



GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIRD COMMITTEE BACKGROUND GUIDE 2013

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Additional Contributions By: Heather Purcell



NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



nmun.org

17 - 21 March - Conference A
24 - 28 March - Conference B

POSITION PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

Two copies of each position paper should be sent via e-mail by 1 MARCH 2013

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 here. Mail papers by 1 March to the e-mail address listed for your particular venue. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt. Please use the committee name, your assignment, Conference A or B, and delegation/school name in both the e-mail subject line and in the filename (example: GA1st_Cuba_ConfA_MarsCollege).

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.nya@nmun.org or positionpapers.nyb@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 use the committee name, your assignment, Conference A or B, and delegation/school name in both the e-mail subject line and in the filename (example: GA1st_Cuba_Conf A_Mars College).

COMMITTEE

EMAIL - CONFERENCE A

General Assembly First Committee	ga1.nya@nmun.org
General Assembly Second Committee	ga2.nya@nmun.org
General Assembly Fourth Committee	ga4.nya@nmun.org
Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations	c34.nya@nmun.org
ECOSOC Plenary	ecosoc.nya@nmun.org
Commission on the Status of Women	csw.nya@nmun.org
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	ccpcj.nya@nmun.org
Economic Commission for Africa	eca.nya@nmun.org
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	escwa.nya@nmun.org
United Nations Children's Fund	unicef.nya@nmun.org
United Nations Development Programme	undp.nya@nmun.org
United Nations Settlements Programme	unhabitat.nya@nmun.org
UN Conference on Trade and Development	unctad.nya@nmun.org
Human Rights Council	hrc.nya@nmun.org
United Nations Population Fund	unfpa.nya@nmun.org
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	unpfii.nya@nmun.org
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	ceirpp.nya@nmun.org
Security Council A	sca.nya@nmun.org
Security Council B	scb.nya@nmun.org
Security Council C	scc.nya@nmun.org
International Atomic Energy Agency	iaea.nya@nmun.org

COMMITTEE

EMAIL - CONFERENCE B

General Assembly First Committee	ga1.nyb@nmun.org
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General Assembly Third Committee	ga3.nyb@nmun.org
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Commission on the Status of Women	csw.nyb@nmun.org
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	ccpcj.nyb@nmun.org
Economic Commission for Africa	eca.nyb@nmun.org
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	escwa.nyb@nmun.org
United Nations Children's Fund	unicef.nyb@nmun.org
United Nations Development Programme	undp.nyb@nmun.org
United Nations Settlements Programme	unhabitat.nyb@nmun.org
UN Conference on Trade and Development	unctad.nyb@nmun.org
Human Rights Council	hrc.nyb@nmun.org
United Nations Population Fund	unfpa.nyb@nmun.org
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	unpfii.nyb@nmun.org
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	ceirpp.nyb@nmun.org
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Security Council C	scc.nyb@nmun.org
International Atomic Energy Agency	iaea.nyb@nmun.org
Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations	c34.nyb@nmun.org

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Entire Set of Delegation Position Papers	positionpapers.nya@nmun.org
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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the National Model United Nations 2012! We are very pleased to be serving as your Director and Assistant Director for the General Assembly Third Committee at the second venue this spring. The Director for this committee will be Alicia Nall, and her Assistant Director is Samantha Winn.

We would like to introduce ourselves, as we will be your first contacts for any questions or suggestions relating to this committee. Alicia Nall earned a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in international studies and history from the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. Alicia also earned Juris Doctor from Marquette University Law School. She is currently working as an attorney in a non-profit organization. This is her seventh year at the conference and her fourth year on staff. Samantha Winn is completing her final semester of study towards dual B.A. in History and Political Science with a minor in International Relations at the University of Texas at Tyler. Her main interests at NMUN include alternative development, the economic and political empowerment of women, and freedom of information.

This year's topics are:

- I. Strengthening the Regulation of International Drug Trafficking;
- II. Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children and Youth, Aging, Disabled Persons, and the Family; and
- III. From the Global Financial Crisis to the Global Social Crisis: Assessing the Social Impact of the Global Financial Crisis.

The General Assembly Third Committee facilitates discussion on international social, cultural, and humanitarian issues. Delegates should utilize available resources widely and maintain an internationally diverse outlook on the topics. This requires an extensive knowledge of the role of the committee along with an understanding of the social consequences of decision-making. The background guide is meant to help you develop a basic understanding of the topics and provide you with a starting point for your future research; it is not designed to serve as your only source of information.

Please take note of the NMUN policies on the [website](#) and in the [delegate preparation guide](#) regarding [plagiarism](#), [codes of conduct/dress code/sexual harassment](#), [awards philosophy/evaluation method](#), etc. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

Your experience in the General Assembly Third Committee will be a challenging but rewarding experience. If you have any questions regarding your preparation for the committee and the Conference itself, please feel free to contact us or the Under-Secretary-General for the Department of the General Assembly-Second Venue, Daniel Leyva Jr. We wish you all the best in your preparation for the Conference and look forward to seeing you in March.

Sincerely,

Alicia Nall
Director

Samantha Winn
Assistant Director



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

For NMUN-New York 2013, each delegation submits one position paper for each assigned committee. A delegate's role as a Member State, Observer State, Non-Governmental Organization, etc. should affect the way a position paper is written. To understand these differences, please refer to the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#).

Position papers should review each delegation's policy regarding the topics of 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 and may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incident of plagiarism to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Delegation's position papers may be given an award 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 and be of high substantive standard, using adequate language and showing in-depth research. While we encourage innovative proposals, we would like to remind delegates to stay within the mandate of their respective committee and keep a neutral and respectful tone. Similarly to the minus point-policy implemented at the conference to discourage disruptive behavior, position papers that use offensive language may entail negative grading when being considered for awards. Please refer to the sample paper following this message 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-sided 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 the whole paper
- Country/NGO name, school name and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page,
- National symbols (headers, flags, etc.) are deemed inappropriate for NMUN position papers
- Agenda topics must be 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 required) **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, 2012. 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, Conference A: positionpapers.nya@nmun.org or Conference B: positionpapers.nyb@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, 2013 (GMT-5)**.

Please use the committee name, your assignment, Conference A or B, and delegation/school name in both the e-mail subject line and in the filename (example: GA1st_Cuba_ConfA_Mars College).

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 Hannah Birkenkötter, Director-General (Conference A), or Nicholas Warino, Director-General (Conference B), 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,

Conference A
Hannah Birkenkötter
Director-General
hannah@nmun.org

Conference B
Nicholas Warino
Director-General
nick@nmun.org

**Delegation from
The United Mexican States**

**Represented by
(Name of College)**

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 on 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.

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.

Committee History

Introduction to the General Assembly

The Charter of the United Nations established the General Assembly as “the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations.”¹ The General Assembly holds annual plenary sessions from September to December as well as special sessions and emergency sessions requested by the Secretary-General.² The General Assembly and each of its Main Committees include voting representatives from each Member State and non-voting representatives from Permanent Observers, Intergovernmental Organizations, and Non-Governmental Organizations.³

Electoral, administrative, and deliberative responsibilities of the General Assembly are outlined in Chapter IV of the UN Charter.⁴ The General Assembly elects members of the Trusteeship Council, the Economic and Social Council, and non-permanent members of the Security Council.⁵ The General Assembly is responsible for approving the administrative budgets of the UN and its specialized agencies, establishing subsidiary organs, admitting new Member States recommended by the Security Council, and reviewing the internal operations of the UN and its organs.⁶ The Charter authorizes the General Assembly to deliberate on a variety of global issues which require international cooperation, including questions of international peace, security, and disarmament; economic, social and cultural issues affecting the international community; and questions of international law and human rights.⁷

The General Assembly delivers non-binding recommendations to sovereign Member States, the Security Council, and other UN organs.⁸ The General Assembly may not deliberate on issues which the Security Council is actively discussing or on which the Council has retained deliberative rights.⁹

The Role of the Third Committee

The Third Committee, also known as the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee, is one of six Main Committees established by the General Assembly to discuss and draft resolutions on specific topics in advance of a plenary meeting.¹⁰ The remaining Main Committees consist of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee); Economics and Financial Committee (Second Committee); the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee); the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee); and the Legal Committee (Sixth Committee).¹¹ In advance of each annual session, agenda topics are assigned to the Main Committees by the General Assembly, according to their unique areas of expertise. Main Committees do not have the authority to introduce new items to their agenda.¹²

¹United Nations General Assembly, *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.17)*, 2007, Section V, Rule 30, and Section XIII, Rules 99 and 103.

²United Nations General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*, 2012
United Nations, *United Nations Charter*, 1945, Chapter IV, Article 20.

³United Nations, *United Nations Charter*, 1945, Chapter IV, Article 9.
United Nations General Assembly, *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.17)*, 2007, Section XIII, Rule 100.

⁴United Nations, *United Nations Charter*, 1945, Chapter IV.

⁵United Nations, *United Nations Charter*, 1945, Chapter IV, Article 18.

⁶United Nations, *United Nations Charter*, 1945, Chapter IV, Article 10.
United Nations, *United Nations Charter*, 1945, Chapter IV, Article 17.
United Nations, *United Nations Charter*, 1945, Chapter IV, Article 22.
United Nations, *United Nations Charter*, 1945, Chapter IV, Article 18.

⁷United Nations, *United Nations Charter*, 1945, Chapter IV, Article 11.

⁸United Nations, *United Nations Charter*, 1945, Chapter IV, Articles 13.
United Nations, *United Nations Charter*, 1945, Chapter IV, Articles 14.

⁹United Nations, *United Nations Charter*, 1945, Chapter IV, Article 12.

¹⁰International Organization, *The General Assembly*, 1947, p. 46.

¹¹United Nations General Assembly, *Main Committees*, 2012.

¹²United Nations General Assembly, “Rules of Procedure,” Section XIII, Rule 97.

The Third Committee deliberates on the assigned agenda items and prepares draft resolutions for the General Assembly Plenary to vote on.¹³ Draft resolutions and deliberations produced in the Third Committee are not binding on Member States or other UN agencies.¹⁴ The Third Committee seeks to build broad consensus among its membership.¹⁵

The Third Committee derives its mandate from Chapter IV, Article 13 of the UN Charter, which commissions the General Assembly to prepare informed recommendations for members of the international community to address human rights issues and work together to promote common development goals.¹⁶ Although its mandate has periodically faced criticism for overlapping with the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council, the Third Committee represents a unique plenary level forum for the discussion of social development and human rights.¹⁷ The Committee draws upon established international norms found in major instruments which include but are not limited to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, and the Declaration on the Right to Development (A/RES/41/128).¹⁸

In advance of each annual session, members of the Third Committee elect a bureau of chief officers, comprised of one Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen, and a Rapporteur. Officers serve for a single term, with one representative from each geographic region.¹⁹ Elections for the Chairman are held at least three months before the annual session begins, and Third Committee members typically elect the remaining officers within one week of annual session's opening meeting.²⁰

Cooperation with Other Agencies

The Third Committee works with many UN organs and subsidiary bodies to draft proposals for the General Assembly Plenary. Chief among these is the Human Rights Council (HRC), established in 2006. In accordance with A/RES/65/281 and A/RES/65/503 A, the President of the HRC reports to both the plenary and the Third Committee.²¹ In the 67th session, the Third Committee will collaborate on agenda items with the HRC, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV), UN-Women, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG-CAC), the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).²² The Committee also hears reports from UN High-Level Officials and Special Procedure Mandate-Holders, including Special Rapporteurs and officials representing a variety of specialized committees.²³

¹³Fasulo, *An Insider's Guide to the UN*, 2004, p.65.

¹⁴Fasulo, *An Insider's Guide to the UN*, 2004, p.72.

¹⁵Karns, *International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance*, 2004, p.28.

¹⁶United Nations, *United Nations Charter*, 1945, Chapter IV, Article 13.

¹⁷Peterson, *UN General Assembly*, 2006, p. 61-62.

¹⁸United Nations General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948
United Nations General Assembly, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, 1966
United Nations General Assembly, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 1966
United Nations General Assembly, *Declaration on the Right to Development (A/RES/41/128)*, 1986.

¹⁹United Nations General Assembly, *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.17)*, 2007, Section XIII, Rule 103.

²⁰United Nations General Assembly, *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.17)*, 2007, Section XIII, Rules 99 and 103.

²¹United Nations General Assembly, *Review of the Human Rights Council (A/RES/65/281)*, 2011.

²²United Nations General Assembly, *Organization of work of the Third Committee, Note by the Secretariat, Addendum, Documentation before the Third Committee (A/C.3/67/L.1/Add.1/Rev.1)*, 2012.

²³United Nations Third Committee, 67th Session, *Complete List of the Special Procedure Mandate-Holders and UN High-Level Officials presentations to the GA Third Committee*, 2012.

Recent Actions of the Third Committee

During the 66th session, the Third Committee submitted proposals under seventeen agenda topics, five of which dealt with specific aspects of human rights.²⁴ Over half of the draft resolutions presented to the General Assembly Plenary dealt with questions of human rights, including action plans for the implementation of human rights instruments, the clarification of international norms, and human rights situations in various Member States.²⁵ Other agenda items which produced a large volume of draft resolutions include crime prevention and criminal justice, international drug control, social development, and the advancement of women.²⁶

On September 4, 2012, the Third Committee elected Henry L. Mac-Donald (Permanent Representative of Suriname) as Chair of its 67th session.²⁷ In his opening statement to the first meeting of the Third Committee 67th session on October 8, 2012, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Wu Hongbo described the Committee's work as comprising "a full range of social development issues, from the ongoing challenges in tackling poverty and unemployment, to fostering social inclusion and advancing human rights."²⁸

Agenda items assigned to the Third Committee for the 67th session include social development, the advancement of women, the promotion of human rights (paying special attention to vulnerable groups such as children, refugees, and indigenous peoples), the right to self-determination, the elimination of racial discrimination, combating international terrorism and the drug trade, and revitalizing the work of the General Assembly.²⁹

Conclusion

Delegates to the modern Third Committee must overcome many challenges, not the least of which is a geopolitical climate which General Assembly President Vuk Jeremić (Serbia) described as "unlike any the world has ever seen, one of truly global interdependence."³⁰ Third Committee delegates face particular pressure with respect to the Millennium Development Goals, whose target date of 2015 is rapidly approaching.³¹ Delegates should be mindful of the Third Committee's role within the General Assembly structure and how the Third Committee interacts with other UN organs. Successful policy making at the plenary level requires flexibility and dedication to broad consensus, in order to mobilize unique sovereign interests into practical global solutions.

²⁴United Nations Third Committee, 66th Session, *Reports to the Plenary*, 2011.

²⁵United Nations General Assembly, *Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural: Third Committee*, 2012.

United Nations Department of Public Information, *Third Committee Approves Draft Resolutions on Human Rights Situations in Iran, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar*, 2011.

United Nations Department of Public Information, *Third Committee Approves Resolution Condemning Human Rights Violations in Syria by Vote of 122 in favour to 13 against, with 41 Abstentions*, 2011.

²⁶United Nations Third Committee, 66th Session, *Status of Action on Draft Proposals*, 2011.

²⁷United Nations Department of Public Information, *Third Committee Elects Bureau for 67th General Assembly Session*, 2012.

²⁸United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Mr. Wu Hongbo Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Remarks at the Opening of the Third Committee of the General Assembly*, 2012.

²⁹United Nations General Assembly, 67th Session, *Allocation of Agenda Items to the Third Committee (A/C.3/67.1)*, 2012.

³⁰United Nations General Assembly, President of the 67th Session, *Opening Statement at the General Debate of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly*, 2012.

³¹United Nations Millennium Development Goals, *Background*.

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- Peterson, M. (2006). *The UN General Assembly*. London and New York: Routledge.
This text provides a comprehensive analysis of the development of the General Assembly, including key insights into the creation and evolution of the Main Committees. Delegates should look to this source to learn more about the original scope and purpose of the Third Committee, and how it has expanded or narrowed over time. This source also explains the Third Committee's relationships with the Second Committee and ECOSOC, two agencies which have historically held closely related mandates.
- United Nations General Assembly. (2012). *Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural: Third Committee*. Retrieved October 10, 2012 from <http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/>
As the official website of the Third Committee, this source provides a wealth of documentation for delegates who would like to learn more about current or past work of the Third Committee. The Third Committee website includes meeting schedules, upcoming agendas, draft resolutions and other proposals, press releases by and about the committee, and information about special initiatives.
- United Nations General Assembly. (2012). *Organization of work of the Third Committee, Note by the Secretariat, Addendum, Documentation before the Third Committee (A/C.3/67/L.1/Add.1/Rev.1)*. Retrieved October 12, 2012, from http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.3/67/L.1/Add.1/Rev.1
This source includes a complete list of agenda items to be considered by the Third Committee during the 67th session. Specifically, the annex lists the title, document symbol, and referring agency for each draft resolution scheduled for deliberation. The list is arranged by agenda heading (i.e. "Social Development" or "International Drug Control") which makes it a useful starting point for delegates seeking more information about the Third Committee's upcoming activities on a particular topic.
- United Nations Third Committee. 67th Session. (2012). *Complete List of the Special Procedure Mandate-Holders and UN High-Level Officials presentations to the GA Third Committee*. Retrieved October 11, 2012, from <http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/67/dialogues.shtml>
Delegates may use this source to find a list of upcoming presentations by Special Rapporteurs, Committee Chairs, and independent experts to the Third Committee. This source will be regularly updated throughout the session. Like the previous source, this item provides information about the upcoming activities of the Third Committee. The list of Special Procedure Mandate-Holders and UN High-Level Officials represents a significant proportion of entities who regularly collaborate with the Third Committee.
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2012). *Mr. Wu Hongbo Under –Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Remarks at the Opening of the Third Committee of the General Assembly*. Retrieved October 12, 2012, from <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/usg/statements/opening-statement-at-the-opening-of-the-third-committee-of-the-general-assembly.html>
The opening statements of Mr. Wu Hongbo characterize the general tone of the Third Committee's 67th session. His remarks reflect the concerns highlighted in previous speeches by General Assembly President Vuk Jeremić and Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. Delegates should look to this source to gain an understanding of how the Third Committee's work supports the United Nation's institutional goals for the 67th session. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs provides vital expertise and support to the Third Committee.

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I. Strengthening the Regulation of International Drug Trafficking

*Our efforts to promote development and fight drugs and crime will be more effective if they are rooted in partnerships with the young, civil society, governments, and the international community. Working together, we can alleviate the suffering of millions and break the hold of drugs and crime on countries, communities and families.*³²

History of International Drug Control

The International Opium Convention of The Hague of 1912, a product of the 1909 International Opium Commission in Shanghai, represents the first multilateral treaty dealing with the question of international drug control.³³ The Convention gained significant international support after it was incorporated into the peace treaties of World War I.³⁴ In 1920, the League of Nations assumed responsibility for the Convention, passing a series of complimentary instruments which included the 1931 Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs and the 1936 Convention for the Suppression of the Illicit Traffic in Dangerous Drugs.³⁵ International drug control passed to the United Nations in 1946. Under the auspices of the newly created Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the United Nations adopted the 1948 Synthetics Narcotics Protocol and the 1953 Opium Protocol.³⁶

In 1961, the United Nations sought to merge fifty years of drug control treaties into a single overarching document. The resulting instrument, the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, is considered the “cornerstone of today's international drug control regime.”³⁷ Modern international drug control addresses drug supply, demand, and trafficking as well as the promotion of harm reduction strategies.³⁸ Global prohibition has prevailed as the dominant model of international drug control in the 20th and 21st centuries.³⁹

Legal Framework for Regulation

The legal framework for drug control derives from three major instruments. The 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (as amended by the 1972 Protocol) unifies fifty years of multilateral drug trade agreements, addressing the regulation of raw material and narcotics manufacturing, the creation of drug schedules, and non-binding suggestions for the penalization of drug offenses.⁴⁰ The convention also created the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), an independent monitoring body that reports to the CND and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).⁴¹ In 1972, Member States amended the Single Convention to include provisions that addressed drug demand in addition to drug supply.⁴²

The 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances was drafted to strengthen the controls established in the 1961 Single Convention and to address the emergence of non-plant based synthetic drugs, which fell outside the existing drug control framework.⁴³ The 1971 Convention called for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers, recommended limited measures to regulate licit trade and prevent illicit trafficking, and created criteria for new substances to be incorporated into the international drug control regime at the recommendation of the World Health Organization (WHO).⁴⁴

³²United Nations Secretary-General, *International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: Secretary-General's Message for 2012*, 2012.

³³ International Narcotics Control Board, *Message from the President: Building on the Achievements of A Century of International Drug Control*, 2012.

³⁴United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Chronology: 100 years of drug control*, 2009.

³⁵United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *A Century of International Drug Control*, 2009.

³⁶United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Chronology: 100 years of drug control*, 2009.

³⁷United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Chronology: 100 years of drug control*, 2009.

³⁸Carstairs, The stages of the international drug control system. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 2005, pp. 62-63.

³⁹ Crick, *Drugs as an existential threat: An analysis of the international securitization of drugs*, 2012, p. 407.

⁴⁰Bewley-Taylor, *Regime change: Re-visiting the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*, 2012, p.75.

⁴¹United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Legal Framework for Drug Trafficking*, 2012.

⁴²United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Chronology: 100 years of drug control*, 2009.

⁴³Bewley-Taylor, *Regime change: Re-visiting the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*, 2012, p. 79.

⁴⁴United Nations, *Convention on Psychotropic Substances*, 1971.

In 1988, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances codified provisions to reduce the profitability of illicit traffic and regulate the procurement of precursors (licit substances used to manufacture and produce illicit drugs).⁴⁵ The 1988 Convention targeted illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as a threat to social and economic development.⁴⁶ The document reflected growing concerns about the relationship between trafficking and organized crime, a connection which gained special significance in the 1980s as sustained drug related violence overwhelmed authorities in South America.⁴⁷ Provisions of the 1988 Convention reinforced existing treaties and called for greater coordination among Member States in controlling traffic by air, land, and sea.⁴⁸ The 2000 Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, while not specific to drug trade, strengthened and expanded upon illicit trafficking controls contained in the 1988 Convention.⁴⁹ For the first time, the United Nations recognized transnational organized crime as “the key infrastructure in global illicit trafficking.”⁵⁰

Impact of Drug Trafficking on Development

Drug trafficking has widespread social and economic consequences, especially in narcotics-producing states.⁵¹ Illicit trafficking contributes to social and political instability through corruption, the disruption of legitimate economic networks, and drug addiction.⁵² Drug trafficking tends to coincide with illicit trafficking in persons, antiquities, and weapons, often to the benefit of criminal organizations and non-state actors.⁵³ Illicit financial flows from trafficking revenues fund criminal networks and promote corruption among government officials; organizations involved in drug trafficking often engage in money-laundering, a process which obscures the source of revenue gained through illicit means.⁵⁴ In many vulnerable states, trafficking in narcotics and psychoactive substances perpetuates cycles of poverty and violence:

[Countries like Afghanistan and Colombia] have experienced violent conflict for decades and the illicit drug trade has become inextricably linked with insurgencies. Not only does drug production flourish in areas of poor governance but also the sheer volume of cash and weapons helps perpetuate the cycles of violence. Despite the huge profits to be made from the illicit drug trade... virtually all the revenues go to the national and international DTOs [drug trafficking organizations]. Not only do farmers get little reward for the crops they produce but they have to pay a high cost in terms of security.⁵⁵

As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasized in his remarks to the 2012 General Assembly Thematic Debate on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development, illicit drug trade promotes the presence of criminal networks and disrupts the implementation of sustainable development strategies.⁵⁶ Other UN officials have cautioned that the negative effect of drug-related crime on development presents a serious threat to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.⁵⁷ The General Assembly codified a dual approach of crop eradication and alternative development during its 1998 Twentieth Special Session on the World Drug Problem.⁵⁸

⁴⁵International Control Board, *Precursors*, 2012.

⁴⁶United Nations, *Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances*, 1988.

⁴⁷Carstairs, *The stages of the international drug control system*, 2005, pp. 61-62.

⁴⁸United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Legal Framework for Drug Trafficking*, 2012.

⁴⁹United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/Res/55/25)*, 2000.

⁵⁰Kelly, *Illicit Trafficking*, 2005, p. 39.

⁵¹Jenner, *International Drug Trafficking: A Global Problem with a Domestic Solution*, 2011, p. 911.

⁵²Kelly, *Illicit Trafficking*, 2005, p. 56.

⁵³Kelly, *Illicit Trafficking*, 2005, pp. 57-58.

⁵⁴United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Estimating Illicit Financial Flows Resulting from Drug Trafficking and Other Transnational Organized Crimes*, 2011, p. 99.

⁵⁵Crick, *Drugs as an existential threat: An analysis of the international securitization of drugs*, 2012, 413.

⁵⁶Ki-moon, *Remarks to the General Assembly's Thematic Debate on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development*, 2012.

⁵⁷United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Remarks of the Executive Director UNODC at the Thematic Debate on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development*, 2012.

⁵⁸United Nations General Assembly, *Twentieth Special Session, Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development (A/RES/S-20/4)*, 1998.

UN Agencies and Programmes Dealing with Illicit Drug Trade

Many UN agencies address the issue of illicit drugs. The CND, a functional commission of ECOSOC, provides key policy recommendations to the Third Committee through ECOSOC reports.⁵⁹ The CND approves the budget of the UNODC Drug Programme and monitors Member State compliance with international drug conventions and political commitments.⁶⁰ The 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances expanded the mandate of the CND to place new substances under international control at the recommendation of the WHO and the INCB.⁶¹

The INCB is an independent monitoring body established through the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.⁶² Subsequent treaties granted the INCB additional functions.⁶³ Under its current mandate, the INCB works with Member States to monitor the licit production of controlled substances and precursors.⁶⁴ Additionally, the INCB provides training programmes and recommendations to Member States and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) to strengthen drug control regimes at the national and international level.⁶⁵ The INCB submits an annual report to ECOSOC through the CND.⁶⁶

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provides legal and technical expertise to Member States, communicates policy recommendations to the General Assembly Third Committee, performs vital studies on drugs and crime, and coordinates multiple programs.⁶⁷ The UNODC annually publishes the World Drug Report, a comprehensive analysis of the global drug problem and the state of international drug control; the most recent report was published in June 2012.⁶⁸ Key programs administered by the UNODC regarding illicit drug control include the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP); the Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting, and Trends (SMART) Programme; the Alternative Development Programme; the Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme; the Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP); and multiple regional programs in regions vulnerable to drug traffic.⁶⁹ The UNODC also monitors illicit financial flows resulting from drug traffic.⁷⁰

In 2011, the Secretary-General established the UN Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking, jointly chaired by the UNODC and United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA), to “[ensure] a coherent and effective response to drugs and crime from the UN system.”⁷¹ The Task Force is comprised of representatives from the Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the Peacebuilding Support Office

⁵⁹United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 2012.

⁶⁰United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, *Mandate and functions*, 2012.

⁶¹United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, *Mandate and functions*, 2012.

⁶²International Narcotics Control Board, *Our Mission*, 2012.

⁶³International Narcotics Control Board, *Mandate and Functions*, 2012.

⁶⁴International Narcotics Control Board, *Mandate and Functions*, 2012.

⁶⁵International Narcotics Control Board, *Mandate and Functions*, 2012.

⁶⁶International Narcotics Control Board, *Mandate and Functions*, 2012.

⁶⁷United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *About UNODC*, 2012.

⁶⁸United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2012*, 2012.

⁶⁹United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *The UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP)*, 2012.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *The Global SMART Programme: A Strategic response to the synthetic drug problem*, 2012.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *UNODC and Alternative Development*, 2012.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *UNODC and illicit crop monitoring*, 2012.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, West and Central Africa, *AIRCOP*, 2012.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Drug Trafficking*, 2012.

⁷⁰United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Estimating Illicit Financial Flows Resulting from Drug Trafficking and Other Transnational Organized Crimes*, 2011.

⁷¹United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Press Release, *UN Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking enters new phase with Tajikistan regional meeting*, 2012.

(PBSO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Women, and the World Bank.⁷²

Role of the Third Committee in International Drug Control

The General Assembly Third Committee annually considers draft resolutions and recommendations under the agenda item “Drug control, crime prevention, and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.”⁷³ During the course of its regular annual session, the Third Committee considers recommendations from the UNODC, UN High-Level officials, and special committees dealing with international drug control.⁷⁴ The Third Committee presents an annual summary of its deliberations to the General Assembly Plenary.⁷⁵ The Third Committee provides an inclusive platform for all Member States to engage the question of international drug control, an opportunity not available through more narrowly focused UN organs.

Recent Developments

The international drug control regime has not remained static in the 21st century. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome document, the General Assembly expressed “grave concern at the negative effects on development, peace and security, and human rights posed by transnational crime, including the... world narcotic drug problem” and affirmed its commitment to “overcome the world narcotic drug problem through international cooperation and national strategies.”⁷⁶

In 2009, the 52nd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs hosted a high-level segment to discuss progress achieved by the United Nations since the 1998 General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem.⁷⁷ The resulting Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted by 132 states at the recommendation of the General Assembly Third Committee, called for a multi-pronged collaborative approach to strengthen existing instruments and streamline the UN response to drug control.⁷⁸ The Political Declaration reiterated the impact of trafficking on social development, stating, “[d]rug trafficking and abuse pose a major threat to the health, dignity and hopes of millions of people and their families and lead to the loss of human lives.”⁷⁹ Furthermore, the Political Declaration acknowledged the growing relationship between “drug trafficking, corruption, and other forms of organized crime.”⁸⁰

Member States met in 2010 for the 12th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Salvador, Brazil. The resulting Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime prevention and criminal justice systems and their development in a changing world (A/CONF.213/17) recommended a unified strategy to implement existing drug control commitments at the regional, national, and international level.⁸¹ The Declaration emphasized the “increasing links between transnational organized crime and drug

⁷² United Nations Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking, *Presentation to the ACPR Bangkok 30 May 2012*, 2012.

⁷³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *The General Assembly and the CND and CCPCJ*, 2012.

⁷⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *UNODC documentation prepared for the 67th session of the General Assembly*, 2012.

⁷⁵ United Nations General Assembly, Third Committee, *International drug control: Report of the Third Committee (A/66/464)*, 2011.

⁷⁶ United Nations General Assembly, *2005 World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1)*, 2005.

⁷⁷ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*, 2009.

⁷⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*, 2009, pp. 3-4.

United Nations General Assembly, *International cooperation against the world drug problem (A/Res/64/182)*, 2010.

⁷⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*, 2009, p. 7.

⁸⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*, 2009, p. 13.

⁸¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime prevention and criminal justice systems and their development in a changing world (A/CONF.213/17)*, 2010.

trafficking in the context of the world drug problem.”⁸²

In honor of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 26, 2012, the General Assembly held a thematic debate on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development.⁸³ The debate anticipated strong action during the 67th session as Member States considered relevant decisions from the Rio+20 conference and looked forward to the 2015 Thirteenth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Doha, Qatar.⁸⁴

Recent Actions by the Third Committee

During its 66th session, the Third Committee considered two draft resolutions recommended by ECOSOC on the topic of drug control, and one draft resolution prepared by Member States concerning international cooperation against the world drug problem.⁸⁵ The General Assembly plenary adopted A/RES/66/183 in April 2012 on the report of the Third Committee. In October 2012, the Third Committee held a two-day debate on Crime Prevention and International Drug Control featuring UNODC Deputy Executive Director Mr. Sandeep Chawla.⁸⁶ The Third Committee received the Report of the Secretary-General on International cooperation against the World Drug Problem (A/67/157) in June 2012, in advance of its 67th session.⁸⁷

Challenges of Regulation

Although the principles of the international drug control instruments enjoy broad recognition among Member States, implementation over the past century has been irregular. The most recent UNODC World Report indicates, “there has been no significant change in the global status quo regarding the use, production, and health consequences of illicit drugs.”⁸⁸ The non-medical use of prescription drugs has increased.⁸⁹ Drug manufacturers are finding newer and more efficient ways to design sophisticated synthetic substances that do not meet existing standards for international control, such as methylenedioxypropylamphetamine (MDPV), known colloquially as “bath salts.”⁹⁰ The presence of violent conflict and corruption also delays the implementation of international commitments at the national level.⁹¹

Barriers to Implementation

In his introductory remarks to the Third Committee on October 10, 2012, Sandeep Chawla, Deputy Executive Director of the UNODC, expressed concern about the irregularity of fiscal support for his department. Without more consistent funding, he cautioned that the UNODC could not meet its obligations.⁹² Mr. Chawla also urged Member States to consider streamlining the governance structure of the UNODC to reflect a more consistent purpose.⁹³ Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also addressed the fiscal vulnerability of the UNODC in his 2012 Report on *International cooperation against the world drug problem* (A/67/157).⁹⁴ Overlapping drug control mandates across

⁸² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime prevention and criminal justice systems and their development in a changing world* (A/CONF.213/17), 2010, section 47.

⁸³ United Nations General Assembly, President of the 66th Session, *Thematic Debate of the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development on the occasion of the UN International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking*, 2012.

⁸⁴ United Nations General Assembly, President of the 66th Session, *Opening Remarks at the Thematic Debate of the General Assembly on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development*, 2012.

⁸⁵ United Nations General Assembly, Third Committee, *International Drug Control: Report of the Third Committee*, 2011.

⁸⁶ United Nations Department of Public Information, *Heinous, Fast-growing crimes of human, drug trafficking will continue to ravage world's economies without coordinated global action, third committee told*, 2012.

⁸⁷ United Nations Secretary-General, *International Cooperation against the world drug problem: Report of the Secretary-General* (A/67/157), 2012.

⁸⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2012 Executive Summary*, 2012, p. 1.

⁸⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2012 Executive Summary*, 2012, p. 3.

⁹⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2012 Executive Summary*, 2012, p. 3.

⁹¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2012 Executive Summary*, 2012, p. 5.

⁹² United Nations Department of Public Information, *World faces complex, interconnected threats from practically seamless 'web of drugs, crime and sometimes terrorism', third committee told*, 2012.

⁹³ United Nations Department of Public Information, *World faces complex, interconnected threats from practically seamless 'web of drugs, crime and sometimes terrorism', third committee told*, 2012.

⁹⁴ United Nations Secretary-General, *International Cooperation against the world drug problem: Report of the Secretary-General* (A/67/157), 2012, Chapter VII, sections 71-72.

the UN structure present another concern. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reported in his 2006 mandate review, “the work of the United Nations system in the areas of drug control, crime prevention, and combating international terrorism is highly fragmented.”⁹⁵ Multiple agencies claim responsibility for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of existing instruments.⁹⁶ The UN Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking represents one approach to addressing these concerns.⁹⁷

Within Member States, the fiscal burden of compliance presents a significant barrier; this is especially true for narcotics producing states, which tend to have weaker judicial structures in place to combat drug trafficking.⁹⁸ The vulnerabilities of a single state can negatively affect the stability of an entire region. As the representative for Japan expressed during a recent debate on drug control in the Third Committee, “A loophole created in one State affects the neighbouring States and consequently undermines the effectiveness of the international legal framework.”⁹⁹ Member States retain sole responsibility for implementing their commitments under international drug control treaties; no mechanisms exist to step in when states cannot or will not implement the provisions on their own.¹⁰⁰

Unintended Consequences

In addition to circumstantial barriers that prevent the implementation of existing commitments, effective regulation of illicit drugs has produced unanticipated problems. International regulation of plant-based and synthetic drugs has given birth to a booming black market, a factor that significantly offsets the public health benefits realized under drug prohibition.¹⁰¹ Counter-narcotic efforts in Afghanistan and Colombia have resulted in the displacement of significant numbers of people, creating new populations of displaced persons that are not presently entitled to benefits from the international system.¹⁰² Increasingly, the successful regulation of plant-based drugs has resulted in the chemical manufacturing of unregulated synthetic alternatives with severe side effects. The synthetic heroin alternative desomorphine, also known as Krokodil, has emerged in parts of Eastern Europe and Asia in response to a reduction in poppy cultivation.¹⁰³

Conclusion

The emergence of thriving transnational criminal organizations requires strong international collaboration, if Member States hope to effectively contain or eliminate drug trafficking. As former UNODC Executive Director Yuri Fedotov declared, “No country or region is powerful enough to halt the criminal networks that undermine security, and economic and social well-being.”¹⁰⁴ In order to ensure lasting gains towards development goals, Member States must recognize and preempt the impact of the drug trade through technical assistance, alternative development strategies, and broad cross-border cooperation.

Delegates in the Third Committee must evaluate how their state has approached the question of drug control within

⁹⁵ United Nations Secretary-General, *Mandating and delivering: analysis and recommendations to facilitate the review of mandates, report of the Secretary-General (A/60/733)*, 2006.

⁹⁶ United Nations Secretary-General, *Mandating and delivering: analysis and recommendations to facilitate the review of mandates, report of the Secretary-General (A/60/733)*, 2006.

⁹⁷ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Press Releases, *Member States Express Strong Support for the “One-UN” Approach Taken by UNODC and other Task Force Partners on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking*, 2011.

⁹⁸ Jenner, *International Drug Trafficking: A Global Problem with a Domestic Solution*, 2011, p. 911.

⁹⁹ United Nations Department of Public Information, *World faces complex, interconnected threats from practically seamless ‘web of drugs, crime and sometimes terrorism’, third committee told*, 2012.

¹⁰⁰ Bewley-Taylor, D. (2003). *Challenging the UN drug control conventions: problems and possibilities. International Journal of Drug Policy*, 2003, p. 173.

¹⁰¹ Bewley-Taylor, *Regime change: Re-visiting the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*, 2012, p. 74.
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*, 2009, p. 2.

¹⁰² Barret, *Security, development and human rights: Normative, legal and policy challenges for the international drug control system*, 2010, p. 141.

¹⁰³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Remarks of the Executive Director UNODC at the Thematic Debate on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development*, 2012. Shields, Reuters: *Africa, New poppy blight poised to boost opium price – U.N.*, 2012.

¹⁰⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Remarks of the Executive Director UNODC at the Thematic Debate on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development*, 2012.

its own borders, its region, and the international community. Approaches to the drug control question exist along a spectrum, with absolute prohibition and absolute legalization representing two extremes. Delegates should know whether they classify as a narcotics producing state, a narcotics consuming state, or a transit state; the unique vulnerabilities of each category will shape the political approach each state pursues. Delegates should also consider how regional programs have impacted their state and how they have financially contributed to or benefited from UN-lead initiatives. Delegates should give significant consideration to funding sources and existing UN mechanisms for international drug control, in order to avoid redundant or irrelevant proposals. Delegates should reflect upon the concerns of high-level UN officials regarding overlapping mandates and insufficient funding for UN drug control initiatives. Reflecting the spirit of the existing treaties, Third Committee delegates should remain conscious of the sovereign interests of each Member State as they deliberate on possible solutions.

Annotated Bibliography

Barret, D. (2010). Security, development and human rights: Normative, legal and policy challenges for the international drug control system. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 21 (2): 140-144. Retrieved October 15, 2012 from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2010.01.005>

This scholarly article analyzes the shortcomings of the UN system in its approach to international drug control, paying special attention to negative global trends that have manifested because of international regulations and counter-narcotic initiatives. Delegates should review this source to gain better understand some of the barriers that constrain UN agencies from carrying out effective policies against the international drug trade.

Bewley-Taylor, D and M. Jelsma. (2012). *Regime change: Re-visiting the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*. *International Journal of Drug Policy* 23 (2012), 72-81. Retrieved October 12, 2012 from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2011.08.003>

This document provides an extensive review of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, from a historiographical and political perspective. The article documents the origins of the Convention in pre-United Nations instruments, reviews contemporary and current criticisms of the drug control regime, and provides useful recommendations for revising the Convention to reflect the demands of the present day drug problem.

Jelsma, M. (2003). Drugs in the UN System: the unwritten history of the 1998 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 14 (2): 181-195. Retrieved October 15, 2012 from [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0955-3959\(03\)00006-9](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0955-3959(03)00006-9)

This document explores the struggle to achieve international consensus at the 1998 United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Drugs. The author describes tensions between prohibition favoring states and states that would prefer a reformed approach to drug control. The document includes a discussion of challenges made by Member States to the existing international drug control regime, paying special attention to rhetoric used by Member States during the deliberations. Delegates may find this source helpful as they investigate long term positions and seek out allies in the international community.

Reinarman, Craig. (2003). Geo-political and cultural constraints on international drug control treaties. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. 14 (2): 205-208. Retrieved October 15, 2012 from [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0955-3959\(03\)00010-0](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0955-3959(03)00010-0)

This sociological analysis of international drug control highlights the social and economic consequences of the current regulatory regime, and details the political mechanisms that deter treaty reforms. The author highlights shortcomings of the existing treaties and explores the varying degree and means of implementation among Member States. Although the document is brief, it provides vital insights regarding the efficacy of the existing treaties and the prevailing conversations about political reform.

Singer, M. (2008). Drugs and development: The global impact of drug use and trafficking on social and economic development. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 19 (6): 467-478. Retrieved October 15, 2012 from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2006.12.007>

As the Third Committee deals with social, humanitarian, and cultural affairs, delegates should pay special attention to the multi-faceted relationships identified between drugs and development concerns in this paper. This article pays special attention to the health and social development aspects of the Millennium Development Goals, as they are burdened by the drug trade. The paper provides recommendations for mitigating or eliminating the negative impact of drugs on development. Additionally, the author identifies long term trends in violence and corruption, which interrupt the effective implementation of development initiatives.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2009). *A Century of International Drug Control*. Retrieved October 13, 2012 from http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/100_Years_of_Drug_Control.pdf

This UNODC publication provides a concise overview of the history of international drug control from 1909 through 2009. The document discusses long term trends and achievements as well as

unanticipated consequences of drug control. The document also provides summaries of each major drug control instrument passed by the UN. Most importantly, this document details the historical approaches taken by the international community over the course of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, with a special emphasis on the participation of early colonial powers. Delegates will find a list of abbreviations frequently used in the discussion of international drug control.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2009). *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*. Retrieved October 12, 2012 from <http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND-Uploads/CND-52-RelatedFiles/V0984963-English.pdf>

The 2009 Political Declaration builds upon the landmark commitments codified during the 1998 Special Session on the World Drug Problem. The Declaration contains a comprehensive political action plan based in the policy recommendations of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and high level officials. Within the UN system, the Declaration represents the future direction of political action on the world drug problem. Delegates should be familiar with its political principles, strategy recommendations, and proposed reforms.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2010). *Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime prevention and criminal justice systems and their development in a changing world (A/CONF.213/17)*. Retrieved October 12, 2012 from http://www.unodc.org/documents/crime-congress/12th-Crime-Congress/Documents/Salvador_Declaration/Salvador_Declaration_E.pdf

The Salvador Declaration is the outcome document from the 12th United Nations Crime Congress in 2010, held in Salvador, Brazil. This document highlights commitments made by Member States to combat transnational organized crime. The Salvador Declaration calls for increased cooperation at the international level and a review of UN system governance and mandates. Delegates should review this document in order to understand how the UN approaches drug trafficking within the context of transnational organized crime.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *World Drug Report* (2012). Retrieved August 30, 2012 from http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/WDR2012/WDR_2012_web_small.pdf

The UNODC World Drug Report of 2012 contains a summary of research analysis on the progress of UN alternative development and counter-narcotics initiatives, global drug use statistics, trends in production and trafficking, the fiscal solvency of the UNODC, barriers to implementation, and the status of existing cross-border partnerships. This source provides authoritative statistics and recommendations relevant to delegate interests.

United Nations Secretary-General. (2012). *International Cooperation against the world drug problem: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/157)*. Retrieved October 13, 2012 from http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/157

A/67/157 is the most recent report from the Secretary-General on the world drug problem. The report is presented annually to the General Assembly as a comprehensive review of the UN system's approach to international drug control with special emphasis on the mandates of Member States and the UNODC. This report also summarizes the most recent findings and recommendations of the UNODC and other agencies regarding the world drug problem. Delegates should examine this source to gain an understanding of how the sixty-seventh session of the Third Committee will approach international drug control.

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II. Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children and Youth, Aging, Disabled Persons, and the Family

Introduction

The international community did not develop a concern for human rights protection until after viewing the atrocities committed in World War II.¹⁰⁵ The Charter of the United Nations makes seven references to human rights—in the Preamble and in Articles 1, 13, 55, 56, 68, and 76.¹⁰⁶ However, the phrase “human rights and fundamental freedoms” was not defined nor was there any mention of the precise powers or functions of Organization in regards to the promotion or protection of human rights or fundamental freedoms.

Several UN bodies are responsible for the promotion and realization of human rights. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established the Commission on Human Rights, to consider and act on complaints that “appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.”¹⁰⁷ The CHR drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which the General Assembly adopted in 1948¹⁰⁸ The Commission also drafted the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), both adopted in 1966.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) leads the UN’s human rights efforts. The High Commissioner for Human Rights, the principal human rights official of the UN, leads the OHCHR.¹⁰⁹ The OHCHR supports the other UN human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council (HRC). The Council is made up of 47 Member States and is responsible for promoting and protecting human rights. Created by the General Assembly in 2006, the Council replaced the Human Rights Committee.¹¹⁰

Throughout its development, the UN has recognized the idea that some peoples are more vulnerable than others, and as such, these groups need special consideration. The perceived need to provide some groups with rights targeted at their specific situation has led the UN and other organizations to draft specialized treaties and conventions aimed at specific groups.

Children and Youth

Under the laws of most Member States, a child is considered a minor until they reach the age of majority, and until then, the child is not afforded the full rights of citizenship.¹¹¹ However, the age of majority varies among Member States.¹¹² While children may not be afforded the full rights of citizenship offered to adults of their state, the same rights espoused in the International Bill of Human Rights protect them.¹¹³

Children also have their own specialized rights and treaties. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is based on the idea that children deserve special recognition of their rights based on their vulnerability in society.¹¹⁴ In 1919, the International Labour Organization was the first intergovernmental organization to recognize children’s rights.¹¹⁵ In 1949, the United Nations recognized children as victims of war in the Geneva Convention, and as a targeted category in the Geneva Convention Protocols of 1977.¹¹⁶ The Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959)

¹⁰⁵ Green, *The United Nations and Human Rights*, 1956, p.13.

¹⁰⁶ United Nations General Assembly, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

¹⁰⁷ Maddex, *International Encyclopedia of Human Rights: Freedoms, Abuses, and Remedies*, 2000, p.47.

¹⁰⁸ United Nations General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948.

¹⁰⁹ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Who we are*, 2012.

¹¹⁰ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *United Nations Human Rights Council*, 2012.

¹¹¹ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p.655.

¹¹² Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p.655.

¹¹³ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p.655.

¹¹⁴ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p.655.

¹¹⁵ Maddex, *International Encyclopedia of Human Rights: Freedoms, Abuses, and Remedies*, 2000, p.42.

¹¹⁶ Maddex, *International Encyclopedia of Human Rights: Freedoms, Abuses, and Remedies*, 2000, p.42.

not only concentrated on a child's right to be protected, but also recognized the right of a child to have a name and nationality.¹¹⁷

The most important document for children's rights is the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The Convention was adopted in 1989 and came into force in 1990; since its entry into force, all but two UN Member States have ratified the document.¹¹⁸ The Committee on the Rights of the Child oversees the implementation of the CRC.

The General Assembly has recognized that people between the ages of 15 and 25 have specific problems related to their age. A UN report issued in 1989 titled "Human rights and Youth" acknowledged the importance of young peoples' rights "to life, to education and to work and their freedoms..."¹¹⁹ The rights of youth often overlap those of children and those of adults. For example, youth have the same rights to education and standards of living and the same prohibitions against forced labor and protection from sexual exploitation as children.¹²⁰ Youth also share rights with adults, such as the right to decent and productive work and the right to participate in civil society.¹²¹ However, young people are often forced into servitude, prostitution, and forced labor or are abused and exploited.¹²²

A particular problem that children and youth are facing is being recruited as child soldiers. Thousands of children and youth are forced to serve in government armed forces and in rebel groups.¹²³ In armed conflict situations, girls may also be forced to marry or recruited for sexual purposes.¹²⁴ It is vital to address these situations as "children associated with armed forces or armed groups...[are themselves] abused, exploited, injured, or even killed."¹²⁵

Aging Persons

In some cultures, the elderly are revered and they hold an honored place in society. In these cultures, care for the elderly is the responsibility of the family. But social changes have brought a shift in this ideology and care for older persons has become the responsibility of the government, especially in the developed world.¹²⁶ The elderly and the very young are at the most risk of being denied basic resources, especially in societies where there are not enough resources to go around.¹²⁷ These groups suffer the most from general human rights abuses, as they are unable to demand the rights to which they are entitled.¹²⁸

The lengthening of life spans and the decrease in birth rates has caused a shift in the composition of the world's population from being predominantly younger people to being predominantly older people.¹²⁹ The UN has recognized several aspects to the aging of the world's population that will need to be addressed.¹³⁰ First, Africa, Asia, and South America will experience the most rapid aging of their populations.¹³¹ Second, this trend will occur without well-developed socio-economic, governmental, financial, and educational institutions.¹³² Finally, the shift will occur in a relatively compressed period.¹³³ The UN is concerned that the human rights, integrity, and independence of elderly persons may be compromised as countries try to adapt with this shift.¹³⁴

¹¹⁷ Maddex, *International Encyclopedia of Human Rights: Freedoms, Abuses, and Remedies*, 2000, p.42.

¹¹⁸ Maddex, *International Encyclopedia of Human Rights: Freedoms, Abuses, and Remedies*, 2000, p.42.

¹¹⁹ Maddex, *International Encyclopedia of Human Rights: Freedoms, Abuses, and Remedies*, 2000, p.381.

¹²⁰ United Nations, *World Youth Report 2005: Report of the Secretary-General (A/60/61)*, 2005.

¹²¹ United Nations, *World Youth Report 2005: Report of the Secretary-General (A/60/61)*, 2005.

¹²² United Nations Children's Fund, *Protecting Children from Violence, Exploitation, and Abuse*, 2011.

¹²³ United Nations Children's Fund, *Child Recruitment by Armed Forces or Armed Groups*, 2011.

¹²⁴ United Nations Children's Fund, *Child Recruitment by Armed Forces or Armed Groups*, 2011.

¹²⁵ United Nations Children's Fund, *Child Recruitment by Armed Forces or Armed Groups*, 2011.

¹²⁶ Maddex, *International Encyclopedia of Human Rights: Freedoms, Abuses, and Remedies*, 2000, p.7-8.

¹²⁷ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 598.

¹²⁸ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 598.

¹²⁹ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 598.

¹³⁰ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 598.

¹³¹ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 598.

¹³² Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 598.

¹³³ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 598.

¹³⁴ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 598.

The international community had not taken any affirmative steps in protecting the rights of the aging until 1982 when the World Assembly on Aging passed the International Plan of Action on Aging.¹³⁵ The Plan contains sixty-two recommendations that addressed issues such as employment, housing, and health care and recognized the elderly population as an active and contributing segment of society. As such, the Plan encourages Member States to create infrastructure to coordinate and administer policies, programs, and research on aging.¹³⁶

The UN Principles for Older Persons were adopted in 1991, enumerating the basic rights of the elderly in areas of independence, participation in society, care, and dignity—closely paralleling the rights espoused in the International Covenants.¹³⁷ The International Conference on Aging was held the following year and adopted the “Proclamation on Aging,” reiterating the importance of addressing the needs of older populations in the contexts of the Plan and the Principles.¹³⁸

“[I]n recognition of humanity’s demographic coming of age and the promise it holds for maturing attitudes and capabilities in social, economic, cultural, and spiritual undertakings, not least for global peace and development in the next century” and to promote the translation of the Principles into concrete policies, 1999 was designated the International Year of Older Persons (IYOP) by the General Assembly.¹³⁹ The UN Programme on Aging has the primary responsibility to facilitate and promote the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging from the Second World Assembly on Aging in 2002.¹⁴⁰

Unlike other population groups, such as women and children, older persons have not been the beneficiaries of a comprehensive international convention addressing their rights and “no binding supervisory arrangements attach to the various sets of United Nations principles in this area.”¹⁴¹

Disabled Persons

Despite the recognition that “[a]ll human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, this is not necessarily the case for the more than 650 million disabled persons in the world.¹⁴² In response, the UN has recognized specific rights to protect disabled persons from isolation and marginalization in society.¹⁴³

The Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (DRDP) defined the term “disabled person” as “any person unable to ensure by himself or herself, wholly or partly, the necessities of a normal individual and/or social life, as a result of a deficiency, either congenital or not, in his or her physical or mental capabilities.”¹⁴⁴ The Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons and the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons have established the principle of equality for these groups and added some specific rights, such as the right to medical treatment, as well as the right to prosthetic and orthotic devices and the right to live with their families.¹⁴⁵ The Declaration on the Rights of Deaf-Blind Persons, adopted by ECOSOC, provides for universal rights for the hearing and visually impaired.¹⁴⁶ The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted in 2006 “to promote, protect, and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights...by persons with disabilities,” and entered into force with its Optional Protocol in May of 2008.¹⁴⁷ The Convention states that disabled persons include anyone who has

¹³⁵ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 598.

¹³⁶ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 598.

¹³⁷ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 598.

¹³⁸ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 598-599.

¹³⁹ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 599.

¹⁴⁰ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Ageing*.

¹⁴¹ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 600.

¹⁴² Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 685.

United Nations Enable, *Factsheet on Persons with Disabilities*, p. 1.

¹⁴³ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 685.

¹⁴⁴ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 685.

¹⁴⁵ United Nations General Assembly, *Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons*, 1975, Articles 6 and 9.

¹⁴⁶ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p. 686.

¹⁴⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, 2006, Article 1.

“physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”¹⁴⁸

In response to the growing recognition of the rights of the disabled, the GA declared 1981 to be the International Year of Disabled Persons.¹⁴⁹ The World Programme of Action (WPA) concerning Disabled Persons was a major result of the International Year.¹⁵⁰ The WPA encompasses a strategy to enhance disability prevention, rehabilitation, and equalization to ensure the full participation of disabled persons in society.¹⁵¹ The United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons began in 1983 and put issues of disability on the international agenda.¹⁵² The end of the decade saw the most important document affecting the rights of disabled person adopted by the UN: the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.¹⁵³ This document addresses all aspects of disabled persons’ lives and suggests measurements that governments should take to ensure full equality to disabled persons.¹⁵⁴ The United Nations Global Programme on Disability has the mandate to implement the WPA and the Rules.¹⁵⁵

Despite these actions, disabled persons are often denied education and employment and are subjected to violence.¹⁵⁶ For example, 90% of “children with disabilities in developing countries do not attend school” and the “literacy rate for adults with disabilities is as low as 3%.”¹⁵⁷ A 2004 survey showed that only 35% of “working-age persons with disabilities” are employed and two-thirds of “unemployed respondents with disabilities said they would like to work but could not find jobs.”¹⁵⁸ Finally, “for every child killed in warfare, three...acquire a permanent form of disability.”¹⁵⁹ Persons with disabilities are also “more likely to be victims of violence or rape...and less likely to obtain police intervention, legal protection, or preventive care.”¹⁶⁰

In 2007, countries spent 1.2 percent of gross national product on disability programs.¹⁶¹ Many developed countries have university rehabilitation programs to provide education to the disabled. Mid-level training programs and regional training service centers are more feasible in developing countries.¹⁶² Many countries have anti-discrimination labor laws to ensure that the disabled have an equal opportunity at employment while others have quota systems.¹⁶³ Reasonable accommodation is required in some countries while it is still voluntary in others.¹⁶⁴ In an effort to increase the amount of health care services received by the disabled, some countries offer cash transfer programs for households with disabled persons or tax credits to practitioners to help offset costs.¹⁶⁵ Community-based rehabilitation programs (CBRs) are active in 90 countries shift from medically focused programs to programs that include rehabilitation, poverty reduction, and social inclusion.¹⁶⁶

Family

As acknowledged in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), “[t]he family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.”¹⁶⁷ As such, several

¹⁴⁸ United Nations General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, 2006, Article 1.

¹⁴⁹ United Nations Enable, *World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons*.

¹⁵⁰ United Nations Enable, *World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons*.

¹⁵¹ United Nations Enable, *World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons*.

¹⁵² Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p .686.

¹⁵³ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p .686.

¹⁵⁴ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p .686.

¹⁵⁵ Maddex, *International Encyclopedia of Human Rights: Freedoms, Abuses, and Remedies*, 2000, p.140.

¹⁵⁶ United Nations Enable, *Factsheet on Persons with Disabilities*, p. 2.

¹⁵⁷ United Nations Enable, *Factsheet on Persons with Disabilities*, p. 2.

¹⁵⁸ United Nations Enable, *Factsheet on Persons with Disabilities*, p. 2.

¹⁵⁹ United Nations Enable, *Factsheet on Persons with Disabilities*, p. 3.

¹⁶⁰ United Nations Enable, *Factsheet on Persons with Disabilities*, p. 3.

¹⁶¹ Globalization 101, *World Report on Disability*, 2012.

¹⁶² Globalization 101, *World Report on Disability*, 2012.

¹⁶³ Globalization 101, *World Report on Disability*, 2012.

¹⁶⁴ Globalization 101, *World Report on Disability*, 2012.

¹⁶⁵ Globalization 101, *World Report on Disability*, 2012.

¹⁶⁶ Globalization 101, *World Report on Disability*, 2012.

¹⁶⁷ Maddex, *International Encyclopedia of Human Rights: Freedoms, Abuses, and Remedies*, 2000, p.140.

rights, both public and private, are associated with the concept of the family, such as the right to marry, the rights of spouses in marriage, and maternity rights.¹⁶⁸ Rights may also include welfare rights such as the right to spousal or child assistance.¹⁶⁹ Families may also be afforded rights in regards to religion, inheritance of property, child custody, and even grandparent's rights.¹⁷⁰

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was the first international document to assert the rights of the family.¹⁷¹ The ICCPR and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights followed nearly twenty years later with further recognition of the rights afforded to families.¹⁷²

The UN Programme on the Family provides services in the areas of family and family policy to the UN General Assembly, the Commission for Social Development, and ECOSOC.¹⁷³ The Programme also promotes the objectives of the International Year of the Family (IYF), 1994, and supports research, diagnostics, and the dissemination of information on the family and family issues.¹⁷⁴ The UN has also established a Trust Fund on Family Activities which provides financial support for activities specific to the family, with an emphasis on those in developing and least developed countries.¹⁷⁵ Grants from the Fund aid actions from government and non-governmental organization. Furthermore, monies allocated place special emphasis on development initiatives, awareness building, and training.¹⁷⁶

There are many issues facing the family, including inequality of individual family members, domestic violence, and poverty.¹⁷⁷ Family members may face discrimination within the family based on gender, age, or the roles that may be forced upon a person based on gender or age.¹⁷⁸ Policies need to be aimed at fostering equality between the men and women in a household so that domestic responsibilities and employment opportunities are shared.¹⁷⁹ Inequality between these family members results in an inability to reconcile work and family responsibilities and hurts the "intergenerational bonds that sustained [the family] in the past."¹⁸⁰ Domestic violence can hinder the family as it can result in increased health care costs and lost wages.¹⁸¹ The 20th anniversary of the IYF will focus on the role families play in development.¹⁸² Because of socio-economic changes and demographic shifts, families find it more and more difficult to fulfill their responsibilities.¹⁸³ Many families are poverty stricken and cannot adequately provide for older and younger family members.¹⁸⁴ It is imperative that Member States provide services to assist the family in achieving its full potential.

Conclusion

It has been 50 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Throughout this time, the international community has developed a greater recognition of human rights for all peoples, and especially for vulnerable groups. In response, the UN has promoted various strategies and programs in order to assist these groups in becoming functioning members of society. Despite the efforts taken by the United Nations System, children and youth, aging, disabled persons and the family are still not afforded equal rights or protections in society.

¹⁶⁸ Maddex, *International Encyclopedia of Human Rights: Freedoms, Abuses, and Remedies*, 2000, p.140.

¹⁶⁹ Maddex, *International Encyclopedia of Human Rights: Freedoms, Abuses, and Remedies*, 2000, p.140.

¹⁷⁰ Maddex, *International Encyclopedia of Human Rights: Freedoms, Abuses, and Remedies*, 2000, p.140.

¹⁷¹ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p .686.

¹⁷² Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p .686.

¹⁷³ Lewis, *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*, 1999, p .686.

¹⁷⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *United Nations Family Programme*.

¹⁷⁵ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities: Guidelines*, p. 1.

¹⁷⁶ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities: Guidelines*, p. 1.

¹⁷⁷ United Nations Department of Public Information, *Basic Facts About the United Nations*, 2011, p. 183.

¹⁷⁸ United Nations Department of Public Information, *Basic Facts About the United Nations*, 2011, p. 183.

¹⁷⁹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Twentieth International Year of the Family*.

¹⁸⁰ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Twentieth International Year of the Family*.

¹⁸¹ Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, *Impact of Domestic Violence*, 2012.

¹⁸² United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Twentieth International Year of the Family*.

¹⁸³ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Twentieth International Year of the Family*.

¹⁸⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Twentieth International Year of the Family*.

Delegates should consider what their country has done to promote and protect the rights of each group and what issues these groups are facing in their respective country. What documents is your country a party to and why? What documents has your country not ratified and why not? Are there any regional agreements that your country is a party to that promotes the rights of the specified groups? Has your country taken any additional measures to protect the rights of these groups?

Annotated Bibliography

Karns, M. and Mingst, K. (2004). *International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance*. Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner.

Karns and Mingst provide a comprehensive look at the international system and the variety of organizations that are part of international governance. This text looks at the various actors within global governance, including the UN, regional actors, non-state actors, and states. It also examines the need for global governance and uses a variety of case studies to illustrate the need.

Lewis, J. and C. Skutsch, eds. (1999). *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*. Volume 2. Armonk, N.Y.: Sharpe Reference.

The Human Rights Encyclopedia gives delegates with a basic knowledge of various topics within the human rights field. Delegates can use this resource to get brief information on the Conventions and Committees under discussion in this topic and is a good starting point for research.

Maddex, R. (2000). *International Encyclopedia of Human Rights: Freedoms, Abuses, and Remedies*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.

This resource goes into more detail of the rights afforded to various groups of people. Delegates should consult this Encyclopedia for a broad view of the human rights instruments discussed in this topic. This will solidify a basic understanding before delegates delve into the actual conventions discussed.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2012). *World Youth Report 2012*. Retrieved September 3, 2012 from <http://social.un.org/index/WorldYouthReport/2012.aspx>.

The World Youth Reports focus on different areas affecting youth. The 2012 Report focuses on the transition of young people from school to the work force. Delegates can consult the various reports to see how youth are affected by various circumstances and what can be done to assist youth.

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2011). *Basic Facts About the United Nations*. New York, NY: United Nations.

This text is an essential starting point for research on the United Nations, its operations, and its bodies. The book covers the structure and role of the different organs and committees and provides an overview of the day-to-day functioning of the United Nations. The book also gives brief introductions to various topics discussed in the UN.

United Nations Development Programme. (2011). *Human Development Report 2011*. Retrieved August 8, 2012 from: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2011/>.

The United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Reports are published on a yearly basis. The reports look at development as more than a financial figure and look at other factors to determine people's overall, long-term well-being. The 2011 Report focuses on sustainability and equity, two of the main features in human rights. Delegates should be familiar with this report as it discusses the expansion of substantive freedoms for all peoples.

United Nations General Assembly. (1989, November 20). *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Retrieved September 3, 2012 from <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm>.

This Convention is the main treaty that discusses the international commitments on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. Delegates should be familiar with this resource and the rights afforded by it to children. As a treaty, it has binding force and compliance with the document is necessary by those who have ratified it.

United Nations General Assembly. (1975). *Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons*. Retrieved September 3, 2012 from <http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu3/b/72.htm>.

This Convention is the main treaty covering the rights of disabled persons. Delegates should consult this treaty to understand what rights Member States have afforded to disabled persons in order to fully address the topic and afford disabled persons the rights the international community has committed to uphold.

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2012). *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*. Retrieved August 8, 2012 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx>

As the leading human rights body of the UN, the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights' (OHCHR) mandate is to promote and protect all human rights. The website of the OHCHR is a good place to familiarize oneself with the body and the work it does. It contains information on human rights, human rights issues, and human rights bodies.

Ziring, L, R. Riggs, and J. Plano. (2000). *The United Nations: International Organizations and World Politics*. Orlando, Florida: Harcourt.

This book is an excellent resource when beginning research. Not only does the book give a broad overview of the UN and its processes, but it also discusses different topic areas before the UN. Of particular interest to delegates should be the section on international trade and finance. However, the entire text will be useful gathering an understanding of the UN and its work.

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III. From the Global Financial Crisis to the Global Social Crisis: Assessing the Social Impact of the Global Financial Crisis

*“If we do not take measures, there is a risk of a serious human and social crisis with very serious political implications”.*¹⁸⁵

Origins of the Financial Crisis

The global financial crisis was the result of multiple factors including the size, interconnectedness, and regulatory requirements of banks. Banks that were seen as “too big to fail” took risks with lending practices, including lending to borrowers who had an increased risk of default.¹⁸⁶ The lack of regulatory requirements allowed investment banks to get involved in the lending process without cash assets to back up these investments.¹⁸⁷ When investors sought their money back, these banks collapsed; the interconnectedness of the international economy resulted in banks around the world being affected.¹⁸⁸

The global financial crisis began with the housing market crash in the United States in 2006.¹⁸⁹ In the early 2000s, real estate was a booming industry and the perception that prices would only go up allowed lenders and financial institutions to take greater risks when lending money to would-be homeowners.¹⁹⁰

A large part of the crisis was due to “securitization” of mortgage backed securities (MBSs).¹⁹¹ MBSs “are debt obligations that represent claims to the cash flows from pools of mortgage loans.”¹⁹² During the securitization of MBSs, banks would group multiple loans, risky and non-risky, into one sellable asset—a collateralized debt obligation (CDO).¹⁹³ Through this process, banks could unload risky loans while the buyer received regular payments from all the acquired mortgages.¹⁹⁴ Because the CDOs were a mix of risky and non-risky loans, banks assumed that the risk was evenly spread; even if one loan went bankrupt, most of the other loans would be good investments.¹⁹⁵ Banks began to borrow “more money to lend out so they could create more securitization” and sell off risky mortgages to investment banks who were unfamiliar with mortgages and lacked the proper controls and management to protect against risk.¹⁹⁶

As banks ran out of people to loan to, they turned to the “subprime”— a class of borrowers that includes those with negative credit histories and a reduced ability to repay loans.¹⁹⁷ Americans borrowed beyond their means for home mortgages due to low interest rates between 2001 and 2004.¹⁹⁸ During this time, banks were taking on riskier investments and exposing themselves to more problems.¹⁹⁹ After June 2004, interest rates began to rise resulting in unmanageable mortgage payments.²⁰⁰ Between 2005 and 2007, foreclosures increased; the result led to “crashing valuations of mortgage-based assets held by U.S. financial institutions.”²⁰¹

¹⁸⁵ BBC News, *World Bank Warns of Social Unrest*, 2009.

¹⁸⁶ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

¹⁸⁷ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

¹⁸⁸ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

¹⁸⁹ Shiller, *The Subprime Solution: How Today's Global Financial Crisis Happened and What to Do about It*, 2008, p. 1.

¹⁹⁰ Shiller, *The Subprime Solution: How Today's Global Financial Crisis Happened and What to Do about It*, 2008, p. 29-31.

¹⁹¹ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

¹⁹² United States Securities and Exchange Commission, *Mortgage-Backed Securities*, 2010.

¹⁹³ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.; Riddix, *Down the Rabbit Hold: Deciphering CDOs*, 2010.

¹⁹⁴ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

¹⁹⁵ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

¹⁹⁶ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

¹⁹⁷ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010; Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, *ComE-IN Background Definitions*, 2007.

¹⁹⁸ Desai, *From Financial Crisis to Global Recovery*, p. 1.

¹⁹⁹ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

²⁰⁰ Desai, *From Financial Crisis to Global Recovery*, p. 1.

²⁰¹ Desai, *From Financial Crisis to Global Recovery*, p. 1.

As home values came down, confidence in the financial market began to suffer.²⁰² As lending slowed and assets plummeted, investors sought their investments back.²⁰³ However, some investment banks did not carry high enough deposits to back their investments and these banks collapsed quickly.²⁰⁴ Those banks that did have capital reserves ran out and had to turn to the federal government for a bailout.²⁰⁵ The bailout allowed banks to continue to lose money without completely faltering.²⁰⁶ As they tried to rebuild their capital, banks were actually pulling money out of the economy.²⁰⁷ Additionally, borrowers found it harder to get loans from banks, as banks were nervous about lending.²⁰⁸ This cycle resulted in less money in the economy, creating a financial crisis.²⁰⁹

In the period leading up to the financial crisis, credit default swaps (CDSs) became increasingly popular.²¹⁰ CDSs are “insurance-like contracts that promise to cover losses on certain securities in the event of a default.”²¹¹ The CDS buyer pays a premium over a period of time knowing that losses will be covered in the event of a default.²¹² However, the CDS market is not regulated and contracts could be traded to another investor without ensuring that the new investor has the resources to cover losses in the event of a default.²¹³ While the economy was growing, CDSs appeared to be a good investment because CDOs were stable and rarely defaulted; banks saw the premiums paid for a CDS as a way to take in extra money.²¹⁴ When the “economy soured and the subprime credit crunch began” the number of loans that defaulted rose quickly.²¹⁵ Those who bought CDSs attempted to cash in on the CDS—however, because of the lack regulation, many CDS investors did not have resources to cover the default.²¹⁶ As a result, the “insurance disappears or becomes too costly” and lenders reduce the amount of money they are lending and the amount of risk they are willing to take when issuing a loan.²¹⁷

While the crisis began in the United States, financial markets across the world were affected.²¹⁸ Foreign banks had bought debt from the United States and when mortgages were defaulted on, banks around the world lost money.²¹⁹ Banks around the world lent money to each other, so when banks began to lose money, they were more reluctant to lend money to each other.²²⁰ When banks across the world stopped lending to each other, it became difficult for consumers across the world to borrow money from banks.²²¹ Additionally, as the U.S. entered recession, and demand for imports fell resulting in decreased exports for other countries.²²² Because of the interconnectedness between economies that has resulted from globalization, the U.S. financial crisis crossed over to other nations as well, resulting in lower imports and exports across the globe.²²³

²⁰² Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

²⁰³ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

²⁰⁴ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

²⁰⁵ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

²⁰⁶ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

²⁰⁷ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

²⁰⁸ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

²⁰⁹ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

²¹⁰ Morrissey, *Credit Default Swaps: The Next Crisis?*, 2008.

²¹¹ Morrissey, *Credit Default Swaps: The Next Crisis?*, 2008.

²¹² Morrissey, *Credit Default Swaps: The Next Crisis?*, 2008.

²¹³ Morrissey, *Credit Default Swaps: The Next Crisis?*, 2008.

²¹⁴ Morrissey, *Credit Default Swaps: The Next Crisis?*, 2008.

²¹⁵ Morrissey, *Credit Default Swaps: The Next Crisis?*, 2008.

²¹⁶ Morrissey, *Credit Default Swaps: The Next Crisis?*, 2008.

²¹⁷ Morrissey, *Credit Default Swaps: The Next Crisis?*, 2008.

²¹⁸ Pettinger, *How the Crisis Spread*, 2009.

²¹⁹ Pettinger, *How the Crisis Spread*, 2009.

²²⁰ Pettinger, *How the Crisis Spread*, 2009.

²²¹ Pettinger, *How the Crisis Spread*, 2009.

²²² Pettinger, *How the Crisis Spread*, 2009.

²²³ Pettinger, *How the Crisis Spread*, 2009.

The Social Impact

From 2001 to 2004, the years just before the financial crisis, financial aid from the world's wealthiest countries to the world's poorest continued to increase.²²⁴ Fearing that the financial crisis would have a negative impact on aid, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) urged donor nations to not reduce aid when it was needed the most.²²⁵ In 2009, OECD statistics show that aid rose by 0.7%.²²⁶ While 2010 statistics show a 6.5 percent increase in official development assistance, the total amount of assistance was only 0.32 percent of the combined gross national income of donor countries.²²⁷ However, aid was reduced in 2011 by almost 3%.²²⁸

Another impact that the financial crisis has is on human development.²²⁹ The reduction in public resources threatens the "roll out of existing social protection commitments."²³⁰ Additionally, lower incomes are associated with "lower consumption of quality food, medicine and public social services."²³¹ In the midst of the financial crisis, about 43 percent of surveyed households in Armenia reported a reduction in food consumption, medicine, or visits to health services.²³² In Turkey, surveys showed that 53 percent of households reported reduced food consumption while 21 percent reported a reduction in visits to health services.²³³ Increased poverty results in children being kept home from schooling which undermines the child's chances of contributing to economic growth in the future.²³⁴ A lack of education results in lower income potential and results in these children being unable to move out of poverty in the future.²³⁵

The economic crisis is especially difficult on women as women are likely to be unemployed, have lower unemployment and social security benefits, and have unequal access to financial resources.²³⁶ While the unemployment rate for men slowed, the unemployment rate for women has continued to rise.²³⁷ Women in the developing world are less able to cope with the financial crisis as they already have a weaker social and economic position than men.²³⁸ Women may "work longer hours and take extra forms of employment while maintaining primary household responsibilities."²³⁹

Another issue created is that of people engaging in risky or illegal behaviors in an attempt to cope with the financial crisis. For example, "evidence from Zambia's copper belt...suggests an increase in commercial sex work" as people struggle to find ways to make ends meet.²⁴⁰ Other workers may be working more hours, which results in less time at home raising and feeding children, caring for the sick, or tending to one's own physical wellbeing.²⁴¹

The labor market is also affected as reduced demand results in lower production which in turn leads to job losses and higher unemployment.²⁴² This is especially true for those workers in small and medium enterprises (SMEs); in the developing world, SMEs account for nearly two-thirds of employment.²⁴³ Export, construction, and

²²⁴ Shah, *Foreign Aid for Development Assistance*, 2012.

²²⁵ Shah, *Foreign Aid for Development Assistance*, 2012.

²²⁶ Shah, *Foreign Aid for Development Assistance*, 2012.

²²⁷ Shah, *Foreign Aid for Development Assistance*, 2012.

²²⁸ Shah, *Foreign Aid for Development Assistance*, 2012.

²²⁹ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 13.

²³⁰ Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 1.

²³¹ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 13.

²³² Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 29.

²³³ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 29.

²³⁴ Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 2.

²³⁵ Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 2.

²³⁶ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Gender Perspectives*.

²³⁷ Baroni, *Gender Equality and the Financial Crisis*, 2010.

²³⁸ Baroni, *Gender Equality and the Financial Crisis*, 2010.

²³⁹ Baroni, *Gender Equality and the Financial Crisis*, 2010.

²⁴⁰ Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 2.

²⁴¹ Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 2.

²⁴² Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 14.

²⁴³ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 14.

manufacturing industries have been the hardest hit.²⁴⁴ In 2008, India lost over 500,000 jobs in export while Cambodia lost 30,000 or about 10 percent of the labor force.²⁴⁵ The same year, South Africa lost 10 percent of its workforce in mining while Zambia lost 27 percent in the same industry.²⁴⁶ While unemployment decreased from 2004 to 2008, 2009 showed an average increase of .8 percent in unemployment rates.²⁴⁷ Past financial crises have resulted in reduced public sector social expenditures.²⁴⁸ When countries need to close the budget gap while facing lower tax revenues and increased debt, cuts in social expenditures are common.²⁴⁹ As governments cut spending, social programs that already lack adequate funding are hit even more.²⁵⁰ The current financial crisis resulted in mixed effects on public spending in the social sector.²⁵¹ In Brazil, Chile, and Peru, however, spending did not change, while in Mexico, Romania, Latvia, and Lithuania social spending increased.²⁵²

Spending on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has slowed.²⁵³ Two-thirds of countries were cut budget allocations in at least one of the priority areas of education, health, agriculture, and social protection.²⁵⁴ Leaders from the Group of 20 (G20) pledged to increase support “to help poor countries combat the crisis and reach the MDGs, but they have not met those promises.”²⁵⁵ Despite increases in grants, the extra \$4.1 billion only accounts for 13 percent of the “fiscal hole created by the crisis.”²⁵⁶ Because of this, 75 percent of poor countries were forced to take out loans in 2009 and 50 percent had to in 2010.²⁵⁷ Fears of unsustainable debt levels arising from these loans, many countries are cutting spending to help manage the debt level.²⁵⁸

Additionally, trends in donor states “have been to reduce aid pledges, concentrate aid on fewer countries, and focus on only a few of the MDGs.”²⁵⁹ The IMF is also reverting to a tighter fiscal position and undoing stimulus that was introduced during the crisis.²⁶⁰

Possible Solutions

The combined effects of poverty and weak social protection response made a perfect storm for growing poverty and inequality, hindering progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.²⁶¹ Resources to address the impacts of the crisis are scarce. Because countries create their budget a year in advance, budgets were based on gains made in the years before the crisis hit.²⁶² Therefore, as countries find ways to deal with the crisis, they must also be cognizant of decreased revenues and budget deficits.²⁶³

It is essential that focus be given to the social sector to protect human capital during the economic downturn²⁶⁴. Rising food and fuel prices cause people to cut back elsewhere, such as health care expenditures.²⁶⁵ “Healthy human capital is the foundation of economic productivity” and can quicken the recovery process.²⁶⁶

²⁴⁴ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 30.

²⁴⁵ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 30.

²⁴⁶ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 30.

²⁴⁷ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 30.

²⁴⁸ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 15.

²⁴⁹ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 15-16.

²⁵⁰ Shah, *Global Financial Crisis*, 2010.

²⁵¹ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 35.

²⁵² Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 35.

²⁵³ Kyrili, *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Budgets of Low-Income Countries*, 2010, p. 4.

²⁵⁴ Kyrili, *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Budgets of Low-Income Countries*, 2010, p. 4.

²⁵⁵ Kyrili, *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Budgets of Low-Income Countries*, 2010, p. 4.

²⁵⁶ Kyrili, *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Budgets of Low-Income Countries*, 2010, p. 4.

²⁵⁷ Kyrili, *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Budgets of Low-Income Countries*, 2010, p. 4.

²⁵⁸ Kyrili, *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Budgets of Low-Income Countries*, 2010, p. 4-5.

²⁵⁹ Kyrili, *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Budgets of Low-Income Countries*, 2010, p. 5.

²⁶⁰ Kyrili, *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Budgets of Low-Income Countries*, 2010, p. 5.

²⁶¹ Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 1.

²⁶² Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 3.

²⁶³ Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 3.

²⁶⁴ World Health Organization, *Impact of the Global Financial And Economic Crisis on Health*, 2008.

²⁶⁵ World Health Organization, *Impact of the Global Financial And Economic Crisis on Health*, 2008.

The lack of resource availability will also prevent the extension of social programs to those affected by the crisis.²⁶⁷ In a study of 10 countries, only two reported “significant expansion” in coverage, however, “much of this expansion was planned before the onset of the financial crisis (rather than in response to it).”²⁶⁸ A few countries have also extended pre-existing programs or introduced new programs on a lesser scale than originally intended.²⁶⁹ Strategies countries have used include: food subsidies and rationing, food distributions, cash transfers, educational subsidies, and public works programs.²⁷⁰

Studies have shown that “investing in women and girls has a multiplier effect on productivity, efficiency, and sustained economic growth.”²⁷¹ Policies should be created that account for the different needs of each gender and do not undermine gender equality.²⁷² Government approaches to addressing the crisis are not gender sensitive as most investment occurs in construction, transport, and other trades that are traditionally male dominated.²⁷³ Being aware of this, governments should ensure equitable distribution of investment to include health care, child care, textiles, and other industries that heavily employ women.²⁷⁴

In an effort to counter the unemployment increase, some countries, such as the United Kingdom, Australia, and Chile offered hiring subsidies.²⁷⁵ Germany reduced working hours to prevent the need to lay off workers while “the US, Brazil, and OECD countries extended unemployment benefits.”²⁷⁶

Stronger regulatory systems may be needed to ensure that a similar crisis does not happen in the future.²⁷⁷ Governments should be prepared to rebalance and prioritize spending to prevent losses to human development and expand existing programs to protect the most vulnerable.²⁷⁸ Protections must be improved and coverage must be expanded to more people.²⁷⁹ As discussed early, the lack of regulation of CDSs resulted in investors taking over the responsibility of a CDS without having the resources to cover a potential default.²⁸⁰ Implementing regulations may be able to prevent these investors from purchasing CDSs that they are unable to cover in the future.²⁸¹

Because there is greater need and fewer resources to go around, governments must be efficient when allocating resources.²⁸² Rather than increase social protections, some countries are prioritizing indirect spending to stimulate the economy through stimulus packages and growth-oriented initiatives.²⁸³ For example, Indonesia increased infrastructure investment in an effort to increase employment.²⁸⁴ Instead of supplying help directly to those who need it, citizens would have to gain employment in one of these positions first, which may require relocation; additionally, those who need help the most may not be employable in these positions for various reasons including disabilities or lack of job skills for the position.²⁸⁵ However, a truly effective response needs to create immediate and lasting relief. Only by addressing the immediate and long-term needs of people will governments be able to reverse the effects that the financial crisis has had on the social sector.

²⁶⁶ World Health Organization, *Impact of the Global Financial And Economic Crisis on Health*, 2008.

²⁶⁷ Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 3.

²⁶⁸ Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 3.

²⁶⁹ Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 3.

²⁷⁰ Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 3.

²⁷¹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Gender Perspectives*.

²⁷² United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Gender Perspectives*.

²⁷³ Baroni, *Gender Equality and the Financial Crisis*, 2010.

²⁷⁴ Baroni, *Gender Equality and the Financial Crisis*, 2010.

²⁷⁵ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 33.

²⁷⁶ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 33.

²⁷⁷ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 44.

²⁷⁸ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 45.

²⁷⁹ Calvo, *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*, 2010, p. 45.

²⁸⁰ Morrissey, *Credit Default Swaps: The Next Crisis?*, 2008.

²⁸¹ Morrissey, *Credit Default Swaps: The Next Crisis?*, 2008.

²⁸² Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 4.

²⁸³ Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 3-4.

²⁸⁴ Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 4.

²⁸⁵ Overseas Development Institute, *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*, 2009, p. 4.

To combat the effects of the financial crisis on the social sector, governments could increase spending on programs aimed at achieving the MDGs.²⁸⁶ Another suggestion that has been made is to increase property and income taxes to fill the revenue hole.²⁸⁷ The solution is thought to hit poor people the least as they lack income or property.²⁸⁸

Internationally, donor states must continue to honor their commitments to development assistance. Continuing to supply developing and least developed countries with aid will help mitigate the effects of the financial crisis in these vulnerable Member States. Additionally, greater representation could be given to developing Member States on the governance of the World Bank and the IMF. The European Union has full membership of the G20 and that membership could be extended to the African Union.²⁸⁹ While the boards of the Bank and the Fund were overhauled in 2007, developing countries increased their share of votes by only 2%.²⁹⁰ Additional funding must be allocated to help Member States progress towards MDG targets.²⁹¹ The IMF can work together with countries receiving IMF programming to not cut back on spending.²⁹² Grants could be provided in areas that are especially hard hit by the financial crisis.²⁹³

Conclusion

The credit crisis has had a far-reaching impact on the global economy, but social sector has also been impacted. Cuts in development aid have resulted in lower financial resources available to those countries that rely on aid. Countries have cut spending on social programs which has affected health care and education. Decreases in the consumption of goods and services have reduced demand in the labor market costing jobs around the world.

Not only does the international community need to address the problems caused by the financial crisis but steps must also be taken to prevent another crisis from occurring in the future. Focus on the provision of social protections can assist those hardest hit by the crisis by allowing them to access basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing. Member States should also examine ways to prevent another crisis from occurring by examining ways in which regulation could afford more protection in the lending market.

To address the issue delegates should consider how hard and in what ways the financial crisis has impacted their country. Are there programs that are being cut because of a lack of funding? What social sectors have been hardest hit? Can your country offer assistance to other countries, whether financial or social? What solutions would most help your country?

²⁸⁶ Kyrili, *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Budgets of Low-Income Countries*, 2010, p. 6.

²⁸⁷ Kyrili, *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Budgets of Low-Income Countries*, 2010, p. 6.

²⁸⁸ Kyrili, *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Budgets of Low-Income Countries*, 2010, p. 6.

²⁸⁹ Oxfam International, *If Not Now, When? Three actions the G20 must take now to protect the world's poor from the economic crisis and build a new political and economic governance system*, 2008, p. 8.

²⁹⁰ Oxfam International, *If Not Now, When? Three actions the G20 must take now to protect the world's poor from the economic crisis and build a new political and economic governance system*, 2008, p. 7.

²⁹¹ Kyrili, *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Budgets of Low-Income Countries*, 2010, p. 5.

²⁹² Kyrili, *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Budgets of Low-Income Countries*, 2010, p. 5.

²⁹³ Kyrili, *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Budgets of Low-Income Countries*, 2010, p. 5.

Annotated Bibliography

Calvo, S. (2010). *The Global Financial Crisis of 2008-10: A View from the Social Sectors*. Retrieved August 26, 2012 from http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2010/papers/HDRP_2010_18.pdf.

This paper gives an in depth look at the effect the financial crisis has had on human development. The author discusses the current crisis in relation to the financial crisis of the 1990s to show what lessons have been learned from previous crises. She then discusses how the crisis spread around the world and links the financial crisis to the social crisis. After covering the impacts the crisis has had, or not had in some cases, on human development, the author makes suggestions for lessening the effects of any future financial crises.

Cox, J., J. Faucette, and C.V. Lickstein. (2010). *Why Did the Credit Crisis Spread to Global Markets?* Retrieved August 25, 2012 from http://blogs.law.uiowa.edu/ebook/sites/default/files/Part_5_2.pdf.

Delegates should consult this resource to gain a greater knowledge of the financial crisis. This resource is an in depth look at the United States mortgage market and how securitization led to the risky investments and the financial crisis. For those who are unfamiliar with the financial crisis and how it began, this paper will provide that foundation.

Ferreira, F. and N. Schady. (2009). *Social Consequences of the Global Financial Crisis in Latin America: Some Preliminary, and Surprisingly Optimistic, Conjectures*. Retrieved August 8, 2012 from:

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/LACEXT/Resources/258553-1241205008835/CrisisBrief_PovertyandSocialPolicy.pdf.

This paper discusses the social consequences of the economic crisis in Latin America. The paper argues that the impact will not be as severe as one would expect. The authors also argue that there may be other factors that have protected Latin America that are not present around the world. Delegates should consult this paper to have a well-rounded view of the impacts of the economic crisis as a full assessment may show that the crisis has not negatively affected social programs.

International Council on Human Rights Policy. (2010). *Human Rights in the Global Economy*. Retrieved August 8, 2012 from: http://www.ichrp.org/files/documents/185/210_human_rights_global_economy_colloquium_report.pdf.

The report from the Colloquium on Human Rights in the Global Economy summarizes similarities and differences between human rights and economics, discusses global economic governance, and suggests ways that human rights research and advocacy may influence economic policy-making. This is a good source for delegates to review to understand the interplay between human rights and the economy.

Overseas Development Institute. (2009). *The Global Financial Crisis: Poverty and Social Protection*. Retrieved August 8, 2012 from: <http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/docs/4285.pdf>.

This brief paper is an excellent resource for delegates just starting their research to gain a sense of the impact of the economic crisis. The paper discusses the "poverty impact" of the crisis including effects on employment, prices, private and public transfers, and assets and goods and services. Included in the discussion is the roles of social protections to mitigate the effects of poverty.

Oxfam International. (2008). *If Not Now, When? Three actions the G20 must take now to protect the world's poor from the economic crisis and build a new political and economic governance system*. Retrieved August 8, 2012 from: <http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/bn-if-not-now-when-0811%20.pdf>.

Oxfam's briefing note proposes actions that the global community can take to ensure that the world's poor do not bear the burden of the financial crisis. This note will assist delegates in generating solutions to the problem to allow the international community to rebuild after financial collapse. Oxfam's proposals are not just reactive; proposals also include mechanisms to assist in stabilizing the economy in order to prevent another collapse.

Shah, A. (2010). *Global Financial Crisis*. Retrieved August 25, 2012 from <http://www.globalissues.org/article/768/global-financial-crisis>.

This article breaks down the crisis by explaining how it happened, the effect the crisis had on wealthy countries, and the effect the crisis had on the developing world. The article continues by placing the crisis in context of poverty, food supplies, human rights, financing for development, and debt. Finally, the article concludes with proposed reforms of the world's financial system. Delegates should consult this article for a thorough explanation of the crisis that is written without technical economic terms.

Shah, A. (2012). *Foreign Aid for Development Assistance*. Retrieved August 26, 2012 from <http://www.globalissues.org/article/35/foreign-aid-development-assistance#SomedonatemanymdollarsbutarelowonGNIpercent>.

Shah begins this article with a discussion of foreign aid and the international commitments donor states have already agreed upon. While Member States have not always met their goals, the article shows that aid levels increased in the years leading to the financial crisis and then dropped as the effects of the crisis were felt across the world. This article will be useful to delegates to get an understanding of the economic side of the topic so that they may fully understand how the financial crisis resulted in a social crisis.

United Nations Development Programme. (2011). *Human Development Report 2011*. Retrieved August 8, 2012 from: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2011/>.

The United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Reports are published on a yearly basis. The reports look at development as more than a financial figure and look at other factors to determine people's overall, long-term well-being. The 2011 Report focuses on sustainability and equity, two of the main features in human rights. Delegates should be familiar with this report as it discusses the expansion of substantive freedoms for all peoples.

Ziring, L, R. Riggs, and J. Plano. (2000). *The United Nations: International Organizations and World Politics*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt.

This book is an excellent resource when beginning research. Not only does the book give a broad overview of the UN and its processes, but it also discusses different topic areas before the UN. Of particular interest to delegates should be the section on international trade and finance. However, the entire text will be useful gathering an understanding of the UN and its work.

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Rules of Procedure

General Assembly Fourth Committee (GA 4th)

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the General Assembly Fourth Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) and shall be considered adopted by the Committee 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 Committee, which can be any Member of the Secretariat or their designate.

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - *Dates of convening and adjournment*

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

Rule 2 - *Place of sessions*

The Committee 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 Director-General and communicated to the Members of the Committee at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

Rule 4 - *Adoption of the agenda*

The agenda provided by the Director-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.

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 Member States and observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote. Should the Committee not reach a decision by conclusion of the first night's meeting, the agenda will be automatically set in the order in which it was first communicated.

Rule 5 - *Revision of the agenda*

During a session, the Committee 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. Debate on the inclusion of an item in the agenda shall be limited to three speakers in favor of, and three against, the inclusion. 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 Committee so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Committee 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 Director-General, or his or her designate, 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 Committee to be placed on the agenda. The votes described in this rule are substantive votes, and, as such, observers are not permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, —the members present and voting — means members (not including observers) in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum

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

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the Committee.
2. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General, shall provide and direct the staff required by the Committee 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 Committee, and shall distribute documents of the Committee to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretary-General.

Rule 11 - Replacement of the President

If the President is unable to perform 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 Committee.

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

For purposes of this rule, members of the Committee 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 Committee, 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 Committee 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 Committee 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 and is limited to entertaining motions.

Rule 16 – Authority of the Committee

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

Rule 17 – Voting rights on procedural matters

Unless otherwise stated, all votes pertaining to the conduct of business shall require a majority of the members present and voting in order to pass.

For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this rule is applied. Note that observers may vote on all procedural votes; they may, however, not vote on substantive matters (see Chapter VI). There is no possibility to abstain on procedural votes.

Rule 18 - Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. They should be used exclusively to correct an error in procedure. 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 (including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 19 - Speeches

No representative may address the Committee 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. The President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, the Secretariat will set a time limit for all speeches which may be amended by the President at his/her discretion. Consequently, motions to alter the speaker's time will not be entertained by the President.

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 Committee, 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 Committee.

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

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

Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Two representatives may speak in favor of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

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 Committee favors the closure of debate, the Committee shall immediately move to vote on all proposals introduced under that agenda item.

Rule 26 - Order of motions

Subject to rule 18, 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 amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat. Any proposal or amendment that relates to the substance of any matter under discussion shall require the signature of twenty percent of the members of the Committee [sponsors]. 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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee 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 during formal speeches. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Committee. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Committee 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 motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic

When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Committee, 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.

VI. VOTING

Rule 30 - Voting rights

Each member of the Committee 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 Committee for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Committee 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 Committee shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of tabulation, the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

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

Rule 33 - Method of voting

1. The Committee 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 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 a yes or no vote. 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 Committee 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 Committee 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.

For purposes of this rule, there shall be no communication amongst delegates, and if any delegate leaves the Committee room during voting procedure, they will not be allowed back into the room until the Committee has convened voting procedure.

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 approved 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 preambulatory clauses.

Rule 38 - 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 Committee 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 – Authority of the General Assembly

The Committee 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 COMMITTEE

Rule 43 - Participation of non-Member States

The Committee shall invite any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Committee and any other State, to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.

A sub-committee or sessional body of the Committee 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. 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 Committee considers that the presence of a Member invited according to this rule is no longer necessary, it may withdraw the invitation. Delegates invited to the Committee 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 Committee is no longer required.

Rule 45 - Participation of national liberation movements

The Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Economic and Social Council and other non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or a continuing basis by the Committee 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 Committee on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.