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UN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME BACKGROUND GUIDE 2014

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



Table of Contents

Welcome Letter	2
NMUN•NY Position Paper Guidelines	3
Abbreviations	4
Committee History	5
Introduction	5
Mandate	5
Governance, Structure, and Membership.....	6
Functions and Powers	6
Recent Sessions	7
Conclusion	8
Annotated Bibliography.....	8
Bibliography	8
I. UN-HABITAT and the Post-2015 Development Agenda	11
Introduction	11
International Framework	12
Role of the United Nations System.....	12
UN-HABITAT and the shift from MDGs to SDGs.....	14
Urbanization as a Key Driver towards Sustainable Development	15
Conclusion	16
Annotated Bibliography.....	16
Bibliography	18
II. Gender Equality in Human Settlements Development	21
Introduction	21
International and Regional Framework	22
Role of the United Nations System.....	23
Urbanization and Ways of Achieving Gender Equality.....	25
Case study: Rio de Janeiro.....	27
Conclusion	27
Annotated Bibliography.....	28
Bibliography	29
III. Enhancing Living Standards in Slums through Cooperation	33
Introduction	33
International and Regional Framework	33
Role of the United Nations System.....	34
Public Health Concerns	35
Economic and Social Concerns	36
Educational Concerns	37
Conclusion	38
Annotated Bibliography.....	38
Bibliography	40
Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme	43



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 Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). As part of the volunteer staff, we are aiming to facilitate your educational experience at the conference in New York.

Jordan Drevdahl (Director, Conference A) is a high school teacher in California and has a Master's Degree in Education. Sophie Crockett-Chaves (Director, Conference B) is a Project Assistant at the Brazilian Center for International Relations and has a BA in Politics and International Relations from the University of London. Alice Bauer (Assistant Director, Conference A) is a Master's student in Business Economics from Germany and holds a Bachelor in Management and Economics. Grace Moyo (Assistant Director, Conference B) is a Zimbabwean student at Rhodes University in South Africa studying for a Bachelors of Law.

This year's topics under discussion for UN-HABITAT are:

- I. UN-HABITAT and the Post 2015 Development Agenda
- II. Gender Equality in Human Settlement Development
- III. Enhancing Living Standards in Slums Through Cooperation

The aim of UN-HABITAT is to promote sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. With that in mind, your creative ideas and solutions discussed in the committee can contribute to sustainable development in cities all over the world.

At NMUN•NY 2014, we are simulating the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT in terms of composition and size; however, during the conference, delegates are not limited to the strict mandate of the Governing Council in terms of its role as a budgetary and administrative body. On the contrary, 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 UN-HABITAT in line with the overall function of the organization.

We hope you will find this Background Guide useful as it serves to introduce you to the topics for this committee. It is not meant to replace further research and we highly encourage you explore in-depth your countries' policies as well as use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation of the conference, each delegation will be submitting a [position paper](#). Please refer to the following pages for details regarding the position paper submission process. Please take note of the [NMUN policies](#) on the website and in the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#) regarding plagiarism, codes of conduct/dress code/sexual harassment, awards philosophy/evaluation method, etc. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the Committee or the Conference itself, feel free to contact the substantive staff listed below or the Under-Secretaries-General for the Department, Harald Eisenhauer (Conference A) and Kristina Getty (Conference B): usg.development@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best for your preparation for NMUN•NY and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,

Conference A

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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

ACP	African, Caribbean, and the Pacific
AGGI	Advisory Group on Gender Issues
BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination and Discrimination against Women
CITYNET	Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements
CPTED	Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
ECA	Ethiopian Cities Association
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
PSUP	Participatory Slum Upgrading Program
ROAAS	Regional Office for African and the Arab States
ROAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SCP	Sustainable Cities Program
SDG	Sustainable development goals
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
SEAGEP	Southeast Asia Gender Equity Program
SWAP	UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCHS	United Nations Center for Human Settlements
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UYF	Urban Youth Fund
WUF	World Urban Fund

Committee History

Introduction

The United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) has existed within the United Nations (UN) since 1978, but only in its current form since 2002.¹ UN-HABITAT changed in as a result of adoption of General Assembly resolution 56/206, which established UN-HABITAT as a permanent specialized agency, as opposed to a commission, that would focus on dealing with sustainable urbanization and providing a livelihood for all people.² In expanding UN-HABITAT's mandate, the General Assembly recognized that a sustainable livelihood for the individual was imperative for him to realize his full potential. It was noted that, for the provision of basic needs such as water and education to be met, there needed to be structural adjustments in slums and rural areas and the continued urbanization of underdeveloped areas.³ As a result, the General Assembly took to assisting communities to develop and establish settlements that allow for each individual to thrive in his capacity.⁴ Given how these issues also relate to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which address issues of poverty, access to clean water, and access to adequate housing, the change to UN-HABITAT's mandate further strengthened its ability to address the MDGs and reaffirmed the UN's commitment to the MDGs.⁵

At NMUN•NY 2014, we are simulating the **Governing Council** of UN-HABITAT in terms of composition and size; however, delegates are not limited to the strict mandate of the Council, as a budgetary and administrative body, during the conference. On the contrary, 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 within the mandate of UN-HABITAT in line with the overall function of the organization.

Mandate

The founding document of UN-HABITAT, which lays out its objectives, goals, and mandate, is the Habitat Agenda.⁶ The concept of "Sustainable Development" forms the core of the Habitat Agenda.⁷ UN-HABITAT works to ensure that settlement areas are well planned and developed in such a way that the provision of basic services is possible and that cities can sustain themselves; for example, UN-HABITAT is currently evaluating ways to increase the number of people that have access to water in Somaliland by replacing pipes and creating new water sources.⁸

The Habitat Agenda was adopted at the Habitat II conference in 1996; the second conference convened to address the issue of human settlements.⁹ In this key document, Member States expressed the need for equitable human settlements, the eradication of poverty, and sustainable development.¹⁰ The Member States at the time saw that the best way to implement this was to allow countries to draft their own national action plans and implement them with the assistance, and under the umbrella of UN-HABITAT.¹¹ An example of where UN-HABITAT has been of great assistance in achieving such a plan is in Madagascar with the "National Poverty Reduction Program."¹² The Agenda emphasizes that development must be sustainable to prevent poorly planned cities that will worsen with time.¹³

¹ UN General Assembly, *Strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (A/RES/56/206)* [Resolution], 2002.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000.

⁶ UN-HABITAT, *The Habitat Agenda*, 1996.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ UN-HABITAT, *Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Projects Gets Underway* [Website].

⁹ UN-HABITAT, *The Habitat Agenda*, 1996.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² UN-HABITAT, *Support of national Policies on Regional Planning, Informal Settlement Upgrading and Housing* [Website].

¹³ United Nations Habitat II, *The Habitat Agenda*, 1996.

Further discussions on the settlements issue have taken place, which have resulted in the *Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements* (1976), the *Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements* (1996), and the *Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium* (2001). Each of these outcome documents reflects Member States' desire to realize the right to adequate shelter for all and the establishment of sustainable settlements for the empowerment of each individual to develop in his own right.¹⁴ These documents all also inform UN-HABITAT's mandate and work and UN-HABITAT works to ensure that these aspirations become a reality for many.

UN-HABITAT is mostly funded by voluntary donors, who are comprised of intergovernmental organizations, governments, and private sector donors.¹⁵ It receives a limited budget from the UN system and, thus, relies quite heavily on its donors.¹⁶ Donations to UN-HABITAT are a combination of earmarked donations and non-earmarked donations.¹⁷ Earmarked donations to the organization are for the implementation of specific programs while general donations are for the general running of the organization.¹⁸ There is always a need for an important balance to be struck between the two so as to maintain the organization's independence and ability to fulfill its mandate.¹⁹

Governance, Structure, and Membership

UN-HABITAT reports to the General Assembly on all of its activities and spending.²⁰ It is accountable to the General Assembly as the body that founded it.²¹ It also has its own internal Governing Council that meets biennially to develop plans of action for the organization.²² There is a regional distribution of seats on the council with African States receiving 16 seats, Western European and Other States receiving 13, Latin American and Caribbean States receiving 10, Asia Pacific receiving 13, and Eastern European States receiving six.²³ In addition to its biennial general sessions, the Governing Council can also hold special sessions upon requests made to its Executive Director.²⁴ The Executive Director takes a lead role in defining and implementing UN-Habitat's overall policy and strategies and ensuring compliance with UN policies.²⁵ He ensures effective implementation of the UN-Habitat mandate and oversees management of human and financial resources.²⁶ Non-member states of the Governing Council as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other UN agencies are welcome to attend Governing Council sessions but do not hold any voting powers.²⁷

UN-HABITAT is based in Kenya, but is involved in regions all over the world. It has three regional offices: Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States (ROAAS), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), and Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) situated in Kenya, Japan, and Brazil respectively.²⁸ It also has Liaison and Information offices in New York, Belgium, China, Switzerland, India, and Jordan.²⁹

Functions and Powers

As an agency, UN-HABITAT's powers are quite limited. It can initiate projects and initiatives to assist countries in shaping a better future for their citizens but it cannot force them to implement such programs. UN-HABITAT can only provide a framework and guidance but it is entirely up to governments and other development actors to draft policies and implement changes.³⁰ Despite this, UN-HABITAT has played a key role in developing many areas around the world through partnership programs and providing such guidance to policy-makers and communities as it

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ UN-HABITAT, *Donors* [Website].

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ UN-HABITAT, *Information on the Governing Council* [Website].

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ UN-HABITAT, *Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council*.

²⁵ UN-HABITAT, *Office of the Executive Director* [Website].

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ UN-HABITAT, *Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council*.

²⁸ UN-HABITAT, *Regional Offices* [Website].

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ UN-HABITAT, *The Urban Future: Report of the Sixth Session of the World Urban forum*, 2012.

is mandated to give.³¹ In 2002, it initiated the “Cities without Slums” Sub-regional Initiative for Eastern and Southern Africa, which is a program that addresses the fact that between 40 and 60% of the urban population in these regions lack access to basic needs such as water, shelter, and sanitation.³² In Asia, UN-HABITAT is actively involved in the “Water for Asian Cities Program,” in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, the Dutch government, and governments of countries in the region.³³ In Europe, it is a key stakeholder in the “Sustainable Development of the Historical Cities of Pskov and Tobolsk and the Dissemination of the Russian Version of the Sustainable Cities Program (SCP).”³⁴ These programs are a continuation of earlier implemented programs on developing that region.³⁵

Recent Sessions

The 24th seating of the Governing Council was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in April 2013.³⁶ The Council approved the UN-HABITAT budget and set goals for the next few years.³⁷ Most notably, it approved a resolution to give full support for the preparations of Habitat III, which will be held in 2016 where a new global urban agenda will be formulated.³⁸ The meeting also highlighted the importance of sustainable urban development and focused on the role of UN-HABITAT within the UN.³⁹

Most recently, this role has UN-HABITAT stepping up its involvement in a range of broad programs it has initiated to streamline urban development, including the Urban Youth Fund (UYF), The World Urban Fund (WUF), and the Global Campaign for Sustainable Urbanization (Global Campaign).⁴⁰ The Global Campaign was founded in 1999 and is a UN-HABITAT initiative, which serves as a platform to share policies on urban development and raise awareness on sustainable urbanization.⁴¹ It allows governments and partners to develop and articulate a shared goal that they will invest in and implement.⁴² The Campaign is an umbrella organization to involve many groups including governments, private actors, and civil society like youth and women’s groups; thus it encompasses a wide population range and places urbanization high on the list of priorities in an international framework.⁴³ The Campaign seeks to create a “network of networks”, operating at different tiers, that enables dialogue to continue about the Habitat Agenda.⁴⁴ The UYF grants money to organizations led by young people that have come up with innovative ideas to tackle job creation and urban development.⁴⁵ UN-HABITAT recognizes the role that young people can play in changing the world and is, thus, consistently looking for young people with passion and capability to undertake research regarding the issues that directly affect them.⁴⁶ The WUF, much like the Global Campaign, provides a platform for global actors to discuss and engage in the issue of developing sustainable urban settlements.⁴⁷ The sixth session of the annual forum held in 2012 focused on adapting previous strategies to the dynamic and ever-changing context we live in.⁴⁸ Issues such as job creation and infrastructure were touched on while the shifting demographics of the people in urban areas were examined quite closely.⁴⁹

³¹ UN-HABITAT, *Mandate* [Website].

³² UN-HABITAT, *Information by Country* [Website].

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ UN-HABITAT, *Information on the Governing Council* [Website].

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ UN-HABITAT, *Twenty-fourth Governing Council draws to a close* [Website].

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ UNHABITAT, *Our Work* [Website].

⁴¹ UN-HABITAT, *World Urban Campaign: Better City – Better Life*.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ UN-HABITAT, *The UN-HABITAT Youth Fund* [Website].

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ UN-HABITAT, *The Urban Future: Report of the Sixth Session of the World Urban forum, 2012*.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

Conclusion

The UN-HABITAT organization addresses urbanization at a global level and strives to ensure that all cities provide a safe and suitable living environment for all those that live in them. With the next conference on sustainable development, Habitat III, approaching in 2016, there is great anticipation for significant progress in the realization of the Habitat Agenda and the MDGs.

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-Sixth session. (2002). *Strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (A/RES/56/206)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 25 July 2013 from:

http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/2070_46506_gae.pdf

This resolution is the founding document of UN-HABITAT. It is an essential starting point for delegate research as it concisely lays out the history of the conception of the organization, the background of the "Habitat discussion," and the Habitat Agenda. It also provides the mandate of the organization, the distribution of seats, and the governance structure. It is a comprehensive source for delegates with regards to the organization.

United Nations. (1996.). *The Habitat Agenda*. Retrieved 25 July 2013 from:

http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/1176_6455_The_Habitat_Agenda.pdf

The Habitat Agenda resulted from the Habitat II Conference in 1996. It forms the foundation of UN-HABITAT and is therefore a useful point of reference for delegate research. It provides the greater context of the need for an organization to promote sustainable human settlements and clearly articulates the principles and goals of UN-HABITAT.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (n.d). E-Resources [Website]. Retrieved 25 July 2013 from:

<http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=463>

This Website is full of resources and information for delegates to broaden their understanding of the organization in all aspects. It contains founding documents of UN-HABITAT, publications, annual reports, and other policy documents. It is a good place to start searching for additional sources to the ones linked here. The Reference Library, in particular, is a useful section as it provides various documents such as proceedings of the Governing Council.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (n.d). *Information by Country* [Website]. Retrieved 7 August 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=2>

On this Website, detail of the work that UN-HABITAT does around the world is provided. It gives a breakdown by both region and country, and thus allows delegates to hone in on the specifics of a particular area. It is a useful source as it would add substance to the otherwise general overview that is provided regarding the work of UN-HABITAT, and it is also useful for case studies.

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-fifth session. (2000). *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 August 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>

This resolution establishes the Millennium Development Goals. It is an important resolution for the UN in general as it outlines the targets for the institution's work in the twenty first century. It is important for delegates of this particular committee as it illustrates where and how UN-HABITAT fits in with the greater agenda and the UN's framework.

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United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (n.d.). *Mandate* [Website]. Retrieved 14 October 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=2467&catid=1&typeid=24&subMenuId=0>

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (n.d). *Our Work* [Website]. Retrieved 25 July 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=316>

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (n.d). *State of the world's cities 2010-2011: Bridging the urban divide – Overview and key findings*. Retrieved 25 July 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3016>

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (n.d). *The UN-HABITAT Youth Fund* [Website]. Retrieved 7 August 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=7901&catid=637&typeid=24&subMenuId=0>

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (n.d). *UN-HABITAT & Post-2015* [Website]. Retrieved 7 August 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=746>

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (n.d). *Donors* [Website]. Retrieved 5 August 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=381>

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (n.d). *World Urban Campaign: Better City – Better Life*. Retrieved 5 August 2013 from: http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/8032_49104_World%20Urban%20Campaign%20-%20Concept%20Note.pdf

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2013, April 19). *Twenty-fourth Governing Council draws to a close* [Website]. Retrieved 5 August 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=12155&catid=744&typeid=6&subMenuId=0>

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (n.d). *Information by Country* [Website]. Retrieved 5 August 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=2>

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I. UN-HABITAT and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

“We acknowledge that with the world’s population projected to exceed 9 billion by 2050 with an estimated two thirds living in cities, we need to increase our efforts to achieve sustainable development and, in particular, the eradication of poverty, hunger and preventable diseases.”⁵⁰

Introduction

The *Millennium Declaration* represents the first international framework that promoted human development and is said to be “the most successful global anti-poverty push in history”.⁵¹ To achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) the international community set up international and national programs.⁵² Some of these programs can be seen in the work of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT), which helped to engage successfully and achieve MDG seven, environmental sustainability.⁵³ According to the Millennium Development Goals Report 2013, many goals have been met.⁵⁴ In particular, “the proportion of people living in extreme poverty has been halved at the global level.”⁵⁵ The World Health Organization (WHO) also reported successes in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis.⁵⁶ However, the financial and economic crisis had an impact on some of the work being done to achieve the MDGs and, as such, Member States, civil society, and the international community need to redouble their efforts and commit further to the achievement of the MDGs by 2015.⁵⁷

The 2015 deadline to achieve the MDGs is two years away.⁵⁸ In spite of renewed efforts, it is unlikely that all MDGs will be met by the deadline; therefore, the United Nations (UN) is contemplating what should be done after the 2015 MDG deadline has passed, to ensure that development goals are not forgotten.⁵⁹ In order to establish a new framework for development goals, it is important for the international community to consider the critiques the MDGs received.⁶⁰ For example, human rights play a significant role within the MDG framework, but critics have suggested that the MDG targets did not address human rights specifically and the process could be improved by focusing on human rights standards.⁶¹ Additionally, the realization of the MDGs missed the different development dimensions – peace and security, governance, and human rights, by non-operationalization.⁶² Addressing these missing features is essential for the Post-2015 development agenda and in order to address these concerns, from 2015 on, the international community will focus on sustainable development.⁶³ In 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, RIO+20, emphasized the creation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the outcome document “The Future We Want.”⁶⁴ In this document, RIO+20 states that all relevant stakeholders, like UN organizations, Member States, and experts, shall engage in the development of SDGs by sharing their knowledge.⁶⁵ Thereby, a global framework can be created.⁶⁶ As UN-HABITAT was already engaged in the achievement of the MDGs, it also will be engaged in the achievement of the SDGs.⁶⁷

⁵⁰ UN General Assembly, Sixty-sixth session, *The future we want (A/RES/66/288)* [Resolution], 2012, p. 4.

⁵¹ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, June 2013, p. 3; Nhema, *An MDG plus agenda for Africa*, 2010, p. 28.

⁵² Nhema, *An MDG plus agenda for Africa*, 2010, p. 28.

⁵³ UN Human Settlements Programme, *UN-Habitat and the Millennium Development Goals* [Website], 2013.

⁵⁴ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 4.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ World Health Organization, *Accelerating progress towards the health-related Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p. 4.

⁵⁷ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013.

⁵⁸ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals* [Website], 2013.

⁵⁹ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 5.

⁶⁰ United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *Review of the contributions of the MDG Agenda to foster development: Lessons for the post-2015 UN development agenda*, 2012, p. 11.

⁶¹ Langford, *A Poverty of Rights: Six Ways to Fix the MDGs*, 2010, p. 85.

⁶² United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *Review of the contributions of the MDG Agenda to foster development: Lessons for the post-2015 UN development agenda*, 2012, p. 17.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ UN General Assembly, Sixty-sixth session, *The future we want (A/RES/66/288)* [Resolution], 2012, p. 46.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ UN-HABITAT, *UN-HABITAT and Post-2015*, 2013.

International Framework

There are two main documents, which constitute the basis for the Post-2015 development agenda. In 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted the *Millennium Declaration*, which was written during the Millennium Summit in New York.⁶⁸ The summit had the highest participation of global leaders in UN history and the main purpose was to discuss the actions to be taken by the UN during the new millennium.⁶⁹ At the summit, participating States committed themselves to supporting the most vulnerable and the children of the world.⁷⁰ To ensure a better future, the Millennium Declaration points out several key issues, of which the MDGs and their sub-targets were created. The emphasized topics in the document are: peace and security, disarmament, development, poverty eradication, the environment, human rights, democracy, and good governance.⁷¹ In 2002, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan called for a concrete action plan and created the UN Millennium Project.⁷²

The second important document is the outcome paper of the RIO+20 summit, “The Future We Want,” written in 2012.⁷³ The summit was held to review the progress of previous sustainable development summits, to investigate, which areas need more work, and to address new challenges in the course of sustainable development.⁷⁴ Preparations included a review of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Declaration.⁷⁵ “The Future We Want” concentrates on the three areas of sustainable development, which are, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross, social, economic, and environmental sustainable development.⁷⁶ The outcome paper of the RIO+20 summit states that the SDGs shall “contribute to eradicating poverty as well as sustained economic growth, enhancing social inclusion, improving human welfare and creating opportunities for employment and decent work for all, while maintaining the healthy functioning of the Earth’s ecosystems.”⁷⁷ However, concrete SDGs were not created during RIO+20.⁷⁸ The outcome does state how the goals will be established and which rules shall be applied.⁷⁹ The development process shall also be open to all stakeholders including UN-HABITAT.⁸⁰

Role of the United Nations System

To achieve the MDGs by 2015, twenty-nine UN organizations and six regional commissions are working on the different targets by implementing programs and initiatives.⁸¹ For example, UN-HABITAT launched the *Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in ACP Countries*.⁸² And The Economic Commission for Africa installed the *African Plenary on National Poverty Reduction Strategies and the Implementation of MDGs*.⁸³

Within the *Millennium Declaration*, the UN General Assembly “reaffirmed their support for sustainable development.”⁸⁴ This principal became MDG seven: ensure environmental sustainability.⁸⁵ UN-HABITAT engaged in achieving two sub-goals of MDG 7: goal 7C, to halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and 7D, which aims to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of

⁶⁸ United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, *United Nations Millennium Summit (6-8 September 2000)* [Website], 2013.

⁶⁹ United Nations, *United Nations Millennium Development Goals - Background* [Website], 2013.

⁷⁰ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2 2000)* [Resolution], 2000, p. 1.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁷² United Nations, *United Nations Millennium Development Goals - Background* [Website], 2013.

⁷³ UN General Assembly, Sixty-sixth session, *The future we want (A/RES/66/288)* [Resolution], 2012, p. 1.

⁷⁴ 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 (A/RES/64/236 2010)* [Resolution], 2010, p. 5.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 6

⁷⁶ United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, *The future we want (A/CONF.216/L.1)*, 2012, p. 9; International Committee of the Red Cross, *The three dimensions of the ICRC*, 2013.

⁷⁷ United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, *The future we want (A/CONF.216/L.1)*, 2012, p. 9.

⁷⁸ United Nations, *Sustainable development goals* [Website], 2013.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

⁸¹ United Nations, *Partners on MDGs*, 2013.

⁸² UN-HABITAT, *Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in ACP Countries* [Website], 2013.

⁸³ United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *Progress and Challenges in Aligning Poverty Reduction Strategies with Millennium Development Goals* [Website], 2013.

⁸⁴ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2 2000)* [Resolution], 2000, p. 6.

⁸⁵ United Nations, *United Nations Millennium Development Goals – Goal 7* [Website], 2013.

at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.⁸⁶ Goal 7C was met in 2010 and 7D was achieved in 2012; thus, both goals met their deadline in advance.⁸⁷ This success was, in large part, due to UN-HABITAT's implementation of thirteen different programs taking place between 2003 and 2011, most of which were in Asia and Latin America and focused on urban management, anti-corruption, and improving living standards in slums.⁸⁸ One such program is the *Decentralization through Promotion of Good Urban and Environmental Governance* aimed at an improvement of livelihood through urban management and sustainable urbanization in order to ensure environmental sustainability.⁸⁹ Another example is the *Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in ACP Countries*. The program's main purpose is to improve the living quality in slums in African, the Caribbean, and Pacific Member States to achieve three objectives: reduce urban poverty, promote sustainable slum upgrading policy development, and strengthening capacity building.⁹⁰ In cooperation with other UN-organizations such as the WHO, United Nations Children's Fund, and United Nations Development Programme, UN-HABITAT was able to assist two billion people in gaining access to safe drinking water between 1990 and 2010, which corresponds to a proportional improvement of 23%.⁹¹ In 1990 only 76% of the world's population had access to safe drinking water; in 2010 the number rose to 89%.⁹² Similarly, the amount of people who have access to sanitation facilities has increased.⁹³ More than 240,000 human beings gained access between 1990 and 2011.⁹⁴ Sub-Saharan Africa is still the region with the lowest access to any of these, and 2.5 billion people around the world still suffer from non-existing or bad sanitation facilities.⁹⁵ The number of slum dwellers decreased significantly during the same time period.⁹⁶ In 1990 it was estimated that 863 million people were living in slums; in 2012 the amount decreased to 650 million.⁹⁷ The MDG target was further exceeded by giving 200 million people improved access to water and sanitation in slums as well as enabling slum dwellers to access less crowded housing situation.⁹⁸

In 2012, the shift from MDGs to SDGs began. During the RIO+20 conference, the gathered parties did decide on a common process on how the SDGs should be created.⁹⁹ The initial input shall be given by the Secretary-General in consultation with national governments.¹⁰⁰ The *Secretary-General's Initial Input to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*, given December 2012 for the 67th General Assembly meeting represents this initial input, which supports the work of the working group.¹⁰¹ Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon presented his vision on the SDGs in September 2013.¹⁰² The Secretary-General has also been asked to ensure the cooperation of all United Nations Organizations, including UN-HABITAT.¹⁰³ In order to receive reports on Post-2015 development and have a team of experts, who are able to provide recommendations towards the topic of Sustainable Development, the Secretary-General announced the launch of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) in 2012.¹⁰⁴ The SDSN "mobilizes scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society, and the private sector in support of sustainable development problem solving at local, national, and global scales."¹⁰⁵ The first report of the SDSN, *Action Agenda for Sustainable Development* defined ten challenges that should be considered while developing SDGs.¹⁰⁶ These ten challenges are: end extreme poverty including hunger; achieve

⁸⁶ United Nations, *United Nations Millennium Development Goals – Goal 7* [Website], 2013.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ UN-HABITAT, *Millennium Development Goals - Activities* [Website], 2013.

⁸⁹ UN-HABITAT, *Decentralisation through Promotion of Good Urban and Environmental Governance* [Website], 2013.

⁹⁰ UN-HABITAT, *Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in ACP Countries* [Website], 2013.

⁹¹ United Nations, *Achieve the MDGs – More must be done to achieve environmental sustainability* [Website], 2013; United Nations, *United Nations Millennium Development Goals – Goal 7* [Website], 2013.

⁹² United Nations, *United Nations Millennium Development Goals – Goal 7* [Website], 2013.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ United Nations, *Sustainable development goals* [Website], 2013.

¹⁰⁰ United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. *The future we want (A/CONF.216/L.1)*, 2012, p. 47.

¹⁰¹ UN General Assembly, *Secretary-General's Initial Input to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*, 2012.

¹⁰² United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. *The future we want (A/CONF.216/L.1)*, 2012, p. 47.

¹⁰³ Ibid, p. 47

¹⁰⁴ United Nations, *Sustainable Development Solutions Network* [Website], 2013.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid

¹⁰⁶ Sustainable Development Solutions Network, *Action Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2013, pp. 8.

development within planetary boundaries; ensure effective learning for all children and youth for life and livelihood; achieve gender equality, social inclusion, and human rights; achieve health and wellbeing at all ages; improve agriculture systems and raise rural prosperity; empower inclusive, productive, and resilient cities; curb human-induced climate change and ensure clean energy for all; secure ecosystem services and biodiversity and ensure good management of water and natural resources; transform governance for sustainable development.¹⁰⁷

Additionally, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon established a United Nations System Task Team, which consists of twenty-seven members, namely UN-committee and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), whose main purpose is to coordinate the preparations for the Post-2015 agenda.¹⁰⁸ The UN System Task Team allows the Secretary-General to consult with all relevant stakeholders. “The Task Team is led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme and brings together senior experts from over 50 UN entities and international organizations to provide system-wide support to the post-2015 consultation process, including analytical input, expertise, and outreach.”¹⁰⁹

UN-HABITAT and the shift from MDGs to SDGs

Even though UN-HABITAT was able to improve the living conditions of slum dwellers and ensure improved access to drinking water and basic sanitation, “by 2050, about 70 percent of the world’s population is projected to live in urban areas.”¹¹⁰ With this increase in urbanization, problems will occur concerning access to fresh water, infrastructure, and accommodation.¹¹¹ Based on this forecast, the *Rabat Declaration* of 2012 made the connection between MDG 7D (to decrease the amount of slum dwellers) and the need for sustainable cities.¹¹² The undervaluation of environmental constraints and the related dimensions of sustainable development were named one of the weakness of the MDGs.¹¹³ In accordance with these statements, UN-HABITAT proposed an SDG for the Post-2015 movement which calls for Sustainable cities and human settlements.¹¹⁴

Concerning the work of UN-HABITAT, the preparations and outcomes of the HABITAT II and III summits are of special importance. These conferences constitute the basis for UN-HABITAT’s vision on the Post-2015 movement.¹¹⁵ HABITAT II, A/RES/50/100 (1995), was the first summit that talked about the importance of sustainable cities in the future.¹¹⁶ Its main purpose was to address the issue of adequate shelter for all human beings and the growing challenge of an urbanizing world, making sustainable human settlement the center of concern.¹¹⁷ Out of this context UN-HABITAT released several papers which support the fundamental role of cities and urban places in the future. In May 2012, UN-HABITAT published a Thematic Think Piece on Sustainable Urbanization to support the work of the UN System Task Team.¹¹⁸ The Think Piece emphasizes the importance of the sustainable urban centers and declares sustainable cities to be a local, national, and international topic.¹¹⁹ In December 2012, UN-HABITAT released the final draft on the HABITAT III resolution, A/C.2/67/L.22, which encourages the inclusion of the topic of sustainable urbanization within the Post-2015 agenda.¹²⁰ Additionally, Dr. Joan Clos,

¹⁰⁷ Sustainable Development Solutions Network, *Action Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2013, pp. 32.

¹⁰⁸ United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *Membership*, 2013; United Nations, *United Nations Millennium Development Goals – Beyond 2015 [Website]*, 2013.

¹⁰⁹ UN Human Settlements Programme, *Sustainable Urbanization – Thematic Think Piece*, 2012, p. 2.

¹¹⁰ UN Human Settlements Programme, *UN-Habitat and the Millennium Development Goals [Website]*, 2013; UN Human Settlements Programme, *UN-Habitat and Post-2015 [Website]*, 2013

¹¹¹ UN Human Settlements Programme, *UN-Habitat and Post-2015 [Website]*, 2013.

¹¹² UN Human Settlements Programme, *Rabat Declaration “Making Slums History: a worldwide challenge for 2020” [Declaration]*, 2012, p. 1.

¹¹³ UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *Review of the contributions of the MDG Agenda to foster development: Lessons for the post-2015 UN development agenda*, March 2012, p. 17.

¹¹⁴ UN Human Settlements Programme, *Proposed Sustainable Development Goal – Sustainable Cities & Human Settlements*, 2012, p.1.

¹¹⁵ UN Human Settlements Programme, *UN-Habitat and Post-2015 [Website]*, 2013.

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ United Nations, *Outcomes on Human Settlements [Website]*, 2013.

¹¹⁸ UN Human Settlements Programme, *Sustainable Urbanization – Thematic Think Piece*, 2012, p.1.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/C.2/67/L.22 2012) [Draft Resolution]*, 2012, p. 2.

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, wrote a paper on his vision for the Post-2015 movement, *Urbanization as a Driver for Sustainable Development*.¹²¹ The paper summarizes UN-HABITAT's vision for the Post-2015 movement

Urbanization as a Key Driver towards Sustainable Development

Urbanization is a crucial factor in determining the Post-2015 development agenda, because of this UN-HABITAT must focus on activities to ensure social and economic equality in cities.¹²² In 2007 more than half of the world's population was living in towns and cities, making cities the main area of human settlement and urbanization a real concern in the development of SDGs.¹²³ Cities are no longer simply a space where people settle – they are social, cultural, and political centers.¹²⁴ They shape and influence a country's political and environmental developments and are also fundamental in sustainable processes.¹²⁵

Even though urbanized regions do have a promising future, cities are also confronted with numerous challenges. Climate change, inefficient energy use, fuel shortages, and a highly increasing population are all potential challenges for cities.¹²⁶ To make the most out of cities and maximize their potential, Dr. Joan Clos advocates seven steps that need to be taken towards sustainable development in cities.¹²⁷ The first step, future cities should be more connected, compact, and integrated.¹²⁸ Thus, cities shall be no longer mono-functional but show economic and social diversity by having a mixed land use.¹²⁹ Thereby, transport costs of companies and other institutions can be minimized; land use can be optimized, and social diversity is enhanced.¹³⁰ A well-organized and managed public urban space will lead cities to improved economic performance and social interaction.¹³¹ People tend to deal with problems within cities using a sectorial approach, corresponding to a diversification of different urban areas within a city.¹³² However, problems need to be solved on a citywide basis to improve the solution and tackle the issues at their core.¹³³ Emphasis lies on a well-planned infrastructure. Important features of sustainable cities are a common public space, optimized street connectivity, and a variety of houses within an area that allow social diversity due to different housing prices.¹³⁴ To increase sustainable urban development, mixed land-use and common codes such as a limiting special land-use shall increase urban space from 10% up to 30%.¹³⁵ Furthermore, endogenous development needs to be promoted amongst cities improving the potential for inhabitants.¹³⁶ Lastly, the poorest and most vulnerable shall still benefit most from changes and financial support.¹³⁷ These steps and their outcomes show what kind of fundamental role urbanization may play towards sustainable development.¹³⁸

UN-HABITAT emphasizes the need for urbanization as it can tackle contemporary challenges such as social well-being, economic growth, poor living standards and sustainable development through the urban economy.¹³⁹“Cities are the places where new ideas crystallize, technological and artistic innovation happen, and creative solutions to problems emerge.”¹⁴⁰ Cities are economic forces on a global level and can yield critical results for a nation.¹⁴¹ The potential within cities is enormous as they have the advantage of political infrastructure, networks of people, and a

¹²¹ Clos, *Urbanization as a driver for sustainable development*, March 2013, p. 1.

¹²² UN Human Settlements Programme, *Sustainable Urbanization – Thematic Think Piece*, 2012, pp. 4-6.

¹²³ *Ibid.* p.3

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*

¹²⁶ Clos, *Urbanization as a driver for sustainable development*, 2013, p. 1.

¹²⁷ *Ibid.*

¹²⁸ *Ibid.*

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*

¹³¹ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

¹³² *Ibid.*, p. 2.

¹³³ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

¹³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

¹³⁸ Clos, *Urbanization as a driver for sustainable development*, 2013, pp. 1-2.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

¹⁴⁰ UN Human Settlements Programme, *Sustainable Urbanization – Thematic Think Piece*, 2012, p. 2 and p. 5.

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 3 and p. 6.

base for innovation.¹⁴² To ensure sustainable urbanization, UN-HABITAT released a proposition: the SDGs should have 11 specific targets concerning urbanization and sustainability.¹⁴³ These targets should focus on: National Urban Policies, Urban Sprawl, Public Space, Housing and Slums, Citizen Participation, Urban Safety, Urban Job Creation, Urban Mobility, Urban Energy, Urban Water, and Sanitation and Urban Resilience.¹⁴⁴ These targets will support the achievement of “cities that are environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive, economically productive and resilient.”¹⁴⁵

Conclusion

Topics related to the Millennium Development Goals have already been discussed many times, but since RIO+20 the global community must now answer the question “what happens beyond 2015?” Over the last 13 years international and regional organizations, national governments, and civil society have engaged in working on the Millennium Development Goals. Many targets have been met, but people are still hungry, women still die during childbirth, there are still no basic sanitation facilities guaranteed causing severe health issues, and the environment is still suffering from climate change.¹⁴⁶ Furthermore, progress on the MDGs differs tremendously among continents and regions.¹⁴⁷ Sub-Saharan Africa as well as Western and South Asia have many gaps before reaching the MDGs.¹⁴⁸ With their deadline a mere two years away, now is when the international community must consider the future it wants.

In order to gain an overview of the MDGs and the SDGs, delegates should be familiar with the different Reports on the development of the MDGs and the Think Pieces of different UN institutions on the topic of Sustainable Development. Furthermore, the *Rabat Declaration*, UN-HABITAT’s proposed SDG *Sustainable Cities & Human Settlements*, and the *Action Agenda for Sustainable Development* are of great importance. When researching this topic, delegates should consider the following questions: Which actions must be taken to ensure sustainable development? Which actions must be taken by UN-HABITAT to encourage and ensure the implementation of SDGs, especially their proposal SDG *Sustainable Cities & Human Settlements*? How can UN-HABITAT prioritize its work in various regions? What role do other actors play in achieving sustainable urbanization? Furthermore, delegates should profoundly prepare their country’s opinion and ideas on sustainable urbanization. The preparation should concentrate on specific, detailed, original, and forward-looking ideas on how to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, especially UN-HABITAT’s idea to enhance sustainable urbanization.

Annotated Bibliography

Clos, J. (2013). *Urbanization as a Driver for Sustainable Development*, Retrieved 3 July 2013 from: http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/12297_1_595229.pdf.

Dr. Joan Clos, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, summarized UN-HABITAT’s vision on the Post-2015 agenda. The document allows delegates to get deeper in the topic and gain more understanding for the topic of sustainable urbanization. Clos points out in seven steps how sustainable Urbanization can improve living standards for people. Among these seven steps are a mixed-use of cities and smartening land-use and building codes. Additionally, she names some broad ideas on how to achieve sustainable cities.

United Nations. (2013). *Millennium Development Goals - Beyond 2015* [Website]. Retrieved 7 September 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/beyond2015-news.shtml>.

This Website publishes all key UN documents concerning the Post-2015 development goals. Delegates may explore the background information on the topic and see what the United Nations is doing to develop a new framework. Additionally, the Website has an archive where all former

¹⁴² Clos, *Urbanization as a driver for sustainable development*, 2013, p. 1.

¹⁴³ UN Human Settlements Programme, *Proposed Sustainable Development Goal – Sustainable Cities & Human Settlements*, 2012, p. 1.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 3.

¹⁴⁷ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals: 2012 Progress Chart*, 2012.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

documents and ideas on the topic can be seen. Delegates can see what has been done and check whether their ideas were already used or not.

United Nations (2013). *Sustainable Development Solutions Network* [Website]. Retrieved 7 August 2013 from: <http://unsdsn.org/>.

Within the RIO+20 Declaration, the Secretary-General is asked to launch a working group concerned with the reporting and coordination of Sustainable Development. Therefore, Ban Ki-Moon launched the Sustainable Development Solutions Network. The network reports to the Secretary-General and makes recommendations. In 2013 they released their first report, Action Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is of utmost importance to the topic. The Website provides all relevant information and delegates may find relevant documents on the topic of sustainable development.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-sixth session. (2012). *The future we want (A/RES/66/288)* [Resolution]. Adopted the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/66/L.56). Retrieved 2 July 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288

The conference outcome document of Rio+20 is a first step towards the Post-2015 movement. It is the basis for the development of Sustainable Development Goals and delegates should be familiar with the document. In the declaration delegates can find all relevant information on the process how SDGs shall be developed and who is responsible for what. For instance the document names the different working groups which shall be established as already pointed out above. . Additionally, the conference outcome constitutes the main areas the SDGs shall work in.

United Nations General Assembly. (2000). *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2 2000)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 September 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>.

In 2000, the General Assembly agreed on the Millennium Declaration, which constitutes the basis for the concrete development of eight MDGs. The document declares which areas of concern are important and which issues have to be resolved. Delegates should use this document to understand the shift from MDGs to SDGs as they need to understand the beginnings of the MDGs to have a broader understanding of the SDGs.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2012). *Proposed Sustainable Development Goal – Sustainable Cities & Human Settlements*. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from: http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/11858_1_594728.pdf.

As UN-HABITAT is actively involved in the development of SDGs, the committee proposed a specific SDG. UN-HABITAT calls for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements. This particular document is the official release of UN-HABITAT's SDG. Delegates are able to see what the committee's main objective is and what targets have to be fulfilled to achieve the overall goal.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2012). *Sustainable Urbanization – Thematic Think Piece*. Retrieved 7 September 2013 from: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Think%20Pieces/18_urbanization.pdf.

The United Nations Task System Teams supports the Secretary-General to gather information and ideas on SDGs. Therefore, they asked for Thematic Think Pieces, which are supposed to support the development of concrete SDGs. Among others, UN-HABITAT is actively involved in the process and released a Thematic Think Piece, which was the basis for their proposed SDG, Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements. To understand UN-HABITAT's role in the development of SDGs, delegates should consider this source to deepen their knowledge concerning the topic of sustainable urbanization.

United Nations. (2013). *Millennium Development Goals Reports*. [Website]. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/reports.shtml>.

The United Nations publishes a document every year that reports on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Special emphasis lies on the outcomes and progresses of all eight MDGs. Additionally, the report states where more work has to be done and also names the Organizations that are involved in what activities. UN-HABITAT is named to be involved in the achievement of MDG 7.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2013). *UN-HABITAT and Post-2015*. [Website]. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=746>.

This Website is essential for delegate's work on the topic. Background information to MDGs and SDGs are provided from the view of UN-HABITAT. Additionally, on the Website UN-HABITAT presents its work on the topic of the Post-2015 movement and the SDGs. Delegates can find all key documents from UN-HABITAT, for instance UN-HABITAT presents a document presenting their proposed SDG. Thus, Delegates can find information on UN-HABITAT's role in the course of the development of SDGs.

United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. (2012). *Review of the contributions of the MDG Agenda to foster development: Lessons for the post-2015 UN development agenda* [Official Record]. Retrieved 3 July 2013 from: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/mdg_assessment_Aug.pdf.

This discussion note represents one of the key documents concerning the development of the SDGs. It represents the strengths and weaknesses of the MDGs, such as how they are transparent and simple but fail to account for population dynamics. The document shows on the one side in which areas actions to achieve and improve MDGs can be set up and on the other side constitutes a first approach to develop SDGs.

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II. Gender Equality in Human Settlements Development

*“The empowerment of women and their full and equal participation in political, social and economic life, the improvement of health and the eradication of poverty are essential to achieving sustainable human settlements.”*¹⁴⁹

Introduction

One of the key focuses of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) is to highlight the main gender issues faced in the context of urbanization.¹⁵⁰ This is because gender gaps between men and women add extra barriers to the socioeconomic development of towns and cities, “which already have many pressing needs to address, especially in developing countries with rapid rates of urbanization.”¹⁵¹ Paragraph 15 of the Habitat Agenda outlines that women play a critical role in achieving sustainable human settlements.¹⁵² Due to several different factors, including the obstinate and growing burden of poverty on women and the gender-discrimination they suffer, women face specific constraints in gaining adequate shelter and in the enjoyment of their full participation in the decision-making bodies of sustainable human settlements.¹⁵³ The main ways to work towards gender equality in human settlements development is to focus on women’s empowerment, gender mainstreaming, and gender violence.¹⁵⁴ To achieve gender equality and bring about the empowerment of women, technical expertise and knowledge are required in terms of how to mainstream gender into development policies and programs.¹⁵⁵ UN-HABITAT therefore has a vital role to play in these areas, especially because of the relationship between urbanization and environmental degradation in which sustainable urban development is needed to help preserve the environment.¹⁵⁶ However, urbanization need not necessitate environmental degradation; this risk is avoidable with the right planning and administration.¹⁵⁷ The impact of accelerated urbanization on human settlements has advantages and disadvantages; however, more often than not, the negative effects hinder progress on attaining development goals.¹⁵⁸

The Relationship Between Poverty, Gender Equality, and Human Settlements

Towns and cities have become increasingly important settings for tackling gender inequalities.¹⁵⁹ Urban development is one of the defining features of social progress in the modern world.¹⁶⁰ However, most developing countries have been shaped by values and belief systems that undermine women, inevitably building a patriarchal ideology into their national organizations and institutions.¹⁶¹ This means more women are exposed to poverty, gender discrimination, and sexual abuse and its consequences.¹⁶² As such, creating more equal opportunities for women helps contribute to better living conditions for the urban poor and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).¹⁶³ Creating these opportunities occurs through several different approaches in human settlements development. These include UN interactions between bodies, such as UN-HABITAT’s Partnership with UN Women and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), initiatives to combat gender violence in urban settings, and programs that encourage gender mainstreaming in areas such as water and sanitation. Yet, despite these programs, many issues remain such as domestic violence, poverty, lack of economic empowerment and access to property and land, lack of safety in public areas, deficits in tenure safety, and the need for basic services, especially sanitation.¹⁶⁴

¹⁴⁹ UN-HABITAT, *The Habitat Agenda*, 1996.

¹⁵⁰ UN-HABITAT, *Gender Equality for Smarter Cities*, 2010.

¹⁵¹ UN-HABITAT, *Gender Equality for a Better Urban Future*, 2009.

¹⁵² UN-HABITAT, *The Habitat Agenda*, Parag. 15, 1996.

¹⁵³ Ibid

¹⁵⁴ Global Urban Development Magazine, *Taking action to empower women: UN millennium project report on education and gender equality*, 2006.

¹⁵⁵ Ibid

¹⁵⁶ UN-HABITAT, *Sustainable Urban Development Network*, 2013.

¹⁵⁷ Ibid

¹⁵⁸ Ibid

¹⁵⁹ UN-HABITAT, *Gender Equality for Smarter Cities*, 2010.

¹⁶⁰ UN-HABITAT, *Gender, Culture and Urbanization*, 2004.

¹⁶¹ Ibid

¹⁶² Ibid

¹⁶³ UN-HABITAT, *Gender Equality for Smarter Cities*, 2010.

¹⁶⁴ Swedish International Development Agency, *Women’s Economic Empowerment: Key Issues and Policy Options*, 2009.

These conditions women and girls specifically face in urban settlements are compounded by, and interrelated with the fact that in general economically disadvantaged women and girls are particularly marginalized due to their social and physical conditions.¹⁶⁵ It is estimated that “three-fifths of the world’s one billion poorest people are women and girls” and they often have greater difficulty than men in accessing basic services, resources and enjoying decision-making opportunities.¹⁶⁶ This is because they often live in deprived housing areas such as slums, where overcrowding and inadequate or non-existent toilet facilities and other amenities impact the quality of education that children receive.¹⁶⁷ Two thirds of the 960 million illiterate adults worldwide are women and of the 130 million children who are out of school, 70% of these are girls.¹⁶⁸ These statistics show that women’s lack of access to education, a human right under Article 26 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)*, hinders the development of cities, individual living standards, and entire countries. For example, according to a 2007 survey by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Asia and the Pacific were losing \$40-42 billion a year as a result of restricted access for women to seek employment, and another \$16-30 billion a year due to of gender gaps in the education system.¹⁶⁹

Thus, given complex relationship between poverty, gender equality, and sustainable human settlements, it is important to understand the significant work that supports achieving progress on these issues at the regional and international levels. Economic development experts have found that in countries where poverty incidents are lower, there is greater gender equality, meaning economic growth and gender equality seem to be interrelated.

International and Regional Framework

The most important international frameworks related to gender equality in human settlements development relate to simply the importance of gender equality and women’s rights and empowerment. The issue of “women’s empowerment” became an international policy discourse after the development of the *Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)* (1995), the outcome of the Fourth World Conference for Women in Beijing, China.¹⁷⁰ The BPfA is characterized as an “agenda for women’s empowerment” which had as its focus sharing responsibility and power.¹⁷¹ This agenda has been incorporated into the work of different international agencies, bringing a more inclusive concept to urban prosperity, which includes gender equality.¹⁷² It is also important to highlight MDG 3, which is focused on gender equality.¹⁷³ The UN has long been concerned with issues of gender equality, and BPfA was a landmark for the advancement of the women’s equality agenda.¹⁷⁴

Frameworks that promote the rights of women generally are also important to this topic. The *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (1979) (CEDAW) and its subsequent treaty body, the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, ensure certain rights to all women and girls. This included providing the same access to opportunities and participation in all aspects of the community, such as political and public engagements like voting rights and the right to stand for elections, in addition to health, education, and employment.¹⁷⁵ Prior to the establishment of the CEDAW committee, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) sought to define and elaborate general guarantees of non-discrimination in fundamental and basic human rights from a gender perspective.¹⁷⁶ The CSW still undertakes this work

Additionally, the MDGs and the Rio+20 outcome document address the issue of gender equality in the context of human settlements. MDG 3, which aims for the elimination of gender disparity to empower women, is crucial for the development of gender equality in human settlements as it calls for the design, provision, and management of

¹⁶⁵ UN-HABITAT, *Gender, Culture and Urbanization*, 2004.

¹⁶⁶ UN-HABITAT, *Gender, Culture and Urbanization*, 2004; UNDP, *Taking Gender Equality Seriously*, 2006.

¹⁶⁷ UN-HABITAT, *Cities, Slums and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2006.

¹⁶⁸ UNDP, *Taking Gender Equality Seriously*, 2006.

¹⁶⁹ UN-HABITAT, *Gender Equality for Smarter Cities*, 2010.

¹⁷⁰ UN-HABITAT, *State of Women in Cities 2012-2013: Gender and the Prosperity of Cities*, 2013.

¹⁷¹ Ibid

¹⁷² Ibid

¹⁷³ UN-HABITAT, *Gender Mainstreaming in Local Authorities – Best Practices*, 2008

¹⁷⁴ UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, 1979.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid

¹⁷⁶ Ibid

public services to benefit both women and men.¹⁷⁷ The MDGs are important because they help progress towards a more gender-equal access to urban public spaces, and they highlight the absence of gender-disaggregated data, especially at the city level, which negatively affects how policies, plans, and programs address the respective needs of women and men.¹⁷⁸ The outcome document for Rio+20 includes a separate section for gender equality and women's empowerment, classifying it as a priority area.¹⁷⁹ It identifies cross-cutting issues and includes clear references to women's empowerment and gender equality in 12 thematic areas.¹⁸⁰ Most importantly, in the context of human settlements development, some of these thematic areas are: poverty eradication; food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture; energy; water and sanitation; sustainable cities and human settlements; health and population; promoting full and productive employment, and decent work for all and social protection; and education.¹⁸¹ The document also acknowledged that goals, targets, and indicators, including those that are gender-sensitive, are valuable for measuring and furthering progress on sustainable development.¹⁸²

Many other documents further build on these concepts of women's equality and empowerment and are reflected at the regional level. Examples of successful regional initiatives aimed at promoting women's equality include the Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors & Councilors, organized by the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Southeast Asia Gender Equity Program (SEAGEP), and several other agencies.¹⁸³ Specifically, for one example, The summit aims to "increase the awareness of the transformative role women play in local government and the challenges and constraints they face while working with and leading local governments and to discuss follow-up regional strategies and actions to promote the participation and representation in local governments."¹⁸⁴

Role of the United Nations System

Given the prevalence of cities as well as the need for women's empowerment, many UN agencies and other actors are actively working on promoting gender equality in human settlements development.

UN-HABITAT Efforts

Achieving gender equality is part of the work of UN-HABITAT as enshrined in the Programme's most important document, the *Habitat Agenda*, in Chapter 3, section D.¹⁸⁵ UN-HABITAT implements the Agenda in the context of gender by promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women as one of the vital components of sustainable urbanization.¹⁸⁶ The main aim behind this commitment involves ensuring that inequalities in urban areas are addressed to guarantee the safety, health, and productive living of citizens; foster the environmental sustainability of towns and cities; and work for adequate shelter for all.¹⁸⁷ The shelter projects developed by UN-HABITAT help promote the involvement of women in the design and construction of houses and community buildings, as well as in infrastructure development and services, which make communities "safer, healthier, more productive and more responsive to different gender needs."¹⁸⁸ A key emerging focus of UN-HABITAT's work has been what is referred to as its Gender Equality Action Plan.

The UN-HABITAT's Gender Equality Action Plan is one component of the UN-HABITAT's 2002 *Gender Policy*. This policy contains two main objectives: "women's rights and women's empowerment through participation; and

¹⁷⁷ UN-HABITAT, *Gender Mainstreaming in Local Authorities – Best Practices*, 2008

¹⁷⁸ UN Women, *A transformative stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment: imperatives and key components*, 2013; UN-HABITAT, *Gender Mainstreaming in Local Authorities – Best Practices*, 2008

¹⁷⁹ UN Women, *A transformative stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment: imperatives and key components*, 2013.

¹⁸⁰ Ibid

¹⁸¹ Ibid

¹⁸² Ibid

¹⁸³ UNESCAP, *Asia-Pacific Summit Of Women Mayors And Councillors*, 2001.

¹⁸⁴ Ibid

¹⁸⁵ UN-HABITAT, *Habitat Agenda Goals and Principles, Commitments and the Global Plan of Action*, 2003.

¹⁸⁶ UN-HABITAT, *Our Work: Social Inclusion: Gender: Background*, 2013.

¹⁸⁷ Ibid

¹⁸⁸ UN-HABITAT, *Gender Equality for Smarter Cities*, 2010.

gender mainstreaming in human settlements development.¹⁸⁹ Women's empowerment is advanced through economic empowerment programs, land rights and housing developments.¹⁹⁰ An initiative was launched in 2003, aimed at improving the security of tenure of women, as well as their access to capital, housing and land.¹⁹¹ The program sponsors the domestic movement of income through the use of credit agreements, community savings, and backing from the private sector and local governments.¹⁹²

The Gender Equality Action Plan was developed as a framework for UN-HABITAT's work from 2008-2013 on the issue of gender mainstreaming; however it is constantly also reaffirmed and strengthened.¹⁹³ In 2012, UN-HABITAT created the Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI), aimed at advising the UN-HABITAT's Executive Director on all issues relating to gender, allowing women to be at the forefront as vital agents of change in the development of human settlements.¹⁹⁴ In April 2013, at the UN-HABITAT's 24th Governing Council, Member States adopted a new resolution on "Gender Equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development,"¹⁹⁵ which reaffirms the body's commitment to "integrate a gender perspective in all its activities and requested specific policies and programmes to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment."¹⁹⁶ As an advisory body, UN-HABITAT, in this resolution, recommended encouraging national and local governments to strengthen their policies and address the causes, consequences, and impacts of violence against women and girls.¹⁹⁷

UN-HABITAT Collaborations

Beyond the body's independent efforts, to achieve gender equality in human settlements through gender mainstreaming, women's empowerment, and combating gender violence, UN-HABITAT partners with a wide variety of actors, chief among them UNIFEM and UN Women.

UN-HABITAT partnered with the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in 2009 to launch the *Global Programme on Safe Cities Free of Violence Against Women*.¹⁹⁸ The two agencies co-signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize the partnership, cooperating with local community authorities to improve the safety of cities' policies and schemes.¹⁹⁹ This initiative expanded in 2010, when UN Women, UNICEF and UN-HABITAT launched the Joint Programme "Safe and Friendly Cities for All."²⁰⁰ Since its inception, the three bodies have been working with community leaders, as well as women's and youth societies, organizations, and institutions to ensure that women and children can enjoy public spaces free from fear of violence.²⁰¹ This initiative, currently on-going in eight different cities, is predicted to last until 2016 and is designated to "improve safety, prevent and reduce violence; and to mobilize and empower women's groups, youth and children's advocates to shape their urban environment."²⁰² Currently, this initiative has developed a global advocacy strategy, presented during the international forum of World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP-8), for the prevention of violence against women in public areas to be implemented with partner cities.²⁰³ The establishment of a gender sensitive urban infrastructure and civil planning in inner-city transport, markets, and other services has been a major advancement for the program.²⁰⁴ In 2012, UN-HABITAT and UN Women signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at strengthening the collaboration between the two agencies in areas of common interest, such as "promoting women's

¹⁸⁹ UN-HABITAT, *Gender Equality Action Plan 2008-2013*, 2008.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid

¹⁹¹ Ibid

¹⁹² Ibid

¹⁹³ Ibid

¹⁹⁴ UN-HABITAT, *UN-Habitat establishes advisory group on gender issues* [Website], 2012.

¹⁹⁵ UN-HABITAT, *Gender Equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development (HSP/GC/24/L.5)* [Draft Resolution], 2013.

¹⁹⁶ UNiTE to End Violence, *UN Women joining forces with UN-Habitat to promote women's voice, access and safety in sustainable urban development*, 2013.

¹⁹⁷ UN-HABITAT, *Gender Equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development (HSP/GC/24/L.5)* [Draft Resolution], 2013.

¹⁹⁸ UN-HABITAT, *Gender Equality for Smarter Cities*, 2010.

¹⁹⁹ Ibid

²⁰⁰ UN Women, *Safe and Friendly Cities for All* [Website], 2011.

²⁰¹ Ibid

²⁰² Ibid

²⁰³ UN Women, *UN Women Global Initiative "Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls"*, 2013.

²⁰⁴ Ibid

safety in cities, ending violence against women and girls and participation in governance; and the implementation of the *United Nations System Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (SWAP)*.²⁰⁵

Among several partnerships UN-HABITAT has with other organizations, its collaboration with the Gender and Water Alliance, a global network dedicated to mainstream gender matters in the “Water for African Cities” program is among the most successful.²⁰⁶ These efforts encompass a series of gender assessments in 17 African cities to pinpoint the particular challenges faced by women living in slums.²⁰⁷ The assessments indicated that the task of collecting water is left almost exclusively to women as well as the removal solid waste, the digging of pits for rubbish and toilets and, more generally, the maintenance of a clean environment.²⁰⁸ In Asia, the partnership with the Gender and Water Alliance was further extended to implement a series of training workshops with the aim of strengthening the capability of local governments to adopt a gender analytical framework and understanding the broader political context of water distribution and reform.²⁰⁹

Urbanization and Ways of Achieving Gender Equality

Gender equality, within the context of the UN and UN-HABITAT, means “ensuring that the needs, perspectives, roles and priorities of women and men must be equally addressed in laws, policies, programmes and projects and that our cities and towns must be designed and developed to take into account the roles of women, men, boys and girls.”²¹⁰ In order to understand how gender equality can be achieved, specifically through women’s empowerment, gender mainstreaming, and combatting gender violence, numerous concepts must be understood and applied to each focus area. In general, this is because while much work has been done to understand gendered poverty, less attention has been paid to conceptualizing gender issues in relation to urban prosperity.²¹¹

Economic Promotion and Empowerment

An important factor in understanding gender equality in human settlements development has been through the lens of women’s empowerment, particularly in terms of economic empowerment.²¹² Even though the term “empowerment” is much contested today, it still remains very important especially when discussing women and gender as a crucial strategy for achieving equality.²¹³ Per the most recent monitoring reports, the UN states that there has been some progress worldwide in terms of women’s participation in the labor force, as women hold 40% of jobs in the non-agricultural sector.²¹⁴ This is important for human settlements as women entering the labor market foment urban development.²¹⁵ However, the survival of urban economies is owed, in great part, to the unpaid labor that burdens women disproportionately at the household and community levels.²¹⁶ Unpaid work encompasses a wide range of activities, including labor in household businesses and subsistence tasks such as collecting water or fuel, and the care of persons with family or non-family connections.²¹⁷ Yet, when it comes to the more coveted remunerated work, where male labor is concentrated and is accounted for in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and in the System of National Accounts (SNA), a UN internationally recognized standard on compiling economic activity, there is a biased tendency to privilege these sectors of development.²¹⁸ As a consequence of gender discrimination and a persistent association of women with unpaid tasks, female labor in the marketplace is frequently regarded as lower value, irrespective of the work itself.²¹⁹ Hence, it is important to address women in formal work in general and gender gaps in particular as these issues are recognized in one of the three indicators in MDG 3.²²⁰

²⁰⁵ UN-HABITAT, *UN-Habitat and UN Women sign MoU to strengthen partnership* [Website], 2 September 2012.

²⁰⁶ UN-HABITAT, *Gender Equality for Smarter Cities*, 2010.

²⁰⁷ Ibid

²⁰⁸ Ibid

²⁰⁹ Ibid

²¹⁰ UN-HABITAT, *Gender Equality in the Habitat Agenda*, 2013.

²¹¹ UN-HABITAT, *State of Women in Cities 2012-2013: Gender and the Prosperity of Cities*, 2013.

²¹² Ibid

²¹³ Ibid

²¹⁴ UN Women, *The gender dimension of the Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 1 July 2013.

²¹⁵ Kabeer, *Women’s economic empowerment and inclusive growth: labour markets and enterprise development*, 2012.

²¹⁶ UN-HABITAT, *State of Women in Cities 2012-2013: Gender and the Prosperity of Cities*, 2013.

²¹⁷ Ibid

²¹⁸ Ibid

²¹⁹ Ibid

²²⁰ Ibid

Gender Mainstreaming and Political Empowerment

Gender mainstreaming is frequently described as one way to advance gender equality, but its effectiveness is hindered by a lack of conceptual clarity of the meaning of gender and how to mainstream.²²¹ Therefore, it is important to understand that mainstreaming is:

... a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality.²²²

A mainstreaming approach, such as that described in the gender policy, requires its implementation through targeted actions, which means aiming specifically at problem areas and at the right levels.²²³ The Gender Equality Action Plan offers the tools for those actions through various “action areas.”²²⁴ These areas are: advocacy and gender equality monitoring in cities, urban planning, governance and management, land and housing, access to environmentally sound urban services, access to affordable housing, sustainable capital funds, and reinforcing gender balance and mainstreaming within UN-HABITAT programs.²²⁵ Thus, through a gender mainstreaming approach, the Gender Equality Action Plan assists in ensuring everyone, both men and women, participate equally in the provision and planning stages of the urban services that accommodate their basic needs.²²⁶ This is done through good governance, allowing women to participate and engage in decision-making policies that will affect them.²²⁷

As summits by UN-HABITAT’s partners like the Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Councillors have also demonstrated, having more women in positions of authority is directly related to improved human settlements for women as women in leadership can help encourage better sanitation standards, further innovation in environmental development, and stimulate clean, unpolluted urban environments.²²⁸ In general, as women help redefine political concerns, they prioritize new and important issues on the agenda and feed new perspectives onto the mainstream urban development issues.²²⁹

Addressing Violence Against Women

The issue of gender-based violence is cross-cutting for human settlements.²³⁰ It is a crucial concern towards female participation in urban development as gender violence often arises out of unsafe living situations.²³¹ This is due to a deficiency in the infrastructure of cities, which augment violence against women and makes women more susceptible to break-ins, theft, and rape.²³² A fundamental element of a gender approach relates to the planning dimension, where the safety of women in the public sphere can be addressed as a component of urban planning and public management.²³³ This can be addressed through better training of security forces, the construction of women’s clinics, and the improvement of infrastructure (i.e. lighting) and mobilization in public areas to avoid gender-targeted violence.²³⁴ This urban planning dimension can enhance urban safety and security in cities in many ways.²³⁵ This approach has been denoted as the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).²³⁶ This might include public-private partnerships, such as the “Adopt a Light” initiative in Nairobi, which, since 2002, has allowed

²²¹ Global Urban Development Magazine, *Taking action to empower women: UN millennium project report on education and gender equality*, 2006.

²²² International Labour Organization, *Definition of Gender Mainstreaming* [Website], 2002.

²²³ UN-HABITAT, *Gender Equality Action Plan 2008-2013*, 2008.

²²⁴ Ibid

²²⁵ Ibid

²²⁶ Ibid

²²⁷ Ibid

²²⁸ UNESCAP, *Asia-Pacific Summit Of Women Mayors And Councillors*, 2001.

²²⁹ Ibid

²³⁰ UN-HABITAT, *The Global Assessment on Women’s Safety*, 2009.

²³¹ UN-HABITAT, *State of Women in Cities 2012-2013: Gender and the Prosperity of Cities*, 2013.

²³² Ibid

²³³ UN-HABITAT, *The Global Assessment on Women’s Safety*, 2009.

²³⁴ UNFPA, *Programming to Address Violence Against Women*, 2009.

²³⁵ UN-HABITAT, *State of Women in Cities 2012-2013: Gender and the Prosperity of Cities*, 2013.

²³⁶ Ibid

key thoroughfares to be illuminated within and outside of the capital's main slum areas.²³⁷ Revenue for the scheme is generated through selling advertising space on lampposts.²³⁸

Case study: Rio de Janeiro

In Brazil, sexual violence is an increasing issue in society.²³⁹ Even though reported cases only reflect a small fraction of actual occurrences, data gathered from the Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat for Public Security in 2012 demonstrate that, in comparison to 2011, there has been a sharp increase of 23.8% in cases of “*estupro*” (crimes which include rape and other brutalities) that are reported to the police in Rio de Janeiro.²⁴⁰ In 2012, the Safe Cities program began its work by carrying out surveys that joined together women, men, and youth residents of ten different favelas in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.²⁴¹ One of the unanimous responses was that residents stated they were not aware of the network of support services for victims of violence.²⁴² In order to address this issue, on the 2013 International Women's Day, UN Women, UNICEF and UN-HABITAT launched an online Website, which brings together important information regarding the support services for women and girls who are survivors of sexual violence.²⁴³

Rio demonstrates how new services are needed to help create gender equality because the city demonstrates that women are not frequently aware of existing social service programs.²⁴⁴ Women did not know who was responsible, what organizations existed for helping, what action victims of violence should take, or what support was given in each case regarding health, security, justice or psychological support.²⁴⁵ Hence, the lack of awareness led to the creation of the online tool, which helps to facilitate access for women and girls who have been victims of violence, allowing them to have information and support services available through the “Network for Tackling Violence against Women in the city of Rio de Janeiro.”²⁴⁶ This aids in the development of human settlements as it improves women's access to basic services and security.²⁴⁷

Conclusion

Many thematic areas impact and are impacted by gender equality in human settlements: poverty eradication; food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture; energy; water and sanitation; sustainable cities and human settlements; health and population; promoting full and productive employment, decent work for all and social protection; and education. The wide range of issues areas means that, especially depending on how the issue of gender equality in human settlements and human settlements development is approached, there are several hindrances to addressing the situation.²⁴⁸ These barriers include a lack of government policies and careful planning, lack of funding, and few public-private partnerships.²⁴⁹

Bearing this in mind, delegates should consider the following questions: What current initiatives, from the UN-HABITAT or otherwise, can be expanded to address the issue of gender equality in human settlements development? Do we need another review of the Beijing Platform for Action? Does UN-HABITAT need to refocus its work? Does it need to promote its gender policy? What regional actors can the UN-HABITAT collaborate with to strengthen the UN's presence in different regions? Remembering the UN-HABITAT is only a monitoring and advisory body, what policy initiatives can be recommended in order to address the topic at hand? How can the current partnership with UN Women and UNICEF be strengthened?

²³⁷ UN-HABITAT, *State of Women in Cities 2012-2013: Gender and the Prosperity of Cities*, 2013.

²³⁸ Ibid

²³⁹ UN Women, *In Rio de Janeiro's favelas, a new online tool tackles violence against women and girls* [Website], 2013.

²⁴⁰ Ibid

²⁴¹ Ibid

²⁴² Ibid

²⁴³ Ibid

²⁴⁴ Ibid

²⁴⁵ Ibid

²⁴⁶ Ibid

²⁴⁷ UN-HABITAT, *The Habitat Agenda, Chapter IV*, 1996.

²⁴⁸ Swedish International Development Agency, *Women's Economic Empowerment: Key Issues and Policy Options*, 2009.

²⁴⁹ Ibid

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Dhushyanth, R.; Morrison, A.; & N. Sinha. (November 2007). Gender Equality, Poverty and Economic Growth. Retrieved 27 September 2013 from: <http://elibrary.worldbank.org/content/workingpaper/10.1596/1813-9450-4349>

This paper reviews empirical findings from economic analyses of the role of gender equality and women's empowerment in reducing poverty and stimulating growth. It summarizes evidence from studies examining the relationship between gender equality and poverty reduction, documenting the impact of female education on a range of development outcomes. It also presents evidence on the impact of women's access to markets (labor, land, and credit) and women's decision-making power within households on poverty reduction and productivity at the individual and household level. The paper concludes by identifying priority areas for future research.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2004, July 23). *Gender, Culture and Urbanization*, Paper Presented for the World Urban Forum (HSP/WUF/2/11). Retrieved 27 July 2013 from: http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/3081_20354_K0471981%20WUF2-11.pdf

This paper maps out the interplay between gender, culture, and urbanization, and how this interaction enlarges or restricts the role of women in human settlements development around the world. It provides insights into the way cultural and gender constructions relate to the social, economic, and cultural circumstances of women, and the extent to which women are involved in addressing these unique circumstances. The paper also contains a list of important issues for discussion, ranging from culture to security and tenure of land for women and gender violence.

United Nations Development Programme. (2006, January 1). *Taking Gender Equality Seriously*. Retrieved 27 July 2013 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/taking-gender-equality-seriously-2006/>

This booklet developed by the UNDP shows that mainstreaming achieves results when resources, capacity, commitment, and management support all converge in a strategic area. It does so by analyzing success stories in developing countries such as Cambodia, Honduras, and Pakistan. The booklet also provides statistics on gender development and progress as well as sections on the Millennium Development Goals and the significance of gender mainstreaming. It highlights achievements in areas such as democratic governance, poverty reduction, and energy and the environment.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2013). *State of Women in Cities 2012-2013: Gender and the Prosperity of Cities*. Retrieved 27 July 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3457>

The State of Women in Cities 2012/2013 report focuses on gender and the prosperity of cities. The report examines the gender dimensions of the defining characteristics of a prosperous city: productivity, infrastructure development, quality of life, equity and social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. It provides a conceptual framework for understanding the relationship between gender and prosperity and also reviews policies and institutional frameworks relevant for mainstreaming gender concerns in cities.

United Nations. (2003). *Gender Equality for Better Cities and a Better World* [Website]. Retrieved 4 July 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/urban/#pub>

This page on WomenWatch aims to improve the understanding of gender equality issues in urban development, an area that has received less attention than rural development within the gender and development discourse. The page contains all of the necessary materials for consultation and references when studying, such as UNIFEM's Progress of the World's Women Report and UNESCO's Women and Urban Crises publication. It also outlines the UN-HABITAT agenda, and compares it to the Beijing Platform of Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2003). *Gender equality action plan*. Retrieved 30 July 2013 from: http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/6715_2086_GEAP_English.pdf

The Gender Equality Action Plan is one of the key documents for this topic. The Gender Equality Action Plan provides a road map for ensuring women and men have more equal access to public resources and services. This is a part of UN-HABITAT's efforts to develop inclusive, productive, and sustainable towns and cities. It stresses the importance of promoting women's rights and women's empowerment as a central issue in shaping a better urban future and aims to promote women's rights, women's empowerment, and gender responsive sustainable urbanization policies, and practices at national and local levels.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2009). *The Global Assessment on Women's Safety*. Retrieved 31 July 2013 from: http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/7380_832_AssesmentFinal.pdf

UN-HABITAT has collaborated with the Huairou Commission (which is a global membership and partnership coalition), Women in Cities International, and Red Mujer y Habitat to conduct this global assessment on women's safety, which is an extensive review of tools and strategies promoting women's safety on the global, regional, national, and local levels. It encompasses a range of issues such as domestic and urban violence and rights of women to legal representation, among other things. The results of the survey conducted suggest the need for capacity-building and a wider variety of training and technical assistance and support to women's organizations.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Governing Council, Twenty-fourth session. (2013, April 18). *Gender Equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development (HSP/GC/24/L.5) [Draft Resolution]*. Retrieved 31 July 2013 from: http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/12141_1_595071.pdf

This UN-HABITAT draft resolution was written with technical support and guidance from UN Women, the Huairou Commission which is a global membership and partnership coalition, and other prominent international women's organizations. The resolution ensures UN-Habitat's commitment to incorporate a gender perspective in all of its activities, requesting specific policies and programs to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. This resolution is a key landmark in the UN-HABITAT's gender equality agenda.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2008). *Gender Mainstreaming in Local Authorities - Best Practices*. Retrieved 30 July 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2632>

This handbook is designed to assist Habitat Agenda Partners, which include national and local governments and civil society, with incorporating gender issues into urban development policies and programs by learning from the experience of others. The initiatives presented in the handbook are drawn from the best practices database of UN-HABITAT and other databases and Websites. It attempts to offer delegates a more representative, rather than comprehensive, set of best practices.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2010). *Gender Equality for Smarter Cities: Challenges and Progress*. Retrieved 31 July 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2887>

This 2010 report from the UN-HABITAT highlights major gender issues faced by the international community in the context of urbanization. The report also provides an overview of the various efforts deployed by UN-HABITAT to promote gender equality in all its endeavors and programmes. The information given, together with the statistics, provide delegates with an extremely useful background tool for further research.

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III. Enhancing Living Standards in Slums through Cooperation

*“All people have the right to safe drinking water, sanitation, shelter, and basic services. All people have the right to live with a sense of security. All people should have the opportunity to work for a better future.”*²⁵⁰

Introduction

In 2010, approximately 827.6 million people lived in slums around the world and this number continues to increase.²⁵¹ About one-fifth of the world’s slum households live in “extremely poor conditions,” meaning they are lacking in three or more of the basic shelter needs.²⁵² Generally, unsanitary conditions and little access to clean water are compounded by makeshift housing and over-crowded living conditions.²⁵³

According to the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT) a “slum household” is a group of individuals living under one roof, in an urban area with a lack of one or more of the five following basic shelter needs: (1) durable, permanent housing that can protect from extreme weather; (2) sufficient space with no more than three individuals sharing one room; (3) consistent, easy access to safe water at an affordable price; (4) access to sanitary facilities in the form of public or private bathrooms shared by a reasonable amount of people; and (5) security of tenure that prevents forced evictions.²⁵⁴

If an entire neighborhood is subject to these conditions, that neighborhood is considered a slum.²⁵⁵ However, not all slums are similar and not all slums dwellers suffer from the same degree of deprivation. The degree of deprivation depends solely on how many of the five basic shelter needs are missing.²⁵⁶ UN-HABITAT analysis has shown that slum dwellers in Sub-Saharan Africa live the most deprived lives, with over 80% of slum residents suffering from *at least* two shelter deprivations.²⁵⁷

The majority of slum dwellers resides in unsafe housing and has little or no access to sanitary conditions and clean water. In the vast majority of slums, the tenants have no legal right to the land they occupy and no legal zoning or city planning is put into these areas, making unsafe housing easy and cheap to erect.²⁵⁸ The lack of city planning in the area also means that slum dwellers have little access to services, like hospitals, emergency help, or roads.²⁵⁹ Therefore, an important part of UN-HABITAT’s mission is to bring up the living standards in slums and to ensure that slum dwellers are able to access the services they need.²⁶⁰

International and Regional Framework

Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7, target 11 is to “achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.”²⁶¹ This goal has led to the creation of various UN system programs and initiatives to create better living conditions for slum dwellers. One such program is Cities without Slums, which aims to increase the amount of basic shelter needs present in various slums throughout the world.²⁶² The Cities without Slums initiative was created through a partnership between the United Nations Center for Human Settlements (UNCHS) and the World Bank, who formed Cities Alliance to implement the goals.²⁶³ The Cities without Slums Action Plan builds upon successful community based initiatives to achieve various goals, such as access to clean water and sanitary facilities, while also addressing wider systematic and institutional issues that have historically limited slum

²⁵⁰ Ban, *Lack of Basic Services for Slum Dwellers: a Form of Right Violations*, 2010.

²⁵¹ UN-HABITAT, *Urban Trends: 227 Million Escape Slums*, 2010.

²⁵² UN-HABITAT, *Slums: Some Definitions* [Website], 2006.

²⁵³ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁸ Cities Alliance, *About Slums Upgrading* [Website], 2013.

²⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁰ UN General Assembly, *Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium (A/S-25/7/Rev.1)*, 2001.

²⁶¹ UN Statistics Division, *Official List of MDG Indicators*, 2000.

²⁶² Cities Alliance, *Who We Are* [Website].

²⁶³ *Ibid.*

development.²⁶⁴ For example, Cities Alliance facilitated the creation of a city-to-city network in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Cities Association (ECA), which allows for idea sharing, technical assistance, and a connection to the international community.²⁶⁵ The cities involved in the ECA have benefited greatly from the connection because they have been able to access ideas and materials otherwise unavailable to them, which has led to sustainable development and innovation within the slums and cities as a whole.²⁶⁶ The four-year program, created a strong network that has helped to improve city planning, urban management, and infrastructure development capacities throughout Ethiopia.²⁶⁷ Cities are now able to implement reforms faster and more efficiently, alleviating some of the burden that slum and city improvement can put on a government.²⁶⁸

The World Health Organization (WHO) is also participating in these slum improvement initiatives. The WHO is specifically targeting disease management in densely populated urban areas like slums, to improve public health.²⁶⁹ The WHO is specifically advocating slum upgrading as a form of disease management, because the creation of more hygienic living standards leads to fewer instances of serious infectious diseases and epidemics.²⁷⁰ Quality improvement initiatives are another area of focus for the WHO.²⁷¹ These initiatives aim to improve slum dwellers access to healthcare services and the type of care they receive.²⁷² Commonly, slum dwellers are not able to access healthcare services because of distance or an inability to pay; this can be compounded by discrimination against slum dwellers in many healthcare facilities.²⁷³ The WHO works to combat these inequalities by advocating for government healthcare reform, which would allow the poorest of the poor to be covered by government health programs and make healthcare facilities more easily accessible.²⁷⁴ The WHO also administers outreach programs, such as mobile health clinics and permanent missions to slum communities, which provide slum dwellers with access to basic services like immunizations and more specialized treatments like short-term chemotherapy.²⁷⁵

Role of the United Nations System

UN-HABITAT's mission is to promote "socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all."²⁷⁶ This, in combination with Goal 7, has led to the creation of programs with the intention of improving the lives of slum dwellers globally. The "Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme" (PSUP) is one of these.²⁷⁷ Started in 2008, PSUP aims to improve the lives of slum dwellers through the strengthening of local and regional institutions to improve slums through good governance and management approaches.²⁷⁸ PSUP's first focus is improving the basic shelter needs of slum dwellers, but they also focus on wider more long term areas of need such as access to roads, energy sources, and employment.²⁷⁹ PSUP implementation is based on a three-phased approach.²⁸⁰ In the first phase, conferences and workshops are held to establish urban profiles to assess the challenges of slums and identify priority intervention areas.²⁸¹ The second phase requires the solidification of the slum upgrading strategies to be used in the region or country and specific neighborhood upgrading plans to be established, which leads to phase three, implementation of upgrading projects in selected towns.²⁸² Once implementation strategies are in place, PSUP does its best to engage slum dwellers as partners in the upgrading

²⁶⁴ Cities Alliance, *Cities without Slums: Action Plan for Moving Slums Forward and Upgrading to Scale*, 2010.

²⁶⁵ Cities Alliance, *Expanding Ethiopian Cities Network Fosters Peer-to-Peer Learning*, 2013.

²⁶⁶ Ibid.

²⁶⁷ Ibid.

²⁶⁸ Ibid.

²⁶⁹ Ramin, B., *Slums, Climate Change, and Human Health in Sub-Saharan Africa*, 2009.

²⁷⁰ World Health Organization, *A Billion Voices: Listening and Responding to the Health Needs of Slum Dwellers and Informal Settlers in New Urban Settings*, 2005.

²⁷¹ Ibid.

²⁷² Ibid.

²⁷³ Ibid.

²⁷⁴ Ibid.

²⁷⁵ Ibid.

²⁷⁶ UN-HABITAT, *Our Mission* [Website].

²⁷⁷ Ibid.

²⁷⁸ UN-HABITAT, *About PSUP* [Website].

²⁷⁹ Ibid.

²⁸⁰ UN-HABITAT, *Regional Training and Exchange Workshop for the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme*, 2012.

²⁸¹ Ibid.

²⁸² Ibid.

process.²⁸³ This engagement shifts the view of slum dwellers from beneficiaries to partners, which helps to create empowerment within the community and for the slum upgrading to be more thorough because slum dwellers have a more familiar perspective on what needs to be changed within the slum.²⁸⁴

Within UN-HABITAT's slum upgrading programs there is an emphasis on access to education and community empowerment.²⁸⁵ Many slum dwellers do not have access to basic primary education in any form. For example, in Kibera (a slum in Nairobi, Kenya) there are fourteen primary schools within walking distance; however, these schools only have space to serve approximately 20,000 students, but there are 100,000 primary school aged children living in the slum.²⁸⁶ Other UN surveys have shown that this is a common situation across most of Africa, Latin America, and many other Member States.²⁸⁷ In order for slum dwellers to begin to lift themselves out of poverty it is necessary for them to have basic literacy and numeracy skills in order to find substantive employment.²⁸⁸ In order to improve this situation, UN-HABITAT starts various school building programs every year in or very near slums in order to help slum dwellers gain access to adequate schooling facilities.²⁸⁹ These programs also help slum dwellers find employment because the building projects are contracted with local firms who hire slum dwellers to work the construction sites.²⁹⁰

UN-HABITAT programs also utilize schools and educational initiatives to educate school aged children (and older members of the public in special programs) about sanitation and water safety.²⁹¹ Known as the Human Values Based Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Programme, the curriculum teaches children how to conserve water, prevent pollution and contamination, and how to avoid water borne illnesses.²⁹²

Public Health Concerns

The economic inequalities present in slums are a major cause for public health disparities.²⁹³ The WHO estimates that 130,000 premature deaths occur each year in slums due to unsanitary surroundings and an inability to access reliable healthcare.²⁹⁴ Much of this is due to the fact that urban growth has outpaced many governments' ability to build adequate infrastructure, causing many services to only be available in wealthier neighborhoods.²⁹⁵ For example, in many large cities only the wealthiest neighborhoods have sewers, which are essential in keeping hygienic conditions in densely populated areas.²⁹⁶

Another health concern for slum dwellers and the urban poor is their inability to afford nutritious foods.²⁹⁷ For many slum dwellers, their financial situation has meant they can only afford processed and other nutritionally inadequate foods, leading to high instances of malnourishment.²⁹⁸ Children living in slums have the highest levels of protein energy malnutrition, anemia, and vitamin A deficiencies in the world, usually due to food insecurity.²⁹⁹ But a rising, and unexpected problem amongst slum dwellers is the increasing levels of obesity.³⁰⁰ Recent studies have shown that the rates of obesity and type two diabetes amongst slum dwellers have drastically increased over the last decade.³⁰¹ Much of this problem is due to the influx of processed foods and hydrogenated oils, which are much

²⁸³ UN-HABITAT, *Engaging Slum Dwellers as Partners*, 2013.

²⁸⁴ Ibid.

²⁸⁵ UN-HABITAT, *The State of the World's Cities: The Urban Penalty: Education*, 2007.

²⁸⁶ Ibid.

²⁸⁷ Ibid.

²⁸⁸ UN-HABITAT, *UN-HABITAT Signed Education Agreement with Afghanistan*, 2008

²⁸⁹ UN-HABITAT, *UN-HABITAT's Schools for Displaced Children in Mogadishu*, 2012.

²⁹⁰ Ibid.

²⁹¹ UN-HABITAT, *Values Based Water Education in Schools and Community* [Website].

²⁹² Ibid.

²⁹³ World Health Organization, *Facts: Urban Settings as a Social Determinate of Health* [Website].

²⁹⁴ Ibid.

²⁹⁵ Chan, *Urban Health Threaten by Inequalities*, 2010.

²⁹⁶ Ibid.

²⁹⁷ Dhosh, & Shah, *Nutritional Problems in Urban Slum Children*, 2004

²⁹⁸ Chan, *Urban Health Threaten by Inequalities*, 2010

²⁹⁹ Dhosh, & Shah, *Nutritional Problems in Urban Slum Children*, 2004

³⁰⁰ Anand, *Are the Urban Poor Vulnerable to Non-communicable Diseases? A Survey of Risk Factors*, 2007.

³⁰¹ Ibid.

cheaper than fresh versions of the same foods and, thus, much easier to obtain for many slum dwellers because of the low prices; however, their lack of nutritional value is a major factor in many health concerns.³⁰²

Due to unsanitary conditions and the already compromised health of its residence, slums have some of the highest rates of infectious diseases in the world; in fact, over the last 30 years, 20 previously unidentified infectious diseases, like the hendra virus and dengue hemorrhagic fever, have caused epidemics in slums along with hundreds of other epidemics of common diseases, like tuberculosis and various forms of the flu.³⁰³ Local, regional, and international public health sectors become aware of these outbreaks fairly late in the course of the illnesses because the unsanitary conditions in slums can cause diseases to spread unnoticed.³⁰⁴ As such, significantly higher rates of mortality occur in slums than in non-slum community populations during epidemics.³⁰⁵ Additionally, many slum dwellers are migrants from rural areas and have no immunities to urban diseases increasing their susceptibility to infection, making disease prevention more difficult.³⁰⁶ Slum dwellers are significantly more likely to become ill during an infectious disease epidemic than any other group of people; and many slum dwellers will become infected during an epidemic more than once in their lives.³⁰⁷

Economic and Social Concerns

The increasing number of people living in urban environments has led to a surplus of unskilled workers, especially in slums and, with no formal jobs available to them, many unskilled workers have been forced to work in the informal sector.³⁰⁸ The informal sector refers to work and activities fully or partially outside of the regulation of government, taxation, and observation.³⁰⁹ Informal jobs can either be traditionally legal work, like construction jobs or sales that are not reported for tax purposes, or it can be illegal work, like prostitution or black market sales.³¹⁰ The main draw of this type of work is financial, as workers in the informal sector can earn an income and increase their take-home pay by not paying taxes.³¹¹ This type of work is so common in slums that in much of Asia and Africa the informal sector accounts for up to 40% of the country's GDP.³¹² When a large portion of a population is working in the informal sector, disregarding laws and other government regulation, the areas' respect for the state can decrease, which leads to an increase in the crime rate.³¹³ It is important to note, that while tax crimes, other government fraud, and illegal work is high in most slums, the majority of slums have rather low violent crime rates.³¹⁴

The huge amount of informal sector work happening in slums has led to slum economies that can be entirely separate from the economy of the Member State that contains the slum.³¹⁵ These are known as informal economies, or economies based solely on the informal sector.³¹⁶ While this type of work and economy might imply poverty and can lead to it, poverty is not always the case.³¹⁷ In some slums, the informal economy is significant and booming, with large amounts of capital flowing between the informal and formal sectors.³¹⁸ Because many slums are very densely populated, many informal entrepreneurs, slum residents themselves, are able to make significant amounts of money in their field.³¹⁹ The informal sector can also be beneficial to formal sector employees. Black-market mp3 players and pirated music are big business in the larger slums and the extra money spills over into formal sector jobs

³⁰² Anand, *Are the Urban Poor Vulnerable to Non-communicable Diseases? A Survey of Risk Factors*, 2007.

³⁰³ Cities Alliance, 2012, *Cities without Slums: Action Plan for Moving Slums Forward and Upgrading to Scale*.

³⁰⁴ Ko., Reis, Riley, & Unger, *Slum Health: Diseases of Neglected Populations*, 2007.

³⁰⁵ Ibid.

³⁰⁶ World Health Organization, *Report on Surveillance of Epidemic Prone Infectious Diseases*.

³⁰⁷ Ibid.

³⁰⁸ UN-HABITAT, *Cities and Slums within Globalized Economies*, 2003

³⁰⁹ World Bank, *Workers in the Informal Economy* [Website].

³¹⁰ UN-HABITAT, *Cities and Slums within Globalized Economies*, 2003

³¹¹ World Bank, *Workers in the Informal Economy* [Website].

³¹² Ibid.

³¹³ Ibid.

³¹⁴ Share the World's Resources, *The Seven Myths of Slums: Challenging Popular Prejudices about the World's Urban Poor*, 2010

³¹⁵ Macharia, K., *Slum Clearance and the Informal Economy*, 2008

³¹⁶ Ibid.

³¹⁷ Ibid.

³¹⁸ Benetar, P., *Boomtown Slum*, 2012

³¹⁹ Ibid.

like barbers, tailors, and other skilled trades.³²⁰ This all makes for extremely productive informal economies.³²¹ In Kibera, Nairobi, one of the world's largest slums, it is estimated that the informal economy has at least US\$2 million in circulation on any given day.³²²

These boom informal economies are not always good for the slum. Working conditions within the informal sector are often quite poor; mistreated workers have no legal recourse and in most cases, no choice but to keep working.³²³ Additionally, some of the most profitable informal sector jobs in slums are the drug trade and prostitution.³²⁴ Boom informal economies can work to expand these industries, traditionally used by non-slum dwellers, because slum dwellers will begin to use them as they gain the economic resources to do so.³²⁵ This leads to increased instances of child prostitution because families, desperate for money, will either prostitute their children or sell them to local madams.³²⁶

Educational Concerns

In December 2005, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) officially declared access to primary education a Fundamental Human Right.³²⁷ Along with this declaration, standards for primary education were agreed upon – all students should have access to free schooling; well trained teachers; a standard, professionally developed curriculum; and an environment free of physical punishments.³²⁸ Since this declaration was made, various Member States have worked towards implementation. For example, India passed the Right to Education Act in 2005 and Uganda universalized primary education in 2011.³²⁹ However, many of these standards for education are not afforded to children growing up in slums.

While many Member States have a sufficient number of schools within or very near slums, these schools are often inadequate.³³⁰ Because of the low-income nature of slums, schools catering to slum dwellers are often lacking in basic amenities like supplies, desks, chalkboards, or ample space.³³¹ Quality textbooks are also rarely available for slum dwelling students because they are expensive and in many areas students are expected to provide their own books.³³² This means that many students either do not have access to a textbook, have out of date books, or must share with numerous other students.³³³ Furthermore, the most qualified teachers tend to be placed in higher income schools and the teachers assigned to the slum schools are new or less highly qualified, and tend to leave as soon as they can get a position in a more desirable setting.³³⁴ This creates inconsistency for students who are usually already far behind their non-slum dwelling peers.³³⁵

In Member States where education is universalized and the majority of children attend at least primary school, children growing up in slums generally attend school in similar or even slightly higher percentages than non-slum dwelling children.³³⁶ However, slum dwelling children are more likely to be over-aged for the grade level in which they are enrolled (meaning slum dwelling students are usually a year or two older than the standard age of enrollment in that grade level).³³⁷ This is because of delayed enrollment and high levels of grade repetition.³³⁸ Slum

³²⁰ Benetar, P., *Boomtown Slum*, 2012.

³²¹ Ibid.

³²² Ibid.

³²³ World Bank, *Workers in the Informal Economy* [Website].

³²⁴ Diener, & Diener, *Making the Best of a Bad Situation: Satisfaction in the Slums of Calcutta*, 2009.

³²⁵ Ibid.

³²⁶ Ibid.

³²⁷ UNESCO, *Follow-up to the Jakarta Declaration Adopted at the International Conference on the Right to Basic Education as a Fundamental Human Right and the Legal Framework for its Financing (174 EX/37 Rev.)*, 2005.

³²⁸ Ibid.

³²⁹ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals - Achieve Universal Primary Education*, 2013.

³³⁰ Gokee, *Discrimination in Primary Education in the Slums of Turkey: Problems about Equity of Education*, 2009.

³³¹ Singh, *Status of Basic Amenities and Students' Academic Achievement in Elementary School in Urban Slums of Varanasi City*, 2012.

³³² Ibid.

³³³ Ibid.

³³⁴ Gokee, *Discrimination in Primary Education in the Slums of Turkey: Problems about Equity of Education*, 2009.

³³⁵ Ibid.

³³⁶ UNESCO, *Deprivation of Education: A Study of Slum Children in Delhi, India*, 2009.

³³⁷ Ibid.

dwelling children are also significantly more likely to drop out of school at a young age than their non-slum dwelling peers.³³⁹ Frequently, in Member States that require a school-ranking standardized test at the end of primary school, slum dwelling students are encouraged to drop-out before the test is administered in an effort to increase overall test scores.³⁴⁰ This leads to very few slum dwelling children finishing primary school. Of those who do finish, less than one-third of them will go on to secondary school, even in areas with high secondary school attendance.³⁴¹ Often this is attributed to high secondary school fees or the family's inability to pay for required textbooks.³⁴² While non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will frequently open free schools in the areas around slums, these are generally primary schools, making free secondary schools difficult or impossible to find.³⁴³

Conclusion

Since the year 2000, 227 million people have moved out of slums, meaning that MDG 7, target 11 has been achieved by 2.2 times, well in advance of its 2020 deadline.³⁴⁴ While these numbers are encouraging, the "absolute number" of slum dwellers has increased by 55 million people since the year 2000, meaning that reducing the world's urban divide still requires significant effort because the establishment of informal settlements has outpaced both upgrading and reduction efforts.³⁴⁵ In this sense, UN-HABITAT's efforts to reduce the number of slum dwellers, and to improve the lives of those still living in slums, are neither satisfactory nor adequate, especially when considering that 50.6% of the world's population now live in urban areas, many of which are living in slums.³⁴⁶

While researching this topic delegates should consider the United Nations Human Settlement Programme's role in slum improvement and upgrading and how these efforts can be combined with other programs to achieve the desired results. Should partnerships with slum dwellers be further utilized? How can public-private sector partnerships be used to improve slum conditions? How can educational programs be used to empower slum communities and improve their living standards?

Annotated Bibliography

Berner, E. & B. Phillips. (2005). Left to their own devices: community self-help and alternative development. *Community Development Journal*, 40(1), 17-29.

This paper outlines the ways in which cooperation can be used as a method of development and upgrading in slums. It is emphasized that the skills and ideas of slum dwellers should be used to further development and to help cooperating organizations with innovation and implementation. The paper is a good overview of how cooperation between slum dwellers and outside organizations works and why it is helpful and necessary in terms of development.

Cameron, S. (2010). *Access to and Exclusion from Primary Education in Slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh*. Sussex, UK: University of Sussex Centre for International Education.

This report shows the inequalities inherent in basic education systems and how these inequalities affect slum dwellers, specifically school-aged children. There is an emphasis on slum dwelling children's inability to enroll in school due to distance or because they need to earn an income for their family. Cameron also gives attention to the social structures that discourage slum dwelling children from continuing on in school after primary education is complete. The report is broken down into percentages and numbers, interviews, and demographic discussions that give specific information as to how the inequalities manifest in everyday life for slum dwellers.

³³⁸ UNESCO, *Deprivation of Education: A Study of Slum Children in Delhi, India* [Background Paper], 2009.

³³⁹ Ibid.

³⁴⁰ Ibid.

³⁴¹ Shah, & Sen, *Education Mapping in a Slum Area: An Analysis of the Dynamics of Demand and Supply*, 2008.

³⁴² Ibid.

³⁴³ Cameron, S., September, *Access to and Exclusion from Primary Education in Slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh*, 2010.

³⁴⁴ UN-HABITAT, *Urban Trends: 227 Million Escape Slums* [Report], 2010.

³⁴⁵ Ibid.

³⁴⁶ Ibid.

Chan, Margaret (2010, April 7). *Urban Health Threatened by Inequalities*. World Health Organization. Retrieved 31 July 2013 from http://www.who.int/dg/speeches/2010/urban_health_20100407/en/.

This source provides a World Health Organization discussion of the ways the residence of densely population urban areas are affected by various factors specific to their surroundings. The discussion is framed in term of income level and how slum dwellers and low-income urban residents are affected. The discussion ranges in topic from inequalities in access to services to how high levels of pollutants affect health.

Cities Alliance. (2013). *About Slums Upgrading* [Website]. Retrieved 22 July 2013 from: http://www.citiesalliance.org/About-slum-upgrading#Why_is_slum_upgrading_important.

A concise, easy to follow summary, this source explains what slum upgrading actually is, how it is done, and why it is important for the slum and the region as a whole. The explanation on this Website is very brief but the outline is useful and the site also contains numerous links to other valuable and more detailed sources of information. This Website is a good place to start when understanding how cooperation works in the process of improving slums.

Cities Alliance. (2012). *Cities without Slums: Action Plan for Moving Slums Forward and Upgrading to Scale*. Retrieved 30 July 2013 from <http://web.mit.edu/urbanupgrading/sponsor/ActionPlan.pdf>.

The United Nations' official Action Plan on slums upgrading, the report gives detailed information about what is being done to improve the quality of life in slums. This report gives important program plan and financial information about how these goals are being achieved. This is an updated program plan, which includes case studies about on-going slum upgrading projects globally and explains what and why some things about the original Action Plan were changed.

Share the World's Resources. (2010). *The Seven Myths of Slums: Challenging Popular Prejudices about the World's Urban Poor*. London, UK: Share the World's Resources.

This report states the seven most prevalent myths about slums (and the urban poor in general) and challenges them with facts and statistics. This document is important because it gives both basic and detailed information about the living conditions in slums, how they are formed, and how they continue to exist and grow. The report discusses myths about the need for population control, the idea that slums cannot be eradicated, and that money is the only answer to improve slums, among others. Because the report is organized into sections regarding certain myths information regarding these sections is easy to find and utilize.

United Nations Human Settlement Programme. (2003). *Cities and Slums within a Globalized Economy*. Retrieved 31 July 2013 from <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3490>.

This report is UN-HABITAT's official explanation of urbanization and why slums have expanded so much in the last two decades. The report shows how global economic policy works to disadvantage the urban poor and disenfranchise the rural poor causing them to move into cities. The report also explains slum economies and why they can be utilized in development by State governments.

United Nations Human Settlement Programme. (2006). *Slums: Some Definitions* [Website]. Retrieved 26 July 2013 from: http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/media_centre/sowcr2006/SOWCR%205.pdf.

In order to fully understand slums, what they are and why they exist, it is important to start with this Website. To achieve a basic understanding of slums in the United Nations' framework these definitions are vital. The Website also includes links to other UN websites that further expand on the information given.

United Nations Human Settlement Programme. (2010). *Urban Trends: 227 Million Escape Slums*. Retrieved 26 July 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/SOWC10/R1.pdf>.

This report is an annexed section of the 2010-2011 State of the World's Settlements Report. It showcases the fact that millions of people have moved out of slums and slum-upgrading is working. It also explains shortcomings and gives information about areas that still need significant work, which are broken down by region and Africa and Asia are highlighted as the most deprived areas.

World Health Organization. *Facts: Urban Settings as a Social Determinant of Health* [Website], Retrieved 31 July 2013 from http://www.who.int/social_determinants/publications/urbanization/factfile/en/.
A short Website that gives the top ten ways urban dwellers are at a health disadvantage. Slum dwellers are specifically explained in each and information as to why they are more disadvantaged is given. Each fact uses a short case study to illustrate the point.

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Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) and shall be considered adopted by the Council 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 Council, 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 Council shall meet every year in regular session, commencing and closing on the dates designated by the Secretary-General.

Rule 2 - *Place of sessions*

The Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Council 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 Council 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 Council.
2. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Deputy Secretary-General, shall provide and direct the staff required by the Council 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 Commission to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council during scheduled sessions (both formal and informal) of the Council.

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

For purposes of this rule, members of the Council 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 Council, 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 Council and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He or she shall rule on points of order. The President may propose to the Council 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 Council

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

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 Council 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 Council through a vote if the President, at his or her discretion, decides to allow the Council to decide. In no case shall the speakers time be changed during the first scheduled session of the Council. 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 Council.

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 Council, declare the list closed. Once the list has been closed, it can be reopened upon by a vote of the Council. 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 Council.

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 Council. A motion to close the speakers list or reopen (if the list has already been closed) is within the purview of the Council 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 Council 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 Board 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 Council shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

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

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 Council favors the closure of debate, the Council 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 Council [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 Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Council 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 Council, 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 Council 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 Council for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 committee room during voting procedure, they will not be allowed back into the room until the Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 UN-HABITAT

Rule 44 - Participation of non-Member States

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

A sub-Board or sessional body of the Council 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 Council 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 Council according to this rule should also keep in mind their role and obligations in the Council 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 Board when his or her presence in the Council is no longer required. Delegates may request the presence of a non-member of their Board 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 Council may invite any national liberation movement recognized by Board 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 Commission 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council and other non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or a continuing basis by the Council 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 Council on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.

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