NMUN • NY

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2012

Written By: Jenna Gleaton, Ardis Smith

IRAQ

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NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE association™

1 - 5 April 2012 - Sheraton
3 - 7 April 2012 - Marriott

CONTACT THE NMUN

Please consult the FAQ section of 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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NMUN•NY 2012 Important Dates	
IMPORTANT NOTICE: To make hotel reservations, you must use the forms at 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 2012	• 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 2012	• Committee Updates Posted to www.nmun.org
1 March 2012	• 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: outreach@nmun.org • Preferred deadline for submission of Chair / Rapp applications to Committee Chairs • All Conference Fees Due to NMUN for confirmed delegates. ($125 per delegate if paid by 1 March; $150 per delegate if receved after 1 March. Fee is not refundable after this deadline. • Two Copies of Each Position Paper Due via E-mail (See Delegate Preparation Guide for instructions).
NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2012	1 - 5 April – Sheraton New York 3 - 7 April - New York Marriott Marquis The 2013 National Model UN Conference 17 - 21 March & 24 - 28 March (both at Sheraton; Sun-Thurs)

POSITION PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

Two copies of each position paper should be sent via e-mail by 1 MARCH 2012

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.

nmun.org
for more information

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General Assembly First Committee	ga1st.sheraton@nmun.org
General Assembly Second Committee	ga2nd.sheraton@nmun.org
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Human Rights Council	hrc.sheraton@nmun.org
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Commission on the Status of Women	csw.sheraton@nmun.org
Commission on Narcotic Drugs	cnd.sheraton@nmun.org
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United Nations Children's Fund	unicef.sheraton@nmun.org
Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)	csustd.sheraton@nmun.org
Food and Agriculture Organization	fao.sheraton@nmun.org
UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	unesco.sheraton@nmun.org
African Union	au.sheraton@nmun.org
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Organisation of Islamic Cooperation	oic.sheraton@nmun.org
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International Criminal Court	icc.marriott@nmun.org
Peacebuilding Commission	pbc.marriott@nmun.org
Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty	att.sheraton@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
Secretary-General	secgen.ny@nmun.org
Director(s)-General	dirgen.ny@nmun.org
NMUN Office	info@nmun.org

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2012 National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference. We are pleased to serve as your Directors for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). We would like to introduce ourselves to you. Jenna Gleaton will be the Director at the Sheraton venue. She graduated from Texas Christian University with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science. This is her fourth year at NMUN and her second year on staff. Ardis Smith will be the Director at the Marriott venue. She recently graduated with a Master of Philosophy degree in Historical Studies from the University of Cambridge, and she previously received her undergraduate degree in History from Brigham Young University. This is her fifth NMUN conference and her second year on staff.

The topics under discussion for ESCWA are:

1. Addressing Youth Unemployment in the ESCWA Region and Arab World
2. Promoting the Empowerment of Women in the ESCWA Region
3. Economic and Social Reconstruction in Palestine

As a regional commission under the Economic and Social Council, ESCWA is a significant body that influences both the ESCWA region and the global community. Therefore, you will be creating resolutions that will discuss and approach pertinent issues within the Arab world.

The background guide that follows will provide a foundation to the three topics before the Commission. It is to be utilized as a beginning point to your research, but should in no means the only source consulted. In order to understand these topics fully, you will need to explore various resources, including United Nations documents and Web sites, journals, contemporary news, and other related materials. It is vital to stay informed of current events and global issues, as well as to the work of ESCWA.

As a part of the preparation for the conference, each delegation will submit a position paper on the committee's topics. The position paper is an opportunity to discuss your delegation's positions and solutions in relation to each topic, and is a significant part of your preparation. As such, position papers should be substantive, and as you write your position paper, it is important that you use the correct formatting described in this Background Guide for your position paper. Position papers will be due March 1, 2012 and will be submitted to NMUN via e-mail. More information about NMUN position paper expectations and guidelines can be found in the background. Please also familiarize yourself and utilize the Delegate Preparation Guide, which is a helpful source on NMUN procedures and policies. If any questions arise as you prepare for the conference, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission's directors or the Under-Secretaries of the Economic and Social Council, Kristina Mader (Sheraton) and Vera Todorova (Marriott). We thank you in advance for the preparation and time that you will commit previous to the conference, and we look forward to meeting with you in April.

Sheraton Venue	*Marriott Venue*
Jenna Gleaton	Ardis Smith
Director	Director
escwa.sheraton@nmun.org	escwa.marriott@nmun.org

Message from the Directors-General Regarding Position Papers for the
2012 NMUN Conference

At the 2012 NMUN New York Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee to which it is assigned. Delegates should be aware that their role in each committee affects 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 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 should establish precise policies and recommendations about the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State should be identified and addressed. Making recommendations for action by your committee should also be considered. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference. NGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as position papers of countries. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in entirely original material. ***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 it 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 one 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 format <u>required</u>) **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, 2011. 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, 2012 (GMT-5) 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 D'Amico, Director-General, Sheraton venue, or Nicholas Warino, 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 it 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	*Marriott Venue*
Amanda D'Amico	Nicholas Warino
Director-General	Director-General
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Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary

The issues before the General Assembly Plenary are: The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion; Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions; as well as The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa. The Mexican Delegation first would like to convey its gratitude being elected and pride to serve as vice-president of the current General Assembly Plenary session.

I. The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion

The principles of equal sovereignty of states and non-interference, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, have always been cornerstones of Mexican foreign policy. The legitimate right to interfere by the use of coercive measures, such as economic sanctions, is laid down in Article 41 of the UN-charter and reserves the right to the Security Council.
Concerning the violation of this principle by the application of unilateral measures outside the framework of the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador to the United Nations Enrique Berruga Filloy underlined in 2005 that the Mexico strongly rejects "the application of unilateral laws and measures of economic blockade against any State, as well as the implementation of coercive measures without the authorization enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations."
That is the reason, why the United Mexican States supported – for the 14th consecutive time – Resolution (A/RES/60/12) of 2006 regarding the *Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba*.
In the 1990s, comprehensive economic sanctions found several applications with very mixed results, which made a critical reassessment indispensable. The United Mexican States fully supported and actively participated in the "Stockholm Process" that focused on increasing the effectiveness in the implementation of targeted sanctions. As sanctions and especially economic sanctions, pose a tool for action "between words and war" they must be regarded as a mean of last resort before war and fulfill highest requirements for their legitimate use. The United Mexican States and their partners of the "Group of Friends of the U.N. Reform" have already addressed and formulated recommendations for that take former criticism into account. Regarding the design of economic sanctions it is indispensable for the success to have the constant support by all member states and public opinion, which is to a large degree dependent the humanitarian effects of economic sanctions. Sanctions must be tailor-made, designed to effectively target the government, while sparing to the largest degree possible the civil population. Sanction regimes must be constantly monitored and evaluated to enable the world-community to adjust their actions to the needs of the unforeseeably changing situation. Additionally, the United Mexican States propose to increase communication between the existing sanction committees and thus their effectiveness by convening regular meetings of the chairs of the sanction committees on questions of common interest. An example is the case of negative spill-over effects of economic sanctions on neighboring countries, in which affected countries additionally need to be enabled to voice their problems more effectively, as addressed in the resolution *Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions* (A/RES/54/107). Non-state actors have in the last years tremendously grown in their political importance, especially with regard to the international fight against terrorism. Their position and the possibilities of the application of economic sanction on non-state actors is another topic that urgently needs to be considered.

II. Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions

As a founding member of the United Nations, Mexico is highly engaged in the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights all over the world, as laid down in the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR)* in 1948. Especially since the democratic transition of Mexico in 2000 it is one of the most urgent topics to stand for Democratization and Human Rights, and Mexico implements this vision on many different fronts.
In the Convoking Group of the intergovernmental Community of Democracies (GC), the United Mexican States uphold an approach that fosters international cooperation to promote democratic values and institution-building at the national and international level. To emphasize the strong interrelation between human rights and the building of democracy and to fortify democratic developments are further challenges Mexico deals with in this committee. A key-factor for the sustainable development of a post-conflict-region is to hold free and fair election and thus creating a democratic system. Being aware of the need of post-conflict countries for support in the preparation of democratic elections, the United Mexican States contribute since 2001 to the work of the International Institute for Democracy

and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), an intergovernmental organization operating at international, regional and national level in partnership with a range of institutions. Mexico's foreign policy regarding human rights is substantially based on cooperation with international organizations. The Inter American Commission of Human Rights is one of the bodies, Mexico is participating, working on the promotion of Human Rights in the Americas. Furthermore, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the regional judicial institution for the application and interpretation of the *American Convention of Human Rights*.

The objectives Mexico pursues are to improve human rights in the country through structural changes and to fortify the legal and institutional frame for the protection of human rights on the international level. Underlining the connection between democracy, development and Human Rights, stresses the importance of cooperation with and the role of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the reform of the Human Rights Commission to a Human rights Council.

Having in mind the diversity of challenges in enforcing democracy and Human Rights, Mexico considers regional and national approaches vital for their endorsement, as Mexico exemplifies with its *National Program for Human Rights* or the *Plan Puebla Panama*. On the global level, Mexico is encouraged in working on a greater coordination and interoperability among the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as the development of common strategies and operational policies and the sharing of best practices in civilian crisis management should be encouraged, including clear frameworks for joint operations, when applicable.

III. The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa

The United Mexican States welcome the leadership role the African Union has taken regarding the security problems of the continent. Our delegation is furthermore convinced that The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) can become the foundation for Africa's economic, social and democratic development as the basis for sustainable peace. Therefore it deserves the full support of the international community.

The development of the United Mexican States in the last two decades is characterized by the transition to a full democracy, the national and regional promotion of human rights and sustainable, economic growth. Mexico's development is characterized by free trade and its regional integration in the North American Free Trade Agreement. Having in mind that sustainable development is based not only on economic, but as well on social and environmental development, President Vicente Fox has made sustainable development a guiding principle in the Mexican Development Plan that includes sustainability targets for all major policy areas.

The United Nations Security Council has established not less than seven peace-keeping missions on the African continent, underlining the need for full support by the international community. In post-conflict situations, we regard national reconciliation as a precondition for a peaceful development, which is the reason why Mexico supported such committees, i.e. in the case of Sierra Leone. The United Mexican States are convinced that an other to enhance durable peace in Africa is the institutional reform of the United Nations. We therefore want to reaffirm our full support to both the establishment of the peace-building commission and the Human Rights Council. Both topics are highly interrelated and, having in mind that the breach of peace is most often linked with severest human rights' abuses, thus need to be seen as two sides of one problem and be approached in this understanding.

As most conflicts have their roots in conflicts about economic resources and development chances, human development and the eradication of poverty must be at the heart of a successful, preventive approach. Lifting people out of poverty must be seen as a precondition not only for peace, but for social development and environmental sustainability.

The United Mexican States want to express their esteem for the decision taken by the G-8 countries for a complete debt-relief for many African Highly-Indebted-Poor-Countries. Nevertheless, many commitments made by the international community that are crucial for Africa's sustainable development are unfulfilled. The developed countries agreed in the *Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development* (A/CONF.198/11) to increase their Official Development Aid (ODA) "towards the target of 0,7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0,15 to 0,20 per cent of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries". Furthermore, the United Mexican States are disappointed by the result of the Hong Kong Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization, which once more failed to meet the needs of those, to whom the round was devoted: developing countries and especially African countries, who today, more than ever, are cut off from global trade and prosperity by protectionism.

With regard to the African Peer Review Mechanism, the United Mexican States want to underline that good governance is an integral part of sustainable development. Therefore, we support all efforts by African countries to make the mechanism obligatory to increase transparency and accountability in all African countries.

Committee History

Introduction

The Charter of the United Nations (UN) declares that two of the main purposes of the UN are "[t]o achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character" and to serve as "a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends."[1] While such is a focus of the UN, international issues do not affect all regions or Member States in the same manner; indeed, economic, political, and social concerns influence the global communities in varied and multifaceted ways. Accordingly, the UN structures much of its efforts to address the needs and concerns of specific regions of the world.

One sub-organization of the UN that approaches international concerns from a regional perspective is the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). ESCWA is a regional commission under the Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC), the UN entity that concentrates on global economic and social concerns.[2] Other regional commissions of ECOSOC are the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).[3] The five regional commissions serve as a method of "promoting cooperation and integration between the countries in each region of the world," and ESCWA specifically aims to provide economic and social progression in a cooperative manner that also fosters the understanding of the needs of Western Asia in other Member States and regions.[4]

The Establishment of ESCWA

ESCWA was the fifth and final of the current regional commissions to be created by ECOSOC.[5] In 1973, it was determined that as Member States in Western Asia did "not enjoy membership in any regional economic commission", although "such membership would be an important factor in accelerating their economic and social development", the creation of a subsidiary organization underneath ECOSOC would benefit nations in the region.[6] ECOSOC Resolution 1818(LV) created the Commission as a body that would assist the economy of the region and increase cooperation among Member States in Western Asia while focusing on "the interrelationship of economic and social factors" in the region.[7] Much of the early emphasis of the Commission was placed upon economic considerations; indeed, the Commission as created by was originally named the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA).[8] In July 1985, it was decided to extend additional responsibilities, mainly containing the further mandate to concentrate on social matters in the region, and ECOSOC Resolution 1985/69 emphasized the new responsibilities of the renamed Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.[9] ESCWA represents the interests of Western Asia in ECOSOC and other UN entities.[10] The first headquarters of ESCWA were in Beirut, Lebanon, from 1974 to 1982.[11] The Commission moved to Baghdad, Iraq, in 1982, and then to Amman, Jordan in 1991 before returning to Beirut, which now serves as its permanent headquarters, in 1997.[12]

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[1] United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, article 1.
[2] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2011.
United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Background Information*, N.D.
[3] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA in Brief* [full pamphlet], 2008.
[4] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2011.
[5] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2011.
[6] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (Resolution 1818 [LV])*, 1973.
[7] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (Resolution 1818 [LV])*, 1973.
[8] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2011.
[9] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2011.
Information Society Portal for the ESCWA Region, *United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)*, 2010.
[10] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Streamlining the Work of the Commission (E/ESCWA/25/6[Part I]/Add.2)*, 2008.
[11] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2011.
[12] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2011.

Structure and Organization of ESCWA

ESCWA is a multi-faceted body composed of several administrative levels. The head of the ESCWA's secretariat is the current Executive Secretary of ESCWA, Rima Khalaf of Jordan, who was appointed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.[13] The governing body of ESCWA is made of the Commission itself and its eight subsidiary entities: the Technical Committee (created in 2006), the Statistical Committee (1992), the Committee on Social Development (1994), the Committee on Energy (1995), the Committee on Water Resources (1995), the Committee on Transport (1997), the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization (1997), and the Committee on Women (2003).[14] The subsidiary bodies of ESCWA and their resulting recommendations are conducted in a manner that influences nations within the region.[15] ESCWA also features an Advisory Committee, composed of diplomats and representatives of host nations and ESCWA Member States, which meets three times a year in Beirut, as well as a Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation, comprising experts from related fields that meet every two years in order to focus on scientific and technological aspects of ESCWA efforts.[16] In addition to the above-listed efforts, ESCWA frequently works with other UN entities and organizations within the international community, including the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council, in order to address issues facing the region.[17]

As determined in Commission resolutions 158 (XIV) of 1987 and 196 (XVII) of 1994, ESCWA meets every two years (during even years).[18] Since 2006, ESCWA meetings have been split into Ministerial and senior official sessions.[19] ESCWA sessions are usually held in April, and the location and date of the following session is determined during Commission meetings.[20] It is typical for Commission meetings to be held ESCWA headquarters, although it is feasible within the rules of procedure for meetings to be held elsewhere.[21] ESCWA reports its activities to ECOSOC, which then discusses the actions of the Commission, as do the other regional commissions under the Council.[22] This is done through an annual report submitted to ECOSOC.[23]

ESCWA Membership

The fourteen members of ESCWA are Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.[24] Members of ESCWA each hold one vote in Commission matters.[25] Sudan is the most recent nation to join the Commission.[26] ECOSOC Resolution 1818 (LV) determined that ESCWA was to be originally composed of individuals connected to the Economic and Social Office in Beirut, but that ECOSOC could review and address applications of interested potential members.[27] In 2008, the

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[13] United Nations Secretariat, *Organization of the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia* (ST/SGB/2010/7), 2010, p. 2.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA Executive Secretary Bids Farewell to UN House; Italy to Become Observer in ESCWA*, N.D.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Office of the Executive Secretary*, 2011.

[14] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Governing Body*, 2011.

[15] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Report on the Twenty-Sixth Session* (E/ESCWA/26/9/Report), 2010, p. 18.

[16] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Advisory Bodies and Focal Points*, 2011.

[17] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2011.

[18] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Governing Body*, 2011.

[19] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Governing Body*, 2011.

[20] United Nations, *Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*, 2003, p. 5.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Governing Body*, 2011.

[21] United Nations, *Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*, 2003, p. 5.

[22] United Nations, *Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*, 2003, p. 4, 13.

[23] United Nations, *Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*, 2003, p. 4, 13.

[24] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2011.

[25] United Nations, *Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*, 2003, p. 8.

[26] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Admission of the Sudan as a Member of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia* (ECOSOC resolution 2008/8), 2008.

[27] United Nations Economic and Social Commission, *Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (Resolution*

Council welcomed Sudan as the newest member of the Commission, stating, "the terms of reference and rules of procedure of [ESCWA] do not cover the geographical location of countries that become members" and "that most of the other regional commissions have as members countries that are not located in the region they serve".[28] Members of the Commission rotate the responsibility to serve as the chairman of ESCWA sessions, according to alphabetical sequence.[29]

ESCWA Objectives and Focus Areas

In order to address regional cooperation and development, ESCWA has developed a five-point set of objectives and eight focus areas that support its efforts. The objectives of the Commission include promoting regional development, encouraging interactive and cooperative actions of Member States, furthering the amount of inter-regional communication and involvement in issues shared amongst members, and making the causes of the region known further throughout the world.[30] ESCWA features seven current focus areas, or divisions, that constitute much of the Commission's recent activities: Sustainable Development and Productivity, Social Development, Economic Development and Globalization, Information and Communication Technology, Statistics, the ESCWA Centre for Women, and Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues.[31] Concentrating on these focus areas, ESCWA continues to promote regional cooperation and social and economic growth amongst nations in Western Asia.

Annotated Bibliography

Committee History

United Nations. (2003). *Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*. Retrieved August 22, 2011 from http://css.escwa.org.lb/english/ESCWARULEN.pdf
> *This UN document puts forth in great detail the structure and processes of ESCWA. The first section contains helpful terms of reference that provide basic understanding of the purposes and functions of ESCWA. The second section explains the rules of procedure that the Commission follows in its efforts. The document also provides a brief historical overview of ESCWA and a circa 2003 membership list (compiled previous to the addition of Sudan). This UN document is essential for understanding ESCWA in theory and in practice.*

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2011). *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*. Retrieved August 22, 2011 from http://www.escwa.un.org/
> *The ESCWA Web site is a vital source for all aspects of research on the history and background of the committee and both general and topic-specific approaches and actions of ESCWA. Helpful sections for research on the structure and functions of the committee include "ESCWA in Brief," "Office of the Executive Secretary," "Governing Body," and "Advisory Bodies and Focal Points." Of particular note is the "Library" under "Information Resources," where you can access ESCWA's library of research material. Also pertinent to research are the "Media Center" and "Publications" sections of the website, where information on all NMUN ESCWA topics can be researched in detail. Please note that this address is the official Web site for ESCWA – a top result in search engines is escwa.net, which is not the current ESCWA Web site.*

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (1973, August 9). *Resolution 1818 (LV)*. Retrieved August 22, 2011 from http://www.escwa.un.org/about/resolution.htm
> *ECOSOC Resolution 1818 (LV) is the founding document of ESCWA. Dated August 9, 1973, it established the creation of the Commission as the fifth and presently final regional commission of*

1818 [LV]), 1973.

[28] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Admission of the Sudan as a Member of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia* (ECOSOC resolution 2008/8), 2008.

[29] United Nations, *Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*, 2003, p. 8.

[30] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2011.

[31] United Nations Secretariat, *Organization of the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia* (ST/SGB/2010/7), 2010, p. 4-8.

ECOSOC and set forth the responsibilities of ESCWA. Resolution 1818 (LV) provides an understanding of the underlying purposes for the creation of ESCWA that are embedded in the practices of the Commission, as well as the rules and regulations that ESCWA works within.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2008). *Resolution 2008/8*. Retrieved September 1, 2011 from http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=e/2008/99
> *ECOSOC Resolution 2008/8 is the document in which Sudan's application to join ESCWA was accepted and the Member State was approved as a member of the Commission. Just as Resolution 1818 (LV) provides concentrated discussion on the procedures and purposes of ESCWA, Resolution 2008/8 outlines the practices of the Commission related to membership, and extend knowledge of how regional commissions function not only regionally, but also trans-regionally.*

United Nations Secretariat. (2010). *Organization of the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ST/SGB/2010/7)*. Retrieved August 22, 2011 from http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=st/sgb/2010/7
> *This document is a Secretary-General's bulletin from the UN Secretariat. It provides extended discussion on the functions of ESCWA and its organizational structure. The bulletin provides detailed descriptions of the specific responsibilities and roles of individuals and focus areas/divisions of ESCWA. This document should be reviewed in conjunction with the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, previously discussed above, in order to fully understand the purposes and procedures of ESCWA.*

I. Youth Unemployment in the ESCWA Region and Arab World

"We must develop strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work that will allow them to become independent and responsible global citizens. [...] Young people should never be seen as a burden on any society, but as its most precious asset. [...] Unemployment is the problem; youth is the solution."[32]

Introduction

Youth unemployment in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) region and Arab world has impacted the region both economically and socially for many years.[33] This issue is particularly important for ESCWA to address, as "the population in the Arab world is younger than most of the world's population," with one out of every five people aged between 15 and 24.[34] The transition of individuals from youths to adults, which occurs beginning at age fifteen, involves students becoming employees, single people becoming married and often parents, and working for multiple people rather than simply for oneself.[35] If social and economic structures are not stable enough to aid in these transitions, youth will miss opportunities to progress and take their place as full members of society, able to contribute to their communities and the region as a whole.[36]

In order to address the increasing number of unemployed youth in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), roughly 100 million jobs need to be added to the labor market.[37] The creation, and then maintenance, of that many jobs within current socio-economic structures is essentially impossible.[38] Structural reforms that are needed in order to add jobs rapidly include strengthening of education systems, housing markets, and health systems.[39] A successful approach to addressing youth unemployment, therefore, will be multi-faceted, and not only rely on economic policies, but societal reform policies broadly to support a generation of employed, productive youth.

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[32] United Nations, *Secretary-General's message on International Youth Day*, 2003.
[33] ESCWA, *Youth Employment in the ESCWA Region,* 2002, p. 1.
[34] PRB, *Youth in the Middle East and North Africa: Demographic Opportunity or Challenge*?, 2007, p. 1.
United Nations Development Program, *Arab Youth Strategising for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),* 2006, p. 23.
[35] PRB, *Youth in the Middle East and North Africa: Demographic Opportunity or Challenge?,* 2007, p. 1.
World Bank, *Youth Employment in the MENA Region: A Situational Assessment,* 2005, p. 4.
[36] PRB, *Youth in the Middle East and North Africa: Demographic Opportunity or Challenge?,* 2007, p. 1.
Carnegie Endowment, *Arab Youth Unemployment: Roots, Risks, and Responses*, 2011.
[37] World Bank, *Unlocking the Employment Potential in the Middle East and North Africa: Toward a New Social Contract*, 2011.
[38] World Bank, *Unlocking the Employment Potential in the Middle East and North Africa: Toward a New Social Contract*, 2011.
[39] PRB, *Youth in the Middle East and North Africa: Demographic Opportunity or Challenge?,* 2007, p. 4.

International Framework and UN System Action

ESCWA is one of many international organizations working to address the needs of youth in the Arab world through targeted, regional programs to promote socioeconomic structural reform, supported by the UN system and other international partners. The normative framework for these reforms is grounded in relevant international human rights conventions, labor treaties and policies, and international law related to the rights of children and youth.
The primary framework grounding the rights of youth consists of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948) and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989).[40] The UDHR was designed to protect the basic human rights of all individuals of the global community, and ensure that these rights are upheld through domestic legal systems.[41] Discrimination against youth is prohibited under Article 2, which states, "everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."[42] Furthermore, Article 23 (1) solidifies youth rights to seek employment by stating, "everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment."[43] Additionally, the *Convention on the Rights of the Child,* which is monitored by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), further expounds on the human rights of youth.[44] The rights provided to youth and outlined in the Convention include, *inter alia*, "the right to survival, to develop to the fullest, to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation, and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life."[45] These rights address the needs of youth and offer a foundation for establishing equal treatment of youth in the Arab world.
The International Labour Organization (ILO) contributes significantly to developing and upholding international labour standards that promote equal economic opportunities internationally.[46] The purpose of international labour standards is to guarantee that "human life and dignity" are maintained within economic development and to address pressing issues workers encounter.[47] One subject covered by international labour standards is child labour, which is "a violation of fundamental human rights."[48] The ILO has developed two instruments to promote the proper treatment of children: the *Minimum Age Convention* (1973) and the *Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention* (1999).[49] The ILO has also created instruments to address equality of opportunity and treatment, employment policy, employment security, and the promotion of equal economic opportunity.[50]

The ILO Programme on Youth Employment (YEP) was designed to aid countries in the establishment of reliable concrete youth employment policies and tackles "labour demand and supply" and the "quantity and quality of employment."[51] In 2001, the Youth Employment Network (YEN) was generated to be a "global platform to prioritise youth employment on the development agendas and to exchange on policies and programs to improve employment opportunities for youth."[52] YEN, governed by the ILO, provides a platform for ESCWA, the ILO, the World Bank, and various other relevant partners to work together in order to confront the challenges of youth unemployment in the ESCWA region and Arab world.[53]

United Nations General Assembly *Resolution 64/130* (2010) advocates for states to create programs aimed to strengthen environmental stewardship, protection of women and girls, physical and mental health care, including HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, substance abuse prevention, age-appropriate legal systems, access to information and communication technologies (ICTs), and increased youth representation in international delegations including delegations to various UN bodies.[54] In 2009, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2010 the

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[40] United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights,* 1948.
United Nations, *Convention on the Rights of the Child,* 2007.
[41] Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights,* n.d.
[42] Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights,* n.d.
[43] United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights,* 1948.
[44] Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Committee on the Rights of the Child: Monitoring children's rights,* 2011.
[45] United Nations Children's Fund, *Convention on the Rights of the Child,* 2011.
[46] ILO, *Introduction to International Labour Standards,* 2011.
[47] ILO, *The benefits of International Labour Standards,* and *Subjects covered by International Labour Standards,* 2011.
[48] ILO, *Child Labour,* 2011.
[49] ILO, *Child Labour,* 2011.
[50] ILO, *Subjects covered by International Labour Standards,* 2011.
[51] ILO, *Youth Employment Programme,* 2011.
[52] ILO, *The Youth Employment Network: About YEN,* 2011.
[53] ILO, *The Youth Employment Network: About YEN*, 2011.
[54] United Nations, *United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development*, 2010.
United Nations General Assembly, *Policies and programmes involving youth (A/RES/64/130)*, 2010.

"International Year of Youth" through the adoption of *Resolution 64/134*.[55] The UN was dedicated to utilizing the International Year of Youth to address major obstacles hindering youth progress on the domestic, regional, and international level.[56] One of the events that followed was the "High Level Meeting on Youth," which addressed issues such as unemployment, "participation of youth in decision-making," and youth and technology.[57]

In 2006, ESCWA adopted *Resolution 272* (XXIV), which "calls upon member countries to include youth policies in their national development strategies by mainstreaming the youth perspective in all planning processes, preparing national youth policies, and devising national plans of action for youth employment, in order to limit the migration of a skilled and creative workforce."[58] In addition, it "encourages the exchange […] of well-qualified youth labour between the countries of the region, […] contributing to the development of the region as a whole."[59] In its Social Policy Brief, *Demographic Transition in the Arab Countries: Preparing for the Future*, ESCWA examines some of the contributing factors to youth unemployment in the region and ways in which the global community can aid the countries in addressing this prevailing issue.[60] The brief introduces the concern that fertility rates will decline, and challenges from the decline in overall population within MENA will arise.[61]

One of ESCWA's objectives is "to familiarize the outside world with the circumstances and needs of the countries in the region."[62] One of the most structured policy frameworks developed in response to issues related to youth globally is the the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), which focuses specifically on youth unemployment at national and international levels.[63] Adopted by the UN General Assembly via *Resolution 50* on March 13, 1981, WPAY is implemented within the Arab region on an ongoing basis by ESCWA.[64] WPAY strives to tackle some of the factors contributing to unemployment, which include issues such as lack of access to education, health service, gender discrimination, and issues related to mobility and freedom of movement.[65] The implementation of WPAY aims to protect and promote the human rights of youth, and ensure they are treated equally within the labor market.[66]

As part of their implementation of WPAY, ESCWA, with the help of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Higher Population Council in Jordan, held an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) in 2007.[67] The purpose of this meeting was to "discuss a regional framework for integrating demographic transition in development plans and programmes in the Arab countries" specifically "integrating the changing age structure of population in the process of social and economic development."[68] It concluded by calling on ESCWA "to maintain its pioneering role in perceiving and analyzing the implications of demographic transition and providing supporting conditions in the Arab world to disseminate concepts, train on the methods of measurement, and build national capacities."[69]

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[55] United Nations, *Welcome to the International Year of Youth (IYY)*, 2010.
[56] United Nations General Assembly, *Proclamation of 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding (A/RES/64/134)*, 2010.
[57] UN NGO Liaison Service, *High Level Meeting on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding*, 2011.
[58] ESCWA, *272 (XXIV) Youth employment in ESCWA member countries,* 2006.
[59] ESCWA, *272 (XXIV) Youth employment in ESCWA member countries,* 2006.
[60] ESCWA, *ESCWA's Activities in relation to Population and Development,* 2011, p. 1.
[61] ESCWA, *ESCWA's Activities in relation to Population and Development*, 2011, p. 1.
[62] ESCWA, *ESCWA in Brief: Objectives,* 2011.
[63] DESA, *What is the World Programme of Action for Youth.*
[64] DESA, *Youth in the UN,* 2011.
UN GA, *World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/RES/50/81),* 1996.
[65] DESA, *Youth in the UN,* 2011.
[66] DESA, *What is the World Programme of Action for Youth.*
[67] ESCWA, *UN-ESCWA Weekly News: Integrating Demographic Transition in Development Plans and Programmes,* 2007, p. 1.
[68] United Nations, *Youth Unemployment in Post-Conflict Arab Countries,* 2004.
[69] ESCWA, *UN-ESCWA Weekly News: Integrating Demographic Transition in Development Plans and Programmes,* 2007, p. 2.

Current Context

The myriad factors contributing to youth unemployment include the increase in population of youth, poor quality or access to education, insufficient social protection and support, preexisting gender discrimination, and lack of access to adequate technology to support entry into expanding global industries.[70] Depending on the country, one or several of these factors can combine to create the current complex, and challenging situation in MENA, as it relates to youth unemployment.[71]

Population Growth
There are multitudes of factors that contribute to youth unemployment, with one of the most important being the "youth bulge."[72] The youth bulge is defined as "the increase in the proportion of 15 to-24-year-olds in the total population."[73] The youth bulge is the primary factor behind the Middle East and North African region currently having the largest rate of population growth in recorded history.[74] This phenomenon will present numerous challenges for "countries suffering from an inequitable social system, unemployment, and the general social exclusion of youth."[75]

Education
Some of the effects of the youth bulge have been seen in the field of education. The lack of job creation, and inability to accommodate the massive influx of young people, has led to a large portion of educated individuals facing unemployment.[76] Furthermore, the ILO has found that those entering the labor market are new to the system and lack the skills required for the majority of the available jobs.[77] The ILO found that the education system was preparing students for jobs in the public sector, where there are fewer opportunities for employment.[78] This gap in educational qualifications for jobs that are available in the private sector has forced young people to pursue further education, take a job of lesser quality, or remain unemployed until they are able to find employment that more adequately meets their needs.[79]
This is only one element, however, of the systemic issues within the educational systems of MENA. Primary education is still inadequate, and access to quality education remains a challenge, resulting in large populations of individuals who are illiterate or whom have not completed basic education.[80] In Egypt, Iraq, and Yemen, this group accounts for a large portion of their population.[81]

Technology
Globalization and technological advancement also has a significant impact on the rate of youth unemployment.[82] Due to the restructuring of the labor market, with an increasing proportion of technical and professional jobs requiring education focused on these skills, the proportion of young adults entering the job market that are forced to take positions of lesser pay or beneath their education level is growing.[83] The skills of the youth do not meet the changing demands of the labour market and the advancing technological trends; therefore, the gap between the unemployed or underemployed and employed is increasing.[84]

Social and Political Participation

[70] Carnegie Endowment, *Arab Youth Unemployment: Roots, Risks, and Responses*, 2011.

[71] Carnegie Endowment, *Arab Youth Unemployment: Roots, Risks, and Responses*, 2011.

[72] PRB, *Youth in the Middle East and North Africa: Demographic Opportunity or Challenge?,* 2007, p. 1.
United Nations, *Youth Unemployment in Post-Conflict Arab Countries,* 2004.

[73] Education for Employment, *Education for Employment: Realizing Arab Youth Potential*, 2011.

[74] PRB, *Youth in the Middle East and North Africa: Demographic Opportunity or Challenge?,* 2007, p. 1.

[75] ESCWA, *ESCWA's Activities in relation to Population and Development,* 2011, p. 1.

[76] ESCWA, *Youth Employment in the ESCWA Region,* 2002, p. 2.
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[77] ESCWA, *Youth Employment in the ESCWA Region,* 2002, p. 2.
PRB, *Youth in the Middle East and North Africa: Demographic Opportunity or Challenge?,* 2007, p. 5.

[78] Education for Employment, *Education for Employment: Realizing Arab Youth Potential*, 2011.

[79] ESCWA, *Youth Employment in the ESCWA Region,* 2002, p. 2.

[80] Education for Employment, *Education for Employment: Realizing Arab Youth Potential*, 2011.

[81] Population Reference Bureau, *Youth in the Middle East and North Africa: Demographic Opportunity or Challenge?*, 2007, p. 4.

[82] ILO, *Globalization and its effects on youth employment trends in Asia*, 2006, p. 2.

[83] World Youth Report, *Youth Employment,* 2003, Ch. 2, p. 58.

[84] ILO, *Globalization and its effects on youth employment trends in Asia*, 2006, p. 8.

The escalating rate of youth unemployment in the region presents numerous problems, further burdening countries already facing massive challenges in developing within the current economic climate. The lack of involvement of youth in the work force has caused that segment of the population to be not only marginalized economically, but also socially and politically.[85] As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated, "youth should be given a chance to take an active part in the decision-making of local, national, and global levels."[86] The continuing absence of youth involvement and youth unemployment in general has lead to a rising number of youth rebellions, both in developing and developed countries.[87] Poor working conditions, low wages, "little social protection, lack of secure contracts and career prospects, and weak or lacking trade unions to give them a voice" create an environment which fosters resentment and frustration amongst youth, leading in some extreme cases to protest or violence.[88]

Gender Gap

Youth unemployment also plays a role in widening the gender gap.[89] Unemployment rates for women in the MENA region, in general and exclusive to the young, are "the highest in the world, both in absolute terms and compared to unemployment rates for males."[90] There are numerous reasons for this gap, which include "highly segregated labor markets along gender lines, employers unwilling to assume the added cost of maternity leave and child care, women's limited geographic mobility, and the limited growth of labor-intensive, export-oriented industries that might otherwise employ women."[91] Closing the gender gap is, therefore, a central part of the solution to the broader issue of unemployment.

Poverty

Youth unemployment both is exacerbated by, and itself exacerbates, the already grave situation for those living in poverty.[92] Youth living in poverty are sometimes forced to quit school in order to support their family, which forces them to take lower paying jobs, which contributes to the ongoing cycle of poverty.[93] Providing opportunities for youth to "obtain a decent job is essential to eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development."[94] Unemployment and poverty both lead to worsened health conditions, due to the lack of proper care, health education, and ability to obtain treatment.[95]

A variety of negative social and economic impacts result from youth unemployment in the ESCWA region and Arab world, many of which are both causes and consequences. National and international cooperation in restructuring institutions and creating programs that reintegrate youth into the social, political, and economic sectors is essential in order to alleviate the problem.[96]

Conclusion

Youth unemployment in the ESCWA region and Arab world poses a serious threat to the social and economic development of the region.[97] In order to overcome this obstacle and facilitate growth, the factors contributing to youth unemployment must be addressed with the implementation of secure policies, programs, and institutions. As noted by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon,

> "The international community must work to expand the horizons of opportunity for young women and men and answer their legitimate demands for dignity and decent work. […] I think we can do, and we must do more for our young people. They are the leaders of tomorrow. You may be, and I

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[85] Radwan, *Arab Youth Employment: Economic, Social and Institutional Exclusion and its Impact on Employment*, 2006, p. 5.
[86] United Nations, *Welcome to the International Year of Youth (IYY),* 2010.
[87] Carnegie Endowment, *Arab Youth Unemployment: Roots, Risks, and Responses*, 2011.
[88] ILO, *Youth unemployment in the Arab world is a major cause for rebellion*, 2011.
[89] Kabbani, *Youth Employment in the MENA Region: A Situational Assessment,* 2005, p. 10.
[90] Kabbani, *Youth Employment in the MENA Region: A Situational Assessment,* 2005, p. 10.
[91] Population Reference Bureau, *Youth in the Middle East and North Africa: Demographic Opportunity or Challenge?,* 2007, p. 7.
World Bank, *MENA Development Report: Gender and Development in the Middle East and North Africa*, 2004.
[92] ILO, *Globalization and its effects on youth employment trends in Asia*, 2006, p. 10.
[93] ILO, *Globalization and its effects on youth employment trends in Asia*, 2006, p. 10.
[94] ILO, *ILO Statement at UN High Level Meeting on Youth,* 2011, p. 1.
[95] ILO, *Globalization and its effects on youth employment trends in Asia*, 2006, p. 13.
[96] United Nations, *Youth Unemployment in Post-Conflict Arab Countries,* 2004.
[97] Carnegie Endowment, *Arab Youth Unemployment: Roots, Risks, and Responses*, 2011.

may be, leader of today, but it will be they who will stand here, who will lead this world tomorrow."[98]

When approaching this topic, delegates should research their country's stance and actions on this issue as well as the work carried out by the international community. How can the UN and its organizations create stable institutions that handle the repercussions of youth unemployment, specifically youth rebellion? What is your country's progress on implementing the resolutions, conventions, and programs already in place? How can the international community address concerns related to population growth, education, technology, participation socially and politically, the gender gap, and poverty? How can ESCWA and other UN bodies close the gap on youth unemployment in the Arab world while ensuring the rights of the youth are upheld?

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>   *Ragui Assaad, regional director for West Asia and North Africa at the Population Council, and Farzaneh Roudi-Fahimi, director of the Middle East and North Africa Program at the Population Reference Bureau (PRB), were assisted in preparing this report by the PRB staff. It discusses population growth in the MENA region and the youth bulge and how they factor into youth unemployment. It also looks at various solutions and examples of successful programs that address the issue of youth unemployment.*

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>   *Hosted by the Carnegie Middle East Center, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, this event brought together experts in a discussion on youth unemployment in the Arab world. With a particular view towards identifying policy options for governments in the region, the event Web site contains transcripts, reports and video files of key speeches. This resource will be invaluable for delegates as it represents a range of perspectives and proposes concrete solutions to the problem at hand from experts in the region.*

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>   *This paper was prepared by ESCWA for the Youth Employment Summit in Alexandria, Egypt. It looks at various aspects of youth employment in ESCWA territories. Its sections include challenges facing youth employment, current situation, consequences, critical areas needing attention, and good practices being utilized in the region.*

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[98] United Nations, *Failure to Invest in Young People 'A False Economy', Secretary-General Tells General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Youth*, 2011.

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the factors plaguing youth unemployment and various other youth related issues. The work of this
meeting approached this topic with the determination of educating youth and having their best
interest in mind when creating policies.*

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recommendations for tackling youth unemployment. This resolution provides delegates with vital
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*The resolution on the World Programme of Action for Youth illustrates the policy framework for
international and national action on youth development. It reveals the ten priority areas of youth
development and encourages international cooperation in approaching those areas.*

II. Promoting the Empowerment of Women in the ESCWA Region

*[G]ender equality can only be attained if women are empowered in all economic, social and political spheres of
life.*[99]

Introduction

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[99] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Expert Group Meeting on Progress in Achievement of the
Millennium Development Goals in the ESCWA Region: A Gender Lens*, 2011, p. 4.

International efforts related to the empowerment of women and the improvement of the status of women have accomplished much in recent years, both within the global community and specifically in the ESCWA region. However, gender inequality is still prevalent in much of the world and within ESCWA Member States. The 2005 Arab Human Development Report reports, "gender inequality [is] one of the most significant obstacles to human development in the Arab region."[100] While gender inequality has a negative effect on many facets of a region's development, gender equity increases levels of health and economic growth and contributes to development.[101] In the ESCWA region, the promotion of the empowerment of women will also influence the overall development of Member States themselves. As the United Nations (UN) defines equality as a universal right, the empowerment of women remains a vital aspect of international efforts in order to increase the status of women worldwide and extend equality to all.[102]

In empowering women, it is important to both combat discrimination against women, which serves "as an obstacle to the participation of women, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries," and actively promote growth opportunities for women.[103] Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has stated, "It is impossible to realize our goals while discriminating against half the human race."[104] In that spirit, empowerment involves both the elimination of discrimination and the growth of opportunities for women.

International Precedence

The UN conversation on the status of women and empowerment dates back to the creation of the organization itself, and has been a constant topic of discussion, debate, and action throughout its existence. Significant UN documents on equality include the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the 1994 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW). Four World Conferences on Women have been held, and another significant international document on women's rights is the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a result of the Fourth World Conference.[105] In 2000, the GA adopted the Millennium Declaration, which noted the "collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level" and established the principles behind the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight goals for the international community to achieve by 2015.[106] Although one goal is explicitly related to gender – Goal 3 aims to "Promote gender equality and empower women" – female empowerment is the basis of all eight MDGs, and some UN entities have developed criteria that includes a gendered approach when addressing each MDG.[107] In 2010, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) was created, bringing together the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in order to more fully discuss the global status of women.[108]

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[100] United Nations Development Programme, *The Arab Human Development Report 2005: Towards the Rise of Women in the Arab World*, 2005.
United Nations Development Programme Arab States, *Women's Empowerment*, N.D.
[101] United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration*, 2000, p. 1.
[102] United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1946.
[103] United Nations, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, 1979.
[104] Annan, quoted in Department for International Development, *Gender Equality Action Plan 2007-2009: Making Faster Progress to Gender Equality*, 2007, p. 1.
[105] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, *World Conference of the International Women's Year*, N.D.
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, *World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace*, N.D.
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, *World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace*, N.D.
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, *Fourth World Conference on Women*, N.D.
United Nations, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995, mission statement.
[106] United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration*, 2000, p. 1.
United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011*, 2011.
[107] United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011*, 2011, p. 20.
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Expert Group Meeting on Progress in Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCWA Region: A Gender Lens*, 2011, p. 4, 6.
[108] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, *About UN Women*, 2011.

ESCWA and Empowerment

Throughout its existence, ESCWA has considered issues related to women and gender equality. The Commission frequently discusses in its meetings and reports methods through which gendered perspectives can improve overall economic, political, and social considerations in ESCWA members. In recent years, pertinent Commission conversations on gender in the ESCWA region have included a 2006 Arab Women in Public Life and Decision-Making pamphlet, an Inter-agency and Expert Group Meeting on Gender and the Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region in 2008, a 2009 publication on Women's Control Over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources, the Fourth Session of the ESCWA Committee on Women in 2009, the 2009 Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of Guidelines to Increase Effectiveness of National Machineries for Women in the ESCWA Region, and the Expert Group Meeting on Progress in Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCWA Region: A Gender Lens in 2011.[109] ESCWA features a Committee on Women, created in 2003, which aims to track international decisions related to women, monitor the actions of ESCWA members, and facilitate the adoption of such international decisions within the region.[110] In addition, the Commission also maintains a Centre for Women (ECW), which informs ESCWA members on the inclusion of gender in national structures, delivers "technical assistance institutional and capacity building of national machineries for women", oversees the status of women and the adherence of Member States to international precedence, and performs research.[111] The status of women remains vital to the work of ESCWA, and the Commission regularly aims to improve the conditions of women living in the ESCWA region and provide opportunities for advancement.

Promotion of Empowerment through Economic Strategies

Economic Barriers in the Region

In relation to economic considerations in the ESCWA region, there is much to be done in order to empower women. In 2009, ESCWA stated, "the vast majority of women in the Arab region remain economically unempowered."[112] Female access to "full and productive employment" is still greatly inhibited within Western Asia.[113] Gender discrimination has a negative influence on national, regional, and global economies, and within Asia, gender inequality in employment and education is believed to cause the region to lose $80 billion annually.[114] Less than one in five workers in a non-agricultural position in Western Asia are women.[115] As the UN believes "Economic empowerment of women is widely seen as an effective mechanism to help break the cycle of discrimination and vulnerability" of women throughout the world, achievements in promoting women and providing educational, training, and stable employment opportunities will allow for further growth of gender equality.[116]

Education and Training

The empowerment of women in Arab regions requires educational and training opportunities for full effectiveness. At the ECOSOC Special Event on Engaging Philanthropy to Promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

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[109] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Arab Women in Public Life and Decision-Making*, 2006.
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Inter-agency and Expert Group Meeting on Gender and the Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region*, 2008.
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Women's Control Over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009.
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Report of the Committee on Women on its Fourth Session*, 2009.
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of Guidelines to Increase Effectiveness of National Machineries for Women in the ESCWA Region*, 2009.
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Expert Group Meeting on Progress in Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCWA Region: A Gender Lens*, 2011.
[110] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Information Note*, N.D.
[111] United Nations Secretariat, *Organization of the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*, 2010.
[112] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Women's Control Over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 21.
[113] United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011*, 2011, p. 5.
[114] United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, *Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women: Report of the Expert Group Meeting*, 2007, p. 12.
[115] United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011*, 2011, p. 21.
[116] United Nations, *Engaging Philanthropy to Promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*, 2010, p. 12.

in 2010, participants agreed, "education was among the most important means to achieve gender equality and empower women."[117] Female access to education has increased over the past decade within Western Asia. The 2011 MDGs report found that between 1999 and 2009, access to primary education has increased from 86% to 92%, while access to secondary education and tertiary education has increased from 74% to 86% and 78% to 87%, respectively.[118] While this increase is to be lauded, the report declares that gender equality in educational enrollment is still "a distant target" for Western Asia.[119] The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action declares that "Education is a human right"; accordingly, it is also an effective method of achieving empowerment.[120]

In addition, training also promotes an increase in the status of women, as it allows women to increase their knowledge in a manner directly tied to work opportunities. The World Bank states "lifelong opportunities in a whole range of fields can be a vital means of empowering women through both better knowledge and an ability to earn a living."[121] ESCWA has noted that within the region, improved access to "vocational and technological training" is needed.[122] One particular facet of training of growing significance in the Arab region is Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) training.[123] The UN has acknowledged ICT "as a tool for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women," and states that as there is currently an inequity between women and men in knowledge of ICT, such much be addressed so it "can be a powerful catalyst for political and social empowerment of women."[124] In the ESCWA region, ICT can be employed to further employment opportunities available to women and provide them the necessary skills in order to pursue such opportunities.

Employment in the ESCWA Region

Another method of empowering women in the ESCWA region is by increasing stable job opportunities for Arab women.[125] Between 1998 and 2008, female participation only increased in agriculture, which usually "lack[s] financial security and security benefits".[126] In addition, women in the agricultural field have "limited access […] to land, credit and advanced agricultural technologies," which inhibits the economic success of women employed in agriculture.[127] The prevalence of women in this sector may be connected to social beliefs in rural areas that women should not pursue employment traditionally related to men and have less need for education.[128]

Many women in the ESCWA region pursue informal work, which lacks extended employment stability.[129] For example, in Yemen, a large portion of the female population works "in the marginalized or unorganized sector, in which women are either self-employed or work for others without pay or for minimal wages", and in Lebanon, 57% of women work within the informal sector.[130] Many women who do work in the formal/private sector often face wage inequality, little access to decision-making processes, and lessened growth opportunities.[131] In relation to

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[117] United Nations, *Engaging Philanthropy to Promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*, 2010, p. 12.

[118] United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011*, 2011, p. 20.

[119] United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011*, 2011, p. 21.

[120] United Nations, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.

[121] World Food Bank, *Gender and Development in the Middle East and North Africa: Women in the Public Sphere*, 2004, p. 42.

[122] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Women's Control Over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 18.

[123] United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, *Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women through ICT*, 2005, p. 2.

[124] United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, *Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women through ICT*, 2005, p. 3.

[125] United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011,* 2011, p. 5.

[126] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Women's Control Over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 12.
United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011*, 2011, p. 21.

[127] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Women's Control Over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 12.

[128] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Women's Control Over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 12.

[129] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Women's Control Over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 14.
United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011*, 2011, p. 5.

[130] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Women's Control Over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 14.

[131] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Women's Control Over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 16.

employment in the ESCWA region, the availability and social basis for female employment in the formal sector, combined with a decrease of discrimination in the formal sector, will promote growth for women.

Female entrepreneurship has proven to be an effective manner of empowering women in Arab nations. A study by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Center for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR) found that female entrepreneurs had high levels of education and a strong family life and are also often successful in revenue-intake and ownership of businesses. However, women engaged in entrepreneurial pursuits frequently face difficulty in accessing credit, participation in the market, ICT, training opportunities, and interaction with decision- and policy-making.[132] One type of entrepreneurial activity that increases access to the above-listed aspects of business, as well as general access to entrepreneurial opportunities, is microcredit. Microcredit is defined as the giving of small loans of money to allow individuals to begin their own businesses and thereby empower themselves economically and culturally.[133] The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) regards microcredit as having "an active role in improving economic equality," which can contribute to "Increased economic power" that "enables women to improve other areas of their – and their children's – lives."[134] ESCWA considers microcredit to be a means for female empowerment and gender equality within the region.[135] Microcredit loans are most effective when paired with educational and training programs.[136] Microfinance serves as an effective manner of increasing female access to employment opportunities and thereby improving their lives economically and culturally.

Promotion of Empowerment through Social Means

Social Barriers in the Region

Despite recent growth in the social and political involvement and equality of women in the ESCWA region, Member States remain behind most members of the global community in equality.[137] The United Nation Development Programme's (UNDP) gender empowerment measure (GEM) rates Arab nations as the second lowest, behind sub-Saharan Africa, in the empowerment of women.[138] Within Arab states, a main form of social barriers for women exist in cultural beliefs of domestic-based roles of women. [139] This decreases opportunities for women to work within decision-making realms of influence, as well as the overall opportunities available to women in many aspects of public and private life.[140]

Women in Politics and Decision-Making Processes

Although the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that all individuals have the right to participate in the political realms of their nation, largely due to cultural beliefs, the participation of women in political and decision-making processes in the ESCWA region remains low.[141] Most Member States in the region recognize equality of the sexes within national law; however, an increase of the execution of such legal recognition through legislation and cultural adherence is necessary to further empower women.[142] The 2011 MDGs report found that although having

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[132] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Women's Control Over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 20.

[133] Microcredit Summit Campaign, *What is Microcredit*, 2009.

[134] United Nations Capital Development Fund, *Microfinance and the Millennium Development Goals: A Reader's Guide to the Millennium Project Reports and Other UN Documents*, 2005, p. 7.

[135] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Report of the Committee on Women on its Fourth Session*, 2009, p. 5.

[136] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Report of the Committee on Women on its Fourth Session*, 2009, p. 6-7.

[137] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Arab Women in Public Life and Decision-Making*, 2006, p. 1.

[138] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Arab Women in Public Life and Decision-Making*, 2006, p. 1.

[139] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Women's Control Over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 1, 29.
Fish, *Islam and Authoritarianism*, 2002, p. 24.

[140] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Women's Control Over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 1, 29.
Fish, *Islam and Authoritarianism*, 2002, p. 24.

[141] United Nations, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.

[142] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Arab Women in Public Life and Decision-Making*, 2006,

increased from just 4% in 2000, the percentage of women holding positions "in single or lower houses of national parliaments" is among the lowest in the world, with women composing just 9% of total parliamentary seats in 2011.[143] The participation of women in political parties and the judiciary also remains low.[144] One area in which growth has occurred is the participation of women in governmental appointments, such as ambassadorial and ministerial positions.[145] The overall increase of female participation within decision-making processes will accordingly further empower women and encourage gender equality within the ESCWA region.

Empowerment through Media as a Social Strategy

One social strategy frequently discussed internationally and by ESCWA recently is the role of media in empowerment, which has the potential to allow national groups and the international community to minimize stereotypes and highlight positive contributions of women to society and social reform.[146] The use of media was promoted in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, and in 2002, ESCWA conducted a joint Expert Group Meeting on empowerment through media.[147] In June 2011, ESCWA's ECW held an Expert Group Meeting on "Strategies and Media Campaigns to Promote the Empowerment of Women in the ESCWA Region."[148] At the meeting, participants discussed how positive accomplishments and reforms achieved by women might be promoted through the media to maximize empowerment; how to incorporate such strategies into national machineries towards equality; and what media strategies had previously been successful in Member States.[149] The Expert Group Meeting recommended that in addition to the use of media for empowering women and achieving further rights, media campaigns were also needed in order to prevent women from losing existing achievements.[150] It was also proposed that a fund be established to provide financial assistance to media efforts.[151] The meeting highlighted ESCWA's belief in media campaigns as an effective tool in promoting female empowerment.

The Media and Empowerment: Case Studies

Successful media campaigns have contributed to greater equality and empowerment in several ESCWA Member States. Kuwait has promoted the political involvement of women within the nation through the media.[152] In Yemen,

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p. 1.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of Guidelines to Increase Effectiveness of National Machineries for Women in the ESCWA Region*, 2009, p. 3.

[143] United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011*, 2011, p. 22.

[144] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Arab Women in Public Life and Decision-Making*, 2006, p. 6.

[145] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Arab Women in Public Life and Decision-Making*, 2006, p. 8.

[146] United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women Department of Public Information, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Participation and Access of Women to the Media, and the Impact of Media On and Its Use as an Instrument for the Advancement of Empowerment of Women*, 2002, p. 4.

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, *Equal Participation of Women and Men in Decision-Making Processes at All Levels*, 2006, 6.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA Examines Media Strategies to Empower Women*, 2011.

[147] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA Examines Media Strategies to Empower Women*, 2011.

United Nations, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.

United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women Department of Public Information, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Participation and Access of Women to the Media, and the Impact of Media On and Its Use as an Instrument for the Advancement of Empowerment of Women*, 2002, p. 4.

[148] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA Examines Media Strategies to Empower Women*, 2011.

[149] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA Examines Media Strategies to Empower Women*, 2011.

[150] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA Meeting Urges Documentation of Women's Role in Reform Movements*, 2011, p. 1.

[151] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA Meeting Urges Documentation of Women's Role in Reform Movements*, 2011, p. 2.

[152] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA Examines Media Strategies to Empower Women*, 2011.

the equal rights of women and girls, as well as CEDAW, have been promoted in the "CEDAW Media Campaign," a joint effort by several national and international groups that combines radio, television, and print advertisement.[153] In Jordan, UNIFEM and CAWTAR have created the Arab Women Media Watch Project (AWMW), an organization to empower women in media and through media. As one of its main objectives, AWMW will soon establish an Arab Women Media Watch Network (AWMWN), which will allow for the regional promotion of women in print, on television, and on the Internet; the promotion of equality within national and regional media; the discussion of "the capacity building of women organizations" within nations; and additional training to women employed in the media.[154] Each of these media campaigns illustrates the potential influence of positive media discussions and portrayals in empowering women in the ESCWA region.

Conclusion

At ESCWA's Expert Group Meeting on the MDGs and gender in April 2011, it was stated that while educational opportunities had been extended to women at the desired rate, such had not led to an increase in female participation in employment or governmental spheres.[155] This "suggests that gender parity in education will not necessarily translate into economic and political empowerment for women."[156] Thus, while recent advancements of gender equality are to be applauded, the achievement of female empowerment is multi-faceted and interconnected. To promote fully the empowerment of women in the ESCWA region, continued dedication and action must be achieved in the economic, educational, social, and political realms of ESCWA members.

Questions for delegates to consider are as follows: Did your Member State ratify documents of international precedence related to women's rights, and when did ratification occur? How can training and educational opportunities be increased within the region in order to promote the empowerment of women? What is the level of participation of women in decision-making processes in your Member State? What strategies have been successful in other Member States outside of the region that may be helpful to Western Asia or specific Member States within the region?

Annotated Bibliography

II. Promoting the Empowerment of Women in the ESCWA Region

United Nations. (1995). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. Retrieved September 2, 2011 from
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform
> *The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is a seminal document in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women. It is the resulting document of the Fourth Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. The Platform for Action particularly provides pertinent information in relation to the promotion of the empowerment of women in the ESCWA region, as it includes sections on several aspects of women internationally, including the Education and Training of Women (section B), Women and the Economy (section F), and Women in Power and Decision-making (section G).*

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2011). *Activities and Publications for the Advancement of Arab Women*. Retrieved September 23, 2011 from
http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/databases/aaw/act.asp
> *Activities and Publications for the Advancement of Arab Women, a database Web site maintained by ESCWA, should be one of the first steps of research on topics related to women in the ESCWA region and should be consulted frequently in research. The Web site provides substantial information on national and international activities aimed at promoting women in Western Asia, as well as direct links to publications on such topics created by UN entities and scholars. It is*

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[153] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *CEDAW Media Campaign*, N.D.

[154] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, *Arab Women Media Watch Project (AWMW) (Jordan)*, 2011.

[155] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Expert Group Meeting on Progress in Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCWA Region: A Gender Lens*, 2011, p. 4.

[156] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Expert Group Meeting on Progress in Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCWA Region: A Gender Lens*, 2011, p. 4.

organized according to topic, with options including "Economic Empowerment," "Education,"
"Family," "Human Rights," "Media," and "Political Empowerment," and also provides
delegates the option to choose between "AAW [Advancement of Arab Women" Activities,"
meaning specific efforts and campaigns related to the listed topics, and "AAW Publications."

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2006). *Arab Women in Public Life and Decision-Making*. Retrieved August 22, 2011 from
http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=e/escwa/scu/2006/pamphlet.1

Arab Women in Public Life and Decision-Making is an ESCWA pamphlet compiled by the Commission's Social Statistics and Indicators section that focuses on how women in the ESCWA region currently interact and participate within the political and social realms of their nations. It is significant, given its statistical information on Arab Member States and their participation in politics, judicial procedures, appointments, the media, and NGOs. It also provides information on the years in which women in ESCWA members could first vote and in which the first woman came to office within the nation.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2011). *Database on Gender and the Empowerment of Women in the Arab Region*. Retrieved August 22, 2011 from
http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/databases/ecwpubs/pub.asp

The Database on Gender and the Empowerment of Women in the Arab Region should be actively employed in research on promoting the empowerment of women in Western Asia. It is similar to the above-listed Activities and Publications for the Advancement of Arab Women Web site in that it is maintained by ESCWA and provides links to important information on women in the ESCWA region; however, unlike the former database which provides information on a wide variety of topics related to women, this database specifically provides publications on topics directly related to the empowerment of Arab women. Publications listed include pieces by UN organizations including ESCWA and publications by scholars and experts in their respective fields. It is possible to search by theme, with options including "Civil Rights," "Economic Activity," "Education," "Empowerment," "IT and Technology," and "Media," as well as with keywords and phrases.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2011). ESCWA Meeting Urges Documentation of Women's Role in Reform Movements. *ESCWA Weekly News*, 25 (52): 1-2. Retrieved September 23, 2011 from
http://css.escwa.org.lb/weeklynews/wnews/uploads/25e11.pdf

In this issue of its weekly newsletter, ESCWA discusses the Expert Group Meeting on "Strategies and Media Campaigns to Promote the Empowerment of Women in the ESCWA Region" on June 21-22, 2011. As of the writing of this background guide, the report of the Expert Group Meeting has not yet been released. Accordingly, this article is currently the most comprehensive publication by ESCWA on the discussions and recommendations of the meeting. The article provides important information on the use of media as a strategy for social empowerment and the conclusionary recommendations of participants.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2009). *Report of the Committee on Women on its Fourth Session*. Retrieved on August 22, 2011 from www.escwa.un.org/information/pubaction.asp?PubID=828

This report highlights the workings and purposes of ESCWA's Committee on Women and features its most recent discussions. Topics of discussion include Promoting the Economic Participation of Arab Women, the Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Women in the Arab Women, and discussions on the Beijing Platform for Action +15 and achievements since the Committee's Third Session. The report allows for further understanding of how the Committee on Women functions and its role and responsibilities in relation to the Commission proper.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2009). *Women's Control Over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*. Retrieved August 22, 2011 from
www.escwa.un.org/information/pubaction.asp?PubID=579

This ESCWA report, part of the Arab Women and Development Series, is a helpful source in understanding the economic lives of women in ESCWA Member States and financial strategies related to gender equality. It provides a substantial amount of statistics on economic considerations in relation to gender in the region, generally, and within Member States,

specifically. It also features Conclusions and Recommendations on how to empower women through economic means.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2011). *Homepage*. Retrieved September 23, 2011 from http://www.unwomen.org/

> *UN Women is the multi-organizational UN entity on women's rights, and is composed of the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women (OSAGI), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Accordingly, the UN Women Web site is a pertinent source for topics related to the international status of women and female empowerment. Exploring and navigating the UN Women site will be particularly beneficial for delegates to understand empowerment from a global scale, as well as to understand what strategies for empowerment have been employed in other regions and which may be successful if adopted within Western Asia.*

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2011). *UNIFEM Worldwide: Arab States*. Retrieved September 23, 2011 from http://www.unifem.org/worldwide/arab_states/

> *UN Women features individual Web sites on the status of women in different regions throughout the world, including a Web site on women in Arab states. The UN Women site provides recent news on Arab women's issues and resources, including publications, on women in the ESCWA region. It also provides links to topics pertinent to Western Asia including empowerment.*

United Nations WomenWatch. (2010). *Directory of UN Resources on Gender Equality and Women's Issues: North Africa and the Middle East*. Retrieved September 3, 2011, from http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/north_africa_and_the_middle_east_10476.htm

> *WomenWatch features a database of resources on gender equality in different regions, including this directory on North Africa and the Middle East. The directory provides links to the Web sites of many different organizations and entities that discuss the empowerment of women in the ESCWA region, including the ESCWA Centre for Women, the UN Women Arab States Regional Office, and the OCHA/Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN), as well as links to pertinent documents related to women in the region.*

III. Economic and Social Reconstruction in Palestine

"We are looking forward to a state, which is unified and cohesive [...] One, which is open to the outside world, and inclusive, in which all citizens, including vulnerable groups such as women and the young, are free to develop their full potential, count on economic opportunity and the protection of their rights."[157]

Introduction

The longstanding conflict and current Israeli occupation of Palestinian land over the past several decades has caused economic growth to halt, the deterioration of social structures and overall crumbling of the education and health systems in Palestine.[158] Throughout the years, Palestine has alternated between brief times of peace and growth and more prolonged phases of fighting, resulting ultimately in "deteriorating socio-economic conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory."[159] Palestinians are therefore seeking a way to stabilize economic and social structures and develop "democratic and accountable institutions, backed by sound social and economic policies," which are "essential for long-term success" in constructing a strong and independent Palestinian State.[160]

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[157] United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People, *Mobilizing international efforts in support of the Palestinian Government's State-building programme,* 2011, Statement by H.E. Mr. Abdou Salam Diallo, p. 3.

[158] World Bank, *Deep Palestinian Poverty in the Midst of Economic Crisis,* 2003, p. 5.

[159] Shamir, *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in Israeli Elections,* 2007, p. 469.
ESCWA, *Outcome: Arab-International forum on rehabilitation and development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory- Towards an independent state,* 2005.

[160] UN GA, *Experts Consider Practical Aspects of Building Viable Palestinian State, Urge Sound Social, Economic Policies, as United Nations Meeting Continues (GA/PAL/1200),* 2011.

As the only United Nations (UN) body in which Palestine has full voting membership, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is committed to aiding Palestine in economic and social reconstruction.[161] ESCWA's commitment to overseeing Palestine's progress is evident as one of its objectives is "to support economic and social development in the countries of the region."[162] Furthermore, in 2004, ESCWA held the "Arab-International Forum for Rehabilitation and Development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Towards an Independent State," pursuant to Resolution 252 (XXII), one of many ESCWA efforts to ensure the Palestinian people are able to fully participate in the global economy.[163]

The History of Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and its Context

Although Palestinians have witnessed intervals between years of violence and moments of peace, they deem a particular day as "Al-Nakba," or "The Catastrophe:" the anniversary of the declaration of the State of Israel, which established the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that continues to this day.[164] On May 14, 1948, Jewish leaders declared an independent State of Israel, and subsequent to this, took control of 77% of Palestine's land, as well as a portion of Jerusalem.[165] Nineteen years later, during the resulting "Six Day War," which lasted from June 5 to 11, 1967, Israel seized the Gaza Strip, West Bank, Golan Heights (including the disputed Lebanese territory of Shebaa Farms), East Jerusalem, and the entirety of the Sinai Peninsula, fracturing relations with its neighboring states and triggering violent conflict.[166] In response, the UN Security Council adopted *Resolution 242* on November 22, 1967, which "formulated the principles of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, which should include an Israeli withdrawal from territories it had occupied in the conflict."[167]

On December 8, 1987, the first Palestinian "Intifada" or "Uprising" began in response to the Israeli occupation.[168] The first outbreak of violence occurred in the Gaza Strip, eventually expanding to the West Bank, where a long period of fighting resulting in a large number of casualties, deportations, and detentions.[169] Throughout the 1990s there were several attempts to establish peace, including the 1993 Oslo Peace Process, the formation of the Palestinian Authority, and the Oslo II agreement, none of which were successful in permanently ending the conflict.[170] As a result of the Oslo process, as well as the 1998 Wye River Plantation talks, Palestine achieved "administrative authority" over most of the Gaza Strip.[171] However, Israel retains control over the land, air, and sea borders of the Gaza Strip and has prevented the rebuilding of the Israeli-destroyed Gaza airport, or the reopening of the Israeli-occupied Gaza seaport.[172]

Subsequent to the peace talks, in 2000, the second Intifada began as a result of a visit from Ariel Sharon, Israeli opposition leader, to the Temple Mount.[173] Riots and massive destruction began within the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with the anger of the population exacerbated by Israeli responses to the violence.[174] In 2004, Ariel Sharon, who was by this point Prime Minister of Israel, proposed the Unilateral Disengagement Plan in Gaza, which enforced the removal of Israeli settlers from the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank.[175] After Mahmoud Abbas was elected as president of the Palestinian Authority in 2005, he convinced Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which are Palestinian militant organizations that do not acknowledge an Israeli state, to agree to temporarily stop attacks upon Israel.[176] In 2007, after the cessation of this temporary ceasefire and an intra-Palestinian conflict that left Hamas in control of Gaza and the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority controlling the West Bank, "Israel imposed a blockade [of Hamas-controlled Gaza], leading to a humanitarian crisis."[177] Following the start of the ongoing blockade, the

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[161] ESCWA, *Outcome: Arab-International' forum on rehabilitation and development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory-Towards an independent state,* 2005.
[162] ESCWA, *ESCWA in Brief: Objectives,* 2011.
[163] ESCWA, *Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission,* 2005, p. 1 - 3.
[164] BBC News, *A History of Conflict: Establishment of Israel,* 2011.
[165] United Nations, *The Question of Palestine: History of the Question of Palestine,* 2011.
[166] BBC News, *A History of Conflict: The 1967 War,* 2011.
[167] United Nations, *The Question of Palestine: History of the Question of Palestine,* 2011.
[168] BBC News, *A History of Conflict: Palestinian intifada,* 2011.
[169] BBC News, *A History of Conflict: Palestinian intifada,* 2011.
[170] BBC News, *A History of Conflict: The Oslo Peace Process; Birth of the Palestinian Authority; Oslo II and the assassination of Rabin,* 2011.
[171] Security Council Report, *Middle East Historical Chronology,* 2011.
[172] Security Council Report, *Middle East Historical Chronology,* 2011.
[173] Security Council Report, *Middle East Historical Chronology*, 2011.
[174] United Nations, *The Question of Palestine: History of the Question of Palestine,* 2011.
[175] BBC News, *A History of Conflict: Arafat dies,* 2011.
[176] BBC News, *A History of Conflict: Gaza pullout,* 2011.
[177] United Nations, *The Question of Palestine: History of the Question of Palestine,* 2011.

prevailing violence resulted in "heavy civilian casualties, predominately Palestinian, and massive damages to Gaza's infrastructure."[178]

The repercussions of the Israeli attacks upon and blockade of the Gaza Strip on the economic and social structures of Palestine have been, and continue to be, significant. A "critical dimension of the current context is economic and social, particularly as Palestinians unquestionably face the deterioration of their economy, a humanitarian crisis that is characterized […] by levels of impoverishment and social decline."[179] The labor market in the West Bank and Gaza was, at that time and still to this day, burdened with one of the world's highest unemployment rates.[180] The unemployment rates and civilian immobility caused a decline in job proficiency, and in addition to this, Palestinians endured a massive loss of infrastructure.[181] The conflict destroyed homes, government buildings, schools, roads, mosques, cultural buildings, and numerous other valuable elements of the region.[182]

Reconstruction to this day, remains difficult if not impossible in the Gaza Strip due to Israeli blockade of building supplies.[183] Furthermore, the number of poor "living on just over $1 a day, has tripled to 300,000 since the blockade was imposed."[184] The blockade not only increased the number of people living in poverty in Gaza, it also punished them by making it impossible for them to relocate or obtain new employment causing them to grow poorer.[185] This has clearly encompassed collective punishment, a label reasserted by John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, when he described Gaza as "a large open-air prison."[186] One of the most devastating outcomes of the continued violence is the number of fatalities amongst Palestinians.[187] In the Secretary-General's message to United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People, ESCWA Executive Secretary, Rima Khalaf voiced her concern with this message: "I am also deeply worried by Palestinian civilian casualties, and I repeat my call on Israel to exercise maximum restraint and act in accordance with international humanitarian law. All parties must do their utmost to protect civilians."[188]

International Framework and UN System Action

Palestine and its people are guaranteed, under existing international law and norms, the right to development, and in doing so, they can establish policies and programs supporting its economic and social reconstruction, within the framework of international development standards and human rights laws.[189] One of the UN's first steps towards assuring individuals their human rights was through the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948).[190] The UDHR outlines the basic human rights to be protected by the international community, and as a part of its preamble it reinforces that "the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."[191]

The concept of the right to development did not become a part of the international agenda of human rights until 1981, when it was referenced in the *African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights*.[192] In 1986, the General Assembly implemented the *Declaration on the Right to Development,* thrusting it to the forefront of international debate.[193] Article 1 (1) of the Declaration declares, "the right to development is an inalienable human right, by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural, and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized."[194] The right to development was further codified by the *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action* (1993) and the

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[178] United Nations, *The Question of Palestine: History of the Question of Palestine,* 2011.

[179] Roy, *The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict and Palestinian Socioeconomic Decline: A Place Denied,* 2004, p. 366.

[180] World Bank, *Mobility Restrictions and Labor Market Dynamics in Conflict Affected West Bank and Gaza,* 2011.

[181] United Nations News Centre, *High unemployment blights Palestinian lives – UN report,* 2011.

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[182] United Nations News Centre, *High unemployment blights Palestinian lives – UN report,* 2011.

[183] United Nations News Centre, *High unemployment blights Palestinian lives – UN report,* 2011.

[184] United Nations News Centre, *Israeli blockade of Gaza hurts employment and wages, UN report says,* 2011.

[185] United Nations News Centre, *Israeli blockade of Gaza hurts employment and wages, UN report says,* 2011.

[186] The National, *Gaza is 'open air prison': UN humanitarian chief,* 2010.

[187] United Nations News Centre, *Israeli blockade of Gaza hurts employment and wages, UN report says,* 2011.

[188] ESCWA, *Secretary-General's message to United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People,* 2011.

[189] Piron, *A Review of the Current State of the Debate for the Department for International Development*, 2002, p. 7.

[190] Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights,* 2011.

[191] United Nations, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights,* 2011.

[192] Piron, *A Review of the Current State of the Debate for the Department for International Development*, 2002, p. 7.

[193] Piron, *A Review of the Current State of the Debate for the Department for International Development*, 2002, p. 9.

[194] United Nations General Assembly, *Declaration on the Right to Development (A/RES/41/128),* 1986.

Millennium Declaration (2000).[195] The *Millennium Declaration* expands the right to development by linking development to the idea of equality: "No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured."[196]

Another body that emphasizes the importance of human rights and development and oversees that both are upheld is the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).[197] The Committee was created by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in 1985, to observe implementation of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR).[198] The CESCR analyzes States parties' reports and determines if the standards set forth in the ICESCR are being upheld.[199] ICESCR was one of the first UN frameworks to recognize economic, social, and cultural rights as a fundamental human right and propose methods for attaining those rights.[200] Article 1 (1) of ICESCR declares, "All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development."[201] By this and the other declarations and conventions, Palestine and Palestinians have the right to develop socially and economically and determine how they define and obtain this development.

ESCWA, the Palestinian Authority, the League of Arab States, and other UN entities and international bodies, have taken steps towards promoting economic and social reconstruction in Palestine. ESCWA's efforts towards Palestinian reconstruction are primarily through the framework of its *Resolutions 237* (XXI) and *252* (XXII).[202] *Resolution 252* (XXII) underlined the necessity for an international forum addressing reconstruction in Palestine and highlighted the importance of "the role of the Palestinian Authority and the institutions of Palestinian civil society in formulating the practical plan for reconstruction and rehabilitation, given that it is the body with true interest in that regard."[203] ESCWA, working with the Palestinian Authority and the League of Arab States, called on the assistance from other UN bodies to organize the forum, which included the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), illustrating the collaboration between the UN and the international community on resolving this issue.[204] The forum that took place was named the "Arab-International Forum for Rehabilitation and Development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Towards an Independent State," and its purpose was to set the stage for debate on solutions to reconstructing Palestine and plans for future development.[205]

In April 2011, the "United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People" was conducted to overview the Palestinian Authority's programs, determine methods for establishing a stable economy, and determine "how to best support the socio-economic underpinnings of a two-State solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."[206] This seminar exemplifies the UN's commitment to finding a solution for rebuilding Palestine and aiding it as it works towards becoming an independent Palestinian State.[207]

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is another UN entity that serves as "the collective voice of the Muslim world" and "protects the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony."[208] Recently, the OIC has been aggressively addressing the Palestinian issue and holding meetings with

[195] Piron, *A Review of the Current State of the Debate for the Department for International Development*, 2002, p. 9.

[196] United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/55/2),* 2000.

[197] OHCHR, *Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights: Monitoring the economic, social and cultural rights,* 2007.

[198] OHCHR, *Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights: Monitoring the economic, social and cultural rights,* 2007.

[199] OHCHR, *Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights: Monitoring the economic, social and cultural rights,* 2007.

[200] OHCHR, *The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,* 1991, p. 3.

[201] OHCHR, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,* 2007.

[202] ESCWA, *Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission,* 2005, p. 1.

[203] ESCWA, *252 (XII) Rehabilitation and Economic and Social Reconstruction in Palestine,* 2003.

[204] ESCWA, *Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission,* 2005, p. 1& 2.

[205] ESCWA, *Palestinian Development Forum Discusses Impact of Occupation, Initiatives Aid Projects for Gaza and Agricultural Sector,* 2004.

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Abdelnour, *A New Model for Palestinian Development*, 2010.

[206] United Nations, *The Question of Palestine: United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People,* 2011.

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[207] United Nations, *The Question of Palestine: United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People,* 2011.

Al Bawaba Group, *ESCWA ministers recommend holding forum on Palestine reconstruction,* 2003.

Joint Palestinian-Israeli-International Economic Working Group, *About Us,* n.d.

[208] Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, *About OIC,* 2011.

officials of numerous Member States to discuss Palestine's bid for UN membership.[209] Numerous plans and agendas have been launched to aid Palestine as it attempts to institute sustainable solutions for reconstruction.[210]

Rebuilding Institutions and Infrastructures

The international community and the Palestinian Authority have both highlighted the necessity of stable institutions and revitalized infrastructure in order to establish a stable and sustainable Palestinian state.[211] In 1993, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) created the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR).[212] PECDAR's mandate consists of "aid coordination, economic policy, project management, coordination with NGOs and UN specialized agencies, technical assistance and training as well as IT."[213] Some of PECDAR's tasks are: "building schools campaign, community development, municipal development, and the emergency rehabilitation" programs.[214] One of PECDAR's projects focused on repairing schools in small and poor regions that were damaged by Israeli attacks.[215] PECDAR is also attempting to reestablish a strong educational system in Palestine through enhancing schools' physical infrastructure and through providing schools with more advanced programs and tools.[216]

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also have the potential to aid in rebuilding Palestine.[217] The World Bank alone has contributed $33 million to NGOs and has obtained $36 million through other institutions in order to support civil society efforts in rebuilding Palestine.[218] The World Bank Country Director for Palestine, Mariam Sherman, stated that "by focusing on service delivery, NGOs can serve to amplify the voices of the most needy citizens and play a role in monitoring the effective delivery of services. Our work with NGOs is to ensure continued services to the poorest in a way that complements and enhances broader state building efforts."[219] One example of such an NGO is the Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange (PACE) whose mission is to "protect and promote Palestinian cultural heritage through education, preservation work, research, and exchange programs."[220] In 2007, the World Bank provided PACE with a 65,000 USD grant that would allow women in the least-developed regions to take classes offered through PACE.[221]

Additionally, the reconstruction of East Jerusalem remains a priority.[222] The Palestinian Authority promises to "rebuild public institutions, infrastructure and services despite the constraints of the occupation."[223] Currently, East Jerusalem faces numerous infrastructure issues, such as poor sewage systems, roads, and sidewalks, and the necessity for building new schools and medical facilities.[224] One of the Palestinian Authority's main priorities is to create an independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem standing as the capital, and to accomplish this, high priority will need to be given to the rehabilitation of East Jerusalem.[225]

Remaining Challenges and Next Steps

Despite the progress towards rebuilding institutions and infrastructures, there continues to be challenges Palestine must overcome. The primary challenge hindering Palestine's social and economic progress is the Israeli

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[209] Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, *OIC Secretary General discusses Palestinian issue in his bilateral meetings,* 2011.

[210] Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, *OIC Secretary General discusses Palestinian issue in his bilateral meetings,* 2011.

[211] The World Bank, *Building the Palestinian State: Sustaining Growth, Institutions, and Service Delivery,* 2011, p. 5.

[212] Palestinian Economic Council for Development & Reconstruction, *About Us,* 2011.

Abdelnour, *A New Model for Palestinian Development*, 2010.

[213] Palestinian Economic Council for Development & Reconstruction, *About Us,* 2011.

[214] Palestinian Economic Council for Development & Reconstruction, *Our Projects,* 2011.

[215] Palestinian Economic Council for Development & Reconstruction, *Palestine's Crowded Desks,* 2011.

[216] Palestinian Economic Council for Development & Reconstruction, *Palestine's Crowded Desks,* 2011.

[217] The World Bank, West Bank and Gaza, *Celebrating the Palestinian NGO Project: Helping Those in Need*, 2011.

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[218] World Bank, *Celebrating the Palestinian NGO Project: Helping Those in Need*, 2011.

[219] Palestinians for Peace and Democracy, *Economic Development: Web sites*.

[220] Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange (PACE), *Mission Statement.*

Sorensen, *Women and Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Issues and Sources*, 1998.

[221] World Bank, *Celebrating the Palestinian NGO Project: Helping Those in Need*, 2011.

Palestinian NGOs Network, *Position on the Reconstruction of Gaza*, 2010.

Palestinians for Peace and Democracy, *Economic Development: Web sites*.

[222] Palestinian National Authority, *National Development Plan 2011-13: Establishing the State, Building our Future,* 2011, p. 5.

[223] Palestinian National Authority, *National Development Plan 2011-13: Establishing the State, Building our Future,* 2011, p. 5-6.

[224] B'Tselem, *East Jerusalem: Neglect of Infrastructure and Services in Palestinian Neighborhoods.*

[225] Palestinian National Authority, *National Development Plan 2011-13: Establishing the State, Building our Future,* 2011, p. 9.

Eltalia, *The Economic Impact of Donor Aid to Reconstruct Gaza*, 2010.

occupation.[226] Development will be postponed, slowed, or stopped altogether as long as projects are delayed in order to obtain the support or non-interference from Israeli authorities that are necessary to complete a task.[227] The restrictions used by Israel that prevent rapid development include "checkpoints, trenches and earth mounds, […] and [other] barriers that effectively [trap] whole communities in one place."[228] Numerous other obstacles of equal importance are deterring Palestine's development; these include how to separate and sustain Israeli and Palestinian economies, how to encourage labour market exchange, and how to secure borders.[229] Furthermore, how to determine the statehood of refugees and IDPs is another issue requiring a peaceful solution on the path to recovery.[230]

The UN, civil society, and Palestinian leaders are working together on the next steps to establishing a stable Palestinian state. The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) is working with the Palestinian state-building plan to rebuild Palestine, with the majority of their efforts being concentrated on Gaza and East Jerusalem.[231] John Clarke, Head of Coordination for UNSCO, stated, "UNSCO [is] committed to continuing to engage Member States at all levels, not just on development and humanitarian issues, but also on policy matters."[232] Development of new sectors in the economy is also essential; as noted by Arie Arnon, Israeli Coordinator of the Aix Group (a non-governmental, joint Palestinian-Israeli-International Economic Working Group), the best solution would be to encourage a type of "free trade agreement" between the two instead of combining the already unstable economies.[233] He went on to suggest that regenerating "labour flows" between Israel and Palestine would provide Palestine's economy with a quicker recovery.[234] The engagement of women in the social and economic sectors is also a vital aspect of development.[235] Women are an important part of the reconstruction of Palestine, and it is crucial that steps are taken to ensure that their rights are protected.[236] Continued international support, development of long-term programs and state institutions, engaging the participation of women in the economy and society, and encouraging government responsibility are all fundamental factors that will support economic and social reconstruction in Palestine.[237]

Conclusion

Palestine still has a number of obstacles to overcome as it attempts to succeed in economic and social reconstruction. It has endured years of setbacks on its path to rebuilding, yet the Palestinian people and its leaders have not ceased in their attempts to create sustainable institutions and infrastructures that will stand up against future disasters. In addition to creating more stable Palestinian governance structures, Palestine has begun the process of seeking UN membership.

There are numerous challenges and questions that delegates should consider while researching this topic. How can the UN and the international community aid Palestine in rebuilding and maintaining a sovereign state? What are the main obstacles that prevent a peaceful solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict and what steps are being taken to address these obstacles? How can ESCWA and other UN bodies respond to the human rights issues that are related to social and economic reconstruction as well as Palestine's right to development?

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[226] Palestinian NGOs Network, *Position on the Reconstruction of Gaza*, 2010.

[227] United Nations General Assembly, *Palestinian Rights Committee Chair Urges Quartet to 'Help Sun Set on Occupation' (GA/PAL/1201)*, 2011.

[228] United Nations General Assembly, *UN Seminar on Assistance to Palestinian People Weighs Achievements, Challenges (GA/PAL/1198)*, 2011.

[229] United Nations General Assembly, *Palestinian Rights Committee Chair Urges Quartet to 'Help Sun Set on Occupation' (GA/PAL/1201)*, 2011.

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[231] Eltalia, *The Economic Impact of Donor Aid to Reconstruct Gaza*, 2010.

[232] United Nations General Assembly, *UN Seminar on Assistance to Palestinian People Weighs Achievements, Challenges (GA/PAL/1198)*, 2011.

[233] United Nations General Assembly, *Palestinian Rights Committee Chair Urges Quartet to 'Help Sun Set on Occupation' (GA/PAL/1201)*, 2011.

[234] Palestinian NGOs Network, *Position on the Reconstruction of Gaza*, 2010.

[235] United Nations General Assembly, *Palestinian Rights Committee Chair Urges Quartet to 'Help Sun Set on Occupation' (GA/PAL/1201)*, 2011.

[236] United Nations General Assembly, *Palestinian Rights Committee Chair Urges Quartet to 'Help Sun Set on Occupation' (GA/PAL/1201)*, 2011.

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> *This report takes note of the Commission's work on rehabilitating and reconstructing Palestine. It emphasizes continuing efforts towards establishing an independent Palestinian State. The report also outlines aims of the Arab-international forum and the path to strengthening partnership and development. It also outlines the preparatory process and the details contained within the forum.*

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2007). *Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Monitoring the economic, social and cultural rights.* Retrieved September 14, 2011, from http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/.
> *This Web site consists of fundamental information of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). It outlines the basic structure and functions of CESCR. Furthermore, it contains links and information to other useful sources for delegates, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Since CESCR monitors the economic, social and cultural rights of countries, the information on the page will be beneficial to delegates as they research the UN's work in Palestine.*

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. (2011). *About OIC.* Retrieved September 14, 2011, from http://www.oic-oci.org/page_detail.asp?p_id=52.
> *This Web site illustrates how a UN entity is working to address the social and economic issues Palestine faces. It outlines the work of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and has links to other essential information, such as conventions, news, and events. This will be useful to delegates as they research how the UN and other international bodies are working to help Palestine in social and economic reconstruction.*

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. The World Bank. (2003 October). *Deep Palestinian Poverty in the Midst of Economic Crisis.* Retrieved August 10, 2011, from http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2004/11/24/000112742_20041124091415/Rendered/PDF/301500GZ0P08971e0WB010gaza01public1.pdf.
> *This report is a result of a partnership between the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the World Bank. It examines poverty in Palestine including the depth of the issue, factors making some people poorer than others, emergency assistance, and other elements related to poverty in the region. This is particularly relevant to this topic because of the effect youth unemployment has on poverty levels and vice versa.*

Piron, L. (2002 April). *The Right to Development: A Review of the Current State of the Debate for the Department for International Development.* Retrieved August 10, 2011, from http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/1562.pdf.
> *This report was produced by the UK Department for International Development's (DFID) Social Development Department. The author wrote this report with the purpose of evaluating the Right to Development as a human rights policy. The report contains the history of the Right to Development concept, its content, and various debates surrounding the topic. This will aid the delegates in their research on the right to development and human rights issues.*

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> *This is an Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee. This report records some of the Palestinian Authority's (PA) progress in its work on the key state functions identified by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Furthermore, the report discusses what the PA can do to encourage growth in the Palestinian State.*

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> *This is a statement by H.E. Mr. Abdou Salam Diallo, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, at the closing session of the United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People. In his statement, he underlines the importance of continued devotion to the Palestinian State-building agenda.*

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> *This is the UN General Assembly resolution that established the Declaration on the Right to Development. It contains the full text of the resolution. This is an important resolution for delegates to familiarize themselves with because it was a significant step in making the right to development a human rights concept and it will help the delegates in their research of the development of Palestine.*

United Nations General Assembly. (2011, April 29). *Experts Consider Practice Aspects of Building Viable Palestinian State, Urge Sound Social, Economic Policies, As United Nations Meeting Continues* (*GA/PAL/1200*). Retrieved September 6, 2011, from http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/gapal1200.doc.htm

> *In this document, experts assess the practices of constructing a Palestinian State. It looks at the role of women, education, public and private sectors, and the West Bank and Gaza. It also notes the UN's efforts in promoting peaceful construction in the region by providing funds, organizing projects, and creating programs that help the country prosper.*

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Rules of Procedure
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Introduction
1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (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 Plenary Director, the Assistant Director(s), the Under-Secretaries-General, and the Assistant Secretaries-General, are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Director-General, and are collectively referred to as the "Secretariat."
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Director-General or her or his designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations and in furtherance of the educational mission of that organization.
4. For the purposes of these rules, "President" shall refer to the chairperson or acting chairperson of the 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 the Members of the Commission at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

Rule 4 - *Adoption of the agenda*
The agenda provided by the Secretary-General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of the agenda items shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting. Items on the agenda may be amended or deleted by the 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 means those delegates, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote.

Rule 5 - *Revision of the agenda*
During a session, the 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. No additional item may, unless the Commission decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a committee has reported on the question concerned.

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

Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum
Any item proposed for inclusion in the agenda shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents.

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the 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, and generally perform all other work which the Commission may require.

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat
The Secretary-General, or her/his representative, may make oral as well as written statements to the Commission concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 10 - Selection of the President
The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall appoint, from applications received by the Secretariat, a President who shall hold office and, *inter alia*, chair the Commission for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretary-General.

Rule 11 - Replacement of the President
If the President is unable to perform her/his functions, a new President shall be appointed for the unexpired term at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 12 - Official and working language
English shall be the official and working language of the Commission.

Rule 13 - Interpretation (oral) or translation (written)
Any representative wishing to address any body or submit a document in a language other than English shall provide interpretation or translation into English.

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

V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 14 – Quorum
The President may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the members of the Commission are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the Commission shall be required for any decision to be taken.

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

Rule 15 - General powers of the President
In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the 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. He or she shall rule on points of order. He or she 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 her/his discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference. For purposes of this rule, the President's power to propose to the Commission entails her/his power to entertain motions, and not to move the body on his or her own motion.

Rule 16
The President, in the exercise of her or his functions, remains under the authority of the 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 meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 18
A representative may not, in rising to a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 19 - Speeches

1. No one may address the 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 her/his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The Commission may limit the time allowed to speakers and all representatives may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives favoring and two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call her or him to order without delay.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, if the President determines that the 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 her/his discretion, and on the advice and consent of the Secretariat, may rule as dilatory any additional motions to change the limits of the speaker's time.

Rule 20 - Closing of list of speakers
Members may only be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after having spoken. During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the 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 speakers' list is within the purview of the Commission and the President should not act on her/his own motion.

Rule 21 - Right of reply
If a remark impugns the integrity of a representative's State, the President may permit that representative to exercise

her/his right of reply following the conclusion of the controversial speech, and shall determine an appropriate time limit for the reply. No ruling on this question shall be subject to appeal.

For purposes of this rule, a remark that impugns the integrity of a representative's State is one directed at the governing authority of that State and/or one that puts into question that State's sovereignty or a portion thereof. All interventions in the exercise of the right of reply shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point of order or motion. The reply shall be read to the Commission 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 session the following year, and in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and in furtherance of its educational mission, the President will not entertain such a motion until the end of the last meeting of the 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 to two representatives favoring and two opposing adjournment, after which the motion shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. If a motion for adjournment passes, the topic is considered dismissed and no action will be taken on it.

Rule 25 - Closure of debate
A representative may at any time move the closure of debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified her/his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. Closure of debate shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. If the 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 23, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:
    a) To suspend the meeting;
    b) To adjourn the meeting;
    c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
    d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments
Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat, with the names of twenty percent of the members of the Commission 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 Commission for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

For purposes of this rule, all proposals shall be in the form of working papers prior to their approval by the Secretariat. Working papers will not be copied, or in any other way distributed, to the Commission by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of the working papers. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft resolution. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Commission. These draft resolutions 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 means those representatives, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion is voted upon by the body.

VI. VOTING

Rule 30 - Voting rights
Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

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

Rule 31 - Request for a vote
A proposal or motion before the 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, an amendment thereto, or a portion of a draft resolution divided out by motion. Just prior to a vote on a particular proposal or motion, the President may ask if there are any objections to passing the proposal or motion by acclamation, or a member may move to accept the proposal or motion by acclamation. If there are no objections to the proposal or motion, then it is adopted without a vote.

Rule 32 - Majority required
1. Unless specified otherwise in these rules, decisions of the Assembly shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of tabulation, the phrase "members present and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

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

Rule 33 - Method of voting
1. The 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.

2. When the Commission votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of placards and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote. A representative may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the Commission shall dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the members.

3. The vote of each member participating in a roll call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in the record.

Rule 34 - Explanations of vote
Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanation of their votes after the voting has been completed. The representatives of a member sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended, and the member has voted against the proposal or motion.

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

Rule 35 - Conduct during voting
After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representatives shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual process of voting.

Rule 36 - Division of proposals and amendments
Immediately before a proposal or amendment comes to a vote, a representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If there are calls for multiple divisions, those shall be voted upon in an order to be set by the President where the most radical division will be voted upon first. If objection is made to the motion for division, the request for division shall be voted upon, requiring the support of a majority of those present and voting to pass. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are involved shall then be put to a vote. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

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

Rule 37 - Amendments
An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from, or revise part of another proposal.

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

Rule 38 - Order of voting on amendments
When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal shall be voted on first and then the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

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

Rule 39 - Order of voting on proposals
If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Commission decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted.

Rule 40 - The President shall not vote
The President shall not vote but may designate another member of her/his delegation to vote in her/his place.

VII. CREDENTIALS

Rule 41 - Credentials
The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General prior to the opening of a session.

Rule 42
The 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.