

# General Assembly Third Committee

## *Introduction*

The General Assembly Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, also known as the Third Committee (the Committee) met from 7 October to 27 November 2013 during the 68th session of the General Assembly (GA).<sup>1</sup> This update will provide a review of the meeting of the 68th Session and analyze the meeting's policy outcomes. The update will also review the ways in which implementation is measured and executed and the entities involved with implementing the Committee's policies.

## *Recent Activities*

Numerous draft resolutions and reports from the Committee were sent to the GA plenary and were passed or adopted throughout the 68th Session.<sup>2</sup> In total, the Plenary passed 72 resolutions from the Third Committee, many of which focused on human rights and migration, crime prevention, and discrimination and violence against women.<sup>3</sup> During the session, the Committee heard from and considered reports from forty-nine Human Rights Council (HRC) Special Procedure Mandate-Holders and Human Rights Treaty Committees Chairpersons, including the chair of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; Special Rapporteur on Violence against women, its causes and consequences; Special Rapporteur on the Human rights of migrants; Chair of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children.<sup>4</sup> The Committee also adopted a number of reports, including two on crime prevention and international drug control.<sup>5</sup>

Thematically, the work of the Committee in the 68th session of the GA fell into two general categories: Social development and human rights. With regards to social development, the Committee focused on "issues related to youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control."<sup>6</sup> With regards to human rights, the Committee focused on a number of topics, including the report of the Human Rights Council; promotion and protection of the rights of children; rights of indigenous peoples; elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance; right of peoples to self-determination; various country-specific human rights issues; human rights instruments implementation; various human rights questions and fundamental freedoms, including the human rights of migrants; and the reports of the HRC's Special Procedures.<sup>7</sup> In addition, the Committee heard from and reviewed the report of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Refugees and took several actions thereon.<sup>8</sup>

## *Recent Policy Outcomes*

Outcomes from the Committee's meetings during the 68th session provide insight into the relationships between the Committee, Member States, intergovernmental and/or international organizations, and civil society.<sup>9</sup> Many of the resolutions reminded Member States that it was their primary responsibility to implement international human rights

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<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly, *Social, Humanitarian & Cultural---Third Committee* [Website], 2014; UN General Assembly, *Organization of the work of the Third Committee* (A/C.3/68/L.1), 2013.

<sup>2</sup> UN General Assembly, *Third Committee: Final Status of Action on Draft Proposals* [Website], 2014; UN General Assembly, *Third Committee: Reports to the Plenary* [Website], 2014.

<sup>3</sup> UN General Assembly, *Resolutions: 68th Session* [Website], 2014; UN General Assembly, *Social, Humanitarian & Cultural---Third Committee* [Website], 2014.

<sup>4</sup> UN General Assembly, *Social, Humanitarian & Cultural---Third Committee* [Website], 2014; UN General Assembly, *Special procedure mandate-holders and other experts presenting to the GA Third Committee* (Sixty-eighth session) [Website], 2013.

<sup>5</sup> UN General Assembly, *Third Committee: Reports to the Plenary* [Website], 2014.

<sup>6</sup> UN General Assembly, *Social, Humanitarian & Cultural---Third Committee* [Website], 2014.

<sup>7</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *General Assembly Adopts 68 Resolutions, 7 Decisions as It Takes Action on Reports of Its Third Committee* [Website], 2013; UN General Assembly, *Third Committee: Documents per Agenda Item* [Website], 2014.

<sup>8</sup> UN General Assembly, *Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions: Report of the Third Committee* (A/68/450), 2013.

<sup>9</sup> UN General Assembly, *Third Committee: Reports to the Plenary* [Website], 2014.

law, humanitarian law, and policy.<sup>10</sup> At the same time, however, the resolutions encouraged participation from international organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations (or civil society).<sup>11</sup> Further, resolutions encouraged Member States to coordinate their efforts with civil society actors.<sup>12</sup> Several resolutions called on Member States to contribute funds to various UN entities and to the least developed countries that are currently struggling with social development issues.<sup>13</sup> Most of the resolutions and reports referenced and built off the work of other UN entities, conferences, and meetings, such as the sessions of the Human Rights Council, UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.<sup>14</sup> As such, policy outcomes of the Committee are heavily dependent upon the relationships between it, other UN and international entities, Member States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and civil society.

Draft Resolution A/C.3/68/L.17/Rev.1 provides a good example of the type of collaboration encouraged by the GA Third Committee.<sup>15</sup> In 68/L.17, the GA recognized the importance of efforts taken by Member States to criminalize human trafficking and encouraged further national efforts. Then, the GA called upon Member States and civil society to support human trafficking prevention efforts. The GA further recommended that the “Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons . . . consider the need for meetings of representatives of national coordinating mechanisms on combating trafficking in persons.”<sup>16</sup> Thus, in the context of human trafficking and crime prevention, the GA called upon action on three levels: first, it encouraged national legislative and executive efforts to prevent human trafficking; second, it encouraged cooperation between Member States and civil society in the prevention of human trafficking; and third, it recommended that UN entities take consideration of the matter.<sup>17</sup>

### ***Policy Implementation***

Implementation procedures and actors vary widely by topic. With respect to human rights issues, the Committee works closely with the Human Rights Council, its special procedures, and the human rights treaty bodies.<sup>18</sup> These, in turn, are supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Human Rights Council, special procedures, and human rights treaty bodies submit reports to the Committee, who in turn endorses the reports and passes resolutions that contain recommendations on topics related to the sent reports.<sup>19</sup> The Committee’s resolutions, in conjunction with other resolutions and reports from the Human Rights Council, special procedures, and human rights treaty bodies, direct the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take implementation measures at the international or regional levels.

In addition to the UN Human Rights System, UN-Women provides a substantial amount of support and implementation services to the Committee with regards to issues relating to women. The purpose of UN-Women includes the “support [of] inter-governmental bodies . . . in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms, [the helping of] Member States to implement these standards . . . [and the forging of] effective partnerships with civil society.”<sup>20</sup>

The main UN entity responsible for implementing policies related to crime prevention is the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.<sup>21</sup> The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime provides three types of services to UN entities, Member States, and civil society: “Field-based technical cooperation projects”; research and analysis on

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<sup>10</sup> UN General Assembly, *Social Development: Report of the Third Committee (A/68/448)*, 2013.

<sup>11</sup> UN General Assembly, *Advancement of Women: Report of the Third Committee (A/68/449)*, 2013.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>13</sup> UN General Assembly, *Social Development: Report of the Third Committee (A/68/448)*, 2013.

<sup>14</sup> UN General Assembly, *Advancement of Women: Report of the Third Committee (A/68/449)*, 2013.

<sup>15</sup> UN General Assembly, *Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (A/C.3/68/L.17/Rev.1)*, 2013.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>18</sup> UN General Assembly, *Human Rights Council (A/RES/60/251)* [Resolution], 2006.

<sup>19</sup> UN General Assembly, *Report of the Human Rights Council (A/68/53)*, 2013.

<sup>20</sup> UN-Women, *About UN Women* [Website], 2014.

<sup>21</sup> UNODC, *About UNODC* [Website], 2014.

issues related to drugs and crime; and normative, implementation assistance, including secretariat services to UN bodies.<sup>22</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

The General Assembly Third Committee can be viewed as the highest UN entity that considers social, humanitarian and cultural issues. Its latest meetings provided significant documentation related to the issues of this conference. As delegates work to create innovative solutions to the issues faced by this Committee, it is important to remember the most recent work of the Committee and the relationships it maintains with other UN entities, international organizations, Member States, and civil society.

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

The General Assembly Third Committee (First Committee) is one of the six main committees of the General Assembly, and focused on social, humanitarian, and cultural affairs. The Third Committee’s agenda deals with items “relating to a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect people around the world.”

**Format:** The General Assembly Third 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.

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<sup>22</sup> Ibid

## Annotated Bibliography

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2013, December 18). *General Assembly Adopts 68 Resolutions, 7 Decisions as It Takes Action on Reports of Its Third Committee* [Website]. Retrieved 14 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2013/ga11475.doc.htm>

*The GA plenary considered the work of the Third Committee primarily in two meetings: One on 18 December 2013, and one on 27 December 2013. This UN news article outlines what happened at the 18 December 2013 meeting. As such, this article provides an overview of what happened in the Third Committee during the 68th Session.*

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2013, December 27). *General Assembly Adopts \$5.53 Billion Budget to Fund Worldwide Operations as Main Segment of Sixty-eighth Session Concludes* [Website]. Retrieved 14 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2013/ga11479.doc.htm>

*The GA plenary considered the work of the Third Committee primarily in two meetings: One on 18 December 2013, and one on 27 December 2013. This UN news article outlines what happened at the 27 December 2013 meeting. As such, this article---together with the previous annotated article---provides an overview of what happened in the Third Committee during the 68th Session.*

United Nations General Assembly, *Third Committee: Reports to the Plenary* [Website]. Retrieved 14 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/68/reports.shtml>

*This website provides links to the Third Committee reports sent to the GA plenary. The reports provide citations to documents considered by the Third Committee as it considered the topics of the reports. They also contain the text of the draft resolutions sent to the plenary that were later passed into resolutions. Hence, the reports are valuable resources for the most up-to-date activities of the Third Committee on a given topic.*

United Nations General Assembly, *Third Committee: Documents per Agenda Item* [Website]. Retrieved 14 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/68/documentslist.shtml>

*This website provides links to the documentation the Third Committee considered as it addressed topics under its review. Such documents include reports from the Human Rights Council Special Procedures, human rights treaty body committees, and the Human Rights Council. Thus, this website is a good place to look for background information on the most recent developments of the Third Committee.*

United Nations General Assembly. *Third Committee: Final Status of Action on Draft Proposals* [Website]. Retrieved 14 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/68/reports.shtml>

*This website shows the final status of the various proposals of the Third Committee during the 68th session of the General Assembly. The website provides links to the proposed documents and information as to the title of the document, the agenda item under which it falls, the sponsor, and the final action and date of action related to the document. As such, this website provides useful information related to the Committee's work during the 68th session.*

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United Nations Department of Public Information. (2013, December 27). *General Assembly Adopts \$5.53 Billion Budget to Fund Worldwide Operations as Main Segment of Sixty-eighth Session Concludes* [Website]. Retrieved 14 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2013/ga11479.doc.htm>

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United Nations General Assembly. (2006, March 15). *Human Rights Council* (A/RES/60/251) [Resolution]. Retrieved 4 February 2014 from: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/502/66/PDF/N0550266.pdf>

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United Nations, General Assembly. (2013, December 6). *Social Development: Report of the Third Committee* (A/68/448) [Report]. Retrieved 6 February 2014 from: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N13/603/42/PDF/N1360342.pdf>

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United Nations General Assembly. *Third Committee: Final Status of Action on Draft Proposals* [Website]. Retrieved 14 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/68/reports.shtml>

United Nations General Assembly, *Third Committee: Reports to the Plenary* [Website]. Retrieved 14 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/68/reports.shtml>

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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *About UNODC*. [Website]. Retrieved 15 January 2014 from: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/index.html?ref=menutop>

## I. Migration and Human Rights

### *Introduction*

There were major developments in late 2013 regarding the topic of migration and human rights at the United Nations (UN). The 68<sup>th</sup> session's inclusion of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, a follow-up to the first such dialogue in 2006, and the events leading up to it, produced an important draft resolution and several other action plans and policy documents that give a clear portrait of the international agenda on this topic in the short-term and long-term future.<sup>23</sup>

### *Recent Developments*

Much of what was discussed at the August hearings with the General Assembly (GA) and in the draft resolution comes from the Five-Year Action Plan for Collaboration, "Civil Society's proposal for an outcome and follow-up to the UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development 2013."<sup>24</sup> The outcome document is divided into four thematic areas recognized during the high-level dialogue, each with two points on migration and development.<sup>25</sup> The eight points are as follows: the post-2015 development agenda, engagement of diaspora and migrant associations, migrants stranded in distress, rights of migrant women and the best interest of children, promoting the exchange of good practice and enactment and implementation of national legislation, redefinition of the interaction of international mechanism of migrants' rights protection, regulate the migrant labour recruitment industry, and labour rights for migrant workers.<sup>26</sup> The action plan was not referenced specifically in the draft resolution, but it was a central focus at the hearings with the GA in August, and every proposal in the draft resolution is in line with the suggestions of Civil Society's action plan.<sup>27</sup>

### *Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly: August 2013*

In preparation for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held 3-4 October 2013 during the 68<sup>th</sup> session, the President of the GA invited non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations, and the private sector to participate in hearings on what actions the GA should take.<sup>28</sup> A Note by the President of the GA (A/68/370) establishes the overall theme of the high-level dialogue of 2013 as "enhancing the benefits of international migration for migrants, and countries alike and its important links to development, while reducing its negative implications."<sup>29</sup> The note described the contributions of several key stakeholders, including employers of migrant workers, individual Member States, and is divided into the same thematic areas as the high-level dialogue: migrant labour and mobility, migrant rights and protection, human development and diaspora action, and migration governance and partnerships.<sup>30</sup> Among the goals set out was transforming "the dialogue into an action-oriented agenda with concrete policy recommendations and follow-up."<sup>31</sup> This was to be accomplished in part by endorsing an eight-point, five-year action agenda presented by civil society and "proposed to engage with Member States in developing an action programme with indicators and benchmarks."<sup>32</sup> At the conclusion of the hearings, the Rapporteur "expressed the hope that the high-level dialogue would usher in a new era of constructive

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<sup>23</sup> UN High Level Dialogue, *The 5-Year Action Plan for Collaboration*, 2013.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> UN General Assembly, *Summary of the informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector held pursuant to resolution 67/219 (A/68/370)*, 2013.

<sup>30</sup> UN High Level Dialogue, *The 5-Year Action Plan for Collaboration*, 2013.

<sup>31</sup> UN General Assembly, *Summary of the informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector held pursuant to resolution 67/219 (A/68/370)*, 2013, para. 7.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid, para. 8.

cooperation allowing for the formulation of common goals with objectives with appropriate monitoring and follow-up.”<sup>33</sup>

#### *The High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development: October 2013*

The High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development took place at the start of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly from 3 to 4 October 2013, during which the GA considered a draft resolution on the findings of the high-level dialogue: *Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (A/68/L.5)*.<sup>34</sup> The draft resolution, while not yet formally adopted, provides insight on specific goals the body is taking towards addressing issues related to this topic, all of which are consistent with recommendations of the informal hearings with the GA. It includes proposals such as strengthening Global Migration Group (GMG) partnerships and resources.<sup>35</sup> The resolution points to relationships between the GMG and Member States as well as the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development to enhance the work of the GMG. Another new thread is strengthening the existence of and access to “reliable statistical data on international migration.”<sup>36</sup> The informal hearings recognized “the need for timely, reliable and easily accessible data and analysis for evidence-based policymaking and informed public debate.”<sup>37</sup> The high-level dialogue in August discussed the need for additional plans for “sustained capacity development to assist countries in improving the collection and use of migration data.”<sup>38</sup> According to summary of the hearings, the primary source of data at the UN on migration and labor is currently the Population and Statistics Divisions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which was recognized during the hearings, and civil society suggested it be improved.<sup>39</sup>

#### *Post-2015 Development Agenda*

The draft resolution also recognized the importance of integrating migration issues into development goals after the timeline for the Millennium Development Goals expires in 2015.<sup>40</sup> It recommends adopting “a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approach, and to consider migration issues in their contributions to the preparatory process that will establish the post-2015 development agenda.”<sup>41</sup> The integration of the human rights of migrants into development goals is in line with the cross-cutting nature of migration issues and integrating them into the global development goals ensures a strong focus on migrants in a broader agenda.

#### **Conclusion**

The GA’s efforts on addressing issues of migration and human rights is becoming increasingly comprehensive. Understanding the cross-cutting nature of migration issues, the GA and the UN in general have begun to work the threads of women’s rights, development, human rights and humanitarian aid into a more nuanced strategy for addressing the challenges posed to the rights of people who become migrants. The later months of 2013 saw several big steps towards to meeting these complicated challenges.

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<sup>33</sup> UN General Assembly, *Summary of the informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector held pursuant to resolution 67/219 (A/68/370)*, 2013, para. 58.

<sup>34</sup> UN General Assembly, *Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (A/68/L.5)*, 2013

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 20.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 28.

<sup>37</sup> UN General Assembly, *Summary of the informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector held pursuant to resolution 67/219 (A/68/370)*, 2013, para. 15.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 15.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 51.

<sup>40</sup> UN General Assembly, *Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (A/68/L.5)*, 2013.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 31.

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*This draft resolution is essential reading for delegates to understand exactly what work the GA has done on this topic in recent months. Its 34 paragraphs describe the scope of the topic and the actions that the UN is taking on them. Although it has not yet been adopted, the ideas in this document should be at the center of delegates' conversations on this topic at the conference, in part because of the various participants in the dialogue.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, July 25). *International migration and development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/190)*. [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/190](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/190)

*This report of the Secretary-General is divided into five sections. It provides a brief history of the work the UN has done on migration and development since the first 2006 high-level dialogue, explains current global migration trends, describes the impact of migration on development, summarizes the role of various international organizations, and introduces eight points of future action. It provides a particularly good assessment of the impact of migration on development in its discussion of labour markets, brain drain and the impact of remittances on home countries.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, August 29). *Summary of the informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector held pursuant to resolution 67/219 (A/68/370)*. [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A%2F68%2F370&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A%2F68%2F370&Lang=E)

*This report describes the proceedings at the informal hearings the GA held in preparation for the high-level dialogue at the 68<sup>th</sup> session. It includes information on specific contributions of Member States as well as many individuals in the Secretariat, including the President of the General Assembly, and the Deputy Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development.*

United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. (2013, October 3-4). *Making Migration Work: An Eight-Point Agenda for Action*. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/migration/pdf/migration\\_8points\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/migration/pdf/migration_8points_en.pdf)

*This document describes the eight-point plan that the Secretary-General laid out in response to Civil Society's proposed plan. Its language differs slightly than that of the civil society plan, so delegates will want to use it to see the evolution of the ideas among participants in the creation of policy and resolutions on this topic.*

United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. (2013). *The 5-Year Action Plan for Collaboration*. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: [http://hldcivilsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/0261-HDL\\_The-5-year-Action-Plan-GB-web2.pdf](http://hldcivilsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/0261-HDL_The-5-year-Action-Plan-GB-web2.pdf)

*This document outlines the five-year, eight-point plan proposal from civil society to the GA to address migration issues. It is divided into the four thematic areas that the high-level dialogue addressed and has two points to address per theme. The purpose of the document was to provide concrete goals and measurable progress towards improving the situation of migrants globally.*

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## II. Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World

### *Introduction*

The face of crime prevention and criminal justice systems is changing as the world is constantly transforming and advancing socially, economically and technologically. With these changes comes a need for international and local organizations, and more importantly governments, to adapt and change as well. New forms of crime are stirring the United Nations (UN) into action as organizations attempt to develop and implement strategies to address the new issues. More advanced technology has led to new forms of crime that is now able to extend its reach exponentially further beyond national borders. Additionally, government corruption, while not a new form of crime, has changed drastically, as has the methods for dealing with such crimes. It is vital for the UN and the global community to adjust to the changes in crime prevention and criminal justice systems in order to ensure that they are held to the highest standards of fairness and equality.

At the 68<sup>th</sup> General Assembly plenary meeting, the General Assembly Third Committee presented its report on the body's work under the agenda item "Crime prevention and criminal justice" (A/68/457).<sup>42</sup> Within the report were 11 draft resolutions and one draft decision.<sup>43</sup> The Third Committee adopted several texts, draft resolutions, draft decisions, and resolutions without a vote, most notably "Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice" (A/C.3/68/L.2); "The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015" (A/C.3/68/L.5); and "Preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption" (A/C.3/68/L.21).<sup>44</sup> Each of these documents emphasized the necessity to improve on current criminal justice systems in order to prevent crimes such as corruption. A/C.3/68/L.2 took note of previous efforts in the field of crime prevention and the criminal justice system and recalled numerous points that were previously suggested, such as following-up on agreements made at previous summits.<sup>45</sup> Additionally, it requested that further follow-ups be made on current agreements, and it urged governments to participate in the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and implement current changes.<sup>46</sup>

### *Recent Developments*

New projects in crime prevention have been developed recently in regional and international levels. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has improved on its work in crime prevention and criminal justice reform.<sup>47</sup> UNODC received additional funding for crime prevention and criminal justice projects from the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD).<sup>48</sup> In El Salvador, UNODC supported the launch of the Regional Centre of Excellence on Urban Crime Prevention.<sup>49</sup> Another regional project the UNODC is involved with is a "multi-sectoral local safety audit" in Colombia.<sup>50</sup> The purpose of this audit is to "serve as a basis to inform crime prevention policies, strategies and programmes."<sup>51</sup> Additionally, UNODC employed a project financed by the European Union, Sweden, Turkey, and the United States "to assist the Kyrgyz Government to

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<sup>42</sup> UN General Assembly, *General Assembly Adopts 68 Resolutions, 7 Decisions as it Takes Action on Reports of its Third Committee*, 2013.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid

<sup>44</sup> Ibid

<sup>45</sup> UN General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session, *Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (A/C.3/68/L.2)*, 2013.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid

<sup>47</sup> UNODC, *Crime Prevention Projects* [Website], 2014.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid

<sup>49</sup> Ibid

<sup>50</sup> Ibid

<sup>51</sup> Ibid

reform its penitentiary system.”<sup>52</sup> UNODC published “a new training module on Managing Prison Security and Intelligence” that was utilized in November 2013 to “train prison staff and prepare new recruits for service in the penitentiary system.”<sup>53</sup> Further developments on this matter were made in the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), a non-governmental organization (NGO) that focuses on crime prevention.<sup>54</sup> In November 2013, ICPC held mini-conferences on “The Difficulty of measuring crime” and “Judicial measures to combat domestic violence: the work of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research.”<sup>55</sup> On 15 January 2014, ICPC will conduct another mini-conference on “Smarter Crime Control.”<sup>56</sup>

In addition to developing new projects to adapt crime prevention and criminal justice systems to the changing world, regional and global successes and failures on this topic illustrate the necessity for continued progress in these areas. One such success was the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), which closed in December 2013 after 11 years of bringing justice to the victims of civil war crimes.<sup>57</sup> The Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone took its place in 2014.<sup>58</sup> The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and UN Legal Counsel Miguel de Serpa Soares praised SCSL as “a landmark, not only for the Special Court, but also for international criminal justice in general.”<sup>59</sup>

#### *Post-2015 Development Agenda*

Crime prevention and the criminal justice system and their development in a changing world are priorities of the post-2015 development agenda, as demonstrated by A/C.3/68/L.5 adopted by the Third Committee, “The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.”<sup>60</sup> The 13<sup>th</sup> United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will take place in Qatar in 2015 with the theme of “Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation.”<sup>61</sup>

#### **Conclusion**

This topic continues to grow in importance within many UN, regional, and other international organizations as new issues arise in a changing world. The Third Committee is tasked with discussing social and human rights topics such as crime prevention and the criminal justice system since it is the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee. These are global concerns that the Third Committee must address to prevent further social dilemmas and human rights abuses within crime prevention and the criminal justice system. A multitude of sources can be utilized to emphasize the work being done on this topic as it is on current and future agendas of multiple programs and organizations. It is vital for the UN and the international community to continue to develop new forms of crime prevention and strengthen criminal justice systems in order to keep up with a constantly evolving world and ensure the safety, justice, security and protection of human rights of all people.

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<sup>52</sup> UNODC, *Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic* [Website], 2014.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid

<sup>54</sup> International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, *About us: Presentation* [Website], 2014.

<sup>55</sup> International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, *Welcome* [Website], 2014.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid

<sup>57</sup> UN DPI, *As tribunal closes, UN chief hails achievements in ensuring accountability in Sierra Leone*, 2013.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid

<sup>59</sup> Ibid

<sup>60</sup> UN General Assembly, *General Assembly Adopts 68 Resolutions, 7 Decisions as it Takes Action on Reports of its Third Committee*, 2013.

<sup>61</sup> UNODC, *Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* [Website], 2014.

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*Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda are considerations that stretch across multiple political and functional areas in the international community. A heightened importance has been placed on reaching these goals as the deadline is quickly approaching. With the changing technology, it is important to assess the post-2015 agenda items in regards to crime prevention and criminal justice systems to ensure they are progressing with the changing times. This website gives background information on the creation of the post-2015 development agenda as well as future actions that need to be taken within this topic.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, December 6). *Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Report of the Third Committee (A/68/457)* [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/68/457>

*This is the Third Committee's Report on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the General Assembly in its 68<sup>th</sup> session. The report contains the texts and draft resolutions that were discussed in the Third Committee and eventually adopted by the General Assembly. It recalls previous resolutions adopted on this topic and requests follow-ups to previous agreements and implementations of programs and decisions. This resource provides delegates with pertinent information on the Third Committee's most recent actions and serves as a starting point for further research.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, December 18). *General Assembly Adopts 68 Resolutions, 7 Decisions as it Takes Action on Reports of its Third Committee* [Meeting Record]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2013/ga11475.doc.htm>

*This meeting record summarizes the actions of the Third Committee in the General Assembly's Sixty-eighth session. It outlines the 11 draft resolutions and one draft decision, pertaining to the report on "Crime prevention and criminal justice" that were adopted without a vote. It gives a brief summary of each draft resolution and draft decision and outlines where and when it was adopted. This is a good starting point for obtaining the subject matter discussed on this topic within the Third Committee and for obtaining document codes.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, October 1). *The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (A/C.3/68/L.5)* [Draft Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.3/68/L.5>

*This document highlights the specific actions to be taken by the Third Committee on this topic in regards to the post-2015 agenda. It also notes the significant previous developments on this topic. Furthermore, it defines the roles rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice play in the post-2015 agenda in the international community. This is a vital source for information on the post-2015 agenda and future actions on this topic.*

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2014). *Crime Prevention Projects* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/CrimePreventionProjects.html>

*UNODC works with multiple UN agencies and other organizations to address crime prevention and creates tools and models for the global community to utilize. UNODC has worked with numerous regions on crime prevention and criminal justice reform. This website summarizes some of the work UNODC has done in specific countries and outlines the programs and projects it has helped to implement in those countries. This resource provides delegates with examples of regions putting some of the suggestions made by the Third Committee and other organizations into action.*

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UN News Centre. (2013, November 25). *Corruption hobbles development, generates other crimes – senior UN official* [Article]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46579&Cr=Corruption&Cr1=#.UtNsxCe0bK0>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, December 6). *Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Report of the Third Committee (A/68/457)* [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/68/457>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, September 30). *Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (A/C.3/68/L.2)* [Draft Resolution]. Retrieved 30 January 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.3/68/L.2>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, December 18). *General Assembly Adopts 68 Resolutions, 7 Decisions as it Takes Action on Reports of its Third Committee* [Meeting Record]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2013/ga11475.doc.htm>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, October 1). *The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (A/C.3/68/L.5)* [Draft Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.3/68/L.5>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2014). *Crime Prevention Projects* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/CrimePreventionProjects.html>

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### III. Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women

#### *Introduction*

Recently, the international community has stepped up efforts to eliminate violence against women in several ways. State sponsored reports detailing the effects of violence on the economy and resulting strategies aimed at combating gender violence show promise in promoting these efforts and protecting the rights of women.<sup>62</sup> Furthermore, the recent launch of the UN-Women searchable database of constitutions from the lens shows that issues facing women in 17 different categories has been a promising step in helping Member States in efforts to codify provisions protecting women from violence and discrimination in areas such as education, reproductive rights, and labor.<sup>63</sup> However, according to the *Millennium Development Goals: 2013 Progress Chart*, more than half the measures of progress indicate that, if the current trends persist, progress will be insufficient to reach targets relating to Goal Three, the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.<sup>64</sup> With demonstrable links between development and the elimination of violence against women, addressing this issue will be of utmost importance if the international community wishes to achieve its targets outlined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

#### *Key Resolutions and Reports Adopted in the UN System*

The Third Committee, in its report, *Advancement of Women (A/68/449)*, recommended that the GA adopt the following draft resolutions: Violence against women migrant workers (A/C.3/68/L.22), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (A/C.3/68/L.23), Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/C.3/68/L.25), and *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/C.3/68/L.78)*.<sup>65</sup> Furthermore, the Second Committee, in its report, *Eradication of poverty and other development issues: women in development (A/68/442/Add.2)* recommended that the GA adopt its draft resolution, *Women in Development (A/C.2/68/L.7)*.<sup>66</sup> The work of each of these bodies to promote the eradication of violence against women has been important in intensifying efforts undertaken by Member States to do so at both regional and national levels.

Also in 2013, in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 65/187, the General Assembly adopted the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, titled *Pathways to, conditions and consequences of incarceration for women (A/68/340)*.<sup>67</sup> In this report, it is noted that “the undeniable link between violence and incarceration, and also the continuum of violence during and after incarceration, is a reality for many women globally.”<sup>68</sup> Many female prisoners, including those incarcerated in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, South Africa, and Macedonia, report partner abuse as the main contributing factor to the criminal acts for which they are now imprisoned.<sup>69</sup>

#### *Work of Specialized Agencies and Non-UN Entities*

The fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women is tentatively scheduled to take place from 10–21 March 2014, with its priority theme being Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls. In addition to this, the Commission will review the theme of its fifty-fifth session, Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women’s equal access to full employment and decent work.<sup>70</sup> The Commission will also review the agreed conclusions from its fifty-fifth session, including those regarding “Strengthening gender-sensitive quality

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<sup>62</sup> UN General Assembly, *Women in Development: Report of the Secretary General (A/68/271)*, 2013.

<sup>63</sup> UN Women, *UN Women launches first-ever database mapping gender provisions in constitutions worldwide*, 2013.

<sup>64</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Millennium Development Goals: 2013 Progress Chart* [Chart], 2014.

<sup>65</sup> UN General Assembly, *Advancement of Women: Report of the Third Committee (A/68/449)*, 2013.

<sup>66</sup> UN General Assembly, *Eradication of poverty and other development issues: women in development: Report of the Second Committee (A/68/442/Add.2)*, 2013.

<sup>67</sup> UN General Assembly, *Pathways to, conditions and consequences of incarceration for women: Note by the Secretary-General (A/68/340)*, 2013.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid

<sup>69</sup> Ibid

<sup>70</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, *CSW58 (2014)* [Website], 2014.

education and training, including in the field of science and technology” and increasing “retention and progression of women in science and technology employment”.<sup>71</sup>

UN-WOMEN launched a Constitutional Database in December 2013, which maps the rights of women around the world.<sup>72</sup> The searchable database covers the constitutions of all 195 Member States and allows researchers to view the rights of women housed under 17 different provisions, including employment, education, reproductive rights, and marriage/family life.<sup>73</sup> Its aim is to promote the adoption of “sound governance strategies that strengthen women’s rights and gender equality” by making this information easily accessible and widely available.<sup>74</sup>

### ***Recent Developments***

#### *The Relationship Between Violence against Women and Development*

The Report of the Secretary-General of 5 August 2013, *Women in Development (A/68/271)*, highlights key barriers facing women in fully contributing to development.<sup>75</sup> Practices such as the non-enforcement of labor standards have a detrimental impact on development because they increase the risk of workplace violence and harassment, particularly against women who may endure such conditions without reporting violence out of fear of losing their jobs.<sup>76</sup> The enforcement of minimum-wage standards, elimination of discriminatory wage practices, and the promotion of paid family leave for women are just some of the issues the international community is working to solve as a means of promoting development through the safe inclusion of women in the workforce.<sup>77</sup>

#### *Preventing and Responding to Violence against Women*

In December 2013, Zimbabwe launched its first comprehensive study on violence against women perpetrated by an intimate partner, with results revealing that 26% of Zimbabwe women faced violence by a partner from 2011 – 2012.<sup>78</sup> In addition to this, nearly 70% of women reported having faced some form of violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.<sup>79</sup> Most of the women interviewed also reported having faced multiple incidences of violence during that time period.<sup>80</sup> Notably, of the men interviewed, only 41% indicated that they had perpetuated violence against a female period in their lifetime.<sup>81</sup> This statistic, coupled with the reports indicating high underreporting of domestic violence despite the “strong legal framework for addressing violence against women” existent in Zimbabwe, demonstrate the need for multisectoral involvement in eliminating violence against women.<sup>82</sup> The information in this report has since been used by the government of Zimbabwe to guide its National Gender Based Violence Strategy, which was launched during the national commemoration of the 16 days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence.<sup>83</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

Violence perpetrated against women is concerning not only due to its human rights implications, but also because it diminishes the capacity of women to contribute to the economy. While recent efforts to eliminate violence against women are a great step in the right direction, the international community is far from reaching its goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women. As such, continued work on behalf of Member States to address issues such as violence perpetrated by intimate partners, the non-enforcement of labor codes, and the lack of adequate funding and availability of services to meet the needs of women facing violence and discrimination will be necessary if they hope to fully utilize the capacity women for economic development.

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<sup>71</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, *CSW58 (2014)* [Website], 2014.

<sup>72</sup> UN Women, *UN Women launches first-ever database mapping gender provisions in constitutions worldwide*, 2013.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid

<sup>74</sup> Ibid

<sup>75</sup> UN General Assembly, *Women in Development: Report of the Secretary General (A/68/271)*, 2013.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid

<sup>77</sup> Ibid

<sup>78</sup> UN Women, *New research paints poignant picture of intimate partner violence in Zimbabwe*, 2014.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid

<sup>80</sup> Gender Links, *Violence Against Women Baseline Study Zimbabwe* [Report], 2013.

<sup>81</sup> UN Women, *New research paints poignant picture of intimate partner violence in Zimbabwe*, 2014.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid

<sup>83</sup> Government of Zimbabwe, *Govt Launches national Gender Based Violence Strategy*, 2013.

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[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/271](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/271)

*This report details various means of promoting empowerment of women, including providing decent work for women, supporting unpaid care work, such as child rearing and homemaking, and providing social protection. It notes that the non-enforcement of labor standards causes a detriment to development as it promotes an increase risk of violence to women in the workplace. Finally, it discusses the implications of violence faced by women migrant workers, such as the reduction in remittances.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, August 21). *Pathways to, conditions and consequences of incarceration for women: Note by the Secretary-General (A/68/340)*. Retrieved 8 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/340](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/340)

*This report provides detailed information regarding the shortcomings in adherence to human rights, with a focus on incarcerated women. This report does a good job of detailing the issues incarcerated women face and how these issues differ from those faced by incarcerated men. With the rate of incarcerated women increasing every year, it will be necessary for States to determine which accommodations must be made to guarantee the protection of these women both during and after incarceration.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, December 9). *Advancement of Women: Report of the Third Committee (A/68/449)* [Report]. Retrieved 9 January 2014 from:

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/449](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/449)

*This report details the content and amendments of proposed draft resolutions put forward during several meetings of the Third Committee in its 68<sup>th</sup> session. Two draft resolutions covering issues faced by women in rural areas and women migrant workers are relevant to this topic as they relate to the elimination of violence faced by women in these two categories as a means of promoting development.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, December 9). *Eradication of poverty and other development issues: women in development: Report of the Second Committee (A/68/442/Add.2)*. Retrieved 9 January 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/442/Add.2](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/442/Add.2)

*This report provides information on the amendments made to the draft resolution entitled Women in Development, submitted by members of the Group of 77 and China at the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Second Committee during 58<sup>th</sup> session. Key components of the draft resolution contained in the report include the promotion and protection of women's rights in the workplace and the intensification of efforts to eradicate gender-based violence.*

UN Women. (2014, January 2). *New research paints poignant picture of intimate partner violence in Zimbabwe* [Press Release]. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/1/zimbabwe-evaw-baseline-study>

*This press release details key findings from the report produced by Gender Links, a Southern Africa NGO committed to the promotion of gender equality. The report, a baseline study of Intimate Partner Violence, has been essential to promoting social protection and equality of women in Zimbabwe. The Government of Zimbabwe went on to use this report to develop a national response plan for its National Gender-Based Violence Strategy.*

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