model United Nations (NMUN). This year's Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) staff is: Directors Stefanie Jachimiak (Marriott venue) and Julian Böcker (Sheraton venue), and Assistant Directors Edward Clarke (Marriott) and Sonia Patel (Sheraton). Stefanie graduated from The George Washington University with an M.A. in International Relations. This is her fifth year at NMUN and third on staff. Julian graduated from the University of Maastricht with an M.A. in European Studies and is currently working as a Parliamentary Assistant to a Member of the European Parliament in Brussels. Edward is a senior at the State University of New York at Oneonta majoring in Political Science. Sonia has her B.A. in Political Science from Furman University, and is currently pursuing a J.D. from the Charlotte School of Law.

The topics under discussion for ECLAC at the 2010 NMUN are:

1. Mitigation of the Economic Crisis at the Regional Level
2. Strengthening Social Protection for the Most Vulnerable
3. Access to Information Technologies and the Impact on Social Cohesion

ECLAC is the specialized committee for Latin America and the Caribbean in the United Nations. As such, you will be researching and writing reports that have a direct impact on the region. Keep this in mind while you research your topic and write your position papers.

This background guide will serve as a brief introduction to the three topics listed. Accordingly, it is not meant to be used as an all-inclusive analysis but as the groundwork for your own analysis and research. To conduct your research, please consult scholarly materials, including journals, international news, and the United Nations website, amongst others. You will also need to familiarize yourself with the work and current operations of ECLAC.

Each delegation must submit a position paper. NMUN will accept position papers via e-mail by **01 March 2010** for each venue. Please refer to your guide for a message from your Director Generals explaining the NMUN position paper requirements and restrictions. Delegates' adherence to these guidelines is crucial. NMUN can be one of the most rewarding academic experiences of your college career. We hope that this year's conference will not only intrigue you to participate again, but also that you find it as beneficial as we have. If you have any questions regarding preparation, please feel free to contact any of the ECLAC substantive staff or the Under-Secretaries General for the Department of the Economic and Social Council, Anna López (Marriott) and Cyril Philipp (Sheraton). Good luck in your preparation for the conference. We look forward to seeing you in March!

Sincerely,

Sheraton Venue
Julian Böcker, Director
Sonia Patel, Assistant Director
eclac.sheraton@nmun.org

Marriott Venue
Stefanie Jachimiak, Director
Edward Clarke, Assistant Director
eclac.marriott@nmun.org

Message from the Directors-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2010 NMUN Conference

At the 2010 NMUN New York Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee it is assigned to. Delegates should be aware that their role in each committee impacts the way a position paper should be written. While most delegates will serve as representatives of Member States, some may also serve as observers, NGOs or judicial experts. To understand these fine differences, please refer to the Delegate Preparation Guide.

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

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

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

- All papers must be typed and formatted according to the example in the Background Guides
- Length must **not** exceed two single spaced pages (one double sided paper, if printed)
- Font **must** be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Margins must be set at 1 inch for whole paper
- Country/NGO name, School name and committee name clearly labeled on the first page; the use of national symbols is highly discouraged
- Agenda topics clearly labeled in separate sections

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

1. **A file of the position paper** (.doc or .pdf) **for each assigned committee** should be sent to the committee email address listed in the Background Guide. These e-mail addresses will be active after November 15, 2009. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt.

2. Each delegation should also send **one set of all position papers** to the e-mail designated for their venue: positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org or positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org. This set will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments. These copies will also be made available in Home Government during the week of the NMUN Conference

Each of the above listed tasks needs to be completed no later than **March 1, 2010 for Delegations attending the NMUN conference at either the Sheraton or the Marriott venue.**

PLEASE TITLE EACH E-MAIL/DOCUMENT WITH THE NAME OF THE COMMITTEE, ASSIGNMENT AND DELEGATION NAME (Example: AU_Namibia_University of Caprivi)

A matrix of received papers will be posted online for delegations to check prior to the Conference. If you need to make other arrangements for submission, please contact Amanda Williams, Director-General, Sheraton venue, or Ronny

Heintze, Director-General, Marriott venue at dirgen@nmun.org. There is an option for delegations to submit physical copies via regular mail if needed.

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

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

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

Finally, please consider that over 2,000 papers will be handled and read by the Secretariat for the Conference. Your patience and cooperation in strictly adhering to the above guidelines will make this process more efficient and is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff, though as we do not operate out of a central office or location your consideration for time zone differences is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Sheraton Venue
Amanda Williams, LCSW
Director-General

amanda@nmun.org

Marriott Venue
Ronny Heintze
Director-General

ronny@nmun.org

Sample Position Paper

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

Delegation from
Canada

Represented by
(Name of College)

Position Paper for General Assembly Plenary

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

I. Breaking the link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict

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

II. The Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy

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

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

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

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

History of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Introduction

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is one of the five regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN).¹ ECLAC reports directly to ECOSOC and via ECOSOC to the UN General Assembly.² ECLAC was established in 1948 and today consists of 33 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean as well as 11 nations from North America and Europe related to the Latin-American/Caribbean region for historic, cultural and economic reasons.³ The official purpose of ECLAC is to assist and promote economic and social development in the region, which is done mainly by scientific analysis and policy recommendations.⁴

History of ECLAC

On February 25, 1948 the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) was founded by the ECOSOC Resolution 106(VI).⁵ The founding Member States were Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.⁶ In the next few decades, more countries within the region joined ECLAC. Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago joined in the 1960s, the Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain and Suriname in the 1970s, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia in the 1980s.⁷ On July 2, 1984 the countries of the Caribbean were officially included by Resolution 1984/67 and the name was changed to The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).⁸ After Italy joined the Commission in 1990, Germany, Japan and the Republic of Korea followed in 2005, 2006 and 2007.⁹ Nine non-independent territories are associate members.¹⁰ The current ECLAC headquarters is located in Santiago, Chile.¹¹

Structure and Budget of ECLAC

The two organs of ECLAC are the Commission Session, which is the governing body and which last met on June 9, 2008, and the Secretariat, which realizes the ideas elaborated by the Session.¹² Every two years representatives of the Member States meet for a review and discuss and decide on the program for the upcoming years. The Secretariat, which is headed by the Executive Secretary, is divided into different units.¹³ The thematic divisions of ECLAC are the Division of International Trade and Integration, the Division of Production, Productivity and Management, the Economic Development Division, the Social Development Division, the Women and Development Division, the Population Division, the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division and the Statistics and Economic Projections Division. There are also further, administrative units.¹⁴ The Executive Secretary is accountable to the Secretary-General of the UN. Based on the work program

¹ United Nations, *The United Nations System. Principal Organs*, 2007, p. 1.

² United Nations Association in Canada, *Monitoring the UN - The UN and Sustainable Development*, 2002, p. 1.

³ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. Member States and associate members of ECLAC*, 2000, p. 1.

⁴ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about ECLAC*, 2000, p. 1.

⁵ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. The institution*, 2000, p. 1.

⁶ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. Date of admission of Member States (43) and associate members (8) of ECLAC*, 2000, p. 1.

⁷ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. Date of admission of Members States and associate members*, 2000, p. 1.

⁸ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. The institution*, 2000, p.1.

⁹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. Date of admission of Member States (43) and associate members (8) of ECLAC*, 2000, p. 1.

¹⁰ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. Member States and associate members of ECLAC*, 2000, p. 1. Anguilla (since 1996), Aruba (since 1988), British Virgin Islands (since 1984), Montserrat (since 1968), Netherlands Antilles (since 1981), Puerto Rico (since 1990), Turks and Caicos Islands (2006) and United States Virgin Islands (since 1984). These former colonies, even though partly autonomous, still belong to the jurisdiction of other countries. Aruba, for example, is a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, while Montserrat is British overseas territory. As these territories are non-independent, they cannot be considered as full Member States and are therefore considered associate members only.

¹¹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. The institution*, 2000, p. 1.

¹² Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Report of the thirty-second session. Santo Domingo, 9 - 13 June 2008*, 2008, p. 1; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about ECLAC*, 2000, p. 1.

¹³ United Nations, *Secretary-General Bulletin. Organization of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2000, p.1.

¹⁴ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. ECLAC organizational chart*, 2000, p. 1.

elaborated during the biennial Session the Executive Secretary identifies the broad strategies for the Secretariat and its organizational units.¹⁵ The current Executive Secretary is Mrs. Alicia Bárcena who is in office since July 2008.¹⁶

The ECLAC budget comes from two sources: First, the regular budget of the UN, which is made up by assessed contributions from the Member States of the UN, and second, extra funds, which are usually aimed at specific projects that have previously been agreed upon by ECLAC and the donor.¹⁷ These extra contributions may come from Member States, UN programs or funds, for example the UN Development Program (UNDP) or the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), or from other foundations.¹⁸ The main donating countries are Germany, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands as well as Japan and South Korea.¹⁹

Purpose and aim of ECLAC

ECLAC was founded to contribute to the economic development of Latin America, coordinating actions directed towards this end and reinforcing economic relationships among the Member States and with other countries of the world.²⁰ The promotion of the region's social development was later included among its primary objectives.²¹ The activities of ECLAC over the last 60 years aimed at the formulation of a coherent and genuinely regional body of thought on economic, social and institutional development, as former Executive Secretary José Luis Machinea said in his welcome-speech at the thirty-second Session.²² Today, ECLAC fulfils its purpose by conducting scientific research in the fields of economic and social development and giving information and advice to the member governments.²³ The ECLAC Secretariat provides not only administrative service to the Commission, it also undertakes research, collects information and organizes cooperation programmes, conferences and expert workshops on a subregional, regional and intergovernmental level.²⁴ Since its establishment ECLAC has been the main global source of information and analysis concerning the economic and social situation in Latin America and the Caribbean.²⁵ ECLAC even developed an own school of thought, historical structuralism.²⁶ In addition to the paradigm of historical structuralism, some basic ideas promoted by ECLAC have stayed the same: ECLAC generally stresses the importance of technology for the production process, the importance of ensuring social equity, a more active role of the state in the market, the importance of investment and financing for development and the need for intraregional cooperation.²⁷

Current Challenges

One of fairly new issues on the agenda of ECLAC is climate change. Today, Latin America makes only a small contribution to global emissions of carbon dioxide, but the emissions increase significantly.²⁸ Also, there is still little awareness of the potential consequences of global warming.²⁹ In June 2009 ECLAC organized a seminar on the contribution of consumer goods to global warming, where the concept of "carbon labeling" was discussed.³⁰ Another step towards fighting climate change is the Global Energy Efficiency 21 (GEE21) project which was launched in 2008 by the five regional commissions of the UN to fight greenhouse gas emission.³¹ GEE21 aims at fostering energy efficiency globally and promoting technology transfers and acquisition, through a more systematic exchange of

¹⁵ United Nations, *Secretary-General Bulletin. Organization of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2000, p.2.

¹⁶ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Biography. Mrs. Alicia Bárcena*, 2000, p. 1.

¹⁷ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about ECLAC*, 2000, p. 2.

¹⁸ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about ECLAC*, 2000, p. 1.

¹⁹ Telephone conversation with Rex García, ECLAC Washington Office, on August 7, 2009.

²⁰ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. The institution*, 2000, p. 1.

²¹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. The institution*, 2000, p. 1.

²² Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Report of the thirty-second session. Santo Domingo, 9 - 13 June 2008, 2008*, p. 3.

²³ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. The institution*, 2000, p. 1.

²⁴ United Nations, *Secretary-General Bulletin. Organization of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2000, p. 1.

²⁵ Caribbean Press Releases, *ECLAC celebrates 60th Anniversary*, 2009, p. 1.

²⁶ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *About ECLAC. History of ECLAC*, 2000, p. 1. Historical structuralism "focuses on the analysis of the ways in which the region's institutional legacy and inherited production structure influence the economic dynamics of developing countries and generate behaviours that differ from those of developed nations".

²⁷ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Report of the thirty-second session. Santo Domingo, 9 - 13 June 2008, 2008*, p. 5.

²⁸ Oxford Analytica. Global Strategic Analysis, *LATIN AMERICA: Poverty, inequality challenges remain*, 2007, p. 5.

²⁹ Oxford Analytica. Global Strategic Analysis, *LATIN AMERICA: Poverty, inequality challenges remain*, 2007, p. 5.

³⁰ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Press Centre, Seminar on the contribution of consumer goods to global warming*, 2009, p. 1.

³¹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Press Centre, *The five United Nations regional commissions cooperate on energy efficiency*, 2009, p. 1.

experience on capacity building, policy reforms and investment project financing in the various regions.³² The first meeting of the group was held in June 2009.³³

Furthermore, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) provide one of the major objectives pursued by the UN. Latin America and the Caribbean are making some considerable progress with regards to education, gender equality, healthcare and drinking water supply.³⁴ Nevertheless, further progress is indispensable to fight poverty at large. In this regard, the global financial crisis challenges the achievements already reached in Latin America and the Caribbean. For the first time since 2002, regional GDP is expected to decline.³⁵ As history has shown, this might slow down or even stop further improvement in the areas of unemployment and poverty.³⁶ Furthermore, the funding of social protection is at stake due to the decrease in tax and fiscal incomes. The crisis now gives reason for an essential rethinking of income transfers.³⁷ A reform of the social system is also necessary because the region faces major demographic changes: By 2050, one-in-four Latin Americans will be above the age of 60 (compared to 9 percent of the population in 2007³⁸), while a significant number of them does not receive a pension and lacks access to health care and other basic services.³⁹ In addition to that, ECLAC needs to re-think its vision of structural change and productivity growth as new paradigms are set by a changing economic environment.⁴⁰ This change is marked by the emergence of new actors, the nature and intensity of trade flows, the process of structural change and the continued acceleration of technological advances and it has profound effects on competitiveness in many sectors.⁴¹

The development of information and communication technologies is considered vital for the region's advancement. Medium- and long-term strategies must be developed to foster economic advancement.⁴² Since 2000, ECLAC has included information society development in its program. The Information Society Programme provides support to the countries by research and studies, the organization of workshops and seminars and contribution to international forums.⁴³ The number of internet users in the region has risen from 9 percent in 2002 up to 26 percent in 2007.⁴⁴ Nevertheless, there is still much that remains to be done. Compared to an average of over 50 percent of internet users in developed countries, internet has yet to be more effectively promoted in Latin America and the Caribbean.⁴⁵ The access to information and communication technologies is crucial for social cohesion, since it provides cheap and fast access to civil services and can consequently ameliorate the conditions striking the poorest of society. A fully developed information society can improve their situation, especially concerning health care and education.⁴⁶

Conclusion

The ECLAC Secretariat is a research centre, serving the governments of the region as well as the Member States of ECLAC. It is clear that ECLAC makes crucial contributions to the region's forthcoming: It brings the governments together, it analyzes upcoming problems at an early stage, gives policy recommendations and is the biggest research institution for the region. Nevertheless, there are many challenges that ECLAC is currently facing. For one, ECLAC faces the challenge of sustainable economic growth as the region has been hit by the global financial crisis. The economic crisis questions the international financial system as well as the welfare systems of the region's nations. Furthermore, global climate change threatens Latin America and the Caribbean and the population is not aware of its consequences. It is therefore indispensable for the region to expand communication technologies, to diversify its production and to ensure economic and social growth which reaches all parts of society.

³² Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Press Centre, *The five United Nations regional commissions cooperate on energy efficiency*, 2009, p. 1.

³³ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Press Centre, *The five United Nations regional commissions cooperate on energy efficiency*, 2009, p. 1.

³⁴ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009*, 2009, p. 14-16; United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009*, 2009, p. 18f; United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009*, 2009, p. 24-39; United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009*, 2009, p. 46.

³⁵ Oxford Analytica. Global Strategic Analysis, *LATIN AMERICA: ECLAC predicts contraction this year*, 2009, p. 1.

³⁶ Oxford Analytica. Global Strategic Analysis, *LATIN AMERICA: ECLAC predicts contraction this year*, 2009, p. 1.

³⁷ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Press Centre, *Experts call for protecting social spending to strengthen social protection for the most vulnerable*, 2009, p. 1.

³⁸ J. L. Machinea, *Towards a society for all ages and rights-based social protection*, 2007, p. 1.

³⁹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Press Centre, *In Latin America and the Caribbean, the population over age 60 will number more than 180 million by 2050*, 2007, p. 1.

⁴⁰ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009*, 2009, p. 3.

⁴¹ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009*, 2009, p. 3-5.

⁴² United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009*, 2009, p. 5.

⁴³ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Information Society Programme, About the Programme. ECLAC programme for the information society. Background*, 2009, p. 1.

⁴⁴ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009*, 2009, p. 52.

⁴⁵ Oxford Analytica. Global Strategic Analysis, *LATIN AMERICA: Poverty, inequality challenges remain*, 2007, p. 5.

⁴⁶ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Press Centre, *Greater access to and use of information and communications technologies is needed, particularly in the areas of health and education*, 2009, p. 1.

Must Reads

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2008, September 10). *Report of the thirty-second session. Santo Domingo, 9 - 13 June 2008*. Retrieved 15 July, 2009 from <http://www.eclac.org/publicaciones/xml/4/34124/2008-625-SES.32-Report.pdf>

Besides the official ECLAC website, this is probably one of the most important sources in order to get a feeling for how ECLAC works in practice. This report contains organizational information on the meeting, the agenda and all resolutions adopted by the Commission at its thirty-second session. It summarizes the meeting in detail giving insertions and statements made during presentations. Themes among others were social planning, information society, the Millennium Development Goals and intraregional cooperation.

Machinea, J. L. (2007, December 4). *Towards a society for all ages and rights-based social protection*. [Speech at the Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean]. Retrieved 17 July, 2009 from

http://www.eclac.org/prensa/noticias/discursossecretaria/2/31912/DiscursoSE_EnvejecimientoENGLISH_df041207.pdf

In his speech at the Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing, the Executive Secretary describes the challenges of the demographic situation in the region: The age structure will change significantly, with people above the age of 60 representing 15 percent of the population in 2025. This demographic transformation will have powerful implications for social cohesion, human rights and the role of the state. The States are called upon to reaffirm their commitment to reform social and public spending.

United Nations, (2009), *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009*. Retrieved 16 July, 2009 from http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG_Report_2009_ENG.pdf

Every year the Report is published by the UN and gives information on the progress made in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) worldwide. In his foreword Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, States that the world has made important progress in fulfilling the vision of the MDGs but that the improvements are implemented too slowly to meet the goals on time. Furthermore, he fears that the global economic crisis will throw the nations off course in a number of key areas.

United Nations. (2009). *The UN and the MDGs: A core strategy*. Retrieved 16 July, 2009 from http://www.undp.org/mdg/core_strategy.pdf

An outline of the importance of the MDGs is given in this document which determines the strategy of the UN to promote the MDGs. The strategy focuses on action on a global and national level and consists of four core elements: Monitoring progress and shortfalls, analysis of the policy dimension of achieving the MDGs, campaigning/mobilization and operational activities to address directly key constraints to progress on the MDGs.

United Nations. (2000, February 7). *Secretary-General's Bulletin. Organization of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ST/SGB/2000/5)*. Retrieved 15 July, 2009 from <http://www.eclac.org/noticias/paginas/2/21362/eclacSGB.pdf>

A must read for delegates who are doing research on ECLAC and trying to get an overview on how ECLAC works. This bulletin describes the functions and organization of the ECLAC Secretariat and its units. The ECLAC Secretariat is headed by the Executive Secretary, who is assisted by the Deputy Executive Secretary. It is divided into several administrative and thematic research units: The Office of the Secretary of the Commission, the Programme Planning and Management Division, subregional headquarters and national offices, the Economic Development Division, the Social Development Division, the Division of Production, Productivity and Management, the Environment and Human Settlements Division, the Natural Resources Infrastructure Division, the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, the International Trade and Development Finance Division, the Population Division, the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, the Documents and Publications Division and the Division of Administration.

I. Mitigation of the Economic Crisis at the Regional Level

“The present financial crisis is considered to be the most severe since the Great Depression. One cannot assume, therefore, that its effects will only be short-term. And let there be no mistake, this crisis is yet another experience that impresses on us that we are immersed not so much in an era of change as in a change of era. Hence the importance of

rethinking development while reconstructing the international economic order and of doing so with a profound awareness of our regional identity.”⁴⁷

During her October 5, 2009 speech in Washington, DC at the thirty-eighth Lecture of America, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Alicia Bárcena called on regional leaders to work together to solve the global economic crisis.⁴⁸ Her desire to stress the region on the need to change strategies is important. Latin America and the Caribbean must take responsibility for what is occurring in each nation and work together to come up with a viable solution to mitigate the economic crisis. Without cooperation and support among all the nations, solving the economic crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean is difficult.

The economic crisis has had an impact globally. According to the World Trade Organization, international trade is now on the decline at a rate that has not been seen since the Great Depression.⁴⁹ United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon reminded the international community to “...not lose sight of the challenges and plight of hundreds and hundreds of millions of the poorest people of the developing countries who have been impacted by this crisis.”⁵⁰ The developing world is becoming the most impacted by this crisis, and many nations in Latin America and the Caribbean are currently developing nations.

The crisis is impacting nations of Latin America and the Caribbean through job loss, a decrease in trade, a decrease in the tourism industry, and a decrease in manufacturing throughout the region.⁵¹ In Latin America, it is estimated that “on average, manufacturing production is contracting by 6 percent in Latin America.”⁵² This is a major concern for the nations because a majority of nations in Latin America and the Caribbean rely on manufacturing and trade. Trade is also expected to decline by 13% in the region in 2009, greater than the 10% expected worldwide.⁵³ According to ECLAC, “the volume of exports from the region will decrease 11%, the worst figure in 72 years (since 1937), while imports will diminish 14%, the steepest drop in 27 years (since 1982).”⁵⁴ With this sort of impact on the nations of the region, it is important to take action in order to prevent further decline in trade in the region.

The Effect of the Global Economic Crisis

According to the World Bank, this crisis is beginning to affect the everyday lives of individuals in a multitude of ways.⁵⁵ Governments have been trying to cut down costs anyway that they can.⁵⁶ The crisis has resulted in a decrease in road maintenance, jobs, education, and health spending.⁵⁷ As a result of the decrease in spending, infant children are dying, children are dropping out of school, and they are at a higher risk for malnutrition and disease.⁵⁸ The World Bank estimates that there will be 30 to 50 thousand more infant deaths than normal in 2009.⁵⁹ With effects that impact the everyday lives of individuals, the United Nations realized that action must be taken to prevent the crisis from getting any worse.⁶⁰

The financial crisis began in the summer of 2007 when the housing markets in the United States collapsed resulting in the collapse of the sub-prime mortgage market in the nation.⁶¹ With the collapse of some American banks, the government had to invest in the banks to keep them running.⁶² European States that had not originally invested in their states were forced to nationalize the banks in order to protect them from going under.⁶³ With American money being

⁴⁷ Bárcena, A., *In search of solutions to the financial crisis: Measures adopted and future challenges*, 2009, p.3.

⁴⁸ Bárcena, A., *In search of solutions to the financial crisis: Measures adopted and future challenges*, 2009, p.3.

⁴⁹ United Nations, *UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on the Developing World*, Background, 2009, p.1.

⁵⁰ United Nations, *UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on the Developing World*, Background, 2009, p.1.

⁵¹ Cárdenas, M., *Latin America, the Global Financial Crisis and the Velocity of Business*, 2009, p.2.

⁵² Cárdenas M., *Latin America, the Global Financial Crisis and the Velocity of Business*, 2009, p.2.

⁵³ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Regional Trade Will Fall 13% in 2009, Says ECLAC*, 2009, p.1.

⁵⁴ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Regional Trade Will Fall 13% in 2009, Says ECLAC*, 2009, p.1.

⁵⁵ Homi, *The 0.85 Percent Solution for Low-Income Countries*, 2009, p.1.

⁵⁶ Homi, *The 0.85 Percent Solution for Low-Income Countries*, 2009, p.1.

⁵⁷ Homi, *The 0.85 Percent Solution for Low-Income Countries*, 2009, p.1.

⁵⁸ Homi, *The 0.85 Percent Solution for Low-Income Countries*, 2009, p.1.

⁵⁹ Homi, *The 0.85 Percent Solution for Low-Income Countries*, 2009, p.2.

⁶⁰ United Nations, *UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on the Developing World*, Background, 2009, p.1.

⁶¹ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2009, p.4.

⁶² Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2009, p.5.

⁶³ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2009, p.5.

tied up in the American banks, there was less capital to go elsewhere.⁶⁴ This capital would typically have been invested in other states.⁶⁵ As a result, developing nations are starting to suffer the most. The instability of the current world market could easily result in problems for the developing world.⁶⁶

The Global Crisis effect on Latin America

Latin America has been affected, in large part, due to the fact that they are major trade partners with the United States, and they have relied on this trade for their own economic wellbeing.⁶⁷ Half of the items exported by Latin America are sold to the United States, and Mexico in particular is expected to have an extremely low growth rate as compared to the rest of the region in 2009.⁶⁸ Latin America's reliance on the United States for trade was beneficial before the financial crisis, but has currently turned a major detriment.⁶⁹ States in the region that rely on oil revenues have been hurt due to the falling price of the barrel, and other nations are being hurt due to the loss of "loans from US banks for developing nations."⁷⁰ However bad the States of the regions are hurting, the World Bank regional representative for Latin America and the Caribbean believes the region to be the most capable of handling this crisis.⁷¹

However capable the nations of the region are in handling this crisis, they are not completely immune from the affects. Latin American dependence on exporting to America has decreased, along with the cash flow entering into the region; Latin America was better shielded than other regions throughout the world.⁷² In seven years, Latin America's dependency on American exports has decreased.⁷³ In 2000, 57 percent of Latin America's exports went to the United States, in 2007, this decreased to 40 percent.⁷⁴ No matter how good the news has been, the global financial crisis has had some negative impact on the region. Growth will greatly slow down this year when compared to the last two years.⁷⁵ Growth in 2007 was 5.6%, and has slowed down to 4.7% and in between 2.8% and 3.8% in 2008 and 2009, respectively.⁷⁶ This is still better than other economic crises that the region has faced.⁷⁷

According to analysts, one of the major reasons why the States in the region are well equipped to handle the financial crisis is due to their experience with similar crises in the past.⁷⁸ The current crisis is considered relatively mild in nature, especially when compared to the crisis in Mexico in 1982-3 and 1995.⁷⁹ Along with Mexico, Costa Rica, Chile, Bolivia, Panama, Peru, Argentina, Uruguay, and Venezuela have all been impacted by their own financial crises over the years.⁸⁰ None of the nations, no matter how capable they are, will come out of the crisis without difficulties.⁸¹ With contracting capital in some nations, and fiscal stimulus posed by some nations, all the nations have to act in some way in order to prevent the economies from further growth decline.⁸²

Another example of the problems associated with the financial crisis is the poverty level in many of the Latin American nations. According to the World Bank, "from 2003 to 2008, 60 million people were lifted out of poverty in Latin America... yet today... projections so far indicate that the crisis will push 8 million Latin Americans back into poverty."⁸³ A large cause of the poverty is due to the job loss in the region. With over 68 million individuals expected to be in poverty in Latin America, this is the main problem the states are facing as a result of the economic crisis.

The oil crisis in Latin America has become a major factor in contributing to the economic crisis in the region.⁸⁴ For example, in Venezuela, the oil produced by the state is worth half the money it was last year.⁸⁵ The high price of the

⁶⁴ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2009, p.5.

⁶⁵ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2009, p.5.

⁶⁶ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2009, p.5.

⁶⁷ PBS, *Economic Crisis in a Globalized World*, 2009, p.1.

⁶⁸ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2009, p.7.

⁶⁹ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2009, p.7.

⁷⁰ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2009, p.8.

⁷¹ The World Bank, *Fast-track Recovery from Crisis Likely for Latin America*, 2009, p.1.

⁷² Fagà, *The U.S. Financial Crisis Affects Latin America: The Colombian Context*, 2009, p.1.

⁷³ Fagà, *The U.S. Financial Crisis Affects Latin America: The Colombian Context*, 2009, p.1.

⁷⁴ Fagà, *The U.S. Financial Crisis Affects Latin America: The Colombian Context*, 2009, p.1.

⁷⁵ Fagà, *The U.S. Financial Crisis Affects Latin America: The Colombian Context*, 2009, p.1.

⁷⁶ Fagà, *The U.S. Financial Crisis Affects Latin America: The Colombian Context*, 2009, p. 1.

⁷⁷ Cardenas, S. *IMF Survey*, Interview, 2009, p. 5.

⁷⁸ Casas-Zamora, *Four Reflections on the Political Consequences of the Economic Crisis in Latin America*, 2009, p.2.

⁷⁹ Casas-Zamora, *Four Reflections on the Political Consequences of the Economic Crisis in Latin America*, 2009, p. 2.

⁸⁰ Casas-Zamora, *Four Reflections on the Political Consequences of the Economic Crisis in Latin America*, 2009, p.3.

⁸¹ Casas-Zamora, *Four Reflections on the Political Consequences of the Economic Crisis in Latin America*, 2009, p.3.

⁸² Cárdenas, M., *Latin America, the Global Financial Crisis and the Velocity of Business*, Address, 2009, p.2.

⁸³ The World Bank, *Latin America Maps Out Post-Crisis Future*, 2009, p.1.

⁸⁴ Noriega, *Latin America and the Economic Crisis: Going it Alone*, 2009, p1.

oil resulted in record setting revenue for many of the states of the region, but with the economic downturn exports of oil are down.⁸⁶ In Mexico, the main revenue is derived from oil and tourism.⁸⁷ With one of their main sources of income being impacted by the financial crisis, Mexico is being forced to come up with multiple solutions to help mitigate the economic crisis in their own state.⁸⁸

Case Study: Why has Mexico been one of the most affected by the crisis?

A nation that has been greatly affected by the global financial crisis is Mexico due to its large reliance on the United States for trade.⁸⁹ Many Latin American nations began to trade with Asia to further diversify their trade markets, but Mexico did not since the majority of their products already had a place in the US markets.⁹⁰ Mexico is considered to be the United States' largest regional trade partner in North America, which ended up being a major detriment to Mexico when the global financial crisis hit.⁹¹ Mexico relies on tourism, oil prices, and money being sent back to Mexico from migrant workers in the United States.⁹² With less money being sent home, individuals being unable to travel, and the price of the barrel decreasing, Mexico has become one of the most affected nations by the economic crisis.⁹³

In order to tackle the economic crisis, Mexico is cutting short term interest rates along with its own monetary policy interest rates.⁹⁴ Another action being taken by Mexico is to hedge the price of the barrel in order to prevent further impact of lower oil prices.⁹⁵ The crisis has resulted in the depreciation of the Mexican peso, which has somewhat recovered, but has resulted in Mexico changing their economic strategy in order to prevent crises from extending further.⁹⁶ Mexico has been hit by a rash of bad news that has affected the way in which nations interact with them.⁹⁷ This has expanded to trade and investment as well. First with the drug violence that then resulted in the United States State Department issuing a travel warning to its citizens, and then with the recent H1N1 flu epidemic, nations have become more and more hesitant to trade with Mexico; however, Mexican authorities are responding and doing all they can to change their domestic situation.⁹⁸

Methods for Mitigation

Although many nations are being affected by the global financial crisis in terms of growth, the Latin American States have had to face these economic problems in the past and are better equipped to handle these crises because of past experiences.⁹⁹ Latin American nations have lowered inflation, and have also lowered public debt ratios which are two very encouraging signs of recovery.¹⁰⁰ Nations in the region, such as Brazil, are mostly facing problems due to the decrease in demand of their products rather than anything else.¹⁰¹ The success of these nations in creating beneficial social policies and a strong macroeconomic and financial sector is a large reason for the ability to handle the crisis better than other nations throughout the world.¹⁰²

Another reason why Latin American States are being able to mitigate the crisis effectively is because of their partnership with the World Bank. The World Bank has aided these nations in developing programs specifically targeted to their needs. For example, in terms of Chile, the World Bank has created a partnership with them to help meet their goals in terms of poverty, infrastructure, and sustainable development, to name a few.¹⁰³ The World Bank is not the only organization involved in attempting to mitigate the global financial crisis. Other organizations involved include but are not limited to the International Monetary Fund and of course the United Nations.

⁸⁵ Noriega, *Latin America and the Economic Crisis: Going it Alone*, 2009, p.1.

⁸⁶ Noriega, *Latin America and the Economic Crisis: Going it Alone*, 2009, p.2.

⁸⁷ Noriega, *Latin America and the Economic Crisis: Going it Alone*, 2009, p.2.

⁸⁸ The World Bank, *Mexico*, Country Brief, 2009, p.2.

⁸⁹ Migration Policy Institute, *United States-Canada-Mexico Fact Sheet on Trade and Migration*, 2005, p.2.

⁹⁰ Migration Policy Institute, *United States-Canada-Mexico Fact Sheet on Trade and Migration*, 2005, p.2.

⁹¹ The World Bank, *Mexico*, Country Brief, 2009, p.2.

⁹² The World Bank, *Mexico*, Country Brief, 2009, p.2.

⁹³ The World Bank, *Mexico*, Country Brief, 2009, p.3.

⁹⁴ The World Bank, *Mexico*, Country Brief, 2009, p.2.

⁹⁵ Martinez-Diaz, *The Global Economic Crisis and Mexico: Challenges for Recovery*, 2009, p.2.

⁹⁶ Martinez-Diaz, *The Global Economic Crisis and Mexico: Challenges for Recovery*, 2009, p.2.

⁹⁷ Barbash, *The Scouting Report: A New Partnership with Latin America*, 2009, p.2.

⁹⁸ Barbash, *The Scouting Report: A New Partnership with Latin America*, 2009, p.3.

⁹⁹ Casas-Zamora, *Four Reflections on the Political Consequences of the Economic Crisis in Latin America*, 2009, p.3.

¹⁰⁰ International Monetary Fund, *Improved Policies Seen Helping Latin America in Crisis*, 2008, p.1.

¹⁰¹ The World Bank, *Brazil*, Country Brief, 2009, p.2.

¹⁰² The World Bank, *Brazil*, Country Brief, 2009, p.2.

¹⁰³ The World Bank, *Chile*, Country Brief, 2009, p.2.

United Nations Action

In order for the United Nations to address the economic crisis, the United Nations decided to call together world leaders from June 24-26, 2009.¹⁰⁴ This conference, called the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, resulted in United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/63/303.¹⁰⁵ This conference was created as a way to aid in developing solutions that all nations can implement in their own states. It also allowed nations to see what has and has not worked in mitigating the crisis.¹⁰⁶ The conference emphasized the need to support development in nations by enhancing economic growth, poverty, and sustainability.¹⁰⁷ Throughout the multiple goals stressed by the resolution, nothing stands out more than the necessity for cooperation.¹⁰⁸

UN Resolution A/64/177 passed by the General Assembly in regards to International Trade and Development show statistics regarding the crisis among many regions.¹⁰⁹ One of the main regions emphasized is Latin America and the Caribbean.¹¹⁰ According to the resolution, five to seven million people in addition to the four million people already in poverty will be affected by the crisis.¹¹¹ The resolution wants to reduce poverty in order to meet the goals set forth by the Millennium Development Goals in terms of poverty.¹¹² The Member States also discussed the negative growth rate and the decelerate growth in exports.¹¹³ All of these are important factors in showing the strength and ability of an economy to recover in certain circumstances and situations.

Another organization that is working to help solve the global financial crisis includes the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). With a decrease in trade impacting development in many nations around the world, this organization is becoming involved in mitigating the crisis.¹¹⁴ UNCTAD believes, in large part, that Latin America and the Caribbean are able to weather the crisis due to the “recent boom in commodity prices and increased foreign investment.”¹¹⁵ According to UNCTAD, foreign direct investment (FDI) in South America grew by 13% since 2008.¹¹⁶ However, UNCTAD has also reported negative FDI in Central America and the Caribbean.¹¹⁷ This organization, along with other organizations, are all developing their own effective ways to deal with the crisis.

Effective Regional Attempts for Mitigation

The Latin American communities also break down into smaller communities for purposes of trade and development. One of these organizations, the Comunidad Andina (CAN), has proposed a new program aimed at microfinance in “in order to facilitate access to credit by grassroots economies which, they recognized, ‘will feel the effects of the

¹⁰⁴ United Nations, *UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on the Developing World*, Background, 2009, p.1.

¹⁰⁵ United Nations General Assembly, 63rd Session, *A/RES/63/303: Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development*, 2009, p.1.

¹⁰⁶ United Nations General Assembly, 63rd Session, *A/RES/63/303: Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development*, 2009, p.1.

¹⁰⁷ United Nations General Assembly, 63rd Session, *A/RES/63/303: Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development*, 2009, p.1.

¹⁰⁸ United Nations General Assembly, 63rd Session, *A/RES/63/303: Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development*, 2009, p.1.

¹⁰⁹ United Nations General Assembly, 64th Session, *A/64/177: International trade and development: Report of the Secretary-General*, 2009, p.2.

¹¹⁰ United Nations General Assembly, 64th Session, *A/64/177: International trade and development: Report of the Secretary-General*, 2009, p.2.

¹¹¹ United Nations General Assembly, 64th Session, *A/64/177: International trade and development: Report of the Secretary-General*, 2009, p.2.

¹¹² United Nations General Assembly, 64th Session, *A/64/177: International trade and development: Report of the Secretary-General*, 2009, p.2.

¹¹³ United Nations General Assembly, 64th Session, *A/64/177: International trade and development: Report of the Secretary-General*, 2009, p.2.

¹¹⁴ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Latin America and Caribbean so far appear to escape impact of financial crisis*, 2008, p.1.

¹¹⁵ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Latin America and Caribbean so far appear to escape impact of financial crisis*, 2008, p.1.

¹¹⁶ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *UNCTAD/PRESS/PR/2009/046: FDI Trends Diverge Widely Up in South America and Down in Central America and the Caribbean*, 2009, p.1.

¹¹⁷ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *UNCTAD/PRESS/PR/2009/046: FDI Trends Diverge Widely Up in South America and Down in Central America and the Caribbean*, 2009, p.2.

international financial crisis more deeply.”¹¹⁸ The CAN program also has more aims than just microfinance.¹¹⁹ It is attempt by the Comunidad Andina to reinforce regional banking efforts, to promote social equality, create easier access to credit, and to strengthen democratic government, to name a few.¹²⁰ Other organizations that work together for security, trade, and development include, but are not limited to, Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR), Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). One of the initiatives practiced by MERCOSUR is to expand their markets into different areas of the world, such as to the European Community.¹²¹ One of SICA’s biggest initiatives is to try to make the region more enticing to foreign tourists since that makes up such a large part of Central America’s economic wellbeing.¹²² The main focus of CARICOM is to integrate itself so that they have the ability to trade together and worth together to stimulate all the economies of the individual islands in the Caribbean.¹²³

Another approach taken by nations on the economic crisis is by practicing protectionism of companies in their nation.¹²⁴ Protectionism occurs when nations put up some sort of trade barrier to increase the costs of imports.¹²⁵ In many cases, this occurs through an increased tax on the imports.¹²⁶ This is a short term solution, but it can result in harming trade relationships with other nations.¹²⁷ According to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, “Protectionism is like a drug, which offers immediate relief but then puts its victim in a prolonged depression.”¹²⁸ Some of the G-20 member states tried to help themselves by introducing protectionist measures, even though they promised not to do so in the past G-20 meetings.¹²⁹ Protectionism is done in a measure of fear over having important companies in their nation collapsing. For instance, “[a]lthough some protectionist measures have been taken, the efforts made by countries in the region to increase openness, promote exports and facilitate the trade of goods and services have been much greater.”¹³⁰ This shows that efforts other than protectionism have resulted in better results for the nations of the region.

Some nations increased finance for trade when other creditors were unable to help out corporations in the nation.¹³¹ The countries that most invested in this were Argentina (US\$ 2.5 billion), Colombia (US\$ 910 million) and Ecuador (US\$ 225 million).¹³² This is different from most other nations, because most other nations cut down on finance for trade.¹³³ Latin America is attempting to take a different approach by financing trade to increase trade, rather than cutting trade like other nations.¹³⁴ Trade has become the most affected portion of the economy of the nations in the region, due to the fact that it has contracted 13% in 2009.¹³⁵ Trade is suffering an unprecedented contraction in the region, showing that the sector most impacted by the financial crisis is trade.¹³⁶ China is the only nation continuing to

¹¹⁸ Comunidad Andina, *CAN Economic Authorities Plan to Boost Microfinance in Order to Shield Grassroots Economies From the Crisis*, 2009, p.1.

¹¹⁹ Comunidad Andina, *CAN Economic Authorities Plan to Boost Microfinance in Order to Shield Grassroots Economies From the Crisis*, 2009, p.1.

¹²⁰ Comunidad Andina, *CAN Economic Authorities Plan to Boost Microfinance in Order to Shield Grassroots Economies From the Crisis*, 2009, p.1.

¹²¹ MercoPress, *Next round of EU/Mercosur Trade Association Talks in May in Madrid*, 2009, p.1.

¹²² Central American Integration System, *Central America premieres a new marketing campaign to win over British tourists*, 2008, p.1.

¹²³ Carrington, E. W, *Opening Remarks for the Council for Trade and Economic Development*, 2009, p.1.

¹²⁴ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Despite Crisis, Latin America and the Caribbean Avoid Protectionism*, 2009, p.1.

¹²⁵ Grudgings, *Latin America Urged Against Protectionism*, 2009, p.1.

¹²⁶ Grudgings, *Latin America Urged Against Protectionism*, 2009, p.1.

¹²⁷ Grudgings, *Latin America Urged Against Protectionism*, 2009, p.1.

¹²⁸ Grudgings, *Latin America Urged Against Protectionism*, 2009, p.1.

¹²⁹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Despite Crisis, Latin America and the Caribbean Avoid Protectionism*, 2009, p.1.

¹³⁰ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Despite Crisis, Latin America and the Caribbean Avoid Protectionism*, 2009, p.1.

¹³¹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Despite Crisis, Latin America and the Caribbean Avoid Protectionism*, 2009, p.1.

¹³² Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Despite Crisis, Latin America and the Caribbean Avoid Protectionism*, 2009, p.1.

¹³³ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Despite Crisis, Latin America and the Caribbean Avoid Protectionism*, 2009, p.1.

¹³⁴ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Despite Crisis, Latin America and the Caribbean Avoid Protectionism*, 2009, p.1.

¹³⁵ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Regional Trade Will Fall 13% in 2009, Says ECLAC*, Press Release, 2009, p.1.

¹³⁶ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Regional Trade Will Fall 13% in 2009, Says ECLAC*, Press Release, 2009, p.1.

demand the same amount of goods as before, and with the rest of their trading partners greatly affected by this crisis, trade will stay where it is today until the demand from other nations increases. By increasing trade, nations are financing some of their exports to make other nations want to buy them at a lower cost than before. By financing the goods, these goods become more attainable and affordable for nations currently in a recession that cannot pay prices for products that they were able to before the global financial crisis. One nation that has been able to show how increasing trade for finance has worked in their favor is Brazil.

Case Study: How has Brazil weathered the crisis better than most other nations worldwide?

Brazil is a nation which is attempting to do all it can to mitigate the current global financial crisis and is showing a positive outcome. Brazil has mitigated costs by lowering “export taxes, especially for agricultural products, and adopted measures to finance exports, among them, Brazil, Ecuador, Argentina and Uruguay.”¹³⁷ Also, because of the strong environmental factors in the nation, other nations are willing to invest money into Brazil to protect the environmental measures because of how crucial the environment is to the nation’s wellbeing.¹³⁸ In addition, the Brazilian government’s policies of coupling stable “economic management with well-directed social policies... has had good results.”¹³⁹ Brazil has also enacted large scale stimulus packages to pull the state out of this depression.¹⁴⁰ The Brazilian Authorities have done this through funding large-scale public infrastructure initiatives, cutting taxes on new cars, and passing tax breaks for corporations.¹⁴¹ Because of Brazil’s well-timed actions in combating the economic crisis, the state was only affected by 2 quarters of negative growth and Latin America’s largest economy has already come out of its recession posting a growth rate of 1.9% in the second quarter of 2009.¹⁴² Many individuals are contributing Brazil’s booming economy to have been a large contributing factor for Rio de Janeiro being rewarded the 2016 Summer Olympic Games.¹⁴³ This was especially emphasized by the Governor of Brazil’s Central Bank who wowed the committee by showing predictions regarding Brazil’s economy, and the fact that his nation’s economy is predicted to be the fifth largest in the world by 2016.¹⁴⁴ All of these actions have helped Brazil become one of the most capable nations in handling the crisis.

Conclusion

The global financial crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean has affected the nations in some ways, but many of the nations were prepared and capable of dealing with this crisis. The main areas in nations of the region that have been affected by this crisis are trade and poverty. Without the ability to trade, these nations will be unable to provide income to their nation. There are multiple strategies being pursued by the states, but the major goal that many of the states have right now is to attract investment into the region. Nations are doing this by adopting measures, such as lowering tariffs, in order to attract other nations as trading partners. Nations are pursuing other trading partners in order to prevent being so dependent on one trading partner. There are many methods being used, but it is important to determine which methods are the best for the region and why they are believed to be the most effective in mitigating the crisis.

Must Reads

Bárcena, A. (2009, October 5). *In search of solutions to the financial crisis: Measures adopted and future challenges*. Address presented at Thirty-Eighth Lecture of the Americas, Washington, DC.
Bárcena's address at the Lecture of the Americas stresses her desire for the region to come up with a unilateral front in tackling this economic crisis. She discusses multiple strategies that she believes need to be pursued in order to mitigate the crisis. A must-read speech for all delegates because Bárcena does a good job in showing exactly what strategies are best in mitigating the economic crisis.

Cárdenas, M. (2009, February 11). *Latin America, the Global Financial Crisis and the Velocity of Business*. Address presented at Latin America Private Equity Forum, Miami, Florida.

¹³⁷ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Despite Crisis, Latin America and the Caribbean Avoid Protectionism*, 2009, p.1.

¹³⁸ The World Bank, *World Bank Approves US\$1.3 Billion to Support Brazil's Environmental and Climate Change Agenda*, 2009, p.1.

¹³⁹ The World Bank, *Brazil, Country Brief*, 2009, p.3.

¹⁴⁰ BBC News, *Brazil's Economy Leaves Recession*, 2009, p.1.

¹⁴¹ BBC News, *Brazil's Economy Leaves Recession*, 2009, p.1.

¹⁴² BBC News, *Brazil's Economy Leaves Recession*, 2009, p.1.

¹⁴³ Leicester, *Samba! Rio Wins Right to Host the 2016 Olympics*, 2009, p.1.

¹⁴⁴ Leicester, *Samba! Rio Wins Right to Host the 2016 Olympics*, 2009, p.1.

This speech was given by the Director of the Latin America Initiative at the Brookings Institute. It is an excellent address discussing multiple areas of the economic crisis that have impacted the region. A definite must read to get a full grasp in regards to the economic crisis in Latin America.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2009, August 25). *Regional Trade Will Fall 13% in 2009, Says ECLAC* [Press Release]. Retrieved September 23, 2009, from UN ECLAC website:

<http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/prensa/noticias/comunicados/1/36911/P36911.xml&xsl=/prensa/tpl-i/p6f.xsl&base=/prensa/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>

This article is a must-read to see some of the statistics on the crisis and some information about regional economic cooperation. It also discusses main trading partners, and then goes into some details regarding exports from specific nations in the region. It is important to see which items are being exported and to where in order to understand effective trade patterns.

Grudgings, S. (2009, April 15). Latin America Urged Against Protectionism. *Reuters*. Retrieved from <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN1532709420090415>

This article discusses what the Brazilian President says about protectionism and why it is ineffective. It is also a great article for delegates to understand what protectionism is and what it can do. The president discusses the positive and negative impacts protectionism has on a nation's economy. This will help delegates to see why protectionism is not something that they should pursue in a possible resolution during the conference.

Noriega, R. E. (2009, June). Latin America and the Economic Crisis: Going It Alone. *Latin American Outlook*, 2(June 09), 1-6. Retrieved from <http://www.aei.org/docLib/20090625-LAO-June-g.pdf>

This article is sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, and is a must-read for delegates. Article goes into depth in regards to some nations and the impact of the global financial crisis on their economies. Without understanding the impact it has had on the nations, it would be difficult to understand how to mitigate it.

II. Strengthening Social Protection for the Most Vulnerable

“World military spending has now risen to over \$1.2 trillion. This incredible sum represents 2.5 per cent of GDP (global gross domestic product). Even if 1 per cent of it were redirected towards development, the world would be much closer to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.”¹⁴⁵

Introduction

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) focus on the development of the world's poorest.¹⁴⁶ Keeping these eight goals in mind it is important that the most vulnerable are socially protected and given every opportunity to succeed.¹⁴⁷ “By ‘vulnerable’ we understand ‘a high probability of a negative outcome’ or an expected welfare loss above a socially accepted norm that results from risky/uncertain events and the lack of appropriate risk management instruments.”¹⁴⁸ Throughout the developing world, the most vulnerable have access to different levels of social protection, and in Latin America and the Caribbean especially, this section of the population has been slowly shrinking since 1990, but there is still a significant portion of the population living in poverty.¹⁴⁹ According to the Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in 2007, “34.7% of the region's population was living in poverty and 12.6% in extreme poverty or indigence”.¹⁵⁰ With such high percentages of the region's population living in poverty or extreme poverty as we approach 2015, the deadline for the MDGs, it is more important than ever that individual Member States and regional bodies work towards providing social protection for the region's most vulnerable.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁵ Better World.net, *Millennium Development Goals*, 2009.

¹⁴⁶ United Nations, *United Nations Millennium Development Goals*, 2009.

¹⁴⁷ United Nations, *United Nations Millennium Development Goals*, 2009.

¹⁴⁸ The World Bank, *Protection of the Other Vulnerable Children (OVC)*, 2009.

¹⁴⁹ Barcena, A., Lopez, L., Hopenhayn, M., Baccaria, L., Jaspers-Fajier, D., Frishman, D., *Social Panorama of Latin America*, 2008, pg. 5.

¹⁵⁰ Barcena, A., Lopez, L., Hopenhayn, M., Baccaria, L., Jaspers-Fajier, D., Frishman, D., *Social Panorama of Latin America*, 2008, pg. 5.

¹⁵¹ United Nations, *United Nations Millennium Development Goals*, 2009.

History of the Protection of the Most Vulnerable in Latin America

Social protection of the most vulnerable in Latin America has a long history, especially in the 20th century. In the 1970s social protection became a cornerstone of the corporatist governments.¹⁵² “Corporatism is a system of economic, political, and social organization where corporate groups such as business, ethnic, farmer, labor, military, patronage, or religious groups are joined together into a single governing body in which the different groups are mandated to negotiate with each other to establish policies in the interest of the multiple groups within the body.”¹⁵³ Corporatist governments in Latin America are influenced by Catholic social thought.¹⁵⁴ This fact, became even more important after the creation of liberation theology in Latin America in the 1970s.¹⁵⁵ Liberation theology came out of Latin America in the 1970s due to the extreme amounts of poverty seen by the Catholic priests and their shared sense of duty towards the impoverished.¹⁵⁶ The combination of the corporatist model and Catholic influence has led to different social policies by many Latin American governments.

It is important to understand that in Latin America, much is done for social protection on the national level. The following two cases show the different ways in which governments in the region have chosen to address the issue of the protection of the most vulnerable. In Venezuela, Hugo Chavez has decided to address poverty and social exclusion through different missions focused on reducing poverty and improving health care for the impoverished.¹⁵⁷ These programs include: bringing in Cuban doctors to staff health clinics in slums, soup kitchens, and subsidized prices at supermarkets.¹⁵⁸ According to official government figures, extreme poverty has dropped nine percentage points between 2000 and 2007.¹⁵⁹ There are those who dispute these figures and argue that the programs implemented under Chavez are not long-term solutions, and instead only provide short term relief.¹⁶⁰ Most of these social programs are funded by the state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. PDVSA, and in the decade between 1997 and 2007 social spending increased from 38.6 % to 44 % of government spending.¹⁶¹ PDVSA spends approximately \$1.7 billion a year on social spending, “a sharp increase from the \$400 million it had been spending in years past.”¹⁶² Supporters of Chavez point to school attendance, an increase at every level, and health checkups, more than 200 million, as proofs that these social programs are working.¹⁶³

In Bolivia, Evo Morales has focused on social inclusion of the indigenous populations as a way to provide a social safety net for the poor.¹⁶⁴ Morales called a constituent assembly soon after being elected and in February 2009 a new constitution was approved.¹⁶⁵ Through the new constitution, Morales, has given indigenous peoples more freedom to be who they are; as well as, the recognition that they are a cultural entity that has the right to their own mode of governance that must be respected.¹⁶⁶

Regional organizations have also played a significant role in development. On September 21, 2004, the Andean Council of Foreign Ministers met and agreed on Decision 601 (Integral Plan for Social Development).¹⁶⁷ The Andean Council of Foreign Ministers is the political leadership body of the Comunidad Andina, and consists of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries.¹⁶⁸ This body “is responsible for ensuring that the objectives of Andean subregional integration are attained and for making and carrying out the Andean Community's foreign policy.”¹⁶⁹ Decision 601 is a plan that is meant to deal with poverty, social exclusion, and other problems that are prevalent throughout the region.¹⁷⁰

The UN & ECLAC and the Protection of the Most Vulnerable

¹⁵² Landry, D., *Resurrection of the Corporate Model in Latin American Politics*, 1976, pg. 70.

¹⁵³ Wikipedia, *Corporatism*, 2009.

¹⁵⁴ Landry, D., *Resurrection of the Corporate Model in Latin American Politics*, 1976, pg. 73.

¹⁵⁵ Wikipedia, *Liberation Theology*, 2009.

¹⁵⁶ Wikipedia, *Liberation Theology*, 2009.

¹⁵⁷ Alvarez Herrera, B. *How Chavez has Helped the Poor*, 2008, pg. 159.

¹⁵⁸ Miller Llana, S. *Where has Chavez taken Venezuela?*, 2009, pg. 2.

¹⁵⁹ Miller Llana, S. *Where has Chavez taken Venezuela?*, 2009, pg. 2.

¹⁶⁰ Miller Llana, S. *Where has Chavez taken Venezuela?*, 2009, pg. 2.

¹⁶¹ Alvarez Herrera, B. *How Chavez Has Helped the Poor*, 2008, pg. 159.

¹⁶² Alvarez Herrera, B. *How Chavez Has Helped the Poor*, 2008, pg. 159.

¹⁶³ Alvarez Herrera, B. *How Chavez Has Helped the Poor*, 2008, pg. 159.

¹⁶⁴ *Nueva Constitución Política del Estado*, 2008, pg. 2.

¹⁶⁵ *Nueva Constitución Política del Estado*, 2008, pg. 2.

¹⁶⁶ *Nueva Constitución Política del Estado*, 2008, pg. 2.

¹⁶⁷ Special Meeting of the Andean Council of Foreign Ministers, Decision 601 [Integral Plan for Social Development], 2004.

¹⁶⁸ *Andean Council of Foreign Affairs*, 2009.

¹⁶⁹ *Andean Council of Foreign Affairs*, 2009.

¹⁷⁰ *Andean Council of Foreign Affairs*, 2009.

The United Nations (UN) has been committed to the protection of the most vulnerable since its inception. The preamble of the United Nations Charter states “We the peoples of the United Nations determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom...”¹⁷¹ The United Nations Charter goes on to state that the purpose of the UN is “to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character...”¹⁷² These statements at the beginning of the United Nations Charter show how important human rights are and that the UN is committed to ensuring that all humans live with dignity and are able to attain better standards of life.

UN Member States also came to agreement on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, which states that everyone has the right to “food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.”¹⁷³ The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights goes even further by stating that protection of the family is of the utmost importance, and according special protection to mothers before and after giving birth.¹⁷⁴ These two documents serve as the foundation for protecting the most vulnerable and provide the strongest argument for social protection.

In addition to human rights, the UN has also set forth the Millennium Development Goals. The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), created in September 2000 at the United Nations Millennium Summit, guide much of the work of ECLAC.¹⁷⁵ These goals were agreed upon by world leaders with a completion date of 2015 and much remains to be done.¹⁷⁶ The goals most relevant to the protection of the most vulnerable are Goal One: end poverty, Goal Two: Universal Education, Goal Four: Child Health, and Goal Five: Maternal Health.¹⁷⁷ With the global economic crisis still looming large on the horizon, there have been projected setbacks towards achieving these goals.¹⁷⁸

Finally, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) puts forth the Social Panorama of Latin America annually. This document assesses the current situation in Latin America, specifically focusing on poverty, social exclusion and unequal income distribution.¹⁷⁹ In addition to the Social Panorama of Latin America, ECLAC also provides a number of services to Member States, including: the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), and the Network for the Interchange of Successful Experiences in Order to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals or the Red de Intercambio de Experiencias Exitosas para Alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio.¹⁸⁰

The next sections will expand on the two services ECLAC provides to its Member States, ILPES and the Network for the Interchange of Successful Experiences in Order to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals. ILPES is a permanent institution of ECLAC that was set up in 1962 “for the purpose of supporting the Governments of the region in the area of planning and public administration, through the provision of training, advisory and research services.”¹⁸¹ Since its inception it has offered support to the governments of Member States in a number of areas including the “design and improvement of institutional structures.”¹⁸² ILPES has provided various courses to over 15,000 participants, and this year there are a number of courses being offered including on public-private partnerships, the sustainable use of water, new social policies focusing on the reduction of poverty, and many more.¹⁸³¹⁸⁴ ILPES is composed of three intergovernmental forums: Regional Council for Planning, Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning, and the Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean.¹⁸⁵ The Regional Council for Planning “steers the institute’s activities,” through meetings that are held every four years where all forty Member States are represented agree on resolutions to be ratified at ECLAC sessions.¹⁸⁶ The Presiding

¹⁷¹ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

¹⁷² United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Article I.

¹⁷³ United Nations, General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948, Article 25 (I).

¹⁷⁴ United Nations, General Assembly, *International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights*, 1966, Article 10.

¹⁷⁵ The United Nations Department of Public Information, *Implementing the Millennium Declaration*, 2002.

¹⁷⁶ The United Nations Department of Public Information, *Implementing the Millennium Declaration*, 2002.

¹⁷⁷ United Nations, *United Nations Millennium Development Goals*, 2009.

¹⁷⁸ Barcena, A., Lopez, L., Hopenhayn, M., Jaspers-Faijter, D., Frishman, D., *Social Panorama of Latin America*, p. 6.

¹⁷⁹ Barcena, A., Lopez, L., Hopenhayn, M., Jaspers-Faijter, D., Frishman, D., *Social Panorama of Latin America*, p. 6.

¹⁸⁰ Red de Intercambio de Experiencias Exitosas para Alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, *Objetivos del Sistema*.

¹⁸¹ Institute for Economic and Social Planning, *About ILPES*.

¹⁸² Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), *Brief History*.

¹⁸³ Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), *Brief History*.

¹⁸⁴ Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), *Cursos ILPES 2009*.

¹⁸⁵ Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), *Intergovernmental Forums*.

¹⁸⁶ Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), *Intergovernmental Forums*.

Officers of the Regional Council for Planning usually meets annually where its eleven members make decisions for ILPES.¹⁸⁷ Finally the Conference of Ministers and heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean meets every four years and was created “in order to share experiences and research on planning and management of public policies.”¹⁸⁸ ILPES is financed by the Member States of the region with the assistance of international financing institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank.¹⁸⁹ Finally all Member States have access to ILPES programs, as they “are channeled through the national organizations responsible for planning in each country.”¹⁹⁰

The Network for the Interchange of Successful Experiences in Order to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals or the Red de Intercambio de Experiencias Exitosas para Alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio is the result of a project financed by the UN.¹⁹¹ The mission of this project is to share the knowledge and experiences of the public sector and experts on development in order to better achieve the MDGs.¹⁹² A database is located in ECLAC in Santiago, Chile and is administered by ILPES.¹⁹³

Case Study: Brazil's Bolsa Familia Program

According to the World Bank, Brazil has become a success story for conditional cash transfer programs.¹⁹⁴ These programs are cash transfers that are conditioned upon the behavior of the recipients.¹⁹⁵ In 2003, Brazil combined four conditional cash transfer programs (CCTs) under the umbrella of the Bolsa Familia Program (BFP).¹⁹⁶ The way the BFP program works is that cash is given to impoverished families on the condition that they will “send their children to school, get them vaccinated, take them to health clinics, pay attention to proper nutrition, and take advantage of vocational training courses.”¹⁹⁷ There are three objectives of the BFP: alleviate poverty and inequality; break the inter-generational transmission of poverty; and empower beneficiary families.¹⁹⁸ Brazil, in partnership with the World Bank, implements this program by targeting certain populations through geographic and household assessments.¹⁹⁹ “The BFP targets poor and extremely poor families throughout the country.”²⁰⁰

The BFP sprang from the perception of poverty in Brazil, specifically the fact that 76% of Brazilians believe that the poor are impoverished because society is unjust.²⁰¹ Without this widespread support for a government program to solve the injustice inherent in society, a conditional cash transfer program would not have been politically possible.²⁰² The BFP is supported by the 1988 Brazilian Constitution which “established a legal foundation for social assistance as guaranteed “rights” for the needy – and also an obligation of the state to provide health and education services, among others, the access to which is established as a basic right of all citizens.”²⁰³

The Bolsa Familia Program was created out of the success of four individual cash transfer programs: The Federal Bolsa Escola Program (School Scholarship Program), Bolsa Alimentacao (Food Scholarship Program), Auxilio Gas (Gas Assistance Program), and Fome Zero (Zero Hunger Program).²⁰⁴ These four programs were combined into the Bolsa Familia Program in 2003 due to the fact that they all served basically the same population and were all being

¹⁸⁷ Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), *Intergovernmental Forums*.

¹⁸⁸ Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), *Intergovernmental Forums*.

¹⁸⁹ Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), *The Financing of ILPES*.

¹⁹⁰ Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), *How to Have Access to Services*.

¹⁹¹ Red de Intercambio de Experiencias Exitosas para Alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, *Objetivos del Sistema*.

¹⁹² Red de Intercambio de Experiencias Exitosas para Alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, *Objetivos del Sistema*.

¹⁹³ Red de Intercambio de Experiencias Exitosas para Alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, *Objetivos del Sistema*.

¹⁹⁴ Lindert, K. Brazil: *Bolsa Familia Program – Scaling-up Cash Transfers for the Poor*, p. 67.

¹⁹⁵ Feitosa de Britto, *Conditional Cash Transfers: Why Have They Become so Prominent in Recent Poverty Reduction Strategies in Latin America*, 2004, section 1.4.

¹⁹⁶ Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil's Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 13.

¹⁹⁷ *Brazil's Bold Experiment*, 2009, pg. 85.

¹⁹⁸ *Brazil's Bold Experiment*, 2009, pg. 15.

¹⁹⁹ Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil's Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 15.

²⁰⁰ Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil's Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 15.

²⁰¹ Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil's Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 9.

²⁰² Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil's Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 9.

²⁰³ Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil's Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 9.

²⁰⁴ Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil's Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 13

administered by different ministries, creating bureaucratic inefficiencies.²⁰⁵ The Federal Bolsa Escola program was created in 2001 for poor families who earned half the minimum wage.²⁰⁶ These families would receive 7 USD per child per month, up to three children, based on the condition that each child attended school 85% of the time.²⁰⁷ Bolsa Alimentacao was also launched in 2001 to confront the causes of malnutrition.²⁰⁸ This program paid 7 USD per child, up to three children, to those families who earned half the minimum wage at the time.²⁰⁹ The target of the program was pregnant and lactating women; as well as young children.²¹⁰ In order for families to continue to receive the benefit they had to comply “with a minimum schedule of pre-natal and post-natal care visits, monitoring the growth of children, and keeping their vaccinations up to date, as well as participation in nutritional education seminars.”²¹¹ The Auxilio Gas program was created in 2002 to phase out cooking gas subsidies.²¹² The Fome Zero program was implemented in 2003 by President Lula da Silva to end hunger.²¹³

The Future of the Protection of the Most Vulnerable

With the global economic crisis currently affecting most of the world, it is no surprise that Latin America has not escaped its path. According to ECLAC’s Social Panorama of Latin America, this economic crisis is going to cause some setbacks for alleviating poverty and achieving the MDGs.²¹⁴ The economic slowdown “will have an impact on poverty trends and may thus prolong the less favorable turn that poverty levels took in 2008.”²¹⁵ As a result of the global economic crisis, employment for the region will stay the same or fall slightly in 2009 according to ECLAC’s Social Panorama of Latin America.²¹⁶ The report also argues that wages will remain flat or slightly be reduced. In addition to these economic indicators, the corrosion of household income is not encouraging, due to the fact that those without job security will be hardest hit.²¹⁷ The authors of the Social Panorama also argue that poverty and indigence will most likely increase as a result of the economic crisis.²¹⁸ In terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), it is estimated that “Latin America and the Caribbean will contract 1.9% this year, raising unemployment to 9% and aggravating poverty levels, according to the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2008-2009.”²¹⁹

In combating this economic crisis, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Alicia Bárcena, has argued that “we shouldn’t lower our guard on social protection, despite recovery.”²²⁰ Bárcena has said that although there are signs the economic crisis is slowing down, now is not the time to forget about efforts to alleviate poverty.²²¹ She recently participated in

²⁰⁵ Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil’s Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 13

²⁰⁶ Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil’s Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 12.

²⁰⁷ Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil’s Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 12.

²⁰⁸ Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil’s Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 12.

²⁰⁹ Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil’s Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 12.

²¹⁰ Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil’s Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 12.

²¹¹ Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil’s Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 12 – 13.

²¹² Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil’s Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 13.

²¹³ Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., de la Briere, B., *The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil’s Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context*, 2007, pg. 13.

²¹⁴ Barcena, A., Lopez, L., Hopenhayn, M., Baccaria, L., Jaspers-Faijfer, D., Frishman, D., *Social Panorama of Latin America*, 2008, pg. 6.

²¹⁵ Barcena, A., Lopez, L., Hopenhayn, M., Baccaria, L., Jaspers-Faijfer, D., Frishman, D., *Social Panorama of Latin America*, 2008, pg. 6.

²¹⁶ Barcena, A., Lopez, L., Hopenhayn, M., Baccaria, L., Jaspers-Faijfer, D., Frishman, D., *Social Panorama of Latin America*, 2008, pg. 6.

²¹⁷ Barcena, A., Lopez, L., Hopenhayn, M., Baccaria, L., Jaspers-Faijfer, D., Frishman, D., *Social Panorama of Latin America*, 2008, pg. 6 – 7.

²¹⁸ Barcena, A., Lopez, L., Hopenhayn, M., Baccaria, L., Jaspers-Faijfer, D., Frishman, D., *Social Panorama of Latin America*, 2008, pg. 7.

²¹⁹ ECLAC Information Services, *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional GDP to Contract 1.9% in 2009, Says ECLAC*, 2009.

²²⁰ ECLAC Information Services, *ECLAC Executive Secretary: “We Shouldn’t Lower Our Guard On Social Protection, Despite Recovery”*, 2009.

²²¹ ECLAC Information Services, *ECLAC Executive Secretary: “We Shouldn’t Lower Our Guard On Social Protection, Despite Recovery”*, 2009.

the launching of the new Inter-American Social Protection Network by the Organization of American States (OAS) whose goal is “to share best practices in the region, mobilize resources and provide technical assistance.”²²²

Conclusion

In conclusion, social protection of the most vulnerable is a very relevant and important topic for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, due to the high levels of poverty and current Member State and regional actions being taken to address this problem. What has been done in the past that can be applied to the future? What programs work best at addressing this problem? On whom should the burden of social protection fall, Member States or Regional Organizations? What can ECLAC do to assist Member States in addressing these issues? What programs currently exist that can be strengthened or better implemented towards assisting the most vulnerable? Where will funding come from for these programs?

Must Reads

Barcena, A., Lopez, L., Hopenhayn, M., Baccaria, L., Jaspers-Fajier, D., & Frishman, D. (n.d.). *Social Panorama of Latin America* [Briefing Paper]. Retrieved August 5, 2009, from The Economic Commission of Latin America website: <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/publicaciones/xml/3/34733/P34733.xml&xsl=/dds/tpl-i/p9f.xsl&base=/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>

The Social Panorama of Latin America is a document produced by ECLAC annually that contains important information regarding the development of the region. There are a number of sections that focus on poverty, unemployment, education, and youth violence. The document is a great background source for delegates.

Lindert, K. (n.d.). Brazil: Bolsa Familia Program - Scaling-up Cash Transfers for the Poor. *MfDR Sourcebook*, 67 - 74.

This article discusses how Bolsa Familia came to be. Lindert discusses the reasoning behind Luiz Ignacio Lula da Silva's decision to combine a number of social programs into the Bolsa Familia program, and the need behind it. Lindert also gives a brief overview of the programs objectives and its design and implementation.

Lindert, K., Linder, A., Hobbs, J., & de la Briere, B. (2007, May). The Nuts and Bolts of Brazil's Bolsa Familia Program: Implementing Conditional Cash Transfers in a Decentralized Context. *The World Bank. The authors of this Social Protection Discussion Paper provide a comprehensive overview of Brazil's Bolsa Familia Program. They begin with how conditional cash transfer programs are perceived and moves on to describe the basic parameters of the program. The most important section for delegates to read is the section on key lessons learned; as well as, the costs of administering the program.*

III. Access to Information Technologies and the Impact on Social Cohesion

“The challenge of deepening our integration schemes and positioning ourselves in a globalized world is connected with the challenge of combating the inequality that has characterized Latin America and the Caribbean and forming a more cohesive and socially developed region.”²²³

As mentioned by the former Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Jose Luis Machinea, Latin America and the Caribbean are beginning to take the necessary steps to keep pace with globalization.²²⁴ Member States should research the role that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) can play in easing the transition to globalize the region and in promoting social cohesion.²²⁵ The global economy has slowed tremendously, making it even more difficult for those in poverty and of lower social standing to have access to ICT.²²⁶ This calls for an increase in access, education, and supply of ICT, in order to work towards sustainable peace in the region and the world.²²⁷

²²² ECLAC Information Services, *ECLAC Executive Secretary: "We Shouldn't Lower Our Guard On Social Protection, Despite Recovery"*, 2009.

²²³ J. L. Machinea, public presentation, November, 2004.

²²⁴ J. L. Machinea, public presentation, November, 2004.

²²⁵ J. L. Machinea, public presentation, November, 2004.

²²⁶ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *The region should strengthen its innovative capabilities*, 2009.

²²⁷ UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *LAC Regional Seminar on ICT and Education*, 2008-2009.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) refers to a variety of services, including but not limited to mobile phone service, broadband internet, personal computers, television, and radio communication systems.²²⁸ Access to ICT is not only establishing and strengthening ICT networks in the respective region, but also the process of ensuring maintenance and creating a capacity for the local peoples to run the applications and maintain these networks.²²⁹ Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan outlined in the Millennium Development Goals that every person has the right to access ICT, not to mention other freedoms that come along with being networked to the rest of the world.²³⁰ In the Latin America and Caribbean region only seventy percent of the population has access to mobile phone service, and only four percent has access to advanced technologies such as broadband internet.²³¹

In order to strive for regional peace and stability, action must be taken to increase access to ICT.²³² The digital divide between citizens and regions has widened the gap of poverty and educational development.²³³ The digital divide in the world is just one of the areas that need improvement, but if significant measures are taken, there is a great opportunity that further development will follow.²³⁴ ICT has the possibility to propel countries into prosperity and higher standing in the world community.²³⁵

History of Social Cohesion in Latin America and the Caribbean

Social cohesion is referred to as the capability of peoples of different economic and social levels to live peacefully and cohesively in a common environment.²³⁶ Latin America and the Caribbean face the obstacle of overcoming the heterogeneous nature of their societies and the vast gaps in economic and social standing, which have only grown according to recent reports.²³⁷ The societies can differ in size and population, in economic standing, in languages and religion, and in family and social values.²³⁸ Disparities in ICT access have not only separated countries apart from one another, but even peoples within countries.²³⁹

The Latin American and Caribbean region is considered by many scholars to have the highest rate of inequality and is extremely underdeveloped.²⁴⁰ The high rate of inequality is a result of social exclusion, poverty, and environmental conflicts that have been magnified by economic growth.²⁴¹ Furthermore, the region has experienced uneven development during economic resurgences, and exploitation of resources by those who are wealthy in society.²⁴² One of the resources that has been heavily exploited is ICT.²⁴³ Citizens of lower social status struggle to have the same opportunities as those who are privileged and have access to the technology.²⁴⁴ ICT has the potential to connect countries within the region and within the rest of the world.²⁴⁵ Educational advances can be made with ICT, and thus give young adults the opportunity to gain social status and stay out of poverty.²⁴⁶ In many cases, ICT development can be used to increase freedom to entrepreneurs and corporations.²⁴⁷

The United Nations and Information Technologies

It is important to understand the specific role that the United Nations play in providing ICT to the various regions in the world.²⁴⁸ As stated above, Goal 8- target 8f of the Millennium Development Goals is that ICT is made available to

²²⁸ United Nations Information Technology Service, *United Nations Information Technology Service*, 2009.

²²⁹ United Nations Information Technology Service, *United Nations Information Technology Service*, 2009.

²³⁰ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals*, 2008.

²³¹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *The region should strengthen its innovative capabilities*, 2009.

²³² UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *LAC Regional Seminar on ICT and Education*, 2008-2009.

²³³ J. L. Machinea, public presentation, November, 2004.

²³⁴ J. L. Machinea, public presentation, November, 2004.

²³⁵ J. L. Machinea, public presentation, November, 2004.

²³⁶ Harris, R., Nef, J., *Capital, Power, and Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2008, p.14.

²³⁷ J. L. Machinea, public presentation, November, 2004

²³⁸ Vessuri, H., *The Social Study of Science in Latin America*, 1987, p.520.

²³⁹ Arocena, R. & Senker, P., *Technology, Inequality, and Underdevelopment: The Case of Latin America*, 2003, p.16.

²⁴⁰ Hoffman, K., *The Lopsided Continent: Inequality in Latin America*, 2003, p.363.

²⁴¹ Harris, R., Nef, J., *Capital, Power, and Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2008, p.10.

²⁴² Ocampo, J., *Latin America's Growth and Equity Frustrations during Structural Reforms*, 2004, p.68.

²⁴³ Newswire, *ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth* Notes Frost & Sullivan, August 23, 2009.

²⁴⁴ Hoffman, K., *The Lopsided Continent: Inequality in Latin America*, 2003, p.365.

²⁴⁵ Korzeniewicz, R. & Smith, W., *Poverty, Inequality, and Growth in Latin America: Searching for the High Road to Globalization*, 2000, p.7.

²⁴⁶ Arocena, R. & Senker, P., *Technology, Inequality, and Underdevelopment: The Case of Latin America*, 2003, p.17.

²⁴⁷ Arocena, R. & Senker, P., *Technology, Inequality, and Underdevelopment: The Case of Latin America*, 2003, p.17.

²⁴⁸ UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *LAC Regional Seminar on ICT and Education*, 2008-2009.

all peoples.²⁴⁹ Latin America and the Caribbean have limited access to information technologies; however efforts must be made towards making it available to all citizens, not just the wealthy and privileged in society.²⁵⁰ The United Nations has a vision that technology should be made available to all people.²⁵¹ This is an ambitious goal that can only be reached by maximizing the use of resources available and by creating solutions to make ICT more widely available. In 2002, the United Nations General Assembly held a session on ICT development.²⁵² The General Assembly outlined the importance of creating partnerships and creating a multi-stakeholder participation approach to closing the digital divide.²⁵³

One step that the UN has taken towards developing information technologies is the creation of the United Nations Information Technology Service (UNITeS), which was announced by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan during his Millennium Development Goals speech in 2000.²⁵⁴ UNITeS aims to aid in the development of Member States by having volunteers become engaged and actively train citizens on how to use ICT.²⁵⁵ Volunteers work to train the youth on how to use the internet, work online to help community service organizations with grant writing, and some professionals gather to train mothers on how to be successful in careers and support their family following the birth of their children.²⁵⁶ UNITeS uses ICT to provide maximum support by creating an online resource center with volunteers.²⁵⁷ UNITeS has two primary goals; to promote volunteer involvement as a fundamental element of successful information and communication technologies for development (ICT4D) initiatives and to create a UN Volunteer (UNV) program.²⁵⁸ In a 2004 United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Research Report, it was found that ICT centers can actually help reduce poverty.²⁵⁹ The centers are separate from school and teach ICT knowledge through various techniques and exercises.²⁶⁰

Even with the progress that has been made, the challenge of maintaining and increasing ICT skills and knowledge remains.²⁶¹ ICT networks and services are installed, but there is little attention given to computer literacy programs, computer maintenance, and website content development in the regional context.²⁶² UNITeS has continued with the volunteer initiative so as to create an opportunity for those less fortunate.²⁶³

Another program that has been established by the UN is the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, which was established at the request of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in March of 2001.²⁶⁴ The Task Force was created so as to provide an initiative that would address the need to provide ICT to all on a global scale.²⁶⁵ The Task Force has been instrumental in sponsoring regional meetings, organizing global forums, and producing publications.²⁶⁶ The Task Force expired in 2005, and is now known as the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID).²⁶⁷ After consulting governments and private sectors, it was agreed that a global forum was needed to provide consultation for ICT development.²⁶⁸ GAID provides an open platform for dialogue that can lead Member States worldwide towards determining how to harness Information Technologies.²⁶⁹ The alliance acts as a networking resource, and provides consultation, oversight, and guidance.²⁷⁰ This alliance is a United Nations Trust Fund and operates in large by donations from individuals, Member States, and organizations.²⁷¹ Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the

²⁴⁹ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals*, 2008.

²⁵⁰ UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *LAC Regional Seminar on ICT and Education*, 2008-2009.

²⁵¹ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals*, 2008..

²⁵² Information and Communication Technologies Development Agenda, *General Assembly Session on ICT for Development*, 2002.

²⁵³ Information and Communication Technologies Development Agenda, *General Assembly Session on ICT for Development*, 2002.

²⁵⁴ United Nations Information Technology Service, *United Nations Information Technology Service*, 2009.

²⁵⁵ United Nations Information Technology Service, *United Nations Information Technology Service*, 2009.

²⁵⁶ United Nations Information Technology Service, *United Nations Information Technology Service*, 2009.

²⁵⁷ United Nations Information Technology Service, *United Nations Information Technology Service*, 2009.

²⁵⁸ United Nations Information Technology Service, *United Nations Information Technology Service*, 2009.

²⁵⁹ United Nations Information Technology Service, *United Nations Information Technology Service*, 2009.

²⁶⁰ United Nations Information Technology Service, *United Nations Information Technology Service*, 2009.

²⁶¹ UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *What is GAID*, 2008-2009.

²⁶² UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *What is GAID*, 2008-2009.

²⁶³ United Nations Information Technology Service, *United Nations Information Technology Service*, 2009.

²⁶⁴ UN Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, *About*, 2006.

²⁶⁵ UN Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, *About*, 2006.

²⁶⁶ UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *What is GAID*, 2008-2009.

²⁶⁷ UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *Our Mission*, 2008-2009.

²⁶⁸ UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *What is GAID*, 2008-2009.

²⁶⁹ UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *LAC Regional Seminar on ICT and Education*, 2008-2009.

²⁷⁰ UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *How Does it Function*, 2008-2009.

²⁷¹ UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *Funding*, 2008-2009.

regional networks represented in GAID and a seminar on ICT and Education took place on February 9, 2009 at the Palacio de Convenciones in Havana, Cuba.²⁷² The seminar was organized jointly by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA GAID), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC), and the Ministry of Informatics and Communication (MIC) of the Republic of Cuba.²⁷³ The fact is ICTs can act as a vehicle for development in Latin America and the Caribbean.²⁷⁴ As a result of the regional conference held in Cuba in 2008, the leaders of the region identified ICT as a priority, and wish to actively seek discussion on future innovations.²⁷⁵ Latin America and the Caribbean have reiterated the fact that implementation is not enough, but it is necessary to establish long-term sectoral policies.²⁷⁶ The goals agreed upon at the seminar in Cuba that the region wishes to reach include: to develop and maintain a modern technological infrastructure, modifications to the educational system, and the allocation of resources towards training teachers on how to be technologically skilled.²⁷⁷

ICT Service and its effect on Social Cohesion

ICT access is important for the region and thus there has been a recent increase in support service given towards developing and maintaining ICT.²⁷⁸ The volunteers for organizations with the United Nations, such as UNITEs, can bring aid to numerous areas within the society through the volunteer initiative.²⁷⁹ Each country has areas that need to be addressed, which include but are not limited too; health, education, governance, gender equality, and HIV Aids.²⁸⁰ In general, the volunteer's ability to increase knowledge and skills with ICT technology will lead to improvements in education by creating opportunities in the classroom with computers and other information disseminated on the web.²⁸¹ With an increase education, comes a better understanding of health and disease control.²⁸² This education does often come unfunded, and thus it requires a lot of capital to maintain and sustain ICT access.²⁸³ Historically, the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have had the challenge of having minimal capital to work with in some instances, so the fact that the service is free is crucial to further development in the area.²⁸⁴

ICT technology has created a new format for the electoral process and how candidates deliver information to the public.²⁸⁵ The issue that arises is that citizens do not have equal access to ICT and thus are not given equal access to the electoral information.²⁸⁶ Latin America and the Caribbean lack the equal availability of ICT.²⁸⁷ In order for political movements to effectively use the technology, everyone must have access and everyone must be capable of using the service.²⁸⁸ ECLAC Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena has noted the lack of services such as cell phone service and broadband internet has left the region underdeveloped and stressed the importance of creating public policies to increase technology in the region, which will lead to political and environmental improvements.²⁸⁹

The Latin America and Caribbean region is characterized by governments that have attempted to smother civil liberties by controlling the dissemination of information.²⁹⁰ The most important aspect of the internet is that it is very

²⁷² UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *LAC Regional Seminar on ICT and Education*, 2008-2009.

²⁷³ UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *LAC Regional Seminar on ICT and Education*, 2008-2009.

²⁷⁴ Arocena, R., & Senker, P., *Technology, Inequality, and Underdevelopment: The Case of Latin America*, 2003, p.15.

²⁷⁵ UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *LAC Regional Seminar on ICT and Education*, 2008-2009.

²⁷⁶ UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *LAC Regional Seminar on ICT and Education*, 2008-2009.

²⁷⁷ UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *LAC Regional Seminar on ICT and Education*, 2008-2009.

²⁷⁸ Newswire, *ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth* Notes Frost & Sullivan, August 23, 2009.

²⁷⁹ United Nations Information Technology Service, *United Nations Information Technology Service*, 2009.

²⁸⁰ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *The region should strengthen its innovative capabilities*, 2009.

²⁸¹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *The region should strengthen its innovative capabilities*, 2009.

²⁸² Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *The region should strengthen its innovative capabilities*, 2009.

²⁸³ Hoffman, K., *The Lopsided Continent: Inequality in Latin America*, 2003, 363.

²⁸⁴ Hoffman, K., *The Lopsided Continent: Inequality in Latin America*, 2003, 363.

²⁸⁵ Martinez, J., & Santiso, J., *Financial Markets and Politics: The Confidence Game in Latin American Emerging Economies*, 2003, p.364.

²⁸⁶ Martinez, J., & Santiso, J., *Financial Markets and Politics: The Confidence Game in Latin American Emerging Economies*, 2003, p.363.

²⁸⁷ Ocampo, J., *Latin America's Growth and Equity Frustrations during Structural Reforms*, 2004, p.68.

²⁸⁸ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *The region should strengthen its innovative capabilities*, 2009.

²⁸⁹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *The region should strengthen its innovative capabilities*, 2009.

²⁹⁰ Hoffman, K., *The Lopsided Continent: Inequality in Latin America*, 2003, p.363.

difficult to control the flow of information.²⁹¹ The internet provides for a safe space for those who are often treated poorly by society.²⁹² There is a strong possibility for ICT to lead to free expression by groups that have been otherwise silenced.²⁹³ Since some groups of peoples are cut off from society, theories suggest that ICT skills should be taught directly to those who are less fortunate rather than in large groups, so as to create equal opportunity.²⁹⁴ As access and skills increase, the ability for the service to act as a mobile force for social cohesion increases.

Case Study- Europe

In terms of access to ICT and globalization, Executive Secretary Jose Luis Machinea has urged ECLAC to learn from the European experience.²⁹⁵ One example in particular that can be studied is France because of the actions by the government to not only implement an ICT infrastructure but to increase access to those of lower social standing.²⁹⁶ The government unveiled a plan to offer 1.2 million of the poorest citizens' internet access for just one euro a day.²⁹⁷ The effort is a result of the increase in government services that are provided online.²⁹⁸ In order for the government to validate providing these services, they had to make sure that a maximum amount of citizens could have access.²⁹⁹ While some governments may not be able to subsidize to that extent, it is an excellent example of one of the many steps that need to be made to maintain ICT.³⁰⁰ It is a very positive step for governments to have important documents uploaded and available on the web, however it only widens the gap of inequality for those without the ability to access this service and the tools to understand the technology.³⁰¹ Members who urge ECLAC to move towards programs that increase the amount of sources on the web should also research initiatives that ensure the use of these programs, as shown above.

The Latin America and Caribbean region may be more separated and culturally diverse than Europe, however the European leaders looked past generations of difference to create a united Europe in terms of the economy.³⁰² The goals of economic development and shared information in Europe have been tied to social cohesion.³⁰³ Regional integration will be more feasible with the implementation of a strong ICT infrastructure, especially with the geographic layout of the region. ECLAC would like to continue to pursue trade opportunities, which leads to political and social integration of the region.³⁰⁴ Machinea pointed out that social stability and development would come from the connection of regional banks.³⁰⁵

Case Study- Africa

The growing global economy and global market has brought together countries that may have not otherwise had any connection.³⁰⁶ Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean may seem very different on the outside, but they share common challenges such as poverty, underdevelopment, and business exploitation.³⁰⁷ Gates and Microsoft have established a long term investment plan in Africa and worked with other organizations such as the United Nations World Tourism Organization and the Industrial Development Organization.³⁰⁸ The creation of a knowledge based economy leads to new jobs and social growth. Microsoft is making key investments in education, working with the government to provide affordable broadband access, and making it easier to purchase PC's.³⁰⁹ This case outlines the

²⁹¹ Friedman, J., *The Reality of Virtual Reality: The Internet and Gender Equality Advocacy in Latin America*, 2005, p.1.

²⁹² Friedman, J., *The Reality of Virtual Reality: The Internet and Gender Equality Advocacy in Latin America*, 2005, p.1.

²⁹³ Friedman, J., *The Reality of Virtual Reality: The Internet and Gender Equality Advocacy in Latin America*, 2005, p.3.

²⁹⁴ Friedman, J., *The Reality of Virtual Reality: The Internet and Gender Equality Advocacy in Latin America*, 2005, p.3.

²⁹⁵ J. L. Machinea, public presentation, November, 2004.

²⁹⁶ Sayer, P., *Battling the digital divide with €1 a day*, 2006.

²⁹⁷ Sayer, P., *Battling the digital divide with €1 a day*, 2006.

²⁹⁸ Sayer, P., *Battling the digital divide with €1 a day*, 2006.

²⁹⁹ Sayer, P., *Battling the digital divide with €1 a day*, 2006.

³⁰⁰ Sayer, P., *Battling the digital divide with €1 a day*, 2006.

³⁰¹ Sayer, P., *Battling the digital divide with €1 a day*, 2006.

³⁰² Sayer, P., *Battling the digital divide with €1 a day*, 2006.

³⁰³ Sayer, P., *Battling the digital divide with €1 a day*, 2006.

³⁰⁴ Sayer, P., *Battling the digital divide with €1 a day*, 2006.

³⁰⁵ Sayer, P., *Battling the digital divide with €1 a day*, 2006.

³⁰⁶ Korzeniewicz, R., & Smith, W., *Poverty, Inequality, and Growth in Latin America: Searching for the High Road to Globalization*, 2000, p.8.

³⁰⁷ Hoffman, K., *The Lopsided Continent: Inequality in Latin America*, 2003, p.364.

³⁰⁸ PR Newswire, *Bill Gates Announces Microsoft Partnerships and Programmes to Benefit More Than 45 Million People in Africa by 2010*, 2006.

³⁰⁹ PR Newswire, *Bill Gates Announces Microsoft Partnerships and Programmes to Benefit More Than 45 Million People in Africa by 2010*, 2006.

need to invest in not only the establishment of public-private partnerships, but the maintenance of the ICT infrastructure to ensure growth.³¹⁰

Future of Information Technologies and the Effects on Social Cohesion

The future of ICT in Latin America and the Caribbean will rely on many of the companies that are already present in the region.³¹¹ ICT firms are currently facing criticisms of not being environmentally friendly.³¹² Furthermore, the ICT industry in general is economically restricted by resource availability, energy prices, and the size of the addressable market.³¹³ Companies are currently working towards addressing these issues, and working on the social and economic status of the region.³¹⁴ The global awareness of climate change has forced many companies to pursue green initiatives, thus changing the outlook of the ICT industry in Latin America.³¹⁵ Some examples of such green initiatives include increasing the use of videoconferencing, e-learning, ecommerce, and caller ID.³¹⁶ Furthermore, the region has the initiative of the Green Answers for a Green Century- Latin America's ICT Market Ready for Sustainable Development, which is part of Communication Services Growth Partnerships Program.³¹⁷ The program provides detailed market opportunities and evaluations, and will have a direct impact on the access of ICT in the region.³¹⁸ The program is extremely new and there is no statistics as of now on the successes/failures of the initiative.

ICT companies are also looking at the addressable market of ICT in the region and how access can improve in the future, as well as how ICT can impact the social status of the region.³¹⁹ The markets currently being evaluated include fixed telephone service, mobile telephone service, internet, and pay TV.³²⁰ The companies are working on including less-favored social classes in to the addressable market so as to enlarge potential revenues.³²¹ By increasing potential revenues, companies will be able to pursue educational opportunities and increase the professional qualification of those living in the area.³²² Additionally, ICT companies are increasing programs to help underprivileged communities with education, health, culture, and human development.³²³ The future of technology in the classroom is approaching in the region, and could lead to an increase in computerized assistants and allowing children to learn at their own pace.³²⁴

Conclusion

The most important aspect of ICT service is not the implementation, but the maintenance and education of the service.³²⁵ Countries could have a flawless infrastructure, but if the people do not have the access or skills, it has no benefit towards creating a stronger knit society or building peace and stability in the region. It is important to research

³¹⁰ PR Newswire, *Bill Gates Announces Microsoft Partnerships and Programmes to Benefit More Than 45 Million People in Africa by 2010*, 2006.

³¹¹ Newswire, *ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth Notes Frost & Sullivan*, August 23, 2009.

³¹² Newswire, *ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth Notes Frost & Sullivan*, August 23, 2009.

³¹³ Newswire, *ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth Notes Frost & Sullivan*, August 23, 2009.

³¹⁴ Newswire, *ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth Notes Frost & Sullivan*, August 23, 2009.

³¹⁵ Newswire, *ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth Notes Frost & Sullivan*, August 23, 2009.

³¹⁶ Newswire, *ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth Notes Frost & Sullivan*, August 23, 2009.

³¹⁷ Newswire, *ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth Notes Frost & Sullivan*, August 23, 2009.

³¹⁸ Newswire, *ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth Notes Frost & Sullivan*, August 23, 2009.

³¹⁹ Newswire, *ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth Notes Frost & Sullivan*, August 23, 2009.

³²⁰ Newswire, *ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth Notes Frost & Sullivan*, August 23, 2009.

³²¹ Newswire, *ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth Notes Frost & Sullivan*, August 23, 2009.

³²² Newswire, *ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth Notes Frost & Sullivan*, August 23, 2009.

³²³ Newswire, *ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth Notes Frost & Sullivan*, August 23, 2009.

³²⁴ BBC News, *Classrooms of the Future*, January 9, 2002.

³²⁵ UN- Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, *LAC Regional Seminar on ICT and Education*, 2008-2009.

each individual Member State of the Economic Commission on Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC), so as to gain an understanding of what ICT is present in the region, and the current capabilities of the people.

What is the current social situation in your Member State and how can ICT help? How can the Latin America and Caribbean region bring volunteers to the region? What steps need to be made in reforming the education system so as to maximize ICT potential in the school system? What networking connections can be made and how can the region work with a corporation? To what extent can your respective government subsidize ICT for its poorest citizens? How can information technology and information sharing be streamlined, so as to maximize regional corporation within ECLAC? Is social cohesion possible through ICT and what will peace and stability do to help bolster the countries' standing with the rest of the world?

Must Reads

Frost and Sullivan. (2009, August 21). ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth Notes. Retrieved August 23, 2009, from NewsWire Today Web site: <http://www.newswiretoday.com/news/55916/>

Very instrumental resource in the development of my section on the future of ICT and its impact on social cohesion. The news release gives the most updated information on the current status of ICT in the region and the future development that can result. Several ICT companies are moving towards more green initiatives and are trying to increase the amount of people that have access in the region. Furthermore, once more revenue is available, companies hope to create more programs that will help with education and other human development initiatives.

GAID. (2008-2009). LAC Regional Seminar on ICT and Education. Retrieved August 9, 2009, from UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs Web site: <http://www.un-gaid.org/Networks/RegionalNetworks/LAC/LACEvents/HavanaSeminar/tabid/989/language/en-US/Default.aspx> *The United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs will be a crucial source for the delegates in their research. In particular, the web page is for the Global Alliance for ICT and Development. The webpage will keep delegates up to date on the latest events and news in the realm of ICT development. Furthermore, it has information specific to regions, including Latin America and the Caribbean. I used the website in the background guide to mention a regional seminar for ICT and development that will take place in Cuba in February. Delegates are advised to follow up with the seminar and see what goals were accomplished.*

Harris, R., & Nef, J. (2008). *Capital, Power, and Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Boulder, Colorado: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

This academic source can be utilized to identify the problems of economic inequality. It is great for this topic in particular because not only does it identify the areas of capital and power, but it relates that information to problems in social cohesion. While it does not explicitly discuss ICT, many of the problems discussed could be improved by the development and maintenance of ICT. Delegates must understand some of the challenges of the region to be able to discuss the effects ICT will have on social cohesion. Part of this book is available on Google books for those that do not wish to purchase it.

United Nations Information Technology Service. Retrieved July 20, 2009, from UNITEs Web site: <http://www.unites.org>

In order to understand this topic, delegates must become familiar with the United Nations Information Technology Service. It is an excellent overview of this global initiative. It provides insight on the goals, operations, and partnerships that are part of the initiative. Not only does it outline the information technologies that volunteers can provide, but it also discusses the types of benefits that result. This will be very beneficial when looking to pinpoint the effects information technologies can have on social cohesion.

Annotated Bibliography

Committee History

Caribbean Press Releases. (2008, February 27). ECLAC celebrates 60th anniversary. Retrieved 17 July, 2009 from <http://www.caribbeanpressreleases.com/articles/2947/1/ECLAC-Celebrates-60th-Anniversary/Page1.html>
On the occasion of ECLAC's 60th anniversary the Commission stresses its role and support for the countries of the region in the past and the future. Several special activities in honor of the jubilee are announced and a short review of the history and importance of ECLAC is given. The main message is that ECLAC is an independent research centre, which is an obligatory reference for academics, governments and the public.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2000). *About ECLAC: Background information - Evolution of ECLAC ideas*. Retrieved 14 July, 2009 from http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/noticias/paginas/4/14004/P14004.xml&xsl=/tpl-i/p18f-st.xml&base=/tpl-i/top-bottom_acerca.xml
In this background guide, the evolution and development of the ECLAC's school of thought, historical structuralism, are described in detail. The information is based on the introduction of the book "50 años de pensamiento en la CEPAL" published in 1998 on the occasion of celebrating its five decades. The author is Ricardo Bielschowsky, staff member of ECLAC Office in Brasilia.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2000). *About ECLAC: Date of admission of Member States (43) and associate members of ECLAC*. Retrieved 14 July, 2009 from http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/noticias/paginas/6/21726/P21726.xml&xsl=/tpl-i/p18f-st.xml&base=/tpl-i/top-bottom_acerca.xml
Each member state of ECLAC and the date of admission are listed in this table. The Commission has been continuously growing, with new Member States in every decade. Caribbean States joined ECLAC long before the Caribbean was officially included into the region covered by the research and support of ECLAC.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2000). *About ECLAC: ECLAC Executive Secretaries*. Retrieved 15 July, 2009 from http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/noticias/paginas/6/21986/P21986.xml&xsl=/tpl-i/p18f-st.xml&base=/tpl-i/top-bottom_acerca.xml
An overview over all Executive Secretaries of ECLAC in the past with links giving further information about them and their work is presented on the webpage. The term of office of the Executive Secretary is only two years, which is in accordance with the biennial Sessions. Most of the Executive Secretaries have been previously working for the UN.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2000). *About ECLAC: ECLAC organizational chart*. Retrieved 15 July, 2009 from http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/noticias/paginas/3/21363/P21363.xml&xsl=/tpl-i/p18f-st.xml&base=/tpl-i/top-bottom_acerca.xml
Like any other secretariat of a major institution, the ECLAC Secretariat is divided into many different units. An organizational chart shows all sections of the organization: the offices in different countries, the administrative units and the thematic divisions. These thematic research units already give information about the work of ECLAC with regard to the content of the research.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2000). *About ECLAC: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about ECLAC*. Retrieved 14 July, 2009 from http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/noticias/paginas/5/21725/P21725.xml&xsl=/tpl-i/p18f-st.xml&base=/tpl-i/top-bottom_acerca.xml
Frequently asked questions have been collected by a review of the sites of various United Nations bodies and other international and regional organizations. The page gives basic information about ECLAC, its work and its funding. It also gives information on ECLAC publications and contact details where delegates can obtain hard copies of any publication on request.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2000). *About ECLAC: History of ECLAC*. Retrieved 14 July, 2009 from http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/noticias/paginas/3/21713/P21713.xml&xsl=/tpl-i/p18f-st.xml&base=/tpl-i/top-bottom_acerca.xml
ECLAC has developed its own school of thought, historical structuralism. This approach focuses on the analysis of the ways in which the region's institutional legacy and inherited production structure influence the economic dynamics of developing countries and generate behaviors that differ from those of developed nations. It has led to the formulation of a range of policy analyses and recommendations over time.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2000). *About ECLAC: Member States and associate members of ECLAC*. Retrieved 14 July, 2009 from http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/noticias/paginas/7/21497/P21497.xml&xsl=/tpl-i/p18f-st.xsl&base=/tpl-i/top-bottom_acerca.xsl
This website is about the Member States as well as the associate members of ECLAC. ECLAC consists of nations from Latin America and the Caribbean with countries from North America, Asia and Europe. They have common historical roots, cultural similarities or/and mutual economic interests.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2000). *About ECLAC: The institution*. Retrieved 14 July, 2009 from http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/noticias/paginas/0/21710/P21710.xml&xsl=/tpl-i/p18f-st.xsl&base=/tpl-i/top-bottom_acerca.xsl
After the founding of ECLAC and its headquarters in Santiago de Chile in 1948, the first sub-regional headquarters in Mexico City was established in 1951, the second in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in 1966. This second headquarter for the Caribbean was set up long time before the Caribbean was officially absorbed by ECLAC. In addition to that, the text shortly describes the main features of the institution.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2000). *Biography. Mrs. Alicia Bárcena*. Retrieved 15 July, 2009 from <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/noticias/paginas/8/21208/P21208.xml&xsl=/de/tpl-i/p18f.xsl&base=/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>
An overview of the current Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Mrs. Alicia Bárcena, is provided including a short biography which gives information on the career of Mrs. Bárcena and describes her studies and her work experiences. She is an expert in the environmental field and was, inter alia, the Founding Director of the Earth Council in Costa Rica, a non-governmental organization.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Information Society Programme. (2009) *About the Programme. ECLAC programme for the information society. Background*. Retrieved 17 July, 2009 from <http://www.cepal.org/socinfo/acerca/programa/default.asp?idioma=IN>
Since 2000, the development of the information society in Latin America and the Caribbean is an objective of the ECLAC work program. The Information Society Programme of ECLAC works together with several other institutes and projects also promoting the information society in the region. ECLAC provides support in the form of research, scientific contributions and the organization of seminars and workshops.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Press Centre. (2007, December 4). *In Latin America and the Caribbean, the population over age 60 will number more than 180 Million by 2050*. Retrieved 17 July, 2009 from <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/prensa/noticias/comunicados/3/31913/P31913.xml&xsl=/prensa/tpl-i/p6f.xsl&base=/prensa/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>
In 2050, a quarter of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean will be above the age of 60. Demographic change presents a huge challenge to the region, with more than the half of the over-60 year population currently not receiving a pension. This press release by ECLAC reports about the opening of the Second Regional Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean to address these challenges.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Press Centre. (2009, May 15). *Greater access to and use of information and communications technologies is needed, particularly in the areas of health and education*. Retrieved 17 July, 2009 from <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/prensa/noticias/comunicados/7/36007/P36007.xml&xsl=/prensa/tpl-i/p6f.xsl&base=/prensa/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>
Greater access to information and communication technologies in health and education are the priority goals of the ECLAC Action Plan eLAC2010. E-health allows for more precise diagnosis and faster medical attention and e-education yields more participatory classes. Effectiveness and quality of these services can be improved by strengthening the information society.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Press Centre. (2009, June 5). *The five United Nations regional commissions cooperate on energy efficiency*. Retrieved 17 July, 2009 from <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/prensa/noticias/comunicados/2/36202/P36202.xml&xsl=/prensa/tpl-i/p6f.xsl&base=/prensa/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>
The Global Energy Efficiency 21 (GEE21) project aims at sharing the acquired expertise of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project (EE21) promoting the formation of an energy efficiency market in Eastern Europe. Energy efficiency is widely regarded as the only self-financing method to fight climate change. The GEE21 project has only just begun, with the first meeting in June 2009 and the support of all five regional commissions of the UN.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Press Centre. (2009, June 8). *Experts call for protecting social spending to strengthen social protection for the most vulnerable*. Retrieved 17 July, 2009 from <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/prensa/noticias/comunicados/9/36189/P36189.xml&xsl=/prensa/tpl-i/p6f.xsl&base=/prensa/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>

ECLAC describes the outcomes of the seminar "Rethinking social issues in times of crisis" in a press release. The main conclusion of the seminar was that the global financial crisis threatens the social welfare systems in the region, which urgently need to be reformed. Increasing coverage of social protection also favors the financial sustainability of the system.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Press Centre. (2009, June 17). *Seminar on the Contribution of consumer goods to global warming*. Retrieved 17 July, 2009 from <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/prensa/noticias/comunicados/7/36267/P36267.xml&xsl=/prensa/tpl-i/p6f.xsl&base=/prensa/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>

International experts met in June 2009 to exchange experiences of the "carbon footprint" left by certain goods. One means to make people aware of the implications of their personal buying behavior is "carbon labeling". Products are labeled with their contribution to total greenhouse gas emissions expressed in CO₂, responsible for global warming. The concept has recently been adopted in England, France and Sweden.

Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE / ECLAC). (2003). *Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean: Situation and policies. Summary*. Retrieved 17 July, 2009 from <http://www.eclac.org/celade/noticias/paginas/3/13233/DLI1973-Summary.pdf>

This document was prepared with support from the agencies members of the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing (Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Labour Organization (ILO), and United Nations Programme on Ageing) and presented at the First Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in 2003. It is the basic document of the meeting giving important input information to the participants.

Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE / ECLAC). (2007). *Ageing and development in a society for all ages*. Retrieved 17 July, 2009 from <http://www.eclac.org/publicaciones/xml/7/31937/lc2805-i.pdf>
CELADE – the Population Division of ECLAC – prepared this document as the relevant substantive documentation requested for the second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing. Its purpose is to present and analyze the information available on the demographic ageing process, the situation of the adult population and the progress made by the countries in applying the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre. Ageing and Development (CELADE / ECLAC). (2003). *Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing*. Retrieved 17 July, 2009 from http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/celade/noticias/paginas/1/13561/P13561.xml&xsl=/celade/tpl/p18f.xsl&base=/celade/tpl/top-bottom_env.xsl

In 2003, the first Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing was held. The webpage provides several links, for example the report "Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean. Situation and policies. Summary", which was the basic document for the meeting. The Conference met to elaborate a regional strategy for implementing the International Plan of Action on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre. Ageing and Development (CELADE / ECLAC). (2007). *Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing*. Retrieved 17 July, 2009 from http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/celade/noticias/paginas/2/29702/P29702.xml&xsl=/celade/tpl/p18f.xsl&base=/celade/tpl/top-bottom_env.xsl

This press release announces the Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in 2007. Further links to the main documents of the meeting are provided. The Conference reviewed the achievements in the implementation of their Strategy and current Action Plan. It also identified challenges and priorities for action over the next five years.

Oxford Analytica. Global Strategic Analysis. (2007, July 30). *LATIN AMERICA: Crisis may provoke sharp policy shifts*. Retrieved 16 July, 2009 from <http://www.oxan.com/display.aspx?ItemID=DB151940>
Nothing is more likely to have a major impact on politics in Latin America today than the global financial crisis. The countries are expected to act in a similar way to their behavior in previous crises. If the recession is durable and left-wing parties remain strong, there might be a rise in public spending and States might be more likely to intervene in the market.

Oxford Analytica. Global Strategic Analysis. (2007, July 30). *LATIN AMERICA: ECLAC predicts contraction this year*. Retrieved 16 July, 2009 from <http://www.oxan.com/display.aspx?ItemID=ES151833>
The short article summarizes the estimates published by ECLAC on the regional economy growth. After six years of considerable growth the GDP growth is expected to slow down and even decline in 2009 due to falling remittances, declining trade and the overall global downturn. This might heavily affect the progress made in fighting poverty and unemployment so far.

Oxford Analytica. Global Strategic Analysis. (2007, July 30). *LATIN AMERICA: Poverty, inequality challenges remain*. Retrieved 16 July, 2009 from <http://www.oxan.com/display.aspx?ItemID=DB136042>
Latin-America and the Caribbean have made some progress in realizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), primarily in relation to access to public services. The overall performance on poverty reduction and fighting income inequality varies and progress with regard to social cohesion as well as sustainable development remains weak. The analysis is based on the MDGs Report of the UN.

United Nations Association in Canada. (2002). *Monitoring the UN - The UN and Sustainable Development*. Retrieved 7 August, 2009 from http://www.unac.org/en/link_learn/monitoring/susdev_bodies_latin.asp
An overview of Canada's involvement in ECLAC is presented on this website. Furthermore, a concise overview of ECLAC activities and main focuses is provided. Besides a brief history of ECLAC, one can also encounter its terms of reference, associated bodies and programmes, and some other links that might be useful for further research.

United Nations. (December, 2007). *The United Nations System. Principal Organs* [organizational chart]. Retrieved 14 July, 2009 from http://www.un.org/aboutun/chart_en.pdf
The main organs of the UN are the Trusteeship Council, the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat. ECLAC is one of five regional commissions subordinated to the Economic and Social Council. The Economic and Social Council also contains functional commissions, forums, bodies and committees which are dealing with a certain subject, independently from the regions.

I. Mitigation of the Economic Crisis at the Regional Level

Barbash, F. (2009, July 15). *The Scouting Report: A New Partnership with Latin America*. Web chat with Mauricio Cárdenas presented at Brookings Institute.
This is a web chat where individuals were asking the director of the Latin American Initiative at the Brookings Institute questions about information about US-Latin American relations. There is a good discussion on how some negative events in Mexico have impacted trade with the nation. Delegates will be able to find some of their more pointed economic questions answered in this web chat.

BBC News. (2009, September 11). *Brazil's Economy Leaves Recession*. BBC News. Retrieved from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8251164.stm>
This article discusses for how short of a time Brazil's economy was affected by the global financial crisis and how quickly the nation was able to recover from it. It also goes through strategies used by Brazil to mitigate the crisis. By comparing Brazil's growth to other nations in the world, it makes it easier to see how Brazil's strategies helped it come out of the recession faster than other nations.

Cárdenas, S. N. (2009, February 12). Interview [Special section]. *IMF Survey*. Retrieved from <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2009/int021209a.htm>
This article is actually an interview with the Director of the International Monetary Fund's Western Hemisphere Department. Cárdenas discusses past crises that the region has faced and why these past crises have helped Latin America deal with the present one. The IMF's Director of the region is able to break down and explain the different policies the IMF is using in each state.

Carrington, E. W. (2009, May 14). *Opening Remarks for the Council for Trade and Economic Development*. Opening Remarks presented at Caribbean Community, Georgetown, Guyana.
This speech was given by the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) during the opening remarks of the Committee on Trade and Economic Development. This speech discusses how the economic nature of the world has changed and how it has affected CARICOM. Secretary General Carrington also discusses some of the impact that the declining trade market has had on the region in terms of the banana and sugar trade.

Casas-Zamora, K. (2009, June 25). *Four Reflections on the Political Consequences of the Economic Crisis in Latin America*. In *Perspectives on the Americas*. Retrieved from Center for Hemispheric Policy: The University of Miami website: <https://www6.miami.edu/hemispheric-policy/CasasZamora.pdf>

This article is helpful for understanding the past economic crises faced by nations in the region in the past. It also has a very helpful chart that shows economic growth and inflation today as compared to what inflation and growth was during past economic crises in the specific nations. Casas-Zamora does a great job breaking down statistics in regards to the crisis today and crises from the past.

Central American Integration System. (2008, November 12). *Central America premieres a new marketing campaign to win over British tourists*. Retrieved from

<http://www.sica.int/busqueda/Noticias.aspx?IDItem=31231&IDCat=3&IdEnt=1&Idm=2&IdmStyle=2>

This article is a brief article discussing a specific strategy SICA is pursuing to bring tourism into the region. Since tourism makes up such a large portion of the market this is something that is necessary to be done. It is also interesting to see which community makes up the largest portion of the Central American tourism market.

Comunidad Andina. (2009, February 2). *CAN economic authorities plan to boost microfinance in order to shield grassroots economies from the crisis* [Press Release]. Retrieved September 25, 2009, from

<http://www.comunidadandina.org/ingles/press/press/np2-2-09.htm>

This press release from the Comunidad Andina (CAN), shows a regional effort to mitigate the global financial crisis. The regional alliance discusses a strategy that they believe will help mitigate the crisis and how CAN came up with the strategy. The strategy was formulated during a meeting of the finance ministers from the region.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2009, August 27). *Despite Crisis, Latin America and the Caribbean Avoid Protectionism* [Press Release]. Retrieved September 24, 2009, from <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/prensa/noticias/comunicados/0/36950/P36950.xml&xsl=/prensa/tpl-i/p6f.xsl&base=/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>

This article from ECLAC is a must-read to show how protectionist measures affect nations and why a lot of Latin American nations are avoiding using them. ECLAC shows other strategies used by nations to mitigate the economic crisis. Because these are the strategies that you will likely need to pursue during the conference, it is an article that can help guide you in the right direction.

Fagà, F. (2008, October 17). *The U.S. Financial Crisis Affects Latin America: The Colombian Context*. Retrieved from Council on Hemispheric Affairs website: <http://www.coha.org/the-us-financial-crisis-affects-latin-america-the-colombian-context/>

This article's title is a bit deceiving, but it first discusses the crisis in the region before it actually goes into discussing the crisis in Colombia. The Council on Hemispheric Affairs also discusses what areas of the region are at risk and which are not. It is interesting to see exactly how Latin America kept from being affected by the declining American market as compared to other countries.

Homi, K. (2009, September 24). *The 0.85 Percent Solution for Low-Income Countries* [Opinion]. Retrieved from Brookings Institution website: http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0924_development_g20_kharas.aspx

This opinion piece is great at seeing the impact on the global financial crisis on a worldwide basis. This article would be helpful for delegates with developing nations only. However, it still may help delegates with developed nations in understanding how the developing countries are being affected in order to aid in developing a comprehensive resolution that aids all nations.

International Monetary Fund. (2008, November 24). *Improved Policies Seen Helping Latin America in Crisis*. *IMF Survey*. Retrieved from <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2008/CAR112408B.htm>

This article discusses policies that have helped some Latin American policies to mitigate the current global economic crisis. The IMF discusses some nations and the policies that these nations have pursued. This article also has a brief paragraph discussion on lower inflation and public debt ratios pursued by nations as compared to past economic crises.

Leicester, J. (2009, October 2). *Samba! Rio Wins Right to Host the 2016 Olympics*. *ABC News*. Retrieved from <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=8738071>

This article discusses how Brazil won the 2016 Summer Olympic Games and how compelling the economic statistics regarding Brazil were. They discuss some statistics regarding Brazil's economy today and the fact that the nation is predicted to be the 5th largest worldwide by the start of the Olympic Games. This is an interesting article in order to see where a major economic power in the region is headed.

Martinez-Diaz, L. (2009, May 28). *The Global Economic Crisis and Mexico: Challenges for Recovery*. Speech presented at Brookings Institute, Miami, FL.

This speech is great for understanding where Mexico was today in compared to where it was a few years ago. It goes through and discusses different factors in Mexico's economy and how they were affected by the crisis. Each factor that is mentioned may not only be helpful to the Mexican delegation but to other developing nations as well.

MercoPress. (2009, October 1). *Next round of EU/Mercosur trade association talks in May in Madrid*. Retrieved from <http://en.mercopress.com/2009/10/01/next-round-of-eumercosur-trade-association-talks-in-may-in-madrid>
This press release by MERCOSUR discusses the trade strategy used by MERCOSUR to expand into different markets, and in this case specifically the European Union. It also discusses future meetings plan to further diversify in different trade areas. This article is important to understand different strategies to mitigate the crisis, and in this case the strategy is expansion into different markets.

Migration Policy Institute. (2005, October). *United States-Canada-Mexico Fact Sheet on Trade and Migration* [Fact Sheet]. Retrieved September 24, 2009, from Migration Policy Institute website: http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/US_Canada_Mexico_1005.pdf
This article would be most beneficial to the Mexican delegate to see what trade relations this nation has with the United States. It helps to see where trade was before the crisis and compare it to statistics of where trade with the United States is at today. This article may also be beneficial to other delegates who have the United States as a major trading power

PBS. (2008, November 21). *Economic Crisis in a Globalized World*. Retrieved from Public Broadcasting Service website: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/uncategorized/how-global-is-the-crisis/3543/>
This goes into detail about each area of the world and the impact that the economic crisis has on it. Delegates with nations that have high oil revenues will find this article to be extremely helpful for their case. However, delegates that do not have oil revenues may find this article helpful in understanding some of the economic problems of other nations.

Shah, A. (2009, July 25). *Global Financial Crisis*. Retrieved from Global Issues database.
This is a great article for seeing how the economic financial crisis came about. It is also very helpful for delegates in seeing how nations are impacted on a worldwide basis, but does also have a section on Latin America and the financial crisis. A very comprehensive article and a bit difficult to read, but it can help delegates understand the crisis and how the impact has not just been in one region but worldwide.

The World Bank. (2009). *Brazil* [Country Brief]. Retrieved from the World Bank website: <http://go.worldbank.org/UW8ODN2SV0>
This link is to the World Bank's country brief for Brazil. This would be the most beneficial to the Brazilian delegation in terms of the overview regarding the Brazilian economy and statistics about their economy. However, because of Brazil's success during the economic crisis, it may help other delegates to understand some background on the nation and why and how it has been successful in mitigating the crisis.

The World Bank. (2009). *Chile* [Country Brief]. Retrieved from the World Bank website: <http://go.worldbank.org/56MSUIMAQ0>
This link is to the World Bank's country brief for Chile. This would be the most beneficial to the Chile delegation in terms of the overview regarding the Chilean economy and statistics about their economy. However, it may help other delegates in seeing another nation's economic background other than their own.

The World Bank. (2009). *Fast-track Recovery from Crisis Likely for Latin America*. Retrieved from <http://go.worldbank.org/PP8LBGNLW0>
This article discusses why Latin American nations were able to mitigate the crisis much better than other regions. The World Bank also includes a very helpful chart that shows growth and GDP forecasts for the region along with some individual nations in the region. It is also discusses what economic sectors have suffered negative impacts by the crisis.

The World Bank. (2009, September 23). *Latin America Maps Out Post-Crisis Future*. Retrieved from <http://go.worldbank.org/82AUQ4Y7Z0>
This article discusses a conference that took place in the end of September to discuss poverty in Latin America as a result of economic crisis. This source links to more information about the conference that could be helpful to delegates. The links would be more helpful to the delegates than this actual site itself.

The World Bank. (2009). *Mexico* [Country Brief]. Retrieved from the World Bank website: <http://go.worldbank.org/WVKROYGK90>

This link is to the World Bank's country brief for Mexico. This would be the most beneficial to the Mexican delegation in terms of the overview regarding the Mexican economy and statistics about their economy. However, delegates may find it helpful to see how Mexico has developed into such a large trading power for some developed nations and how the economic crisis has hindered them.

The World Bank. (2009, March 5). *World Bank Approves US\$1.3 Billion to Support Brazil's Environmental and Climate Change Agenda*. Retrieved from <http://go.worldbank.org/5N04N6UO70>
This article from World Bank shows an initiative proposed by Brazil for sustainable development in the state. It also goes into further detail about specific areas that the loan money approved by the World Bank will go to in Brazil. The World Bank demonstrates how important the environment of Brazil is to the world and why it needs to be preserved and why they are giving the money to help preserve it.

United Nations. (n.d.). *UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development [Background]*. Retrieved September 23, 2009, from United Nations website: <http://www.un.org/ga/econcrisissummit/background.shtml>
This article discusses the UN Conference that took place from June 24-26, 2009 to discuss the economic crisis. It has some facts but not many. There are other articles that have more facts about the actual crisis, but this conference shows some of the actions that the United Nations has taken in order to mitigate the crisis.

United Nations Conferences on Trade and Development, (2009, September 17). UNCTAD/PRESS/PR/2009/046. In *FDI Trends Diverge Widely Up in South America and Down in Central America and the Caribbean [Press Release]*. *This press release shows the effect of Foreign Direct Investment on Latin America and the Caribbean. The press release also goes into further detail about certain industries and which industries have been successful through the economic crisis and why. It is important to understand why foreign direct investment helps nations in terms of growth, and how a lack of it this year has hurt nations.*

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2008, April 2). *Latin America and Caribbean so far appear to escape impact of financial crisis [Press Release]*. Retrieved September 27, 2009, from <http://www.unctadxi.org/en/Media/Press-Releases/Latin-America-and-Caribbean-so-far-appear-to-escape-impact-of-financial-crisis/>
This press release discusses how Latin America and the Caribbean had prevented the global financial crisis from affecting their economies before April of 2008. It is interesting to see how the region had kept the global financial crisis from affecting the nations in the region until late 2008. There are some good statistics in the article in regards to growth. There is also some information about trade that can be extremely helpful for delegates.

United Nations General Assembly, 63rd Session. (2009, July 13). A/RES/63/303. In *Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development*.
This resolution shows what the United Nations came up with to mitigate the global financial crisis worldwide during the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development. Delegates should read this to get some understanding of global solutions proposed by the United Nations. Because this is a global solution, not all of it will apply to the region. Delegates need to go through and decide which parts of the resolution are beneficial to the region and which aren't.

United Nations General Assembly, 64th Session. (2009, July 27). A/64/177. In *International trade and development: Report of the Secretary-General*.
This resolution shows what the United Nations came up with to mitigate the global financial crisis in regional terms. Delegates should read this to get some understanding of United Nations' solutions for the global financial crisis in Latin America. The resolution does not go into much depth about the crisis, but it was a start by the United Nations towards aiding the region.

II. Strengthening Social Protection for the Most Vulnerable

About ILPES. (n.d.). *Instituto Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Planificación Económica y Social*. Retrieved September 2, 2009, from <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/ilpes/noticias/paginas/4/26094/P26094.xml&xsl=/ilpes/tpl/p18f.xsl&base=/ilpes/tpl/top-bottom.xsl>
ILPES is an institution within ECLAC that provides training to Member States at their request. This section of the website discusses the goals of ILPES; as well as, the reason it was set up. Delegates will find this website pertinent in understanding the work of ECLAC regarding this topic.

About the Millennium Development Goals. (n.d.). Retrieved September 1, 2009, from <http://www.endpoverty2015.org/goals>

The Millennium Development Goals are an important factor in any work done by the United Nations, especially ECLAC and their role in the protection of the most vulnerable. The end poverty website provides delegates with a brief background on the Millennium Development Goals and where the world stands at achieving them. There are also valuable links to the Millennium Declaration and other documents regarding the MDGs.

Alvarez Herrera, B. (2008, July/August). How Chavez Has Helped the Poor. *Foreign Affairs*, 87(4), 158 - 160. *Alvarez Herrera discusses the impact and importance of Chavez's social programs. He provides a good background of the funding of the programs and argues that the programs have been effective in alleviating poverty. He also addresses some of the negative reviews regarding Chavez's "missions."*

Andean Council of Foreign Affairs. (n.d.). Retrieved October 2, 2009, from http://www.comunidadandina.org/ingles/sai/estructura_2.html

This website gives a brief overview of the Andean Council of Foreign Ministers or Affairs. The Council is the political leadership of the Andean Community and makes many important decisions regarding the direction the organization is going to take. Delegates should focus on how this body works to further the social protection of the most vulnerable in the sub-region.

Brazil's Bold Experiment. (2009, Spring). *Wilson Quarterly*, 33(2), 85 - 86.

This article discusses the pros and cons of the Bolsa Familia program and shows that not all of money is being used in a purely altruistic manner. The article also discusses how the program affects families in both positive and negative ways. It is important for delegates to pay special attention to the effects of the program as they work towards a solution or the region.

Brief History. (n.d.). *Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning.* Retrieved September 2, 2009, from <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/ilpes/noticias/paginas/5/26095/P26095.xml&xsl=/ilpes/tpl-i/p18f.xsl&base=/ilpes/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>

A brief history of ILPES is important to understand what it has meant to the region in the past and where it is heading. This section of the website discusses the efforts made by ILPES in training the governments of the region in economic and social planning. Delegates will find this section important in understanding ILPES and how it fits into this topic.

Corporatism. (n.d.). *Wikipedia.* Retrieved October 2, 2009, from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporatism>

Wikipedia gives a good background of what Corporatism is and how it has been used in the past. The article also goes on to discuss its different uses throughout history. There is also a good list of sources provided at the end of the article.

Cursos ILPES 2009. (n.d.). *Latin American and the Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning.* Retrieved September 2, 2009, from <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/ilpes/noticias/paginas/7/34267/P34267.xml&xsl=/ilpes/tpl-i/p18f.xsl&base=/ilpes/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>

This website provides delegates with a list of courses provided by ILPES. The list is wide-ranging and includes a number of pertinent courses related to the topic being discussed. There are links to each specific course schedule and information regarding the individual courses.

Education for All: Overcoming inequality: why governance matters [EFA Global Monitoring Report]. (2008).

Retrieved July 21, 2009, from UNESCO website: <http://www.unesco.org/en/efareport>

This report provides useful information on education programs and how they can help alleviate poverty. The report discusses education as a human right, the Dakar goals, and how governance can help raise the quality and equity of education. The authors conclude the report with important conclusions and recommendations for the future.

ECLAC Information Services. (2009, July 15). *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional GDP to Contract 1.9% in 2009, Says ECLAC.* Retrieved October 5, 2009, from <http://www.cepal.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/prensa/noticias/comunicados/8/36468/P36468.xml&xsl=/prensa/tpl-i/p6f.xsl&base=/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>

ECLAC Information Services post a number of important press releases that delegates should remain aware of. This specific press release discusses the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2008-2009 and its findings. It is a good reference for understanding how the economic crisis has affected the region and will continue to affect it.

ECLAC Information Services. (2009, September 22). *ECLAC Executive Secretary: "We Shouldn't Lower Our Guard On Social Protection, Despite Recovery."* Retrieved October 6, 2009, from <http://www.cepal.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/prensa/noticias/comunicados/5/37215/P37215.xml&xsl=/prensa/tpl-i/p6f.xsl&base=/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>

This press release discusses the launch of the new initiative, the Inter-American Social Protection Network, by the OAS. The article has a number of pertinent facts and figures that delegates should be familiar with. The press release also provides a good jumping off point for delegates to research new initiatives by regional organizations regarding this topic.

Feitosa de Britto, T. (2004, January). Conditional Cash Transfers: Why Have They Become so Prominent in Recent Poverty Reduction Strategies in Latin America. *Institute of Social Studies*.

This working paper discusses the prevalence of conditional cash transfer programs in Latin America and why they have become so popular. The author gives a detailed background on poverty reduction programs that predated these conditional cash transfer program and also discusses how the policy-making process works. What is most important is the assessment done by the author on the programs in Brazil and Mexico.

The financing of ILPES. (n.d.). *Latin American and Caribbean Institute of Economic and Social Planning*. Retrieved September 2, 2009, from <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/ilpes/noticias/paginas/9/26099/P26099.xml&xsl=/ilpes/tpl/p18f.xsl&base=/ilpes/tpl/top-bottom.xs>

Understanding how ILPES works is very important for delegates. This section of the website provides delegates with information regarding the financing of ILPES. ILPES is funded through international organizations and individual government donations.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. (2008, September 25). *End Poverty 2015: Millennium Development Goals*. Retrieved September 1, 2009, from <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/poverty.shtml>

This fact sheet provides the pertinent data relating to Goal One of the Millennium Development Goals. There is a description of where we currently stand with regards to this goal; as well as, a discussion of what has worked. Delegates will find the section on What has Worked most helpful; as well as, the section on what still needs to be done.

Gomes, C. (1993, November). Education, Democracy and Development in Latin America. *International Review of Education*, 39(6), 531-540.

Gomes discusses the history of education in Latin America in this article. It focuses on two case studies: South Korea and Latin America and shows that due to the debt crisis and the way it was managed in Latin America there was less investment in education in Latin America. That being said, this same lack of investment took place at a time of corporatist and democratic governments, which did not end up improving social spending on education. This article provides a good background resource on the region.

Hogenboom, B. (2005). Blending Old and New in Latin American Politics. *International Studies Review*, 7, 449 - 451. *Hogenboom provides delegates with a review of the book Authoritarianism and Corporatism in Latin America. This book would be a good source for delegates who are not familiar with the political history of the region. Hogenboom discusses the importance of corporatism in Latin America and the effect it has had on democratization.*

How to Have Access to Services. (n.d.). *Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning*. Retrieved September 2, 2009, from <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/ilpes/noticias/paginas/0/26100/P26100.xml&xsl=/ilpes/tpl/p18f.xsl&base=/ilpes/tpl/top-bottom.xsl>

As delegates prepare for the conference it is important for them to understand how ILPES works. This section of the website provides delegates with information on how Member States may access the services provided by ILPES. There are a number of ways Member States can access services by ILPES.

Inter-American Development Bank. (2006). *The Politics of Policies: Economic and Social Progress in Latin America 2006 Report* (E. Stein, M. Tommasi, K. Echebarria, E. Lora, & M. Payne, Eds.). Cambridge, MA: David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies: Harvard University.

The editors of The Politics of Policies have put together a compilation of the policies needed to form a successful government. Throughout the report there are examples of good and bad policies by governments throughout the region that can be helpful to delegates as they prepare for the conference. In addition to these examples, the report provides an overview of the different actors involved in policy-making and how those actors participate throughout the process.

Intergovernmental Forums. (n.d.). *Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning*. Retrieved September 2, 2009, from <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/ilpes/noticias/paginas/7/26097/P26097.xml&xsl=/ilpes/tpl-i/p18f.xsl&base=/ilpes/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>

ILPES is made up of a number of different intergovernmental forums that are discussed here. These three forums serve as the basis of the ILPES and as such delegates should understand their functions. Of these three forums it is most important to understand the Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean, because this is where the different governments get together and share experiences.

Landry, D. M. (1976, September). Resurrection of the Corporate Model in Latin American Politics. *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 11(3), 70-83.

In this article, Landry discusses the upsurge in corporatist governments in Latin America during the 1970s. Landry shows how Latin American countries turned inwards in the 1970s to find a model that would work for them and that that was the corporatist model. He gives a history of the corporatist tradition and a good working definition of the model.

Lehoucq, F. (2008). The Third Wave of Democracy: Findings and Implications. *Latin American Research Review*, 43(1), 245 - 254.

Lehoucq provides us with a review of four important books that focus on the third wave of democracy in Latin America. He provides a good summary of all four books and some good analysis. Any of these books would be a good source for delegates not familiar with democratization in Latin America.

Liberation Theology. (n.d.). *Wikipedia*. Retrieved October 2, 2009, from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberation_theology

Wikipedia gives a brief overview of Liberation Theology. In this article the roots of liberation theology are discussed; as well as, the practice of this branch of Catholicism. The article also goes on to discuss the future of liberation theology.

Millennium Development Goals. (n.d.). *Better World.net*. Retrieved October 2, 2009, from <http://www.betterworld.net/quotes/mdg-quotes.htm>

This website provides delegates with useful quotes regarding the Millennium Development Goals. Delegates can also find useful quotes regarding other topics by doing a search on the website. The quotes listed here are by important members of the United Nations community and provide insight into how the MDGs are meant to be used.

Miller Llana, S. (2009, February). Where has Chavez taken Venezuela? *Christian Science Monitor*.

The author discusses the social programs of Hugo Chavez in Venezuela and their impact on everyday people. She discusses the case of one man who has been affected by the social programs of Chavez and intertwines his story with a discussion of the programs as a whole. She also addresses some of the negative impacts of these programs.

Nueva Constitucion Politica del Estado [Bolivian Constitution 2008]. (n.d.). Retrieved October 2, 2009, from www.presidencia.gob.bo/download/constitucion.pdf

The new Bolivian Constitution puts a lot of emphasis on indigenous rights and the rights of the poor. This constitution, although only available in spanish, is a very useful resource for seeing how some governments in the region have used a constitutional assembly to change the way the indigenous, who are typically the poorest, are seen and treated. The constitution also provides a good background in how the Morales government proposes to move towards a more equitable society.

Objetivos del Sistema. (n.d.). *Red de Intercambio de Experiencias Exitosas para Alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio*. Retrieved September 3, 2009, from <http://ideea.cepal.org/ideea/ideea.htm>

The Red IDEEA-ODMs provides useful information on successful projects towards the Millennium Development Goals. This website provides delegates with the mission of the Red as well as links to information regarding the different MDGs. It is important for delegates to understand the different programs offered by ECLAC, and this is one of those programs.

Rawlings, L. B., & Rubio, G. M. (2003, August). Evaluating the Impact of Conditional Cash Transfer Programs: Lessons from Latin America. *The World Bank*.

The World Bank has produced a series of Policy Research Working Papers, and this is one of the papers in that series. In this paper, Rawlings and Rubio investigate the impact of conditional cash transfers and provide a background of conditional cash transfer programs. They focus on Brazil and Mexico and make recommendations for the future that delegates should pay special attention to.

Special Meeting of the Andean Council of Foreign Ministers. (n.d.). *Decision 601* [Integral Plan for Social Development]. Retrieved August 5, 2009, from Andean Community website:

<http://www.comunidadandina.org/INGLES/normativa/D601e.htm>

The Andean Council of Foreign Ministers met on September 21, 2004 and came to the decision to create the Integral Plan for Social Development. Decision 601 approved the Integral Plan for Social Development (IPSD) and gave the directive to the Andean Community to create the IPSD. The document also contains background information on the andean community's Member States and more specifics on the IPSD.

Therborn, G. (1987, July/August). Does Corporatism Really Matter? The Economic Crisis and Issues of Political Theory. *Journal of Public Policy*, 7(3), 259-284.

Therborn discusses corporatism's impact on economic development and comes to the conclusion that it is not the deciding factor economic outcomes. Therborn also describes two types of corporatism, important for understanding the history of Latin America and the Caribbean. The author also discusses how corporatism was used to address the economic crisis of 1973 - 1985, important as the world is now facing an economic crisis and leaders must bear that in mind as they work towards attaining greater social development.

United Nations. (n.d.). *United Nations Millennium Development Goals*. Retrieved October 2, 2009, from

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

This website provides delegates with an overview of the MDGs. It is useful in understanding where each country stands with regards to achieving the MDGs; as well as, simply understanding what each MDG hopes to accomplish. Delegates should use this website to familiarize themselves with the MDGs and how they relate to the protection of the most vulnerable.

United Nations. (1945, October 24). *Charter of the United Nations*. Retrieved October 2, 2009, from

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>

The UN Charter is a vital resource for any delegate at the conference. Specific to this committee are the articles related to social and economic protection of the peoples of Member States. Delegates should familiarize themselves with the document prior to conference.

United Nations. General Assembly. (n.d.). *International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights*.

Retrieved October 2, 2009, from <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cescr.htm>

This International Covenant provides more in-depth description of the rights outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Although not all Member States have ratified this covenant, it is still an important document to reference. The Covenant specifically requires all states party to it to take the steps towards realizing the full potential of the covenant.

United Nations. General Assembly. (1948, December 10). *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Retrieved October 2, 2009, from

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

As the topic before this committee is the protection of the most vulnerable, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a useful tool in understanding what can and cannot be done in this endeavor. Delegates should familiarize themselves with the document and be prepared to cite it at conference. The Declaration goes into specifics on what every human being has a right to.

The World Bank. (n.d.). Protection of the Other Vulnerable Children (OVC). In *The World Bank*. Retrieved September 1, 2009, from

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTCY/0,,contentMDK:20273322~menuPK:4697104~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:396445,00.html>

This document provides delegates with a definition of vulnerable. The document also discusses how children can be classified as more vulnerable than adults and why they should be assisted. There is also a list of key policies to be implemented to ensure the success of preventative policies.

Vellinga, M. (2007). Social Democratization and Development Strategy: An Alternative to Neoliberalization in Latin America? *Journal of Third World Studies*, XXIV(2), 95 - 107.

Vellinga provides a discussion of social democracy in Latin America by making a comparison to Western Europe. The article discusses the importance of democracy in Latin America and specifically social democracy and how it has been influenced by Western European Democracies. Vellinga gives delegates a nice background on the politics of the region as a whole focusing on social democracy, populism, and other democratic regimes.

III. Access to Information Technologies and the Impact on Social Cohesion

Annan, K. (2009). Millennium Development Goals. Retrieved August 1, 2009, from Changing the Present Web site: http://www.changingthepresent.org/millennium_development_goals/quotes

Some of the greatest quotes by United Nations Leaders can be found on this webpage. Delegates will have an opportunity to hear the point of view from credible sources and will then be able to base their own conclusions from the quotes. It will be useful for those looking for inspirational lines from some of the great leaders of the world on subjects such as the Millennium Goals, the Environment, World Health, and Technology, all of which can be tied to ICT access and development.

Arocena, R, & Senker, P (2003). Technology, Inequality, and Underdevelopment: The Case of Latin America. *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, 28, 15-33.

This article will be valuable in terms of research for position papers by the delegates and provided information for the background guide in terms of the current economic condition in the country and the current role that ICT plays in the region. The article mentions that in many cases, countries use ICT to help with bolstering the economy. The problem is, that in the case of the Latin American region, the people lack the proper education and access to ICT. While ICT can act as an agent to maximize freedom for corporations and individual entrepreneurs, it is not helping social cohesion, and is in fact increasing inequality in the region.

BBC. (2002, January 9). Classrooms of the Future . Retrieved August 22, 2009, from BBC News Web site: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/1749817.stm

While the article is about the United Kingdom, it is helpful when looking to what the future of ICT can be. It has some very general messages about ICT that can be applied to the future of technology in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Education and the classroom is one of the more promising areas of ICT development, as the youth are the future of any country and or region. With the continuation of development in the region, such classrooms may eventually be possible within the Member States of ECLAC.

Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization. (2002, December 23). DOT Force : Final Report of the G8 DOT Force, and its Legacy for ICT for Development. Retrieved September 1, 2009, from ICT Development Agenda Web site: <http://www.ictdevagenda.org/frame.php?dir=07&sd=10&id=227>

This is an excellent recap from the G8 Digital Opportunities Task Force (DOT), available on the ICT Development Agenda website. In 2002, the G8 held a summit in Canada to discuss the digital divide and actions that could be taken. While the DOT ceased to run as an organization at the conclusion of the summit, it was absorbed in to other bodies such as the United Nations ICT Task Force. The information is valuable because at the conference they discussed opportunities for all and identified ICT access as a global issue that had to be addressed. The summit identified the need to coordinate initiatives and provide resources for ICT development.

ECLAC. (2009, July 01). The region should strengthen its innovative capabilities. Retrieved August 2, 2009, from Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Web site: <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/prensa/noticias/comunicados/1/36351/P36351.xml&xsl=/prensa/tpl-i/p6f.xsl&base=/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>

This is an impressive press release from the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean website. All delegates should familiarize themselves with the ECLAC website, as it will prove to be a valuable resource. This press release in particular discusses a Heads of State summit that will take place at the end of the year. It will be important for delegates to look for the results of the meetings that take place and incorporate that in to their position papers. The release also provides valuable information about the current technology available in the region. Only about seventy percent of the population has access to mobile phone service, and only four percent has access to advanced technologies such as broadband internet

Friedman, J (2005).The Reality of Virtual Reality: The Internet and Gender Equality Advocacy in Latin America . *Latin American Politics and Society*, 47, 1-34.

This is an excellent source because it actually directly discusses the impact the internet has on social cohesion. The article discusses the fact that the region is characterized by governments that have attempted to smother civil liberties by controlling the dissemination of information. The most important aspect of the internet is it is very difficult to control the flow of information. Arguments have been made for gender equality through the internet, as social cohesion can not be reached if roughly half the population is treated unequally. This article explores the possibility for ICT to lead to free expressions by groups that have been otherwise silenced. It will be important to develop ways to communicate this knowledge to these groups, most notably teaching them directly.

Frost and Sullivan. (2009, August 21). ICT Companies in Latin America Deploy Sustainable Development Initiatives to Raise the Bar on Economic Growth Notes. Retrieved August 23, 2009, from NewsWire Today Web site: <http://www.newswiretoday.com/news/55916/>

This is a very instrumental resource in the development of my section on the future of ICT and its impact on social cohesion. The news release gives the most updated information on the current status of ICT in the region and the future development that can result of it. Several ICT companies are moving towards more green initiatives and are trying to increase the amount of people that have access in the region. Furthermore, once more revenue is available, companies hope to create more programs that will help with education and other human development initiatives.

GAID. (2008-2009). LAC Regional Seminar on ICT and Education. Retrieved August 9, 2009, from UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs Web site: <http://www.un-gaid.org/Networks/RegionalNetworks/LAC/LACEvents/HavanaSeminar/tabid/989/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

The United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs will be a crucial source for the delegates in their research. In particular, the web page is for the Global Alliance for ICT and Development. The webpage will keep delegates up to date on the latest events and news in the realm of ICT development. Furthermore, it has information specific to regions, including Latin America and the Caribbean. I used the website in the background guide to mention a regional seminar for ICT and development that will take place in Cuba in February. Delegates are advised to follow up with the seminar and see what goals were accomplished.

Harris, R., & Nef, J. (2008). *Capital, Power, and Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Boulder, Colorado: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

Harris and Nef offer a critical source in recognizing and identifying problems that result from economic inequality. It is great for this topic in particular because not only does it identify the areas of capital and power, but it relates that information to problems in social cohesion. While it does not explicitly discuss ICT, many of the problems discussed could be improved by the development and maintenance of ICT. Delegates must understand some of the challenges of the region to be able to discuss the effects ICT will have on social cohesion. Part of this book is available on Google books for those that do not wish to purchase it.

Hoffman, K. (2003). The Lopsided Continent: Inequality in Latin America. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 29, 363-390. *This is an outstanding review of the social standards that are currently present in Latin America. This article discusses the causes and effects of inequality and uneven distribution of resources. This can be identified with the lack of ICT in certain areas, as well as the fact that many in poverty simply do not have access to it. The authors make the claim that in their research they found Latin America to be the most unequal region in the world. When looking at ICT, delegates should identify what part of the population actually has access, and should develop solutions towards creating a more equal society. Social cohesion is directly affected by the distribution of resources. The article goes on to discuss the effects this has on social factors such as health and welfare*

ICT Development Agenda. (2002, December 23). UN : General Assembly Session on ICT for Development . Retrieved September 1, 2009, from ICT Development Agenda Web site: <http://www.ictdevagenda.org/frame.php?dir=07&sd=10&sid=2&id=216>

The ICT Development Agenda web site will prove to be an exceptional resource to all delegates. This particular article discusses the General Assembly session that discussed the development of ICT in 2002. The article includes background information about the issue of access to ICT. The article also discusses how the United Nations as an organization must address the issue access to ICT and how solutions can be reached. It will also be important because representatives from the Latin America and Caribbean region specifically spoke about the issue.

International Development Research Center. (2004, June). Latin American and the Caribbean ICT Project Database - PROTIC. Retrieved September 1, 2009 from: http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-86327-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

The research project being pursued is in direct correlation with the topic of access to information technologies and its impact on social cohesion. The research project recognizes the importance of sharing information and developing ICT networks in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The group aims to create a regional network and map out the market structure of ICT. Furthermore, the article discusses the impact that ICT will have on the community. The site also provides a link to the research groups website and will be valuable information.

IST World. (2007, January 1). Development of a knowledge platform to support Euro-Latin American research partnerships in ICT. Retrieved September 1, 2009, from IST World Web site: <http://www.ist-world.org/ProjectDetails.aspx?ProjectId=6b312522269343f793b9d87085e53766&SourceDatabaseId=7cff9226e582440894200b751bab883f>

The SOLAR-ICT Initiative is a program that aims to pursue the possibilities of cooperation between Europe and Latin America in terms of ICT Development. The article discusses how the region differs and the fact that each region offers unique ICT development opportunities. The initiative encourages information exchange as a way of increasing access to ICT. Furthermore, the web site discusses the possibility of establishing workshops in the region.

Korzeniewicz, R, & Smith, W (2000). Poverty, Inequality, and Growth in Latin America: Searching for the High Road to Globalization. *Latin American Research Review*, 35, 7-54.

This is an exceptional article about poverty and inequality in Latin America. The authors discuss what problems the region faces and what "improvements" have failed to reduce poverty. The question is, is ICT the answer in improving social cohesion in the region. While with ICT comes a more stable economy and other growth among numerous levels, will it have a different effect than other industrial growth. This will provide to be a very useful source as delegates start to understand the basic structures of a social group.

Machinea, J. L. (2004, November). Economic Integration and Social Cohesion. Retrieved August 21, 2009, from ECLAC Web site: <http://www.eclac.org/prensa/noticias/discursossecretaria/9/20769/DiscursoMexicoIngles-Nov11.pdf>
Jose Luis Machinea was the Executive Secretary of ECLAC and made this very informative speech about Economic Integration and social cohesion. In the speech he compares the region to Europe. As a former high ranking official of ECLAC, his comments made about Europe are very important in deciding what other regions to look at for answers. He discussed the difficulties that the region has faced and the current status of social structure. While he does not address ICT directly, part of globalization is developing an ICT infrastructure and being connected to the rest of the world. He talks about how with economic integration comes social and political integration, and thus is an important source when discussing the impact of ICT on social cohesion.

Martinez, J, & Santiso, J (2003). Financial Markets and Politics: The Confidence Game in Latin American Emerging Economies. *The Political Economy of International Finance*, 24, 363-395.

It is important to understand the current economic situation in Latin America to be able to discuss the future of the region. It discusses the effect of globalization on emerging markets. Much of Latin America can be considered an emerging market, and an increase in information and communication technology is only going to increase the market size. It is important to consider the cause and effect that will come from establishing a ICT network. This article is also important because it takes a look at the 2002 Brazil Presidential election. Elections cause uncertainty, and one question to consider is will higher access to ICT cause less uncertainty during presidential and other elections?

Microsoft Corporation. (2006, July 11). Bill Gates Announces Microsoft Partnerships and Programmes to Benefit More Than 45 Million People in Africa by 2010. Retrieved August 23, 2009, from PRNewswire Web site:

<http://www.prnewswire.co.uk/cgi/news/release?id=175083>

This article is a crucial source as part of the case study section. The article discusses the efforts of Bill Gates and Microsoft to bring information technology to Africa. It talks about the long term investment in this developing region, which is comparable to the development of Latin America and the Caribbean. The article discusses the opportunities ICT can create and furthermore the effects information technology has on social cohesion. The possibility of the creation of job opportunity and exports would be crucial for the Latin American region to pursue.

Ocampo, J (2004). Latin America's Growth and Equity Frustrations during Structural Reforms. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 18, 67-88.

The region has faced numerous challenges since structural reform. This source includes statistics about the structure of the labor force and the current statistics of the external flow of capital. These two statistics are crucial in deciding if ICT growth is possible in the area and the overall possibility of growth. There is a section that discusses the regions integration in to the world economy and the rates of foreign direct investment. Foreign direct investment could be one solution in deciding on how to finance ICT. It does mention that communication did grow in the 1990's, but delegates must look to how to further the communication service sector.

Sayer, P. (2006). Battling the digital divide with €1 a day. *IDG News Service*.

This article written by Peter Sayer is another source that will be crucial to the development of the case study portion of the research. It offers an in depth look at the effort made by the French Government to try and offer information technology services to as many citizens as possible. France is making an effort to the poorest people in the country to have internet access for as little as one euro a day. The importance is that more and more social services are available online, and those that are too poor to afford internet access are left on the outside, which leads to social tension. Social cohesion comes from the increase in equality and it is crucial that delegates look at way to include every citizen.

UNCTAD. (2003, November). UNCTAD Regional Conference. Retrieved September 1, 2009, from UN Electronic Commerce Branch Web site: http://r0.unctad.org/ecommerce/event_docs/rio_programme.htm

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held in 2003, provides excellent information. The website outlines the entire program, which is useful because it shows a clear outline of what some of the main issues were in 2003. By researching the issues in 2003, delegates will be able to assess the current situation of ICT in the region and see what areas still need improvement. The webpage also contains links to conference reports and other useful documents.

UNICT Task Force. (2006, May 31). Retrieved July 20, 2009, from United Nations Web site: <http://www.unictf.org>

Substantive information can be found on this United Nations website. This is one of the task forces' that is essential to information technology. It provides links to the organizations that are involved with the task force and has links to news stories about recent successes. This will be crucial in establishing case studies and other information. It also has information that is specific to regions in the world, including a section for Latin America.

United Nations Information Technology Service. Retrieved July 20, 2009, from UNITeS Web site:

<http://www.unites.org>

In order to understand this topic, delegates must become familiar with the United Nations Information Technology Service. It is an excellent overview of this global initiative. It provides insight on the goals, operations, and partnerships that are part of the initiative. Not only does it outline the information technologies that volunteers can provide, but it also discusses the types of benefits that result. This will be very beneficial when looking to pinpoint the effects information technologies can have on social cohesion.

United Nations. (2008). Millennium Development Goals. Retrieved July 20, 2009, from United Nations Web site:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>

The Millennium Goals were outlined by former Secretary General Kofi Annan. As part of the Millennium Goals the United Nations wished to increase information technology services in the world. The website provides statistics, reports, and statements that will give a clear message of what the United Nations wished to accomplish and will be an excellent reference for students to use when writing working papers and draft resolutions.

Valverde, G (1999). Democracy, Human Rights, and Development Assistance for Education: The USAID and World Bank in Latin America and the Caribbean. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 47, 401-419.

This is another great source for delegates to consider when gathering background information on the current economic and social situation in the region. Human Rights have a direct effect on social cohesion and should be considered when discussing social factors. The interesting part of the article is the discussion about the involvement that USAID and World Bank can have in the region. Delegates should realize the most important aspect of the topic is not establishing ICT, but educating the people on how to use ICT. Having an understanding on some of the avenues that can be taken in trying to garner support and aid in educating the people will be important when it comes time to write resolutions.

Vessuri, H (1987). The Social Study of Science in Latin America. *Social Studies of Science*, 17, 519-554.

While this article is dated, it has valuable information on the past history of the Social Science in Latin America. It goes in depth in talking about the history of science and technology and explains the effect that this can have on a population. In order for the delegates to develop a plan for the future, an understanding of the past must be realized. Regions and countries do not change over night and it is important to see a brief history of what has gone on. It gives statistics on the number of technicians in the region compared to the world at that time, and will mainly serve the purpose of providing some background information.

Rules of Procedure Committee for Development Policy

Introduction

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

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - Dates of convening and adjournment

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

Rule 2 - Place of Sessions

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

II. AGENDA

Rule 3 - Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and communicated to members of the United Nations at least 60 days before the opening of the session.

Rule 4 - Adoption of the agenda

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

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

Rule 5 - Revision of the agenda

During a session, the Commission may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only important and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during a session. Permission to speak on a motion to revise the agenda shall be accorded only to three representatives in favor of, and three opposed to, the revision. Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a session, may be placed on the agenda if the Commission so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item as of “important and urgent character” is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final. If an item is determined to be of such a character, then it requires a two-thirds vote of the Commission to be placed on the agenda. The votes described in this rule are substantive votes, and as such, observers are not permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, “the members present and voting” means members (not including observers) in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum

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

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General or his/her designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the Commission.
2. The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the Commission and be responsible for all the arrangements that may be necessary for its meetings

Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat

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

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat

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

Rule 10 - Selection of the President

The Secretary-General or his/her designate shall appoint, from applications received by the Secretariat, a President who shall hold office and, inter alia, chair the committee for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretary-General.

Rule 11 - Replacement of the President

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

IV. LANGUAGES

Rule 12 - Official and working language

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

Rule 13 - Interpretation

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

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

Rule 14 - Quorum

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

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

Rule 15 - General powers of the President

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him/her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Commission and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. She or he shall rule on points of order. She or he may propose to the Commission the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each member

may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

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

Rule 16

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

Rule 17 - Points of order

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

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

Rule 18

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

Rule 19 - Speeches

1. No one may address the Commission without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.
2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Commission, and the President may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call him or her to order without delay.

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

Rule 20 - Closing of list of speakers

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

The decision to announce the list of speakers is within the discretion of the President and should not be the subject of a motion by the Commission. A motion to close the speaker's list is within the purview of the Commission and the President should not on his own motion move the body.

Rule 21 - Right of reply

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

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

Rule 22- Suspension of the meeting

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

Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting

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

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

Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate

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

Rule 25 - Closure of debate

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

Rule 26 - Order of motions

Subject to rule 21, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

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

Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat, with the names of twenty percent of the representatives present who would like the Commission to consider the proposal or amendment. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the proposal or amendment for circulation among the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be put to the vote at any meeting of the Commission unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or of motions as to procedure even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated. If the sponsors agree to the adoption of a proposed amendment, the proposal shall be modified accordingly and no vote shall be taken on the proposed amendment. A document modified in this manner shall be considered as the proposal pending before the body for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

For purposes of this rule, “representatives present” is based on the number of total representatives (including observers) in attendance at the first night’s session. For purposes of this rule, all

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

Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions

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

Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic

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

For purposes of this rule, “those present and voting” mean those representatives, including observers, in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.

V. VOTING

Rule 30 - Voting rights

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

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

Rule 31 - Request for a vote

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

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

Rule 32 - Majority required

1. Unless specified otherwise in these rules, decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of tabulation, the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting. *All members declaring their representative states as “present and voting” during the attendance role call for the session during which the substantive voting occurs, must cast an affirmative or negative vote, and cannot abstain.*

Rule 33 - Method of voting

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

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

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

Rule 34 - Explanation of vote

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

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

Rule 35 - Conduct during voting

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

Rule 36 - Division of proposals and amendments

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

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

Rule 37 - Amendments

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

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

Rule 38-Order of voting on amendments

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

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

Rule 39 - Order of voting on proposals

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

Rule 40 - The President shall not vote

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

VII. CREDENTIALS

Rule 41 - Credentials

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

Rule 42

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

VII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Rule 43 - Participation of non-Member States

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

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

Rule 45 - Participation of national liberation movements

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

Rule 46 - Participation of and consultation with specialized agencies

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

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

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

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

