



# **THE 2017 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

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19–23 March (Conference A) & 9–13 April (Conference B) • [www.nmun.org](http://www.nmun.org)

## **Update for the Economic and Social Council**

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## Committee Overview

### *Recent Developments*

In the latter half of 2016, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) continued to exert its leadership role in working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In November, ECOSOC set the themes for its 2017, 2018, and 2019 sessions, which aligned with those of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).<sup>1</sup> These themes aim to address the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), and the 2017 ECOSOC session was subsequently themed “Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges.”<sup>2</sup>

As part of ECOSOC’s High-level Segment, the second High-level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) took place in November 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya, to engage key stakeholders, including ministers, local government representatives, and development banks on development cooperation.<sup>3</sup> A joint Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) Side Event was held alongside this, addressing “The Role of Parliamentarians and Public in Strengthening Accountability in Development Cooperation: Key Steps to Move forward.”<sup>4</sup> This event was co-organized by the United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the Association of European Parliaments in Africa to allow stakeholders to engage in discussions on improving parliamentary participation and cooperation on development issues.<sup>5</sup> Zambia was noted as an example of how to advance interaction and engagement by amending the Zambian Constitution to allocate a budget office and by putting all international agreements before Parliament before ratification.<sup>6</sup> The ECOSOC DCF report, *National Mutual Accountability and Transparency in Development Cooperation: Study on the Findings of the Fourth DCF Survey*, was presented at the event to emphasize the limited participation of parliamentarians and the importance of addressing this.<sup>7</sup>

In December 2016, ECOSOC decided that the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters would be held in New York from 3-6 April 2017, followed by a one-day special meeting on 7 April 2017, which will aim to focus on strengthening the engagement between the Committee and ECOSOC on tax issues and development.<sup>8</sup> The Council also held its annual special meeting where Member States discussed financing for development, including the potential role of national tax authorities in promoting cooperation in mobilizing domestic resources to invest in sustainable development.<sup>9</sup> At the meeting, ECOSOC also discussed a report, *Enhancing the Effectiveness of External Support in Building Tax Capacity in Developing Countries*, which highlights the importance of tax mechanisms, the use of tax projects in supporting developing countries through regional support, and cooperation.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> UN DPI, *Adopting without Vote Two Decisions, Economic and Social Council Sets Dates for United Nations Forum on Forests, Themes for Future Sessions (ECOSOC/6800)*, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> UN ECOSOC, “*The Role of Parliamentarians and People in Strengthening Accountability in Development Cooperation*” at the *HLM2 of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation*, 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.; UN ECOSOC, *Development Cooperation Forum*.

<sup>5</sup> IPU et al., *The Role of Parliamentarians and Public in Strengthening Accountability in Development Cooperation: Key Steps to Move forward*, 2016.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., p. 2.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.; UN DESA, *National mutual accountability and transparency in development cooperation: Study on the findings of the Fourth DCF Survey*, 2016.

<sup>8</sup> UN DPI, *Economic and Social Council Adopts Decision for Future Meetings of Expert Committee on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (ECOSOC/6802)*, 2016; UN DESA, *ECOSOC special meeting on international cooperation in tax matters*, 2016.

<sup>9</sup> UN DPI, *Economic and Social Council Adopts Decision for Future Meetings of Expert Committee on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (ECOSOC/6802)*, 2016; UN DESA, *Report by the Platform for Collaboration on Tax to the G-20: Enhancing the Effectiveness of External Support in Building Tax Capacity in Developing Countries*, 2016.

<sup>10</sup> IMF et al., *Enhancing the Effectiveness of External Support in Building Tax Capacity in Developing Countries*, 2016; UN DPI, *Economic and Social Council Adopts Decision for Future Meetings of Expert Committee on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (ECOSOC/6802)*, 2016.

ECOSOC also carried out its role as a coordinating body by appointing representatives to fill in vacancies across nine of its subsidiary bodies in December 2016, including the Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Executive Board of the World Food Programme, and the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission.<sup>11</sup> Further, the ECOSOC Secretariat released a note on how the Commission on the Status of Women can help contribute to the work of ECOSOC and HLPF on Sustainable Development in 2017.<sup>12</sup> These suggestions, made by the Secretariat, ensure that ECOSOC's oversight of its functional commissions contributes to the overall work of the 2017 session.<sup>13</sup> In order to deliver on this agenda, the Secretariat's note recommended streamlining the themes of CSW with the Council, including the 2017 CSW priority theme, which was set as "Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work."<sup>14</sup>

As part of ECOSOC's HLPF, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs gave remarks on the agenda of the high-level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (The Ocean Conference).<sup>15</sup> The Ocean Conference, which Member States Fiji and Sweden are co-hosting in June 2017, will bring together a range of stakeholders to build upon and improve existing partnerships, adopt a "Call for Action" Declaration, and produce a list of voluntary commitments to support the implementation of SDG 14.<sup>16</sup>

Throughout 2016, ECOSOC played a crucial role in providing a policy dialogue and streamlining topics across its specialized agencies and functional and regional commissions.<sup>17</sup> ECOSOC further continued this role in the beginning of 2017 and also engaged with youth on some of its central themes at the ECOSOC Youth Forum in January.<sup>18</sup> Looking ahead, the Council will continue to coordinate activities across UN bodies and work towards achieving the targets of the SDGs.<sup>19</sup>

### Annotated Bibliography

Inter-Parliamentary Union et al. (2016). *The Role of Parliamentarians and Public in Strengthening Accountability in Development Cooperation: Key Steps to Move Forward* [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from:

<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2016doc/summary-of-side-event-at-gpedc-hlm2.pdf>

*This document provides a summary of the DCF Side Event on the role of parliamentarians and the public in strengthening accountability in development cooperation. The summary is a useful analysis of ways in which engagement of parliamentarians on development cooperation could be strengthened, such as through financial and technical support across parliaments. Delegates should use this source to consider how parliamentarians can play a larger, more effective, and cooperative role when engaging in partnerships and promoting sustainable development.*

International Monetary Fund et al. (2016). *Enhancing the Effectiveness of External Support in Building Tax Capacity in Developing Countries* [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: [http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/TC\\_Enhancing\\_Effectiveness\\_External\\_Support\\_Building\\_Tax\\_Capacity.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/TC_Enhancing_Effectiveness_External_Support_Building_Tax_Capacity.pdf)

*This source is a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the UN, and the World Bank Group (WBG) that provides essential recommendations on how countries can be more efficient with their tax*

<sup>11</sup> UN DPI, *Economic and Social Council Fills Vacancies in 8 Subsidiary Bodies, Appoints 1 Member to Committee of Experts on Public Administration (ECOSOC/6801)*, 2016.

<sup>12</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Input to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development (E/CN.6/2017/9)*, 2016, p. 2.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>15</sup> UN DESA, Mr. Wu Hongbo, *Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs at the General Assembly: Remarks Briefing on the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14*, 2016.

<sup>16</sup> UN DESA, *The Ocean Conference: About*.

<sup>17</sup> UN DPI, *Opening 2017 Session, Economic and Social Council Elects New President, Adopts Provisional Agenda, Working Arrangements, (ECOSOC/6796)*, 2016.

<sup>18</sup> UN ECOSOC, *The role of youth in poverty eradication and promoting prosperity in a changing world - #YOUTH2030*, 2016.

<sup>19</sup> UN DPI, *Economic and Social Council Adopts Draft Decisions on Themes of 2017 Session, Dates for Coordination, Management Segments (ECOSOC/6804)*, 2017.

*projects. The report is useful to consider methods to build on innovative and sustainable resources to finance for development such as strong tax systems which have the capacity to help achieve the SDGs. Delegates should use this document to consider how strengthening tax systems can be used for development through alignment of policies, cooperation and investment.*

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2016). *National mutual accountability and transparency in development cooperation: Study on the findings of the Fourth DCF Study* [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/dcf/dcf-accountability-study-v4.pdf>

*This report, which was discussed at a Side Event in Nairobi of the GPEDC's second High-Level Meeting, provides key information on promoting dialogue on improving accountability and transparency in the deliverance of the SDGs. The key findings in the report are particularly useful to guide delegates by providing summaries on suggested methods and policies, which could be incorporated into national policies. This report is highly relevant for delegates as they consider long-term, successful solutions to the topics.*

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## I. Mobilizing Inclusive Partnerships for Sustainable Development

### *Recent Developments*

In the latter half of 2016, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and international community continued to encourage and promote partnerships for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 17.<sup>20</sup> ECOSOC has coordinated various meetings and discussions in recent months concerning the mobilization of inclusive partnerships to realize the Council's theme, "Implementing the 2030 Agenda: Moving from commitments to results."<sup>21</sup>

ECOSOC made strides in facilitating partnerships concerning the special situation of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) at the first annual Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue, which was held in September 2016 during the General Assembly's 71<sup>st</sup> session.<sup>22</sup> The *SIDS Partnership Framework* (2015) and *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway* (SAMOA Pathway) (2014) called for the Partnership Dialogue to review the progress of existing partnerships and to provide a platform to build new relationships.<sup>23</sup> In November, the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) published *Partnerships for Small Island Developing States 2016*.<sup>24</sup> This review outlined progress, updates, and challenges faced by registered SIDS partnerships, and it also revealed that a majority of partnerships struggled to acquire adequate and sustained funding.<sup>25</sup>

In conjunction with the General Assembly Second Committee, ECOSOC addressed barriers to inclusive partnerships for development at a special joint meeting.<sup>26</sup> The meeting identified that countries would need to adjust to the changing role of globalization by adapting to key trends, including technological change, forms of trade, addressing inequality levels, and supporting inclusive partnerships.<sup>27</sup> This would ensure that the sharing of ideas and information, as opposed to the sole trade of physical goods, would allow developing countries to adapt and grow from the expanding influence of globalization in today's world.<sup>28</sup> At the meeting, the importance of technology in global trade was also highlighted, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement was noted for improving the situation of both high-skilled labor and lower-income brackets.<sup>29</sup>

The Second High-Level Meeting (HLM2) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), held in December 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya, continued the work called for by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD's) 2011 Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.<sup>30</sup> The Partnership, which was supported by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and OECD, cemented "inclusive development partnerships" as one of its four guiding principles.<sup>31</sup> Following the meeting, the HLM2's *Nairobi Outcome Document* (2016) was published, outlining commitments of participants by further promoting inclusive development partnerships across parliaments, local governments, and the business sector; strengthening transparency and accountability between stakeholders; and further investing in science, technology, and innovation in partnerships for development.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> UN DESA, *Global Sustainable Development Report 2016*, 2016, p. 88; UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 17*.

<sup>21</sup> UN ECOSOC, *2016 ECOSOC Partnership Forum "From commitments to results: Leveraging partnerships for the 2030 Agenda"*, 2016.

<sup>22</sup> UN DESA, *Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue*, 2016.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> UN Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States & UN DESA, *Partnerships for Small Island Developing States 2016*, 2016, p. 13.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 33.

<sup>26</sup> UN ECOSOC & UN General Assembly, *The changing political economy of globalization: Multilateral institutions and the 2030 Agenda*, 2016, p. 1.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 1-2.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>30</sup> Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-Operation, *About the Partnership*, 2016.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 1-3.

At the HLM2 in Nairobi, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) also held an Expert Group Meeting on Developing Partnerships for Sustainable Development, emphasizing successful partnership models.<sup>33</sup> Prior to the meeting, an open online forum was made available to receive input on the four sessions at the event.<sup>34</sup> The meeting focused its discussions on successful governance models and enabling environments for partnerships, as well as their role in innovative approaches to the SDGs and their follow up.<sup>35</sup> Supported by UN DESA and the UN Office for Partnerships, the findings of the meeting will be reported and consequently followed up later in 2017 at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and at a special event on Partnership Exchange, hosted by the Division for Sustainable Development.<sup>36</sup>

Mobilizing inclusive partnerships remains a key priority for ECOSOC, and encouraging these partnerships will continue to play a central role in upcoming efforts to fulfill the SDGs, especially the enhancement of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.<sup>37</sup> ECOSOC's reflections on existing partnerships will continue to be essential for key stakeholders, including international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to build and improve on in future relationships.<sup>38</sup>

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*This source is the main website for the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, including lists of events, recent news, blogs, and publications. It provides useful information on the Partnership's initiatives to strengthen the effectiveness of development co-operation through its four guiding principles: country ownership, a focus on results, inclusive partnerships, and transparency and mutual accountability. The examples of Global Partnership Initiatives will be useful for delegates when considering how to effectively utilize development resources.*

Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. (2016). *Nairobi Outcome Document*. Retrieved 28 December 2016 from: <http://effectivecooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/OutcomeDocumentEnglish.pdf>

*This source is an outcome document of the HLM2 of the GPEDC. The document includes an analysis of opportunities and challenges facing inclusive partnerships. It also provides an updated mandate of the Partnership and plan of action for knowledge exchange of lessons learned. The document also includes a list of the Partnership's initiatives in the annex, which will be useful for delegates to consider how to effectively and successfully mobilize partnerships.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *Development Cooperation Forum* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2017 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/development-cooperation-forum>

*The Development Cooperation Forum is a core function of ECOSOC to review progress made and emerging trends in international development cooperation, as well as support coordination throughout the UN system. This website provides news, events, and publications about cooperation efforts, including the many partnerships between developing and developed countries, civil society, international and regional organizations, development banks, the private sector, and philanthropy. Delegates should use this website as resource for current partnership initiatives as guidance in understanding what gaps remain to be filled in cooperation efforts.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council & United Nations, General Assembly. (2016). *The changing political economy of globalization: Multilateral institutions and the 2030 Agenda* [Report]. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: [https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2016doc/Summary\\_Joint\\_Meeting\\_7\\_October\\_2016.pdf](https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2016doc/Summary_Joint_Meeting_7_October_2016.pdf)

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<sup>33</sup> UN DESA, *Developing Partnerships for the SDGs - Asia & Pacific*, 2016.

<sup>34</sup> UN DESA, *Developing Partnerships for SDGs in Asia Pacific*, 2016.

<sup>35</sup> UN DESA, *Developing Partnerships for the SDGs - Asia & Pacific*, 2016.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 17*.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.



*This source is an outcome summary by the President of ECOSOC and Chair of the General Assembly Second Committee, following the Joint Meeting held in October 2016. The document includes key messages regarding the root concerns about globalization and multi-lateral institutions and their hindrances to inclusive partnerships. The panelists also made recommendations in facing these challenges to sustainable development. This report will help delegates understand the linked barriers to inclusive partnerships and globalization and the necessary steps to overcome them.*

United Nations, Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States & United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2016). *Partnerships for Small Island Developing States 2016* [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from:

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*This publication was produced by UN DESA and the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS to help share information on the partnerships. It reports progress made of partnerships registered with the SIDS Action Platform, to help track progress on commitments. It reviews specific partnership initiatives in depth and includes input from the various stakeholders concerning challenges and lessons learned. Delegates should use this source for concrete examples of current working partnerships within the sustainable development agenda focusing on SIDS, and to further understand some of the challenges faced.*

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## II. Investing in Sustainable Energy for Rural Areas

### *Recent Developments*

In November 2016, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) took place in Marrakech, Morocco.<sup>39</sup> While the main goal of COP 22 was to further discuss the *Paris Agreement* (2015) that was adopted during COP 21, representatives at Marrakech also discussed investing in renewable and sustainable energy practices as one of the means of implementing the *Paris Agreement* and as a key component of mitigating climate change.<sup>40</sup> The conference led to the launch of a new partnership on renewable energy and energy efficiency with the goal of reducing the gap between developed and developing Member States in terms of energy access, capacity building, and technology transfer.<sup>41</sup> The outcome document was titled *The Marrakech Global Partnership on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency* and was drafted to bring actors together to share outcomes in the energy sector from both COP 21 and COP 22, with an overarching goal to accelerate the global transition from the reliance on traditional energy systems to the adoption of more innovative and renewable ones.<sup>42</sup>

On 14 December 2016, the United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) awarded a \$1 million UN Energy Grant to The Foundation for Scientific and Industrial Research (SINTEF), an independent non-profit research institute based in Norway.<sup>43</sup> SINTEF was awarded this grant to fund the Solar Fueled Maritime Mobility project.<sup>44</sup> The Norwegian institute will be executing this project in coastal Member States in North Africa and the Middle East.<sup>45</sup> Through this project, SINTEF aims to develop a method of water transportation that uses a plug-in hybrid electric power source, with charging stations available at ports.<sup>46</sup> This sustainable transportation system is a pivotal move towards demonstrating the benefits of sustainably connecting coastal cities in the target region without incurring prohibitively high costs.<sup>47</sup> Supporters of the project hope that larger scale transportation entities will adopt similar practices.<sup>48</sup> In addition to reducing marine pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, the electric transport vessels would benefit low and middle income populations typically situated in rural areas.<sup>49</sup>

The Renewable Policy Network for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (REN21) published its annual *Global Status Report for 2016*, highlighting important strides in sustainable energy investment for the year.<sup>50</sup> As a global multi-stakeholder partnership, REN21 brings together industry associations, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Member States, academia, and various other actors to contribute data and provide ideas on renewable energy solutions through their annual publication.<sup>51</sup> The data provided in the report is a consolidation of previous success stories and ideas for future development.<sup>52</sup> The REN21 report highlights efforts in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, where a multi-stakeholder cooperative started an initiative to spread an electric grid to rural homes within a 13,000 km<sup>2</sup> area.<sup>53</sup> The cooperative involves six miniature hydropower plants set in rural river runs and a number of wind turbines as well.<sup>54</sup> These renewables methods of generating power will become a source of energy in rural, underrepresented areas that often experience outages from the national energy provider.<sup>55</sup> In addition to this

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<sup>39</sup> UNFCCC, *Marrakech Climate Change Conference – November 2016*, 2016.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development, *The Marrakech Global Partnership on Renewable Energy Efficiency Launched at COP 22*, 2016.

<sup>43</sup> UN DESA, *Project for electric boat transport in the Middle East and North Africa receives USD1 million UN Energy Grant*, 2016.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>50</sup> REN21, *Renewables 2016 Global Status Report*, 2016.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 42.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*

success, the Journal of Bioengineering and Biomedical Science published an entry demonstrating different examples of renewable energy projects in rural areas that have yielded successful results around the world.<sup>56</sup> The entry presents quantitative data on how renewable energy sources would be suitable in Turkey and showed evidence from previously experimented projects.<sup>57</sup> This type of planning helps Member States to better and more efficiently plan their shift in energy source dependency.<sup>58</sup>

A recent report by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly concluded that the increased adoption of renewable energy sources worldwide has been yielding positive results in combating climate change in the past two years, leading to a reduction in dependency on fossil fuels internationally.<sup>59</sup> For consumers to experience similar energy quality while using a renewable source, it is important to continue developing and implementing technological advances to meet existing and future energy requirements.<sup>60</sup> Additionally, this report emphasizes and supports the last two years of monumental agreements towards renewable energy adoption: the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) and the adoption of the *Paris Agreement*.<sup>61</sup>

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*This article was written to provide an overview of international examples of renewable energy technologies that can be applied in Turkey and other rural areas. These renewable energy technologies demonstrated positive strides towards combating global climate change. This journal can be helpful in offering delegates more concrete examples of rural renewable energy practices that have been successful. This source is helpful since it was published very recently and offers new and timely results in a developing rural area.*

Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development. (2016). *The Marrakech Global Partnership on Renewable Energy Efficiency launched at COP 22* [Website]. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: <http://www.igsd.org/the-marrakech-global-partnership-on-renewable-energy-and-energy-efficiency-launched-in-cop-22/>

*In this article, the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD) highlights the significance of the Global Partnership on Renewable Energy Efficiency Launched at COP 22 as a major stride towards improved governance relating to sustainable development. During the second week of COP 22 this partnership was launched to reduce the gaps in energy access between developed and developing Member States with the main goal of accelerating the transformation of the global energy system through increased data and technology sharing. This is a great resource for delegates to stay up to date on the renewable energy agreements and initiatives adopted at the most recent Conference of Parties (COP) in Morocco.*

Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. (2016). *Renewables 2016 Global Status Report*. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: [http://www.ren21.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/GSR\\_2016\\_Full\\_Report.pdf](http://www.ren21.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/GSR_2016_Full_Report.pdf)

*The Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (REN21) is a multi-stakeholder policy network that provides international leadership for the rapid transition to renewable energy. REN21 published an annual status report updating stakeholders and dependents on the status of the work done to increase renewable energy efficiency and growth. This resource highlights certain electrification projects in rural areas that tie in well with this topic. REN21 shares ideas implemented in the past, and suggestions for the future of renewable energy in rural areas that can be beneficial for delegates in committee.*

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<sup>56</sup> Deniz & Oncel, *Renewable Energy Scenarios as a Key for Sustainable Rural Area Applications in Turkey*, 2016.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> UN General Assembly, *Promotion of new renewable sources of energy: Report of the Secretary-General (A/71/220)*, 2016.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2016, December 14). *Project for electric boat transport in the Middle East and North Africa receives USD1 million UN Energy Grant* [News Article]. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?page=view&nr=1139&type=230&menu=2059>  
*The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs reviews applications from over 150 applicants for this \$1 million grant to fund sustainable energy development. This initiative highlights the United Nation's commitment to provide funding for innovative efforts to improve global energy production, especially in rural areas. This specific grant is important for delegates to know of, since the recipient's goal is to invest in sustainable energy positively impacting rural areas and low to middle income individuals. Delegates can benefit from reading this report that includes the current recipient's innovative idea as well as those of the top six finalists, providing more solutions on this topic.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Promotion of new renewable sources of energy: Report of the Secretary-General (A/71/220)*. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/71/220>  
*This Secretary-General's report highlights efforts in finding new and sustainable sources of energy. The report addresses the importance of finding new and renewable sources of energy that will in turn provide a solution for global climate challenges. The report focuses on the progress the international community has made in this field by introducing a stand-alone goal, sustainable development goal 7, and the Sustainable Energy for all Initiative. The following source is important for delegates to read in order to understand the specific improvements, challenges, and uncertainties of the efforts towards adopting sustainable energy.*

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### III. Promoting Sustainable Peace by Addressing the Root Causes of Conflict

#### *Recent Developments*

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recently released two publications on conflict prevention and promoting peace, primarily concentrating on the multidimensional aspects of conflict and efforts to address the economic, social, and development-related deficiencies that contribute to conflict.<sup>62</sup> In November 2016, UNDP released *Building Inclusive Societies and Sustaining Peace through Democratic Governance and Conflict Prevention*, which highlights UNDP's new approaches to promoting democratic governance, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention.<sup>63</sup> In order to advance progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, UNDP's Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster (GPC) is implementing a new support strategy called MAPS, which stands for Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support.<sup>64</sup> One area of implementation for MAPS is supporting inclusive political processes through constitutional reform, electoral cycle support, and parliamentary development, and civic engagement.<sup>65</sup>

UNDP also released *Infrastructures for Peace: Approaches and Lessons Learned* in November 2016.<sup>66</sup> In this publication, UNDP reviews what has worked and has not worked in supporting sustainable infrastructure and also provides information on how UNDP is making its work more effective.<sup>67</sup> The report explains outcomes in the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 that are related to the GPC which include strengthening institutions to deliver universal access to basic services; supporting stronger systems of democratic governance to enhance the voice of citizens, consolidate the rule of law, and promote accountability and development; and ensuring that development debate and action at multiple levels prioritizes poverty reduction, equality promotion, and reducing exclusion.<sup>68</sup> All of these concerns contribute to fragility of societies and poor governance and are significant obstacles to sustainable peace.<sup>69</sup> The GPC is working to support these goals by mobilizing expert teams, instituting peer-to-peer support at GPC headquarters and regional hubs, and by working with global policy centers and think tanks.<sup>70</sup>

*The States of Fragility 2016: Understanding Violence* report was released 30 November 2016 by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).<sup>71</sup> The report defines fragility as a combination of the exposure to risk and the inability of a state, system, or community to absorb, manage, and mitigate these risks; states unable to manage or mitigate fragility are more prone to violence and conflict.<sup>72</sup> The report finds that violence is on the rise and the economic impact of violence and conflict continue to grow, and the economic impact of violence is 13.6% of the global GDP or approximately \$13.6 trillion annually.<sup>73</sup> OECD aims to reduce fragility and domestic political violence through its fragility framework that identifies multidimensional and universal challenges, with a particular focus on causes of fragility that align with the root causes of conflict.<sup>74</sup>

Addressing the many root causes of conflict to promote sustainable peace remains significant on a regional level.<sup>75</sup> Africa Week was held at UN Headquarters in New York from 10-14 October 2016.<sup>76</sup> Key thematic issues discussed at the event were derived from the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) and the *African Union Agenda*

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<sup>62</sup> UNDP, *Building Inclusive Societies and Sustaining Peace through Democratic Governance and Conflict Prevention: An integrated approach*, 2016; UNDP, *Infrastructures for Peace: Approaches and Lessons Learned*, 2016.

<sup>63</sup> UNDP, *Building Inclusive Societies and Sustaining Peace through Democratic Governance and Conflict Prevention: An integrated approach*, 2016.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.; UNDP, *Infrastructures for Peace: Approaches and Lessons Learned*, 2016.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.; UNDP, *Infrastructures for peace*, 2017.

<sup>68</sup> UNDP, *Infrastructures for Peace: Approaches and Lessons Learned*, 2016, p. 23.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid., pp. 26-28.

<sup>71</sup> OECD, *States of Fragility 2016: Understanding Violence*, 2016.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid., p. 16.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid., pp. 20-24.

<sup>75</sup> UN OSAA, *Strengthening Partnerships for Inclusive Sustainable Development, Good Governance, Peace and Stability in Africa* (10 October 2016), 2016.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

2063.<sup>77</sup> Topics included social empowerment, economic inclusiveness, development partners, the UN Peacebuilding architecture, the empowerment of women and youth, and how these factors contribute to sustainable peace within Member States.<sup>78</sup> At this event, the Vice President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Marie Chatardova, announced that ECOSOC will convene a special meeting in 2017 on “Innovations for Infrastructure Development and Promoting Sustainable Industrialization,” and proposed two preparatory meetings in Africa.<sup>79</sup>

Given the instability that slow economic growth can impart on fragile states, in examining progress and potential growth in industrialization, partnerships, and infrastructure, the international community is working towards addressing and overcoming root causes of conflict on regional and global levels.<sup>80</sup> In addition to the aforementioned meeting taking place this spring, the ECOSOC Youth Forum was held 30-31 January 2017.<sup>81</sup> The theme of this year’s Youth Forum was “The Role of Youth in Poverty Eradication and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing World.”<sup>82</sup> The forum discussed topics including poverty and access to employment, hunger and food security, infrastructure, industrialization, health, and technology, all of which have been shown to impact fragility and conflict.<sup>83</sup> The outcomes of the 2017 Youth Forum will carry over to the agenda for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) for further discussion.<sup>84</sup>

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*This report provides an in-depth explanation of the causes of fragility which align with the root causes of conflict. It explains the different causes of fragility and details OECD’s methods of reducing fragility through its fragility framework. Additionally, it provides extensive data about different types of fragility from micro and macro levels of society. The OECD discusses progress made and future goals for eliminating fragility with the assistance of the international community by eliminating violence, promoting good governance, and empowering citizens of fragile communities and states. The information within the report on fragility and the extensive graphs and statistics will be useful to delegates throughout their preparation process for measuring progress and formulating solutions.*

United Nations Development Programme. (2016). *Building Inclusive Societies and Sustaining Peace through Democratic Governance and Conflict Prevention: An integrated approach* [Report]. Retrieved 6 January 2017 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/building-inclusive-societies-and-sustaining-peace-through-democr.html>

*This report published by UNDP on provides an overview of how UNDP and the international community are addressing the root causes of conflict. By addressing political, economic, and social concerns; empowering citizens; reducing poverty; and supporting development throughout conflict areas, UNDP focuses on supporting fragile societies to prevent and mitigate the impacts of conflict. This report discusses recent developments in programmatic work and action plans for supporting sustainability and addressing the causes of instability.*

United Nations Development Programme. (2016). *Infrastructures for Peace: Approaches and Lessons Learned* [Report]. Retrieved 6 January 2017 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/conflict-prevention/infrastructures-for-peace--approaches-and-lessons-learned.html>

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<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>78</sup> UN OSAA et al., *High-Level Inaugural Event: “Strengthening Partnerships for Inclusive Sustainable Development, Good Governance, Peace and Stability in Africa”*, 2016.

<sup>79</sup> UN OSAA, *Strengthening Partnerships for Inclusive Sustainable Development, Good Governance, Peace and Stability in Africa (10 October 2016)*, 2016.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

<sup>81</sup> International Institute for Sustainable Development, *2017 ECOSOC Youth Forum*, 2017.

<sup>82</sup> UN ECOSOC, *The role of youth in poverty eradication and promoting prosperity in a changing world - #YOUTH2030*.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

*The Infrastructures for Peace: Approaches and Lessons Learned* report highlights approaches for supporting strong infrastructure and reviews what has been effective in program implementation in Tunisia, Nepal, Thailand, and South Africa. This report also provides information on tailoring approaches to national and local contexts to support their adoption and success. Delegates should reference this publication to discover recommendations and conclusions on previous projects and learn more about initiatives that are government-initiated, society-based, and focus on peace infrastructure.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *The role of youth in poverty eradication and promoting prosperity in a changing world - #YOUTH2030* [Website]. Retrieved 9 January 2017 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/902004>

*The website for the Youth Forum 2017 will be an important resource for delegates in the coming months. This website currently outlines the work of the 2017 event, which includes discussions on poverty eradication, efforts to achieve the SDGs, and the importance of working with governments and civil society actors. Following the conference, delegates will be able to access outcome documents and information on thematic work for sustainable development and addressing root causes of conflict, which will assist in identifying areas in which youth can take action in society and contribute to sustainable peace.*

United Nations, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa et al. (2016). *High-Level Inaugural Event: “Strengthening Partnerships for Inclusive Sustainable Development, Good Governance, Peace and Stability in Africa”* [Concept Note]. Retrieved 6 January 2017 from:

<https://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/events/20161010/africaweek2016partnerships.pdf>

*This website explains the key thematic concerns addressed at Africa Week 2016, most of which relate to root causes of conflict. This content highlights some key African development successes and recognizes the role of multilateral partnerships in achieving them. Delegates will find information here pertaining to climate change, economic concerns, good governance, women’s empowerment, youth empowerment, strengthening information and communication technologies, and promoting sustainable partnerships for capacity building and development.*

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