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UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME BACKGROUND GUIDE 2014

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



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THE 2014 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2014 National Model United Nations in New York (NMUN•NY) Conference and welcome to our committee, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Natalie Keller, Director for Conference A, studies law at the University of Bonn with a focus on private international law. This is her third year on staff. Samantha Winn, Director for Conference B, is pursuing an MS in Library and Information Science through Drexel University and works as the Archives Assistant for the University of Texas at Tyler. This is her second year on staff. Christopher McKenna, Assistant Director for Conference A, is currently completing his Master of Public Health concentrating in International Health in January 2014 at Boston University. He recently began an internship with the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) - Emergency and Humanitarian Action (EHA). Asra Shakoor is the Assistant Director for Conference B and working towards her BA in Politics and International Relations at Royal Holloway, University of London, where she is a senior Student Ambassador.

This year's topics under discussion for UNEP are:

- I. Transformation to a Green Economy: Challenges for Transportation Worldwide
- II. Management of Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste
- III. Facilitating South-South Cooperation for Environmental Capacity Building

UNEP is the United Nations System's foremost body for addressing environmental issues such as climate change, disaster management, clean energy standards, and sustainable consumption of natural resources. Your work will affect the lives and well-being of people across the globe. Accordingly, we encourage you to approach your work during the Conference with this global framework in mind.

At NMUN-NY 2014, we will simulate the United Nations Environment Assembly of the UNEP, formerly the Governing Council, which will be one of the first simulations of the newly mandated governing body of UNEP. For the purposes of NMUN-NY 2014, and in line with the educational mission of the conference, the committee has the ability to make programmatic and policy decisions on issues and topics within the mandate of UNEP in line with the overall function of the organization.

This background guide will provide a brief introduction to the work of UNEP and the topics at hand. However, it should only be considered a starting point for your Conference preparation. We encourage you to further research each topic, both to develop your country's unique perspective and to understand the range of collaborative solutions that UNEP might pursue. The research done on these topics will assist you in the writing of the [Position Paper](#). The position paper provides you with an opportunity to discuss each topic from the perspective of the country you are representing. Please be sure to pay close attention to the formatting requirements for your position paper. For additional information on [NMUN policies](#), please refer to the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#).

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, feel free to contact the UNEP Directors or the Under-Secretaries-General for the Department of Development, Harald Eisenhauer (Conference A) and Kristina Getty (Conference B) at usg.development@nmun.org. We wish you all the best for your preparation for NMUN•NY 2014 and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Sincerely,

Conference A

Natalie Keller, *Director*

Christopher McKenna, *Assistant Director*

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Conference B

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Asra Shakoor, *Assistant Director*

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NMUN•NY Position Paper Guidelines

Due 1 March 2014

Each committee topic should be addressed in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned country, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), or expert role. You should identify and address international and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action that are relevant to the policy of your country or NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. A delegate's role as a Member State, Observer State, or NGO should affect the way a position paper is written. To understand these differences, please refer to the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#). It may also be helpful to view a [Sample Position Paper](#).

A position paper should be submitted for each assigned committee.

- The two page position paper should cover all the topics in the background guide, not a separate paper for each topic.
- Do not submit papers for committees not assigned to your country/NGO (see matrix for [Conf. A](#) or [Conf. B](#)).
- No more than two delegates can represent a single country/NGO in a committee. If you assign two delegates to represent a country/NGO on a committee, they submit one position paper jointly, not separate position papers from each individual.

Please pay careful attention to the following guidelines when drafting and submitting your position papers. Only those delegations that follow the guidelines and meet the submission deadline will be eligible for [position paper awards](#).

All papers must be typed and formatted according to the standards below:

- Length must not exceed two pages
- Margins must be set at 1 inch or 2.54 cm. for the whole paper
- Font must be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Country/NGO name, school name, and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page
- Agenda topics must be clearly labeled in separate sections
- National symbols (headers, flags, etc.) are deemed inappropriate for NMUN position papers

Please note that position papers must be comprised of entirely original writing. **The NMUN Conference will not tolerate plagiarism**, including copying from Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy may result in dismissal from the conference. Although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents.

How to Submit Your Position Papers

Position papers need to be submitted by email in .pdf or .doc formats. As proof of submission, include yourself as an email recipient. Please use the committee name, your assignment, Conference A or B, and delegation/school name in both the email subject line and in the filename (example: GA1_Cuba_Conf A_State College).

1. Send one complete set of all position papers for each of your country/NGO assignments to the Deputy Secretary-General for the conference you are attending:

Conference A: positionpapers.nya@nmun.org

Conference B: positionpapers.nyb@nmun.org

2. Send a copy of your position paper for each assigned committee to the corresponding committee email address listed on the [Committee Background Guides page](#).

Your delegation may wish to submit a copy of their position papers to the permanent mission of the country/NGO headquarters along with an explanation of the conference. This is encouraged if requesting a [briefing](#). Many, many papers will be read by the Secretariat. Your patience and cooperation in adhering to the above guidelines is greatly appreciated.

Abbreviations

BAPA	Buenos Aires Plan of Action
BSP	Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building
CAMRE	Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CLA	Country Lighting Assessments
EEMG	Environment Management Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEI	Green Economy Initiative
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GFEI	Global Fuel Economy Initiative
HELI	Health and Environment Linkages Initiative
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICCM	International Conference on Chemicals Management
IEG	International environmental governance
IGO	Intergovernmental organizations
ILAC	Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOMC	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
JPOI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Multilateral environmental agreements
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-governmental organizations
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCFV	Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles
PGA	President of the General Assembly
POP	Persistent organic pollutants
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SCP	Sustainable Cities Programme
SSC	South-South cooperation
UN	United Nations
UNCCC	United Nations Climate Change Conferences
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
UNTT	United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Committee History

Introduction

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is “the voice” for the environment in the United Nations (UN).¹ UNEP is a specialized programme that coordinates environmental activities at both an international level and a local level to “promote [and protect] international co-operation in the field of the environment.”² Recent restructuring of the UNEP Governing Council has positioned the body to better fill this role.³ In 2014, UNEP will implement projects across several priority themes, including climate change, disasters and conflict, and ecosystem management.⁴

UNEP falls into a category of entities within the UN system identified as “programmes and funds.” Programmes and funds are a type of entity within the UN system which is controlled by separate and distinct intergovernmental bodies, i.e. a body comprised of Member States, which derives “most of their financial resources from sources other than United Nations budgets.”⁵ Further, programmes are much more “operational and carried out at field level, they have needs dictated by an environment quite different from that of headquarters-centered administrations.”⁶

Mandate

The General Assembly recommended the establishment of UNEP at the UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden, in June 1972.⁷ The General Assembly adopted resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which established UNEP as the foremost environmental body of the UN.⁸ With this resolution, UNEP was mandated to promote international environmental cooperation, guide the creation of environmental policies, review reports of the Executive Director, monitor the global environment in order to highlight problems, transfer scientific knowledge where needed, assist developing countries with any further aid they require, and review and approve the annual program on the allocation of the Environment Fund, which is the main source of funding for UNEP.⁹ The UNEP Secretariat established its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, where the Secretariat gains a prime understanding of the difficult nature of environmental issues facing developing countries.¹⁰

Since its creation, UNEP’s mandate has been revisited, reaffirmed, and amended several times. The most significant of these changes to the mandate come from Agenda 21, adopted in 1992 by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the *Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted by the UNEP Governing Council in its decision 19/1*.¹¹ *Agenda 21* (1992) outlines strategies for incorporating sustainable development into the twenty-first century, which is significant to UNEP’s mandate as it ensured an environmental conscience was associated with social and economic developments worldwide.¹² Despite this particular adjustment to the mandate, UNEP still lacked clarity as to what role the program played in the global environmental field; there were few successful operations and the committee

¹ UN Environment Programme, *What UNEP Does* [Website].

² UN General Assembly, *Institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation (A/RES/2997(XXVII))* [Resolution], 1972.

³ UN Environment Programme, *United Nations Environment Programme Upgraded to Universal Membership Following Rio+20 Summit* [Website], 2012.

⁴ UN Environment Programme Governing Council, *Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters (UNEP/GC.27/10)*, 2012.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ UN Environment Programme, *UNEP and the Green Economy-Four Decades in Development* [Website], 2012; UN General Assembly, *Institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation (A/RES/2997(XXVII))* [Resolution], 1972.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ UN Environment Programme, *United Nations Environment Programme Organization Profile*, 2006, p. 3.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 8-20.

¹¹ United Nations, *UN Conference on Environment and Development (1992)* [Website], 1997; UN Environment Programme, *1997-Nairobi Declaration redefines and strengthens UNEP’s role and mandate*; UN Environment Programme, *Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme (19/1)*, 1997.

¹² UN Conference on Environment and Development, *Agenda 21: Programme of Action for Sustainable Development*, 1992.

was not strong.¹³ This resulted in the Nairobi Declaration, which redefined and strengthened UNEP's role and mandate, being adopted.¹⁴ *One of the most important outcomes of the Declaration is the confirmation of UNEP's position as the principal UN body with global environmental authority.*¹⁵ The Declaration expanded UNEP's mandate, emphasizing the promotion of international cooperation and coordination through sharing scientific knowledge and further developing international law by ensuring international agreements were fully implemented. Given this mandate, UNEP's current mission is "to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations."¹⁶

UNEP is funded from a range of voluntary sources, including the UN Regular Budget, the Environment Fund, the General Trust Fund, the Technical Cooperation Trust Funds, Earmarked (Counterpart) Contributions (CPL), other Earmarked Contributions and Other Trust Funds.¹⁷ Non-governmental donors including individuals and the private sector also play an important role in financially supporting UNEP.¹⁸

Governance, Structure, and Membership

The structure of UNEP is as follows:

- United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (previously called Governing Council);
- Secretariat;
- Environment Fund (voluntary);
- Committee of Permanent Representatives.¹⁹

When originally created, UNEP was governed by the Governing Council, which consisted of 58 members.²⁰ In 2012, the Governing Council was expanded to include all Member States, an important step for UNEP.²¹ As previously highlighted by Secretary-General Ban-Ki-Moon, universal membership "reflects [UNEP's] key role as a policy making forum on the environmental dimension of sustainable development."²² The Governing Council held its first universal session in February 2013, inviting the General Assembly to consider renaming the Governing Council as the "United Nations Environment Assembly of the UNEP" (UNEA); the General Assembly approved this recommendation by adopting resolution 67/251 of 13 March 2013.²³ Beginning in 2014, UNEA will meet biennially to set the global environment agenda, provide policy guidance on emerging challenges, and set the tone for the future of UNEP.²⁴ The UNEA Bureau serves as the UNEP Secretariat responsible for logistics; the bureau is comprised of a president, three vice-presidents, and a rapporteur.²⁵ UNEP is divided into six thematic sub-programs: Climate Change, Disasters and Conflicts, Ecosystem Management, Environmental Governance, Harmful Substances, and Resource Efficiency.²⁶

¹³ UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to the 1996 review of the programme and administrative practices of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/54/817)* [Note], 2000.

¹⁴ UN Environment Programme, *United Nations Environment Programme Organization Profile*, p.11; UN Environment Programme, *1997-Nairobi Declaration redefines and strengthens UNEP's role and mandate* [Website].

¹⁵ UN Environment Programme, *1997-Nairobi Declaration redefines and strengthens UNEP's role and mandate* [Website].

¹⁶ UN Environment Programme, *What UNEP Does* [Website].

¹⁷ UN Environment Programme, *Africa* [Website].

¹⁸ UN Environment Programme, *Financing of UNEP* [Website].

¹⁹ UN Environment Programme, *UNEP Governance Structure* [Website].

²⁰ UN General Assembly, *Institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation (A/RES/2997(XXVII))* [Resolution], 1972.

²¹ UN Environment Programme, *United Nations Environment Programme Upgraded to Universal Membership Following Rio+20 Summit* [Website], 2012.

²² UN Secretary-General, *Message to 27th Session of the UNEP Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum*, 2013.

²³ UN General Assembly, *Change of the designation of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/RES/67/251)* [Resolution], 2013.

²⁴ UN Environment Programme, *UNEP Governance Structure* [Website].

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ UN Environment Programme, *About* [Website].

Functions and Powers

UNEP accomplishes its mission through the promotion of international cooperation and by recommending appropriate environmental policies.²⁷ UNEP does this by monitoring the status of the global environment, recognizing emerging trends, and coordinating between UN bodies and other environmental ministries to produce appropriate solutions for the issues.²⁸ An example of UNEP's monitoring work is its partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF).²⁹ The GEF supports global environmental issues and aids countries by providing financial assistance and policy recommendations to implement multilateral environmental agreements.³⁰ UNEP acts as an implementing agency for the GEF along with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.³¹ UNEP also supplies expert scientific assessments that link to environmental policy.³²

Additionally, UNEP promotes sustainable development as the secretariat for the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (10YFP) (2012).³³ With this particular role, UNEP is in charge of establishing a trust fund to support the implementation of certain environmentally sustainable projects in developing countries.³⁴ UNEP is currently preparing to lead a review of the African 10-Year Framework Programme during the regional multi-stakeholder meeting on sustainable consumption and production in Africa to be held in Tunisia in September 2013.³⁵

Recent Sessions

With UNEP's foundation, the body has managed to progress work on many environmental issues. Among UNEP's most recent achievements is its success at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) in 2012, where Member States agreed to transition towards a green economy by improving human well-being and social equity while maintaining an environmental conscience.³⁶ UNEP has recently released its fifth edition of the Global Environment Outlook project (GEO), a series of reports released by UNEP that contain the latest assessments of environmental trends and outlooks.³⁷ These reports provide scientific research and analysis to shape future environmental policies and promote a more sustainable world.³⁸ The fifth edition of the Global Environment Outlook report, GEO-5 (2012), was launched in Brazil in time for the Rio+20 conference.³⁹ Targets from this report include increasing renewable energy use, preventing the use of harmful chemicals, and ensuring that global temperatures increase by less than 2°C.⁴⁰ Accordingly, UNEP is collaborating with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to develop a Global Chemicals Outlook report to minimize the risk of hazardous substances by promoting best practices for the use and disposal of chemicals.⁴¹

Beyond the green economy, UNEP has focused on promoting the participation of indigenous groups and youth.⁴² UNEP recently participated in the Forum on Gender and the Environment on 17 February 2013.⁴³ Women ministers, deputy ministers, government representatives, UN agencies, and civil society gathered at the conference to exchange concerns and opportunities over several themes including gender and the environment in the post-2015 development

²⁷ UN Environment Programme, *What UNEP Does* [Website].

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ UN Environment Programme, *Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination (DGEF)* [Website].

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ UN Environment Programme, *About UNEP in the GEF* [Website].

³² *Ibid.*

³³ UN Environment Programme, *What is the 10YFP?* [Website].

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ UN Environment Programme, *Regional SCP Events* [Website].

³⁶ UN Environment Programme, *Inclusive Green Economy Given Go Ahead by Heads of State at Rio+20* [Website], 2012.

³⁷ UN Environment Programme, *ABOUT GEO* [Website], 2013.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ UN Environment Programme, *Annual Report 2012, 2013*, p. 7.

⁴⁰ UN Environment Programme, *Keeping Track of Our Changing Environment: From Rio to Rio+20 (1992-2012)*, 2011, p. viii.

⁴¹ UN Environment Programme, *Global Chemicals Outlook-GCO* [Website].

⁴² UN Environment Programme, *Recognising and Strengthening the Role of Indigenous People and Their Communities* [Website]; UN Environment Programme, *Who we are* [Website].

⁴³ UN Environment Programme, *The First Universal Session of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum* [Website], 2013.

agenda.⁴⁴ Facilitating South-South cooperation will also be discussed in the Sixty-eighth General Assembly session as one of the three high-level events.⁴⁵ UNEP will continue to focus on the Post-2015 development framework and goals.⁴⁶

Conclusion

The expansion of UNEP's Governing Council to a full plenary demonstrates the universal impact of environmental issues. In the coming year, UNEP promises to be heavily involved with environmental issues across the UN system. Its continued success, however, will depend on international commitment to the environment and adequate funding for the environment at large as well as the body.

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations Environment Programme. (2006, June 26). *United Nations Environment Programme Organization Profile*. Retrieved 30 June 2013 from: <http://www.unep.org/PDF/UNEPOrganizationProfile.pdf>

This is the most important source on the basic structure of UNEP. From its founding to its funding sources, this source covers all immediate queries related to UNEP and is an insightful source for delegates to further learn about UNEP. By highlighting this source, delegates will have a source to answer their queries on the powers, funding, and partnerships of UNEP that will be useful when writing their position papers.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2012). *UNEP and the Green Economy-Four Decades in Development*. [Website]. Retrieved 17 June 2013 from: <http://www.unep.org/40thAnniversary/milestones/1972-1982.asp>

This page on the main achievements and events of UNEP in the past 40 years will be beneficial for delegates, especially considering recent new milestones. This website provides information on the most significant actions carried out by the committee. Delegates will be able to thus refer to this website in order to review previous UNEP actions, alliances, and positions on the topics of the committee.

United Nations Development Programme, Office for South-South Cooperation. (2013, June 14). *68th PGA Elect Stresses South-South Cooperation* [Article]. Retrieved 19 June 2013 from:

http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/news/articles/2013/68th_pga_elect_stressessouth-southcooperation.html

This article will be of great use to delegates since it highlights the importance of South-South cooperation. The emphasis on South-South cooperation iterates the importance of this topic within UNEP. This source states that the General Assembly must take bold steps to succeed and represent the entire international community in doing so. This website will guide delegates into the kinds of achievements they should be aiming for throughout the conference.

United Nations, General Assembly, Twenty-seventh session. (1972, December 15). *Institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation (A/RES/2997(XXVII))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 30 June 2013 from:

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/2997\(XXVII\)&Lang=E&Area=RESOLUTION](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/2997(XXVII)&Lang=E&Area=RESOLUTION)

This resolution created the UNEP committee. It is useful as it details the original purpose and philosophy behind the creation of UNEP. One limitation is that the structure of UNEP as proposed in this meeting has since altered and there may be other sources delegates must refer to in order to understand the existing structure of UNEP. Delegates can refer to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and General Assembly Resolution 67/251 of 26 March 2013 for updated documents on UNEP's mandate.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-seventh session. (2013, March 13). *Change of the designation of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/RES/67/251)*. [Resolution]. Without reference

⁴⁴ UN Environment Programme, *GC Today* [Website], 2013.

⁴⁵ UN Development Programme, *68th PGA Elect Stresses South-South Cooperation* [Website], 14 June 2013.

⁴⁶ UN Environment Programme, *Keeping Track of Our Changing Environment: From Rio to Rio+20 (1992-2012)*, 2011, p. 58

to a Main Committee (A/67/784). Retrieved 2 September 2013 from:
http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/251

This document is highly relevant as it records the event that marked the universal Governing Council being renamed as UNEA. This transition signifies the importance of the upgrade of UNEP to a full plenary. Delegates should make use of this document as it coherently explains the transformation of the committee and is the most recent official document in regards to this change.

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Think Eat Save. (2013). *About the Campaign* [Website]. Retrieved 29 September 2013 from: <http://www.thinkeatsave.org/index.php/about>

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United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Africa* [Website]. Retrieved 29 September 2013 from: <http://www.unep.org/10yfp/Activities/RegionalActivities/Africa/tabid/106469/language/en-US/Default.aspx#.UivVwZVSNc9>

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. (1992). *Agenda 21: Programme of Action for Sustainable Development*. Adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 – 14 June 1992. Retrieved 29 September 2013 from: <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=52&ArticleID=49&l=en>

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination (DGEF)* [Website]. Retrieved 29 September 2013 from: <http://www.unep.org/dgef/AboutUNEPGEF/tabid/54444/Default.aspx>

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I. Transformation to a Green Economy: Challenges for Transportation Worldwide

“We need to invent a new model — a model that offers growth and social inclusion — a model that is more respectful of the planet’s finite resources. That is why I have made sustainable development my number one priority. Our hopes for future prosperity, health and stability rest on finding a path that integrates the economic, social and environmental pillars of development.”⁴⁷

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) has declared its commitment to sustainable development because of the growing strain on the environment from increased development and unmonitored growth.⁴⁸ As economies develop, there is an increased dependence on fossil fuels and fossil fuel based forms of transport.⁴⁹ As of 2009, transportation accounted for 19% of global energy use and 23% of energy-related carbon dioxide production, but it is expected to grow to 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050.⁵⁰ UN bodies have continually reaffirmed the importance of sustainable development and the need for the transformation to a green economy, but also recognize the challenges faced, such as the increased cost of sustainable practices versus traditional practices, particularly in developing economies.⁵¹ While there is a continuing debate as to what defines a green economy, the underlying principle is to continually evaluate the effects and consequences of development practices on the rest of the environment.⁵² The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) defines a *green economy* as one that “results in improved human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.”⁵³ A green economy encompasses many sectors and while each is interconnected, transport spans all areas of development. The UNEP promotes sustainable development, which includes green transport, through a series of initiatives and programs. Additionally, efforts taken by Member States and UN organizations promote sustainable transport, but it is challenging to allow the rest of the economy to develop without unlimited access to transport as it is currently utilized.

The inaugural meeting of the United Nations Environmental Assembly provides a new forum that allows all Member States to voice their concerns and offer strategies on sustainable development. This forum allows for further discussion on the transformation to a green economy and will not only have extensive environmental impacts but will also have economic impacts through the creation and expansion of green industries.⁵⁴ Transportation is an essential part of this transformation, but there are many challenges faced within the sector, particularly with the correlation between development and transportation.⁵⁵ Steps taken by the UN and its affiliated organizations such as the Green Economy Initiative (GEI) and the Global Fuel Economy Initiative (GFEI) promote and assist in the development of sustainable improvements within the transport sector, but there are still many challenges to be addressed and steps to be taken during the transition to a green economy.

International Framework

Sustainable development is defined as: “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”⁵⁶ The three main resolutions that promote sustainable development are *Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development* (A/RES/67/2013); *Protection of global climate for present and future of mankind* (A/RES/67/210); and *Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy* (A/RES/67/215). Resolution 67/2013

⁴⁷ UN Secretary-General, *Press Conference by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on Rio+20*, 2012.

⁴⁸ UN General Assembly, *The future we want* (A/RES/66/288) [Resolution], 2012.

⁴⁹ Rodrigue, *The Geography of Transport Systems*, 2013, p. 206-227.

⁵⁰ International Energy Agency, *Transport, Energy and CO₂: Moving toward Sustainability*, 2009, pp. 29-41.

⁵¹ UN General Assembly, *Nusa Dua Declaration* (A/65/25), 2010.

⁵² Cato, *Green Economics: An Introduction to Theory, Policy and Practice*, 2008.

⁵³ UNEP, *UNEP – Green Economy – Frequently Asked Questions* [Website].

⁵⁴ UNEP, *Green Economy and Trade – Trends, Challenges and Opportunities*, 2013, pp. 31-42.

⁵⁵ UN Economic Commission for Europe, *Working Together for Sustainable and Healthy Transport*, 2008, pp. 4-7.

⁵⁶ UNEP, *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*, 2011, p. 17.

encourages a continued commitment to *Agenda 21* and references the outcome document from Rio+20.⁵⁷ This resolution provides a compressive overview of the continued commitment to sustainable development. Resolution 67/210 highlights the need to protect the climate and challenges currently faced while acknowledging the need for developing countries to take the lead in combating climate change.⁵⁸ Further, Resolution 67/215 highlights the need to convert what to renewable energy sources, with particular relevance for transportation and the need for affordable, socially acceptable, and environmentally sound energy sources that take into account the needs of developing countries.⁵⁹ These resolutions highlight the continued commitment to sustainable development through the encouragement of further discussion and provision of venues for these discussions to occur.

The annual United Nations Climate Change Conferences (UNCCC) provide a forum for Member States, Observers, and non-governmental organizations (NGO) to discuss strategies that will be implemented to minimize the effects of climate change and outline strategies. While the UNCCC provides a forum for discussion about climate change, the UNEA will offer a forum for the discussion of both broad topics and specific topics in relation to sustainable practices and protection of the environment. Creation of a green economy is dependent on cooperation at national, subnational, local, and interagency levels.⁶⁰ An integral part of a green economy is the promotion and development of green transport. Green transport is defined as:

“Green transport is hereby defined as one that supports **environmental** sustainability through e.g. the protection of the global climate, ecosystems, public health and natural resources. It also supports the other pillars of sustainable development, namely **economic** (affordable, fair and efficient transport that supports a sustainable competitive economy as well as balanced regional development and the creation of decent jobs) and **social** (e.g. allowing the basic access and development needs of individuals, companies and society to be met safely and in a manner consistent with human and ecosystem health, and promoting poverty reduction and equity within and between successive generations).”⁶¹

The UN has taken action over the past four decades to address climate change issues and the role of sustainable development. The 1972 Conference on Human Development declared 26 principles that led to the creation of UNEP and formed the basis for green economy principles.⁶² Cooperation for the creation of a green economy in its current iteration originated at the UN Conference on Environment and Development with the adoption of the action plan, *Agenda 21*, which promotes the development of a sustainable economy across all sectors.⁶³ Further agreements that address green economy are: the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the associated protocols, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), *The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships* (2009), and the *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships* (2012).⁶⁴ These documents provide a broad overview of transport industry specific, and sustainable development practices.

Conventions such as the *Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships* (2009) outline steps that should be taken to ensure that the current shipping fleet does not further damage the environment after their service life, as well as recommendations for future designs to make recycling at the end of their service life environmentally sound.⁶⁵ The *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships* (MARPOL) sets standards and outlines measures that should be taken to prevent excess pollution as a result of

⁵⁷ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/RES/67/203)* [Resolution], 2012.

⁵⁸ UN General Assembly, *Protection of global climate for present and future of mankind (A/RES/67/210)* [Resolution], 2012.

⁵⁹ UN General Assembly, *Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/RES/67/215)* [Resolution], 2012.

⁶⁰ Brande, Happaerts, & Bruyninckx, *Multi-level interactions in a sustainable development context: different routes for Flanders to decision-making in the UN commission on sustainable development*, 2011, p. 70-82.

⁶¹ European Conference of Ministers of Transport, *Assessment and decision making for sustainable transport*, 2004.

⁶² UNEP, *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment*, 1972.

⁶³ UN Conference on Environment and Development, *Agenda 21: Programme of Action for Sustainable Development*, 1992.

⁶⁴ UN International Maritime Organization, *The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships*, 2009; UN International Maritime Organization, *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships*, 2012

⁶⁵ UN International Maritime Organization, *The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships*, 2009.

shipping.⁶⁶ The Emissions trading system, being put forward by the European Union and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), utilizes the “cap and trade” principle to limit the amount of greenhouse gasses produced by the aviation industry.⁶⁷

The *Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer* (1985) is one of the first conventions focusing on climate change to achieve universal ratification by all Member States.⁶⁸ However, the Convention only encourages Member States to establish protocols to meet established goals, without requiring concrete measures to address ozone-depleting substances.⁶⁹ The associated protocols include the Montreal Protocol and the Kyoto Protocol. The Montreal Protocol encourages Member States to discontinue the production of ozone-depleting substances and implement programs to move away from the use of ozone-depleting substances.⁷⁰ The Kyoto Protocol aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by a set percentage over time.⁷¹ These documents are guiding principles in work undertaken to promote green transport because the goal of green transportation is to provide appropriate transport while promoting environmental sustainability.

Many practices and discussions around the need for sustainable development and green transport refer to the theory of business as usual. This is the practice of utilizing existing practices without any change to policies or methods.⁷² Current transportation patterns are unsustainable under business as usual practices and should serve as an impetus for the development of green transport policies.⁷³

Role of the United Nations System

UNEP leads the Green Economy Initiative (GEI), which promotes the development of a green economy, provides a working definition of “green economy,” oversees a range of research to promote the development of a green economy, and administers advisory services.⁷⁴ UNEP also promotes a series of programs and initiatives that involve transport. These include: the “Global Fuel Economy Initiative” (GFEI), the “Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles” (PCFV), public transport, and non-motorized transport.⁷⁵ The GFEI promotes vehicle efficiency worldwide, provides technical assistance to develop policies, and facilitate discussion between stakeholders.⁷⁶ The PCFV has led a successful campaign to phase out leaded gasoline; only 6 out of 82 countries were identified in 2002 for still using leaded or partially leaded fuel.⁷⁷

Each mode of transportation is grouped with similar modes and addressed by a UN agency specializing in policy and development specific to that mode. For example, the main modes of transportation are (1) land transport, including commercial trade and public and (2) private transport of persons, air transport, and marine transport. The World Trade Organization (WTO) addresses the broad topic of trade and the instruments of trade. Many forms of land, air, and sea transportation are instruments of trade, and the WTO provides a forum to handle trade disputes, monitor trade policies, and provide technical assistance for developing economies.⁷⁸ The ICAO sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency, and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection.⁷⁹ Maritime transport and trade fall under the responsibility of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The IMO provides a forum for cooperation between Member States on the topics of regulations and practices relating to shipping engaged in international trade, and the promotion and adoption of safety, security, and efficiency standards in international maritime trade and transport.⁸⁰ The mandate of the World Bank “promotes long-term economic development and poverty reduction by providing technical and financial support to help

⁶⁶ UN International Maritime Organization, *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships*, 2012.

⁶⁷ European Union, *The EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) – Policies*, [Website]

⁶⁸ UNEP, *The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer*, 1985.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ UNEP, *Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer*, 1987.

⁷¹ UNFCCC, *Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1998.

⁷² UNEP, *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*, 2011, p.376-411.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ UNEP, *UNEP-Green Economy-What is GEI?* [Website].

⁷⁵ UNEP, *UNEP-Transport*, [Website]

⁷⁶ Global Fuel Economy Initiative, *Global Fuel Economy Initiative | About Home* [Website].

⁷⁷ UNEP, *Global Elimination of Leaded Petrol*, 2011.

⁷⁸ World Trade Organization, *What is the WTO? – Who we are* [Website].

⁷⁹ International Civil Aviation Organization, *ICAO in Brief* [Website].

⁸⁰ International Maritime Organization, *History of IMO* [Website].

countries reform particular sectors or implement specific projects—for example, building schools and health centers, providing water and electricity, fighting disease, and protecting the environment”.⁸¹ The World Bank provides technical assistance and suggestions on the development of green practices, particularly in relation to aviation and aviation industry practices.⁸²

Current Patterns

Current patterns such as the increased dependence on fossil fuels and the growth of the aviation sector in developing countries will lead to an exponential growth in carbon emissions over the next forty years.⁸³ These estimates on carbon emissions are based on the business as usual scenario, without investment in, or modification of transport practices.⁸⁴ The UNEP promotes the “*avoid-shift-improve*” strategy for transformation to green transport.⁸⁵ This strategy encourages the adoption of strategies that avoid the use of emission intensive transport, the shift to non-motorized methods of transportation, and the improvement of existing methods in line with green transport guidelines.⁸⁶ To understand how UNEP promotes this strategy, it is beneficial to understand each step. The implementation of “avoid” includes taking actions to avoid the use of emission intensive transport, such as promoting the use of teleconferencing and telecommuting.⁸⁷ While they do not provide technical support, the UNEP provides examples of practices that can be implemented that reduce the demand for transport. “Shift” can include the development of intelligent public transportation systems and the expansion of existing networks to encourage the use of public transit versus personal motorized transport.⁸⁸ “Improve” includes the adoption of renewable energy sources and the use of alternative fuels.⁸⁹ Investment in green transportation will not only reduce carbon emissions but will impact across multiple sectors and the overall well-being of the population.⁹⁰ Traffic accidents and the associated trauma are a leading source of mortality in both developed, and to a larger extent, developing countries.⁹¹ The reduction of dependence on personally operated vehicles, and the increased utilization of public transport networks could reduce the overall amount of traffic accidents.

Air transport, while historically not a significant contributor to carbon emissions, is steadily growing sector, particularly in developing countries.⁹² While there have been significant steps taken in relation to green practices in aviation, it is likely that fossil fuels will remain the primary source of energy within the aviation industry through 2035.⁹³ The environmental impact of the aviation industry has been debated since the introduction of jetliners, but these concerns have been met with criticism due to the increased costs associated with new technology and green aviation.⁹⁴ Recent trends in aviation development have acknowledged the importance of efficient and green designs as a way to increase profits and reduce carbon emissions, but due to the long lifespan of aircraft, full implementation will take a significant amount of time.⁹⁵ While new aircraft designs incorporate many green technologies, a significant portion of the current transport fleet do not possess these technologies, which are now being addressed by improvements being offered by the original manufacturers and other companies.⁹⁶ Significant progress has been made on the development of sustainable aviation fuels, but it is still currently necessary to utilize small portion of fossil fuels. The UNEP promotes these practices indirectly through the GEI.

Marine transport plays a key role in global trade, carrying more than 90% of world trade by volume.⁹⁷ While marine transport produces less carbon emissions per kilogram than air or land transport, it is still a considerable contributor

⁸¹ International Monetary Fund, World Bank, *Factsheet – The IMF and the World Bank*, [Website].

⁸² World Bank, *Air Transport and Energy Efficiency*, 2012, p. 20.

⁸³ Rodrigue, *The Geography of Transport Systems*, 2013, pp. 206-227.

⁸⁴ UNEP, *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*, 2011, pp. 376-411.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ World Health Organization, *Global Health Risks: Mortality and Burden of Disease Attributed to Selected Major Risks*, 2009.

⁹² World Bank, *Air Transport and Energy Efficiency*, 2012, p. 20.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Agarwal, *Recent Advances in Aircraft Technology – Review of Technologies to Achieve Sustainable Green Aviation*, 2012.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ UNEP, *Green Economy in a Blue World Synthesis Report*, 2012, p. 40

to carbon emissions.⁹⁸ The joint IMO-UNEP report, *Green Economy in a Blue World*, highlights the need for greening maritime transport, and provides economic and environmental arguments that support sustainable practices in maritime transport.⁹⁹

Land transport is the most accessible form of transport that citizens encounter and are likely to operate themselves. Land transport includes personally operated vehicles such as cars or motorcycles, commercial vehicles including trucks and trains, as well as public transportation such as light rail, trains, busses. Land transport is addressed by the WTO, World Bank, and the UNEP. With business continuing as usual, the global vehicle fleet will likely multiply three to four times in the next few decades.¹⁰⁰ This increase will include personal vehicles and commercial vehicles. While the increase of personal vehicles is a byproduct of development, investment in non-highway transport infrastructure can offset the increase in personal traffic with improved public transit options.¹⁰¹

Challenges

The primary challenges facing transportation in the transformation to a green economy are a lack of universal cooperation, unsustainable trends, and a limited amount of natural resources.¹⁰² The lack of cooperation is highlighted by the 2009 UN Climate Change conference and the failure to formally adopt the Copenhagen Accord.¹⁰³ As discussed in current trends, the level of economic development occurring in developing and developed countries cannot be sustained due to the limited amount of natural resources and the level of carbon based emissions being released.

The dependence on motorized transport is a shift from human powered transport, and while the utilization of powered transport does provide many new opportunities for development, the move away from human power transport increases carbon dioxide emissions.¹⁰⁴ Developing countries have the infrastructure and mechanisms in place to promote the shift to green transport methods, but some developing countries lack the resources to support these transformations.

A significant challenge faced while moving forward with the development of a green economy is the lack of universal cooperation, which became evident at the 2009 UN Climate Change Conference held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The conference produced the *Copenhagen Accord*, which was not adopted on the final day of the conference. The Copenhagen Accord endorsed the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol and reiterated the importance of climate change as a challenge of the current world.¹⁰⁵ The failure to adopt the *Copenhagen Accord* highlights the need for cooperation as well as the importance of fair representation of all Member States. Due to the variety of conditions faced, any recommendations should be broad and provide resources to support less developed states while taking into account the challenging local conditions.

Conclusion

While this topic can be challenging, delegates should remember that it allows for cooperation and collaboration for lasting impact. This topic has been discussed for more than three decades, but the inaugural meeting of this body in its current iteration allows for existing strategies to be reexamined with all Member States present. The global economy will not transform without meaningful input from all Member States, and while transportation is a broad topic, it has an impact across all sectors. While the areas focused on within sustainable development and the transformation to a green economy have shifted over time, the inclusion of all Member States in the UNEA will now allow for the setting of an inclusive global agenda.¹⁰⁶ Drawing off of previous works of this body, as well as other

⁹⁸ UNEP, *Green Economy in a Blue World Synthesis Report*, 2012, p. 40

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 40-54.

¹⁰⁰ UNEP, *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*, 2011, pp. 376-411.

¹⁰¹ Litman, *Smart Transportation Economic Stimulation: Infrastructure Investments That Support Economic Development*, 2009, pp. 2-10.

¹⁰² UNEP, *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*, 2011, pp. 383-384.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁴ UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of Parties on its fifteenth session held in Copenhagen from 7 to 19 December 2009 (FCCC/CP/2009/11/Add.1)*, 2010.

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁶ UNEP, *2012 Annual Report*, 2012, p. 5-11.

UN organizations, delegates should define a green economy in the context of their state and consider questions such as: How to address the issue of universal cooperation, particularly in relation to North-South collaboration? Should exceptions for emissions targets be made for less developed countries? Should broad standards be implemented or are industry specific ones more conducive to continued development? Delegates should formulate appropriate solutions and recommendations to address the challenges facing the transportation sector in the global transformation to a green economy. Consider the role of the specialized agencies in the transformation, and what role regional organizations can play.

Annotated Bibliography

European Conference of Ministers of Transport. (2004). *Assessment and Decision-Making for Sustainable Transport*. European Conference of Ministers of Transport. Retrieved 20 July 2013 from:

<http://internationaltransportforum.org/pub/pdf/04Assessment.pdf>

This report provides a comprehensive overview of approaches that were considered in key European countries in relation to sustainable transportation. It discusses steps, both policy oriented and strategy oriented, that should be taken during the planning of sustainable transport projects. This report highlights the importance of region wide cooperation while planning projects and provides examples of the decision-making and legislative processes undertaken when developing sustainable transport programs. This report can be used as a starting point for further research. Delegates should utilize this resource as a guideline for development of state and region specific strategies.

International Energy Agency. (2009). *Transport, Energy and CO₂: Moving toward Sustainability*. Retrieved 25 July 2013 from: <http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/transport2009.pdf>

This report is an excellent resource that examines current trends related to the increase in the amount of CO₂ emissions in detail. The report examines each sector of transportation and provides analysis of current trends and highlights sector-specific proposals corresponding to these trends. While technical at times, delegates will gain a greater understanding of a complex topic. Delegates should be familiar with the entire report, and should utilize references provided in Annex C to further explore concepts and strategies that focus on transport.

Litman, T. (2009). *Smart Transportation Economic Stimulation: Infrastructure Investments That Support Economic Development*. Victoria Transportation Policy Institute. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from:

http://www.vtpi.org/econ_stim.pdf

This report provides a particularly thorough explanation about the benefits of investing in infrastructure and the role of infrastructure in sustainable development. These benefits include economic stimulus as a result of increased projects and reduced dependency on fossil fuels. This report can be used to formulate region specific strategies in relation to green revitalization of existing infrastructure and construction of sustainable new infrastructure. Delegates should be familiar with the broad strategies and concepts discussed throughout the report, and pay particular attention to the economic impact of these investments.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. (2008). *Working Together for Sustainable and Healthy Transport*. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from:

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/thepep/en/publications/WorkingTogether.Guidance.en.pdf>

This document is an example of regional cooperation in relation to sustainable transport. It provides a comprehensive background on the development of policy. This document also provides case studies highlighting regional integration of programs from Germany and the Netherlands and explores topics regarding both formal involvement of the state and the citizenry. These case studies provide examples of successful programs that were implemented and promote sustainable development, healthy transport, and the open exchange of ideas between the public sector, private sector, and the citizenry. This report will be helpful to delegates as they contemplate their country's strategies and develop applicable recommendations to address the issue in a broader context.

United Nations Environmental Programme. (2013). *Green Economy and Trade – Trends, Challenges and Opportunities*. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from: <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/GreenEconomyandTrade/GreenEconomyandTradeReport/tabid/106194/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

This report highlights the role of trade in the green economy, providing delegates with a comprehensive understanding of the challenges, including limited natural resources and lack of investment in infrastructure that are faced during transformation to a green economy. This report highlights the role of trade in development, as well as many different methods of transportation that are involved with trade, including tourism, fisheries, and renewable energy.

United Nations Environmental Programme. (2012). *Green Economy in a Blue World Synthesis Report*. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from: http://www.unep.org/publications/contents/pub_details_search.asp?ID=6234

This report examines the role of maritime transport and its role in the greening of the economy. There is a direct positive correlation between development and the increase in world trade, with much of the increase being seen in the maritime sector. This report discusses both the opportunity and challenges seen within global maritime transport. Delegates should understand the role of maritime transport in sustainable development and pay close attention to the chapter on maritime transport.

United Nations Environmental Programme. (2011). *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*. Retrieved 2 July 2013 from: <http://unep.org/greeneconomy/GreenEconomyReport/tabid/29846/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

This report is an excellent resource and overview of transforming towards a green economy. The report looks at different areas of the green economy, including transport, management of natural resources, and tourism and provides area specific recommendations, including the utilization of. Delegates should be familiar with the basic ideas covered in this report, and focus primarily on the second part of the report, particularly the section on transportation, as it discusses transportation and the green economy in depth.

United Nations Environmental Programme. (n.d.). *UNEP-Green Economy-What is GEI?* [Website]. Retrieved 25 July 2013 from: <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/AboutGEI/WhatisGEI/tabid/29784/Default.aspx>

This website provides a thorough overview of efforts being taken by UNEP to promote the green economy. The Green Economy Initiative is defined and recommended strategies are outlined, with benefits and challenges being highlighted. Delegates should take time to read publications, research, and press releases related to transportation in the context of the Green Economy Initiative.

World Bank. (2012). *Air Transport and Energy Efficiency*. Retrieved 25 July 2013: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAIRTRANSPORT/Resources/TP38.pdf>

This report is a comprehensive resource that covers air transport and the associated industries. The report examines that current situation and provides recommendations for change to create a sustainable air transport network. Delegates should understand the role of sustainable development in aviation and strategies presented. Particular attention should be paid to the section on outlook of fossil fuel consumption and predicted growth.

World Bank. (n.d.). *World Bank Transport Modes and Topics*. [Website]. Retrieved 2 July 2013 from: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTTRANSPORT/0,,contentMDK:20541966~menuPK:337134~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:337116,00.html>

This website provides a variety of information on different sectors of the transportation industry. The current status of transportation varies by sector. This website shows the data in for each mode of transportation and highlights trends. The available reports provide a comprehensive overview of best practices and contain recommendations for future actions. Delegates should be familiar with the main information covered in each sector as it applies to their delegation. The information provides a comprehensive overview of the challenges of a growing transportation sector.

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II. Management of Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste

“Positive environmental change is underway in support of a sustainable 21st century – the challenge is to scale it up and to accelerate.”¹⁰⁷

Introduction

The topic of harmful substances and hazardous waste is of utmost importance since it affects different areas and therefore concerns adverse impacts on the environment as well as human health. Almost every industry uses or produces harmful substances and hazardous waste.¹⁰⁸ There are many different harmful substances such as heavy metals, pesticides or persistent organic pollutants (POPs), which can be pesticides or industrial chemicals.¹⁰⁹ This is one of the reasons why the management of harmful substances and hazardous waste is one of the six most important areas for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The necessity for sound management of those substances has been underlined at different occasions:

“The adoption of *The Future We Want* at Rio+20 and its endorsement by the UN General Assembly has reaffirmed the target, set in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, to by 2020 ensure that "chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment". At the Rio conference, Governments recognized the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreements. In the year following the Rio+20 Conference, the world's attention has been riveted on chemicals and waste management as never before.”¹¹⁰

Sound management basically describes management of waste and substances that does not harm humans or the environment and includes chemical safety.¹¹¹ Harmful substances can affect land, air, and water and, therefore, affect most people.¹¹² Especially dangerous substances are mercury, lead, and cadmium.¹¹³ Aside from the risks that harmful substances pose, hazardous waste needs to be managed soundly as well.¹¹⁴ Hazardous waste is often produced industrially, and its disposal poses difficulties.¹¹⁵ The question is not only how to dispose of hazardous waste correctly but also where to dispose it. Many efforts have been undertaken in this area already, but there are still steps to be taken. A good example for this is electronic waste considering the fact that once electronics such as computers or phones as well as TVs, cars, or other objects that consist of electronic parts cannot be used anymore they turn into electronic waste and need to be disposed of. Those are objects that are mostly used every day by most people and with advancing technologies more electronic objects are used and therefore more electronic waste exists.

International Framework

In order to minimize the risk from harmful substances and hazardous waste, international and regional frameworks play an integral role. One important international framework that addresses the topic of harmful substances is the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).¹¹⁶ This approach was adopted in 2006 by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM).¹¹⁷ The SAICM includes the *Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management* as well as a Global Plan of Action and the Overarching Policy Strategy.¹¹⁸ The main goal there is the sound management of chemicals on the international level to reduce the adverse impacts

¹⁰⁷ Steiner, *Remarks at the Fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Prepare a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury*, 2013.

¹⁰⁸ UNEP, *Introduction* [Website], 2013.

¹⁰⁹ UNDP, *Harmful Substances* [Website], 2013.

¹¹⁰ Kante, *Remarks by Achim Steiner to Second Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions*, 2013.

¹¹¹ UNDP, *Harmful Substances* [Website], 2013.

¹¹² UNEP, *Introduction* [Website], 2013.

¹¹³ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁶ Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, *Introducing SAICM*, 2013.

¹¹⁷ Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, *SAICM*, 2012.

¹¹⁸ Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, *Introducing SAICM*, 2013.

the production and use of chemicals can have on the human health as well as the environment.¹¹⁹ This goal is part of the Overarching Policy Strategy and is to be reached by 2020 with the Global Plan of Action.¹²⁰ Other objectives of the SAICM include increasing sharing of knowledge and information about harmful substances, halting the illicit international trafficking of those substances, undertaking capacity-building measures for, and assisting in technical cooperation, as well as governance.¹²¹ The Global Plan of Action can provide guidance for stakeholders and shows voluntary activities for stakeholders to achieve the goals and objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy as well as the *Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management*.¹²² The Global Plan of Action and the Overarching Policy Strategy are based on the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.¹²³ This Plan was adopted in 2002 at the end of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.¹²⁴ Article 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation underlines the importance of the sound management of harmful substances.¹²⁵

Apart from such frameworks, conventions such as the *Rotterdam Convention*, the *Basel Convention*, and the *Stockholm Convention* play an integral role in dealing with harmful substances and hazardous waste as the overall topic for all of them with each convention focusing on separate issues.¹²⁶ The *Rotterdam Convention* entered into force in 2004 and deals with the international trade of harmful substances as well as the sound management of those substances.¹²⁷ The *Rotterdam Convention* seeks to address these areas, by creating a system for exchanging information on harmful chemicals and fostering cooperation between parties by among others requiring the Parties to inform each other on restrictions as well as bans of harmful substances.¹²⁸ The Convention thereby also outlines the importance of a shared responsibility.¹²⁹

The *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal* entered into force in 1992.¹³⁰ In contrast to the *Rotterdam Convention*, this Convention focuses on the protection of the environment and human health from adverse impacts of hazardous waste.¹³¹ The goal is to manage hazardous waste soundly when it comes to its disposal and to regulate or restrict its transnational movement, which is arranged in provisions of the Convention.¹³² With over 170 parties, it is one of the most influential conventions on hazardous waste.¹³³

The *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* entered into force in 2004.¹³⁴ The Convention deals with POPs, substances that can have serious impacts on the environment and human health because they stay soundly in the environment.¹³⁵ The aim is to reduce the existence of POPs in the environment.¹³⁶ These three conventions are important individually because of the international standards and goals they establish; however, cooperation between actors and UN bodies especially, is necessary to achieve the overall goal of protecting human health and the environment in the case of managing harmful and hazardous waste.¹³⁷ Cooperation is also needed to enhance the effectiveness, which has just been discussed at a UN conference organized by UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Geneva in 2013.¹³⁸

¹¹⁹ Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, *Introducing SAICM*, 2013.

¹²⁰ Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, *SAICM*, 2013.

¹²¹ Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, *SAICM texts and resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management*, 2006, p. 14-20.

¹²² *Ibid.*, p. 31.

¹²³ *Ibid.*, pp. 23-24.

¹²⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Responding to the Johannesburg Plan of Action*, 2005.

¹²⁵ Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, *SAICM texts and resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management*, 2006, p. 7.

¹²⁶ UNEP, *Introduction* [Website], 2013.

¹²⁷ Rotterdam Convention, *Overview* [Website], 2010.

¹²⁸ *Ibid.*

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*

¹³⁰ Basel Convention, *Overview* [Website], 2011.

¹³¹ *Ibid.*

¹³² *Ibid.*

¹³³ UNEP, *Work Hazardous Waste* [Website], 2013.

¹³⁴ Stockholm Convention, *About the Convention* [Website], 2008.

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*

¹³⁷ Synergies, *History of the Synergies process*, 2012.

¹³⁸ United Nations, *UN News Center News ID 44892*, 2013.

Role of the United Nations System

Although many parts of the UN system are involved individually, cooperation in this area is helpful to achieve the goal that they all have – the sound management of chemicals. The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) provides the framework for this cooperation.¹³⁹ Established in 1995, there are nine organizations participating in the IOMC.¹⁴⁰ These organizations are the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the UNEP.¹⁴¹ The IOMC is a forum where international actions can be initiated and coordinated to make them more effective.¹⁴² Another noteworthy effort on the way to sound management of chemicals and sustainable development is the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, which provides policies and strategies for governments and organizations.¹⁴³ Throughout the UN system, many organizations focus on this topic that shows its importance as well as the different aspects of it.

Many different organizations are involved in this topic and UNEP works very closely with all of them but mostly with the FAO, UNDP, and WHO. While of course harmful substances and hazardous waste are of high priority to UNEP, other organizations from the UN system are involved as well.¹⁴⁴ The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), for example, is involved and focuses on the management of pests and pesticides.¹⁴⁵ The risks of using pesticides can be reduced by managing pesticides correctly and minimizing the spread of pests so that fewer pesticides have to be used.¹⁴⁶ For the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), chemicals and waste management is an area of concern.¹⁴⁷ UNDP's work on the issue is because of the organization's focus on achieving the MDGs, and the fact that the sound management of harmful substances and waste is a vital aspect in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).¹⁴⁸ As such, UNDP works towards reducing unsustainable approaches to the management of harmful substances and waste and helps developing countries with the implementation of sound management.¹⁴⁹ Furthermore, the World Health Organization (WHO) is involved in this topic through various programs. One of the programs is the International Programme on Chemical Safety, which promotes a scientific approach towards the sound management of harmful substances by working on a basis for this management.¹⁵⁰ Finding a basis for management of harmful substances on an international level is necessary for cooperation and frameworks.

WHO's work on the topic is particularly noteworthy because UNEP and WHO collaborate on the Health and Environment Linkages Initiative (HELI).¹⁵¹ One of the main focuses is reducing or eliminating toxic hazards.¹⁵² Toxic hazards are caused by different harmful substances, but especially pesticides, and constitute a serious risk to countries that are strongly dependent on their agriculture.¹⁵³ The initiative assists on different levels; promotes the implementation of international conventions such as the *Rotterdam Convention (2004)*, *Basel Conventions (1992)*, and *Stockholm Conventions (2004)*; and provides assistance concerning the management of harmful substances.¹⁵⁴ The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) focuses more on the legal and technical aspects of sound management of harmful substances.¹⁵⁵ For example, the work includes supporting the implementation of

¹³⁹ WHO, *Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals*, 2010.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² Ibid.

¹⁴³ WHO, *Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety*, 2013.

¹⁴⁴ UNEP, *Harmful Substances*, 2013.

¹⁴⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *AGP – Pest and Pesticide Management*, 2013.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ UNDP, *Chemicals and Waste Management*, 2013.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid.

¹⁵⁰ WHO, *International Programme on Chemical Safety*, 2013.

¹⁵¹ WHO, *Health and Environment Linkages Initiative*, 2013.

¹⁵² WHO, *Toxic hazards*, 2013.

¹⁵³ Ibid.

¹⁵⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵⁵ UNITAR, *Chemicals and Waste Management* [Website], 2013.

international conventions and frameworks such as the SAICM.¹⁵⁶ UNITAR has already promoted different activities such as National Chemicals Management Profiles and other national projects to further sound chemical management.¹⁵⁷

Impact of Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste

Harmful substances and hazardous waste can affect the environment and human health in different ways. Humans can be exposed to harmful substances through air, land, and water.¹⁵⁸ This can happen not just through direct contact with the substances, but also by consuming contaminated food or drinking water.¹⁵⁹ This exposure can lead to acute as well as long-term illnesses.¹⁶⁰ Directly, most individuals are exposed to chemicals in the manufacturing sector.

Chemicals and hazardous waste can also destroy ecosystems and gravely affect sensitive species.¹⁶¹ Different chemicals and wastes have different impacts on the environment or human health. Some of the most commonly known chemicals with an adverse impact on human health and the environment are mercury, lead, and cadmium. One of the most harmful substances is mercury because it is extremely toxic.¹⁶² It is dangerous for both human health and the environment because it can affect the nervous systems of animals and humans.¹⁶³ This damage can be permanent.¹⁶⁴ Mercury is especially dangerous because it can affect the unborn child through transfer by the mother.¹⁶⁵ It is furthermore used in the production of products themselves such as light bulbs, blood-pressure machines, or thermometers that are used every day.¹⁶⁶ Mercury can also persist in the environment for a very long time.¹⁶⁷ The adverse impact is not only caused by the substance itself, but its disposal is similarly difficult.¹⁶⁸ A national instrument concerning mercury that is legally binding is therefore indispensable.¹⁶⁹ Lead and cadmium are also substances that can be extremely harmful but are frequently used. Lead is already toxic at a low rate of exposure.¹⁷⁰ The effects can be of a chronic or acute nature and can affect, among other things, neurological, reproductive, and cardiovascular health.¹⁷¹ Cadmium can after exposure persist in bones and affects the skeleton as well as the kidneys.¹⁷² Both substances are furthermore dangerous for the environment since they can affect animals and plants.¹⁷³

Management of Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste

UNEP has released various publications concerning the management of harmful substances and hazardous waste in general but also targeting single harmful substances.¹⁷⁴ The most notable of these publications includes: Annual Reports and Yearbooks. Not only harmful substances but also hazardous waste needs to be managed soundly. The disposal of this waste is difficult and recently a type of hazardous waste has caused concern. Electronic and electrical waste (e-waste) is increasing and poses a challenge because of the adverse impact it can have on humans and the environment.¹⁷⁵ E-waste can originate from all objects that have electronic components such as phones, TVs, computers, and radios. It is dangerous because of the high amount of various chemicals it consists of.¹⁷⁶ It can also

¹⁵⁶ UNITAR, *Chemicals and Waste Management Programme* [Website], 2013.

¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁸ UNEP, *GEAS Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste* [Report], 2013.

¹⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁶¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁶² UNEP, *Annual Report 2012*, 2012, p. 84.

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁴ UNEP, *Mercury* [Website], 2013.

¹⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁶ UNEP, *Annual Report 2012*, 2012, p. 84-85.

¹⁶⁷ UNEP, *Mercury* [Website], 2013.

¹⁶⁸ UNEP, *Annual Report 2012*, 2012, p. 85.

¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁰ UNEP, *Lead & Cadmium* [Website], 2013.

¹⁷¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁷² *Ibid.*

¹⁷³ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁴ UNEP, *Publications* [Website], 2013.

¹⁷⁵ UNEP, *UNEP Year Book 2013 Minimizing Chemical Risks* [Report], 2013, p. 38.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

consist of materials that are valuable and can be recycled which could further sustainable development.¹⁷⁷ A further danger of hazardous waste is the possibility of it contaminating waste that is not hazardous.¹⁷⁸ This can happen in cases where it is not managed soundly.¹⁷⁹

The sound management of harmful substances cannot only be safer for humans and the environment but also be better from an economic point of view. For example, improving the management of harmful substances and hazardous waste on Ecuadorian potato farms led to economic growth. To yield more potatoes, the farmers began to use pesticides around 1940.¹⁸⁰ This led to a pesticide-poisoning rate, which was one of the highest in the world.¹⁸¹ Through pest management fewer pesticides have to be used while still yielding as many potatoes as before if not more.¹⁸² This was not only safer for humans and the environment but also caused the production cost to be significantly lower than before.¹⁸³ Those benefits from sound management of harmful substances do not only occur concerning pesticides but different substances. This also applies to the removal of lead from gasoline to name one but also to other harmful substances.¹⁸⁴ This case study underlines that proper management of harmful substances does not only help protect the environment and human health, but can also be an economic incentive.

Developing Countries

While historically chemicals were used and produced mostly in developed countries, the numbers have changed and their use and production has risen in developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition.¹⁸⁵ This is also underlined by forecasts that predict a significantly higher growth of chemical production in developing compared to developed countries.¹⁸⁶ This is a topic for debate since this shift might cause higher risks for the environment and human health considering the fact that the regulations might not be as strict in some countries and there can be a lack of infrastructure as well as resources to implement a sound management of chemicals and wastes.¹⁸⁷ Generally harmful substances and especially hazardous waste cause problems when the countries do not have the possibility to manage the substances soundly. An example for this is e-waste. E-waste is sent to developing countries from developed countries.¹⁸⁸ It is declared reusable although it is, in fact, hazardous.¹⁸⁹ This is a problem because the disposal of hazardous waste is difficult and can be dangerous for human health and the environment considering the adverse impacts different substances can have. Use and disposal of lead and cadmium is challenging for developing countries and countries with economies in transition because they do not have the means to manage or dispose those substances soundly.¹⁹⁰ Article 4 paragraph 2 (g) of the *Basel Convention* explicitly asks to stop the import of this kind of waste to countries that cannot manage the waste soundly.¹⁹¹ This article is in a way undermined when hazardous waste is sent to other countries but not declared as such and sent to countries that cannot manage it.

Case Study on the Effect and Management of Chemicals

Peru's economy has a strong mining sector, with a special focus on copper, gold, zinc, lead, and silver.¹⁹² With mining growing over time, more and more land was used for it.¹⁹³ This expansion did not only affect land, but also the people living there who had to live with the mining.¹⁹⁴ Apart from the effect on the living conditions that lead can have it has grave impacts on humans. Lead was produced in La Oroya in the Metallurgical Complex of La

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 39.

¹⁷⁸ UNEP, *GEAS Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste* [Website], 2013.

¹⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁰ UNEP, *Global Chemicals Outlook* [Report], 2012.

¹⁸¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁸² *Ibid.*

¹⁸³ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁵ UNEP, *UNEP Year Book 2013 Minimizing Chemical Risks* [Report], 2013, p. 37.

¹⁸⁶ UNEP, *Global Chemicals Outlook* [Report], 2012.

¹⁸⁷ UNEP, *UNEP Year Book 2013 Minimizing Chemical Risks* [Report], 2013, p. 37

¹⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 39.

¹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 37.

¹⁹⁰ UNEP, *Lead & Cadmium* [Website], 2013.

¹⁹¹ Basel Convention, *Basel Convention Text*, 2011.

¹⁹² UNEP, *Analysis of trade flows and review of environmentally sound management practices*, 2010, p. 119.

¹⁹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

Oroya.¹⁹⁵ This complex was bought by the Doe Run Company, which in 2000 tested blood lead levels in the population that lived nearby.¹⁹⁶ The results showed that high lead levels could be found in the blood of the people there, with the highest levels in children from 0-3 years and 4-6 years, although they were even higher the years before.¹⁹⁷ The company then focused on industrial hygiene meaning protective equipment for workers as well as the requirement of showering at the end of work.¹⁹⁸ This helped reduce blood lead levels of workers significantly, and the government then started several actions and established committees to further this positive development.¹⁹⁹ This shows just one part of sound management, which is of course different concerning different substances. It also underlines the importance of cooperation in achieving proper management of harmful substances and hazardous waste and can on this national level also show positive effects that can be transferred to cooperation on an international level with States and UN Organizations.

Conclusion

Harmful substances and hazardous waste is a topic that becomes more and more important because of the possible adverse impact on the environment and humans. It concerns different areas such as production in industries, trade, and economic development and growth; therefore every country is affected. These substances can have an adverse impact on the environment and human health. New challenges arise with for example new forms of hazardous waste such as e-waste. UNEP works on this topic separately but also cooperates with many other organizations to combine efforts and further their successes. With growing trade and economy the topic becomes transboundary. This can concern the movement of hazardous waste from one country to another or the use of harmful substances in the production of goods, which are then available in different countries. There are some questions that delegates should keep in mind during their research: Is my country party to a convention or agreement concerning this topic? Which harmful substances are used or produced in my country? How is hazardous waste managed and disposed? Are their projects or legal national and regional frameworks concerning the adverse impact of harmful substances and hazardous waste?

Annotated Bibliography

Basel Convention. (2011). *Overview* [Website]. Retrieved 28 July 2013 from: <http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/Overview/tabid/1271/Default.aspx>

This Convention is one of the most significant agreements focusing on hazardous waste. This web site gives an overview of the Convention, but it is also possible to access the full text of the Convention to clarify what is regulated there. The objectives as well as aims and provisions are outlined here so that delegates can see at a glance what wants to be achieved here. There is older and more recent information available displaying the work that was done concerning this topic. From here it is possible to additionally access the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. (2013). *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management* [Website]. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from: <http://www.saicm.org/>

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a policy framework concerning the management of chemicals. This web site provides information on salient policy issues and the steps that have been taken. It lists regional activities and information on regional meetings. Publications by the SAICM are provided, and it is also possible to access UNEP Governing Council decisions to understand the implementation of SAICM by UNEP.

Synergies. (2012). *History of the Synergies Process* [Website]. Retrieved 28 July 2013 from: <http://synergies.pops.int/SynergiesProcess/History/tabid/2615/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

This is an immensely valuable source because it shows how cooperation can help to achieve sound management of harmful substances and hazardous waste. It is also possible to access the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Conventions from there. These conventions and their synergies

¹⁹⁵ UNEP, *Analysis of trade flows and review of environmentally sound management practices*, 2010, p. 119.

¹⁹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁹⁸ Ibid., p. 120.

¹⁹⁹ Ibid.

process are among the most influential agreements concerning this topic. Here, delegates can get general information, but also see with whom the parties are involved and what efforts have been undertaken yet.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2010). Analysis of trade flows and review of environmentally sound management practices related to products containing cadmium, lead, and mercury in Latin America and the Caribbean [Report]. Retrieved 28 July 2013 from:

http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Lead_Cadmium/docs/Trade_Reports/LAC/Trade_report_LAC_Spanish_and_English.pdf

This trade report focuses on Latin America and the Caribbean but gives a good example of the sound management of harmful substances. The adverse impact that cadmium, lead, and mercury can have is described first and divided into the impact on humans and the impact on the environment. The case studies that are explained here focus on different countries and different substances so that a diverse impression can be gained. The studies on lead and cadmium are exemplary for adverse impacts of harmful substances and solutions for the sound management.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2012). *Global Chemicals Outlook* [Report]. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from:

http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mainstreaming/GCO/GCO_SynthesisReport_UNEP.pdf

The Global Chemicals Outlook offers a wide variety of explanations on chemical use in the past and now. It also describes forecasts and predictions for the future while explaining why sound management of chemicals is necessary and the benefits aside from health and environmental benefits this sound management can have economically. This is underlined by comprehensive facts and figures as well as case studies

United Nations Environment Programme. (2013). *Publications* [Website]. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from:

<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Publications/tabid/396/Default.aspx>

This website is an excellent source for research. It provides many different publications by UNEP such as annual reports and information about chemicals or the management of harmful substances and hazardous waste in general. It is possible to access recent as well as older publications. This can help to assess the development that has been made in this area as well as problems that still persist and need to be addressed. It provides general as well as more specific information, such as studies on lead and cadmium or mercury. They are a good source for comprehending what impact harmful substances can have.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2013). *UNEP Year Book 2013 Minimizing Chemical Risks* [Report].

Retrieved 3 July 2013 from: http://www.unep.org/yearbook/2013/pdf/Minimizing_chemical_risks.pdf

The UNEP Year Book 2013 is an annual review of pertinent topics concerning the environment. This chapter gives an overview on chemical risks and shows the work that still needs to be done in order to minimize those risks. It discusses different chemicals that can be harmful and explains the different ways they can affect the environment as well as humans. It also lists examples for effects chemicals can have on humans and provides comprehensive figures.

United Nations Institute for Training and Research. (2013). *Chemicals and Waste Management* [Website]. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from: <http://www.unitar.org/cwm/>

This web site can give delegates an overview of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) chemicals and waste management program. It furthermore provides national profiles on a wide range of different countries. These national profiles can among others describe the national management of chemicals and legal frameworks. They can also give an impression on the developments that have been made in different countries and show approaches that do not work.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2013). *UNEP News Center Article 9368*. Retrieved 28 July 2013 from:

<http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2703&ArticleID=9368&l=en>

Here delegates can read remarks by Achim Steiner who is the Executive Director of UNEP to see what is of importance for this committee. The UNEP News Center also provides access to many recent developments in the area. It is possible to read speeches or remarks by different people

involved or look at different statements that were made. It provides an excellent opportunity to read older material and also be informed about current matters.

World Health Organization. (2010). *Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals*. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from: <http://www.who.int/iomc/en/>

Although accessed through the World Health Organization there are nine different participants in the Inter-Organization Programme. It is possible to learn about the program itself and what the goals of it are. Furthermore, links to the nine participants are provided, so that information about what they do specifically concerning this topic is also available. This gives a positive impression on the work of the participants individually but also provides a view on how cooperation works.

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Rotterdam Convention. (2010). *Overview* [Website]. Retrieved 28 July 2013 from: <http://www.pic.int/TheConvention/Overview/tabid/1044/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

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Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. (2013). *Introducing SAICM*. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from: http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=72&Itemid=474

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Synergies. (2012). *History of the Synergies Process* [Website]. Retrieved 28 July 2013 from: <http://synergies.pops.int/SynergiesProcess/History/tabid/2615/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
[UNDP](#)

United Nations Development Programme. (2013). *Chemicals and Waste Management* [Website]. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/focus_areas/chemicals_management/#

United Nations Development Programme. (2013). *Harmful Substances* [Website]. Retrieved 28 July 2013 from: <http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/>

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United Nations Environment Programme. (2013). *Lead & Cadmium* [Website]. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from: <http://unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Home/tabid/197/hazardoussubstances/LeadCadmium/tabid/29372/Default.aspx>

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III. Facilitating South-South Cooperation for Environmental Capacity Building

*South-South cooperation can achieve results on the ground in ways that traditional development assistance may not because of countries' geographical proximity, cultural and historical ties, or similar development paths. States that have paved the way for their own development in the last decade or two have much to share, especially in terms of expertise and experience, with those currently facing similar challenges.*²⁰⁰

Introduction

In a recent evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the United Nations (UN) System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda (UNTT) identified a tendency to focus narrowly on outcomes as a major weakness of the MDG framework.²⁰¹ The Task Team called upon international actors to further consider how Member States might practically achieve these outcomes.²⁰² One strategy for addressing this need is to build up the institutional capacities of Member States to adopt policies that incorporate or move towards international development objectives; this process is known as capacity development or capacity-building.²⁰³ However, adopting generalized policy prescriptions at the international level ignores the specific needs and capacities of autonomous Member States.²⁰⁴ South-South cooperation offers one possible solution as a broad institutional mechanism that facilitates bilateral and multilateral collaboration among developing countries; this horizontal structure helps to mitigate some of the institutional disparities that constrain the effectiveness of traditional North-South aid paradigms.²⁰⁵ In order to understand the potential of South-South cooperation as an implementation strategy for environmental capacity-building, it is important to know how these concepts are interpreted by the UNEP within the UN system.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) defines environmental capacity-building as “strengthening abilities, relationships, and values that enable organizations, groups and individuals to improve their performance and achieve their sustainable development objectives.”²⁰⁶ Strengthening the capacity of national and regional institutions empowers those entities to meet international obligations, prevent and respond to environmental disasters, manage and conserve natural resources, and adopt renewable energy technologies.²⁰⁷ Key focus areas for UNEP’s environmental capacity-building activities include enhancing the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, performing assessments of institutional capacities with respect to environmental threats, providing policy recommendations for mainstreaming environmental concerns, and facilitating international cooperation.²⁰⁸

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) defines South-South cooperation (SSC) as “a broad framework for collaboration among countries of the South in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains.. it can take place on a bilateral, regional, sub-regional or interregional basis.”²⁰⁹ Developed countries in the global North contribute to South-South cooperation through triangular cooperation, defined by UNOSSC as “collaboration in which traditional donor countries and multilateral organizations facilitate South-South initiatives” through funding and other support mechanisms.²¹⁰ The UNOSSC emphasizes that South-South cooperation initiatives are organized and managed by developing countries with respect for the principles of national sovereignty and national ownership.²¹¹

²⁰⁰ Ban, *Secretary-General's Message for 2011*, United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, 12 September 2011.

²⁰¹ Nayyar, *The MDGs after 2015: Some reflections on the possibilities*, 2012.

²⁰² *Ibid.*, pp. 6-9.

²⁰³ *Ibid.*, pp. 11-12.

²⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 12-14.

²⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 18-22.

²⁰⁶ UNEP, *Inventory of UNEP capacity-building and technology support activities (UNEP/IEG/IGSP/2/3)*, 2004.

²⁰⁷ UNEP, *Capacity Building for Sustainable Development: An Overview of UNEP Environmental Capacity Development Activities*, 2002, pp. 21-23.

²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 12.

²⁰⁹ UNOSSC, *What Is South-South Cooperation?* [Website], 2011.

²¹⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹¹ *Ibid.*

International Framework

The international framework for this topic builds upon key instruments for sustainable development and the environment, aid effectiveness, and technical cooperation among developing countries. Many of these instruments apply broadly to the UN system, but select instruments specifically empower UNEP to act as a major player.

Environmental Capacity-Building

The *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation* (JPOI) (2002), an annex to the *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development* (2002), serves as a foundational framework for environmental capacity-building.²¹² JPOI unites and reaffirms existing UN system commitments to the Rio principles put forth by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development and its follow-ups, the implementation provisions of *Agenda 21* (1992), and the *Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21* (1997).²¹³ Among other significant provisions, JPOI calls for strengthened collaboration among a diverse body of stakeholders, including members of the UN system, international financial institutions, and development partners in the private sector.²¹⁴ The Plan specifically calls upon UNEP to “strengthen [its] contribution to sustainable development programmes and the implementation of Agenda 21 at all levels, particularly in the area of promoting capacity-building.”²¹⁵ UNEP also serves as the framework secretariat for the *10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns* (10YFP), adopted as part of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) outcome *The Future We Want* (A/RES/66/288).²¹⁶

Additional instruments critical to the execution of environmental capacity-building in the UN system include the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* (2005) and the *Accra Agenda for Action* (2008). The Paris Declaration, developed during the 2005 High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Paris, expands upon the framework of the 2002 *Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development*.²¹⁷ The Paris Declaration explicitly relates to the implementation of the MDGs, paying special attention to addressing “weaknesses in partner countries’ institutional capacities to develop.”²¹⁸ It also emphasizes the responsibility and autonomy of each developing country over its own capacity development.²¹⁹ The Accra Agenda encourages development actors engaged in South-South cooperation to use Paris Declaration principles; it endorses South-South cooperation as a component of development that may complement but not replace North-South cooperation.²²⁰

South-South Cooperation

The preeminent guiding document for South-South cooperation is the *Buenos Aires Plan of Action* (BAPA) (1978), a product of the UN Conference on Technical Co-Operation among Developing Countries.²²¹ In addition to establishing the first unified international framework for promoting technical cooperation among developing countries, the BAPA created the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU/SSC).²²² Equally formative for international efforts in South-South cooperation is the *Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation* (2010), adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 64/222 of 23 February 2010.²²³ The Nairobi Outcome Document emphasizes the importance of South-South cooperation in realizing the MDGs, making South-South cooperation a vital component of the post-2015 development agenda.²²⁴ The Nairobi Outcome Document establishes common implementation goals for South-South cooperation based on

²¹² United Nations, *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development* (A/CONF.199/20), 2002, pp. 7-72.

²¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

²¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 65.

²¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 70.

²¹⁶ UNEP, *Progress in the Implementation of decision SS.XII/7 on work by the United Nations Environment Programme on Sustainable consumption and production* (UNEP/GC.27/5), 2012, p. 3; UN General Assembly, *The future we want* (A/RES/66/288) [Resolution], 2012.

²¹⁷ Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, *The Paris Agenda on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action, 2005-2008; Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development*, 2002.

²¹⁸ OECD, *The Paris Agenda on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action, 2005-2008*, p. 1.

²¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

²²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 18.

²²¹ High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation, *Marrakech Declaration on South-South Cooperation*, 2003.

²²² UNOSSC, *Background* [Website], 2011.

²²³ UN General Assembly, *Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation* (A/RES/64/222), 2010.

²²⁴ *Ibid.*

the input of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) members, the Group of 77 (G-77), and other stakeholders in the South.²²⁵ Stakeholders include regional and state institutions, funding entities, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), representatives of the private sector, and civic groups.²²⁶

Environmental Capacity-building for South-South Cooperation

The foremost instrument addressing South-South cooperation in environmental capacity-building is the *Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building* (BSP) (2004), an outcome document drafted as a recommendation to UNEP by the High-level Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building in Bali, Indonesia, 2004.²²⁷ In February 2005, the UNEP Governing Council adopted the BSP as its implementation framework for environmental capacity-building.²²⁸ The BSP establishes South-South cooperation as a fundamental environmental capacity-building mechanism, especially at the regional and sub-regional level.²²⁹ The plan builds upon strategies developed by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), and the League of Arab State's Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE).²³⁰ Additionally, the BSP promotes information exchange networks as a vital capacity-building strategy.²³¹

The BSP charges UNEP with facilitating environmental capacity-building by promoting and coordinating “the exchange of expertise, experiences, information and documentation between the institutions of the South.”²³² By focusing on South-South cooperation as a delivery mechanism, the BSP expanded upon UNEP’s mandate as chair of the Environment Management Group (EMG) to promote “capacity-building and technical assistance, in particular with respect to institutional strengthening in developing countries.”²³³ The BSP further charges UNEP to build upon existing capacities, fully involve stakeholders at the regional and national levels, tailor capacity-building programs to individual countries, and avoid duplicating the work of other organizations.²³⁴

Role of the United Nations System

This topic is supported by a diverse group of agencies throughout and beyond the UN system. UNEP serves a unique role in the international community as the chief global actor responsible for coordinating and monitoring South-South cooperation in environmental initiatives.²³⁵

Environmental Capacity-Building

A 2011 survey of the environment in the UN system by the UNEP Executive Director and EMG chair noted several UN system entities engaged in environmental capacity-building and technology support.²³⁶ Entities involved in country level capacity-building include UN Country Teams managed by the UN Development Group (UNDG) and regional offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Regional Economic Commissions.²³⁷

As the leading UN organ for environmental capacity-building, UNEP chairs the EMG, a UN system-wide coordinating body on the environment and human settlements established by the General Assembly in 2001.²³⁸ UNEP serves as an implementation agency for Global Environment Facility (GEF), the financial mechanism for the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD), the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*

²²⁵ UN General Assembly, *Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/64/222)*, 2010.

²²⁶ UNEP, *About South-South Cooperation* [Website].

²²⁷ UNEP, *Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building (UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.2)*, 2004, p. 1.

²²⁸ *Ibid.*

²²⁹ UNEP, *Mandate* [Website].

²³⁰ UNEP, *Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building (UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.2)*, 2004, p. 4.

²³¹ UNEP Governing Council, *Environment in the United Nations system (UNEP/GC.26/INF/23)*, 2011, p. 16.

²³² UNEP, *Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building (UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.2)*, 2004, p. 7.

²³³ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements (A/RES/53/242)*, 1999, p. 4.

²³⁴ UNEP, *Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building (UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.2)*, 2004, p. 4.

²³⁵ UNEP, *About South-South Cooperation* [Website].

²³⁶ UNEP Governing Council, *Environment in the United Nations system (UNEP/GC.26/INF/23)*, 2011.

²³⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 7-8.

²³⁸ UN Environment Management Group, *About EMG*, [Website].

(UNFCCC), the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)*, and the *UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*.²³⁹ UNEP also coordinates the international environmental governance (IEG) process.²⁴⁰ UNEP partners with UNDG to provide country-specific recommendations and support for policy and technology initiatives that deal with the environment or sustainable development.²⁴¹ At the international level, UNEP advocates for capacity-building frameworks that promote the active participation of developing and transitioning countries in multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).²⁴²

Within its own programs, UNEP addresses environmental capacity-building at the regional, sub-regional, national, and local level by working directly with decision-makers to develop environmental policies, institutions, and legal instruments; UNEP also helps Member States to test policy, secure financial assistance for implementation, and share technology with other country level stakeholders.²⁴³ Rather than imposing specific recommendations, UNEP offers strategic guidance, training, and up-to-date scientific research to enable decision-makers to draft country-specific policies and comply with international obligations under multilateral environmental agreements.²⁴⁴ UNEP develops and disseminates environmental knowledge products, case studies, and policy implementation tools to support this process.²⁴⁵

South-South Cooperation

The Framework of Operational Guidelines on United Nations Support to South-South and Triangular Cooperation (2012) outlines the specific responsibilities of each UN organ in South-South cooperation.²⁴⁶ UNEP's priority areas represent a small but significant portion of the work being done to support these initiatives across the UN system.²⁴⁷ A sample of other organs involved in South-South cooperation includes the FAO, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Joint United Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Women, and WHO.²⁴⁸ The UN system also works closely with many external agencies, namely the Task Team on South-South Cooperation and financing entities such as the World Bank, the International Finance Cooperation, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).²⁴⁹ The UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation serves as UNEP's foremost implementation partner for South-South cooperation.²⁵⁰ Under the 2012 Framework, UNEP shares responsibility for assessing corporate policies and practices, building staff and institutional capacities, and reviewing South-South cooperation initiatives submitted by Member States and international organizations.²⁵¹

Environmental Capacity-Building for South-South Cooperation

According to the BSP, the role of UNEP in South-South cooperation for environmental capacity-building is "primarily one of identifying, catalyzing, cataloging, facilitation and initiating South-South cooperation initiatives including the sharing of information and best practices."²⁵² In 2011, the UNEP Executive Director produced a formal policy guide for South-South cooperation across the UNEP Programme of Work in order to provide coherent guidelines for systematically mainstreaming, or incorporating into all aspects of its work, UNEP's commitments in

²³⁹ Global Environment Facility, *What is the GEF*, [Website].

²⁴⁰ UNEP, *Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building (UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.2)*, 2004, p. 2; UNEP, *Background* [Website], 2011.

²⁴¹ UNEP, *Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building (UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.2)*, 2004, p. 3.

²⁴² *Ibid.*

²⁴³ UNEP, *Capacity Building for Sustainable Development: An Overview of UNEP Environmental Capacity Development Activities*, 2002, p. 11.

²⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 13-14.

²⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 14.

²⁴⁶ UN High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, *Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation (SSC/17/3)*, 2012.

²⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁸ UNEP, *UNEP South-South Cooperation Partners: Partner Organisations* [Website].

²⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁰ UNOSSC, *Background* [Website], 2011.

²⁵¹ UN High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, *Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation (SSC/17/3)*, 2012, pp. 10-12.

²⁵² UNEP, *Report of the high-level consultation on South-South cooperation in environment in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/14)*, 2005, p. 10.

the context of the BSP.²⁵³ The policy guide establishes environmental capacity-building as the foremost target of South-South cooperation initiatives implemented by UNEP.²⁵⁴ In accordance with standing commitments to strengthen the role of civil society, UNEP encourages Member States to incorporate the unique knowledge and skill sets of indigenous groups, women, and youth in initiatives that promote environmental capacity-building through South-South cooperation.²⁵⁵

UNEP is responsible for overseeing integration of working mechanisms, targets, and knowledge-sharing mechanisms for environmental capacity-building through the UNEP South-South Cooperation Exchange Mechanism and multi-agency South-South cooperation units.²⁵⁶ UNEP monitors the progress of efforts to mainstream South-South cooperation for environmental and sustainable development programs.²⁵⁷ In November 2005, the UNEP Governing Council organized a high-level consultation in Jakarta, Indonesia, on South-South cooperation in environmental affairs in the context of the BSP.²⁵⁸ The Jakarta meeting called for the creation of a UNEP managed "clearinghouse," or virtual database, to promote knowledge-sharing and collaboration among countries and regional organizations in the South seeking to implement environmental capacity-building initiatives.²⁵⁹

The clearinghouse concept formed the basis for the UNEP South-South cooperation Exchange Mechanism, which is UNEP's foremost contribution to South-South cooperation in the UN system.²⁶⁰ The Exchange Mechanism provides an open-access database where representatives of governments, civil society, private industry, and international organizations can submit case studies that highlight successful strategies for environmental capacity-building through South-South cooperation.²⁶¹ The Exchange Mechanism also serves as a portal where entities seeking to implement capacity-building projects can find financial and technical support.²⁶² UNEP will also host the 2013 Global South-South Development Expo from 28 October – 1 November 2013 with the theme "Building Inclusive Green Economies: South-South Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication."²⁶³

Case Study: Efficient Lighting for Developing and Emerging Countries (en.lighten)

The Efficient Lighting for Developing and Emerging Countries (en.lighten) initiative is a UNEP facilitated collaboration among developing countries pursuing environmentally sustainable energy policies.²⁶⁴ The en.lighten initiative ultimately seeks to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging countries to phase out inefficient incandescent lighting.²⁶⁵ The initiative promotes environmental capacity-building by targeting weaknesses in policy and regulatory frameworks that inhibit developing countries from implementing sustainable energy goals; weaknesses might include inadequate expertise among decision-makers, a lack of public awareness about energy efficient lighting technologies, underdeveloped industries and infrastructure, or an overreliance on a single stakeholder group.²⁶⁶

²⁵³ UNEP, *Integrating South-South Cooperation in the UNEP Programmes of Work: Policy Guidance*, 2011.

²⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

²⁵⁵ UNEP Governing Council, *Report of the high-level consultation on South-South cooperation in environment in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/14)*, 2005, p. 5.

²⁵⁶ UN High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, *Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation (SSC/17/3)*, 2012, pp. 12-15.

²⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

²⁵⁸ UNEP Governing Council, *Report of the high-level consultation on South-South cooperation in environment in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/14)*, 2005.

²⁵⁹ UNEP, *Establishment of the Clearing House Mechanism for the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building and its component on South-South Cooperation in Environment*, [Background Note], 2006, p. 2.

²⁶⁰ UNEP, *UNEP South-South Cooperation Exchange Mechanism* [Website], 2013.

²⁶¹ *Ibid.*

²⁶² *Ibid.*

²⁶³ UNOSSC, *2013 Global South-South Development Expo* [Website], 2013.

²⁶⁴ en.lighten, *About Us* [Website].

²⁶⁵ UNEP, *South-South Cooperation Case Study: The en.lighten Global Efficient Lighting Partnership: Fostering Regional Cooperation on Energy Efficient Lighting*, 2012, p. 1.

²⁶⁶ en.lighten, *About Us* [Website]; en.lighten, *National Efficient Lighting Strategy Development: Inception Package for Pilot Countries*, 2012, pp. 2-4.

UNEP provides technical staff for the en.lighten Center of Excellence, which delivers technical and regulatory expertise to project partners.²⁶⁷ UNEP serves as the meeting coordinator for regional workshops and expert task forces meetings.²⁶⁸ Through its regional workshops, UNEP showcases affordable high-efficiency lighting technologies and matches developing countries with supporting funds from GEF; participating countries can also use regional workshops to share expertise for addressing identified deficiencies.²⁶⁹ UNEP offers Country Lighting Assessments (CLAs) through en.lighten to track and measure the technical capacity and policy progress for 150 countries.²⁷⁰ For countries that have adopted on-grid lighting models, UNEP measures annual shipments of light fixtures and electricity consumption for lighting; the off-grid lighting model presents an estimate of per-capita energy consumption and cost under traditional versus energy efficient lighting technologies.²⁷¹ In 2012, UNEP published an efficient lighting toolkit distributed through the en.lightened learning portal to help national and regional policy makers establish country-specific regulatory and policy frameworks.²⁷²

As of May 2012, 46 countries had joined the en.lighten Global Efficient Lighting Partnership Program.²⁷³ However, the most recent en.lighten case study acknowledges that the program has seen limited success in its efforts to promote energy efficient lighting in countries that do not already have compatible policy goals.²⁷⁴ In spite of promising financial returns and reductions in carbon emissions, only a small number of developing countries in the South have begun implementing energy efficient lighting policies.²⁷⁵ As the en.lighten initiative moves forward, UNEP and its partners will need to adopt new strategies to attract countries that do not already have energy efficiency policies in place.²⁷⁶

Challenges and Opportunities for Progress

Preferences for traditional North-South cooperation mechanisms often inhibit the promotion of South-South cooperation for capacity development.²⁷⁷ In spite of UN system efforts to promote and expand the application of South-South cooperation activities, negative perceptions persist. These include perceptions that “South-South Cooperation happens through ad hoc workshops with no real wider implications or impact globally, or over the long-term” and that South-South cooperation is both more costly and less efficient than traditional capacity-building approaches where developed countries shape, fund, and implement development initiatives.²⁷⁸ Because of these perceptions, it is vital for entities engaged in South-South cooperation activities such as workshops and multilateral partnerships to adequately monitor, evaluate, and report on successful initiative outcomes.²⁷⁹ At the same time, South-South cooperation is only one of many development tools, and it should not simply be implemented for its own sake.²⁸⁰

UNEP faces an implementation gap between its capacity-building commitments through the BSP and its ability to facilitate, measure, and direct funding for actual initiatives.²⁸¹ While some progress has been realized since 2005, the UNEP Executive Director has declared UNEP’s pace of delivery on environmental capacity-building commitments

²⁶⁷ en.lighten, *Country Support* [Website].

²⁶⁸ Ibid.

²⁶⁹ en.lighten, *About Us* [Website]; UNEP, *Activities: Efficient Lighting for Developing and Emerging Countries* (en.lighten) [Website].

²⁷⁰ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat, *en.lighten initiative* [Website]; UNEP, *South-South Cooperation Case Study: The en.lighten Global Efficient Lighting Partnership: Fostering Regional Cooperation on Energy Efficient Lighting*, 2012, p. 8.

²⁷¹ en.lighten, *Methodology for Country Lighting Assessments* [Website].

²⁷² en.lighten, *Efficient Lighting Tool Kit* [Website].

²⁷³ UNEP, *South-South Cooperation Case Study: The en.lighten Global Efficient Lighting Partnership: Fostering Regional Cooperation on Energy Efficient Lighting*, 2012, p. 2.

²⁷⁴ Ibid., p. 8.

²⁷⁵ Ibid. p. 7.

²⁷⁶ Ibid.

²⁷⁷ UNEP Governing Council, *Report of the high-level consultation on South-South cooperation in environment in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building (UNEP/GC/SS.IX/INF/14)*, 2005, p. 5.

²⁷⁸ UNEP, *Integrating South-South Cooperation in the UNEP Programmes of Work: Policy Guidance*, 2011, p. 12.

²⁷⁹ Ibid.

²⁸⁰ UNEP Governing Council, *Report of the high-level consultation on South-South cooperation in environment in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building (UNEP/GC/SS.IX/INF/14)*, 2005, p. 5.

²⁸¹ UNEP, *Integrating South-South Cooperation in the UNEP Programmes of Work: Policy Guidance*, 2011, p. 1.

unsatisfactory.²⁸² UNEP and its partners can better meet the needs of Member States by engaging more directly with UN Country Teams and government representatives to design country-specific plans to strengthen institutional capacity.²⁸³ Additionally, UNEP will benefit from deeper internal coordination and expertise sharing across its international and regional offices involved in South-South cooperation.²⁸⁴ Progress on this issue is further hindered by general challenges confronting UNEP, including the rising frequency and severity of natural disasters, growing demands on natural resources, and an inadequate framework for international environmental governance.²⁸⁵ A lack of sufficient fiscal and human resources inhibit the implementation of UNEP's commitments with respect to environmental capacity-building.²⁸⁶

Conclusion

South-South cooperation for environmental capacity-building promises to play a significant role across the UN system over the coming year with the inclusion of both “sustainable development” and “supporting nations in transition” as core elements of the Secretary-General's Five Year Action Agenda; this provides a thematic framework for the work of the UN System from 2012 through 2017.²⁸⁷ Delegates should consider initiatives and improvements which will mainstream the unique interests, experiences, and needs of developing countries on environmental issues in the post-2015 development agenda.

Moving forward, delegates should consider questions such as: What internal actions should UNEP pursue to better mainstream its commitments under the Bali Strategic Plan? What steps could UNEP take to promote greater inclusion of indigenous groups, women, and youth in conversations about this topic? What role should developed countries play in future implementation of South-South cooperation for environmental capacity-building? How might UNEP attract greater participation in the Global Exchange Mechanism? What steps could UNEP take to make case studies in the Global Exchange Mechanism more relevant and more accessible to stakeholders in developing countries, especially in cases in which countries do not have existing policies or programs on the issue area? How might UNEP increase Member State participation in multilateral environmental capacity-building initiatives? What else could UNEP do to raise awareness of successful meetings and initiatives? Finally, how might UNEP secure more reliable funding for these initiatives without jeopardizing its other programs?

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development. *United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform* [Website]. Retrieved 12 July 2013 from: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/unsystem.html>

This website presents a very clear implementation framework for Rio+20 developed by the UN Secretary-General and high-level representatives of UN system organizations. The implementation framework can be viewed as a .pdf document or on the Website, which allows visitors to browse by topics within paragraphs, initiatives, governing entity, and time-frame for implementation. South-South cooperation and capacity-building are discussed in paragraph 280 and general capacity-building commitments are addressed throughout, with respect to technology sharing, forest management, fishery management, resource efficiency, disaster risk reduction, regional and sub-regional organizations, sustainable tourism, and sustainability reporting for developing countries.

²⁸² UNEP, *Integrating South-South Cooperation in the UNEP Programmes of Work: Policy Guidance*, 2011, p. 13.

²⁸³ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁵ UNEP, *21 Issues for the 21st Century: Results of the UNEP Foresight Process on Emerging Environmental Issues*, February 2012.

²⁸⁶ UNEP Governing Council, *Report of the high-level consultation on South-South cooperation in environment in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/14)*, 2005, p. 5.

²⁸⁷ UN Secretary-General, *Secretary-General's Five-Year Action Agenda*, 2012.

United Nations Development Programme. (2011, March). *Practitioner's Guide: Capacity Development for Environmental Sustainability*. Retrieved 30 July 2013 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/environment-energy/www-ee-library/mainstreaming/cdes/UNDP%20Practitioner's%20GuideWEB.pdf>

This UNDP publication provides a series of definitions, best practice recommendations, and case studies on capacity development (a synonym for capacity-building) and environmental sustainability. Since UNDP is one of UNEP's chief implementation partners for environmental capacity-building through the UN Development Group, this resource offers highly detailed technical guidance for project implementation efforts. The publication highlights UNEP case studies in developing countries and heavily cites UNEP resources. It should serve as a practical supplement to UNEP policy documents.

United Nations Economic and Social Council of Western Asia. (n.d.). *Regional Program for Trade and Environment Capacity-Building in the Arab Region* [Background Note]. Retrieved 30 July 2013 from: <http://www.escwa.un.org/tear/tearBackground.pdf>

This document presents a case study of South-South cooperation in environmental capacity-building implemented by the Economic and Social Council of Western Asia (ESCWA), UNEP, and the League of Arab State's Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment. The program builds upon the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development, adapted for the unique needs of Member States of the League of Arab States. The document illustrates real-world examples of program parameters, funding mechanisms, and implementation strategies with a firm focus on capacity-building for environmental projects.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2002). *Capacity-Building for Sustainable Development: An Overview of UNEP Environmental Capacity Development Activities*. New York, NY. Retrieved 30 June 2013 from: http://www.unep.org/Pdf/Capacity_building.pdf

Although it was published in 2002, this e-book presents an extensive examination of UNEP's involvement in environmental capacity development initiatives. Topics include legal and institutional development, case studies, priority areas, key partners, cross-cutting issues, assessment standards, and beyond. The book demonstrates how capacity-building relates to each of UNEP's program pillars. Additionally, it provides several examples of South-South cooperation for technical exchanges, regional development programs, and awareness initiatives. Delegates should pay special attention to UNEP's efforts to mainstream capacity-building in multilateral environmental agreements and explore case studies that involve partners in the global South. Finally, delegates should be familiar with UNEP efforts to involve women, children, and youth in resource management.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2011, February 12). *Integrating South-South Cooperation in the UNEP Programmes of Work: Policy Guidance*. Retrieved 26 July 2013 from: http://www.unep.org/South-South-cooperation/docs/UNEP_Policy_Guidance_on_SSC%20FINAL_12_February_2011.pdf

This document provides a comprehensive explanation of how UNEP applies South-South cooperation as a cross-cutting mechanism across its many pillars. It was written in response to UNEP Governing Council Decision 25/9 (2008), which requested the UNEP Executive Director to develop a policy guidance for implementation. The recommendations in this policy guidance document synthesize the recommendations of UN agency experts, UN system reforms, UNEP Governing Council documents, and relevant UN General Assembly resolutions. It serves as a vital resource for identifying and understanding current UNEP initiatives for South-South cooperation. The document also provides a useful summary of "evolution of global mandates on South-South cooperation."

United Nations Environment Programme, Governing Council, Twenty-third session. (2004, December 23). *Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building (UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.2)*. Retrieved 25 July 2013 from: <http://www.unep.org/GC/GC23/documents/GC23-6-add-1.pdf>

The Bali Strategic Plan contains the framework and guidelines for UNEP's Programme of Work on South-South cooperation in environmental capacity-building. It is the foremost international instrument for this topic, outlining a specific mandate for capacity-building work by UNEP. The document also presents thematic areas of focus, including, but not limited to: climate change, conservation of wetlands, pollution, trade and environment, forests, and sanitation. Finally, the Bali Strategic Plan secures South-South cooperation as a fundamentally important mechanism for environmental capacity-building.

United Nations Environment Programme, Governing Council, Twenty-seventh session. (2012, November 29). *Partnerships and contributions relating to South-South cooperation (UNEP/GC.27/INF/15)* [Report]. Retrieved 30 July 2013 from: <http://undocs.org/UNEP/GC.27/INF/15>

This document offers an inventory of UNEP's ongoing partnerships and contributions to South-South cooperation as of September 2012. Each project and initiative is broken down by objectives, UNEP sub-programs, key partners, main activity or modality (including capacity-building), results achieved, lessons learned, and future plans. It is extremely comprehensive, with references to key documents used for specific project frameworks.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2013). *UNEP South-South Cooperation Exchange Mechanism* [Website]. Retrieved 30 June 2013 from: <http://www.unep.org/South-South-cooperation/>

This UNEP website represents the primary clearinghouse for information on South-South cooperation and the environment. It provides a quick overview of UNEP's responsibility to promote South-South cooperation for environmental capacity-building. The site lists partner agencies and features recent news developments. Finally, it presents a publicly accessible database of global case studies submitted by agency partners and non-governmental organizations.

United Nations Environment Programme, Governing Council, Ninth special session. (21 December 2005). Report of the high-level consultation on South-South cooperation in environment in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/14). Retrieved 26 July 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/14

This document supplements the Bali Strategic Plan cited above. It represents the work of senior policy level officials from UN Member States across the South, in partnership with UNEP, donor agencies, and UNDP. The document synthesizes UNEP specific recommendations for promoting South-South cooperation in environmental capacity-building. Some of these include strengthening existing partnerships between UNDP and UNEP, creating a regional presence for UNEP in South-South cooperation, and conducting a formal appraisal of existing expertise and skill (the foundation of the South-South cooperation Exchange Mechanism). It also includes a brief survey of existing initiatives as of 2005, including the Non-Aligned Movement Center for South-South Technical Cooperation and regional offices coordinated by UNDP.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-fourth session. (2009, October 27). *Promotion of South-South Cooperation for development: a thirty-year perspective (A/64/504)* [Report]. Retrieved 2 July 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/64/504

This report from the Secretary-General offers a thorough examination of the history of South-South cooperation in development since the UN Conference on Technical Cooperation in Buenos Aires, 1978. The report highlights how environmental concerns have been mainstreamed over time, specifically as a response to the industrial growth of the global South and the challenges of global warming. It also directly implicates capacity deficits as a barrier to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-seventh session. (2012, July 30). *The State of South-South cooperation: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/208)*. Retrieved 2 July 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/208

This report details the recent achievements and current challenges of South-South cooperation in sustainable development efforts. It pays special attention to regional collaboration and identifies protection of the environment as a central concern for global development. The report presents a useful introduction to the diverse sectors of sustainable development, including food security, health security, energy security, infrastructure development, and knowledge-sharing. Finally, it presents recommendations for future action, including greater contributions from Member States to support multilateral South-South initiatives, mainstreaming support of South-South cooperation in UN development processes, and establishing a “clear conceptual and strategic framework” for South-South cooperation.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, May 9). *Mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations System: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/79)*. Retrieved 12 July 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/79&Lang=E

This resolution addresses the UN system's need to better integrate environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainable development. In its section on “challenges and gaps,” the resolution recognizes broad institutional challenges relevant to this topic. These include a lack of common system-wide objectives on sustainable development, a need for greater cross-sectoral coordination, limited capability to assess the progress and impact of UN system interventions, and resource constraints, which specifically impede “integrating the three dimensions, fostering coordination and building capacity.” Furthermore, the resolution recognizes capacity-building as a fundamental requirement for successful implementation, integration, and reporting of sustainable development projects. This resolution provides a very recent snapshot of sustainable development in the UN system, and provides a clear indication of UNEP's centrality to the post-2015 development agenda.

United Nations, High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, Seventeenth session. (2012, April 12). *Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation: Note by the Secretary-General (SSC/17/3)*. Retrieved 2 July 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=SSC/17/3

This document provides a comprehensive overview of the current UN system norms and standards for South-South cooperation and capacity-building. It identifies high priority areas and performance indicators for UN agencies as well as specific recommendations for mainstreaming technical and political support. It also provides operational definitions used by the UN system with respect to both South-South cooperation and capacity development.

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Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Environment Programme

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (hereinafter referred to as “the Assembly”) and shall be considered adopted by the Assembly prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Director, the Assistant Director(s), the Under-Secretaries-General, and the Assistant Secretaries-General, are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, and are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Deputy Secretary-General or her/his designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations (NMUN) and in furtherance of the educational mission of that organization.
4. For the purposes of these rules, “President” shall refer to the chairperson or acting chairperson of the Assembly, which can be any member of the Secretariat or their designate.
5. The practice of striving for consensus in decision-making shall be encouraged. NMUN also acknowledges it may sometimes be necessary for a Member State to abstain or vote against a resolution it cannot support for policy reasons.

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - *Dates of convening and adjournment*

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

Rule 2 - *Place of sessions*

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

II. AGENDA

Rule 3 - *Provisional agenda*

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

Rule 4 - *Adoption of the agenda*

The agenda provided by the Deputy Secretary-General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of the agenda items shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting.

The vote described in this rule is a procedural vote and, as such, observers are permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, those present and voting means those Member States and observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote. Should the Assembly not reach a decision by conclusion of the first night’s meeting, the agenda will be automatically set in the order in which it was first communicated.

Rule 5 - Revision of the agenda

During a session, the Assembly may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only important and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during a session. Debate on the inclusion of an item in the agenda shall be limited to three speakers in favor of, and three against, the inclusion. Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a session, may be placed on the agenda if the Assembly so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Assembly decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a commission has reported on the question concerned.

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

Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum

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

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General

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

Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall receive and distribute documents of the Assembly to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Assembly may require.

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat

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

Rule 10 - Selection of the President

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

Rule 11 - Replacement of the President

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

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 12 - Official and working language

English shall be the official and working language of the Assembly during scheduled sessions (both formal and informal) of the Assembly.

Rule 13 - Interpretation (oral) or translation (written)

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

This rule does not affect the total speaking time allotted to those representatives wishing to address the body in a language other than English. As such, both the speech and the interpretation must be within the set time limit. The language should be the official language of the country you are representing at NMUN.

V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 14 - Quorum

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

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

Rule 15 - General powers of the President

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

Included in these enumerated powers is the power to assign speaking times for all speeches incidental to motions and amendment. Further, the President is to use her/his discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference and is limited to entertaining motions.

Rule 16 - Authority of the Assembly

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

Rule 17 - Voting rights on procedural matters

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

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

Rule 18 - Points of order

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

Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. They should be used exclusively to correct an error in procedure. Any questions on order arising during a speech made by a representative should be raised at the conclusion of the speech, or can be addressed by the President, sua sponte (on her/his own accord), during the speech. For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 19 - Speeches

No representative may address the Assembly without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, the Secretariat will set a time limit for all speeches which may be amended by the Assembly through a vote if the President, at his or her discretion, decides to allow the Assembly to decide. In no case shall the speaker's time be changed during the first scheduled session of the Assembly. Consequently, motions to alter the speaker's time will not be entertained by the President. The content of speeches should be pertinent to the agenda as set by the Assembly.

Rule 20 - List of Speakers

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

The decision to announce the list of speakers is within the discretion of the President and should not be the subject of a motion by the Assembly. A motion to close the speakers list or reopen (if the list has already been closed) is within the purview of the Assembly and the President should not act on her/his own motion.

Rule 21 - Right of reply

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

For purposes of this rule, a remark that impugns the integrity of a representative's State is one directed at the governing authority of that State and/or one that puts into question that State's sovereignty or a portion thereof. All interventions in the exercise of the right of reply shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point of order or motion. The reply shall be read to the Assembly by the representative only upon approval of the Secretariat, and in no case after voting has concluded on all matters relating to the agenda topic, during the discussion of which, the right arose. The right of reply will not be approved should it impugn the integrity of another State.

Rule 22 - Suspension of the meeting

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

This motion should be used to suspend the meeting for lunch or at the end of the scheduled committee session time. Delegates should properly phrase this motion as "suspension of the meeting," and provide a length of time when making the motion.

Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting

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

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

Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate

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

Rule 25 - Closure of debate

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

Rule 26 - Order of motions

Subject to Rule 18, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

1. To suspend the meeting;
2. To adjourn the meeting;
3. To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
4. To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments

Proposals and amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat. Any proposal or amendment that relates to the substance of any matter under discussion shall require the signature of twenty percent of the members of the Assembly [sponsors].

The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the proposal or amendment for circulation among the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be put to the vote at any meeting of the Assembly unless copies of it have been

circulated to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated.

If the sponsors agree to the adoption of a proposed amendment, the proposal shall be modified accordingly and no vote shall be taken on the proposed amendment. A document modified in this manner shall be considered as the proposal pending before the Assembly for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

For purposes of this rule, all proposals shall be in the form of working papers prior to their approval by the Secretariat. Working papers will not be copied, or in any other way distributed, to the Assembly by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of the working papers. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft resolution during formal speeches. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Assembly. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Assembly and, as such, the names of the original sponsors will be removed. The copying and distribution of amendments is at the discretion of the Secretariat, but the substance of all such amendments will be made available to all representatives in some form. Should delegates wish to withdraw a working paper or draft resolution from consideration, this requires the consent of all sponsors.

Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic

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

Rule 30 - Invitation to silent prayer or meditation

Immediately after the opening of the first plenary meeting and immediately preceding the closing of the final plenary meeting of each session of the General Assembly, the President shall invite the representatives to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation.

VI. VOTING

Rule 31 - Voting rights

Each member of the Assembly shall have one vote.

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

Rule 32 - Request for a vote

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

For purposes of this rule, proposal means any draft resolution, an amendment thereto, or a portion of a draft resolution divided out by motion. Just prior to a vote on a particular proposal or motion, the President may ask if there are any objections to passing the proposal or motion by acclamation, or a member may move to accept the proposal or motion by acclamation. If there are no objections to the

proposal or motion, then it is adopted without a vote. Adoption by “acclamation” or “without a vote” is consistent not only with the educational mission of the conference but also the way in which the United Nations adopts a majority of its proposals.

Rule 33 - Majority required

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

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

Rule 34 - Method of voting

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

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

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

Rule 35 - Explanations of vote

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

All explanations of vote must be submitted to the President in writing before debate on the topic is closed, except where the representative is of a member sponsoring the proposal, as described in the second clause, in which case the explanation of vote must be submitted to the President in writing immediately after voting on the topic ends. Only delegates who are sponsors of a draft resolution that has been adopted with an unfriendly amendment, whom subsequently voted against the draft resolution may explain their vote.

Rule 36 - Conduct during voting

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

For purposes of this rule, there shall be no communication among delegates, and if any delegate leaves the Assembly room during voting procedure, they will not be allowed back into the room until the Assembly has convened voting procedure. Should a delegate who is also serving as Head Delegate leave the room, they may reenter but they may not retake their seat and participate in the vote.

Rule 37 - Division of proposals and amendments

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

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

Rule 38 - Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from, or revise part of another proposal. Permission to speak on the amendment shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against.

An amendment can add, amend, or delete entire operative clauses, but cannot in any manner add, amend, delete, or otherwise affect preambular clauses or sub-clauses of operative clauses. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule. These speeches are substantive in nature.

Rule 39 - Voting on amendments

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

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

Rule 40 - Order of voting on proposals

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

Rule 41 - The President shall not vote

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

VII. CREDENTIALS

Rule 42 - Credentials

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

Rule 43 - Authority of the General Assembly

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

VII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Rule 44 - Participation of non-Member States

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

A sub-committee or sessional body of the Assembly shall invite any State that is not one of its own members to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State. A State thus invited shall not have the right to vote, but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote on request of any member of the body concerned.

If the Assembly considers that the presence of a Member invited, according to this rule, is no longer necessary, it may withdraw the invitation. Delegates invited to the Assembly according to this rule should also keep in mind their role and obligations in the Assembly that they were originally assigned to. For educational purposes of the NMUN Conference, the Secretariat may thus ask a delegate to return to his or her committee when his or her presence in the Assembly is no longer required. Delegates may request the presence of a non-member of their committee simply by informing the President that this is the desire of the body, there is no formal procedural process.

Rule 45 - Participation of national liberation movements

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

National liberation movements are only represented at NMUN in two ways: (1) if their delegation has been assigned explicitly the national liberation movement itself; or (b) should the Security Assembly wish to hear from a representative of the movement in their deliberations, the Secretariat shall provide the appropriate representative.

Rule 46 - Participation of and consultation with specialized agencies

In accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies shall be entitled: a) To be represented at meetings of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs; b) To participate, without the right to vote, through their representatives, in deliberations with respect to items of concern to them and to submit proposals regarding such items, which may be put to the vote at the request of any member of the Assembly or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

NMUN does not assign delegations to Specialized Agencies.

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

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

NMUN will assign delegations an NGO instead of a Member State upon request.