

## General Assembly Second Committee

### *Introduction*

The General Assembly Second Committee convened during the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly (GA) for 41 meetings in total.<sup>1</sup> Apart from the topics relating to the global economy and finance, for which the Second Committee is responsible, the committee is also involved in the GA's revitalization process, which was implemented by the GA during its 57<sup>th</sup> session.<sup>2</sup> The committee seeks to reform current working methods and practices, to improve the level of debates and the impact of decisions, and to homogenize its agenda and program of work.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, sessions should be held more interactively, and the length and number of resolutions adopted should be decreased.<sup>4</sup>

### *Recent Activities*

During the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the GA, the Second Committee adopted ten draft resolutions which were then referred to General Assembly Plenary for final adoption.<sup>5</sup> The agenda of the meeting consisted of several topics concerning information and communication technologies for development; macroeconomic policy; sustainable development; globalization and interdependence; groups of countries in special situations; eradication of poverty and other development issues; activities concerning development, agricultural development, food security and nutrition; and global partnerships.<sup>6</sup>

The Committee adopted several draft resolutions emphasizing the need for national and international development goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the continuation of the program with a post-2015 development agenda.<sup>7</sup> The necessity to introduce sustainable measures and goals in the economic and social field was repeatedly highlighted, especially to enhance the situation of many developing countries.<sup>8</sup> A number of drafts reiterated the significance of increasing and improving partnerships with the private sector, civil society, and non-governmental organizations.<sup>9</sup> The background of the economic crisis and the severe debt situation in many developing countries was identified as a cause for an increased urgency to implement further financial measures, such as debt monitoring and debt relief, and future development goals including the access to information, the implementation of communication and information technology, poverty reduction, and disaster prevention and reduction.<sup>10</sup> Apart from North-South cooperation, the Committee also stressed the necessity for increasing South-South cooperation complementary to North-South cooperation and national development strategies to strengthen international concepts by introducing special regional and local requirements.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, a number of draft resolutions were adopted to support the implementation of decisions from former conferences and agreements, such as the "Future We Want" Initiative.<sup>12</sup> Generally, the body especially stressed with its draft resolutions the urgency for United Nations (UN) Member States to agree on a post-2015 development agenda and to integrate a wide number of diverse actors into the envisioned achievements.<sup>13</sup>

### *Partnerships of the Second Committee*

In order to promote further cooperation and joint actions of UN committees and organs, the Economic and Social Council and the Second Committee met on 6 November 2013 to discuss the need for efficient and effective

---

<sup>1</sup> UN DPI, *Ten Draft Resolutions Approved as Second Committee Concludes Session (GA/EF/3392)* [Press Release], 2013.

<sup>2</sup> UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly* [Website].

<sup>3</sup> UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial: Second Committee* [Website], 9 October 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> UN DPI, *Ten Draft Resolutions Approved as Second Committee Concludes Session (GA/EF/3392)* [Press Release], 2013.

<sup>6</sup> UN General Assembly, *Allocation of Agenda Items to the Second Committee: Letter dated 20 September 2013 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chair of the Second Committee (A/C.2/68/1)*, 2 October 2013.

<sup>7</sup> UN DPI, *Ten Draft Resolutions Approved as Second Committee Concludes Session (GA/EF/3392)* [Press Release], 2013.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

partnerships to respond to future challenges.<sup>14</sup> Both UN organs placed great emphasis on partnerships to achieve the MDGs, and as the deadline approaches without certainty about the fulfillment of all goals, the necessity exists to develop an effective and credible post-2015 development framework.<sup>15</sup> Furthermore, the two bodies met on 8 November 2013 to discuss “The future of employment: The world of work in 2030.”<sup>16</sup> During the meeting various experts from civil society, governments, and the UN provided the bodies with knowledge and information to respond adequately to new challenges on the labor markets, growing inequalities among states, and the requirements to include new demands and problems into the post-2015 development agenda.<sup>17</sup>

At the dialogue of the executive secretaries of the United Nations Regional Commissions and the Second Committee, the increasing importance of developing states as partners in international economics and related changes have been a crucial topic.<sup>18</sup> The global South experienced a remarkable increase in inter-regional cooperation in the fields of finances, trade, and labor.<sup>19</sup> The significance of South-South regional cooperation has been repeatedly mentioned as a key issue of the post-2015 agenda by participating delegations, and the character of South-South relationships have been more frequently characterized as equal partnerships and less as donor-recipient relationships, which is often the case in North-South relations.<sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, when introducing the topic of regional and inter-regional cooperation to the post-2015 development agenda, several imbalances exist in relation to economic cooperation; political and governance issues must be taken into account. Examples for this are the lack of technology transfer in development and economic areas and the problematic issues of migrant workers’ rights in the labor market of host countries.<sup>21</sup>

### **Conclusion**

The necessity for the Second Committee to work on crucial and pressing issues impacting the MDGs, but also on the combination of globalization and sustainable development, were frequently stressed at the Committee’s last meeting.<sup>22</sup> The challenges of future employment, equality of opportunity and education, biodiversity, and economic development are tasks the body has to respond to in order to build a more equal and just world.<sup>23</sup>

### ***The General Assembly Second Committee at NMUN•NY 2014***

The General Assembly Second Committee, also referred to as the “Economic and Financial” Committee, has a focus on economic growth and development.<sup>24</sup> The issues considered by the Second Committee are “organized in ten clusters: macroeconomic policy, operational activities for development, financing for development, groups of countries in special situations, globalization and interdependence, eradication of poverty, information and communication technologies for development, agriculture and food security, sustainable development, and sovereignty of the Palestinian people over their natural resources.”<sup>25</sup> Additional key issues they discuss include sustainable development, human settlements, poverty eradication, and gender-related issues, along with challenges related to “least developed countries” (LDCs) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs).<sup>26</sup> The Second Committee has also discussed issues related to people settlements including such topics as the permanent

---

<sup>14</sup> UN Economic and Social Council and the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) of the General Assembly, *Special Joint Meeting* [Concept Note], 2013.

<sup>15</sup> UN DESA, *Partnerships are vital for addressing sustainable development challenges* [Website], 2013.

<sup>16</sup> UN DESA, *Linking jobs, poverty reduction, sustainable development vital for post-2015 agenda* [Website].

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> UN Regional Commissions New York Office, *Inter-regional Cooperation: An Enabler for the Post-2015 Development Agenda* [Concept Note], 2013.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., p. 2.

<sup>20</sup> UN Regional Commissions New York Office, *Inter-regional Cooperation: An Enabler for the Post-2015 Development Agenda* [Concept Note], 2013.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

<sup>22</sup> UN DESA, *Second Committee begins General Debate as UN officials urge shift in focus to emerging issues* [Website].

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 65; United Nations, *Delegates Handbook: Sixty-eighth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (ST/CS/63)*, 2013.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

sovereignty of the Palestinian peoples in the Occupied Palestinian Territory over their natural resources and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan.<sup>27</sup>

**Format:** The General Assembly Second Committee is a resolution writing committee.

**Voting:** Each Member State present may vote once on procedural and substantive matters. Matters are decided by a majority vote.

**Membership:** The General Assembly is comprised of all 193 Member States of the UN, as outlined in Article 9 of the Charter. Each Member State has one vote, regardless of its population or geography.

## Annotated Bibliography

Khalaf, R. (2013) *Second Committee Dialogue: "Inter-regional cooperation: An enabler for the post 2015 development agenda* [Statement]. Retrieved 3 January 2014 from:

<https://papersmart.unmeetings.org/media2/703996/statement-by-dr-rima-khalaf.pdf>

*The speech of Dr. Khalaf shows very clearly the importance and the need of the cooperation of regional organizations with the Second Committee and other UN organs, but also the collaboration of UN Member States among each other. The speech is mainly concentrated on the situation in the Arab Region but is widely adoptable for many regions of the Global South, as problems and obstacles are predominately alike. The importance of the post-2015 development agenda is stressed, as cooperation already exists but still lacks concerning many topics and requires further support and improvement. The speech provides a good introduction to the importance of cooperation within and including the Second Committee.*

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2013, December 11). *Ten Draft Resolutions Approved as Second Committee Concludes Session (GA/EF/3392)* [Press Release]. Retrieved 1 January 2014 from:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/gaef3392.doc.htm>

*This text reports from the sessions of the Second Committee and the outcome of the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the UN body. The main subjects the body discussed are mentioned and the ten draft resolutions adopted and forwarded to the GA are briefly summarized. Additionally, the following actions of the draft resolutions and the positions of Member States in regard to the adopted drafts are stated. Draft resolutions that are noteworthy, especially for the NMUN conference, include the draft resolutions titled "External debt sustainability and development" and "South-South cooperation."*

United Nations, General Assembly. (2008). *Rules of Procedure (A/520/Rev.17)*. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from:

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/520/rev.17&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/520/rev.17&Lang=E)

*The Rules of Procedures in their updated version (revision 17) help to understand the position of the Second Committee within the UN system and the tasks and responsibilities of the GA and the Second Committee. The rules facilitate comprehension of the working methods of the body and the possibilities and the mandate of the Second Committee and others in the UN system. The rules of procedure provide an indispensable instrument to effectively and efficiently work and succeed in the committee.*

United Nations, General Assembly. (2013, October 9). *Economic and Financial: Second Committee* [Website].

Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/>

*The homepage of the Second Committee provides a quick overview of the basic facts about the body. Furthermore, it represents a good starting point to learn about recent and historical events as well as documents tabled during its meetings. The page supplies all important and related issues with the committee and facilitates finding crucial facts and background knowledge of the committee. Delegates are encouraged to visit the homepage frequently for updates on the committee and its topics leading up to the NMUN conference.*

---

<sup>27</sup> Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly, 2011*, p. 65; United Nations, *Delegates Handbook: Sixty-eighth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (ST/CS/63)*, 2013.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, September 20). *Organization of the sixty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: First report of the General Committee (A/68/250)*. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from:

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/250](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/250)

*The resolution was adopted to organize the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the GA and its main committees. The organization of the session is streamlined by the resolution, such as the adoption of the agenda, scheduling of meeting and further. The agenda of the Second Committee was also proposed and adopted with the resolution, and thus the content of the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the body agreed on. Also the allocation of the items was decided with this resolution, which generally gives a broad overview of the topics that were planned to be discussed at the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the GA and the priorities the committees set for this year's sessions.*

## Bibliography

Khalaf, R. (2013) *Second Committee Dialogue: "Inter-regional cooperation: An enabler for the post 2015 development agenda* [Statement]. Retrieved 3 January 2014 from:

<https://papersmart.unmeetings.org/media2/703996/statement-by-dr-rima-khalaf.pdf>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2013, November 6). *Partnerships are vital for addressing sustainable development challenges* [Website]. Retrieved 5 January 2014 from:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/ecosoc/partnerships-for-sdgs.html>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *Linking jobs, poverty reduction, sustainable development vital for post-2015 agenda* [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2014 from:

<http://csonet.org/index.php?page=view&nr=260&type=230&menu=14>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *Second Committee begins General Debate as UN officials urge shift in focus to emerging issues* [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2014 from:

<http://csonet.org/?page=view&nr=253&type=230&menu=14>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2013, December 11). *Ten Draft Resolutions Approved as Second Committee Concludes Session (GA/EF/3392)* [Press Release]. Retrieved 1 January 1, 2014 from:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/gaef3392.doc.htm>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council and the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) of the General Assembly. (2013, November 6). *Special Joint Meeting* [Concept Note]. Retrieved 1 January 2014 from:

[http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/documents/conceptnote\\_joint\\_ecosoc\\_2ndcommittee\\_mdg.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/documents/conceptnote_joint_ecosoc_2ndcommittee_mdg.pdf)

United Nations, General Assembly. (2008). *Rules of Procedure (A/520/Rev.17)*. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from:

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/520/rev.17&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/520/rev.17&Lang=E)

United Nations, General Assembly. (2013, October 9). *Economic and Financial: Second Committee* [Website].

Retrieved 7 January 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/>

United Nations, General Assembly. (n.d.). *Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly* [Website]. Retrieved

7 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/revitalization.shtml>.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, September 20). *Organization of the sixty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: First report of the General Committee (A/68/250)*. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from:

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/250](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/250)

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, October 2). *Allocation of Agenda Items to the Second Committee: Letter dated 20 September 2013 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chair of the*

*Second Committee (A/C.2/68/1)*. Retrieved 1 January 2014 from:

[http://www.un.org/fr/documents/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.2/68/1&TYPE=&referer=/fr/&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/fr/documents/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.2/68/1&TYPE=&referer=/fr/&Lang=E)

United Nations, Regional Commissions New York Office. (2013, October 29). *Inter-regional Cooperation: An Enabler for the Post-2015 Development Agenda* [Concept Note]. Retrieved 1 January 2014 from:

<http://www.regionalcommissions.org/2comnote2013r.pdf>

# I. External Debt Sustainability and Development

## *Introduction*

Financing sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda is closely tied with the debate on sovereign debt restructuring.<sup>28</sup> Member States with debt burdens are more likely to spend large proportion of public resources on debt servicing rather than development.<sup>29</sup> The debt system has forced countries in debt to give priority to debt payments rather than provisions of social services.<sup>30</sup> The issue of foreign debt is not confined to developing countries, but also developed countries, and this therefore threatens the global economy.<sup>31</sup> Developed economies continue to struggle with the aftermath of the financial crisis.<sup>32</sup> Appropriate action in handling the situation is required in order to resolve any barriers to development and to ensure that global sustainable development commitments, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), are met.<sup>33</sup>

Over the past few months, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) drafted GA resolution A/C.2/68/L.15 and A/C.2/68/L.70 on external debt sustainability and development.<sup>34</sup> The Department of Economic and Social Affairs held an expert group meeting on the world economy (Project Link) in October 2013 in New York.<sup>35</sup> Lastly, in late 2013, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' independent expert returned from his first visit to Argentina and commented on the foreign debt and human rights situation in the country.<sup>36</sup> Comments were further made regarding the August 2013 New York court decision related to Argentina, vulture funds, and the associated global impacts.<sup>37</sup>

## *Recent Developments*

### *General Assembly*

The General Assembly Second Committee, at its sixty-eighth session, adopted A/C.2/68/L.70, which dealt with the topic of external debt sustainability and development, and specifically the issue of macroeconomic policy questions.<sup>38</sup> This resolution was adapted from draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.15 on the same topic.<sup>39</sup> The resolution reaffirmed the crucial importance of assisting countries in achieving and maintaining debt sustainability and recognized the role of private capital flow in mobilizing finances for development.<sup>40</sup> As an action item, the resolution welcomed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in assessing debt sustainability.<sup>41</sup> The resolution also emphasized the need to have coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt reduction with more streamlined conditions and flexible instruments.<sup>42</sup> Such policies will help developing countries facing financial gaps in meeting the MDGs.<sup>43</sup> The resolution also noted with concern that low and middle-income developing countries not part of the existing debt relief face a greater challenge in meeting development goals, including the MDGs, as a result of constraints in the mobilization of resources.<sup>44</sup>

---

<sup>28</sup> UN Economic and Social Council, *External debt sustainability and development: Lessons learned from debt crises and ongoing work on sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms* [Executive Summary], 2013.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Centre for Research on Globalization, *The debt of developing countries: the devastating impacts of IMF-World Bank "Economic Medicine"*, 2013.

<sup>31</sup> UN Economic and Social Council, *External debt sustainability and development: Lessons learned from debt crises and ongoing work on sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms* [Executive Summary], 2013.

<sup>32</sup> UN DESA, *Link Global Economic Outlook 2014-2015* [Summary Report], 2013.

<sup>33</sup> UN Economic and Social Council, *External debt sustainability and development: Lessons learned from debt crises and ongoing work on sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms* [Executive Summary], 2013.

<sup>34</sup> UN General Assembly, *Official UN General Assembly Documents on External Debt* [Website].

<sup>35</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Link Global Economic Outlook 2014-2015* [Summary Report], 2013.

<sup>36</sup> OHCHR, *UN Expert urges Argentina to audit its foreign debt* [Article], 2013.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> UN General Assembly, *External debt sustainability and development (A/C.2/68/L.70)* [Resolution], 2013.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.



### *Global Economic Outlook 2014-2015*

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs held an expert group meeting to discuss the global economic outlook.<sup>45</sup> The meeting recognized that developed countries would continue to have a tightened fiscal policy in the future but that developing countries face a more challenging economic environment and demanding economic situation.<sup>46</sup> As recommendations, the experts called for strengthening international policy coordination, ensuring that sufficient resources are made available to developing countries, and for the developed countries to redouble efforts in order to meet sustainable development goals.<sup>47</sup>

### *UN Expert Mission to Argentina and Vulture Funds*

In November 2013, Cephas Lumina, a United Nations (UN) independent expert on foreign debt and human rights, urged authorities in Argentina to improve transparency through an audit of external debt and by improving social conditions for their people.<sup>48</sup> He noted that the audit should be in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Foreign Debt and Human Rights.<sup>49</sup> Since 2005, Argentina's foreign reserves to service debt have fallen from \$50 billion to \$33 billion and the continuation of this pattern may lead to the government not honoring its debt.<sup>50</sup> Mr. Lumina was particularly concerned regarding the legitimacy of some of the debts contracted, including related criminal actions.<sup>51</sup> In particular, he focused on the 1976-1983 military dictatorship.<sup>52</sup>

The Expert further commented on the New York court decision ordering the Argentinian government to pay \$1.3 billion in holdouts.<sup>53</sup> The decision was made in August 2013 and the IMF has noted that litigation against Argentina could have pervasive implications for future sovereign debt restructurings by increasing leverage of holdout creditors.<sup>54</sup> Vulture funds have also caused trouble for Greek debt restructuring as holdout rates have created tremendous costs for Greece and European taxpayers backing the European Union's Greece bailout strategy.<sup>55</sup> As Mr. Lumina indicated in 2012, successful debt restructuring is impossible if vulture funds are allowed to paralyze debt relief.<sup>56</sup> Lastly, he urged Member States "to enact legislation, as a matter of priority, to limit the ability of unscrupulous investors to pursue immoral profits at the expense of the poor and most vulnerable through protracted litigation."<sup>57</sup> The full report of Mr. Lumina's findings will be released in March 2014.<sup>58</sup>

### **Conclusion**

As highlighted in resolution A/C.2/68/L.70, external debt continues to be a major barrier in developing countries meeting sustainable development goals.<sup>59</sup> The recommendation continues to be that a more comprehensive global strategy is required in order to tackle the issue of external debt and the negative impacts associated with external debt.<sup>60</sup> With the deadline to meeting the MDG goals fast approaching, immediate steps of reviewing existing policies and action should be conducted to ensure that development commitments are met.<sup>61</sup>

## **Annotated Bibliography**

---

<sup>45</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Link Global Economic Outlook 2014-2015* [Summary Report], 2013.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> UN DPI, *Audit of Argentina's foreign debt necessary for accountability, UN expert says* [Article], 2013.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> OHCHR, *UN Expert urges Argentina to audit its foreign debt* [Article], 2013.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Global Policy, *Vulture Funds: US Court ruling on Argentina enrages debt justice campaigners* [Article], 2013.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> The Guardian, *Hopes of indebted countries anchored on Argentinian ship in Ghanaian port* [Article], 2012.

<sup>57</sup> OHCHR, *UN Expert urges Argentina to audit its foreign debt* [Article], 2013.

<sup>58</sup> UN DPI, *Audit of Argentina's foreign debt necessary for accountability, UN expert says* [Article], 2013.

<sup>59</sup> UN General Assembly, *External debt sustainability and development (A/C.2/68/L.70)* [Resolution], 2013.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Link Global Economic Outlook 2014-2015* [Summary Report], 2013.

Global Policy. (2013, September 6). *Vulture Funds: US Court ruling on Argentina enrages debt justice campaigners* [Article]. Retrieved 9 January 2014 from: <https://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/210-debt/52477--vulture-funds-us-court-ruling-on-argentina-enrages-debt-justice-campaigners.html>

*This article discusses the issues of vulture funds and the global impacts that it has on Member States. The initial discussion is based on the US court case against Argentina, however, the global implications are quite clear. This article provides associated links to related articles on external debt and information from the IMF.*

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2013, October). *Link Global Economic Outlook 2014-2015* [Summary Report]. Retrieved January 10 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/proj\\_link/documents/geo201310.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/proj_link/documents/geo201310.pdf)

*The global economic outlook provides a summary of the planned international economic action items that will be taken in the coming years. There is a small section specific to external debt in the report. Delegates may find this source useful in determining feasible action that can be taken as part of the topic's resolution.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2013, April 23). *External debt sustainability and development: Lessons learned from debt crises and ongoing work on sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms* [Executive Summary]. Retrieved 9 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ecosoc/debt/2013/ExecutiveSummary.pdf>

*This is an excellent source in highlight issues related to the discussion of external debt. Though the meeting is from April 2013, many of the issues and solutions provided are still relevant to the discussion of external debt and development. Furthermore, the comments also touch on past actions that have not been effective at resolving the external debt crisis.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, December 11). *External debt sustainability and development (A/C.2/68/L.70)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.2/68/L.70](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.2/68/L.70)

*The resolution is the latest adopted by the General Assembly Second Committee at its meeting in December. Delegates should review this document to see what the latest action items are. Since the 2015 MDG deadline is fast approaching, the associated recommendations are directly tied to the post-2015 agenda.*

United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2013, November 29). *UN Expert urges Argentina to audit its foreign debit* [End of Mission Statement]. Retrieved 9 January 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14040&LangID=E>

*The end of mission statement provided by the UN independent expert of foreign debt provides a lot of information on current issues related to external debt and sustainable development. Though the source is heavily related to the Argentinian situation, there are also comments and recommendations that have global impacts. Delegates may also find additional information regarding the impacts of vulture funds and debt management.*

## Bibliography

Centre for Research on Globalization. (2013, October 11). *The debt of developing countries: the devastating impacts of IMF-World Bank "Economic Medicine"* [Article]. Retrieved 5 February 2014 from: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-debt-of-developing-countries-the-devastating-impacts-of-imf-world-bank-economic-medicine/5354027>.

Global Policy. (2013, September 6). *Vulture Funds: US Court ruling on Argentina enrages debt justice campaigners* [Article]. Retrieved 9 January 2014 from: <https://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/210-debt/52477--vulture-funds-us-court-ruling-on-argentina-enrages-debt-justice-campaigners.html>



The Guardian. (2012, December 14). *Hopes of indebted countries anchored on Argentinian ship in Ghanaian port* [Article]. Retrieved 10 December 2014 from: <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2012/dec/14/indebted-countries-argentinian-ship-ghanian-port>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2013, October). *Link Global Economic Outlook 2014-2015* [Summary Report]. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/proj\\_link/documents/geo201310.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/proj_link/documents/geo201310.pdf)

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2013, April 23). *External debt sustainability and development: Lessons learned from debt crises and ongoing work on sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms* [Executive Summary]. Retrieved 9 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ecosoc/debt/2013/ExecutiveSummary.pdf>

United Nations, General Assembly. (n.d.). *Official UN General Assembly Documents on External Debt* [Website]. Retrieved 9 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/documents/ga\\_debt.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/documents/ga_debt.htm)

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, December 11). *External debt sustainability and development (A/C.2/68/L.70)* [Draft Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.2/68/L.70](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.2/68/L.70)

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, December 11). *External debt sustainability and development (A/C.2/68/L.70)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.2/68/L.70](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.2/68/L.70)

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2013, November 29). *Audit of Argentina's foreign debt necessary for accountability, UN expert says* [News Article]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp/www.iaea.org/html/www.sealthedeal2009.org/petition/html/story.asp?NewsID=46624&Cr=Argentina&Cr1=#.Us9YmXnxTU5>

United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2013, November 29). *UN Expert urges Argentina to audit its foreign debit* [End of Mission Statement]. Retrieved 9 January 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14040&LangID=E>

United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2013, November 29). *UN Expert urges Argentina to audit its foreign debit* [News Article]. Retrieved 9 January 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14041&>

## II. Agriculture Development and Food Security

### *Introduction*

The report *The State of the Food Insecurity of the World 2013* published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), indicates that, “12% of the global population [was] unable to meet their dietary energy requirement in 2011-2013.”<sup>62</sup> This means the first objective of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is near completion but more efforts must be made to achieve the goal. In the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, one resolution of significance was adopted, resolution 68/233 entitled *Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition*.<sup>63</sup>

### *Recent Updates*

#### *Current Status of Food Security*

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) creates an up to date food security index with data from 107 countries with core issues related to: affordability, availability, and quality.<sup>64</sup> The index is constructed from 27 indicators that measure food security from developed and developing countries.<sup>65</sup> The list is divided into best environment, good environment, moderate environment, and needs improvement. As measured according the EIU food index; the United States, Chile, Ecuador and Bangladesh lead each category respectively.<sup>66</sup> The last country in the index is the Democratic Republic of Congo.<sup>67</sup> According to the EIU, there are some key finding related to the current state of food security.<sup>68</sup> Developing countries such as Botswana, Ethiopia, and Dominican Republic have made huge efforts in the area of food security and the results have been satisfactory. Secondly, political conflict tends to reduce food security.<sup>69</sup> This was demonstrated in Mali, Yemen and Syria.<sup>70</sup> Falling national incomes hurts food security in developed countries, with Greece being a prime example of this.<sup>71</sup> Lastly, emerging markets are well positioned in order to tackle food security related problems.<sup>72</sup>

#### *The Role of the Committee on World Food Security*

The report of the Secretary-General (A/67/294) states, that the Committee on World Food Security “is a new model of governance for global food security based on multilateral and multi-stakeholder engagement.”<sup>73</sup> This platform for intergovernmental cooperation has the challenge to be an essential arena in which negotiations related to food security topics can be discussed.<sup>74</sup> This center of debate could incorporate, in the short term, discussions related to networking information, price volatility, and technical support.<sup>75</sup> The outcomes of the latest meetings of the Committee on World Food Security were released in October 2013 in Rome Italy.<sup>76</sup> In this document, topics related to organizational matter, policy convergence, work streams, and monitoring procedures were some of the issues addressed.<sup>77</sup>

#### *2014 International Year for Family Farming (IYFF)*

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) along with the United Nations (UN), declared 2014 as the International Year for Family Farming (IYFF) in order to promote development policies at the national and

---

<sup>62</sup> FAO, IFAD and WFP, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013* [Report], 2013, p. 8.

<sup>63</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, *Resolutions 68th session* [Website], 2013.

<sup>64</sup> Economist Intelligence Unit, *Global Food Security Index* [Website].

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> Economist Intelligence Unit, *Key findings* [Website].

<sup>73</sup> UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary General (A/67/294)*, 2012.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid., p. 11

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> Committee on World Food Security, *Fortieth session report* [Report], 2013.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

regional levels, including promoting rural poverty reduction strategies and sustainable agriculture production particularly for smallholder and family farmers.<sup>78</sup> Globally, civil society organizations help to improve the status of agriculture development including the World Rural Forum (WRF) and the World Consultative Committee (WCC).<sup>79</sup> Both organizations have representatives from different continents along with civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and international organizations.<sup>80</sup>

In December 2013, regional consultations in Europe and Central Asia discussed topics related to family farming in a reunion held in Brussels.<sup>81</sup> The participants emphasized discussing youth in agriculture, lack of access to markets, research & development, training and education and the integration of family farmers into the food chain.<sup>82</sup>

Consultations in Latin America and the Caribbean highlighted the importance of agricultural development and the use of raw materials, as well as promoting sustainable, family farming.<sup>83</sup> Good practice examples of ways in which countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are expanding commitment to family farming include the adoption of a farming policy with specific provisions for family farms in Costa Rica, and the establishment of the Family Farming Support Fund by the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR).<sup>84</sup>

#### *Microinsurance for agriculture development*

According to IFAD report entitled *Microinsurance product development for microfinance providers*, providing access to insurance for local, family farmers provides not only access to new opportunities and crops, but allows local growers to expand sustainable farming practices.<sup>85</sup> Programs which provide “agricultural insurance to small-scale farmers in developing countries” are termed “agriculture microinsurance.”<sup>86</sup> One recent event in this areas was the International Microinsurance Conference 2013 held in November in Indonesia.<sup>87</sup> This conference focused on developments in Asia and Oceania, highlighting the growth in the number of individuals who have benefited from microinsurance, increasing by over 30% from 2010 to 2012, or reaching about 170.<sup>88</sup>

#### **Conclusion**

Agriculture development and food security has a significant importance in the international arena. Civil society organizations along with the UN treat these issues with extreme caution and creativity. The inclusion of microinsurance for agriculture development along with micro-financial aid can be essential for further debate and a milestone on future international cooperation.

### **Annotated Bibliography**

Committee on World Food Security. (2013). *Fortieth session report* [Report]. Retrieved 3 February 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/029/mi744e.pdf>

*This is the latest report of the Committee on World Food Security. Delegates will find procedural and policy proposals of this Committee. The CFS is one of the newest organizations that address the issue of food security and includes information on recent developments and organizational.*

Food and Agriculture Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development and World Food Programme. (2013). *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013* [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3434e/i3434e.pdf>

---

<sup>78</sup> IFAD, *International Year of Family Farming: IFAD's commitment and call for action* [Website], 2014.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

<sup>81</sup> FAO, *International dialogue for Europe and central Asia* [Website], 2013.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> FAO, *Latin America and the Caribbean to prioritize family farming* [Website], 2013.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development, *Microinsurance product development for microfinance providers*, 2012.

<sup>86</sup> Roth & McCord, *Agricultural microinsurance Global Practices and Prospects*, 2008, p. 7.

<sup>87</sup> Munich Re Foundation, *9th International microinsurance conference 2013* [Website], 2013.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

*This report gathers the most important information related to the topic of food security. On it delegates will find the latest data and analysis from the three most important UN organizations related to the topic: FAO, IFAD and WFP. The main utility of this source is the actualize information and diagnosis of the world in the topic of food security.*

Economist Intelligence Unit. (n.d). *Global Food Security Index* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/Index>

*This website provides direct access to the Global Food Security Index of the Economist Intelligence Unit. This will help during research of external data in order to compare situations among countries or regions in the topic of food security. Furthermore, this web page provides interactive navigation through its data and findings.*

International Fund for Agricultural Development. (2014). *International Year of Family Farming: IFAD's commitment and call for action* [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2014 from: <http://www.ifad.org/events/iyff/index.htm>

*The IFAD web page provides information based on food security improvements and policies that have been taken. This link provides updates on the International Year of Family Farming which is a campaign that includes the UN and civil society organizations. In this source delegates can view videos and information about actions and plans programmed for 2014.*

Roth & McCord. (2008). *Agricultural microinsurance Global Practices and Prospects*. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: [http://90plan.ovh.net/~microins/file/Agriculture\\_Microinsurance\\_Global\\_Practices\\_and\\_Prospects.pdf](http://90plan.ovh.net/~microins/file/Agriculture_Microinsurance_Global_Practices_and_Prospects.pdf)

*This book is an excellent introduction to the world of microinsurance in relation to agriculture. This source specifies very concrete cases and provides data and information to delegates that could help them to start with ideas for working papers. This is a theoretical introduction and can be used to understand the terminology in recent developments on this area.*

## Bibliography

Committee on World Food Security. (2013). *Fortieth session report* [Report]. Retrieved 3 February 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/029/mi744e.pdf>

Economist Intelligence Unit. (n.d.). *Global Food Security Index* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/Index>

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *International dialogue for Europe and central Asia. 2014 International Year of Family Farming* [Website]. Retrieved 3 February 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/family-farming-2014/press-room/news/details-press-room/en/c/210814/>

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *Latin America and the Caribbean to prioritize family farming. 2014 International Year of Family Farming* [Website]. Retrieved 3 February 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/family-farming-2014/press-room/news/details-press-room/en/c/210729/>

Food and Agriculture Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development and World Food Programme. (2013). *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013* [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3434e/i3434e.pdf>

International Fund for Agricultural Development. (2012). *Microinsurance product development for microfinance providers* [Report]. Retrieved 8 January 2014 from: <http://www.ifad.org/ruralfinance/pub/manual.pdf>

Microinsurance Network Data. (n.d.). *Challenges and topics* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.microinsurancenetork.org/challenge8.php>

Munich Re Foundation. (2013). *9th International microinsurance conference 2013* [Website]. Retrieved 3 February 2014 from: <http://www.munichre-foundation.org/home/Microinsurance/2013IMC.html>

Roth & McCord. (2008). *Agricultural microinsurance Global Practices and Prospects*. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: [http://90plan.ovh.net/~microins/file/Agriculture\\_Microinsurance\\_Global\\_Practices\\_and\\_Prospects.pdf](http://90plan.ovh.net/~microins/file/Agriculture_Microinsurance_Global_Practices_and_Prospects.pdf)

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-seventh session. (2012). *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary General (A/67/294)*. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/67/294>

United Nations, General Assembly. (2013). *Resolutions 67th session* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/67/resolutions.shtml>

United Nations, General Assembly. (2013). *Resolutions 68th session* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/resolutions.shtml>

World Food Programme. (2013). *WFP Aims To Feed 1.25 Million People In Central African Republic, Needs Almost US\$107 Million* [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2014 from: <http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-aims-feed-125-million-people-central-african-republic-needs-almost-us107-milli>

World Food Programme. (2013). *10 hunger facts for 2014* [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2014 from: <http://www.wfp.org/stories/10-hunger-facts-2014>

World Rural Forum. (2013). *Successful Launch of the IYFF-2014* [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2014 from: <http://www.ruralforum.net/noticias/noticia.asp?id=en&Nnoticia=443549986&pag=1>

### III. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

#### *Introduction*

On 17 September 2013, the United Nations General Assembly opened its 68<sup>th</sup> session and began consideration of numerous topics.<sup>89</sup> General Assembly resolution 68/252 allocated Agenda item 19(c) Sustainable Development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for consideration to the Second Committee.<sup>90</sup> Continuing to voice the importance of disaster reduction, at the closing of the main part of the 68<sup>th</sup> session on 27 December 2013, General Assembly President John W. Ashe remarked, “we will also work to ensure that commitment and momentum is maintained towards the Third Conference on Disaster Reduction to take place in 2015.”<sup>91</sup> To further demonstrate the United Nations’ commitment to disaster reduction, former President of the General Assembly, Han Seung-Soo, was appointed Special Envoy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Water.<sup>92</sup> In this position, Han will rally commitments from Member States, civil society, and the private sector to work toward disaster risk reduction in the post-2015 development agenda and the Hyogo Framework’s post-2015 successor framework.<sup>93</sup>

#### *International and Regional Framework*

The danger of natural disasters was clearly demonstrated when Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines, and the need for disaster risk reduction is keenly felt in the Southeast Asian region.<sup>94</sup> A recent report warned that 35% of Southeast Asia’s urban population, the approximately 190 million residents of slums and squatter settlements, are particularly vulnerable to disasters.<sup>95</sup> These vulnerabilities extend worldwide. In December 2013, the World Meteorological Organization organized a workshop on “Multi-Hazard Warning Systems in Urban Areas in Central America.”<sup>96</sup> Citing vulnerabilities including the growing size of cities, expanding populations, weak infrastructure, and poor zoning plans, Maryam Golnaraghi, Chief of the World Meteorological Organization’s Disaster Risk Reduction Programme, stressed the need for effective early warning systems created through partnerships between municipal governments and regional and international disaster risk management agencies.<sup>97</sup>

Worldwide, in the past 20 years disasters have impacted 4.4 billion people, caused \$2 trillion in economic losses, and killed 1.3 million lives.<sup>98</sup> More troubling, in the past 30 years weather-related disasters in every region of the world have tripled.<sup>99</sup> Under this increase, global disaster losses have, for the first time, topped \$100 billion each year for three consecutive years; in the words of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, “economic losses from disasters are out of control.”<sup>100</sup>

#### *United Nations System Involvement*

In light of this growing problem, disaster risk reduction has become a key concern of the General Assembly. Two draft resolutions were considered by the Second Committee on this agenda item, C.2/68/L.66 and C.2/68/L.39.<sup>101</sup> The first draft resolution (C.2/68/L.39), submitted by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting on 14 November 2013, was subsequently withdrawn from consideration after consultations between delegations supporting each draft proposal.<sup>102</sup> Without need for a vote, the Second Committee recommended the General

---

<sup>89</sup> UN General Assembly, *Meetings* [Website].

<sup>90</sup> UN General Assembly, *Allocation of agenda items for the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly (A/68/252)* [Resolution], 2013.

<sup>91</sup> Ashe, *Remarks for the closing of the main part of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly* [Statement], 2013.

<sup>92</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *Secretary-General Appoints Han Seung-Soo of Republic of Korea Special Envoy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Water* [Press Release], 2013.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> World Vision International, *Millions at risk of future disaster says new World Vision report* [Website], 2013.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> WMO, *Central/South American countries to strengthen early warning systems in urban areas* [Website], 2013.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> Oxfam, *How Disasters Disrupt Development Recommendations for the post-2015 development framework*. 2013.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid.

<sup>101</sup> UN General Assembly, *Second Committee: Status of draft proposals* [Website], 2013.

<sup>102</sup> UN General Assembly, *Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction: Report of the Second Committee (A/68/438/Add.3)*, 13 December 2013.



Assembly to adopt the second draft resolution (C.2/68/L.66) as resolution 68/211.<sup>103</sup> Likewise, the General Assembly accepted the Second Committee's report and adopted the recommended resolution without a formal vote.<sup>104</sup>

The adopted resolution prominently discusses the importance of the ongoing preparatory process for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Japan in 2015.<sup>105</sup> This process was begun with General Assembly resolution 66/199 and its call for the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.<sup>106</sup> In 2013, 89 events and three regional ministerial meetings were held in preparation of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, Switzerland.<sup>107</sup> Resolution 68/211 recognized that meeting as the main global forum for coordination and partnership development for reviewing the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* in advance of the creation of a post-2015 framework.<sup>108</sup> The resolution further “looks forward to the upcoming regional platforms scheduled in 2014” and welcomes the deliberations of regional platforms and meetings that contribute to preparations for the fourth session of the Global Platform.<sup>109</sup> In 2014, seven regional platforms on disaster risk reduction will be held throughout the world in Central Asia (Kazakhstan), Africa (Nigeria), the Americas (Ecuador), the Arab States (Egypt), the Pacific (Fiji), Asia (Thailand), and Europe (Spain) as well as a ministerial session in Belgium.<sup>110</sup> Additionally, two preparatory committee meetings were established by resolution 68/211 that will meet in Switzerland in July and November 2014.<sup>111</sup> The entire process culminates 14-18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan, when the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction reviews the *Hyogo Framework for Action* and adopts a post-2015 successor framework.<sup>112</sup> The task then falls to the General Assembly during the 70<sup>th</sup> session to review and endorse or reject the framework.<sup>113</sup>

This final framework is to be a forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document with five objectives.<sup>114</sup> First, “to complete assessment and review of the implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action*.”<sup>115</sup> Second, “to consider the experience gained through the regional and national strategies/institutions and plans for disaster risk reduction.”<sup>116</sup> Third, “to adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.”<sup>117</sup> Fourth, “to identify modalities of cooperation based on commitments to implement a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.”<sup>118</sup> Fifth, “to determine modalities for periodic review of the implementation of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.”<sup>119</sup>

The resolution also stressed the need for “coordinated and comprehensive strategies that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaption consideration” in future investments.<sup>120</sup> To further that goal, the Second Committee held a panel discussion on “Strengthening the Resilience of Small Island Developing States within the

---

<sup>103</sup> Ibid.

<sup>104</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *General Assembly, Taking up Second Committee Reports, Adopts 41 Resolutions, 2 Decisions, Deferring Action on Small Islands Text* [Press Release], 2013.

<sup>105</sup> UN General Assembly, *Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction: Report of the Second Committee (A/68/438/Add.3)*, 2013.

<sup>106</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/RES/66/199)* [Resolution], 2012.

<sup>107</sup> UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Towards a post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters: Events* [Website], 2013.

<sup>108</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/C.2/68/L.66)* [Draft Resolution], 2013.

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.

<sup>110</sup> UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Towards a post-2015 DRR Framework* [Website], 2013.

<sup>111</sup> UN General Assembly, *Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction: Report of the Second Committee (A/68/438/Add.3)*, 2013.

<sup>112</sup> UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Towards a post-2015 DRR Framework* [Website], 2013.

<sup>113</sup> Ibid.

<sup>114</sup> UN General Assembly, *Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction: Report of the Second Committee (A/68/438/Add.3)*, 2013.

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

<sup>116</sup> Ibid.

<sup>117</sup> Ibid.

<sup>118</sup> Ibid.

<sup>119</sup> Ibid.

<sup>120</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/C.2/68/L.66)* [Draft Resolution], 5 December 2013.

context of Sustainable Development.”<sup>121</sup> Makurita Baaro, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kiribati to the United Nations, warned that rising sea levels, eroding coastlines, and extreme weather events are growing more common for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and are “a critical issue for the survival of our people.”<sup>122</sup> Beyond application only to SIDS, Peter Allum of the International Monetary Fund noted that all small states are disproportionately vulnerable to natural disasters because their limited economic production and geographic size make them less able to build fiscal and weather buffers and more likely to experience economic shocks when natural disasters and other external events occur.<sup>123</sup>

## Conclusion

Recent actions by the Second Committee and the General Assembly as a whole demonstrate the elaborate process in place to review the existing *Hyogo Framework for Action* and develop a post-2015 framework.<sup>124</sup> Many developments in this process point to the need to integrate disaster risk reduction into a broader resilience framework that includes climate change adaptation and sustainable development.<sup>125</sup> In combination with this more inclusive framework, emphasis has been placed in the development of measureable indicators to inform governments of their state’s level of preparedness.<sup>126</sup> Although much of this process occurs outside of the Second Committee’s deliberations, the committee can still work to ensure that the successor framework includes broad sustainable development principles, takes into account the view of a broad range of stakeholders, and is integrated into the broader post-2015 development agenda.

## Annotated Bibliography

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2013, November 1). *Climate Change Greatest Threat to Small Island States, Delegate Tells Second Committee, Urging Critical International Support for Survival* [Press Release]. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/gaef3381.doc.htm>

*The Second Committee has repeatedly stressed the need to integrate an international strategy for disaster risk reduction into the broader sustainable development context. This is evident both in the designation of disaster risk reduction as a subset of sustainable development in the General Assembly’s agenda as well as through events like this that recognize the integrated nature of natural disasters and other development concerns. While this press release demonstrates the connection to climate change, Second Committee resolutions have also recognized the need to consider gender issues, disabilities, and other social concerns in the creation of a post-2015 framework.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-sixth session. (2012, February 28). *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction A/RES/66/199* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/66/440/Add.3). Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/199](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/199)

*This resolution forms the basis of the current, ongoing discussions of international disaster risk reduction. Not only did it establish a review process for the current framework for disaster risk reduction, but also a broad process and timeline for the creation of a successor framework. Importantly, the resolution also established the General Assembly’s role by creating a recurring agenda topic to consider an international strategy for disaster risk reduction.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, December 13). *Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction: Report of the Second Committee (A/68/438/Add.3)*. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/438/Add.3](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/438/Add.3)

---

<sup>121</sup> UN General Assembly, *Second Committee Special Event: Panel discussion on “Strengthening the Resilience of Small Island Developing States within the context of Sustainable Development”* [Concept Note], 1 November 2013.

<sup>122</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *Climate Change Greatest Threat to Small Island States, Delegate Tells Second Committee, Urging Critical International Support for Survival* [Press Release], 2013.

<sup>123</sup> Ibid.

<sup>124</sup> UN General Assembly, *Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction: Report of the Second Committee (A/68/438/Add.3)*, 2013.

<sup>125</sup> UN ESCAP, *UN develops innovative early warning tool for drought prone Asia-Pacific regions* [Website], 2013.

<sup>126</sup> Ibid.

*This report demonstrates the substantive work of the Second Committee in considering agenda item 19(c) Sustainable Development: International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. Of two draft resolutions created, one was withdrawn and the other adopted by the Second Committee and recommended for adoption by the General Assembly. The adopted draft, originally C.2/68/L.66, was subsequently incorporated into the Second Committee's report to the General Assembly (A/68/438/Add.3) and ultimately adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 68/211.*

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2013). *Towards a post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters: Events* [Website]. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: <http://www.preventionweb.net/posthfa/consultation-process>

*Although the annotation below provides a key graphic for understanding the timeline of events for reviewing the current disaster risk reduction and creating a post-2015 framework, this Website provides more detailed information on those events. Here, delegates can review and understand both the outcomes of the various events and the views of their individual states. This deeper understanding will also allow delegates to determine if there are gaps in the current process that require the Second Committee's action to ensure that all relevant topics and stakeholders are considered in the process.*

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2013, December 16). *Towards a post-2015 DRR Framework* [Website]. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/isdr/9731029824/sizes/l/in/set-72157628015380393>

*The international disaster risk reduction review and creation of a post-2015 framework are elaborate processes with multiple events throughout the world. This graphic available on the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's media page provides an invaluable timeline of events for delegates to understand the ongoing process. Fully understanding this process is key for delegates to then understand the role of the General Assembly and the Second Committee in the process.*

## Bibliography

Ashe, J. (2013, December 27). *Remarks for the closing of the main part of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly* [Statement]. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from:

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/pdf/statements/12272013Closing\\_GA\\_remarks\\_27\\_DecemberRev.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/pdf/statements/12272013Closing_GA_remarks_27_DecemberRev.pdf)

Oxfam International. (2013, December). *How Disasters Disrupt Development Recommendations for the post-2015 development framework*. Retrieved 31 January 2014 from: [http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/how-disasters-disrupt-development-recommendations-for-the-post-2015-development-306538?cid=scm\\_TW\\_PandP\\_BAU&utm\\_content=buffer11f68&utm\\_source=buffer&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=Buffer](http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/how-disasters-disrupt-development-recommendations-for-the-post-2015-development-306538?cid=scm_TW_PandP_BAU&utm_content=buffer11f68&utm_source=buffer&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Buffer)

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2013, December 20). *General Assembly, Taking up Second Committee Reports, Adopts 41 Resolutions, 2 Decisions, Deferring Action on Small Islands Text* [Press Release]. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/ga1478.doc.htm>

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2013, December 19). *Secretary-General Appoints Han Seung-Soo of Republic of Korea Special Envoy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Water* [Press Release]. Retrieved 31 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/sga1447.doc.htm>

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2013, November 1). *Climate Change Greatest Threat to Small Island States, Delegate Tells Second Committee, Urging Critical International Support for Survival* [Press Release]. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/gaef3381.doc.htm>

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2013, November 29). *UN develops innovative early warning tool for drought prone Asia-Pacific regions* [Website]. Retrieved 31 January 2014 from: <http://www.unescap.org/news/un-develops-innovative-early-warning-tool-drought-prone-asia-pacific-regions>

United Nations General Assembly. (n.d.). *Meetings* [Website]. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/meetings/>

United Nations General Assembly. (2013, November 1). *Second Committee Special Event: Panel discussion on “Strengthening the Resilience of Small Island Developing States within the context of Sustainable Development”* [Concept Note]. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/68/sidsnote.pdf>

United Nations General Assembly. (2013, December 10). *Second Committee: Status of draft proposals* [Website]. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/68/proposalstatus.shtml>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-sixth session. (2012, February 28). *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction A/RES/66/199* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/66/440/Add.3). Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=%20A/RES/66/199](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=%20A/RES/66/199)

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, September 20). *Allocation of agenda items for the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly A/68/252* [Resolution]. Adopted by the General Assembly at its 2<sup>nd</sup> plenary meeting, on 20 September 2013. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/252](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/252)

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, December 5). *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/C.2/68/L.66)* [Draft Resolution]. Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Juliet Hay (New Zealand), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.39. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.2/68/L.66](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.2/68/L.66)

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, December 13). *Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction: Report of the Second Committee (A/68/438/Add.3)*. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/438/Add.3](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/438/Add.3)

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2013). *Towards a post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters: Events* [Website]. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: <http://www.preventionweb.net/posthfa/consultation-process>

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2013, December 16). *Towards a post-2015 DRR Framework* [Website]. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/isdr/9731029824/sizes/l/in/set-72157628015380393>

World Meteorological Organization. (2013, December 13). *Central/South American countries to strengthen early warning systems in urban areas* [Website]. Retrieved 31 January 2014 from: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/news/urbanareas.html>

World Vision International. (2013, December 8). *Millions at risk of future disaster, says new World Vision report* [Website]. Retrieved 31 January 2014 from: <http://www.wvi.org/justice-children/pressrelease/millions-risk-future-disaster-says-new-world-vision-report>