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GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOURTH COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND GUIDE 2016

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS





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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2016 National Model United Nations Conference in New York (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the General Assembly Fourth Committee. This year's staff is: Directors Omar Torres-Vasquez (Conference A) and Samantha Winn (Conference B), and Assistant Directors Joseph Trimmer (Conference A) and Tobias Dietrich (Conference B). Omar holds a B.A. from California State University at Fullerton in Political Science with an emphasis on political theory. Currently, Omar works on managing a Sears Auto Center in Southern California. This is his fifth year on staff. Samantha received her M.S. in Library and Information Science from Drexel University in 2014 and graduated from the University of Texas at Tyler in 2012 with dual Bachelor's degrees in History and Political Science. She currently works as an archivist for Virginia Tech and looks forward to her fourth year on NMUN•NY staff. Joseph presently attends Irvine Valley College where he studies Political Science with an emphasis on International Relations. This is Joseph's first year on staff. Tobias is currently working on his Master's thesis to finish his M.Sc. in Nanoscience in 2016. He will be returning for his second year on staff, and is looking forward to work with the many enthusiastic delegates.

The topics under discussion for the Fourth Committee are:

- I. Comprehensive Review of Special Political Missions and the Future of UN Peacekeeping and Peace Operations
- II. Intensifying Cooperation in Outer Space to Preserve Peace and Security
- III. Improving the Situation of Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly is a principal organ of the United Nations (UN), the only one with universal membership and equal voting. The General Assembly Fourth, also known as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, focuses on special issues such as peacekeeping, atomic radiation, decolonization, Palestinian refugees, human rights, and outer space. The topics at NMUN•NY 2016 have a long history with the Fourth Committee; peacekeeping and decolonization in particular have roots linked to the *Charter of the UN*. It will be the delegates' job to develop innovative new solutions to these challenging and pressing issues.

We hope you will find this Background Guide useful as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We highly encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in-depth, as well as use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the conference, each delegation will submit a [position paper](#). 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, and the awards philosophy and evaluation method. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

The [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) are available to download from the NMUN website. This document includes the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure. It is thus an essential instrument in preparing for the conference, and a reference during committee.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the conference itself, feel free to contact the Under-Secretaries-General for the General Assembly Department, Sabrina Grover (Conference A) and Patrick Parsons (Conference B). You can reach either USG by contacting them at: usg.ga@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,

Conference A

Omar Torres-Vasquez, *Director*
Joseph Trimmer, *Assistant Director*

Conference B

Samantha Winn, *Director*
Tobias Dietrich, *Assistant Director*

The NCCA/NMUN is a Non-Governmental Organization associated with the UN Department of Public Information, a UN Academic Impact Member, and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of the United States.



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Abbreviations

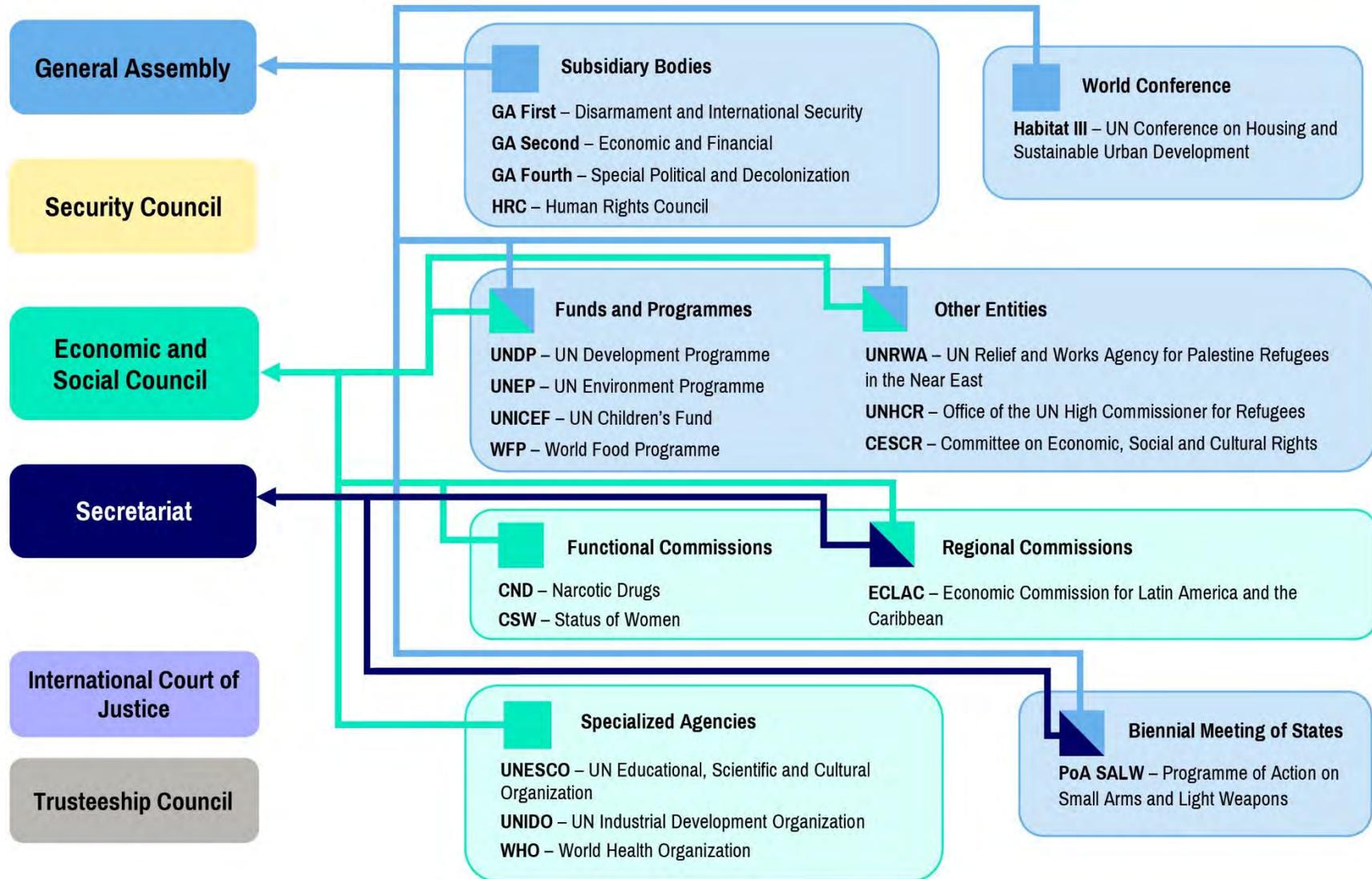
AU	African Union
C-24	Special Committee on Decolonization
C-34	Special Committee On Peacekeeping Operations
COI	Committee on Information
COPUOS	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
DGACM	Department for General Assembly and Conference Management
DFS	Department of Field Services
DPA	Department of Political Affairs
DPKO	Department for Peacekeeping Operations
EAD	Electoral Assistance Division
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ESA	European Space Agency
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GA	General Assembly
GATR	Ground Antenna Transmit and Receive
GPS	Global Positioning System
HOPE	Handheld Operational Demining System
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IGOs	Intergovernmental organizations
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
ISS	International Space Station
MSU	Mediation Support Unit
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
NGSTs	Non-Self-Governing Territories
OMA	Office of Military Affairs
OROLSI	Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions
PBC	Peacebuilding Commission
PET	Policy Evaluation and Training Division
PKOs	Peacekeeping operations
PSA	Programme on Space Application
SC	Security Council
SCAD	Security Council Affairs Division
SPMs	Special political missions
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme
SSD	Space Service Department
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN DPI	United Nations Department of Public Information
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNISPACE	United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
UNOOSA	United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UN-Space	United Nations Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities
UN-SPIDER	United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response



UNSCEAR	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation
UNTSO	UN Truce Supervision Organization
UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

United Nations System at NMUN·NY

This diagram illustrates the UN System simulated at NMUN·NY. It shows where each committee “sits” within the system, to help understand the reportage and relationships between the entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose, and powers within the UN System.





Committee Overview

Introduction

The General Assembly (GA) was founded as a primary organ of the United Nations (UN) under Chapter IV of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) with broad responsibilities as the foremost deliberative and policymaking entity of the UN system.¹ The Fourth Committee, also known as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, is one of six Main Committees established by the GA to carry out its normative functions.² The remaining Main Committees include the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee); the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee); the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (Third Committee); the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee); and the Legal Committee (Sixth Committee).³

The **General Assembly Fourth Committee** (Fourth Committee) is one of the six Main Committees of the General Assembly. A report is issued to the General Assembly Plenary for each item allocated to a Main Committee.

In its original form, the Fourth Committee was charged with addressing the decolonization of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs).⁴ NSGTs are defined as “territories whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government.”⁵ In keeping with Articles 73 and 74 of the *Charter*, the UN works to preserve the well-being and promote the political, economic, social, and educational advancement of these territories.⁶ Until 1994, the UN administered and supervised Trust Territories, a distinct category from Non-Self-Governing Territories, under an International Trusteeship System established by Chapter XII of the *Charter*.⁷ The International Trusteeship System supervised territories held under mandates established by the League of Nations, territories that had been separated from states during the settlement of the Second World War, and territories that administering states voluntarily submitted to the System.⁸ The last remaining Trust Territories transitioned to sovereign rule or voluntarily joined other states in the 1990s.⁹ Following the adoption of resolution 47/233 of 17 August 1993 on “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,” the Fourth Committee on Decolonization merged with a separate Main Committee on political questions to become the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.¹⁰

Governance, Structure and Membership

As one of the six Main Committees of the GA, the Fourth Committee acts as a subsidiary body to the GA Plenary.¹¹ The GA and its Main Committees offer universal membership to all 193 UN Member States.¹² Each Member State is afforded one vote regardless of geographical position or economic stature; a simple majority is needed to resolve general questions, while elections, budgetary questions, and important recommendations on peace and security require a two-thirds majority.¹³ Reflecting its stature as a universal forum for international collaboration, the GA and its Main Committees strive to reach decisions through consensus rather than formal voting.¹⁴ Additionally, non-Member States, civil society representatives, and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) contribute to the work of the GA as observers.¹⁵ The programmatic work of the Fourth Committee is overseen by a Bureau that is elected

¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Ch. IV.

² *Ibid.*, Arts. 7 and 22; UN General Assembly, *Rules of procedure and comments (A/520/Rev.17)*, Ch. XIII, Rule 96.

³ UN General Assembly, *Rules of procedure and comments (A/520/Rev.17)*, Ch. XIII, Rule 98.

⁴ UN DPI, *FEATURE: The UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee – special political and decolonization issues*, 2013.

⁵ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Ch. XI, Arts. 73-74.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*, Ch. XII; UN DPI, *International Trusteeship System*.

⁸ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Chapter XII.

⁹ UN DPI, *FEATURE: The UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee – special political and decolonization issues*, 2013; UN DPI, *International Trusteeship System*.

¹⁰ UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *General Assembly*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Rules of procedure and comments (A/520/Rev.17)*, Annex 4.

¹¹ UN General Assembly, *Rules of procedure and comments (A/520/Rev.17)*, Ch. XIII, Rules 96-98.

¹² *Ibid.*, Rule 100; New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2015-16*, pp. 15-17.

¹³ UN General Assembly, *Functions and powers of the General Assembly*.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ UN General Assembly, *Observers*.

annually for each session; the Bureau is comprised of a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and rapporteur.¹⁶ Similarly, a Secretariat provides support for regular meetings, with technical secretariat support provided by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM).¹⁷

Mandate, Functions and Powers

Mandate

Under Chapter IV of the *Charter*, the GA may discuss, consider, and make non-binding recommendations on issues relating to international cooperation for the realization of human rights; the advancement of economic, social, cultural, educational, and health issues; the development and codification of international law; and, without infringing upon the authority of the Security Council, international cooperation for peace and security.¹⁸ Issues allocated to the Fourth Committee under its present mandate include peacekeeping, Palestinian refugees, public information, mine action, atomic radiation, outer space, and decolonization.¹⁹ The Fourth Committee also considers questions relating to the administration of UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions (SPMs).²⁰

Functions and Powers

In advance of each regular session, the GA refers agenda items to each Main Committee according to the unique expertise and mandate of each body.²¹ Main Committees may request new agenda items and amendments to the annual program of work but may not introduce new items without approval.²² The Fourth Committee submits draft resolutions and decisions to the GA Plenary for consideration, serving as a bridge between expert subsidiary organs and the broader international community.²³ Subsidiary organs that present reports to the Fourth Committee include the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), the Committee on Information (COI), the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR).²⁴

With respect to decolonization, the Fourth Committee works closely with the Special Committee on Decolonization (Committee of 24, or C-24) to coordinate the UN system's efforts to promote independence and sovereign rule for Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.²⁵ This work is guided by the *Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples* (1960).²⁶ The Fourth Committee considers statements, petitions, and general agenda items relating to the 17 NSGTs currently recognized by the UN.²⁷

Although the Fourth Committee and First Committee each discuss issues relating to outer space, the two Main Committees pursue distinct perspectives. The purview of the Fourth Committee relates to the peaceful uses of outer space, such as international cooperation for exploration, research, and the general advancement of peace, security and development.²⁸ The Fourth Committee receives reports from the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and works closely with the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).²⁹ In contrast, the First Committee considers questions relating to the weaponization of outer space and its prevention.³⁰

¹⁶ UN General Assembly, *Bureau of the 69th Session*; UN General Assembly, *Rules of procedure and comments (A/520/Rev.17)*, Chapter XIII, Rule 103.

¹⁷ UN General Assembly, *Secretariat*; UN DGACM, *Functions of the Department*, 2015.

¹⁸ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Ch. IV.

¹⁹ UN General Assembly, *Fourth Committee*.

²⁰ UN General Assembly, *Allocation of agenda items to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/C.4/69/1)*, 2014; UN DPI, *As Fourth Committee Reviews Special Political Missions, Focus Centres Upon Separate Funding, Bolstering Response to Realities on Ground*, 2014.

²¹ UN General Assembly, *Rules of procedure and comments (A/520/Rev.17)*, Ch. XIII, Rules 96-98; UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/RES/47/233)*, 1993.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *General Assembly*, 2015.

²⁴ UN General Assembly, *Documents*, 2015.

²⁵ UN DPI, *The United Nations and Decolonization*.

²⁶ UN General Assembly, *Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/RES/1514(XV))*, 1960.

²⁷ UN DPI, *Non-Self-Governing Territories*, 2015.

²⁸ UN DPI, *FEATURE: The UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee – special political and decolonization issues*, 2013; UNOOSA, *Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*, 2015.

²⁹ UN DPI, *FEATURE: The UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee – special political and decolonization issues*, 2013.

³⁰ UN General Assembly, *Allocation of agenda items for the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly (A/69/252)*, 2014.

Reflecting its special political mandate, the Fourth Committee regularly reviews the peacekeeping mechanisms and SPMs carried out by the UN.³¹ The Fourth Committee considers recommendations on these topics from the UN Secretary-General and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), a subsidiary organ of the GA that is largely comprised of Member States and international observers who contribute to international peacekeeping operations.³² Key issues considered by C-34 include the coordination of peacekeeping initiatives, capacity building for regional peacekeeping mechanisms, and improving the ability of the UN system to respond quickly and effectively when called upon by the Security Council.³³ SPMs complement the work of peacekeeping operations by serving as a forum for mediation and conflict resolution.³⁴ In recent years, the Fourth Committee has considered issues relating to the mandate and purview of specific missions, transparency and accountability, and inclusive representation in administrative positions.³⁵

In October 2014, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the creation of a High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations tasked with leading a comprehensive external assessment of UN peace operations, including peacekeeping and SPMs.³⁶ As part of ongoing efforts to reform UN peacekeeping and SPMs, the panel conducted the first external review of UN peace operations since 2000.³⁷ The resulting report drew upon the expertise of the Fourth Committee and its partners; the report's recommendations on priorities, coordination, and implementation will shape the Fourth Committee's future efforts to review peace operations across the UN system.³⁸

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

Decolonization was a preeminent focus of the Fourth Committee's 69th session, as Member States called upon the UN to finalize the transition of NSGTs under the framework developed for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.³⁹ In addition to debates on decolonization issues throughout the session, the Fourth Committee considered the annual report of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration in the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (C-24).⁴⁰

Furthermore, the Fourth Committee dedicated significant attention to comprehensive reviews of peacekeeping mechanisms and SPMs by affirming the importance of stable funding, multilateral cooperation, and equitable gender participation in governance across the UN system's field offices.⁴¹ Additionally, as part of its annual review on the work of the UNRWA, the Fourth Committee submitted draft resolutions to the GA to reaffirm and strengthen the agency's work.⁴² In its discussion of questions relating to information, the Fourth Committee considered strategies to increase accessibility and outreach through the UN Department of Public Information (UN DPI) and recognized that many global citizens continue to rely on traditional media for information about the UN's work.⁴³

³¹ UN General Assembly, *Comprehensive review of the special political missions (A/C.4/69/L.18)*, 2014; UN DPI, *General Assembly and Peacekeeping*.

³² UN DPI, *General Assembly and Peacekeeping*.

³³ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/69/19)*, 2015, p. 9.

³⁴ UN General Assembly, *Comprehensive review of the special political missions (A/C.4/69/L.18)*, 2014, p. 2.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, 3.

³⁶ UN Secretary-General, *Secretary-General's statement on appointment of High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations*, 2014.

³⁷ *Ibid.*; UN Peacekeeping, *Reform of Peacekeeping*.

³⁸ UN Secretary-General, *Report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people (A/70/95)*, 2015.

³⁹ UN DPI, *'Untiring' Efforts by United Nations Made Decolonization 'Defining' Issue of Modern Times, Say Fourth Committee Speakers, Urging End to Process*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/RES/65/119)*, 2011.

⁴⁰ UN DPI, *Fourth Committee Sends Drafts to General Assembly on Peacekeeping, Upcoming Work Programme*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (A/C.4/69/L.19)*, 2015.

⁴¹ UN General Assembly, *Comprehensive review of the special political missions (A/C.4/69/L.18)*, 2014.

⁴² UN DPI, *Amid Growing Needs, Shrinking Resources, International Community Must Urgently Address Palestine Refugees' Plight, Relief Agency Head Tells Fourth Committee*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *Operation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (A/C.4/69/L.11)*, 2014.

⁴³ UN DPI, *Global Digital Gap 'Sobering Reality', Say Speakers in Fourth Committee, Spotlighting Value of Traditional Media, Transparency, Impartiality*, 2014.



Upcoming Agenda Topics for the 70th Session

In May 2015, the Fourth Committee Bureau submitted an update to its proposed programme of work for the 70th session of the GA.⁴⁴ The Fourth Committee's work began 1 October 2015, with a formal debate on decolonization items, including petitions and statements on NSGTs.⁴⁵ In keeping with its mandate and recent practices, the Committee will also hold general debates on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, questions relating to information, assistance in mine action, a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, the effects of atomic radiation, a comprehensive review of SPMs, and operational considerations on the UNRWA.⁴⁶

Conclusion

The Fourth Committee enters the 70th session significantly transformed from its original role as the Committee on Decolonization; its current designation as the foremost committee for special political issues empowers the Fourth Committee to discuss a diverse range of global considerations. Through the draft resolutions and decisions it submits to the GA Plenary, the Fourth Committee has a powerful role to play in shaping the response of the international community on special political issues and decolonization.

⁴⁴ UN General Assembly, *Updated proposed programme of work and timetable of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the seventieth session of the General Assembly (A/C.4/69/L.20)*, 2015.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 2-3.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.



Annotated Bibliography

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<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>

The Charter serves as the foundational document for defining the normative and operational functions of the General Assembly and its Main Committees. It offers insight into the context and contributions of the General Assembly to the international system. Special attention should be paid to the specific mandate outlined in Chapter IV, from which the work of the Fourth Committee is derived.

New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2015). *United Nations Handbook 2015-16*. Retrieved 21 September 2015 from: http://www.mfat.govt.nz/UNHB2015/MFAT151%20UN%20Handbook_2015-16.pdf

This handbook is an annually updated review of the structure and normative functions of the United Nations, particularly the main organs and their subsidiary bodies. The current edition includes a comprehensive overview of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, which will be especially relevant to the upcoming Fourth Committee program of work. The handbook provides additional insights into the powers and functions of subsidiary bodies reporting to the Fourth Committee. Delegates should review this source to effectively coordinate proposals within the existing UN system.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (n.d.) *The United Nations and Decolonization* [Website].

Retrieved 24 July 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/>

This site provides a historic and contemporary review of the UN system's work on decolonization, with special emphasis on the role of the Fourth Committee and its partners. With respect to the Fourth Committee, the site maintains links to meetings coverage and video recordings on general debates relating to decolonization questions. Additional information can be found about current and former dependent territories, the work of the now disbanded International Trusteeship System, and the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015). *Fourth Committee* [Website]. Retrieved 24 July 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/content/fourth-committee>

This site is the official source of press releases and meetings coverage for the work of the General Assembly Fourth Committee, providing a timely and comprehensive review of deliberations, special events, and documents produced by the committee. Delegates seeking general information about the work of the Committee should review this site on a regular basis. Although press releases and meetings coverage are not official records, these resources often include document codes and details about noteworthy debates.

United Nations, General Assembly, Fourth Committee. (n.d.). *Fourth Committee* [Website]. Retrieved 24 July 2015

from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/fourth/index.shtml>

This is the official website of the Fourth Committee, which serves as a comprehensive portal to documentation on the work of the body. This resource includes links to documents, press releases, meeting records, webcasts, and other important information about committee governance and operations. Delegates may use this site as a starting point for preliminary research on the recent work of the Fourth Committee.

United Nations, General Assembly, Fourth Committee. (2015). *United Nations Papersmart* [Website]. Retrieved 24 July 2015 from: <https://papersmart.unmeetings.org/ga/fourth/>

Papersmart is a useful document management system for major organs of the UN. Delegates to the Fourth Committee use this system to share documents and monitor the work of the committee throughout its regular sessions. Resources discoverable through this site include meeting program agendas, reports received by the Fourth Committee, official documents produced by the Committee, and formal statements by meeting participants. Much like the above source, the Papersmart system allows delegates to view timely information and updates on the work of the Fourth Committee.



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United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2014, October 7). *'Untiring' Efforts by United Nations Made Decolonization 'Defining' Issue of Modern Times, Say Fourth Committee Speakers, Urging End to Process* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 23 August 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/gaspd554.doc.htm>

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<http://undocs.org/A/70/95>

I. Comprehensive Review of Special Political Missions and the Future of UN Peacekeeping and Peace Operations

“Special political missions have become an indispensable instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security. They are also the most visible manifestations of the Secretary-General’s good offices.”⁴⁷

Introduction

Peacekeeping has been the most important instrument to maintaining international peace and security since the establishment of the United Nations (UN) at the end of the World War II.⁴⁸ Over the last 70 years, the nature, mandates, and operations of peacekeeping missions have evolved to meet the emerging challenges of both humanitarian and conflict situations, and the continual review of peacekeeping within the UN system remains a priority within the international system.⁴⁹ Most critically, as peacekeepers are tasked with increasingly dangerous and often deteriorating conflict environments, more robust support is needed by the organization and by Member States to ensure that peacekeeping operations (PKOs) can deliver effectively on their missions.⁵⁰ The first PKO, the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), was established in May 1948 with the purpose of monitoring the Armistice Agreement between Israel and the surrounding Arab states.⁵¹ Since its origin in 1948, UNTSO has continued its mission of monitoring ceasefires and supervising armistice agreements while also assisting other PKOs in the region in achieving their mandates.⁵² Field-based peace operations were transitioned from traditional missions to multidimensional missions during the late 1980s to include more comprehensive measures for sustainable peace, by expanding operating mandates for PKOs to help establish legal frameworks to legitimize governing institutions while protecting civilians through security sector reform.⁵³ In recent decades, several other aspects have been integrated into the mandates of peace operations to encompass new and emerging security concerns, including preventing the overflow of conflict and protecting human rights.⁵⁴

Special political missions (SPMs) and PKOs represent the two key mechanisms by which the UN maintains international peace and security.⁵⁵ The UN defines SPMs as “civilian missions that are deployed for a limited duration to support Member States in good offices, conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding.”⁵⁶ SPMs are grouped into three main categories: sanction monitoring groups, special envoys, and field-based missions.⁵⁷ PKOs are defined by the UN as impartial overseeing operations deployed into conflict-affected areas to provide security, while assisting with the transition from conflict to peace.⁵⁸ There are currently 16 PKOs and 11 SPMs active around the world.⁵⁹ SPMs and PKOs are part of a spectrum of overall UN peace operations implemented at different stages of conflict.⁶⁰ In some cases, SPMs are replaced with PKOs after a peace negotiation ends with a treaty, or negotiations fail and parties resort back to conflict.⁶¹ In other cases, PKOs will give way to SPMs, which then oversee the process of transparent elections in addition to other country stability measures.⁶² Between 1989 and 1994, the UN Security Council (SC) authorized the expansion from 11,000 to 75,000 peacekeepers, creating new

⁴⁷ UN General Assembly, *Overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/223)*, 2013.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁵⁰ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people (A/70/95)*, 2015.

⁵¹ UN Peacekeeping, *History of peacekeeping*.

⁵² UNTSO, *Helping to bring stability in the Middle East*.

⁵³ UN Peacekeeping, *Post Cold-War surge*.

⁵⁴ UN Peacekeeping, *History of peacekeeping*.

⁵⁵ UN General Assembly, *Overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/223)*, 2013.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁵⁷ UN General Assembly, *Overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/223)*, 2013.

⁵⁸ UN Peacekeeping, *What is peacekeeping?*

⁵⁹ UN Peacekeeping, *Overview*.

⁶⁰ UN DPA, *Overview*.

⁶¹ UN DPI, *New Peacekeeping Operation in Central African Republic Expected to Reach Deployment Capability by 15 September, Security Council Told*, 2014.

⁶² UN General Assembly, *Overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/223)*, 2013.

missions in Angola, Cambodia, El Salvador, Mozambique, and Namibia, while also increasing peacekeepers in already established regions to deal with the escalating and sustained conflict within these regions.⁶³

The overlapping objectives of the PKOs and SPMs has been a key driver of the reform of peacekeeping operations and has led many Member States of the UN General Assembly (GA) to recommend the establishment of more specific mandates that will enhance and support individual mission's strengths.⁶⁴ Making the differences between PKOs and SPMs more distinct will enable better implementation by having a clear objective framed in the mandate of either mission.⁶⁵ The GA is tasked with making recommendations to the SC on different ways to improve upon current missions in the field, as well as how to make sure that new missions have the ability to be successful.⁶⁶

International and Regional Framework

The existing international frameworks are key to understanding the structure of UN peace operations, as well as understanding the mandate of these operations within the context of the rule of law.⁶⁷ The *Charter of the United Nations* is the organization's founding document and sets out the overarching goals for the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as the normative framework for peace operations through Chapters VI, VII, and VIII; Chapter VII provides the specific framework for intervention by peace operations in volatile post-conflict zones.⁶⁸ The SC, under Article 24, is given the primary responsibility for the execution of peace operations within the UN.⁶⁹ Embedded within the *Charter* is the re-establishment of the rule of law, defined by the UN as the principle of governance by which all individuals and organizations within a state, and the state itself, are adherent to a set of laws that are public, equal, and independent with respect to international human rights standards, which sets the legal basis and mandate framework of peacekeeping operations.⁷⁰ The UN works both at the Member State and international level to ensure adherence to the rule of law and the protection of human rights.⁷¹ Between SPMs and PKOs, over 60 missions have undertaken the task of adhering to these practices while also assisting in security sector reform.⁷² In addition to the *Charter*, three additional principal SC resolutions help define the normative framework for peacekeeping activities: resolution 1325 (2000), on women, peace and security; resolution 1612 (2005), on children and armed conflict; and resolution 1674 (2006), on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.⁷³

Another important item is the UN Peacekeeping Operations Principles and Guidelines, which provide a blueprint for PKOs and attempt "to define the nature, scope and core business" for overall peace operations.⁷⁴ The document aims at providing clarity on operations, including the planning of missions, creating successful mandates, defining field-based activities, and helping with transitions and exits as missions come to a close.⁷⁵ Furthermore, the Guidelines attempt to distinguish the spectrum of peace operations including highlighting both the differences and "grey areas" of where activities such as peacekeeping, peacemaking, and peacebuilding may overlap within a mission and the process for establishing post-conflict environments.⁷⁶ Notably, the Guidelines reaffirm the core objectives of peacekeeping operations as provided for in the normative framework, including establishing the rule of law; facilitating the political process; and creating a functioning environment for the coordination of other UN activities, such as humanitarian efforts.⁷⁷

⁶³ UN Peacekeeping, *Mandates and the legal basis for peacekeeping*.

⁶⁴ UN DPI, *As Fourth Committee Reviews Special Missions, Focus Centers Upon Separate Funding, Bolstering Response to Realities on Ground*, 2014.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ UN Peacekeeping, *Role of the General Assembly*.

⁶⁷ UN ROL, *What is the rule of law*.

⁶⁸ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

⁶⁹ Ibid., Art. 24.

⁷⁰ UN Peacekeeping, *Mandates and Legal Basis*.

⁷¹ UN ROL, *What is the rule of law?*.

⁷² UN Peacekeeping, *Peacekeeping Fact Sheet*, 2015.

⁷³ UN DPKO, *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, Principles and Guidelines*, 2008.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

In 2000, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan implemented a High-Level Panel to review and make recommendations for the future of UN peace and security activities.⁷⁸ The *Brahimi Report* (2000), named after the chairman of the Panel on UN Peace Operations, gave a comprehensive review on the existing peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations, and provided the framework for the ongoing reform of peace operations within the UN.⁷⁹ The *Brahimi Report* prominently highlights the need for renewed commitment by the GA to increase and stabilize funding to peace operations, and that Department for Peacekeeping Operations' (DPKO) support and resources for peace operations be funded through the organization, rather than the renewal of temporary support accounts.⁸⁰ Further, Brahimi's analysis recommends institutional changes to include how funds are to be allocated, including the consolidation of "disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes into the assessed budgets of complex peace operations in their first phase" as well as additional budget allocations for "quick impact projects."⁸¹ To increase the effectiveness of PKOs and SPMs, the available resources cannot be spread too thin by establishing new missions; instead, political and troop support needs to be reaffirmed by Member States to enable success of already established peace missions.⁸² In highlighting failures from operations in the early 1990s, the *Brahimi Report* emphasized the need to balance impartiality with the need to act in cases where there was clear aggression and a violation of peace agreements, as well as the need for a mission to be able to protect and defend itself should that arise.⁸³ Finally, the report recommended a broader integration of UN units to be involved in the deployment of new missions, including political analysis, humanitarian assistance, refugee and displaced persons, and development personnel.⁸⁴

In 2014, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations reviewed the *Brahimi Report*, and their findings were presented to the GA in 2015.⁸⁵ This documented the implemented recommendations from the *Brahimi Report* (2000) and provided further analysis on remaining gaps and challenges for the international system.⁸⁶ Overall, the report noted that the biggest gap remained in "what is being asked of United Nations peace operations today and what they are able to deliver," referring to deployment in regions where the post-conflict environment had not yet been established, and the stretched capacities of both operational and political support.⁸⁷ Further, the report reaffirmed the challenges presented in the *Brahimi Report*, particularly the need for strengthened mission-specific mandates, and increased resources for prevention and mediation, as well as under-supplied police and military forces.⁸⁸ The report recommends change under four umbrellas: politics as the driving force for the implementation of peace operations; the use and flexibility of the "full spectrum of UN peace operations"; a "stronger, more inclusive, peace and security partnership"; and shifting the UN Secretariat to a field-based view and peace operations to a people-based view.⁸⁹

Role of the International System

The comprehensive review of SPMs and PKOs fall under agenda items 7 and 8 of the GA Fourth Committee.⁹⁰ As a part of the allocation of these items, the GA is also able to create subcommittees, which was exercised by GA resolution 2006 (XIX) (1965), which established the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34).⁹¹ This committee conducts complete reviews of all issues in regards to peacekeeping and reports back to the Fourth Committee.⁹² The GA Fourth Committee centers on political missions and has the ability to annually review the

⁷⁸ UN Peacekeeping, *Reform of peacekeeping*, 2014.

⁷⁹ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305)*, 2000.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*; *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

⁸¹ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305)*, 2000, pp. viii-xv.

⁸² *Ibid.*

⁸³ *Ibid.*

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people (A/70/95)*, 2015.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

⁹⁰ UN General Assembly, *Allocation of agenda items to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/C.4/68/1)*, 2013.

⁹¹ UN General Assembly, *Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee*.

⁹² *Ibid.*

work of peace mission offices and field services.⁹³ The GA annually reviews the “Comprehensive review of special political missions.”⁹⁴ These reviews highlight the continual commitment to respect the sovereignty of Member States, while also addressing the authority of the GA and SC in maintaining international peace and security.⁹⁵ Additionally, the annual comprehensive review of SPM resolutions continually focus on ensuring transparency measures.⁹⁶

PKOs and SPMs are monitored and supported for by two separate offices within the UN system, the DPKO and the Department of Political Affairs (DPA).⁹⁷ DPKO’s mandate is tasked with providing political and executive advice to PKOs, in addition to incorporating government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) into the peacekeeping process by utilizing civil society with humanitarian aid efforts.⁹⁸ DPKO is comprised of four main offices: Office of Operations, Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI), Office of Military Affairs (OMA), and Policy Evaluation and Training Division (PET).⁹⁹ The Office of Operations is tasked with providing guidelines and policies for PKOs.¹⁰⁰ OROLSI is a recent addition to DPKO; it was founded in 2007 in an effort to reestablish the rule of law, and to approach disarmament, mine action, and the integration of former fighters.¹⁰¹ This office has been successful in its efforts to increase participation of regional intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), international NGOs, and civil society into PKOs by partnering with organizations like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), International Alert, and Tearfund.¹⁰² In addition to regional partnerships, PKOs need to further incorporate civilians into peace missions, as this is a confidence-bolstering measure that enables the community to make the transition to peace.¹⁰³ OMA is the office of “blue helmets,” which provide security in conflict zones to civilians, offer training to in-country military personnel, and work towards integrating more women into field operations.¹⁰⁴ OMA’s action has been necessary due to the peacekeeping forces being spread too thin; military and police have been relied on when peacekeeping forces are unable to respond rapidly.¹⁰⁵ Finally, PET is tasked with organizing partnerships with UN and non-UN partners, furthering operational capabilities through standardized training, and circulating relevant policy guidelines.¹⁰⁶

The DPA is at the center of conflict resolution and diplomacy; one of its primary obligations is offering services to UN and non-UN operations on conflict prevention and conflict mediation.¹⁰⁷ The DPA works closely with SC through its Security Council Affairs Division (SCAD), where it provides recommendations on diplomacy in peace operations.¹⁰⁸ The DPA has a division called the Electoral Assistance Division (EAD); this division allows the SPMs to assist Member States with the electoral process in establishing a national government.¹⁰⁹ EAD has been successful in partnering with the African Union (AU) and other regional bodies throughout the peace operations, which has been especially important for electoral assistance.¹¹⁰ The UN’s electoral support has assisted over 100 countries with elections; this allows Member States to give legitimacy to their governments.¹¹¹ In addition to EAD, DPA’s responsibilities include mediation, an important function while parties negotiate peace.¹¹² An undertaking of the DPA is to assist states with negotiating terms of their national framework; this encourages civil society to participate

⁹³ UN Peacekeeping, *Role of the General Assembly*.

⁹⁴ UN General Assembly, *Comprehensive review of special political missions (A/69/95)*, 2014.

⁹⁵ UN General Assembly, *Comprehensive review of special political missions (A/RES/67/123)*, 2012.

⁹⁶ UN General Assembly, *Comprehensive review of special political missions (A/RES/69/95)*, 2014.

⁹⁷ UN Peacekeeping, *Department of Peacekeeping Operations*; UN DPA, *Overview*.

⁹⁸ UN Peacekeeping, *Department of Peacekeeping Operations*.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰² *Ibid.*

¹⁰³ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people (A/70/95)*, 2015.

¹⁰⁴ UN Peacekeeping, *Military*.

¹⁰⁵ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people (A/70/95)*, 2015.

¹⁰⁶ UN Peacekeeping, *Department of Peacekeeping Operations*.

¹⁰⁷ UN DPA, *Role of the Department of Political Affairs*, 2014.

¹⁰⁸ UN DPA, *Security Council*, 2014.

¹⁰⁹ UN DPA, *Elections*, 2014.

¹¹⁰ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305)*, 2000.

¹¹¹ UN DPA, *Elections*, 2014.

¹¹² UN DPA, *Role of the Department of Political Affairs*, 2014.

in the establishment of a sustainable government.¹¹³ In order to be effective in this, the DPA's Mediation Support Unit (MSU) was created in 2006 to further develop SPMs with a mediation tool to advise the Secretary-General in resolving international disputes and internal conflicts.¹¹⁴

Another important body was created in 2005; the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), as mandated by General Assembly resolution 60/1.¹¹⁵ PBC has three core functions: to bring all advisers and relevant actors on post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery together; to organize reconstruction efforts to assist in the transition from conflict to peace by establishing sustainable development; and to provide recommendations and relevant information to improve coordination outside of the UN to help ensure predictable financing for early recovery and lengthen the international community's attention to post-conflict recovery.¹¹⁶ The Commission is currently assisting several Member States such as Burundi, Sierra Leone, and Liberia; their efforts have been successful from fighting against corruption to reintegrating war-afflicted populations.¹¹⁷ While reaching successes in small steps, an increase of Member States commitment is required to further upon efforts to fight corruption, increasing transparency, and allocating funds.¹¹⁸

Key Policy Issues and Challenges for SPMs and PKOs

There are several challenges and opportunities facing the GA in undertaking review and reform of UN peace operations.¹¹⁹ In 2009, the DPKO and the Department of Field Support jointly released the "New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping," and subsequently released two progress reports in 2010 and 2011.¹²⁰ The documents delve into the strategic and policy challenges facing UN peace operations, and assesses possible ways forward.¹²¹

Robustness of Peace Operations

One of the key challenges facing UN peacekeeping is the need to maintain the core principle of impartiality with robust missions, which address the nature of conflict and protection of civilians within regions that UN officers are deployed.¹²² Increasingly, UN peacekeepers are asked to go into regions of escalating or violent conflict, where there may be no peace to keep, highlighting the need for more comprehensive and flexible mandates, better inclusive planning of missions, and clearer rules of engagement.¹²³ In remarks made last year, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping, Hervé Ladsous, noted, "Robust mandates must be accompanied by robust capabilities and carried out with the full support of the Security Council...the biggest challenges we face are political in nature...many of the environments into which we have recently deployed lack a clear political framework to guide the government and other parties to the conflict towards an inclusive, non-violent post conflict political order."¹²⁴ The significant increase in the number of peacekeeping forces in the early 1990s came with a cost due to mandates not being updated and regions not being properly assessed, causing hazards for UN workers.¹²⁵ Peacekeepers were put in dangerous situations and casualty rates increased due to poor mandates deploying peacekeepers to areas that had not reached ceasefire agreements, and PKO reputations were tarnished as a result of the poor assessments for PKOs in Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and Somalia.¹²⁶

¹¹³ UN DPA, *Role of the Department of Political Affairs*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people (A/70/95)*, 2015.

¹¹⁴ UN DPA, *Mediation Support Overview*, 2014.

¹¹⁵ UN General Assembly, *World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1)*, 2005.

¹¹⁶ UN Peacebuilding Commission, *Mandate of the Peacebuilding Commission*.

¹¹⁷ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its eighth session (A/69/818)*, 2015.

¹¹⁸ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305)*, 2000.

¹¹⁹ UN DPKO et al, *New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping*, 2009.

¹²⁰ UN Peacekeeping, *Reform of Peacekeeping*.

¹²¹ UN DPKO et al, *New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping*, 2009.

¹²² UN Peacekeeping, *New Challenges and Priorities for UN Peacekeeping: United Nations Under-Secretary-General Hervé Ladsous, The Brookings Institution, 17 June 2014*, 2014.

¹²³ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people (A/70/95)*, 2015.

¹²⁴ UN Peacekeeping, *New Challenges and Priorities for UN Peacekeeping: United Nations Under-Secretary-General Hervé Ladsous, The Brookings Institution, 17 June 2014*, 2014.

¹²⁵ UN Peacekeeping, *Post Cold-War surge*.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

The same need for mandate clarity extends to the operation of SPMs within the international system.¹²⁷ At its 69th session, the Fourth Committee discussed the need for flexibility within the SPM mandate, noting the need for an increased focus on conflict-prevention and mediation as core objectives within the spectrum of peace operations, and it was recognized that “Mandates needed to be clear and achievable and integrated planning approaches way key to achieving the link between policy formulation and their implementation on the ground.”¹²⁸ Most recently, at the 70th session, Member States of the Fourth Committee noted the roles of host countries in the successful implementation of SPMs, stressing the need to include national partners in the development of clear, transparent and inclusive mandates if conflict was to be successfully addressed.¹²⁹

Coordination of UN Peace Operations

Beyond mandates, the overall operation and reform of PKOs and SPMs is intersectional and requires the participation and coherence of stakeholders both within and outside of the UN; in order for reform to be successful in the field, many groups need to come together with a common goal of peace and security.¹³⁰

In the 2008 *Political Missions Report*, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted the need for increased cooperation by SPMs with regional partners, but noted the challenges that can accompany partnerships including differing political agendas, and ensuring accurate assessments of on-the-ground capacity.¹³¹ This idea was further reinforced in the 2015 *Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations*, which noted the role of regional integration in successful transitions to peace in post-conflict situations.¹³² Encouraging communication between organizations can enhance the productivity of each individual mission through a means of confidence-building measures.¹³³ For instance, regional participation has been successful in Africa because the AU better understands the needs and conflict within African states.¹³⁴ One of the strengths of the UN is its ability to coordinate efforts among Member States while giving weight to the recommendations of regional organizations; in particular the AU and European Union (EU).¹³⁵ In the field, UN workers are able to train AU, EU, and other regional and sub-regional organizations on the work being done by the UN and increasing these secondary organizations’ capacity to provide security to peace operations.¹³⁶

Funding of UN Peace Operations

Providing sufficient funds and allocating those funds properly has remained an important function of the GA.¹³⁷ Every Member State has an obligation to finance peace operations as it is in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter; however, the amount each Member State contributes remains up to debate.¹³⁸ In the follow-up to the 2015 *Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations*, at the 70th session, Member States noted that adequate funding for SPMs remained a key challenge, and specifically that while missions were coordinated and undertaken by the SC, funding was provided by the organization’s regular budget, representing the “single most important distortion in the budgetary process.”¹³⁹ Further reinforced in the Report is the need for overall strengthened commitment to financing peace operations across the board, including: better financing of mediation

¹²⁷ UN DPI, *As Fourth Committee Reviews Special Missions, Focus Centres Upon Separate Funding, Bolstering Response to Realities on Ground*, 2014.

¹²⁸ *Ibid.*

¹²⁹ UN DPI, *Amid Growing Global Instability, Special Political Missions Crucial for Conflict Prevention, Require Separate Fund, Speakers Tell Fourth Committee*, 2015.

¹³⁰ UN DPI, *As Fourth Committee Reviews Special Missions, Focus Centers Upon Separate Funding, Bolstering Response to Realities on Ground*, 2014.

¹³¹ UN General Assembly, *Overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/223)*, 2013.

¹³² UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people (A/70/95)*, 2015.

¹³³ UN Peacebuilding Commission, *Sustainable Support for Peacebuilding: The Domestic and International Aspects*, 2014.

¹³⁴ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people (A/70/95)*, 2015.

¹³⁵ UN Peacebuilding Commission, *Sustainable Support for Peacebuilding: The Domestic and International Aspects*, 2014.

¹³⁶ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people (A/70/95)*, 2015.

¹³⁷ UN Peacekeeping, *Role of the General Assembly*.

¹³⁸ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

¹³⁹ UN DPI, *As Fourth Committee Reviews Special Missions, Focus Centers Upon Separate Funding, Bolstering Response to Realities on Ground*, 2014.

efforts, the scaling up of the Peacebuilding Fund, and the establishment of country-specific funds linked to clear missions and strategic policy implementation.¹⁴⁰ The New Horizons report (2009), authored by DPKO and DFS on the challenges of peace operations, noted that tight financial constraints represented one of the key restrictions and limitations for the effective operation of peacekeeping missions, especially where rapid deployment was needed.¹⁴¹

Gender Mainstreaming in UN Peace Operations

Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security is often cited as a landmark resolution in the international system, and 2015 marks the fifteenth anniversary of the resolution.¹⁴² The discussion of gender mainstreaming and integration is one of the most critical policy issues facing the effective reform of UN peace operations.¹⁴³ The role of women in peace operations is crucial to successful post-conflict rehabilitation for a number of reasons, including empowering women on the ground and increasing their access to and participation in the political process; addressing the needs of female ex-combatants in the civilian reintegration process; and overall broadening the skill set and perspective of post-combat needs of a society.¹⁴⁴ At the recent renewal of resolution 1325, Member States heard from the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women's (UN-Women) Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, who noted that "the voices of women leaders and frontline activists for peace are rare in this forum...but they are the most important voices you will hear today," and highlighted women's role in establishing peace in both Colombia and the Philippines.¹⁴⁵

As of 2014, only 10% of police personnel and 3% of military personnel engaged in peacekeeping missions are women, while the overall staff of the UN is 48% female; this creates for an opportunity for the GA and UN to act in an effort to enable gender equality.¹⁴⁶ After past recommendations, peace missions have more fully mainstreamed gender equality.¹⁴⁷ One success has been appointing more women as heads of UN missions; this has improved gender perspectives and has increased women's participation in political and civil life.¹⁴⁸ The UN recognizes the importance of gender equality and needs to further increase the number of women aiding in peace missions.¹⁴⁹

The Future of UN Peacekeeping

More than 116,000 men and women serve in peacekeeping operations in over 120 countries through 16 different missions; peacekeepers face a multitude of different tasks, and no two PKOs or SPMs are the same.¹⁵⁰ Because of the vast difference in mission requirements and the development of new technology, recommendations have resulted in the bolstering of new technology and supporting its use in the field.¹⁵¹ PKOs have grown to include the usage of drones and robots in the field after the SC adopted resolution 2098 (2013).¹⁵² Technological advances have improved the ability of UN peacekeepers to survey large amounts of land and provide intelligence to peacekeepers on the ground; for example, the use of drones in the Democratic Republic of the Congo allowed peacekeepers to assist a boat in distress and rescue 15 people.¹⁵³ Access to technology such as drones can improve upon the surveillance and monitoring of conflicts and peacemaking missions.¹⁵⁴ Despite the technology being available, a shortcoming of missions is the failure to utilize strategic communication devices by continuing to use one-way information-sharing devices; this prevents peace missions from receiving and sending out mission relevant

¹⁴⁰ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people (A/70/95)*, 2015.

¹⁴¹ UN DPKO et. al, *New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping*, 2009.

¹⁴² UN DPI, *Security Council renews commitment to landmark resolution on women, peace and security*, 2015.

¹⁴³ UN Peacekeeping, *Women in Peacekeeping*.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

¹⁴⁵ UN DPI, *Security Council renews commitment to landmark resolution on women, peace and security*, 2015.

¹⁴⁶ UN Peacekeeping, *Women in peacekeeping*.

¹⁴⁷ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people (A/70/95)*, 2015.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid.

¹⁵⁰ UN DPI, *New challenges spur UN peacekeeping to become 'a force for the future,'* 2014.

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

¹⁵² UN Security Council, *Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/RES/2098 (2013))*, 2013.

¹⁵³ UN DPI, *New challenges spur UN peacekeeping to become 'a force for the future,'* 2015.

¹⁵⁴ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305)*, 2000.

information efficiently.¹⁵⁵ The GA is able to make recommendations to the Security Council on matters pertaining to peace operations; while technology advances, so must the access to these resources advance to enable operational success.¹⁵⁶ Other ways of modernizing PKOs and SPMs is the transition to “green” practices through limits on the use of local resources; this allows peacekeepers to leave less of a trace on the community.¹⁵⁷

Conclusion

Learning from past failures and successes and being able to adapt to new challenges is one of the greatest potential strengths of the UN. As the nature, scope, and challenges of conflict situations evolve, so too must UN peace operations if they are to remain effective, and they must continue to serve and protect civilians around the world. Over the last twenty years, the UN has seen phenomenal shifts in how peacekeeping is implemented, and has continued to assess the gaps and challenges that remain. No discussion of reform is possible without the robust support of Member States, with respect to policy, innovation, and the sustained financing of peace operations. The GA’s forum for discussion has helped transform SPMs and PKOs from the original mandate of overseeing ceasefire agreements to the vast array of tasks and challenges they are able to assist with today, and the GA remains one of the most important platforms for international cooperation on peacekeeping reform.

Further Research

With ever-changing conflict zones and afflicted areas, delegates must consider how PKOs and SPMs can still be effective while respecting sovereignty of the assisted parties. Transparency is another important item to highlight, because all relevant actors will want to minimize corruption and maximize the efficiency of funds being used. Delegates can consider: How can Member States make a greater difference with PKOs and SPMs? When missions are implemented and security concerns arise, how can peacekeepers protect themselves and the parties involved when they have little authorization to enforce their mandates? What will be the importance and role of increased funding? How will emerging technology play a role in new peace operations? How can women be better integrated across the peace spectrum? What challenges need to be approached in situations which have not transitioned to post conflict zones?

¹⁵⁵ UN General Assembly, *Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people (A/70/95)*, 2015.

¹⁵⁶ UN General Assembly, *Comprehensive review of special political missions (A/RES/68/85)*, 2013.

¹⁵⁷ UN DPI, *New challenges spur UN peacekeeping to become ‘a force for the future,’* 2015.

Annotated Bibliography

Kugel, A. (2011). *No Helmets, Just Suits: Political missions as an instrument of the UN Security Council for civilian conflict management*. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. Retrieved 21 July 2015 from: <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/07899.pdf>

This report gives an analysis of special political missions (SPMs) and how they are used by the United Nations as a tool for conflict management, mediation, and post-conflict resolution. The report determines that special political missions are an integral tool for the UN Security Council in maintaining international peace and security. The author also details the advanced role that SPMs will have in the future. This source will allow delegates to understand the nature of special political missions and be able to differentiate between SPMs and peacekeeping operations.

New York University, Center on International Cooperation. (2012). *UN Peacekeeping: The Next 5 Years*. Retrieved 21 July 2015 from: http://cic.es.its.nyu.edu/sites/default/files/cic_un_fiveyears.pdf

This report details the nature of UN peacekeeping operations and the role they currently have. This report was commissioned by the government of Denmark in order to analyze the current trends of peacekeeping operations, and predicts the role they will take leading up until 2017. It discusses the changing global context of peacekeeping, trends in troop and police considerations, potential demand of UN forces in particular regions, and suggestions for UN Member States contributions. This source is important for delegates to consider because it directly discusses the topic of the future of UN peacekeeping.

United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations. (2008). *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines*. Retrieved 3 November 2015 from: http://www.unrol.org/files/Capstone_Doctrine_ENG.pdf

The Principles and Guidelines serve as the 'Capstone Doctrine' within the field of UN peacekeeping operations. The document defines the scope, nature, and operations of peacekeeping missions while also providing some analysis on the key challenges which face UN peacekeepers. The document will be helpful to delegates in understanding the basics of peacekeeping missions, as well as the development of mandates within peace operations.

United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations & Department of Field Support. (2010). *The New Horizon Initiative: Progress Report No. 1*. Retrieved 18 September 2015 from: http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/newhorizon_update01.pdf

In this document, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations evaluated their progress of field effectiveness. Their report has shown to the UN what has worked and what needs to be further developed on this topic. An important understanding from this document is the need to partner with civil society and regional organizations to have sustainable solutions for peace. Understanding the recommendations of this document is important for delegates when considering what further recommendations need to be made in the effort to further PKO success and how best to address changes required.

United Nations, Department of Political Affairs, Policy and Mediation Division. (2012). *Special Political Mission Startup Guide*. Retrieved 28 August 2015 from: http://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/SPMStartupGuide_UNDPA2012.pdf

This is the official guide released by the Department of Political Affairs for what is required for the General Assembly, Security Council, and Secretary-General to implement an SPM. It explains in-depth the processes and steps taken when a mission is being planned, the budgeting required, where employees come from, logistics, security, and the public information on said missions. Another key element of this guide is outlining the mandate of SPMs and how they come to be approved. This is an important document for delegates to understand because of the detailing of SPMs and their requirements. By understanding this document, the delegates will have a solid grasp on who can create SPMs and how they will be carried out and paid for.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, May 29). *Fourth Committee Sends Drafts to General Assembly on Peacekeeping, Upcoming Work Programme* [Press Release]. Retrieved 21 July 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/gaspd577.doc.htm>



This press release discusses the most current meeting of the General Assembly Fourth Committee in 2015 and their commitment to address the future of UN peacekeeping operations. The Fourth Committee endorsed the recommendations made by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping and urged Member States to take the steps necessary to implement these reforms. The Fourth Committee will readdress this issue at the upcoming session in October 2015. This source is useful for delegates because it is a pertinent and timely example of how this topic is currently being addressed by the General Assembly Fourth Committee.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-second session. (2008). *Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (A/RES/62/273)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/62/406/Add.1). Retrieved 18 October 2015 from: <http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/62/273>

The General Assembly works closely with other acting committees on all topics, including peacekeeping and peacebuilding. When these committees release reports to the committee, Member States must understand the importance of the reports and understand what is being presented. Peacekeeping is of high importance to the United Nations as a whole; the consensus shown by this resolution highlights the successes and importance of the Special Committee's reports on peacekeeping. The passing of this resolution shows the work of the General Assembly to make changes that will improve peace missions in the future.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-seventh session. (2012). *Comprehensive review of special political missions (A/RES/67/123)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Fourth Committee (A/67/425). Retrieved 18 September 2015 from: <http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/67/123>

Reports from the General Assembly Fourth Committee are important for delegates to understand in relation to this topic. As a part of the Fourth Committee, delegates will be dealing with Special Political and Decolonization issues, primarily dealing with encouraging peace. The annual resolution on the comprehensive review of special political missions highlights issues that the committee is looking to address. Peace operations need to be clear to allow the mandates to become achievable. Financing for these missions' remains another task the General Assembly needs to acknowledge and provide for.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013). *Overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions: Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/223)*. Retrieved 3 November 2015 from: <http://www.undocs.org/A/68/223>

The Secretary-General's report on SPMs was called for by the General Assembly in resolution 67/123. It addresses overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, including trends, their evolution, and their role in maintaining international peace and security. This report also makes recommendations to Member States regarding partnerships with regional organizations, inter-mission cooperation, and transition and exit strategies. This source will give delegates a beneficial historical overview of special political missions along with understanding the current policy challenges and limitations facing them.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people (A/70/95)*. Retrieved 18 September 2015 from: <http://www.undocs.org/A/70/95>

Discussing the topic of peace, politics, and partnerships is directly in line with the Fourth Committee's mandate. This report provides an update and current perspective on the work done since the Brahimi Report in 2000. Encouraging dialogue between the parties involved in peace operations builds confidence between members, especially with peace forces available to monitor and assist with transparency. The report outlines the importance of strengthening conflict prevention and mediation measures. Understanding the work put forth in this report will assist delegates in being adequately prepared and knowledgeable of current issues facing peace operations.



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II. Intensifying Cooperation in Outer Space to Preserve Peace and Security

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) first debated humanity's use of outer space in 1957 when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik I, the first artificial satellite.¹⁵⁸ While the UN General Assembly (GA) First Committee has historically discussed the weaponization of outer space, the Fourth Committee considers the peaceful use of outer space and how to intensify international cooperation in that realm.¹⁵⁹ Technology developed for space exploration supports a wide range of applications; for example, Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation would not be possible without the well-coordinated use of many satellites orbiting around earth.¹⁶⁰ Space technology and research are also used for disaster risk reduction, studying climate change, and developing new health care measures.¹⁶¹ Similarly, images captured from space help promote access to water through effective resource management.¹⁶² These applications are not limited to Member States with space programs; international cooperation allows all Member States to profit from these developments, and the international community has created several organizations to foster this cooperation.¹⁶³ However, successful solutions to further intensifying cooperation in outer space to preserve peace and security will require compromise and collaboration between intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, and Member States regardless of their ability to financially support space programs.¹⁶⁴

International and Regional Framework

The GA addressed the issue of outer space for the first time in GA resolution 1148 (XII) of 14 November 1957 on various aspects of arms reduction.¹⁶⁵ The resolution requested that “the sending of objects through outer space shall be exclusively for peaceful and scientific purposes.”¹⁶⁶ This fundamental principle upholding the peaceful and scientific uses of outer space underlies all subsequent UN resolutions and international treaties on the topic.¹⁶⁷ The UN has adopted five principles and five international treaties focusing on outer space, which are often referred to collectively as Space Law.¹⁶⁸

The first document to specifically focus on outer space was the *Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space*, adopted by the GA in 1962.¹⁶⁹ The Declaration clarified responsibilities in outer space and established its use as a “benefit [...] of all mankind” and the “principle of cooperation” as important guidelines for outer space exploration and research.¹⁷⁰ The remaining legal principles relating to various applications in outer space were defined in four documents adopted by the GA.¹⁷¹ GA resolution 37/92 of 10 December 1982 addressed artificial satellites for television broadcasting.¹⁷² The set of principles on remote sensing was adopted in GA resolutions 41/65 in 1986, and 47/68, adopted in 1992, which established

¹⁵⁸ Howell, *Sputnik: The Space Race's Opening Shot*, 2012; UN General Assembly, *Regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments; conclusion on an international convention (treaty) on the reduction of armaments and the prohibition of atomic hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction (1148 (XII))*, 1957.

¹⁵⁹ UNOOSA, *Statement by Simonetta di Pippo*, 2015.

¹⁶⁰ UNOOSA, *United Nations Programme on Space Applications*, 2012.

¹⁶¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁶² USA NASA, *Spinoff 2015*, 2015.

¹⁶³ UN General Assembly, *Declaration on the International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries (A/RES/51/122)*, 1997; UN General Assembly, *International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (A/RES/69/85)*, 2014.

¹⁶⁴ UN General Assembly, *International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (A/RES/69/85)*, 2014.

¹⁶⁵ UN General Assembly, *Regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments; conclusion on an international convention (treaty) on the reduction of armaments and the prohibition of atomic hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction (1148 (XII))*, 1957.

¹⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁷ UNOOSA, *United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space*, 2002.

¹⁶⁸ UNOOSA, *Space Law*.

¹⁶⁹ UN General Assembly, *Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space (1962 (XVIII))*, 1962.

¹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁷¹ UNOOSA, *United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space*, 2002.

¹⁷² UN General Assembly, *Principles Governing the Use by States of Artificial Earth Satellites for International Direct Television Broadcasting (A/RES/37/92)*, 1982.

principles for nuclear power in outer space.¹⁷³ GA resolution 51/122 of 4 February 1997 on the *Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries* focused on international cooperation that is intended to benefit all Member States.¹⁷⁴ The Declaration also highlighted the importance of collaborative research that extends the benefits of space exploration to developing countries unable to afford their own space program.¹⁷⁵

The 1967 *Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Outer Space Treaty)*, ratified by 130 Member States, serves as the legal basis for the peaceful use of outer space.¹⁷⁶ The *Outer Space Treaty* builds upon the *Declaration of Legal Principles*.¹⁷⁷ It is complemented by four additional treaties that further refine specific aspects of space cooperation.¹⁷⁸ These include the 1967 *Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (Rescue Agreement)*; the 1971 *Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (Liability Convention)*; the 1974 *Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (Registration Convention)*; and the 1979 *Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Moon Agreement)*.¹⁷⁹ Unlike the *Outer Space Treaty*, these treaties have only been ratified by a limited number of Member States.¹⁸⁰

The problem of ratification was discussed at the Third UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) held in Vienna, Austria, in 1999.¹⁸¹ The previous UNISPACE I and II conferences, held in Vienna in 1968 and 1982, provided a platform for global dialogue to improve cooperation in outer space and ensure its peaceful use; the upcoming 2018 UNISPACE+50 conference, which celebrates the 50th anniversary of the first UNISPACE conference, will discuss the connection between the post-2015 development agenda and the use of outer space.¹⁸² In 1999, the report of UNISPACE III considered the “decline in the willingness of States to bind themselves to the terms of successive treaties” as a pressing concern.¹⁸³ Member States involved in the International Space Station (ISS), however, have uniformly ratified all but the *Moon Agreement*.¹⁸⁴

Role of the International System

The Fourth Committee and its partners continue to focus on the peaceful and cooperative uses of outer space.¹⁸⁵ The Fourth Committee holds an annual discussion on peaceful uses of outer space.¹⁸⁶ Most recently, the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/85 of 16 December 2014 on *International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space*, on the report of the Fourth Committee.¹⁸⁷ Reflecting the need for greater cooperation within the UN system, the First Committee and Fourth Committee held a joint ad hoc meeting in October 2015 to discuss areas of space

¹⁷³ UN General Assembly, *Principles relating to remote sensing of the Earth from outer space (A/RES/41/65)*, 1986; UN General Assembly, *Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (A/RES/47/68)*, 1993.

¹⁷⁴ UN General Assembly, *Declaration on the International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries (A/RES/51/122)*, 1997.

¹⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁶ UN General Assembly, *Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (2222 (XXI))*, 1966.

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁸ UNOOSA, *United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space*, 2002.

¹⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁰ UN COPUOS, *Status of International Agreements relating to activities in outer space as at 1 January 2015*, 2015.

¹⁸¹ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/CONF.184/6)*, 1999; van Wyk, *Overview of the Implementation Status of the Five United Nations Treaties and Outer Space in African Countries*, 2008.

¹⁸² UNOOSA, *UNISPACE Conferences*; UNOOSA, *Space for the post-2015 development agenda – UN Outer Space Committee opens today*, 2015.

¹⁸³ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/CONF.184/6)*, 1999.

¹⁸⁴ UN COPUOS, *Status of International Agreements relating to activities in outer space as at 1 January 2015*, 2015.

¹⁸⁵ MISS CNS, *Proposed Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) Treaty*, 2012.

¹⁸⁶ UNOOSA, *Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*.

¹⁸⁷ UN General Assembly, *International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (A/RES/69/85)*, 2014.

governance that concern both bodies.¹⁸⁸ Delegates considered transparency and confidence-building measures as the main topics while also discussing space debris, space weather, and the sustainability of outer space activities.¹⁸⁹

One of the Fourth Committee's leading partners within the UN system is the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), which exists to monitor and strengthen the legal framework governing the use of outer space.¹⁹⁰ COPUOS, which reports to the Fourth Committee, was established in 1958 by GA resolution 1348 (XII) on *Questions of the Peaceful Use of Outer Space* upon the recommendation of the Fourth Committee.¹⁹¹ COPUOS was heavily involved in negotiating and drafting the five treaties and five principles of outer space.¹⁹² The 77-member committee meets annually and also supports efforts on national and international levels to improve cooperation in outer space.¹⁹³

Additionally, the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) assists COPUOS and the Fourth Committee as an expert body.¹⁹⁴ UNOOSA serves as the secretariat for COPUOS and creates reports, studies, and other publications concerning space.¹⁹⁵ UNOOSA hosts workshops to inform Member States, especially developing states, about the challenges and opportunities of outer space exploration.¹⁹⁶ The Office maintains a database to monitor outer space actions and the ratification of the five treaties.¹⁹⁷ Furthermore, the Office develops recommendations to refine space law to reflect technical advances.¹⁹⁸ With an increasing number of UN agencies involved in outer space, UNOOSA coordinates UN system activities through an annual UN Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space).¹⁹⁹ During the 2014 session, delegates noted a need for increasing inter-agency cooperation and improving the use of acquired data.²⁰⁰ Improving the UN-Space website as a platform to exchange information between UN entities was considered an important step towards better coordination, along with improved reporting from different organizations.²⁰¹

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a UN specialized agency, also plays an important role in promoting cooperation in outer space.²⁰² The ITU Space Service Department (SSD) is responsible for coordinating and recording space systems, capturing and processing data, and assigning radio frequencies.²⁰³ This means that every satellite or other object sent into space must be registered with the SSD, which then assigns an orbital slot and radio frequencies.²⁰⁴ The ITU also encourages cooperation by hosting various activities like the ITU Symposium on Small Satellite Systems held in Prague, Czech Republic, earlier this year that resulted in the *Prague Declaration on Small Satellite Regulation and Communication Systems* (2015).²⁰⁵ This Declaration, while encouraging scientific progress, reminds all partners involved to respect national and international laws regarding the registration of small satellites, radio-frequency assignments, and space debris mitigation.²⁰⁶

The ISS, scheduled to operate through 2024, represents a significant venue for international cooperation in outer space.²⁰⁷ The *ISS Intergovernmental Agreement* (1998) establishes a legal framework for the ISS as a cooperative

¹⁸⁸ UN General Assembly, *Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities (A/RES/69/38)*, 2014.

¹⁸⁹ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/70/20)*, 2015, p. 48.

¹⁹⁰ UNOOSA, *Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*.

¹⁹¹ UN General Assembly, *Question of the peaceful use of outer space (1348 (XIII))*, 1958.

¹⁹² UNOOSA, *Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*.

¹⁹³ UNOOSA, *Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Subcommittees*.

¹⁹⁴ UNOOSA, *History*.

¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁶ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/70/20)*, 2015, p. 35.

¹⁹⁷ UNOOSA, *Space Law*; UN General Assembly, *Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/70/20)*, 2015, p. 30.

¹⁹⁸ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/70/20)*, 2015, p. 30.

¹⁹⁹ UNOOSA, *United Nations Coordination of Outer Space Activities*.

²⁰⁰ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on its thirty-fourth session (A/AC.105/1064)*, 2014.

²⁰¹ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

²⁰² UN ITU, *About ITU*; ITU, *Space Services Department (SSD)*.

²⁰³ UN ITU, *Space Services Department (SSD)*.

²⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁵ UN ITU, *Prague Declaration*, 2015.

²⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁷ ESA, *About the International Space Station*, 2013.

project between Europe, the United States of America, Russia, Canada, and Japan.²⁰⁸ Cooperation among ISS partners has remained constant in spite of periodic economic and global tensions over other issues.²⁰⁹ All ISS partners currently rely on the Russian Soyuz system to deliver and collect astronauts.²¹⁰

As a complement to the various avenues of international cooperation, an example of regional cooperation is the European Space Agency (ESA), founded in 1975.²¹¹ The *Convention for the Establishment of a European Space Agency* signed on 30 May 1975 states in Article II that “the Agency shall be to provide for and to promote, for exclusively peaceful purposes, cooperation among European states in space research and technology.”²¹² The Convention further defines education, documentation, and technological research work as important tasks for cooperation.²¹³ ESA was founded by ten European states and currently has 20 members.²¹⁴ The work of ESA contributes to scientific progress in areas like earth observation, meteorological studies, navigation systems, and others.²¹⁵

Utilizing Space Technology and Activities to Ensure Peace and Security

Space Technology for Peace and Security

Space technology has led to many different inventions that can help increase peace and security.²¹⁶ One example is the Handheld Operational Demining System (HOPE) project established by the European Union (EU).²¹⁷ This method for detecting landmines using ground-penetrating radar was developed by the ESA for space exploration.²¹⁸ Similarly, with the Spaceborne Imaging Radar system of the United States’ National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA), it was possible to discover large water reserves deep below the ground in Kenya.²¹⁹ This discovery provided the potential for improving the lives of people living in an area affected by drought.²²⁰ In addition to these examples, crisis mapping represents another example of North-South cooperation in space.²²¹ Crisis mappers use satellite and drone images to quickly assess situations after disasters, creating updated maps in geographic information systems for relief workers to identify accessible roads and resource centers.²²² Member States with satellite technology can provide the necessary images and thereby facilitate improved disaster relief.²²³

In addition to adapting outer space technology for terrestrial purposes, efforts can also be undertaken to ensure broader, more reliable access to existing technologies. One such example is the use of the Ground Antenna Transmit and Receive (GATR) system during disaster responses.²²⁴ The GATR system is an inflatable satellite communications array that can be used when operating in areas where no communication infrastructure is available, as is often what happens after earthquakes or tsunamis.²²⁵ In this case, NASA research and technology served as a basis for developing a tool used on earth to allow for better communication in disaster management.²²⁶ Manufactured by GATR Technologies, the system has been used successfully after earthquakes, typhoons, tornados, and wildfires.²²⁷

²⁰⁸ USA Department of State, *12927 Multilateral - Agreement Concerning Cooperation on the International Space Station. With Implementing Arrangement.*

²⁰⁹ Grady, *Handshake in space changed U.S.-Russia relations: How long will it last?*, 2015.

²¹⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹¹ ESA, *ESA’s Purpose*, 2007.

²¹² ESA, *Convention for the Establishment of a European Space Agency*, 1973, p. 13.

²¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 17.

²¹⁴ ESA, *ESA Convention*, 2014.

²¹⁵ ESA, *Annual Report 2013*, 2014.

²¹⁶ ESA, *Technology Transfer – Success Stories.*

²¹⁷ EC CORDIS, *EU mine detector on trial in Bosnia*, 2001.

²¹⁸ ESA, *HOPE for Detecting Landmines*, 2001.

²¹⁹ USA NASA, *Spinoff 2015*, 2015, p. 56.

²²⁰ *Ibid.*

²²¹ Parker, *How ‘Crisis Mapping’ Is Shaping Disaster Relief in Nepal*, 2015.

²²² *Ibid.*

²²³ *Ibid.*

²²⁴ GATR Technologies, *Humanitarian Aid / Disaster Response.*

²²⁵ *Ibid.*

²²⁶ USA NASA, *Emergency Communications in Two Suitcases.*

²²⁷ GATR Technologies, *Humanitarian Aid / Disaster Response.*

In 2007, the GA adopted resolution 61/110 on the *United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response* (UN-SPIDER).²²⁸ UN-SPIDER seeks to raise awareness of the benefits of space-based tools for disaster risk reduction and to create partnerships that allow countries without their own space program to access necessary data.²²⁹ In addition, UN-SPIDER maintains a knowledge portal where users can find ways to utilize space for disaster management, and also gives technical support.²³⁰

Promoting Space Activities for All Member States, Especially Developing Countries

GA resolution 51/122 established that developing countries must be allowed to benefit from knowledge gained through outer space programs.²³¹ The focus on sharing knowledge is also reflected in GA resolution 37/90 of 10 December 1982 on the *Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space* (UNISPACE II).²³²

The UN established the UN Programme on Space Application (PSA) in 1971 following the UNISPACE I conference and strengthened the Programme after the 1999 UNISPACE III conference.²³³ The Programme addresses a wide range of space technology applications and works to reduce the gap between industrialized and developing countries by facilitating capacity-building, education, research, and development support.²³⁴ Technology like remote sensing data used for natural resource management, for example, is developed in industrialized countries but offers clear benefits for all Member States.²³⁵ PSA seeks to make the technology available to developing countries and educate local personnel on operating the tools.²³⁶ PSA further supports international cooperation by organizing courses, conferences, and workshops.²³⁷

Emerging Issues in Outer Space Cooperation

The Problem of Outer Space Debris

The amount of space debris, defined as “all man-made objects, including fragments and elements thereof, in Earth orbit...that are non-functional,” has almost doubled since the late 1990s.²³⁸ Even space debris as small as paint flecks can damage a spacecraft because it can travel at speeds over 7 kilometers per second.²³⁹ There are millions of pieces of debris orbiting the earth; although most of them are too small to detect, there are still over 500,000 pieces the size of a marble or larger.²⁴⁰ Even operational objects can cause significant debris, as shown when an American and a Russian satellite collided in 2009.²⁴¹ Another incident was caused by an anti-satellite test in 2007 when China destroyed one of its weather satellites, producing more than 900 trackable pieces of large debris.²⁴² This danger increases with every object released into outer space, as the number of usable satellite orbits is limited.²⁴³

²²⁸ UNOOSA, *What is UN-SPIDER?*; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (A/RES/61/110)*, 2007.

²²⁹ UN COPUOS, *Report on activities carried out in 2014 in the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster management and Emergency Response (A/AC.105/1078)*, 2014.

²³⁰ *Ibid.*

²³¹ UN General Assembly, *Declaration on the International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries (A/RES/51/122)*, 1997.

²³² UN General Assembly, *Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/RES/37/90)*, 1982.

²³³ UNOOSA, *Mandate of the United Nations Programme on Space Application*.

²³⁴ UNOOSA, *United Nations Programme on Space Applications*.

²³⁵ *Ibid.*

²³⁶ *Ibid.*

²³⁷ *Ibid.*

²³⁸ UN COPUOS, *Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session, held in Vienna from 12 to 23 February 2007 (A/AC.105/890)*, 2007.

²³⁹ USA NASA, *Space Debris and Human Spacecraft*, 2013.

²⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁴¹ Broad, *Debris Spews Into Space After Satellites Collide*, 2009.

²⁴² David, *China's Anti-Satellite Test: Worrisome Debris Cloud Circles Earth*, 2007.

²⁴³ Broad, *Debris Spews Into Space After Satellites Collide*, 2009.

Monitoring space debris is a difficult task.²⁴⁴ Tracking debris is necessary to allow for safe future space missions, because knowing the location and path of the debris facilitates simulations and allows vessels to avoid collisions.²⁴⁵ Although several Member States possess valuable surveillance information related to space debris, they may be reluctant to publically share information that has military relevance.²⁴⁶ Several states have signed agreements to share parts of their respective surveillance information in order to improve the quality of the tracking and indexing of space debris.²⁴⁷ The *Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines* adopted by COPUOS in 2007 are voluntary guidelines for states with space activities that aim to limit further increases of debris.²⁴⁸ The Guidelines focus on reducing the risk of collisions, and they explore ways to remove debris from dangerous orbits.²⁴⁹

The Privatization of Outer Space Activities

The private sector plays an increasing role in outer space issues, from emerging questions of space tourism to research and transportation support for state agencies.²⁵⁰ In the United States, NASA has partnered with private companies to develop space vehicles and delivery systems, with mixed success.²⁵¹ Although NASA has signed contracts with the private company SpaceX to develop a manned spaceflight program, recent incidents have called into questions the viability of this partnership.²⁵² Private companies are also undertaking space flights outside the United States of America.²⁵³ Arianespace, a company founded in 1980 with public and private shareholders from 10 European countries, serves as the main launch company for ESA and is thus one of the most important launch companies worldwide.²⁵⁴ The GA has not yet discussed the issue of private space flight and its increasing importance in global space exploration; the issue was accounted for, however, at the UNISPACE III conference, where the private sector was heavily involved.²⁵⁵

Conclusion

The UN has implemented several treaties and principles that give general guidance for outer space action and are the foundation for global work on the issue.²⁵⁶ The Fourth Committee and other UN institutions, such as COPUOS and UNOOSA, continue to serve as the main actors concerning the peaceful use of outer space. Space agencies can move toward improved peace, security, and efficiency by sharing mutually beneficial data.²⁵⁷ Addressing the issue of space debris will be one of the main challenges for outer space activities in the following years; while national space agencies have the capacity and resources to advance technology, further cooperation is needed with the private sector as it plays an increasing role in outer space activities.²⁵⁸ In spite of the progress realized in recent decades, it remains important to intensify the cooperation at the regional and international level.²⁵⁹

²⁴⁴ USA NASA, *Space Debris and Human Spacecraft*, 2013.

²⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁶ Gruss, *Experts Seek Clarity on Space Surveillance Data-sharing Rules*, 2014.

²⁴⁷ Pomerleau, *Strategic Command adds Germany to its space surveillance network*, 2015; Foust, *U.S. Air Force Envisions Sharing Space Surveillance Data with Scientists*, 2015.

²⁴⁸ UN COPUOS, *Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session, held in Vienna from 12 to 23 February 2007 (A/AC.105/890)*, 2007.

²⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁰ Lee, *NASA Looks to Private Sector for Future of Space Flight*, 2015.

²⁵¹ *Linking NASA and the private sector to further space exploration*, The Washington Post, 2015; Dillow, *How SpaceX's launch failure is also a measure of success*, 2015.

²⁵² Griffin, *Russia sends food and supplies to International Space Station to bail out US after ship blows up*, 2015; Dillow, *How SpaceX's launch failure is also a measure of success*, 2015.

²⁵³ Arianespace, *About Arianespace*, 2015.

²⁵⁴ *Ibid.*; Clark, *France to privatize its Arianespace shares*, 2015.

²⁵⁵ UN DPI, *General Assembly Endorses Action Plan to Promote Use of Space Technologies for Benefit of All, Following Review of 1999 Conference*, 2004.

²⁵⁶ UNOOSA, *United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space*, 2002.

²⁵⁷ UN General Assembly, *Declaration on the International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries (A/RES/51/122)*, 1997.

²⁵⁸ ESA, *Space Debris*, 2013; *Linking NASA and the private sector to further space exploration*, The Washington Post, 2015.

²⁵⁹ UNOOSA, *Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*.



Further Research

Going forward, delegates should consider the following questions: How can existing frameworks be improved to address technological advances and new challenges in the peaceful use of outer space? How can Member States encourage ratification of the five treaties on outer space? How can the UN strengthen regional cooperation and private-public partnerships? How can the UN facilitate technology transfers and data sharing between Member States? How can space agencies be encouraged to work together on the issue of space debris? In what other ways can cooperation be intensified in outer space in order to preserve peace and security?

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http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Operations/Space_Situational_Awareness/Space_Surveillance_and_Tracking_-_SST_Segment

This website from the European Space Agency is helpful in understanding how space surveillance systems work. Knowing about the tracking systems, and even more importantly how the data is compiled and used, is necessary when talking about ways to combine the data from different systems. Improving cooperation and sharing surveillance data to create an even better database can be an important step towards utilizing space technology even more efficiently. While discussing the sharing of data, delegates need to keep in mind that states often do not want to release sensitive data publicly.

Redd, N. (2013, March 8). Space Junk: Tracking & Removing Orbital Debris. *Space.com*. Retrieved 23 August 2015 from: <http://www.space.com/16518-space-junk.html>

This Space.com article is useful in understanding the problem of space debris. It starts by discussing the sources of space debris and continues by looking at space surveillance networks. It also explains the problems caused by space debris and ways to avoid them. In addition, Redd's article gives a comprehensive overview of the space debris problem and is therefore a good starting point for further research on this aspect of cooperation in outer space.

United Nations, Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. (2014). *Coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: Directions and anticipated results for the period 2014-2015 – addressing the post-2015 development agenda: Report of the Secretary-General (A/AC.105/1063)*. Retrieved 21 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/AC.105/1063>

This report by the Secretary-General discusses current space-related activities and connects space activities to the post-2015 development agenda. It highlights the use for different areas like environmental sustainability and social and economic development, and also focuses on the aspect of international cooperation. It is a great source to understand the current development of the issue and learn ways to utilize space technology to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

United Nations, Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. (2014). *Report on activities carried out in 2014 in the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster management and Emergency Response (A/AC.105/1078)*. Retrieved 23 August 2015 from: http://www.un-spider.org/sites/default/files/AC105_1078E.pdf

The latest report of UN-SPIDER is a strong example for how international cooperation utilizing outer space technology can take shape. The report highlights the most important conferences held and discusses the current measures concerning disaster management. It further informs delegates about the status of UN-SPIDER's knowledge portal, which includes information concerning disaster management and space. Lastly, it provides information about the technical advisory support that UN-SPIDER gives. This report shows how a complex organization uniting data from many different sources can work efficiently to utilize this data for all Member States.

United Nations, General Assembly, Twenty-first session. (1966). *Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (2222 (XXI))*. Retrieved 19 July 2015 from: <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties/outerspacetreaty.html>

The Outer Space Treaty was the first treaty passed by the UN on the issue of outer space. It establishes the principles of cooperation and emphasizes the importance of maintaining peace and security. Ratified by over 100 Member States, including all Member States with major outer space programs, it is the foundation for all negotiations on the issue. The Treaty covers many aspects of outer space activities, and is therefore primary guidance for peaceful cooperation in outer space.

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-fifth session. (2001). *Declaration on the International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries (A/RES/51/122)*. Adopted on the report of the Special Political and

Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/51/590). Retrieved 21 July 2015 from: <http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/51/122>

This declaration recognizes the importance of international cooperation in outer space. It emphasizes the need to make space technology available to all countries. The declaration sets goals to be accomplished by the international community. It can be seen as a foundation of cooperation in outer space and is important when discussing outer space programs. An important addition is the focus on developing countries, which shall be enabled to profit from outer space technology under the terms of the Declaration.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-second session. (2007). *Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/62/20)*. Retrieved 20 July 2015 from: http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/gadocs/A_62_20E.pdf

The report contains the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. These guidelines are endorsed in paragraph 119 and included in the annex. The guidelines are based on the work of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and give seven general aspects to be considered when dealing with the issue of space debris. The report is a great overview of the work of COPUOS and includes a wide area of subtopics. It also shows the specific aspects the COPUOS subcommittees discussed in recent years.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (A/RES/69/85)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/69/452). Retrieved 19 July 2015: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/85>

As the most recent resolution on international cooperation concerning outer space, this is one of the best sources to understand the current work of the UN on this issue. It shows which body is currently working on each specific aspect. The resolution acknowledges recent developments in many areas and encourages the continuation of these measures. It also shows areas that need to be worked on more intensively. These evaluations may be important guidelines for delegates when researching this topic.

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. (2002). *United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space* [Report]. Retrieved 17 August 2015 from: <http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/publications/STSPACE11E.pdf>

This compilation contains the important treaties and principles in a single reference point. It not only includes the complete treaties related to the topic of outer space, but also provides a foreword that helps in understanding the interaction between the treaties. Knowing the main concepts of these treaties and principles is essential, as they form the space law and thereby the legal framework of outer space activities.

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. (2012). *United Nations Programme on Space Applications* [Report]. Retrieved 23 August 2015 from: http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/publications/ST_SPACE_52_Rev1.pdf

The Office for Outer Space Affairs has compiled a strong overview of applications of space technology to non-space purposes. This document introduces the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and discusses different applications of space technology. Each application, like navigation systems, disaster risk reduction, natural resource management, or monitoring climate change, has its own section explaining where space technology can be used in this area. The variety of applications shows how space technology can be utilized everywhere; the examples for use in developing countries are especially useful.

United States of America, National Aeronautics and Space Administration. (2015). *Spinoff 2015*. Retrieved 23 September 2015 from: <http://spinoff.nasa.gov/Spinoff2015/pdf/Spinoff2015.pdf>

NASA's space technology has led to applications in many different areas. The Spinoff 2015 document shows many current examples in several different categories like health, transportation, public safety, and environment. Viewing these examples helps delegates understand the impact space science has on other aspects of life. Delegates will find this resource useful, as the overview helps to understand the importance of cooperation to foster space science.



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III. Improving the Situation of Non-Self-Governing Territories

*“I call on the international community to address the issue of self-government and find innovative and practical ways to implement the decolonization process. In this endeavor, we shall be guided by the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the relevant General Assembly resolutions.”*²⁶⁰

Introduction

International policy on decolonization began at the establishment of the United Nations (UN) and the *Charter of the UN*. In 1945, over 750 million peoples inhabited Non-Self Governing Territories (NSGTs), but today that number is slightly under two million peoples as a result of the decolonization process primarily promoted by UN efforts.²⁶¹ Presently, 17 territories still fall under the category of Non-Self-Governing, and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has urged Member States to further the decolonization process for such territories.²⁶² 2015 marks the midpoint of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism; yet, progress towards independence for most of these territories seems unlikely since progress towards decolonization continues to remain “in a state of virtual inertia.”²⁶³ In addition, most of the NSGTs face multiple challenges that range from environmental degradation, vulnerabilities to environmental disasters, financial problems, lack of resources, and in some cases, lack of willingness from administering Powers to fully recognize the self-determination of NSGTs.²⁶⁴ Improving the situation of NSGTs towards independence or decolonization is not impossible for the remaining 17 territories; it will take the effort of all Member States, the administering Powers, and the people that live within these territories to further policy towards decolonization and colonial eradication.²⁶⁵

In December 1960, the UN General Assembly (GA) established the *Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples*, and at the same time created the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (C-24) to work towards the implementation of the declaration.²⁶⁶ The GA Fourth Committee, also known as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, is the UN’s foremost body to consider resolutions on the question of decolonization for the NSGTs.²⁶⁷ The Committee monitors and reviews the progress towards decolonization of NSGTs, which consist of Falkland Islands, St. Helen, Monserrat, Gibraltar, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, , the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Pitcairn, American Samoa, Guam, United States Virgin Islands, Tokelau, New Caledonia, French Polynesia (since 2013) and Western Sahara.²⁶⁸ The administering Powers represent the governing bodies for NSGTs and provide educational programs, socio-economic development, and political mechanisms towards independence or decolonization.²⁶⁹ Within the *Charter of the United Nations*, Chapter XI establishes the *Declaration Regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories*, which establishes the responsibilities of the administrating powers over NSGTs.²⁷⁰ Other responsibilities include “to take due account of the political aspirations of the peoples,” and to assist NSGTs in the development of democratic institutions.²⁷¹

With the direction of the Fourth Committee, the C-24 and the administering Powers are mandated to “cooperate in preparing plans for the decolonization of specific Territories and to promote the implementation of the plan of action

²⁶⁰ UN DPI, *In Message to Special Committee, Secretary-General Urges International Community to find Innovative ways of Decolonization in Remaining 17 Territories*, 2015.

²⁶¹ UN DPI, *The United Nations and Decolonization*, 2015.

²⁶² UN DPI, *In Message to Special Committee, Secretary-General Urges International Community to find Innovative ways of Decolonization in Remaining 17 Territories*, 2015.

²⁶³ UN DPI, *Remaining 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories on United Nations List Are '16 Too Many', Fourth Committee Told, As It Takes Up Cluster of Decolonization Issues*, 2009.

²⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁶ UN DPI, *The United Nations and Decolonization*, 2015.

²⁶⁷ UN General Assembly, *Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/73)*, 2015.

²⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Ch. XI.

²⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁷¹ *Ibid.*

for the eradication of colonialism.²⁷² The decolonization process for NSGTs is an intricate process involving various international and regional frameworks, as well as the collaboration of several UN bodies, with the ultimate goal of eradicating colonialism in all its multifaceted dimensions and granting the right to self-determination to millions of peoples currently still inhabiting NSGTs.²⁷³

International and Regional Framework

The right to self-determination is closely connected to the process of decolonization. Self-determination is the primary end objective within the international system on dealing with NSGTs.²⁷⁴ Established within the *Charter of the United Nations*, Article 1, the principle of self-determination of peoples is based on the development of “friendly relations among” Member States and on “respect for the principle of equal rights.”²⁷⁵ Following the tradition on the principle of self-determination of peoples, the GA adopted resolution 1514 (XV), *Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples*, in 1960.²⁷⁶ The declaration notes that denying the right to self-determination in all its manifestations is a “serious threat to world peace,” and further asserts that colonialism as it exists within the context of NSGTs imposes challenges to the socioeconomic development of NSGTs and its inhabitants.²⁷⁷ It states that unless colonialism is eradicated in all its manifestations, including NSGTs, UN principles of self-determination will continue to be violated.²⁷⁸ Additionally, the principle of self-determination of peoples was also adopted within the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR) in 1966.²⁷⁹ Both establish that Member States who are administering Powers over NSGTs should promote the realization towards self-determination.²⁸⁰ In 2014, the GA reaffirmed its commitment to *Universal Realization of the Rights of All Peoples to Self-determination* by calling on Member States to eradicate the repression, discrimination, and exploitation of peoples under foreign occupation, including those inhabiting NSGTs.²⁸¹

Between the years of 1990 and 2011, the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism were adopted by the Fourth Committee to further the mandate of the Special Committee to formulate policy on the topic.²⁸² December 2010 marked the end of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the beginning of the Third International Decade with the adoption of GA resolution 65/119.²⁸³ The purpose and goal of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism was the full implementation of the *Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples*, including those of NSGTs.²⁸⁴ It also called upon administering Powers to collaborate with C-24 on the further progress of NSGTs decolonization process.²⁸⁵ Unfortunately, by the end of the Second Decade, colonialism had not been completely eradicated as had been hoped by Member States, with 17 Territories still under colonial rule as NSGTs.²⁸⁶

²⁷² UN General Assembly, *Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Report of the Secretary-General* (A/70/73), 2015.

²⁷³ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁴ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Ch. XI.

²⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, Ch. I.

²⁷⁶ UN General Assembly, *Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples* (A/RES/1514(XV)), 1960, p. 67.

²⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 66.

²⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁹ UN General Assembly, *Universal Realization of the Rights of Peoples to Self-Determination: Report of the Secretary General* (A/62/184), 2007, p. 3.

²⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁸¹ UN General Assembly, *Universal Realization of the Rights of Peoples to Self-Determination* (A/RES/69/164), 2014.

²⁸² UN DPI, *The United Nations and Decolonization*, 2015.

²⁸³ UN General Assembly, *Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Report of the Secretary-General* (A/70/73), 2015.

²⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

²⁸⁵ UN General Assembly, *Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Report of the Secretary-General* (A/56/61), 2001, p. 3.

²⁸⁶ UN DPI, *Remaining 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories on United Nations List Are '16 Too Many', Fourth Committee Told, As It Takes Up Cluster of Decolonization Issues*, 2009.

The Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism which began in 2010, called upon administering Powers to make further efforts in collaborating with the C-24, as well as with NSGTs in developing programmes within relevant frameworks that mandate decolonization.²⁸⁷ The Third International Decade is guided also by the framework provided by *Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples*.²⁸⁸ Presently, five years have passed since the Third International Decade was established, and yet all 17 NSGTs still remain under colonial rule with almost no prospect of any NSGTs to see independence by the end of this decade.²⁸⁹ For instance, the decolonization process for the Malvina Islands has been ongoing for about 50 years, and yet it still remains on the list of NSGTs because the decolonization process for the Malvina Islands have been politicized by the administering power, Great Britain, and Argentina who also claims the territory as its own.²⁹⁰ According to Argentina, Great Britain has not made any efforts to negotiate the open dispute as mandated by GA resolution 2065 (XX) adopted over 40 years ago in 1965.²⁹¹ In addition, the inhabitants of the Malvina islands carried out a referendum with the assistance of Great Britain to see if they would remain as a British territory or seek independence, with the results overwhelmingly voting to remain a British territory.²⁹²

Role of the International System

The GA Fourth Committee, plays the primary role in facilitating the discussion on the issue of NSGTs and implementing key decisions to further the decolonization process, in coordination with the C-24 Special Committee.²⁹³ The most recent session of C-24 in June 2015 focused on more effective and targeted resolution making on the issue of decolonization, voting to “dismantle the omnibus draft [resolution]” and focus on each NSGT on a case-by-case basis.²⁹⁴ Under the direction of the C-24 committee, regional seminars are held annually, alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific, to further implementation and review the progress of the Plan of Action on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.²⁹⁵ The most recent regional seminar, held in May 2015, focused on the goal of the eradication of colonialism by 2020, and touched on some key issues within NSGTs including in the Western Sahara and Falkland Islands, as well as the legal status of Puerto Rico.²⁹⁶

The GA Fourth Committee, at its 69th session in 2014, requested that UN organizations and international agencies collaborate more closely in examining each NSGT on progress made towards self-determination with respect to economic, social, and political conditions.²⁹⁷ In conjunction with this request, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has also invited C-24 to collaborate with the Fourth Committee in further coordinating measures and activities of other UN organizations and agencies in the formulation of policy on the eradication of colonialism.²⁹⁸ ECOSOC also recommends that all specialized agencies involved with NSGTs continue to follow the guidance of GA resolution 1514 (XV) and that of the *Declaration on Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples*.²⁹⁹

²⁸⁷ UN General Assembly, *Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/73)*, 2015.

²⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁹ UN General Assembly, *Falkland Islands (Malvinas)*, 2014, p. 11.

²⁹⁰ UN General Assembly, *Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/73)*, 2015.

²⁹¹ UN General Assembly, *Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (A/AC.109/2014/15)*, 2014, p. 11.

²⁹² UN General Assembly, *Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (A/AC.109/2014/15)*, 2014.

²⁹³ UN DPI, *The United Nations and Decolonization, Committee of 24*.

²⁹⁴ UN DPI, *Decolonization Committee Approves Five Texts while Deciding to Dismantle ‘Omnibus’ Draft to Draw Targeted Attention to Individual Non-Self-Governing Territories*, 2015.

²⁹⁵ UN DPI, *The United Nations and Decolonization, Regional Seminars*.

²⁹⁶ UN DPI, *Puerto Rico ‘Front Line’ of Fight against Colonialism, Say Speakers as Caribbean Regional Seminar Continues*, 2015.

²⁹⁷ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/64)*, 2014, p. 5.

²⁹⁸ UN ECOSOC, *Report of the President of the Council on consultations with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (E/2015/65)*, 2015, p. 2.

²⁹⁹ UN ECOSOC, *Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations (E/RES/2006/37)*, 2008, p. 1.

To this end, agencies such as the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UNDP, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) all collaborate directly with NSGTs on economic, social, and educational policies.³⁰⁰ For instance, UNICEF works with NSGTs in the Caribbean region, to advance capacity-building in the areas of education, nutrition, and “social investment for child protection.”³⁰¹ UNDP, on the other hand, provides financial policy advice and capacity-building in sustainable development, especially in the areas of macroeconomics.³⁰² Anguilla, a NSGT in the Caribbean, has been receiving “assistance in the financial sector supervision and development of risk management guidelines” from UNDP since 2002, as well as one of its neighboring islands, Montserrat.³⁰³ GA resolutions 66/84 and 66/89 adopted in 2012 have called upon international organizations such as UNEP to provide its expertise on environmental protection of NSGTs in the “impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts,” as well as the exploitation of natural resources by administering powers.³⁰⁴ Similarly, FAO collaborates closely with NSGTs in hosting “regional workshops to prepare disaster risk management plans for hurricanes, floods and droughts in the agriculture sector.”³⁰⁵ In these workshops, FAO has been providing growing evidence that the protection of forests and trees in tropical areas are crucial to food sustainability, but “limited technical capacity for forest resource monitoring” in many NSGTs made it difficult to keep track of forest data.³⁰⁶

Improving the Situation of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Dissemination of Information

One important aspect to the goal of decolonization is making information available on the process of eradicating colonialism and rights of self-determination, especially within the NSGTs themselves.³⁰⁷ The UN itself takes on a significant amount of the work of regular and clear communication, and the dissemination of information primarily through the work of the UN Department of Public Information (UN DPI).³⁰⁸ In addition to issuing regular press releases, UN DPI keeps websites related to decolonization updated and ensures they are user friendly and available in all six official languages of the UN, plus Kiswahili and Portuguese.³⁰⁹ In the Secretary-General’s most recent report on the dissemination of information, extra emphasis was placed on finding new ways to communicate, including furthering the use of UN webcasts, UN radio, and social media.³¹⁰ Additionally, annual working papers prepared by the Secretariat on each remaining NSGTs are made available to the public by UN DPI in collaboration with the Decolonization unit.³¹¹ Still the responsibility in providing information falls within the administering Powers as outlined by the *Charter of the United Nations*.³¹² Administering Powers are to provide information on social, economic, political, and educational conditions found within their respective territories.³¹³ The challenge remains for all administering Powers to fund campaigns aimed to consistently provide the dissemination of information about decolonization of their respective NSGTs.³¹⁴

Relationship Between the United Kingdom and the Non-Self-Governing Territories

³⁰⁰ UN DPI, *What the UN can do to Assist Non-Self-Governing Territories*, 2009, pp. 6-13.

³⁰¹ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

³⁰² *Ibid.*, p. 8.

³⁰³ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁴ UNEP, *Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session of relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GCSS.XIII/INF/3)*, 2012, pp. 10-11.

³⁰⁵ UN ECOSOC, *Report of the President of the Council on consultations with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (E/2012/47)*, 2012, p. 2.

³⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, p 3.

³⁰⁷ UN DPI, *Special Committee on Decolonization Approves Drafts on Information Disseminated to, Received from Non-Self-Governing Territories, Resuming Annual Session*, 2015.

³⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

³¹⁰ UN General Assembly, *Dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from April 2014 to March 2015 (A/AC.109/2015/18)*, 2015.

³¹¹ UN DPI, *Special Committee on Decolonization Approves Drafts on Information Disseminated to, Received from Non-Self-Governing Territories, Resuming Annual Session*, 2015.

³¹² UN DPI, *Committee on Decolonization Approves 3 draft resolution on Information relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories*, 2014.

³¹³ *Ibid.*

³¹⁴ UN DPI, *Special Committee on Decolonization Approves Drafts on Information Disseminated to, Received from Non-Self-Governing Territories, Resuming Annual Session*, 2015.

The relationship between administering Powers and corresponding NSGTs is varied and complex, and poses one of the key issues in the question of decolonization. In 2012, the United Kingdom, responsible for 10 of 17 existing NSGTs, wrote an extensive white paper on its relationship with its overseas territories, citing the desire to ensure the development of sustainable and resilient economies, safe and secure territories, and enhanced environmental protection.³¹⁵ The paper touches on key priorities improving its territories for developing the economy through tourism and financial services, for increasing the exploitation of natural resources like geothermal energy, and fostering the continued development of democratic institutions.³¹⁶ Furthermore, the paper discusses aims towards improving and increasing productive relationships between the territories and external partners, especially the European Union (EU), on issues including trade and development assistance.³¹⁷ On the issue of decolonization, the paper notes that “The UK believes that the UN’s Decolonisation Committee (the C24) no longer has a relevant role to play in respect of our Territories,” but notes its continued support of the C-24 meetings and “[the] Territories’ right to determine their own futures.”³¹⁸

Environmental Risks in Non-Self-Governing Territories

Most of the remaining NSGTs consist of small islands, either in the Pacific or Caribbean.³¹⁹ Due to their small size and being surrounded by vast bodies of water, these islands are very vulnerable to shifts in global climate and environmental disasters.³²⁰ During its 69th session, reporting on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the C-24 requested that UN organizations, relevant stakeholders, and administering Powers provide information on the environmental conditions of all NSGTs and the “impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts.”³²¹ According to the FAO, forests and trees play a significant role in socioeconomic development of NSGTs, while also providing protection to the environment of these small islands since they actively protect soil and sustain carbon storage.³²² Part of its collaborative efforts with NSGTs in protecting the environment, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been an active participant in a coastal monitoring program, which provides workshops and technical advice to local community leaders to be able to detect and monitor environmental threats or problems to NSGTs.³²³ Additionally, there are challenges posed upon NSGTs, such as constraints to socioeconomic sustainable development due to the lack of security and power over their resources.³²⁴ Furthermore, the vulnerability of NSGTs to natural disasters such as “hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise” poses challenges to NSGTs as well.³²⁵ Another challenge some NSGTs face are the environment degradations caused by decades of military testing and the expansion of military bases by administering Powers.³²⁶ For instance, some of the islands of the French Polynesia territories were used by the administering Power, France, to test nuclear weapons for over 30 years.³²⁷ Even though the last test was conducted some 17 years ago, the residual effect of radiation in the environment has been causing health issues for the French Polynesian inhabitants.³²⁸

³¹⁵ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, *The Overseas Territories: Security, Success, Sustainability*, 2012.

³¹⁶ *Ibid.*

³¹⁷ *Ibid.*

³¹⁸ *Ibid.*

³¹⁹ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/64)*, 2014.

³²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

³²¹ *Ibid.*

³²² UN ECOSOC, *Report of the President of the Council on consultations with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (E/2012/47)*, 2012, p. 3.

³²³ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

³²⁴ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/64)*, 2014, p. 5.

³²⁵ *Ibid.*

³²⁶ UN DPI, *New Caledonia, French Polynesia focus of Special Committee’s Discussion as it Concludes Session with Approval of related draft resolutions*, 2015.

³²⁷ *Ibid.*

³²⁸ *Ibid.*

The responsibility to protect the fragile environments of NSGTs falls to the administering Powers, who claim jurisdiction over these territories.³²⁹ Due to the Non-Self-Governing status, Territories depend on the administering Powers for sustainable environmental protection.³³⁰ Furthermore, sustained socioeconomic development in NSGTs is highly dependent on a viable and rich environment.³³¹ The destruction of the environment of NSGTs hinders the process of decolonization, which was established by the GA as a principle that all inhabitants of NSGTs have the right to express.³³²

Environmental Protection for Non-Self-Governing Territories: Case Studies

Tokelau

One of these vulnerable islands is Tokelau, located north of Western Samoa, which is considered “particularly vulnerable to adverse environmental conditions” by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP).³³³ The administering power, New Zealand, along with other regional organizations such as SPREP and UNDP, provide the expertise and funding for programs to protect the environment on Tokelau, as well as for the development of renewable energy, marine conservation, waste management and “rebuilding of seawalls.”³³⁴ Still, according to SPREP, Tokelau in recent years has experienced an increase of sea-levels and far more intense storms and hurricanes due to global warming.³³⁵ The damage to small islands such as Tokelau and other such NSGTs “can cause severe coastal erosion, damage fresh water lenses, increase soil salinity, destroy a significant proportion of agricultural and forest resources.”³³⁶ In addition to natural disasters, “waste management is a serious environmental problem for Tokelau” that has caused pollution to the already scarce fresh water sources and the pollution to coastal waters.³³⁷ In an effort by Tokelau to reduce waste, in 2007, a waste management strategic plan was endorsed in which every village participating by designing a customized plan for waste management.³³⁸ In addition, Tokelau and its administering Power, New Zealand, have been conducting and developing disaster management exercises that have the intention of preparing inhabitants of Tokelau to be prepared in case of a real natural disaster.³³⁹

Guam and the Legacy of U.S. Military Presence

Since the end of World War II, Guam and nearby islands have been used by the United States, and it is currently an NSGT administrated by the US to stage the testing of hydrogen bombs, which has left many of the areas of the island contaminated, including populated areas.³⁴⁰ Most of the populated areas that are affected by radiation contamination are primarily inhabited by the Chamorro, native inhabitants of the surrounding islands.³⁴¹ Between the years of 2003 and 2007, cancer mortality rates that of Chamorro are significantly higher with “cancer of the mouth and pharynx, nasopharynx, lung and bronchus, cervix, uterus, and liver.”³⁴² Even though Guam’s inhabitants qualify for compensation due to contamination, many who suffer do not receive much help.³⁴³ In 2008, the Chamorro’s people expressed their concern of the continued military encroachment that has for decades denied them the right to self-determination.³⁴⁴ It was reported to the Fourth Committee by C-24 in 2014 that there was concern about the

³²⁹ UN General Assembly, *Economic and Other Activities which Affect the Interest of the Peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/RES/69/98)*, 2014, p. 1.

³³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

³³¹ *Ibid.*

³³² UN C-24, *Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: The United Nations at 70: Taking stock of the decolonization agenda to be held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015: Guidelines and Rules of Procedure*, 2015, p. 3; UN C-24, *Caribbean Regional Seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: The United Nations at 70: Taking stock of the Decolonization agenda*, 2015.

³³³ SPREP, *PEIN Country Profile and Virtual Environment Library: Tokelau*, 2015.

³³⁴ *Ibid.*

³³⁵ *Ibid.*

³³⁶ *Ibid.*

³³⁷ *Ibid.*

³³⁸ *Ibid.*

³³⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁰ Natividad & Kirk, *Fortress Guam: Resistance to US Military Mega-Buildup* The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus, 2010.

³⁴¹ *Ibid.*

³⁴² *Ibid.*

³⁴³ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

continued transfer of Guam territory to military personnel.³⁴⁵ Part of the problem lies in that the Fourth Committee can only request or encourage the administering Power to cooperate with respecting the wishes of Guam inhabitants, but if the administering Power does not abide by the requests, currently there is no legal binding policy to hold administering Powers accountable.³⁴⁶

Conclusion

Between the 1950s and 1960s, with the efforts of the Fourth Committee and other UN organizations and agencies, over 40 former colonies achieved their independence and became Self-Governing.³⁴⁷ While much had been done then, it does not reflect the current state of the remaining 17 NSGTs, where many have been under colonial rule for over 50 years.³⁴⁸ The last territory to reach independence was a little over 20 years ago, with little progress of the remaining 17 NSGTs to fully realize Self-Governing status. Still, the Fourth Committee, in coordination with other stakeholders and administering Powers, has made many efforts to improve NSGTs in dealing with the various challenges they constantly face. Such partnerships have provided NSGTs with educational programs, financial and socioeconomic assistance to improve overall living conditions of NSGT inhabitants, and by also improving environmental sustainability for NSGTs. The vulnerability of most NSGTs to environmental disasters is perhaps their biggest challenge, since preparing for such disasters takes time, resources, and the collaboration of stakeholders to NSGTs. Every NSGT faces different challenges, and therefore unique solutions are needed to further the decolonization process.

Further Research

As delegates begin to do research, it is important to keep in mind how the Fourth Committee has already worked with other UN agencies and how they can broaden their partnership within the context of improving the situation of NSGTs. Questions to be considered include the following: How can the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonization be improved in order for the next decade to better prepare itself to identify NSGTs in the near future? How can administering Powers be held accountable given the current UN system, if at all possible? What can be done to improve environmental protection and sustainability within the NSGTs? How can the situation of the people within NSGTs be continually improved?

³⁴⁵ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 (A/69/23)*, 2014, p. 68.

³⁴⁶ Ibid.

³⁴⁷ UN DPI, *The United Nations and Decolonization, History*.

³⁴⁸ UN DPI, *Speakers Laud 'Frank, Open Dialogue' as Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization Concludes*, 2015.

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http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/pdf/decolonization_rev_may09.pdf

Many organizations within the UN take part in assisting Non-Self-Governing Territories, and this document provides helpful information on some of those organizations. UNHCR, UNEP, the Department of Political Affairs, and many more are different organizations working with NSGTs through an array of programs. For instance, UNICEF's office in the Caribbean focuses on health, early childhood development, and education, covering nutrition among three Non-Self-Governing in the region. By providing a number of organizations within the UN, this report gives a clear idea of who the main actors are in improving the situation of NSGTs.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2015). *Report of the President of the Council on Consultations with the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (E/2015/65)*. Retrieved 8 August 2015 from:

<http://www.undocs.org/E/2015/65>

This report prepared by the President of ECOSOC contains information in regards to what ECOSOC and other UN organizations have done to further the process of decolonization of Non-Self-Governing Territories. It is worth noting that General Assembly resolution 69/99 is mentioned within this document, which provides additional information on the topic at hand. Additionally, there are a few case studies found within this report on the situation of NSGTs of a few Caribbean territories that will help delegates to understand how UN organizations collaborate with NSGTs.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2012). *Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session of relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GCSS.XII/INF/3)*. Retrieved 30 October 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/UNEP/GCSS.XII/INF/3>

This source introduces past and present resolutions that deal with the broader scope of UN work on environment protection policies. Worth noting is the mention of General Assembly resolution 66/89 on the question of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Islands, and others. Another case study mentioned that delegates can do further research on is that of the situation of Guam and its environmental impacts of the United States' military presence. Since this report has examples of the situations of many NSGTs, this will help delegates with looking at how every NSGT faces different challenges.

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifteenth session. (1960). *Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/RES/1514 (XV))*. Retrieved 5 August 2015 from:

[http://undocs.org/A/RES/1514\(XV\)](http://undocs.org/A/RES/1514(XV))

This resolution has set the stage for policy formulation on Non-Self-Governing Territories for the last 50 years. Although an old resolution, it is still relevant in understanding the foundations for the eradication of colonialism and the independence of NSGTs. As one of the founding documents to decolonization, this resolution should be useful in understanding that decolonization is a fundamental right of inhabitants of NSGTs.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-second session. (2007). *Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination: Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/184)*. Retrieved 19 July 2015 from:

<http://undocs.org/A/62/184>

This document is a brief report by the Secretary-General on resolution 61/150 on the Universal Realization of the Right of Peoples to Self-Determination. The basis for all peoples inhabiting Non-Self-Governing Territories to seek self-determination was established with this resolution. Other resolutions are mentioned that will help to further research past policy and frameworks that are the foundation for self-determination of all peoples. By providing the work of the Human Rights Council on decolonization, delegates are provided with another instance of a UN organization working with the GA Fourth and other UN organizations on the improvement of NSGTs.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/RES/69/98)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 19 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/98>

The protection of natural resources and the environment of Non-Self-Governing Territories is a responsibility of administering Powers as outlined in this resolution. Sustainable socioeconomic development within Non-Self-Governing Territories cannot be attained with the continued degradation of the environment and the rising global warming. It is worth mentioning that this particular document traces its roots to resolution 1514 (XV), which established the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 (A/69/23)*. Retrieved 16 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/69/23>

Specific resolutions and dates are available in this document that will help with research into particular case studies for Non-Self-Governing Territories. Numerous meetings conducted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples are also available for more information on the conduct of work. Future plans of action for the Special Committee are also presented with 2015 as the year of focus. Later chapters of this document cover other resolutions pertaining to implementing the eradication of colonialism.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and People by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/RES/69/99)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 16 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/99>

This document outlines important points towards granting of independence to Non-Self-Governing such as the request for specialized agencies to pay particular attention to the protection of the environment of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Historical resolutions 1514 and 1541 are both presented in this document as a reference and give an understanding of the foundations for the Declaration. It is also mentioned and important to note that peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories have the right to exercise self-determination as mandated by the Charter of the UN.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/73)* [Report]. Retrieved 16 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/70/73>

This document is the latest update to a plan action declared almost 30 years ago. Recommendations regarding the granting of independence to the remaining colonial countries are presented to the international community, the administering Powers, and specialized agencies. The participation of the Economic and Social Council in organizing annual resolutions to examine and review conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories is also presented, to give another example of how a UN agency is involved within the context of this topic. This can be used by delegates as an overarching document that covers many aspects of decolonization policy for the last three decades.

United Nations, Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. (2015). *Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: The United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda, to be held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015: Guidelines and Rules of Procedure*. Retrieved 17 July 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/AC.109/2015/17>

This document outlines the preparations of a seminar that was held 19-21 May 2015 by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The theme of the seminar was on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Participants to the seminar included representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, expert, members of civil society and other organizations that have a stake in the process of decolonization.



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United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, February 19). *In Message to Special Committee, Secretary-General Urges International Community to find Innovative ways of Decolonization in Remaining 17 Territories* [Press Release]. Retrieved 15 July 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sgsm16538.doc.htm>

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