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## COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND GUIDE 2018

Written by: David S. B. Godoy, Director; Ruitong Zhou, Director;  
Tiffany Dao, Assistant Director; Gabrielle Sferra, Assistant Director



# NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2018 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to welcome you to the Commission for Social Development (CSocD). This year's staff are: Directors Ruitong Zhou (Conference A) and David Godoy (Conference B), and Assistant Directors Tiffany Dao (Conference A) and Gaby Sferra (Conference B). Ruitong completed her Master's Degree in Public Administration in 2016 from Syracuse University. David completed his B.A. in Political Science in 2015. He currently works at the human resource office for Laureate International University in São Paulo, Brazil. Tiffany completed her B.A. in Law, Societies, and Justice, which focuses on the ways in which domestic and international law impacts society. Gaby completed her B.A. in International Relations and Television, Radio, and Film in 2016. She is currently working at a documentary production company and foundation that produces social justice documentaries around the world.

The topics under discussion for Commission for Social Development are:

1. Promoting the Political, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples
2. Promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation to Achieve the 2030 Agenda
3. Climate Change and Inequality

Commission for Social Development, an advisory body, is the only Commission mandated to provide recommendations about social development policies to the Economic and Social Council. It meets annually in New York in February and has provided crucial inputs to thematic reviews of progress on Sustainable Development Goals on the topics such as social inclusion, youth employment, civil society, indigenous people, and poverty.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and 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](#) by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) on 1 March 2018 in accordance with the guidelines in the [NMUN Position Paper Guide](#).

Two resources, to download from the [NMUN website](#), that serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions are the:

1. [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#) - explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not start discussion on the topics with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) - include the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the Conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, please contact the Under-Secretaries-General for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Alexander Rudolph (Conference A) and Samantha Winn (Conference B), at [usg.ecosoc@nmun.org](mailto:usg.ecosoc@nmun.org)

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

## Conference A

Ruitong Zhou, Director  
Tiffany Dao, Assistant Director

## Conference B

David Godoy, Director  
Gaby Sferra, Assistant Director



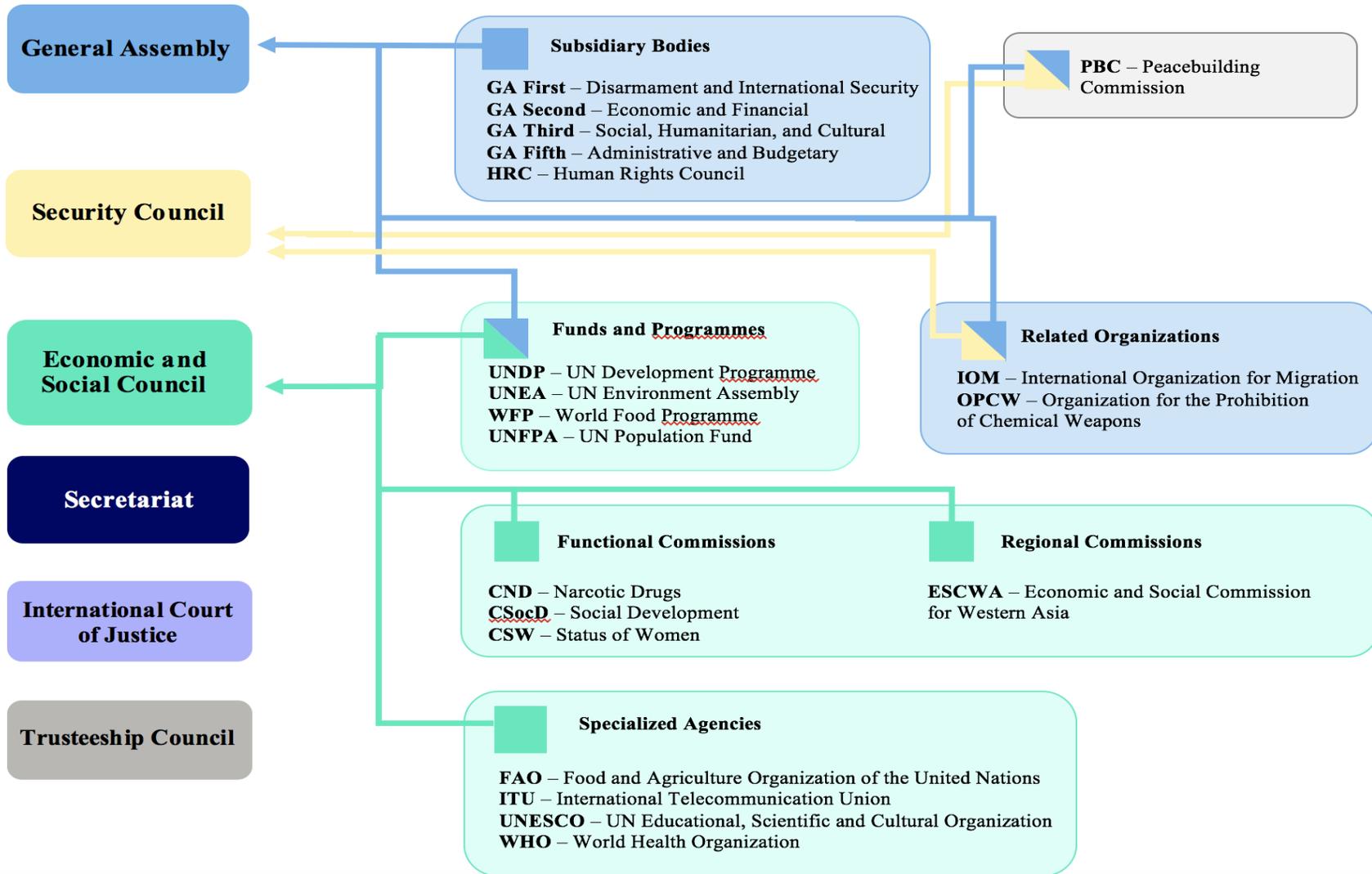
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## United Nations System at NMUN•NY

This diagram illustrates the UN system simulated at NMUN•NY and demonstrates the reportage and relationships between 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.



## Abbreviations

<b>AAAA</b>	<i>Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)</i>
<b>AFN</b>	Assembly of First Nations
<b>AfT</b>	Aid for Trade
<b>AIPP</b>	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
<b>BAPA</b>	<i>Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries</i>
<b>CEDAW</b>	<i>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</i>
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties
<b>CRC</b>	<i>Convention on the Rights of the Child</i>
<b>CSA</b>	Climate smart agriculture
<b>CSO</b>	Civil society organization
<b>CSocD</b>	Commission for Social Development
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster risk reduction
<b>DSPD</b>	Division for Social Policy and Development
<b>ECOSOC</b>	Economic and Social Council
<b>EGM</b>	Expert group meeting
<b>EMDRIP</b>	Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
<b>EWS</b>	Early warning system
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse gas
<b>GSSD</b>	Global South-South Development
<b>HRC</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>ICERD</b>	<i>International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</i>
<b>ICT</b>	Information and communication technology
<b>IDP</b>	Internally displaced persons
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>INBAR</b>	International Network for Bamboo and Rattan
<b>IPCC</b>	International Panel on Climate Change
<b>IWGIA</b>	International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs
<b>JIU</b>	Joint Inspection Unit
<b>MAP</b>	Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goal
<b>NEPAD</b>	New Partnership for Africa's Development
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>PEP</b>	Poverty-Environment Partnership
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SIDS</b>	Small-island developing states
<b>SSC</b>	South-South Cooperation
<b>SSTC</b>	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
<b>SWAP</b>	System-wide action plan
<b>UDHR</b>	<i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i>
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UN DESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>UN-PEI</b>	United Nations Poverty-Environment Initiative
<b>UN-Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UNCED</b>	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNDRIP</b>	<i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i>



<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFCCC</b>	<i>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</i>
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNISDR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>UNOSSC</b>	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
<b>UNPFII</b>	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
<b>UNRISD</b>	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
<b>WCDRR</b>	World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>WESS</b>	World Economic and Social Survey
<b>WPAY</b>	<i>World Programme of Action for Youth</i>
<b>WSSD</b>	World Summit for Social Development
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization

## Committee Overview

### Introduction

The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) is a key actor in the United Nations (UN) system to review and advise on matters of “people-centered sustainable development.”<sup>1</sup> Since the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, the Commission has been tasked with monitoring the implementation of the *Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development* and *Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development*.<sup>2</sup> These documents further defined social development and emphasized that, while intertwined with economic development and environmental protection, social development is about considering the needs of people as the core component of development.<sup>3</sup> They highlighted poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion as key elements that must be addressed in social policy and development.<sup>4</sup> The UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) further defines social development as “processes of change that lead to improvements in human well-being, social relations, and social institutions, and that are equitable, sustainable, and compatible with principles of democratic governance and social justice.”<sup>5</sup> These definitions help demonstrate that CSocD has a wide purview in the international system and as an advisor to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on matters within its mandate.<sup>6</sup>

**The Commission for Social Development (CSocD)** is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

These documents further defined social development and emphasized that, while intertwined with economic development and environmental protection, social development is about considering the needs of people as the core component of development.<sup>3</sup> They highlighted poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion as key elements that must be addressed in social policy and development.<sup>4</sup> The UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) further defines social development as “processes of change that lead to improvements in human well-being, social relations, and social institutions, and that are equitable, sustainable, and compatible with principles of democratic governance and social justice.”<sup>5</sup> These definitions help demonstrate that CSocD has a wide purview in the international system and as an advisor to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on matters within its mandate.<sup>6</sup>

Social progress, justice, and protections have been a priority of the UN since its inception in 1945 and were highlighted in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* in 1948.<sup>7</sup> The UN reiterated its commitment to social development in 1969 with the *Declaration on Social Policy and Development*, which states that importance must be placed on individual human lives.<sup>8</sup> Further, it goes on to address that social development cannot exist so long as cultural genocide and other injustices remain.<sup>9</sup> These early documents highlight the UN’s commitment to social policy and development throughout its history, something that CSocD strives to further within its mandate.<sup>10</sup>

CSocD, originally called the Social Commission, was established in 1946 by ECOSOC resolution 10 (II) as a functional commission and expert body to advise on social policy.<sup>11</sup> Since then, both the Commission’s mandate and membership have been expanded to address a greater variety of issues; it has also become a forum for high-level panels concerning development.<sup>12</sup> The Commission views the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) as an opportunity to enhance its role within the UN system in promoting international development and monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.<sup>13</sup> The body and its Bureau have identified poverty as an especially important issue that the Commission must address in the near future.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UN WSSD, *Report of the World Summit for Social Development*, 1996, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.; New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 161.

<sup>3</sup> UN WSSD, *Report of the World Summit for Social Development*, 1996, p. 6.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., p. 2.

<sup>5</sup> UNRISD, *Social Development in an Uncertain World: UNRISD Research Agenda 2010-2014*, 2011, p. 2.

<sup>6</sup> UN CSocD, *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*.

<sup>7</sup> UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*, 1948.

<sup>8</sup> UN General Assembly, *Declaration on Social Progress and Development (A/RES/2542 (XXIV))*, 1969.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> UN CSocD, *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.; New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 161.

<sup>12</sup> UN CSocD, *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*.

<sup>13</sup> Benson Wahlén, Commission on Social Development Discusses Role in Advancing SDGs, *Sustainable Development Policy and Practice*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

<sup>14</sup> UN DPI, *Poverty Remains World’s Biggest Challenge, Social Development Commission Chair Says as Session Concludes with Approval of 3 Texts, Election of New Vice-Chairs*, 2016.

## ***Governance, Structure, and Membership***

CSocD is a functional commission of ECOSOC and thus reports directly to the Council.<sup>15</sup> Its main responsibility is to address and advise on the more technical aspects of policy-making for ECOSOC in the area of social development, and it recommends draft resolutions for adoption by ECOSOC.<sup>16</sup> CSocD is serviced by the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), which supports the Commission in collecting information on the effectiveness of international policy concerning social development.<sup>17</sup> Further, the DSPD facilitates the intergovernmental process by resolving the logistical challenges that are necessary in organizing meetings and forums for the Commission.<sup>18</sup> In accordance with a strategy that was reaffirmed in 2012, CSocD operates on a two-year review and policy cycle in which one session focuses primarily on analyzing policy and how it has shaped global social development, while the following set of meetings focuses on creating policy recommendations and draft resolutions.<sup>19</sup>

CSocD has traditionally had a Bureau made up of one chair and four vice-chairs to help set the agenda for the entire two-year policy cycle pursuant to ECOSOC decision 2002/210.<sup>20</sup> Bureau members are elected at the first meeting of each regular session, which immediately follows the conclusion of the previous session, and serve for two consecutive meetings.<sup>21</sup> For the fifty-fifth session, the Bureau chair was Philipp Charwath (Austria); he was joined by four vice-chairs in the Bureau who were elected at the beginning of the fifty-fifth session.<sup>22</sup> In February 2017, a new Bureau was elected for the fifty-sixth session.<sup>23</sup> Increasing the effectiveness and legitimacy of the Bureau has been a priority as the Commission continues to establish itself within the UN system.<sup>24</sup>

The original membership of the Commission was 18; it has grown multiple times since the inaugural session, with its last expansion in 1996.<sup>25</sup> The current membership sits at 46 Member States.<sup>26</sup> Membership is based on proportional regional representation, with 12 seats for African states, 10 for Asia-Pacific, five for Eastern Europe, nine for Latin America and the Caribbean, and 10 for Western Europe and Other States.<sup>27</sup>

## ***Mandate, Functions, and Powers***

The current mandate of CSocD is to examine existing policy and propose new frameworks for the purposes of sustainable social development.<sup>28</sup> While the Commission's original mandate was to advise ECOSOC on matters related to social policy, CSocD has undergone significant transformation.<sup>29</sup> The most notable expansion of its mandate came in 1995 at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, when CSocD became the main body responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the Summit's outcome documents, the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action.<sup>30</sup> The Programme of Action renewed the call for a review of CSocD, strengthening the Commission as a policy advisory body that would examine and recommend changes in

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<sup>15</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Subsidiary Bodies of ECOSOC*.

<sup>16</sup> UN DSPD, *What is the Commission for Social Development and What Should it Achieve?*, 2010; UN CSocD, *Report on the fifty-fourth session (E/2016/26-E/CN.5/2016/5)*, 2016.

<sup>17</sup> UN DSPD, *What is the Commission for Social Development and What Should it Achieve?*, 2010.

<sup>18</sup> UN DESA, *DESA Divisions*.

<sup>19</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development (E/RES/2012/7)*, 2012.

<sup>20</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Improvement of the work of the Commission for Social Development (2002/210)*, 2002.

<sup>21</sup> UN CSocD, *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*.

<sup>22</sup> UN CSocD, *55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for Social Development*.

<sup>23</sup> UN CSocD, *Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.5/2017/L.1)*, 2017.

<sup>24</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Improvement of the work of the Commission for Social Development (2002/210)*, 2002.

<sup>25</sup> UN CSocD, *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*; New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 162.

<sup>26</sup> UN CSocD, *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*.

<sup>27</sup> UN DPI, *Poverty Remains World's Biggest Challenge, Social Development Commission Chair Says as Session Concludes with Approval of 3 Texts, Election of New Vice-Chairs*, 2016; New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, pp. 162-164.

<sup>28</sup> UN CSocD, *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> UN WSSD, *Report of the World Summit for Social Development*, 1996, p. 84.

international frameworks concerning social development.<sup>31</sup> The three main themes of the Summit were poverty eradication, productive employment, and social integration.<sup>32</sup> Another outcome of the Summit was for ECOSOC to regularly review the Commission's role and strengthen its capacity.<sup>33</sup>

In addition to its follow-up on the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, CSocD's mandate includes providing broad policy advice on issues of social development, anticipating potential issues in social development and making recommendations, promoting the exchange of information among social development stakeholders, and advising ECOSOC on the coordination of social development issues.<sup>34</sup> This mandate may continue to expand as the Commission defines its role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; it has been endorsed by the Secretary-General as valuable to achieving the SDGs through its specialized review and policy cycle.<sup>35</sup> As mandated, the Commission serves as a forum for important discussions about social development in the global community.<sup>36</sup> It frequently invites field experts and UN leaders to participate in high-level discussion panels aimed at producing action-oriented recommendations to ECOSOC on sustainable development policy.<sup>37</sup>

### ***Recent Sessions and Current Priorities***

The 54<sup>th</sup> session marked the first meeting since the adoption of the SDGs, which CSocD will help to implement.<sup>38</sup> Chair Philipp Charwath expressed that CSocD has an important role on in achieving the 2030 Agenda, especially the first goal to end poverty.<sup>39</sup> The UN Secretary-General addressed the Commission's significant work during the 54<sup>th</sup> session and highlighted its efforts towards achieving food security, gender equality, education, and the rights of persons with disabilities.<sup>40</sup> He went on to promote CSocD as a driving force in building momentum for the SDGs.<sup>41</sup>

In February 2017, CSocD met for its 55<sup>th</sup> session; the agenda focused on creating strategies for eradicating poverty and reducing poverty rates among youth.<sup>42</sup> Delegates recommended two draft resolutions to ECOSOC for adoption.<sup>43</sup> The first draft resolution, CN.5/2017/2, addressed "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development" (NEPAD).<sup>44</sup> NEPAD is a program for economic development that emerged from the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme (MAP) and the Omega Plan for Africa.<sup>45</sup> The program focuses on several social and economic development issues such as the development of human capital, industrialization, infrastructure, governance, and food security.<sup>46</sup> CSocD's draft resolution recognized the challenges of fully implementing NEPAD and urged Member States to put social development at the center of their economic plans.<sup>47</sup> Additionally, the document called for increased financial support and awareness of social development in African states.<sup>48</sup>

The second draft resolution presented by CSocD in the 55<sup>th</sup> session was CN.5/2017/3 on "Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."<sup>49</sup> This document focused on ensuring that people with disabilities are fully

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<sup>31</sup> UN WSSD, *Report of the World Summit for Social Development*, 1996, p. 84.

<sup>32</sup> UN DSPD, *What is the Commission for Social Development and What Should it Achieve?*, 2010, p. 2.

<sup>33</sup> UN WSSD, *Report of the World Summit for Social Development*, 1996.

<sup>34</sup> UN DESA, *Mandate and Terms of Reference*.

<sup>35</sup> UN DPI, *Poverty Remains World's Biggest Challenge, Social Development Commission Chair Says as Session Concludes with Approval of 3 Texts, Election of New Vice-Chairs*, 2016.

<sup>36</sup> UN DSPD, *What is the Commission for Social Development and What Should it Achieve?*, 2010.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.

<sup>38</sup> UN CSocD, *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*, 2016.

<sup>39</sup> Benson Wahlén, *CSocD Adopts Resolutions on Youth, People with Disabilities, African Development*, 2017.

<sup>40</sup> UN DPI, *This must be 'year of traction' to propel 2030 development Agenda, says UN Chief*, 2016.

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

<sup>42</sup> UN CSocD, *Report on the fifty-fifth session (E/2017/26-E/CN.5/2017/10)*, 2017, p. 3.

<sup>43</sup> UN CSocD, *Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session*, 2017.

<sup>44</sup> UN CSocD, *Report on the fifty-fifth session (E/2017/26-E/CN.5/2017/10)*, 2017, p. 5.

<sup>45</sup> NEPAD, *About NEPAD*.

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

<sup>47</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development*, 2017.

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

<sup>49</sup> UN CSocD, *Report on the fifty-fifth session (E/2017/26-E/CN.5/2017/10)*, 2017.

included in social and economic policies, especially policies that include poverty reduction, education, and social protection.<sup>50</sup> Moreover, the committee decided to continue debate on this topic in its next session and vowed to focus on including persons with disabilities in the implementation of the SDGs.<sup>51</sup> The 55<sup>th</sup> session also had high-level panels discussions on poverty and disability.<sup>52</sup>

Additionally, the committee adopted draft resolution CN.5/2017/L.4 on “Policies and programmes involving youth.”<sup>53</sup> The draft resolution emphasized the importance of the *World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY)*, which provides a framework for Member States on improving the situation of global youth.<sup>54</sup> The document called upon Member States to ensure youth participation in civil society and to monitor the progress made by the World Programme of Action for Youth.<sup>55</sup> The committee recognized the importance of supporting the formation of youth-led organizations to promote clearer communication between youth, governments, and intergovernmental organizations, and urged Member States and the private sector to support these organizations.<sup>56</sup>

At the end of the 55<sup>th</sup> session, the Commission adopted a provisional agenda for its 56<sup>th</sup> session, which will resume in February 2018.<sup>57</sup> CSocD will meet to discuss “strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all.”<sup>58</sup> This theme seeks to renew the Commission’s dedication to eliminate social and economic inequalities across the globe, and aims to refocus the role of CSocD towards the priorities determined at the 1995 Copenhagen Summit.<sup>59</sup> Pointing to poverty as the greatest challenge facing the global community, the Commission has focused on economic inequality as a priority for action since 2014.<sup>60</sup> During the next two sessions, CSocD is expected to analyze implementation of the SDGs.<sup>61</sup>

### Conclusion

CSocD has seen its mandate expand since 1946, which has given the Commission greater capacity to affect the global community.<sup>62</sup> Through its mandated cycle of monitoring and review of SDG progress, the Commission has an opportunity recommend policies that will have a lasting impact on the entire international.<sup>63</sup> With assistance from DSPD, the Commission is able to address a wide scope of issues pertaining to social development.<sup>64</sup> CSocD can address both economic and social development needs through reviewing, analyzing, and recommending international policy to ECOSOC.<sup>65</sup>

## Annotated Bibliography

Benson Wahlén, C. (2016, March 8). Commission on Social Development Discusses Role in Advancing SDGs. *International Institute for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved 6 October 2017 from:

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/commission-on-social-development-discusses-role-in-advancing-sdgs/>

*This news article highlights what the role of the Commission will be regarding the SDGs and their implementation. The comments from the UN Secretary-General indicate that the Commission will be vital in implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Further, CSocD will prioritize the SDGs during the next review and policy cycle. Delegates can use this source to understand what the*

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<sup>50</sup> UN CSocD, *Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2017.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> UN CSocD, *Report on the fifty-fifth session (E/2017/26-E/CN.5/2017/10)*, 2017, p. 3.

<sup>53</sup> UN DSPD, *Policies and programmes involving youth*, 2016.

<sup>54</sup> UN DSPD, *World Programme of Action for Youth*.

<sup>55</sup> UN CSocD, *Policies and programmes involving youth (E/CN.5/2017/L.4)* 2017.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> UN CSocD, *56th Session of the Commission for Social Development*, 2017.

<sup>58</sup> UN CSocD, *55th Session of the Commission for Social Development*.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> UN DPI, *Focus on Growing Inequality at Opening of UN Commission on Social Development*, 2014.

<sup>61</sup> UNRISD, *Social Development in an Uncertain World: UNRISD Research Agenda 2010-2014*, 2011, p. 10.

<sup>62</sup> UN DSPD, *What is the Commission for Social Development and What Should it Achieve?*, 2010.

<sup>63</sup> Benson Wahlén, *Commission on Social Development Discusses Role in Advancing SDGs*, 2016.

<sup>64</sup> UN DSPD, *What is the Commission for Social Development and What Should it Achieve?*, 2010.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

*Commission will have as their main priority for the next session and to understand its role in implementation of the SDGs.*

United Nations, Commission for Social Development. (n.d.). *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)* [Website]. Retrieved 16 July 2016 from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csod-social-policy-and-development-division.html>

*This is the main overview from the ECOSOC website on the Commission for Social Development. Here, relevant information can be found on the history of the committee including its membership, governance, and mandate. In addition, a full list of recent sessions and draft resolutions can be found at this link. This source should be used primarily to understand the Commission's work and historical development.*

United Nations, Commission for Social Development. (n.d.). *56th Session of the Commission for Social Development* [Website]. Retrieved 6 October 2017 from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csod-social-policy-and-development-division/csod56.html>

*This website details the proposed agenda and the relevant themes for the 2018 session of CSocD, which is scheduled to take place in February 2018 at the UN headquarters in New York. The theme "Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all" specifies what the Commission's priorities will be in the future. Delegates can also review the contributions of civil society groups to meeting preparation.*

United Nations, Commission for Social Development. (2017). *Report on the fifty-fifth session (E/2017/26-CN.5/2017/10)*. Retrieved 6 October 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/E/2017/26>

*This document reports on the most recent session for CSocD. The document summarizes the main events of the session, such as the drafting of two resolutions and the adoption of the agenda for the fifty-sixth session in 2018. The document explains in more detail each event during the fifty-fifth session, such as the debates on the draft resolutions and the Member States that participated. This document is not only a great tool for learning the latest discussion on the committee, but it is also a great example of how CSocD sessions occurs.*

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *Mandate and Terms of Reference* [Website]. Retrieved 6 October 2017 from:

<http://undesadspd.org.dnmax.com/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Mandate.aspx>

*This page from the website of DSPD, as part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, clearly lays out the mandate of CSocD and highlights the different facets of its work. This resource explains the unique role CSocD plays in the UN system and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also links to the Commission's Programme of Work, session pages, key reports, and outcome documents.*

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2016, February 8). *This must be 'year of traction' to propel 2030 development Agenda, says UN chief* [News Article]. Retrieved 6 October 2017 from:

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*This news article depicts some of the main points for how the CSocD hopes to fulfill its role in achieving the SDGs. It also gives the Secretary-General's view on the role of the Commission and how it might look to expand itself in the future. It is a good indicator of what the key themes and issues that will be looked at as a part of the agenda for the committee in the near future.*

United Nations, World Summit for Social Development. (1996). *Report of the World Summit for Social Development*. Retrieved 6 October 2017 from: [www.undocs.org/A/CONF.166/9](http://www.undocs.org/A/CONF.166/9)

*This document is a report on the proceedings of the 1995 Copenhagen Summit. The summit was monumental in discerning how the UN would address social development. It includes an agreement that not only codifies shared values, but explains how the UN system could use those to improve social development throughout the global community. Because this summit has played a significant role in shaping CSocD's mandate, delegates may find this report useful for understanding how the Commission approaches social development.*

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## I. Promoting the Political, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples

### *Introduction*

The United Nations (UN) Commission for Social Development (CSocD) is tasked with advancing social development to underdeveloped and marginalized groups of people.<sup>66</sup> CSocD's priority theme for the 2018 year is "strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all."<sup>67</sup> Eradicating poverty is especially relevant to the topic of indigenous peoples, as the World Bank has identified indigenous peoples as making up 15% of the world's population living in extreme poverty.<sup>68</sup> Additionally, indigenous peoples are often marginalized in society.<sup>69</sup> Therefore, the political, socioeconomic, and cultural rights of indigenous peoples are of special concern to CSocD.<sup>70</sup> Political rights for indigenous peoples means having the ability to engage with, participate in, and have access to political processes.<sup>71</sup> Article 3 of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) (2007) guarantees the right to self-determination, which enables individuals to choose their political affiliations and means of governance.<sup>72</sup> Socioeconomic rights include the guaranteed liberties of employment, education, health services, and more; cultural rights concern the freedom to practice religion, customs, and cultural traditions without judgment or persecution.<sup>73</sup> These fundamental freedoms, guaranteed to all humans, are not fully realized in indigenous communities.<sup>74</sup>

Over 5,000 distinct indigenous communities exist in 90 countries.<sup>75</sup> International law does not provide an authoritative definition of indigenous populations, as indigenous peoples reserve the right to identify and define themselves.<sup>76</sup> In addition to self-identification, the UN system generally uses criteria proposed by José Martínez Cobo, the former Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities; his *Study of the Problem of Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations* identified indigenous people as having a distinct identity and culture that reflects "historical continuity with pre-invasion and/or pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories."<sup>77</sup> Furthermore, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) emphasizes a "strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources."<sup>78</sup>

Political, cultural, and socioeconomic rights often intersect in indigenous traditions.<sup>79</sup> Land rights, for example, are not only a political concern, but also reflect indigenous cultural and spiritual beliefs.<sup>80</sup> Land rights are also related to socioeconomic development, as land in indigenous regions is often remote and underdeveloped, which can cause poverty, unemployment, and food insecurity.<sup>81</sup> Respecting the cultural definitions and frameworks of indigenous peoples is imperative for organizations that work to advance and promote indigenous political, socioeconomic, and cultural rights.<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*, 2017.

<sup>67</sup> UN CSocD, *Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.5/2017/L.1)*, 2017, p. 3.

<sup>68</sup> World Bank, *Indigenous Peoples*, 2017.

<sup>69</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*, 2009, p. 1.

<sup>70</sup> World Bank, *Indigenous Peoples*, 2017.

<sup>71</sup> UN General Assembly, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/61/295)*, 2007, p. 5.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4; UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*, 1966, p. 50.

<sup>73</sup> UN OHCHR, *Frequently Asked Questions on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 2008.

<sup>74</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *Participation of Indigenous Peoples at the UN*.

<sup>75</sup> UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, *Background*.

<sup>76</sup> UN CHR, *Study of the Problem of Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations: Final Report (First Part) submitted by the Special Rapporteur, Mr. José R. Martínez Cobo (E/CN.4/Sub.2/476)*, 1981, p. 5.

<sup>77</sup> UN OHCHR, *Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Human Rights System*, 2013, p. 2.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>79</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*, 2009, p. v.

<sup>80</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1.

<sup>81</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 87.

<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 76.

### ***International and Regional Framework***

The history of indigenous peoples and the UN can be traced back to the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948), where all people were declared equal, regardless of identified ethnicity, race, or nationality.<sup>83</sup> These rights are further solidified by the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* (ICERD) (1965), which asks Member States to denounce hate speech and work towards a unified and equal society.<sup>84</sup> Additionally, the *Convention on the Elimination All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) (1979) and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) (1989) further set precedent for protecting indigenous rights, specifically the rights of indigenous women and children.<sup>85</sup> In 1989, the International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted the *Convention on the Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (No. 169)*.<sup>86</sup> This landmark Convention calls for the protection of indigenous peoples through the adoption of equitable socioeconomic policies, including access to land, healthcare, and education.<sup>87</sup>

In 2000, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) recognized the need for a permanent body to enact resolutions and recommendations on behalf of indigenous peoples, and to facilitate debate between Member States and civil society.<sup>88</sup> To address this need, ECOSOC created UNPFII, which held its first meeting in 2002.<sup>89</sup> Through UNPFII, indigenous leaders and Member States drafted UNDRIP, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007.<sup>90</sup> UNDRIP calls upon Member States to codify the rights of indigenous peoples, including the right to self-determination and access to land, water, education, health, and employment.<sup>91</sup> In 2014, the General Assembly adopted the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples as resolution 69/2, which called upon Member States to affirm the principles of UNDRIP, ratify ILO Convention 169, and commit to partnering with indigenous peoples in the realization of all political, socioeconomic, and cultural rights.<sup>92</sup>

The rights of indigenous peoples are further promoted by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015).<sup>93</sup> Indigenous peoples participated in expert group meetings (EGMs) and focus sessions to help develop the SDGs, and voiced their concerns for climate change, poverty eradication, and the protection of cultural heritage.<sup>94</sup> The SDGs built upon the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), developed in 2000.<sup>95</sup> The SDGs specifically address indigenous peoples in two goals, particularly in regards to SDG 2, on hunger, and SDG 4, on education; however, each SDG is relevant to indigenous peoples.<sup>96</sup>

### ***Role of the International System***

International and regional organizations are working towards a more inclusive society for indigenous peoples by developing capacity-building measures to empower indigenous peoples.<sup>97</sup> With a primary theme of eradicating poverty for the 56th session of CSocD in 2018, the Commission has made the promotion of indigenous rights a

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<sup>83</sup> UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217A (III))*, 1948, p. 71.

<sup>84</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/RES/2106(XX))*, 1965, p. 48.

<sup>85</sup> UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979, pp. 194-195.; UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/RES/44/25)*, 1989, p. 167.

<sup>86</sup> ILO, *C169 - Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169)*, 1989.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Establishment of a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/RES/2000/22)*, 2000, p. 50.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.; UNPFII, *Permanent Forum: Origin and Development*.

<sup>90</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *Permanent Forum*, 2017; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/61/295)*, 2007.

<sup>91</sup> UN General Assembly, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/61/295)*, 2007, p. 3.

<sup>92</sup> UN General Assembly, *Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/69/2)*, 2014, p. 2; UN DESA DSPD, *World Conference on Indigenous Peoples*, 2017.

<sup>93</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda*, 2017.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>95</sup> UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 1.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid., p. 7; UN DESA DSPD, *Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda*, 2017.

<sup>97</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*, 2009, p. v.

priority.<sup>98</sup> In 2017, the 55th session of the Commission adopted a resolution specifically highlighting programs targeting indigenous youth as a means to eradicate poverty.<sup>99</sup> This resolution asked Member States to monitor the development of indigenous youth against indicators established by the *World Programme of Action for Youth* (1995).<sup>100</sup> Additionally, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Member States hosted side events at the Commission's 55th session to discuss best practices for the promotion of indigenous rights.<sup>101</sup> Every year, indigenous organizations and Member States meet in high-level panels, side events, and private sessions at UNPFII to discuss indigenous issues.<sup>102</sup> The Forum engages indigenous organizations from all over the world to make recommendations to the UN on how to better address indigenous issues.<sup>103</sup> Recommendations are hosted in an online database, allowing for the participation of indigenous peoples all over the world.<sup>104</sup>

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' (DESA) Division of Social Policy and Development (DSPD) works with CSocD and UNPFII to coordinate meetings on indigenous issues and to monitor the status of indigenous peoples.<sup>105</sup> DSPD publishes the *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples* report, which highlights key areas for growth and development in indigenous communities all around the world.<sup>106</sup> UNPFII and DSPD jointly administer a system-wide action plan (SWAP) to implement UNDRIP and the 2030 Agenda.<sup>107</sup> The SWAP also aims to improve coordination across the UN system through shared guidelines and training materials.<sup>108</sup>

The Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, established in 1985 by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), raises money to help support indigenous organizations' attendance at UNPFII, as well as to attend other consultations and UN meetings.<sup>109</sup> Since 2001, the UN has had a Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to monitor and promote indigenous rights through partnerships with Member States.<sup>110</sup> The Special Rapporteur develops annual reports, thematic studies, and country reports to comprehensively address indigenous peoples' rights.<sup>111</sup> The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) established the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) in 2007 in order to monitor the rights of indigenous peoples and advise on the ongoing implementation of UNDRIP.<sup>112</sup> EMRIP's analysis of indigenous issues contributes to the implementation of UN programs; recent EMRIP research has evaluated indigenous justice institutions, indigenous education structure, and the role of indigenous language in the promotion of human rights.<sup>113</sup>

The General Assembly is also working to promote the political, socioeconomic, and cultural rights of indigenous peoples.<sup>114</sup> In 2016, the Office of the President of the General Assembly announced plans to create an advisory body that works to enhance cooperation of indigenous peoples at the UN by allowing indigenous leaders to participate in meetings of UN agencies and bodies when the topic concerns indigenous peoples.<sup>115</sup> Although this recommendation

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<sup>98</sup> UN CSocD, *Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.5/2017/L.1)*, 2017, p. 3.

<sup>99</sup> UN CSocD, *Policies and Programs Involving Youth (E/CN.5/2017/L.4)*, 2017, p. 2; UN CSocD, *Commission for Social Development: Report on the Fifty-Fifth Session (E/2017/26-E/CN.5/2017/10)*, 2017.

<sup>100</sup> UN CSocD, *Policies and Programs Involving Youth (E/CN.5/2017/L.4)*, 2017, p. 4.

<sup>101</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *CSocD55 Side Events*, 2017.

<sup>102</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *Indigenous Peoples at the UN*, 2017.

<sup>103</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>104</sup> UNPFII, *UNPFII Recommendations Database*, 2017.

<sup>105</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *About Us*, 2017.

<sup>106</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*, 2009, p. 1.

<sup>107</sup> UNPFII, *System-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (E/C.19/2016/5)*, 2016, p. 3.

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8.

<sup>109</sup> UN General Assembly, *United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (A/RES/53/130)*, 1999, p. 2; UN General Assembly, *Status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples (A/71/228)*, 2016, p. 3.

<sup>110</sup> UN OHCHR, *Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, 2017.

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>112</sup> UN HRC, *Expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples (A/HRC/RES/6/36)*, 2007.

<sup>113</sup> UN OHCHR, *Thematic Advice of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: A Compilation (2009-2013)*, 2013.

<sup>114</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *Indigenous Peoples at the UN*, 2017.

<sup>115</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *Indigenous Peoples at the UN*, 2017; UN General Assembly, *Compilation of views on possible measures necessary to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant United Nations*

is still in the advisory phase, the call for increased indigenous participation is significant because the UN has historically only recognized Member States at official UN meetings, with a few observers as exceptions.<sup>116</sup>

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) advocates on behalf of indigenous peoples through programs aimed at preserving and transmitting indigenous culture, language, and knowledge systems.<sup>117</sup> These programs work to promote intergenerational collaboration and knowledge transfers.<sup>118</sup> Furthermore, UNESCO is working to develop information and communication technologies (ICTs) in indigenous regions as a mechanism to preserve and promote indigenous culture.<sup>119</sup> The UN Development Programme (UNDP) works to advance the political rights of indigenous peoples, as well as foster development in local indigenous municipalities.<sup>120</sup> With many initiatives focusing on poverty eradication, equitable employment, empowering women and youth, and advancing justice institutions, UNDP is actively engaging indigenous peoples to foster development.<sup>121</sup>

Outside of the UN, indigenous representation at the regional level plays an important role in promoting indigenous rights.<sup>122</sup> The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) helps to coordinate regional meetings of indigenous peoples as well as evaluate every Member State's interactions with indigenous peoples.<sup>123</sup> These country analysis reports provide recommendations for each Member State with regards to indigenous rights.<sup>124</sup> The IWGIA serves as an important NGO for indigenous affairs, as the body independently seeks to understand and analyze indigenous issues, and highlight the primary concerns facing indigenous peoples.<sup>125</sup> The IWGIA focuses on the protection of indigenous land rights by monitoring public policy, providing legal guidance, and working with indigenous leaders to strategize on legal positions.<sup>126</sup>

Other regional groups play an instrumental role in the promotion of indigenous rights; for example, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) is a regional organization founded in 1988 with a goal to empower indigenous peoples in Asia and bring equality to the region.<sup>127</sup> AIPP also focuses on marginalized groups within indigenous communities, including women and youth.<sup>128</sup> The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is another regional organization that works to empower indigenous peoples by communicating with indigenous leaders, government officials, and individuals.<sup>129</sup> By travelling across North America, AFN is able to directly work with indigenous peoples and introduce best practices in schools, communities, and regions.<sup>130</sup>

### ***Political Rights of Indigenous Peoples***

The right to participate in and conduct local governance is guaranteed by Article 26 of UNDRIP.<sup>131</sup> Political participation in Member States' governance is also explicitly guaranteed in Article 5 of UNDRIP.<sup>132</sup> However, Member States often fail to fully recognize the autonomy and self-governance of indigenous communities,

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*meetings on issues affecting them, and of good practices within the United Nations regarding indigenous peoples' participation (A/70/990), 2016, p. 3.*

<sup>116</sup> UN General Assembly, *Compilation of views on possible measures necessary to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them, and of good practices within the United Nations regarding indigenous peoples' participation (A/70/990), 2016, p. 3.*

<sup>117</sup> UNESCO, *Education and Intergenerational Transmission*, 2017.

<sup>118</sup> UNESCO, *Revitalizing Knowledge – Indigenous Education*, 2017.

<sup>119</sup> UNESCO, *Knowledge Societies and ICTs*, 2017.

<sup>120</sup> UNDP, *Indigenous Peoples*, 2017.

<sup>121</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>122</sup> IWGIA, *About*, 2017.

<sup>123</sup> IWGIA, *Regional Bodies and Mechanisms*, 2017.

<sup>124</sup> IWGIA, *About*, 2017.

<sup>125</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>126</sup> IWGIA, *Annual Report 2014-2015*, 2015.

<sup>127</sup> AIPP, *About Us*, 2017.

<sup>128</sup> AIPP, *Gender Policy*, 2017.

<sup>129</sup> AFN, *About AFN*, 2017.

<sup>130</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>131</sup> UN General Assembly, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/61/295)*, 2007, p. 10.

<sup>132</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

especially around issues of natural resources.<sup>133</sup> Dispossession of indigenous lands is a common problem in indigenous communities, as governments seize indigenous lands for the mining of natural resources.<sup>134</sup> Through training, education, and development, indigenous peoples have successfully advocated for land rights in some regions.<sup>135</sup> Indigenous peoples of Latin America have mobilized and encouraged Member States to sign ILO Convention 169, which protects indigenous land, but the Convention is often ignored in day-to-day deals.<sup>136</sup>

UNDP works to provide guidance to indigenous communities and Member States to ensure that the political rights of indigenous peoples are being realized.<sup>137</sup> In Mexico, UNDP has developed a Public Defenders Office for Indigenous Peoples and Communities for implementing multicultural approaches in the judicial system.<sup>138</sup> UNDP and ILO have developed workshops in Honduras to facilitate dialogue between indigenous leaders and government officials.<sup>139</sup> These methods of engagement work to ensure that active participation continues between indigenous peoples and Member States, as recognition of indigenous voices is a primary factor to promoting political rights.<sup>140</sup> UNDP also advocates for greater inclusion of indigenous peoples in political processes through civic engagement, constitutional reform, and parliamentary development.<sup>141</sup> Integration of youth into decision-making policies is another proactive approach; UNPFII developed a Global Indigenous Youth Caucus that selects indigenous youth to represent their communities at UN forums in order to encourage youth participation.<sup>142</sup> The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus utilizes social media to raise awareness about indigenous issues with modern technology.<sup>143</sup>

#### *Case Study: The Plurinational State of Bolivia*

The Plurinational State of Bolivia has one of the most politically active indigenous communities in the world.<sup>144</sup> Bolivia is home to 2.8 million indigenous people over the age of 15, making up 41% of the total population.<sup>145</sup> Bolivia was the first Member State to adopt UNDRIP as national law and internalize the principles of UNDRIP as important political standards.<sup>146</sup> Bolivia changed its formal name to the Plurinational State of Bolivia in 2007 in order to recognize the presence of distinct indigenous communities.<sup>147</sup> In 2009, Bolivian president Evo Morales reformed the constitution to comprehensively protect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples by formally recognizing 36 indigenous nations.<sup>148</sup> President Morales, himself of indigenous descent, campaigned on the promise to promote indigenous rights, protect indigenous culture, and to end discrimination against indigenous peoples.<sup>149</sup> As a result, President Morales made it a requirement for schools to teach indigenous languages as an elective to preserve and promote indigenous cultures.<sup>150</sup> In 2016, the Guarani Charagua-Iyambae people won the right to establish an autonomous government within Bolivia through a referendum in the region; more indigenous peoples are petitioning for the same recognition, and referendums are pending in other regions.<sup>151</sup>

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<sup>133</sup> UN General Assembly, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/61/295)*, 2007, p. 3.

<sup>134</sup> IWGIA, *Land Rights*, 2017.

<sup>135</sup> IWGIA, *Annual Report 2014-2015*, 2015.

<sup>136</sup> IWGIA, *Land Rights*, 2017.

<sup>137</sup> UNDP, *Indigenous Peoples*, 2017.

<sup>138</sup> UNDP, *Questionnaire to the UN System agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental organizations*, 2016, p. 11.

<sup>139</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10.

<sup>140</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>141</sup> UNDP, *Inclusive Political Process*, 2017.

<sup>142</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *Indigenous youth's participation at the United Nations*, 2017.

<sup>143</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>144</sup> IWGIA, *Indigenous Peoples in Bolivia*, 2016.

<sup>145</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>146</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*, 2009, p. 7.

<sup>147</sup> IWGIA, *Indigenous Peoples in Bolivia*, 2017.

<sup>148</sup> Watson, *Indigenous Bolivia begins to shine under Morales*, *BBC News*, 2014.

<sup>149</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>150</sup> Reel, *In Bolivia, Speaking Up for Native Languages*, *The Washington Post*, 2007.

<sup>151</sup> IWGIA, *The Indigenous World*, 2017, p. 222.

## *Socioeconomic Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

Indigenous peoples account for a significant portion of the world's extreme poor, although they only represent five percent of the world's total population.<sup>152</sup> Indigenous peoples face many socioeconomic challenges, including lower wages and limited access to labor markets, extreme vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, and insufficient access to education and healthcare.<sup>153</sup> Indigenous peoples attend secondary school at much lower rates than non-indigenous peoples, with up to 40% of indigenous people unable to access education in a language they speak or understand.<sup>154</sup> With low secondary education rates, higher paying jobs and careers are difficult to obtain.<sup>155</sup> Labor market disadvantages are further heightened by discriminatory hiring practices.<sup>156</sup> Food shortages also undermine the socioeconomic rights of indigenous peoples.<sup>157</sup> Indigenous peoples often have competitive difficulty between their crops and those of agricultural corporations who can produce large quantities of products and more easily access international markets.<sup>158</sup> Additionally, indigenous lands are often located in remote areas with underdeveloped infrastructure for transportation and utilities.<sup>159</sup> The remoteness of indigenous territories also affects access to healthcare, with rural populations relying on distant urban health clinics or mobile health units.<sup>160</sup>

Ways to promote indigenous socioeconomic rights includes developing decent work agendas, empowering indigenous women, and empowering indigenous peoples to become agents of change through small grants.<sup>161</sup> The ILO developed an agenda for Member States to promote better working conditions for marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples.<sup>162</sup> The empowerment of indigenous women is an important component of the promotion of indigenous rights; UNPFII has recognized and recommended 150 areas of concern aimed to empower indigenous women and girls.<sup>163</sup> These 150 areas include education programs, health practices, employment opportunities, and more.<sup>164</sup> The inclusion of indigenous women in consultations with Member States regarding country-specific programs results in more inclusive and insightful program development.<sup>165</sup> Finally, through entrepreneurship programs and small grants, indigenous peoples have the opportunity to become entrepreneurs and engage further with the economy.<sup>166</sup> For example, in Brazil, the government pays indigenous families a subsidy every month with the expectation that the individuals will engage in sustainable activities.<sup>167</sup>

### *Case Study: The United Republic of Tanzania*

The continent of Africa is home to 14.2 million indigenous peoples, often living in remote and extremely low-income areas.<sup>168</sup> Indigenous peoples of Africa are often denied access to mainstream healthcare due to social stigma.<sup>169</sup> Because of this, indigenous knowledge and health practices are commonly used as primary medicine.<sup>170</sup> In the United Republic of Tanzania, merging indigenous health practices with scientific practices has resulted in comprehensive healthcare reform.<sup>171</sup> Indigenous peoples of Tanzania have contributed to malaria treatments, as well

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<sup>152</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *Leaving no one behind: the imperative of inclusive development (Report on the World Social Situation 2016)*, 2016, p. 1.

<sup>153</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 5, 29, 59.

<sup>154</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 59.

<sup>155</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>156</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*, 2009, p. 22.

<sup>157</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 20.

<sup>158</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 19.

<sup>159</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>160</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Indigenous Peoples' Access to Health Services*, 2016, p. 14.

<sup>161</sup> ILO, *Decent Work Agenda*, 2017; UN DESA DSPD, *Indigenous Women and the UN system*, 2017.

<sup>162</sup> ILO, *Decent Work Agenda*, 2017.

<sup>163</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *Indigenous Women and the UN system*, 2017.

<sup>164</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>165</sup> UNPFII, *Report on the sixteenth session: Recommendations Specifically Pertaining to Indigenous Women and Girls, adopted by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues*, 2017, p. 2.

<sup>166</sup> ILO, *Indigenous peoples and climate change*, 2017, p. 30.

<sup>167</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 31.

<sup>168</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Indigenous Peoples' Access to Health Services*, 2016, p. 13.

<sup>169</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>170</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>171</sup> Kaya, *Promotion of Public Health Care Using African Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Implications for IPRs: Experiences from Southern and Eastern Africa*, 2007, p. 3.

as preventative measures against HIV/AIDS.<sup>172</sup> The Tanzanian government has cooperated with indigenous peoples to incorporate indigenous knowledge into hospitals by treating patients in exchange for information on plant remedies and traditional medicine.<sup>173</sup> This integration helps to develop comprehensive practices, while treating low-income indigenous patients.<sup>174</sup> Merging indigenous knowledge with other practices has resulted in more holistic and inclusive healthcare practices for all.<sup>175</sup>

### ***Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples***

Protecting cultural rights and diversity involves promoting indigenous language, art, religions, traditions, and identities.<sup>176</sup> Language is critical to indigenous culture; not only does it dictate communication in a society, but it contributes to the structure of ideas formulated through thought.<sup>177</sup> Over 6,000 languages are spoken in the world today, yet 97% of the world's population speak four percent of the total number of languages.<sup>178</sup> As a result of globalization, a small number of dominant languages are increasingly used to conduct business, school, and government proceedings.<sup>179</sup> UNPFII and UNESCO have developed programs to preserve indigenous languages and promote awareness of their importance.<sup>180</sup> UNPFII has further encouraged Member States to integrate indigenous languages into daily life.<sup>181</sup> Other recommendations include using indigenous languages in public administration in indigenous territories, providing translators in government spaces and schools, and requiring multilingual learning and education.<sup>182</sup> Educational practices can differ between indigenous and non-indigenous communities; UNESCO encourages Member States to create inclusive curriculum to promote indigenous cultural rights.<sup>183</sup> This means offering lessons in indigenous languages and embracing local cultural practices in the classroom.<sup>184</sup> Indigenous communities are also encouraged to utilize digital platforms to preserve and promote their culture.<sup>185</sup>

#### *Case Study: New Zealand*

Indigenous peoples of New Zealand have advocated to protect and promote their culture into the mainstream, non-indigenous culture.<sup>186</sup> The government of New Zealand has worked with indigenous peoples to advance their interests and cultural diversity.<sup>187</sup> The government promotes indigenous cultures as a part of New Zealand history, which benefits both indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.<sup>188</sup> The 1989 Education Act of New Zealand provides funding for indigenous schools and universities; this investment in indigenous culture has helped address discrepancies in educational attainment by supporting the graduation of indigenous students from secondary school and university.<sup>189</sup> Finally, the New Zealand Ministry of Health has collaborated with the Ministry of Maori

<sup>172</sup> Kaya, *Promotion of Public Health Care Using African Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Implications for IPRs: Experiences from Sothern and Eastern Africa*, 2007, p. 5.

<sup>173</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 14.

<sup>174</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>175</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>176</sup> UNESCO, *UNESCO World Report: Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue – Executive Summary*, 2009, p. 1.

<sup>177</sup> UN CHR, *Human Rights and Indigenous Issues: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People, Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen, Submitted Pursuant to Commission Resolution 2001/57 (E/CN.4/2002/97)*, 2002, p. 18.

<sup>178</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Indigenous Peoples' Access to Health Services*, 2016, p. 57.

<sup>179</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *International Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Languages*, 2016.

<sup>180</sup> UNPFII, *Recommendations related to languages adopted by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues*, 2016, p. 1.

<sup>181</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>182</sup> UNPFII, *Recommendations related to languages adopted by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issue*, 2016.

<sup>183</sup> UNESCO, *UNESCO World Report: Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue – Executive Summary*, 2009, p. 98.

<sup>184</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>185</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 130.

<sup>186</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 271.

<sup>187</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>188</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>189</sup> UN CHR, *Human Rights and Indigenous Issues: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People, Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen, Submitted Pursuant to Commission Resolution 2001/57 (E/CN.4/2002/97)*, 2002, p. 19; UN DESA DSPD, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*, 2009, p. 26.

Development to develop a plan to work with Maori youth in order to build a collective identity.<sup>190</sup> Furthermore, the plan seeks to foster relationships between Maori youth and elders to renew the sense of pride in indigenous culture and promote indigenous cultural practices.<sup>191</sup>

### **Conclusion**

During the past several decades, indigenous participation at the UN has increased steadily.<sup>192</sup> The establishment of UNPFII, EMRIP, and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous People have contributed to the promotion of indigenous rights.<sup>193</sup> While international organizations have pledged to promote the development of indigenous peoples, recognition of UNDRIP and the implementations of the recommendations of the Declaration have not been met by every Member State; therefore, the rights of indigenous peoples continue to not be achieved.<sup>194</sup> Addressing the political rights of indigenous peoples includes securing equal status under the law, as well as protections of land, water, and civil rights.<sup>195</sup> Furthermore, empowering indigenous peoples through socioeconomic measures includes targeted policies aimed at developing educational measures, job opportunities, and access to healthcare in indigenous regions.<sup>196</sup> Finally, protecting and promoting the cultural rights of indigenous peoples means preserving and promoting indigenous languages and traditions.<sup>197</sup> Empowering indigenous peoples aligns closely with the work of the Commission, as indigenous peoples often face discrimination and exploitation.<sup>198</sup> CSocD is well positioned to address the social development of indigenous peoples, through the promotion of their political, socioeconomic, and cultural rights.<sup>199</sup>

### **Further Research**

As delegates research this topic, they should consider the following: How can CSocD work to promote indigenous peoples and engage indigenous peoples at the international level? What incentives do Member States have to implement UNDRIP and how can the Commission promote the meaningful implementation of the Declaration? In what ways can the UN system continue to empower marginalized groups within indigenous communities? How can indigenous peoples achieve their individual rights? What obstacles face indigenous peoples politically and how can the Commission overcome those obstacles? How can the Commission encourage Member States to recognize indigenous peoples politically? How can the UN system meet the needs of marginalized populations within indigenous society, including women and youth? How can the UN promote and preserve indigenous culture, including languages and traditions?

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*The Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention of 1989, also known as International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169, is a historical declaration of the political and socioeconomic rights of indigenous peoples. It was the foundational document that was later built upon with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The Convention called upon Member States to actively include indigenous voices in government, as well as provide development opportunities in indigenous communities. The document is very explicit in asking governments to enact freedoms for indigenous peoples, and delegates should study it to gain a better understanding of the issues facing the full equality of indigenous peoples.*

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<sup>190</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*, 2009, p. 164.

<sup>191</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>192</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *Indigenous Peoples at the UN*, 2017.

<sup>193</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>194</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*, 2009, p. 1.

<sup>195</sup> UN General Assembly, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/61/295)*, 2007, p. 3.

<sup>196</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*, 2009, p. 19.

<sup>197</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1.

<sup>198</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*, 2017.

<sup>199</sup> *Ibid.*

International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs. (2017). *The Indigenous World*. Retrieved 29 September 2017 from: <https://www.iwgia.org/images/documents/indigenous-world/indigenous-world-2017.pdf>

*The Indigenous World is a comprehensive report published by the International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs that examines the status of indigenous peoples case by case, Member State by Member State. The annual publication is a great indication on the status of indigenous peoples and the obstacles still facing the marginalized communities. Delegates should read this publication to understand the complexities of the problems facing indigenous peoples, as well as to get specific understanding of obstacles regarding Member State's implementation of UNDRIP. Reading this report will inspire delegates to come up with specific and targeted solutions, regarding ways to promote indigenous peoples' rights and social development.*

United Nations, Commission on Human Rights. (2002). *Human Rights and Indigenous Issues Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People, Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen, Submitted Pursuant to Commission Resolution 2001/57 (E/CN.4/2002/97)*. Retrieved 25 August 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/E/CN.4/2002/97>

*The first report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a detailed insight into the concerns of the indigenous community. Meeting with Member States, indigenous leaders, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other concerned parties, Rodolfo Stavenhagen was able to build a comprehensive report that would only be built upon by the forthcoming Special Rapporteurs. Delegates should read this report and subsequent reports to gain an understanding of the progress made by UNDRIP, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the Commission for Social Development (CSocD), and other UN bodies throughout the years. Furthermore, the report gives a detailed background to the international instruments used for the promotion of indigenous rights.*

United Nations, Commission for Social Development. (2017). *Commission for Social Development: Report on the Fifty-Fifth Session (E/2017/26-E/CN.5/2017/10)*. Retrieved 18 July 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/E/CN.5/2017/10>

*The most recent session of CSocD in February 2017 discussed indigenous issues in the context of social development. The resulting report from the session highlighted the link between indigenous populations and the 2030 Agenda and also identified key issues Member States should be addressing, such as indigenous youth and indigenous women. Delegates should read this report to gain a better understanding of the 2017 Commission session and the efforts CSocD is making to further the interests of indigenous peoples.*

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Social Policy and Development, Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. (2009). *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples* [Report]. Retrieved 31 August 2017 from: [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/SOWIP/en/SOWIP\\_web.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/SOWIP/en/SOWIP_web.pdf)

*The flagship report State of the World's Indigenous Peoples dictates the persistent issues facing indigenous peoples in their struggle for equal rights, freedoms, and recognition. The report details the status of indigenous access to healthcare, preservation of culture, economic rights, and more. Reading this report will help delegates understand the context of the indigenous peoples, the history of indigenous participation at the UN, and the efforts the UN and Member States are currently embarking on to achieve equality. Furthermore, this report will give insight into the UN's approach to the implementation of UNDRIP, and identify areas where improvement can be made.*

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Social Policy and Development, Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. (2016). *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Indigenous Peoples' Access to Health Services* [Report]. Retrieved 18 July 2017 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/2016/Docs-updates/The-State-of-The-Worlds-Indigenous-Peoples-2-WEB.pdf>

*The State of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Indigenous Peoples' Access to Health Services is an insight into the indigenous peoples' access to healthcare. Grouping indigenous peoples by the sociocultural regions recognized at UNPFII, this report outlines the obstacles indigenous people all over the world face when it comes to obtaining healthcare, including lack of access to healthcare, as well as lack of funds to afford care. This document shows that the promotion of*

*indigenous rights depends on access to healthcare. Delegates should study this report in order to understand the socioeconomic challenges indigenous peoples face, and how the promotion of healthcare can lead to the promotion of indigenous peoples.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-first session. (2007). *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/61/295)*. Retrieved 18 July 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/61/295>

*UNDRIP was a groundbreaking and important document that included both the voices of indigenous peoples and Member States. The document explicitly declares the political, socioeconomic, and cultural rights of indigenous peoples. Reading this Declaration will ensure that delegates have a foundational knowledge of the issues facing indigenous peoples. Furthermore, the 10th anniversary of UNDRIP took place in 2017, and the General Assembly, UNPFII, and other UN institutions celebrated the successes of the Declaration, while also addressing the obstacles still to overcome. UNDRIP is a comprehensive and detailed resolution that is continuously studied and analyzed by indigenous peoples and the UN in order to develop successful mechanisms and policies.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Outcome Document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/69/2)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 18 July 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/2>

*The General Assembly organized a high-level plenary discussion in 2014 called the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, where the UN and Member States discussed the obstacles facing indigenous peoples. At the plenary meeting, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to indigenous issues, and made several observations and suggestions to the Secretary-General regarding the UN's steps towards gaining full equality for indigenous peoples. The outcome document mentions social development measures, such as developing national action plans and collecting data to further address the obstacles facing indigenous peoples. From this source, delegates can learn more about the General Assembly's efforts and better understand how the system-wide action plan (SWAP) intends to target the issues currently facing indigenous peoples.*

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. (2016). *System-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (E/C.19/2016/5)*. Retrieved 31 August 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/E/C.19/2016/5>

*The SWAP was designed at the 15th session of UNPFII in order to create increased efforts for indigenous issues that are actively pursued by the United Nations. The SWAP calls for increased efforts to raise awareness for UNDRIP, specifically at the national level. Delegates should read this document to gain a better understanding of UN system efforts to work towards equality for indigenous peoples. The document highlights the concerns of both the UN and the indigenous organizations recognized at the Forum.*

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. (2017). *UNPFII Recommendations Database* [Website]. Retrieved 1 September 2017 from: [https://esa.un.org/unpfiiidata/UNPFII\\_Recommendations\\_Database\\_list.asp](https://esa.un.org/unpfiiidata/UNPFII_Recommendations_Database_list.asp)

*The Recommendations Database is an active and current database that analyzes and monitors the progress of the recommendations made by indigenous peoples at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. UNPFII closes each year with a list of recommendations developed by indigenous organizations. Monitoring recommendations developed by the Permanent Forum is a useful indication of the challenges still facing the social development of indigenous peoples. Delegates should review this database to understand the ongoing needs and recommendations of indigenous peoples and the ways the UN system is working to promote the political, socioeconomic, and cultural rights of indigenous peoples.*

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## II. Promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation to Achieve the 2030 Agenda

*“South-South cooperation is a powerful tool as we advance, together, towards the Sustainable Development Goals and fulfill the promise to leave no one behind.”<sup>200</sup>*

### **Introduction**

Traditionally, South-South Cooperation (SSC) refers to cooperation among developing Member States.<sup>201</sup> Since international organizations and developed countries can serve as knowledge brokers and recourse providers in SSC situations, they become the third pillar of cooperation efforts: this type of cooperation is known as triangular cooperation.<sup>202</sup> Therefore, South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) has three main components: one assistance-providing developing country, one or more assistance-receiving developing countries, and a traditional resource provider or an international organization.<sup>203</sup> The United Nations (UN) General Assembly considers SSC as partnerships among equals for developing countries to help one another through knowledge sharing and technology transfers.<sup>204</sup> Adonia Ayebare, the President of the General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, has highlighted that SSC complements North-South cooperation, the collaboration between developed and developing countries, instead of replacing the latter.<sup>205</sup> As SSC has gained increased recognition as a successful and preferred development modality, a greater number of UN agencies have incorporated SSC and SSTC into their strategies, programs, and practices to mainstream this component.<sup>206</sup>

The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) highlighted SSTC as an important partnership.<sup>207</sup> The increasing popularity of SSTC demonstrates developing countries’ focus in strengthening their relationships with one another through knowledge- and experience-sharing, technology transfer, and investment promotion.<sup>208</sup> For example, innovations and solutions developed in the Global South can be adapted in other developing states more easily and appropriately than those designed in the North and for developed states.<sup>209</sup> According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), SSTC has become a crucial implementation approach for global cooperation and an important vehicle for development agencies to achieve sustainable development.<sup>210</sup> Since SSTC can produce innovative solutions, forge new partnerships, and enhance knowledge-sharing initiatives, it will assist Member States and the international community to reach the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>211</sup>

### **International and Regional Framework**

The *Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries* (BAPA) was the first global SSC-related framework and was adopted by the UN Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries in 1978.<sup>212</sup> BAPA aimed to promote technical cooperation in developing countries, since such type of collaboration may strengthen implementation effectiveness.<sup>213</sup> In September 2005, the

<sup>200</sup> UNOSSC, *India and UNOSSC Launch a New South-South Trust Fund to Promote Sustainable Development*, 2017.

<sup>201</sup> ILO, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation: The Way Forward*, 2012, p. 12.

<sup>202</sup> FAO, *FAO’s South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy in Action*, 2016, p. 18.

<sup>203</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 13.

<sup>204</sup> UN General Assembly, *South-South cooperation (A/RES/69/239)*, 2015; UN DESA Statistics Division, *Methodology*, 2017.

<sup>205</sup> *UN Day for South-South Cooperation Highlights Growing Potential for Cooperative Development Worldwide*, UNOSSC, 2017; Tortora & OECD DCD, *Common Ground Between South-South and North-South Co-operation Principles*, 2011.

<sup>206</sup> FAO, *FAO’s South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy in Action*, 2016, p. 10; UN General Assembly, *State of South-South cooperation: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/153)*, 2014, p. 2.

<sup>207</sup> IFAD, *Strategic Framework 2016-2025 Enabling Inclusive and Sustainable Rural Transformation*, 2016, p. 20.

<sup>208</sup> ILO, *Social Solidarity and South-South Cooperation: A Compilation of Short South-South Cooperation Articles for the “Academy of Social Solidarity Economy: Social Innovation in the World of Work,”* 2015, p. 24.

<sup>209</sup> IFAD, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation*, 2016, p. 20.

<sup>210</sup> ILO, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation Academy*, 2016.

<sup>211</sup> UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 1; IFAD, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation*, 2016, p. 15.

<sup>212</sup> UN Conference on Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries, *Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries*, 1978.

<sup>213</sup> UN General Assembly, *State of South-South cooperation: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/153)*, 2014, p. 6; UN Conference on Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries, *Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries*, 1978.

General Assembly adopted resolution 60/1, the outcome document from the 2005 World Summit.<sup>214</sup> In this document, Heads of State commended the accomplishments and promising potential of SSC and urged international financial institutions along with other international organizations to create concrete plans to support capacity-building in developing countries.<sup>215</sup> During the High-Level Event on SSC and Capacity Development in 2010, Member States produced the *Bogota Statement: Towards Effective and Inclusive Development Partnerships*.<sup>216</sup> The Statement discusses how developed countries and traditional donors can support SSTC by bridging the gap between South-South and North-South cooperation and improving development effectiveness.<sup>217</sup>

The *Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation* (2009) encourages policy integration and fosters cooperation among developing states.<sup>218</sup> The outcome document highlights the importance of SSTC through three crucial points.<sup>219</sup> First, the document emphasizes how the creation of common regional markets and customs unions promotes the Global South and SSTC activities through mutually-beneficial trade agreements.<sup>220</sup> Second, the outcome document encourages UN agencies and Member States, especially members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, to mainstream SSTC activities into their projects.<sup>221</sup> Third, the document advocates for meaningful collaboration on technology transfers among international organizations, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).<sup>222</sup>

In July 2015, Member States adopted the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development* (AAAA), which demonstrated their commitment to SSTC, especially in technology transfer and knowledge exchange.<sup>223</sup> In September 2015, UN Member States adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, with 17 SDGs that aim to promote a better and sustainable future for all humans.<sup>224</sup> Both documents showed the willingness of Member States to take concrete steps to promote SSTC.<sup>225</sup> Among the SDGs, SDG 17 on “Partnerships for goals” captures the crux of SSTC: to rejuvenate the global partnership to achieve sustainable development.<sup>226</sup> It emphasizes the importance of creating global partnerships and encourages North-South cooperation and SSTC by highlighting initiatives such as knowledge-sharing workshops and technology-transfer seminars.<sup>227</sup> Furthermore, SSTC can also contribute to SDG 8, on “Decent Work and Economic Growth,” which aims to promote sustainable economic growth to provide productive and decent work for all.<sup>228</sup> In particular, target 8.a calls upon Member States to increase Aid for Trade (AfT) initiative support for developing countries.<sup>229</sup> AfT was established by the World Trade Organization (WTO) at the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in 2005.<sup>230</sup>

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<sup>214</sup> UN General Assembly, *2005 World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1)*, 2005.

<sup>215</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>216</sup> High-Level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development, *Bogota Statement: Towards Effective and Inclusive Development Partnerships*, 2010, p. 1.

<sup>217</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>218</sup> UN General Assembly, *High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/64/1)*, 2009, p. 23; UN General Assembly, *Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/64/222)*, 2009, p. 2.

<sup>219</sup> UN General Assembly, *Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/64/222)*, 2009, p. 2.

<sup>220</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

<sup>221</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3; UN High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, *Sixteenth Session (4 February 2010) (A/65/39)*, 2010, p. 6; UN DESA Statistics Division, *Methodology*, 2017.

<sup>222</sup> UN DPI, *Adopting Nairobi Outcome Document, South-South Conference Encourages Developing Countries to Make Cooperative Efforts Work Better in Tackling Challenges*, 2009.

<sup>223</sup> UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 1; UN General Assembly, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313)*, 2015, p. 1.

<sup>224</sup> UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 6.

<sup>225</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1; UN General Assembly, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313)*, 2015, p. 4.

<sup>226</sup> UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development*, 2016, p. 134.

<sup>227</sup> UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, pp. 10, 24.

<sup>228</sup> UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development*, 2016, p. 131.

<sup>229</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>230</sup> WTO, *Ministerial Declaration*, 2005.

The 2011 *Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation* highlights the significance of AfT as a crucial mechanism for promoting SSTC and sustainable development since it provides a global framework for cooperation among different partners.<sup>231</sup>

### ***Role of the International System***

At the 34<sup>th</sup> session of CSocD in its special session in 1996, the Commission considered the *Report of the Secretary-General on Strategies and Actions for the Eradication of Poverty* and focused on three sub-themes: developing strategies for integration; protecting fundamental human rights for all; and creating sustainable and community-driven activities.<sup>232</sup> This report contributes to sustainable development due to its focus on poverty reduction.<sup>233</sup> At its 54<sup>th</sup> session in 2016, CSocD drafted a resolution titled “Rethinking and Strengthening Social Development in the Contemporary World” that was adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and that commended SSTC’s growing contribution in social development.<sup>234</sup> CSocD encourages Member States to increase their contribution to SSTC and sustainable development by improving their development effectiveness.<sup>235</sup> In 2017, the 55<sup>th</sup> session of CSocD concentrated on the topic of “Strategies for Eradicating Poverty to Achieve Sustainable Development for All.”<sup>236</sup> CSocD also highlighted its development strategy as people-centered and stressed that the rights of many vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and indigenous people, must be placed at the core of SDGs.<sup>237</sup> During the session, the Commission also organized three high-level panel discussions on promoting integrated policies for poverty eradication; youth development in the 2030 Agenda; and leaving no one behind: poverty and disability.<sup>238</sup>

In 2011, on request of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), an independent external oversight office, examined the UN system on its institutional mechanism for supporting SSTC.<sup>239</sup> The JIU’s report listed three deficiencies that hinder efficient of implementing SSTC initiatives.<sup>240</sup> First, without a strategic framework and a financing mechanism for government SSTC cooperation, it has been difficult to promote and contribute to SSTC.<sup>241</sup> Additionally, many agencies carry out SSTC activities without knowing that similar initiatives might exist in different agencies due to lack of institutional coordination system within the UN.<sup>242</sup> This reduces the effectiveness of the implementation process and makes its hard to scale up successful projects.<sup>243</sup> Lastly, agencies that start to mainstream SSTC face a challenge of over-stretching their resources.<sup>244</sup> JIU recommends UN development agencies to cooperate by creating a system-wide policy frameworks and a holistic coordination system.<sup>245</sup>

In reference to the *Nairobi Outcome Document*, General Assembly resolution 64/222 (2009) recommends Member States to consider SSTC as their development priority and seek ways to improve effectiveness when implementing

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<sup>231</sup> Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, *Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation*, 2011, pp. 2-10.

<sup>232</sup> UN CSocD, *Strategies and Actions for the Eradication of Poverty: Policy and programme considerations in the formulation of integrated strategies for poverty eradication, meeting the basic human needs of all and promotion of self-reliance and community-based initiatives: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/1996/3)*, 1996, p. 3.

<sup>233</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>234</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Rethinking and Strengthening Social Development in the Contemporary World (E/RES/2016/8)*, 2016, p. 1.

<sup>235</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

<sup>236</sup> UN CSocD, *Report on the fifty-fifth session (E/2017/26)*, 2017, p. 3.

<sup>237</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.

<sup>238</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>239</sup> UN JIU, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the UN System*, 2011, p. 5; UN JIU, *Our Mission Statement*, 2017.

<sup>240</sup> UN JIU, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the UN System*, 2011, p. 21.

<sup>241</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 21; UNDP, *Development Impact Group, Scaling-up South-South Cooperation for Sustainable Development*, 2016, p. 10.

<sup>242</sup> UN JIU, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the UN System*, 2011, p. 6.

<sup>243</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10.

<sup>244</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 6-21.

<sup>245</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8.

SSTC initiatives.<sup>246</sup> In 2014, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 68/230 on “South-South Cooperation.”<sup>247</sup> The resolution emphasizes three major aspects for the UN development system to provide greater support for SSTC initiatives.<sup>248</sup> The resolution urges UN agencies to collaborate more with the private sector.<sup>249</sup> In addition, the resolution urges Member States, UN agencies, and the private sector to work together to provide sufficient technical and financial resources for SSTC.<sup>250</sup> The document also emphasizes the significance of mainstreaming SSTC in the UN system.<sup>251</sup> Last, it encourages developing countries to identify common development priorities, enable technology transfers, and cooperation with all partners.<sup>252</sup>

UNDP has worked as a pioneer in SSC and SSTC and provided operation guidance to other UN agencies.<sup>253</sup> Recently, after reconsidering its development strategy, UNDP has aimed to increase the scale and productivity of its engagement in SSTC.<sup>254</sup> UNDP also works on enhancing its cooperation with emerging partners to respond to the needs of Member States more effectively.<sup>255</sup> Hence, UNDP has taken more effort in facilitating knowledge exchanges, technology transfers, and capacity-building initiatives to optimize its role as a development amplifier.<sup>256</sup> For example, UNDP supports the Global South-South Development (GSSD) Academy, a virtual action-oriented service platform provided by UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), which showcases development solutions and expertise from the Global South.<sup>257</sup>

In addition, UNOSSC has organized the GSSD Expo since 2008.<sup>258</sup> The Expo aims to promote SSTC activities and partnerships on a global stage by displaying successful development solutions with proven results to encourage new partnerships.<sup>259</sup> In 2017, Turkey will host the Expo in Antalya from 27 to 30 November, with the theme “Road to the 40th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40).”<sup>260</sup> The Expo intends to encourage discussion on SSTC and promote it with the aim to achieve the 2030 Agenda.<sup>261</sup> The event provides a platform for UN agencies and government leaders to reflect on current development policies and identify best practices to mainstream SSTC in different contexts.<sup>262</sup> Such an occasion also enables participants to exchange knowledge and discuss successful development solutions.<sup>263</sup>

### ***South-South and Triangular Cooperation***

Although there is no single accepted definition for SSC, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation has defined such cooperation as:

A process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national capacity development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and

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<sup>246</sup> UN General Assembly, *Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/64/222)*, 2009, p. 2; UN ECOSOC, *Rethinking and Strengthening Social Development in the Contemporary World (E/RES/2016/8)*, 2016, p. 5.

<sup>247</sup> UN General Assembly, *South-South Cooperation (A/RES/68/230)*, 2014, p. 1.

<sup>248</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>249</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>250</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>251</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>252</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>253</sup> UNDP, *Strategic Plan 2014-2017*, 2013, p. 40; Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS, *Strategic Framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, 2014-2017 (DP/CF/SSC/5)*, 2013.

<sup>254</sup> UNDP, *Strategic Plan 2014-2017*, 2013, p. 38.

<sup>255</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 41.

<sup>256</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 40; UNDP, *UNDP Knowledge Management Strategy 2014-2017*, 2014, p. 14.

<sup>257</sup> UNOSSC, *What Is the GSSD Academy?*, 2017.

<sup>258</sup> UN Seeks Stronger Partnership with Developing Countries: Senior Official, *Xinhua Net*, 2017.

<sup>259</sup> UNOSSC, *Global South-South Development Expo 2017 South-South Cooperation: In the Era of Economic, Social and Environmental Transformation: Road to the 40th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40)*, 2017, p. 1.

<sup>260</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>261</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6.

<sup>262</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>263</sup> *Ibid.*

technical know-how, and through regional and interregional collective actions, including partnerships involving governments, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, for their individual and/or mutual benefit within and across regions.<sup>264</sup>

The Bogota Statement describes the function of triangular cooperation as “a bridge” between South-South and North-South partnerships because it promotes cooperation among all partners.<sup>265</sup> The bridge has a three-party arrangement that encompasses three main characteristics.<sup>266</sup> After the recipient country identifies its needs, a third-party partner, either an international organization or developed state, can put the country seeking development solutions in contact with a developing country that can provide the solution.<sup>267</sup> Alternatively, the solution seeker can reach out to the provider bilaterally and contact a third-party partner for financial and technical support.<sup>268</sup> SSTC has been recognized as cost-effective because solutions from the South tend to have a lower cost and have higher adoptability than those of North-South partnerships.<sup>269</sup> Additionally, the support from an international organization or developed state can ease the financial obstacles faced by SSC.<sup>270</sup> SSTC has accelerated the social development process and become more influential in the contemporary global context.<sup>271</sup> Knowledge-exchange workshops, technology-transfer seminars, and investment promotion trainings have become more prevalent because they help developing countries to identify common priorities in development and surface-successful solutions.<sup>272</sup> However, results of SSTC initiatives remain difficult to track and evaluate since many activities are recent and in development.<sup>273</sup>

### ***SSTC and the 2030 Agenda***

SSTC activities in policy reforms and institutional development have supported many developing countries in creating decent jobs, improving productive capacity, and reducing poverty.<sup>274</sup> These accomplishments not only have proved SSTC as a crucial development modality but also improved the lives of millions of people.<sup>275</sup> Although more developing Member States recognize SSTC as a beneficial development modality, it has remained important and challenging to connect key stakeholders together.<sup>276</sup> Policymakers and development professionals seek to learn how different UN entities have contributed to various SDGs and intend to understand how SSTC can improve the living standards of people suffering living in poverty.<sup>277</sup> Since achieving the SDGs requires a holistic approach, it demands governments, civil society, the private sector, and the UN system to establish more meaningful partnerships and strengthen ongoing collaboration.<sup>278</sup>

Although limited financial resources have imposed the biggest challenge in scaling SSTC initiatives, the joint General Assembly and ECOSOC Report of the Secretary-General on “Repositioning the UN Development System to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda – Ensuring a Better Future for All” encourages development actors to leverage global partnerships among key stakeholders to take advantage of available expertise and resources and consider

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<sup>264</sup> UN High-Level Committee on SSC, *Framework of Operational Guidelines on United Nations Support to South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Note by the Secretary-General (SSC/17/3)*, 2012, p. 5.

<sup>265</sup> High-Level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development, *Bogota Statement: Towards Effective and inclusive Development Partnerships*, 2010, p. 1.

<sup>266</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>267</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>268</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.

<sup>269</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>270</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>271</sup> UN High-Level Committee on SSC, *Framework of Operational Guidelines on United Nations Support to South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Note by the Secretary-General (SSC/17/3)*, 2012, p. 5.

<sup>272</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 22.

<sup>273</sup> High-Level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development, *Bogota Statement: Towards Effective and inclusive Development Partnerships*, 2010, p. 5.

<sup>274</sup> UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development*, 2016, p. 3.

<sup>275</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>276</sup> ILO, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation Academy: A Decent Work Overview: Based on The Work of the Scholars and Participants of the SSTC Academy*, 2016, p. 9.

<sup>277</sup> UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development*, 2016, p. 1.

<sup>278</sup> UN General Assembly & UN ECOSOC, *Repositioning the UN Development System to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda – Ensuring a Better Future for All (A/RES/72/124)*, 2017, p. 7.

scaling up SSTC as a viable option.<sup>279</sup> Furthermore, the UN urges its funds, programs, and specialized agencies to enhance their assistance to Member States in national capacity-building activities, national development policies, and investment plans.<sup>280</sup> More financial and technical support from the international organization not only promotes the expansion of SSTC but also improves the living standards of a great number of people.<sup>281</sup>

#### *SSTC and SDG 1: No Poverty*

The China-Ethiopia SSC project has been managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) China SSC Programme since 2015 and addresses challenges of poverty and food security by transferring technology to increase agricultural production.<sup>282</sup> The project deployed 30 Chinese experts and technicians to Ethiopia to train local farmers on crop production, agribusiness, and livestock.<sup>283</sup> According to FAO, “52 new techniques, 8 new crop varieties, and 31 different agricultural equipment” have been successfully transferred and integrated in Ethiopia.<sup>284</sup> These technologies have helped local families to produce enough cereals and vegetables for their own consumption, which has helped to increase food security by ensuring sufficient access to food.<sup>285</sup> Furthermore, new technologies such as poultry management reduced chicken mortality rates through epidemic prevention and coop insulation.<sup>286</sup> New crop production technologies also made millet production increase by 366%.<sup>287</sup> Additional income was also generated from selling surplus crop yields, which enabled some farmers to gain enough capital and start their own businesses.<sup>288</sup>

#### *SSTC and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth*

Targets 8.5 and 8.b of SDG 8 call for Member States and the UN system to create and implement a global strategy for youth employment by 2020 and urges key stakeholders to ensure full and productive employment of young people by 2030.<sup>289</sup> Therefore, providing decent work for young people is a significant part of reaching the 2030 Agenda.<sup>290</sup> 55% of 1.2 billion youth live in the Global South and experience a higher rate of unemployment and a limited access to basic rights, including land, water, finance, and markets.<sup>291</sup> Without decent job opportunities, some young people may be recruited by violent extremist groups.<sup>292</sup> A SSTC initiative co-financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) has shown how providing decent work for young people advances sustainable development.<sup>293</sup> Since 1997, IFAD has cooperated with INBAR in supporting smallholder farmers’ bamboo and rattan production and transferring

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<sup>279</sup> ILO, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation Academy: A Decent Work Overview: Based on The Work of the Scholars and Participants of the SSTC Academy*, 2016, p. 85; UN General Assembly & UN ECOSOC, *Repositioning the UN Development System to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda – Ensuring a Better Future for All (A/RES/72/124)*, 2017, p. 7.

<sup>280</sup> UN General Assembly, *Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (A/RES/71/243)*, 2016, p. 7.

<sup>281</sup> ILO, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation Academy: A Decent Work Overview: Based on The Work of the Scholars and Participants of the SSTC Academy*, 2016, p. 14.

<sup>282</sup> FAO, *China-Ethiopia South-South Cooperation Project: Ethiopian Farmers See Increase in Net Income*, 2016, p. 1; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, *China-Ethiopia Relations: An Excellent Model for South-South Cooperation*, 2014; CFS, *Coming to Terms with Terminology: Food Security, Nutrition Security, Food Security and Nutrition, Food and Nutrition Security*, 2012, p. 4.

<sup>283</sup> FAO, *China-Ethiopia South-South Cooperation Project: Ethiopian Farmers See Increase in Net Income*, 2016, p. 1.

<sup>284</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>285</sup> *Ibid.*; IFPRI, *Topic: Food Security*, 2017.

<sup>286</sup> FAO, *China-Ethiopia South-South Cooperation Project: Ethiopian Farmers See Increase in Net Income*, 2016, p. 1.

<sup>287</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>288</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>289</sup> UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development*, 2016, p. 131.

<sup>290</sup> UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 8;

<sup>291</sup> UNESCO, *Message from Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO on the Occasion of the International Youth Day*, 2017, p. 1; IMF, *How Can Sub-Saharan Africa Harness the Demographic Dividend?*, 2017, p. 1; G20, *G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment*, 2017, p. 2.

<sup>292</sup> ILO, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation Academy: A Decent Work Overview: Based on The Work of the Scholars and Participants of the SSTC Academy*, 2016, p. 86; IFAD, *Mainstreaming of Climate, Gender, Nutrition and Youth*, 2017, p. 15.

<sup>293</sup> IFAD, *Annual Report 2013*, 2013, p. 74; IFAD, *President’s Report on Proposed Grants Under the Global/Regional Grants Window to Non-CGIAR-Supported International Centres*, 2009, pp. 5-31; INBAR, *Bamboo for Climate Change Action (COP22 Side Event) South-South and Trilateral Collaboration to Implement Nationally Determined Contributions*, 2016.

technologies in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.<sup>294</sup> A recent collaboration was through a small grant titled “South-South Knowledge Transfer Strategies for Scaling Up Pro-Poor Bamboo Livelihoods, Income Generation and Employment Creation, and Environmental Management in Africa,” in 2014.<sup>295</sup> The grant benefited smallholders in Ethiopia, Madagascar, and Tanzania through SSTC activities such as knowledge-sharing workshops and training sessions to create jobs and increase smallholders’ incomes.<sup>296</sup> The project has created 1650 jobs in total, and 90 youth started working in newly established Common Processing and Training Centres.<sup>297</sup> The project established Farmer Training Centres for promoting micro-planting in homesteads and farms in the three recipient countries.<sup>298</sup> More than 1300 households established micro-nurseries and produced about 250,000 bamboo plants.<sup>299</sup>

#### *SSTC and SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure*

SDG 9 has significance because approximately 663 million people have very limited access to drinkable water.<sup>300</sup> The World Bank estimates that about 1.06 billion people live their daily life without electricity.<sup>301</sup> Hence, the demand for infrastructure development has remained high, and come to around \$1 trillion per year for countries from the Global South.<sup>302</sup> For instance, UNDP has used funding provided by the Saudi Fund for Development to administrate a program named “Sustainable Development Through Peace Building, Governance & Economic Recovery” in Pakistan.<sup>303</sup> It rebuilds community infrastructure and prevents local conflicts to support the sustainable return of internally displaced persons (IDPs).<sup>304</sup> The program exemplifies the fundamental structure of SSTC: two developing countries help each other with technical support of an international organization.<sup>305</sup>

#### **Conclusion**

SSTC and the SDGs have become essential to the work of CSocD and gained tremendous popularity among development agencies.<sup>306</sup> Stakeholders from different sectors have acknowledged the importance of SSTC and seek to incorporate such activities into their mandates and projects.<sup>307</sup> Undoubtedly, more opportunities and challenges will arise as more institutions start to develop new SSTC initiatives, mobilize resources, and seek further cooperation among each other.<sup>308</sup> A UN system-wide SSTC framework has been proposed as a possible promising start to address these obstacles and lead the initiatives to a sustainable path.<sup>309</sup> Many UN agencies such as CSocD, UNDP, and UNOSSC have promoted SSTC and sustainable social development by producing different publications and organizing international conferences to encourage the good practices of SSTC in relation to the 2030 Agenda.<sup>310</sup>

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<sup>294</sup> IFAD, *Annual Report 2013*, 2013, p. 75.

<sup>295</sup> CSU Africa Center for Sustainable Ecosystems & Societies Under Global Change, *South-South Learning on Bamboo for Income and Resilience*, 2015.

<sup>296</sup> Ibid.

<sup>297</sup> Ibid.

<sup>298</sup> Ibid.

<sup>299</sup> Ibid.

<sup>300</sup> UN DPI, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015*, 2015, p. 60.

<sup>301</sup> World Bank, *Energy*, 2017.

<sup>302</sup> UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, *Enhancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Study of the Current Situation and Existing Good Practices in Policy, Institutions, and Operation of South-South and Triangular Cooperation*, 2009, p. 26.

<sup>303</sup> UNDP, *Project Brief Sustainable Development Through Peace Building, Governance and Economic Recovery in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa/FATA*, 2013, p. 4.

<sup>304</sup> Ibid., p. 8.

<sup>305</sup> FAO, *FAO’s South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy in Action*, 2016, p. 10.

<sup>306</sup> UN DESA DSPD, *Social Development for Sustainable Development*, 2017.

<sup>307</sup> UN General Assembly & UN ECOSOC, *Repositioning the UN Development System to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda – Ensuring a Better Future for All (A/RES/72/124)*, 2017, p. 10.

<sup>308</sup> UN General Assembly, *Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (A/RES/71/243)*, 2016, p. 7.

<sup>309</sup> UN JIU, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the UN System*, 2011, p. 8.

<sup>310</sup> UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development*, 2016; UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, *Enhancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Study of the Current Situation and Existing Good Practices in Policy, Institutions, and Operation of South-South and Triangular Cooperation*, 2009.

### **Further Research**

Delegates can use the following questions to advance their research: How can Member States make SSTC more effective to reach the 2030 Agenda? What comparative advantages does CSocD have to stay relevant in SSTC as UN development agencies try to incorporate SSTC into their practices? How can CSocD and development agencies collaborate on promoting SSTC? How can Member States mainstream SSTC in their national development plans? What are the major issues of spreading successful SSTC activities and implementing them in different developing countries? Is SSTC a sustainable solution to eradicate poverty? How can UN development agencies best serve needs of development solution seekers and promote the SDGs?

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<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4700e/i4700e04.pdf>

*This project exemplifies what a successful SSTC initiative looks like. The China-Ethiopia South-South Cooperation (SSC) project was established in 2015 and has helped Ethiopian people overcome issues such as poverty and food insecurity. Many advanced technologies in small-scale irrigation and improved extension services were introduced to Ethiopia, and the income of smallholders increased. This brochure explains the roles of different involved parties and provides data of current achievements. This concrete South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) example helps delegates to expand their understanding of SSTC activities from a policy level to a technical level.*

High-Level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development. (2010). *Bogota Statement: Towards Effective and Inclusive Development Partnerships*. Retrieved 2 September 2017 from:

<https://www.oecd.org/development/effectiveness/45497536.pdf>

*The Bogota Statement provides guidance for developed countries in supporting SSTC activities. It stresses the importance of the triangular cooperation aspect by stating that SSTC bridges the gap between South-South and North-South cooperation. The statement also highlights how triangular cooperation has contributed to social development. It suggests possible solutions for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of SSTC. This document will help delegates by providing an understanding of the role of donors and their perspectives in SSC and SSTC.*

International Labour Organization. (2016). *South-South and Triangular Cooperation Academy: A Decent Work Overview: Based on The Work of the Scholars and Participants of the SSTC Academy*. Retrieved 24 September 2017 from: [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---exrel/documents/publication/wcms\\_496952.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---exrel/documents/publication/wcms_496952.pdf)

*The International Labour Organization (ILO) produced this report to highlight the importance of mainstreaming SSTC activities in promoting decent work. It has three main recommendations to create decent job opportunities through SSTC. First, ILO expressed its willingness to support Member States to promote decent work through its diverse projects. Second, ILO suggested Member States should consider SSTC a high development priority. Third, ILO reiterated its dedication to promoting decent work through SSTC. This document can assist delegates to understand how SSTC can contribute to a specific SDG and how UN agencies can facilitate this process of achieving the Goals.*

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*The Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) is one of the most important documents to discuss SSTC. BAPA elaborates on three crucial points. First, BAPA encourages developing countries to identify their common issues and surface solutions among the Global South. Second, BAPA emphasizes the need for capacity development and technology transfer. Third, BAPA supports more active participation of developing countries in international economic activities. From this source, delegates will learn how the SSTC modality came into existence and understand what drives Member States to seek this direction.*

United Nations Development Programme, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. (2009). *Enhancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Study of the Current Situation and Existing Good Practices in Policy, Institutions, and Operation of South-South and Triangular Cooperation* [Report]. Retrieved 2 September 2017 from: <https://www.cbd.int/financial/southsouth/undp-casebook.pdf>

*The UN Development Programme's (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation published this document to conduct a UN system-wide review on the current support mechanisms and good practices of SSTC. The report identifies some areas of improvement in policies and gives recommendations for ways to mainstream SSTC activities. UNDP also provides guidance on how to create SSTC projects. The document has a comprehensive list of donor countries and international organizations, and good case studies for delegates to study. The document helps delegates to understand what SSTC looks like and ways to conduct it.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2017). *Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (A/RES/71/243)*. Retrieved 20 October 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/71/243>

*This resolution provides a policy review of the UN development system regarding its current mandate and capacity. It calls upon all development agencies to recognize the challenges faced by developing countries and provide support towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, this system-wide review aims to identify means to improve the current performance of all development agencies through mainstreaming SSTC and improving inter-agency collaboration. This document helps delegates understand the work of UN development agencies and their current accomplishments in achieving the SDGs.*

United Nations, General Assembly, & United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2017). *Repositioning the UN Development System to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda: Ensuring a Better Future for All: Report of the Secretary-General (A/72/124)*. Retrieved 16 July 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/72/124>

*This Report of the Secretary-General explains priorities of the 2030 Agenda. This report highlights how UN development agencies may position the focuses of their work better to serve global citizens. This report also requests a review of functions and capacities of the UN development system and encourages further collaboration. It helps delegates to understand how the UN development system works and the ways to achieve the 2030 Agenda based on the report's vision and priorities.*

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*Per the request of the General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) conducted a comprehensive review of the institutional support for SSTC within the UN system. The report identifies three deficiencies: a lack of a strategic framework, limited inter-agency cooperation, and the mismatch between expanded mandates and insufficient resources. The document helps delegates to understand why current SSTC strategies need to be improved and how to do so and introduces some possible solutions for addressing the three main drawbacks. Although this document was published six years ago, it remains relevant since many identified issues have not been fully addressed.*

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2016). *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development* [Report]. Retrieved 20 October 2017 from: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-buqyoV0jpSWE9FM2tHSUhCUW8/view>

*The report aims to promote SSTC and provide policymakers answers about good practices in SSTC. This report is the first publication of its kind to collect and promote good practices in SSTC for sustainable development. It provides a comprehensive list of successful SSTC initiatives and means to scale them. The initiatives are organized by how they contribute to specific SDGs. This report can help delegates understand SSTC and the SDGs better through concrete examples.*

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2017). *Global South-South Development Expo 2017 South-South Cooperation: In the Era of Economic, Social and Environmental Transformation: Road to the 40th*

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*The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the Republic of Turkey will host the Global South-South Expo in Antalya from 27 to 30 November 2017, with the theme “Road to the 40th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40).” This concept note outlines the rationales, objectives, and main activities of the Expo. The Expo has five main goals: encourage SSTC dialogue, achieve the 2030 Agenda through SSTC activities, establish new partnerships, reflect upon past SSTC achievements, and enable knowledge sharing among participants. The document provides the most updated trends of SSTC and helps delegates to understand the role of UNOSSC within the UN development system.*

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### III. Climate Change and Inequality

#### *Introduction*

Climate change and inequality are two of the most important challenges currently faced by the global community.<sup>311</sup> According to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate change is any change to the climate over a period of time, and can happen through either natural causes or can be caused by humans.<sup>312</sup> Despite a generally large focus on the scientific aspects of climate change, the international community is also paying attention to its social and economic effects.<sup>313</sup> From natural disasters and rising sea levels to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, climate change continues to not only threaten sustainable development as a whole, but also social development.<sup>314</sup> Climate change impacts all individuals regardless of their socioeconomic background.<sup>315</sup> Although climate change presents a universal threat to development, not all Member States and people experience its impacts equally.<sup>316</sup> In 2015, natural disasters claimed the lives of over 700,000 people and affected more than 1.5 billion people, leaving some in vulnerable situations, such as women and children, disproportionately affected.<sup>317</sup>

The need to address climate change and inequality is particularly recognized in the 2016 World Economic and Social Survey (WESS), which highlights the links between climate and development such as the impact of climate hazards on people's livelihoods.<sup>318</sup> Specifically, development strategies aiming to promote socioeconomic progress tend to exclude the poor, the most vulnerable, and the marginalized.<sup>319</sup> Among the international community, the United Nations (UN) Commission for Social Development (CSocD) plays a central role in addressing climate change and inequality by promoting social development.<sup>320</sup> CSocD particularly endorses addressing the social dimensions of climate change, which can both promote social development and develop successful climate-resilient strategies.<sup>321</sup> Further, progress in achieving the 2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reducing inequality requires action such as mitigating and adapting to climate change.<sup>322</sup>

#### *International and Regional Framework*

Adopted in 1948, the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) laid the foundation for international human rights, which plays a significant role in achieving social progress and mitigating inequality by recognizing that all persons have rights regardless of their background.<sup>323</sup> The 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) affirmed the significant role that the environment plays in promoting human well-being and economic development.<sup>324</sup> The *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment* (1972), also known as the *Stockholm Declaration*, further stressed the responsibility that both developing and developed countries carry in protecting and improving the environment.<sup>325</sup>

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<sup>311</sup> UN DESA, *World Economic and Social Survey 2016: Climate Change Resilience: An Opportunity for Reducing Inequalities*, 2016, p. 1.

<sup>312</sup> UNFCCC, *Fact Sheet: Climate Change science – the status of climate change science today*, 2011, p. 1.

<sup>313</sup> Pozarny, *Climate change and social development*, 2016, p. 4.

<sup>314</sup> UN DPI, *Climate Action: Why it Matters*, 2015, pp. 1-2.

<sup>315</sup> Pozarny, *Climate change and social development*, 2016, p. 3.

<sup>316</sup> UN DESA, *World Economic and Social Survey 2016: Climate Change Resilience: An Opportunity for Reducing Inequalities*, 2016, p. 25.

<sup>317</sup> UN General Assembly, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015, p. 3.

<sup>318</sup> UN DESA, *World Economic and Social Survey 2016: Climate Change Resilience: An Opportunity for Reducing Inequalities*, 2016, p. 25.

<sup>319</sup> UN DESA, *World Economic and Social Survey 2016: Climate Change Resilience: An Opportunity for Reducing Inequalities*, 2016.

<sup>320</sup> UN CSocD, *Agenda Item 3 (a), priority theme: "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world,"* 2015, p. 6.

<sup>321</sup> UN DESA, *Climate Change and Social Development*, 2015.

<sup>322</sup> UN CSocD, *Agenda Item 3 (a), Priority Theme: "Rethinking and Strengthening Social Development in the Contemporary World,"* 2015, p. 6.

<sup>323</sup> UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217A (III))*, 1948.

<sup>324</sup> UN Conference on the Human Environment, *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment*, 1972, p. 3.

<sup>325</sup> *Ibid.*

In 1992, the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) adopted the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, which was built on existing international agreements that highlighted the need to protect the global environment for development.<sup>326</sup> The Rio Declaration acknowledges the importance of including various social groups in environmental protection and development processes and the protection of the environment and natural resources for marginalized groups.<sup>327</sup> UNCED also resulted in the creation of *Agenda 21*, which focuses on elements of sustainable development, including an emphasis on the particular vulnerability of some Member States to climate change.<sup>328</sup> The need to include all social groups in reaching sustainable development is further acknowledged in the 1995 *Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development*, an outcome document from the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD).<sup>329</sup> Specifically, the Copenhagen Declaration emphasizes that people should be placed at the center in working towards sustainable development.<sup>330</sup>

2015 resulted in several international agreements in regards to climate change and inequality, as well as sustainable development more broadly, including General Assembly resolution 70/1, also known as the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.<sup>331</sup> The 2030 Agenda includes 17 objectives, the SDGs, which have over 150 targets.<sup>332</sup> Most relevant to the topic of climate change and inequality are SDGs 1, 8, 10 and 13, which focus on issues such as poverty, economic growth, reducing inequalities within and between Member States, and climate change.<sup>333</sup> Other notable international agreements in 2015 include the *Paris Agreement* and the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*.<sup>334</sup>

The *Paris Agreement*, which was adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP) to the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), commits its State parties to the common goal of mitigating climate change and its consequences, paving a new path in global climate efforts.<sup>335</sup> In addition, the *Paris Agreement* recognizes that an effective and progressive response to climate change requires immediate action, including promoting the rights of various social groups unequally impacted by climate change, such as children, women, and indigenous persons.<sup>336</sup> Further, to effectively address climate change and its uneven impacts requires a long-term response that protects individuals, livelihoods, and the environment, simultaneously.<sup>337</sup> The *Paris Agreement* also highlights the need to approach climate change in a gender-responsive and inclusive way.<sup>338</sup>

At the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), Member States reaffirmed their commitment to reducing disaster risks, which occurs as a result of climate change, through the Sendai Framework.<sup>339</sup> The Framework stresses that reducing disaster risks and climate change requires special attention to people disproportionately affected.<sup>340</sup> The Sendai Framework also emphasizes the importance of a more inclusive approach to disaster risk and encourages cooperation between national governments and various social groups.<sup>341</sup> Overall, the implementation of inclusive measures can further reduce vulnerability to climate risk and strengthen response and recovery to disasters.<sup>342</sup>

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<sup>326</sup> UNCED, *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, 1992.

<sup>327</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.

<sup>328</sup> UNCED, *Agenda 21*, 1992.

<sup>329</sup> UN WSSD, *Report of the World Summit for Social Development (A/CONF.166/9)*, 1995.

<sup>330</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>331</sup> UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

<sup>332</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 14.

<sup>333</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>334</sup> COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015.

<sup>335</sup> COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015.

<sup>336</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1.

<sup>337</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 9.

<sup>338</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>339</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 7.

<sup>340</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>341</sup> UN General Assembly, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015, p. 4.

<sup>342</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6.

### *Role of the International System*

In 2014, CSocD held a high-level panel meeting on “the social drivers of sustainable development,” which discussed the ways in which social initiatives can support the social, economic, and political pillars of sustainable development.<sup>343</sup> This discussion highlighted that addressing climate change and expanding the scope of social policy can effectively reduce inequalities and achieve inclusive growth.<sup>344</sup> At the body’s 53<sup>rd</sup> session in 2015, CSocD discussed the need for the international community to address the social dimensions of climate change, which can open up opportunities to mitigate inequality.<sup>345</sup> In 2016, at the 54<sup>th</sup> session, CSocD emphasized that empowering people, especially those most vulnerable, can be a key strategy to achieving inclusive economic growth and effectively addressing environmental challenges.<sup>346</sup> At the 55<sup>th</sup> session in 2017, CSocD also highlighted the importance of promoting the rights of groups such as youth and indigenous persons in achieving sustainable development.<sup>347</sup> Further, CSocD stressed that inclusive policies are necessary in order to not only reduce inequalities, but also fully implement the 2030 Agenda.<sup>348</sup>

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) also address climate change and inequality; one effort to do so is the UN Poverty-Environment Initiative (UN-PEI), which aims to promote economic policies that support those living in poverty, while taking into account environmental sustainability.<sup>349</sup> UN-PEI partners with national governments to better understand, and act on, the linkages between environmental sustainability and poverty reduction.<sup>350</sup> For example, UN-PEI helps Member States integrate green economy approaches, which fosters sustainable economic development, through managing the risks of climate change by directing natural resources to improve the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable.<sup>351</sup> UN-PEI also works to reduce inequality by promoting gender and human rights principles, particularly promoting nondiscrimination and empowerment.<sup>352</sup>

In addition, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) play an important role in addressing climate change and inequality.<sup>353</sup> UNICEF underscored the importance of a child-centered approach in addressing climate change in their 2015 report titled *Children and the Changing Climate: Taking Action to Save Lives*.<sup>354</sup> In accordance with the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (1995), UN-Women works to ensure the involvement of women in the creation of environmental policies and programs, as well as creating ways to measure the effect of development and environmental policies on women.<sup>355</sup>

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) also plays a major role in addressing climate change and inequality.<sup>356</sup> Specifically, UNISDR recognizes climate change as a key driver of disasters, and stresses the need to improve climate adaptation and risk reduction efforts.<sup>357</sup> In its 2015 *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*, UNISDR noted that disaster risk is not distributed evenly around the world, but shows that exposure and vulnerability to disasters vary as a result of different risk drivers.<sup>358</sup> In addition, in relation to the Sendai Framework, UNISDR encourages Member States and the international community to reduce disaster risk by strengthening the

<sup>343</sup> UN CSocD, *High-Level Panel Discussion on Emerging Issues: the social drivers of sustainable development*, 2014, p. 1.

<sup>344</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>345</sup> UN CSocD, *Agenda Item 3 (a), priority theme: “Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world,”* 2015, p. 6.

<sup>346</sup> UN CSocD, *Emerging issues: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: moving from commitments to results for achieving social development (E/CN.5/2016/4)*, 2015, pp. 2-4.

<sup>347</sup> UN CSocD, *Report on the fifty-fifth session (E/2017/26)*, 2017, p. 4.

<sup>348</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>349</sup> UN PEI, *About the Poverty-Environment Initiative*, 2015.

<sup>350</sup> UNDP & UNEP, *Joint UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative 2013-2017*, 2013, p. 15.

<sup>351</sup> UNDP & UNEP, *Annual Progress Report 2016*, 2016, pp. 56-58.

<sup>352</sup> UNDP & UNEP, *Joint UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative 2013-2017*, 2013, p. 17.

<sup>353</sup> UNICEF UK, *Children and the Changing Climate: Taking Action to Save Lives*, 2015, p. 2; UN Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.

<sup>354</sup> UNICEF UK, *Children and the Changing Climate: Taking Action to Save Lives*, 2015, p. 2.

<sup>355</sup> UN Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.

<sup>356</sup> UNISDR, *Sustainable Development*.

<sup>357</sup> Glasser, *Climate Change is Key Driver of Disasters*, UNISDR, 2017.

<sup>358</sup> UNISDR, *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2015, p. 58.

development and implementation of inclusive policies, such as empowering individuals disproportionately impacted by disasters.<sup>359</sup>

### ***Poverty and the Environment***

The poverty-environment nexus refers to the relationship between the environment, natural resources, and human and economic development.<sup>360</sup> Nearly 700 million people around the world live on only \$1.90 or less per day, and many of these individuals have their incomes based upon natural resources.<sup>361</sup> However, environmental and natural resources also are impacted by climate change, which can have significant economic and social repercussions for the poor.<sup>362</sup> Persons living in poverty are especially vulnerable because they often lack the ability to address the impacts of climate change.<sup>363</sup> Moreover, continuous environmental degradation will worsen poverty, hunger, and economic inequality.<sup>364</sup>

In 2002, several organizations, including the World Bank and UNDP, drafted *Linking Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management*.<sup>365</sup> This identified several key areas for policy action to improve the environment and reduce poverty, one of which includes strengthening the capacity of the poor to manage the environment.<sup>366</sup> The Poverty-Environment Partnership (PEP) was also started in 2002, which is a network committed to reduce poverty and promote climate resilience and environmental sustainability.<sup>367</sup> PEP recognizes the link between environmental sustainability and poverty reduction that was mentioned in *Linking Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management*.<sup>368</sup> Moreover, inequality continues to be of international concern, as it hinders both poverty reduction and sustainability in regards to the environment.<sup>369</sup> Further, according to data provided by the World Bank, nearly 100 million people will fall into poverty by the year 2030 without climate-sensitive development policies and strategies.<sup>370</sup>

In response to the issue of poverty and the environment, the international community is beginning to adopt green economy strategies that focus on improving human well-being and social equity, as well as mitigating climate change.<sup>371</sup> An inclusive green economy also aims to improve the use of resources while reducing the impacts of climate change.<sup>372</sup> Moreover, sustainable use of environmental resources acts as a safety net against the social and economic consequences of climate change, and protects the livelihoods of the poor.<sup>373</sup> For example, green economy strategies include social protection, which aims to ensure access to basic goods and services by removing social and economic barriers.<sup>374</sup> With improved resource efficiency and healthier ecosystems, the poor are able to have greater access to social and economic opportunities and have a way out of poverty.<sup>375</sup>

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<sup>359</sup> UN General Assembly, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015, p. 19.

<sup>360</sup> Rahman, *Environment-Poverty Nexus: A Global Overview*, 2000, pp. 1-2; UN DESA, *Policy Brief #45: The nexus between climate change and inequalities*, 2016, p. 1.

<sup>361</sup> UNDP & UNEP, *Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development*, 2015, pp. 9-10; The World Bank Group, *FAQs: Global Poverty Line Update*, 2015.

<sup>362</sup> Rahman, *Environment-Poverty Nexus: A Global Overview*, 2000, pp. 1-2.

<sup>363</sup> UNDP & UNEP, *Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development*, 2015, pp. 9-10.

<sup>364</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 13.

<sup>365</sup> The World Bank et al., *Linking Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management*, 2002.

<sup>366</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 27-37.

<sup>367</sup> PEP, *About*, 2017.

<sup>368</sup> PEP, *Getting to Zero*, 2016.

<sup>369</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 19.

<sup>370</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>371</sup> UNEP, *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication: A Synthesis for Policy Makers*, 2011, p. 1.

<sup>372</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>373</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>374</sup> UNTT, *Social protection: A development priority in the post-2015 UN development agenda*, 2012, p. 6.

<sup>375</sup> PEP, *Building an Inclusive Green Economy for All*, 2013, pp. 12-14.

## *Climate Change and Vulnerability*

Climate change, extreme weather events, and the uneven distribution of their impacts often pose the largest threat to the least developed states and vulnerable communities due to their limited ability to adapt and cope.<sup>376</sup> Existing structural inequalities, such as discrimination based on factors like gender and race, also affect the ability of social groups to adapt to and address the consequences of climate change.<sup>377</sup> Some of the most vulnerable groups to climate change include those living in small-island developing states (SIDS), women and children, and indigenous persons.<sup>378</sup>

### *SIDS*

Despite contributing to less than one percent of all GHG emissions, SIDS are among the most affected by climate change.<sup>379</sup> In particular, the rise in sea levels and natural disasters pose the largest threat to the environment and sustainable development of SIDS.<sup>380</sup> Both sea level rise and natural disasters often exacerbate the socioeconomic and environmental vulnerability of SIDS, since many of the individuals living in these areas rely heavily on coastal ecosystems for food and livelihoods.<sup>381</sup> For example, when a significant portion of a population is affected by natural disasters, there can be long-lasting consequences for recovery and overall development.<sup>382</sup> Each social group, having different priorities and facing different challenges, experience uneven impacts in situations of disaster and emergency.<sup>383</sup> However, these unique priorities and challenges are sometimes not included in development policies, leaving the needs of vulnerable groups overlooked or ignored in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.<sup>384</sup> The *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway* (2014) in particular recognizes that strengthening disaster preparedness and response, as well as emergency relief, is especially important for those living in SIDS.<sup>385</sup>

In addition, the rise in sea levels from climate change continues to threaten the livelihoods of many individuals living in SIDS.<sup>386</sup> Specifically, SIDS rely heavily on fisheries and tourism, which provide for the livelihoods of many individuals.<sup>387</sup> A significant challenge to the tourism industry is ocean acidification, or increased concentrations of carbon dioxide in oceans, which leads to the degradation of coral reef ecosystems.<sup>388</sup> If current declines in coral reefs continue, there can be significant socioeconomic consequences for those in the tourism industry, and this will also hinder sustainable development.<sup>389</sup> However, ocean acidification is only one of the many issues faced by SIDS.<sup>390</sup> More broadly, strategies to reduce the consequences of climate change in SIDS must include the conservation and restoration of coastal ecosystems.<sup>391</sup>

### *Women and Children*

Unequal power relations and structural and social barriers can place women in vulnerable situations and limit their capacity to effectively respond to the impacts of climate change.<sup>392</sup> Specific challenges faced by women include a

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<sup>376</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*, 2014, pp. 12-13.

<sup>377</sup> UN DESA, *World Economic and Social Survey 2016: Climate Change Resilience: an opportunity for reducing inequalities*, 2016, p. 24.

<sup>378</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 26-32.

<sup>379</sup> UN OHRLLS, *Small Island Developing States in Numbers: Climate Change Edition 2015*, 2015, p. 18.

<sup>380</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 18-19.

<sup>381</sup> UNEP, *Emerging Issues for Small Island Developing States: Results of the UN Foresight Process*, 2014, p. 41.

<sup>382</sup> Fowler, Risks to Small Island Developing States spotlighted, *UNISDR*, 2017.

<sup>383</sup> PIF, *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP) 2017-2030: Voluntary Guidelines for the Pacific Island Region*, 2016, p. 15.

<sup>384</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>385</sup> UN Conference on SIDS, *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Actions (S.A.M.O.A.) Pathway*, 2014.

<sup>386</sup> UN OHRLLS, *Small Island Developing States in Numbers: Climate Change Edition 2015*, 2015, p. 20.

<sup>387</sup> UN Ocean Conference, *Partnership dialogue 5: Increasing economic benefits to small islands developing States and least developed countries and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets*, 2017, pp. 2-3.

<sup>388</sup> UN DESA DSD, *Ocean Acidification: A Hidden Risk for Sustainable Development*, p. 1.

<sup>389</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>390</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>391</sup> UNEP, *Emerging Issues for Small Island Developing States: Results of the UN Foresight Process*, 2014, p. 42.

<sup>392</sup> UN-Women & MRF, *The Full View: Ensuring a comprehensive approach to the UNFCCC Process*, 2016, p. 10.

lack of access to resources, political exclusion, and forms of social marginalization such as discrimination.<sup>393</sup> For example, the livelihoods of women in the agricultural sector continue to be threatened by climate change, which results in a lack of food sources derived from the natural environment.<sup>394</sup> Moreover, despite the important role women play in combating climate change, the potential lack of inclusion of women in the development of climate change policies is still a significant challenge to addressing their needs in the context of climate change.<sup>395</sup>

Despite international efforts and actions on climate change, such as the development of programs to help communities adapt to its impacts, inadequate attention is given to the impacts of climate change on children.<sup>396</sup> As a result of climate change, the most disadvantaged children often live in poor living environments, which can pose a number of challenges including a lack of access to adequate health, education, and safety.<sup>397</sup> For example, household air pollution results in more than half a million deaths of children less than five years old due to respiratory infections on an annual basis.<sup>398</sup> Further, extreme climate events, such as droughts and heat waves, can create consequences for children, including being removed from school.<sup>399</sup> Reducing inequality among children requires promoting their resilience to climate change and its impacts.<sup>400</sup> UNICEF has recommended increasing access of basic services to the poorest children as a means to respond to the effects of climate change.<sup>401</sup>

### *Indigenous Peoples*

For the majority of indigenous populations, climate change is not only a significant threat to their existence, but also a major issue of human rights and equity.<sup>402</sup> In particular, indigenous peoples highly depend on natural resources and ecosystems, making them especially susceptible to climate change.<sup>403</sup> Climate change also exacerbates the challenges faced by indigenous peoples, which include political and economic marginalization, and discrimination and unemployment.<sup>404</sup> For example, indigenous peoples in the Arctic depend on hunting, fishing, and gathering natural resources for supporting the local economy and providing a foundation for their cultural and social identity.<sup>405</sup> Yet, due to melting and freezing of snow and ice, indigenous peoples in the Arctic have less access to food, leading to decreased social and economic opportunities.<sup>406</sup> In addition, deforestation in developing Member States can result in displacement and migration of indigenous person to cities, many of whom may face increased discrimination.<sup>407</sup> In response to climate change impacts on indigenous persons, a number of UN agencies, including the UNDP, have encouraged the inclusion of indigenous persons in climate action plans, which can both improve the human rights of such individuals and mitigate the impacts of climate change generally.<sup>408</sup>

### *Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change*

Building resilience and adaptation to climate change and its impacts remain important for promoting development and reducing inequality, especially for the most vulnerable populations.<sup>409</sup> Climate change resilience and adaptation refers to the ability to predict hazards and absorb shocks, with the goal of reducing climate risks.<sup>410</sup> Some actions currently taken by the international community include approaching food security and addressing climate-related

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<sup>393</sup> UNEP, *Women at the Frontline of Climate Change: Gender Risks and Hopes*, 2011, p. 4.

<sup>394</sup> UN-WomenWatch, *Women, Gender Equality and Climate Change*, pp. 1-2.

<sup>395</sup> UN-Women, *Lakshmi Puri calls for strengthened women's participation in addressing climate change*, 2015.

<sup>396</sup> UNICEF, *UNICEF Strategic Framework on Environmental Sustainability for Children 2016-2017*, 2015, p. 1.

<sup>397</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>398</sup> UNICEF, *Environment and climate change: Sustainability and Children's Rights*, 2014.

<sup>399</sup> UNICEF, *Unless We Act Now: The impact of climate change on children*, 2015, p. 54.

<sup>400</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>401</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 66.

<sup>402</sup> UN DESA DSD, *Environment*.

<sup>403</sup> ILO, *Indigenous peoples and climate change: From victims to change agents through decent work*, 2016, p. 4.

<sup>404</sup> UNPFII, *Climate Change and indigenous peoples*, p. 1.

<sup>405</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>406</sup> UNPFII, *Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic Region*, p. 1.

<sup>407</sup> UNPFII, *Climate Change and indigenous peoples*, p. 1.

<sup>408</sup> UNDP, *Indigenous peoples take steps to have a voice in COP 21*, 2015.

<sup>409</sup> UN Secretary-General's Climate Resilience Initiative et al, *A2R: Anticipate, Absorb Reshape*, 2017, p. 2.

<sup>410</sup> UN DPI, *UN Secretary-General's initiative aims to strengthen climate resilience of the world's most vulnerable countries and people*, 2015.

extreme events and risks.<sup>411</sup> Through adopting these strategies, states and local communities can help reduce the occurrence of inequality caused by climate change.<sup>412</sup>

Promoting sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture remains important in addressing inequality because nearly two-thirds of the world's poor rely on agriculture for their income.<sup>413</sup> Moreover, climate-resilient agriculture can mitigate hunger and poverty, therefore generating sustainable and fair growth.<sup>414</sup> As a method of aiding the most vulnerable in the agricultural sector, the international community has adopted climate smart agriculture (CSA) strategies, such as reducing food loss and waste.<sup>415</sup> CSA builds upon sustainable agricultural practices, often considering the different social, economic, and environmental contexts of a certain location.<sup>416</sup> However, challenges still remain, as diverse groups of people experience climate change differently.<sup>417</sup> Some methods of addressing the challenges and risks of climate change include addressing gender discrimination in regards to resources and employment, as well as implementing social protection programs for smallholder farmers.<sup>418</sup>

Additionally, disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies can facilitate climate risk management and reduce losses and damages associated with the effects of climate change.<sup>419</sup> One common strategy of DRR is the early warning system (EWS), which aims to protect communities from disasters caused by climate change by issuing risk information before these events occur.<sup>420</sup> However, because socioeconomic factors lead to varied levels of vulnerability around the world, DRR strategies must be appropriate to local needs and conditions.<sup>421</sup> Moreover, many EWS may cover one geographical region, but not others.<sup>422</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Climate change and inequality continues to be a major barrier to achieving the 2030 Agenda, especially in regards to SDG 13 on climate change and SDG 10 on reducing inequalities within and between Member States.<sup>423</sup> Climate change threatens the livelihood of more than one-tenth of the global population and impedes sustainable development.<sup>424</sup> In particular, in 2015, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to reducing poverty, mitigating the effects of climate change, and achieving inclusive and equitable societies through the adoption of several international agreements addressing the issues of climate change and inequality.<sup>425</sup> Vulnerabilities to the consequences of climate change are often exacerbated as a result of structural inequalities, such as unequal access to physical and financial resources, and inequality in regards to political representation.<sup>426</sup> Further, in response to climate change and inequality, the international community has adopted resilience and adaptation strategies, which strive to facilitate a more inclusive future for all individuals.<sup>427</sup> CSocD continues to be a key actor in discussing

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<sup>411</sup> UNDP, *Climate and disaster resilience: Enhancing adaption and resilience*, 2017.

<sup>412</sup> UNDP, *Climate and disaster resilience: Protecting development gains*, 2017.

<sup>413</sup> FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture: Climate change, Agriculture and Food Security*, 2016, p. 2; The World Bank, *Future of Food: Shaping a Climate-Smart Global Food System*, 2016, p. 5.

<sup>414</sup> The World Bank, *Future of Food: Shaping a Climate-Smart Global Food System*, 2016, p. 5.

<sup>415</sup> FAO, *Climate-Smart Agriculture: Technical Reports*, 2017; The World Bank, *Future of Food: Shaping a Climate-Smart Global Food System*, 2016, p. 9.

<sup>416</sup> FAO, *Climate-Smart Agriculture: Technical Reports*, 2017; The World Bank, *Future of Food: Shaping a Climate-Smart Global Food System*, 2016.

<sup>417</sup> FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture: Climate change, Agriculture and Food Security*, 2016, pp. 47-48.

<sup>418</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 49, 56.

<sup>419</sup> UNISDR, *Briefing Note on the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 21) in Paris*, 2015, p. 2.

<sup>420</sup> Fowler, Early warning systems go global, *UNISDR*, 2017.

<sup>421</sup> UNEP & BMUB, *Early Warning as a Human Right: Building Resilience to Climate Related Hazards*, p. 4.

<sup>422</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

<sup>423</sup> UN DPI, *Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries*; UN DPI, *Sustainable Development Goal 13: Take Urgent Action to combat climate change and its impacts*.

<sup>424</sup> UN DPI, *Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*.

<sup>425</sup> UN General Assembly, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

<sup>426</sup> UN DESA, *World Economic and Social Survey 2016: Climate Change Resilience: an opportunity for reducing inequalities*, 2016.

<sup>427</sup> UNEP, *UN Secretary General's climate resilience initiative set to mobilize and accelerate climate action for sustainable development*, 2016.

climate change and inequality, stressing that addressing the social dimensions of climate change and inequality is crucial for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>428</sup>

### **Further Research**

While researching the topic, delegates are encouraged to consider the following: What can Member States do to reduce both the effects of climate change and inequality simultaneously? How can addressing climate change and inequality together help develop effective strategies for promoting social development? How can Member States effectively address the different needs of each social group in regards to addressing climate change and reducing inequality? What role can local communities, especially those most affected by climate change, play in mitigating the effects of climate change and inequality? What role can inclusive social development policies play in ensuring that all individuals, regardless of background and socioeconomic status, are able to resist the impacts of climate change? Additionally, how can CSocD help and guide the international community to address the issue of climate change and inequality?

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*This document summarizes the impacts of climate change. In addition, this summary for policymakers discusses vulnerability to climate change and the ways in which to adapt to its effects. This document is also important because of its discussion on the complexity between climate change and its relationship with socioeconomic processes. Further, the document looks at hazards, vulnerability, and exposure in relation to climate change. As delegates research concrete ideas to mitigate the impacts of climate change and inequality, they may find the third section on managing future risks and building resilience particularly helpful.*

Pozarny, P. (2016). *Climate change and social development*. Governance and Social Development Resource Centre. Retrieved 19 October 2017 from: [http://www.gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GSDRC\\_CC\\_SocDev.pdf](http://www.gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GSDRC_CC_SocDev.pdf)

*This document focuses on the link between climate change and social development. This guide consists of three major sections, one of which discusses climate change and social development; the section, “Understanding climate change as a social development issue,” will be especially important for the delegates, as it provides a general overview of climate change itself and highlights the importance of promoting social development in climate change policies.*

Rahman, A. (2000). *Environment-Poverty Nexus: A Global Overview*. Retrieved 25 August 2017 from: <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan019719.pdf>

*Although published in 2000, this document will be helpful to delegates because of the discussion on the linkages between the environment and poverty. In particular, this overview of the environment-poverty nexus shows that climate change is both a social and economic issue. Further, delegates will find some of the case studies useful as they research, which can provide deeper understanding of the ways in which environment and poverty are interconnected issues. Among the most helpful sections of this document also include its discussion of the relationship the global environment-poverty nexus has with the former Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and international development in general.*

United Nations, Commission for Social Development. (2014). *High-Level Panel Discussion on Emerging Issues: the social drivers of sustainable development* [Chair’s Summary]. Retrieved 24 August 2017 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csocd/2014/CSocD52ndsessionSummaryPaneldiscussionEmergingIssues.pdf>

*The Chair’s Summary on the high-level panel discussion highlighted the importance of the social dimensions of sustainable development. One key takeaway from this document is its emphasis on the role that social policies play in the achievement of sustainable development. In addition, the summary also brings attention to a few challenges, which include the need for addressing*

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<sup>428</sup> UN CSocD, *Agenda Item 3 (a), priority theme: “Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world,”* 2015, pp. 5-6.

*structural inequalities in order to promote growth and development for all persons, groups, and institutions. As a whole, it is important for delegates to read this document because of its focus on the social dimensions of sustainable development. Moreover, the summary can also help delegates understand the role of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) within the international community.*

United Nations, Commission for Social Development. (2015). *Agenda item 3 (a), priority theme: “Rethinking and strengthening social development in a contemporary world”* [Chair’s Summary]. Retrieved 15 July 2017 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/2015/chairsummary.pdf>

*Published in 2015 by CSocD, this document highlights the outcomes of the committee’s 53rd session. Important points from this document include Member States’ commitment to and reaffirmation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. Specifically, one of the key points to consider from this session is that challenges to social development are universal. As a whole, this document summarizes some of the most important issues currently faced by the international community. Further, because this summary highlights some of the most pressing issues regarding social development, delegates will find this resource helpful. In addition to discussing both climate change and inequality, a couple of other key issues that delegates may find useful include social inclusion and poverty reduction.*

United Nations, Commission for Social Development. (2017). *Report on the fifty-fifth session (E/2017/26)*. Retrieved 17 July 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/E/2017/26>

*This report provides a summary of the high-level panel and discussion of barriers and strategies to eradicate poverty. In particular, the report highlights that the effects of ongoing climate change continue to hinder global social and economic growth. In addition, the document also includes two relevant resolutions, which focus on partnerships for development in Africa and the inclusion of persons with disabilities. The report will be one of the most helpful resources for the delegates to further their understanding of the role CSocD plays in dealing with social development issues.*

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2016). *World Economic and Social Survey 2016: Climate Change Resilience: an opportunity for reducing inequalities* [Report]. Retrieved 22 August 2017 from: [https://wess.un.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/WESS\\_2016\\_Report.pdf](https://wess.un.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/WESS_2016_Report.pdf)

*Published in 2016 by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), this report focuses on the importance of mitigating climate change in reducing inequalities at the international level in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Overall, this document highlights the need to address the linkages between social development and the environment as a condition for sustainable development. Delegates will find this document the most helpful in having a clear and deep understanding of climate change and inequality.*

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Development Policy and Analysis Division. (2016). *Policy Brief #45: The Nexus between Climate Change and Inequalities*. Retrieved 18 July 2017 from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/WESS2016-PB2.pdf>

*This document highlights the link between climate change and inequalities. In particular, this policy brief shows climate change and inequality as interdependent, and multiple sources of inequality exacerbate the risk to climate change. This document will also be particularly helpful for delegates as it provides a simplified overview of the ways in which climate change and inequalities correlate with one another. Further, the policy brief also discusses the ways in which climate change and inequality can hinder progress on achieving the goals and targets outlined in the 2030 Agenda. Overall, the document will also be important for delegates to consider because the information provided can facilitate deeper understanding of the challenges of climate change and inequality.*

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*This fact sheet effectively provides a general overview of climate change. As a whole, this document provides the definition of climate change, as well as the effects of climate change on both ecosystems and development. Further, the fact sheet provides resources on climate change*

*impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability. For delegates, this document would be a good starting point for understanding the issue of climate change and its impacts.*

The World Bank Group, et al. (2002). *Linking Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management: Policy Challenges and Opportunities*. Retrieved 24 August 2017 from:

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*This World Bank document focuses on the linkages between poverty and the environment. Specifically focusing on the reduction of poverty and management of the environment, the document is comprised of two parts. First, the document discusses the importance of the environment to persons living in poverty. Second, the document highlights policy opportunities to reduce poverty and mitigate environmental degradation. This document will be helpful to delegates because of its thorough discussion of the linkages between poverty reduction and environmental management. In particular, delegates will find sections 1.3 on vulnerability and the environment and 2.2 on enhancing assets of those in poverty useful as they research climate change and inequality.*

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