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GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECOND COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND GUIDE 2018

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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 General Assembly Second Committee (GA2). This year's staff are: Directors Sara Calamitosi (Conference A) and Chase Mitchell (Conference B), and Assistant Directors Davina Basse (Conference A) and Marielisa Figuera (Conference B). Sara graduated with a Master's in Law at the University of Perugia in 2015 and currently works as an attorney in Italy. Chase earned his BBA in Economics and Global Business in 2015 and currently works as a Cost & Pricing Analyst for FHI 360. Davina is in her final year of a combined degree in Political Science and International Relations, and works in the library and archives at The Military Museums. Marielisa is from Venezuela. She is currently on her senior year at the University of Texas at Austin, where she is double majoring in International Relations and Latin American Studies.

The topics under discussion for the General Assembly Second Committee are:

1. Implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action
2. The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development
3. Sustainable Tourism for Poverty Eradication

The General Assembly (GA) is the main deliberative body and one of the principal organs of the United Nations. As the Economic and Financial committee of the GA, the Second Committee addresses topics of development and economic policy, including international trade, sustainable development, globalization, and the eradication of poverty, among others. The Second Committee makes recommendations to the General Assembly Plenary, initiates international conferences, and requests reports to advance the topics on its agenda. The nature of the topics addressed by Second Committee makes it one of the most collaborative UN bodies; the committee adopts a majority of its draft resolutions by consensus and without a recorded vote.

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 General Assembly Department, Sarah Walter (Conference A) and Clarissa Manning (Conference B), at usg.ga@nmun.org.

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

Conference A
Sara Calamitosi, Director
Davina Basse, Assistant Director

Conference B
Chase Mitchell, Director
Marielisa Figuera, Assistant Director

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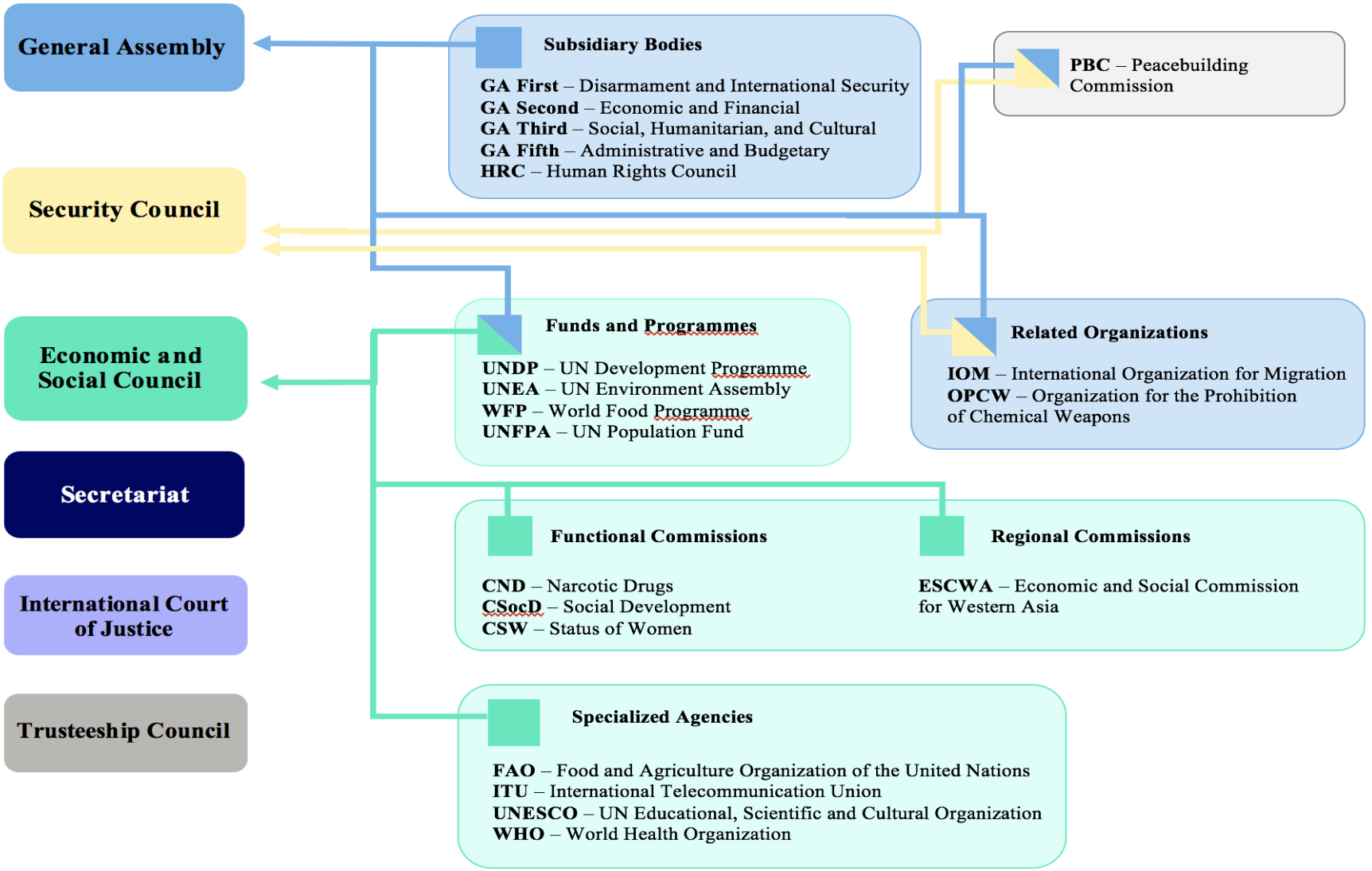
United Nations System at NMUN•NY

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

2030 Agenda	*2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*
AAAA	*Addis Ababa Action Agenda*
AU	African Union
BMZ	Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
COP21	21st Conference of the Parties
CPA	Country programmable aid
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Corporate social responsibility
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DFID	United Kingdom's Department for International Development
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign direct investment
GDP	Gross domestic product
Habitat III	United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development
HELI	Health and Environment Linkages Initiative
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
ILO	International Labor Organization
KOTAKU	Indonesia's National Slum Upgrading Program
LDC	Least developed country
LLDC	Landlocked developing country
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MNC	Multinational enterprise
NGO	Non-governmental organization
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SARS	Severe acute respiratory syndrome
SCP	Sustainable consumption and production
SCTD	UN Steering Committee on Tourism for Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SME	Small- and medium-sized enterprise
SSC	South-South cooperation
ST-EP	Sustainable Tourism-Eliminating Poverty
UN	United Nations
UN DESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDG	UN Development Group
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNFCCC	*United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNGC	UN Global Compact
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNISDR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
WTO	World Trade Organization

Habitat III	United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

Committee Overview

"We must provide ideas for the redesign of policies to strengthen the impact on poverty and in employment, and on the promotion of structural change for a more sustainable future for all."[1]

Introduction

The General Assembly Second Committee is one of the six Main Committees of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly.[2] Established as one of six principal organs during the foundation of the UN, the General Assembly remains a vital element of the organization.[3] This Committee Overview will briefly outline the history of the Second Committee, and provide a synopsis of its structure, governance, mandate, functions, and its work in recent and future sessions.

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

Following the Second World War, the UN was formed to prevent the outbreak of future wars by fostering peace and security among states and resolving pressing global issues including securing fundamental human rights.[4] Each of the General Assembly's Main Committees and the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) were tasked with focusing on specific issues to fulfill the UN's objectives, as outlined under Articles 55 to 60 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945).[5] While differing in their areas of focus, the Main Committees share similar arrangements in structure, governance, membership, functions, and powers.[6]

With a focus on economic and financial issues of both the international system and Member States, the Second Committee specifically addresses the promotion of development and economic growth, the reduction of global poverty levels, and the improvement of social conditions and living standards.[7] The Committee is instrumental in addressing the root causes of global economic instability and works with key actors, such as ECOSOC, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) of the World Bank Group to reduce structural problems in developing states and restore economic stability.[8]

With the rise of economic crises and financial issues across the international system in the past, the Second Committee has delegated some of its work to other key international organizations, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO).[9] With these devolved powers, the Committee has restructured its work by aligning its agenda with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) first, and with the new targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to ensure progress is made in achieving the goals and strengthening stability in the international system.[10] The Second Committee focuses on the causes and effects of crucial events, as well as their triggering factors, to prevent similar occurrences and to promote economic growth and development.[11] This ensures that the

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[1] UN DESA, *The UN General Assembly's Second Committee – economic and financial issues*, 2013.
[2] UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial*, 2017.
[3] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 55-60.
[4] *Ibid*.
[5] UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*.
[6] Ibid.
[7] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 55-60.
[8] UN DPI, *Proposal for Sovereign Debt Restructuring Framework among 6 Draft Texts Approved by Committee (GA/EF/3417)*, 2014; UN General Assembly & UN ECOSOC, *Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (New York, 14 and 15 April 2014) (A/69/83-E/2014/71)*, 2014.
[9] UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial*, 2017.
[10] UN DPI, *Regulation of Financial Institutions Critical to Avoiding Spread of Global Risk, Speaker Says as Second Committee Debates Economic Crisis (GA/EF/3386)*, 2013; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.
[11] UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial*, 2017.

Committee fulfills its role in maintaining economic stability, while offering a unique platform for Member States to generate new, innovative ideas while resolving existing issues.[12]

Governance, Structure, and Membership

Although its area of focus is different from other Main Committees, the Second Committee follows a similar structure with a plenary composition of 193 Member States, as well as a number of Observer States and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).[13] With the exception of Observer States and NGOs, each Member State in the General Assembly has one vote.[14] In recent years, the General Assembly has sought to move toward a model of achieving resolution by consensus rather than a formal vote to emphasize the importance of collaboration and cooperation among Member States.[15]

The General Assembly meets annually, beginning with the General Debate in the third week of September.[16] The agenda lays out the main areas for discussion by the Main Committees.[17] The allocation of items on the agenda to each of the Main Committees, including the Second Committee, is the responsibility of the General Committee.[18] The General Committee is formed by the President of the General Assembly and 22 Vice-Presidents from different regional blocs.[19] From January to September, the General Committee focuses on thematic debates, consultations, and meetings through organized working groups.[20] During these Committee sessions, Member States can discuss and address solutions to specific topics.[21]

As a part of the UN reporting structure, there are five primary types of organizations that report to the General Assembly and its six Main Committees: subsidiary bodies, funds and programs, research and training institutes, related organizations, and other entities.[22] The General Assembly receives and considers reports on ongoing topics and may take action on any of the items reported by these bodies, including ordering further study and investigation, creating a working group, or including it in documentation or resolutions drafted by the committee.[23] At the end of each year, the Second Committee submits a report to the General Assembly Plenary on each agenda item allocated to it, and the Plenary then considers each report and votes on the adoption of the included draft resolutions.[24] The General Assembly also considers reports from ECOSOC.[25] Importantly, while the General Assembly is the main deliberative and policy organ of the UN, its decisions are not legally binding upon Member States.[26]

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is an arm of the UN Secretariat that focuses on development.[27] Working closely with the Second Committee, it supports initiatives and resolutions related to the organization's future development goals.[28] Along with this, the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination provides the main operational and policy support for ECOSOC and the Second Committee on development issues.[29] It also prepares and advises the General Assembly on the periodic review of funding operational development

[12] UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial*, 2017.
[13] New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 12.
[14] UN General Assembly, *Functions and powers of the General Assembly*.
[15] Ibid.
[16] New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 17.
[17] UN General Assembly, *Agenda of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly (A/72/251)*, 2017.
[18] Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011.
[19] Ibid.
[20] UN General Assembly, *Past Sessions*.
[21] Ibid.
[22] UN DPI, *The United Nations System*, 2015.
[23] New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 12; UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *UN Documentation: General Assembly*, 2017.
[24] UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *UN Documentation: General Assembly*, 2017.
[25] UN ECOSOC, *Reports of ECOSOC to the General Assembly*.
[26] UN General Assembly, *Functions and powers of the General Assembly*.
[27] UN DESA, *About UN DESA*.
[28] Ibid.
[29] UN ECOSOC, *Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination*.

activities.[30] The Fifth Committee specifically works with the General Assembly and its Main Committees on budgetary allocations, especially where resolutions that require expenditures are passed.[31]

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

Articles 55 to 60 of the *Charter of the United Nations* outline the Committee's mandate, which includes addressing macroeconomic policy issues, such as international trade, external debt sustainability, and financing for development.[32] In line with this, the Second Committee plays a key role in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, by addressing sustainable development, globalization and interdependence, and poverty eradication.[33] Additionally, the Committee provides direction on special situations including least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and on the "permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources."[34]

As a normative body, the Second Committee works to develop norms and standards for the UN and helps implement these standards within Member States by supporting national legislation and policy.[35] The work of the Committee is chiefly substantive, with the exception of its mission on the revitalization of the General Assembly, where it aims to streamline the overall program of work including the possibility of biennial and thematic groups of agenda items, updating working methods, and reducing the number and length of draft resolutions.[36]

The Second Committee completes its work primarily through draft proposals and submissions of reports to the General Assembly as outlined in the committee's Organization of Work.[37] The Committee has the ability to convene relevant conferences and summits on the global development agenda, and usually comes to a consensus on votes.[38] Along with this, the Second Committee can request the Secretary-General to submit reports on significant issues and can host side events.[39] This is useful in fulfilling the Committee's role of encouraging, strengthening, and improving the implementation of Member States' commitments in relation to development targets and SDGs in particular.[40] Moreover, this power allows the Second Committee to take on more of an effective role and concentrate on resolving numerous issues through these devolved powers.[41]

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

Over recent years, the Second Committee has addressed many crucial international documents, such as the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)* (AAAA), adopted at the end of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (2015), which introduces a new approach to financing systems to support sustainable development.[42] In particular, at its 70th session in 2015, the Second Committee reaffirmed this document's commitments in draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.69, titled "International trade and development."[43] The Committee adopted another crucial draft resolution expressing profound alarm over global climate change, in accordance with the statements contained in the outcome document of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), which is known as the *Paris Agreement*.[44]

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[30] Ibid.
[31] UN General Assembly, *Administrative & Budgetary (Fifth Committee). About the Fifth Committee*.
[32] UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial*, 2017.
[33] Ibid.
[34] Ibid.
[35] UNEG, *UNEG Handbook for Conducting Evaluations of Normative Work in the UN System*, 2014.
[36] UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial*, 2017.
[37] UN General Assembly, *Organization of work of the Second Committee: Note by the Secretariat (A/C.2/71/L.1)*, 2016.
[38] Ibid.
[39] New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017.
[40] UN General Assembly, *Organization of work of the Second Committee: Note by the Secretariat (A/C.2/71/L.1)*, 2016.
[41] Ibid.
[42] UN Third International Conference on Financing for Development, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda*, 2015.
[43] UN DPI, *Concluding Its Session, Second Committee Unanimously Approves 18 Resolutions (GA/EF/3444)*, 2015.
[44] UN DPI, *Draft Resolution Expressing 'Profound Alarm' over Global Rise in Greenhouse Gas Emissions among 14 Texts Approved by Second Committee*, 2015.

During its 71st session, the Second Committee discussed upon other topics, most of which are strictly related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.[45] At the end of the session, the Committee approved eight draft resolutions.[46] Among these, the General Assembly approved resolution 71/464, on the "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)."[47] With this document, the body recognized the crucial role of sustainable urbanization in development and requested the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly with a report on Habitat III's *New Urban Agenda* every four years, starting from 2018.[48]

Another draft resolution during the 71st session focused on the positive effects of sustainable tourism for development, titled "Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection."[49] The draft, adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 71/240, highlights the multiple benefits originating from a different approach to tourism: from women empowerment to maintaining cultural diversity, the body emphasized the impact of sustainable tourism on development and poverty eradication.[50] Along these lines, the Second Committee approved a draft resolution on management of water resources and declared 2018-2028 the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development," then adopted as General Assembly resolution 71/222.[51] Furthermore, the body approved other draft resolutions addressing topics including biological diversity, food security, and climate change.[52]

Overall, during the most recent sessions the Second Committee focused its attention on the implementation of SDGs.[53] The Committee has just begun the discussion on this year's agenda, but several topics have already come to Member States' attention, like the crucial role of the implementation of financial commitments in the eradication of poverty.[54] Indeed, considering the agenda approved for the General Assembly 72nd session and the provisional agenda for the years to come, the Committee will still approach the debate on development addressing together economic, environmental, and social aspects, promoting economic growth combined with among others matters related to ensuring modern energy for all, women empowerment, and food security.[55]

Conclusion

As an essential component to the functioning of the UN, the role and work of the Second Committee is critical to addressing fundamental priorities such as the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.[56] The Second Committee

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[45] UN DPI, *Second Committee Approves 6 Draft Resolutions, including Texts on Debt Sustainability, Food Security, as It Concludes Session (GA/EF/3469)*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *Administrative & Budgetary (Fifth Committee). Proposed Strategic Framework for the period 2017-2018*.

[46] Ibid.

[47] Ibid., UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/71/464)*, 2016.

[48] UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/71/464)*, 2016.

[49] UN General Assembly, *Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection (A/RES/71/240)*, 2016.

[50] Ibid., UN DPI, *Second Committee Approves Three Draft Resolutions on Benefits of Sustainable Tourism, Gastronomy, Development Support for Small Island State (GA/ EF/3466)*, 2016.

[51] UN General Assembly, *International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 (A/RES/71/222)*, 2016.

[52] UN General Assembly, *Second Committee: Reports to the Plenary*, 2016.

[53] UN DPI, *Second Committee Approves 6 Draft Resolutions, including Texts on Debt Sustainability, Food Security, as It Concludes Session (GA/EF/3469)*, 2016.

[54] UN DPI, *Second Committee Must Focus on Overarching Objective of Tackling Poverty, Structural Needs, Delegates Say as General Debate Begins*, 2017.

[55] UN General Assembly, *Agenda of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly (A/72/251)*, 2017; UN General Assembly, *Second Committee: List of draft proposals*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *Allocation of agenda items to the Second Committee (A/C.2/72/1)*, 2017.

[56] UN DPI, *Regulation of Financial Institutions Critical to Avoiding Spread of Global Risk, Speaker Says as Second Committee Debates Economic Crisis (GA/EF/3386)*, 2013; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration*

continues to consolidate its objectives and streamline its work with the overarching goal of stabilizing the international financial system and making progress toward development.[57] In line with the recently adopted SDGs, the Committee has sought to foster innovative ideas by attempting to combine sustainable growth with meeting development targets.[58] Moreover, the Second Committee must utilize emerging trends, patterns, and innovative ideas to discover new and effective solutions to ongoing challenges of sustainability.[59] Many challenges remain for the Second Committee, with the need to emphasize economic, social, cultural, and environmental benefits of sustainable urbanization and tourism among them.[60] Yet, as this vision is developed and deployed across the organization, the Second Committee will continue to play a pivotal role in securing a more integrated and accountable approach in achieving these objectives.

Annotated Bibliography

New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2017). *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*. Retrieved 28 September 2017 from: https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Peace-and-Security/United_Nations_Handbook_2017_18.pdf

This handbook provides a comprehensive look at the UN and its principal organs and committees. Delegates can find a detailed explanation of the structure, processes, and procedures of the Main Committees of the General Assembly in this source. The breakdown of the structure, membership, and functionality of these committees can be a useful point for delegates to begin their research and gain an overall understanding of where the committee falls within the UN framework.

Switzerland, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations. (2011). *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*. Retrieved 28 September 2017 from: http://www.unitar.org/ny/sites/unitar.org.ny/files/UN_PGA_Handbook.pdf

This guide is a practical introduction to the General Assembly, its different committees, and their relationship with each other and different UN system actors. It should provide delegates with a solid, comprehensive, and insightful way to leverage the UN system and staff to its full potential in finding solutions to the issues on the committee's agenda. Its straightforward and practical language provides useful technical information.

United Nations, General Assembly. (n.d.). *Administrative & Budgetary (Fifth Committee). Proposed Strategic Framework for the period 2017-2018* [Website]. Retrieved 28 September 2017 from: https://www.un.org/en/ga/fifth/70/Prop_strat_framework_2018-2019.html

This source provides a proposal of the strategic framework for 2017-2018. That includes detail on programs such as Economic and Social Council Affairs, Human Settlements, plus Trade and Development, among others. This is useful to delegates by making them more aware of current trends and goals of the UN in the coming years. Moreover, the individual proposals of each topic allow delegates to gather what direction the UN is taking and consider this while drafting solutions to global issues. Delegates can thus approach the topics with more of a realistic scope and improve the quality of their work.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2017). *Allocation of agenda items to the Second Committee: Note by the Secretariat (A/C.2/72/1)*. Retrieved 28 September 2017 from: http://undocs.org/A/C.2/72/1

This resource provides delegates with the General Assembly Second Committee agenda and schedule for the 72nd session. This agenda allows delegates to have an immediate overview of the

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(A/RES/55/2), 2000; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

[57] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 55-60; UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial*, 2017.

[58] UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial*, 2017; UN DPI, *Second Committee Approves 6 Draft Resolutions, including Texts on Debt Sustainability, Food Security, as It Concludes Session (GA/EF/3469)*, 2016.

[59] Ibid.

[60] UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/71/464)*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection (A/RES/71/240)*, 2016.

topics which are going to be discussed by the Committee in the next months. By studying the schedule of the next meeting of the Second Committee, delegates will be able to understand the objectives and goals of this Committee. At the same time, it will be possible to appreciate the continuous attention to certain topics, and other topics under discussion, as well. Furthermore, delegates will also realize the current relevance of the topics that will be discussed at NMUN in 2018.

United Nations, General Assembly. (2017). *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)* [Website]. Retrieved 28 September 2017 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml

This source is the official website of the Second Committee. It represents the main platform used by the Committee to give information about its role, functions and mandate, other than publish its activities and initiatives. Exploring this resource delegates might deepen their knowledge on the previous sessions of this body, and stay updated on the new draft resolutions which are going to be approved by the end of the year.

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United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2014, December 5). *Proposal for Sovereign Debt Restructuring Framework among 6 Draft Texts Approved by Committee (GA/EF/3417)* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 28 September 2017 from: http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/gaef3417.doc.htm

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 10). *Draft Resolution Expressing 'Profound Alarm' over Global Rise in Greenhouse Gas Emissions among 14 Texts Approved by Second Committee (GA/EF/3443)* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 28 September 2017 from: http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/gaef3443.doc.htm

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 14). *Concluding Its Session, Second Committee Unanimously Approves 18 Resolutions (GA/EF/3444)* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 20 September 2017 from: http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/gaef3444.doc.htm

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United Nations, General Assembly & Economic and Social Council. (2014). *Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (New York, 14 and 15 April 2014) (A/69/83-E/2014/71)*. Retrieved 28 September 2017 from: http://undocs.org/A/69/83

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I. Implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action

"There are now more than one billion people who go to bed hungry every night and billions without access to quality water, sanitation or energy. Thus, aid effectiveness is more than a moral imperative, it is a task of great economic urgency. But we still have a long way to go."[61]

Introduction

Since before the inception of the United Nations (UN), the international community has discussed how to provide assistance to states in need and to advance global development.[62] The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) is the newest and largest development framework, encompassing 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 targets designed to advance the whole of human development.[63] To achieve such an ambitious set of goals and targets, the international community has recognized that financial resources must be mobilized, in an effective and efficient manner.[64] Development cooperation, aid, or official development assistance (ODA) refers to funds provided by governments to promote the development and welfare of developing countries.[65] How aid has been used has often depended on the context.[66] In the aftermath of the Second World War, massive levels of development assistance were provided to rebuild Europe.[67] In the modern context, aid is often used to help promote economic independence, provide humanitarian relief, or achieve other developmental goals.[68] In any context, there have long been varied opinions on how to approach ODA, especially between donors and recipients.[69] There are differing opinions as to who should control aid and in what manner it should be controlled, and analysis has shown that if aid is provided ineffectively, it can increase corruption, bureaucracy, and debt while harming democratic systems, independence, and local businesses.[70] Over time, the international community has developed frameworks to maximize the benefits of aid.[71] Core among these frameworks are the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* (2005) and the *Accra Agenda for Action* (2008), outcome documents from the High Level Fora on Aid Effectiveness that lay out principles and methods meant to improve the experience of donors and recipients alike.[72] The extent to which these frameworks have been implemented and achieved their desired effects is varied, but the international community continues to regularly discuss methods of improving the effectiveness of development cooperation.[73]

International and Regional Framework

The 1980s, and sometimes the 1990s, are referred to as the "lost decade" in the context of development due to realities of worsening socio-economic situations in many less developed states.[74] This was in part due to political and health situations, including rising levels of conflict, famine, and HIV/AIDS, but the cause of developmental regression is partially attributed to levels of aid and debt relief that were not increasing and persistent aid paradigms that focused on donor political or commercial interests rather than responding to the needs of local people in recipient countries.[75] These realities were in part acknowledged in the *Millennium Declaration* (2000), which led to the creation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but were addressed more directly at the 2002

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[61] OECD, *Aid effectiveness: From words to action*, 2011.
[62] Führer, *The Story of Official Development Assistance: A History of the Development Assistance Committee and the Development Cooperation Directorate in Dates, Names, and Figures*, 1996, p. 4.
[63] UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 1.
[64] Ibid., p. 15.
[65] OECD, *Official development assistance-definition and coverage*, 2017.
[66] Kharas, *Development Assistance in the 21st Century*, 2009, p. 2.
[67] Ibid.
[68] Abugre, Why foreign aid is important for Africa, *CNN*, 2010.
[69] Apodaca, *Foreign Aid as Foreign Policy Tool*, 2017.
[70] Swanson, Why trying to help poor countries might actually hurt them, *Washington Post*, 2015.
[71] OECD, *The High Level Fora on Aid Effectiveness: A history*, 2017.
[72] Ibid.
[73] Apodaca, *Foreign Aid as Foreign Policy Tool*, 2017.
[74] Ridley, The 1980s was a 'lost decade' for development in..., *United Press International*, 1989; Elliott, The lost decade, *The Guardian*, 2003.
[75] Ibid., Swanson, Why trying to help poor countries might actually hurt them, *Washington Post*, 2015.

International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico.[76] The outcome of the conference, the *Monterrey Consensus* (2002), marked a major shift in how the international community viewed development aid.[77] Not only did donor states pledge to contribute 0.7% of their gross national income as ODA, they also committed to adapt aid to each recipient's needs and work to improve its effectiveness.[78] It was in this context that the First High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness was held in Rome in 2003.[79] The outcome of the forum, the *Rome Declaration on Harmonization* (2003), is a concise document that laid the basic framework for improving the effectiveness of aid, including by: harmonizing standards for the delivery of aid; streamlining procedures; aligning recipient needs and plans with donor contributions; and regularly reviewing methods to improve aid effectiveness.[80]

The international community worked swiftly to expand the basic framework outlined by the Rome Declaration, hosting two additional high-level fora within six years, one in 2005 in Paris, France and the other in 2008 in Accra, Ghana.[81] The Second High Level Forum produced the Paris Declaration, a landmark document in that it committed donors and recipients to improve aid effectiveness by adhering to five principles:

- Ownership, meaning that developing countries set their own strategies for poverty reduction, improve their institutions and tackle corruption;
- Alignment by donor countries behind local objectives and using local systems;
- Harmonization among donors to simplify procedures, share information, and avoid duplication;
- Results and measurement of development outcomes; and
- Mutual accountability of donors and recipients.[82]

The Paris Declaration established a total of 56 commitments in line with these principles, along with 12 country-level indicators to track progress over time.[83] These indicators are, in part, what allowed the international community to quickly recognize that there was need for a more robust aid effectiveness framework that focused on results and meeting the MDGs.[84] In Ghana in 2008, more than 100 states gathered to develop the Accra Agenda, which was referred to as "the product of an unprecedented alliance for development."[85] The Accra Agenda proposed four core areas for improvement in aid effectiveness: ownership, meaning that countries should control their own development; inclusive partnerships between all partners – not only traditional donors but also emerging donors and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs); delivering results; and capacity development.[86] The document outlines how the international community intended to increase aid's value for money, including by increasing transparency and accountability and removing conditionality from aid.[87]

The fourth and final High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness was held in Busan, Korea, in 2011.[88] The outcome document, the *Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation* (2011), was meant to overlay the principles built up by the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda while recognizing the modern realities of South-South cooperation (SSC), the increasing role of emerging economies in development aid, and the growing importance of CSOs and private funders.[89] The aid effectiveness principles have also been incorporated into other international and regional frameworks.[90] The *Bogota Statement* (2010) outlined how the aid effectiveness principles could be best applied in SSC, and the *Dili Declaration* (2010), adopted by the g7+, recognized the unique needs of

[76] UN DESA, *Monterrey Conference*.
[77] Ibid.
[78] International Conference on Financing for Development, *Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development*, 2003.
[79] OECD, *HLF1: The First High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Rome*, 2003.
[80] The First High Level Forum, *Rome Declaration on Harmonisation*, 2003.
[81] OECD, *The High Level Fora on Aid Effectiveness: A history*, 2017.
[82] High Level Fora on Aid Effectiveness, *The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action*, 2008.
[83] OECD, *The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Five Principles for Smart Aid*, 2008.
[84] Tomlinson, *The Accra Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness: A CCIC Participant Assessment of the Outcomes*, 2008, p. 5.
[85] OECD, *Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness*, 2017.
[86] OECD, *The Accra Agenda for Action*, 2008.
[87] High Level Fora on Aid Effectiveness, *The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action*, 2008, pp. 16-17.
[88] OECD, *Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness*, 2017.
[89] Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, *Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation*, 2011.
[90] OECD, *The High Level Fora on Aid Effectiveness: A history*, 2017.

fragile states in development cooperation.[91] The European Union (EU) and African Union (AU) both developed their own mechanisms for improving aid effectiveness.[92] The EU adopted a resolution establishing a common position on aid effectiveness that focused on transparency and results, deepening public-private engagement, and strengthening delivery, accountability, and measurement of results.[93] The AU adopted a roadmap that intended to turn the commitments made at the high level fora into action by strengthening transparency and accountability, building up country systems and capacity, and putting staff and resources in the field to improve engagement.[94] These regional frameworks are complemented and reinforced by regular multilateral discussions on aid effectiveness that occur under the auspices of the UN.[95]

Role of the International System

At its 71st session, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions addressing development finance.[96] The first, General Assembly resolution 71/215, focused on debt, macroeconomic policy, and particularly the role of the international financial institutions in promoting development.[97] The other, General Assembly resolution 71/217 on the "follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development," identified several UN bodies that are encouraging progress in financing for development and aid effectiveness and recognized that the organizations of the UN system have to prioritize the effective mobilization of resources to achieve the SDGs.[98]

After the fourth High Level Forum, the UN also created a body specifically to address aid effectiveness: the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation.[99] The Global Partnership is a multi-stakeholder platform designed to ensure that the delivery of aid continues to improve by reacting to changing modern realities.[100] The Global Partnership also monitors global implementation of aid effectiveness frameworks, country progress, and hosts biennial conferences to advance aid frameworks.[101] At its first two meetings in 2014 and 2016, the Global Partnership produced the *Mexico High Level Meeting Communiqué* (2014) and the *Nairobi Outcome Document* (2016), two documents that are meant to ensure the progressive implementation of the aid effectiveness principles and ensure that actions taken also support the 2030 Agenda.[102] The UN Development Group (UNDG) and several of its members, including the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), are also actively involved in promoting aid effectiveness.[103] UNCTAD hosts several programs that assist in capacity building, but mostly uses its technical expertise to analyze development aid flows and their effectiveness and then issue notes or reports to assist Member States.[104] UNDP is the UN's premier body for development; it assists Member States in building up their capacity in numerous areas, especially infrastructure, and has helped to improve developing states' capacity to manage development aid.[105] UNDP worked to incorporate

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[91] g7+, *Dili Declaration*, 2010.
[92] European Commission, *The EU Approach to Development Effectiveness*, 2017; African Development Bank, *A Roadmap for Improving Performance on Aid Effectiveness and Promoting Effective Development: Turning Commitments into Actions*, 2011.
[93] European Union, *Common Position for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness*, 2011; European Commission, *The EU Approach to Development Effectiveness*, 2017.
[94] African Development Bank, *A Roadmap for Improving Performance on Aid Effectiveness and Promoting Effective Development: Turning Commitments into Actions*, 2011.
[95] UN General Assembly, *International financial system and development (A/RES/71/215)*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (A/RES/71/217)*, 2016.
[96] Ibid.
[97] UN General Assembly, *International financial system and development (A/RES/71/215)*, 2016.
[98] UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (A/RES/71/217)*, 2016.
[99] Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, *About the Partnership*, 2017.
[100] Ibid.
[101] Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, *What are the Global Partnership Initiatives?*, 2017.
[102] Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, *Mexico High Level Meeting Communiqué*, 2014; Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, *Nairobi Outcome Document*, 2016.
[103] UNDG, *Development Effectiveness*, 2015.
[104] UNCTAD, *Enhancing aid effectiveness: From Paris to Busan*, 2011.
[105] UNDP, *A world of development experiences*, 2017; UNDP, *Implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness*, 2011.

all of the aid effectiveness principles into its systems, particularly focusing on building up its country-level staff and improving the predictability of aid that it provides to Member States.[106] UNDP also jointly supports the Global Partnership alongside the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).[107]

Outside of the UN, the OECD, a group of 35 advanced economies that address issues of mutual interest, has always focused particularly on aid delivery and effectiveness.[108] The OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is made up of the largest donor states in the world and establishes development standards, monitoring techniques, and definitions for ODA.[109] The DAC is supported by the Development Cooperation Directorate, which works to develop policy, disseminate data, and improve aid practices.[110] In addition to its internal bodies, the OECD works closely with development finance institutions, including the regional development banks and the New Development Bank, formerly known as the BRICS Development Bank, to help improve and coordinate development assistance, in addition to cooperating with CSOs and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).[111]

NGOs, which often carry out development projects on behalf of multilateral institutions or donors, can play a large role in determining how effective aid is.[112] Some NGOs, like Save the Children, work to lobby the governments of donor states in an attempt to improve aid effectiveness.[113] Others, like InterAction, collect and disseminate data on how aid is being used and the results it generates.[114] Among the largest and most recognized NGOs is the International Aid Transparency Initiative, a voluntary mechanism that seeks to improve transparency in aid and humanitarian assistance to improve their effect on poverty eradication.[115] In the development finance space, the bulk of NGOs act as implementing partners, accepting contracts or partnership agreements with Member States to carry out a specific scope of work.[116]

Independence and Control for Aid Recipients

Most ODA from DAC members is designated to be used for a specific purpose.[117] A much smaller proportion of aid is offered as country programmable aid (CPA) or budget support, both of which allow recipient states to have far greater control over how the money is spent.[118] As development frameworks have advanced, states have increasingly sought ownership of their development, pushing for higher percentages of aid to be CPA or budget support to give them more control over incoming ODA.[119] Recipient states, especially members of the AU, have argued that national control will allow them to better align funds with their national development plans and priorities and increase efficiency.[120] While the ability of aid recipients to decide how ODA is spent has progressively increased over the last 10 years, donor states still face high political pressures to control aid.[121]

Sometimes emerging development partners have put requirements on aid, the most strict of which is the practice of "tying."[122] Tied aid must be used by the aid recipient to purchase goods and services from the donor state.[123] While tying aid allows donor states to more easily develop the political will to budget for ODA, it greatly increases the cost of development projects and ensures that recipients have less control over how the aid is used.[124] Members of the

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[106] UNDP, *Implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness*, 2011.
[107] OECD, *Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation*, 2017.
[108] OECD, *Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness*, 2017.
[109] OECD, *Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD-DAC)*, 2017.
[110] Ibid.
[111] OECD, *Development finance institutions and private sector development*, 2017.
[112] Nunnenkamp, *Aid Effectiveness: The Myth of NGO Superiority*, 2008.
[113] Save the Children, *Aid Effectiveness*, 2013.
[114] InterAction, *Aid Effectiveness*, 2017.
[115] International Aid Transparency Initiative, *About IATI*.
[116] Alford, Bad aid: Should all NGOs close down?, *The Guardian*, 2015.
[117] Kharas, *Development Assistance in the 21st Century*, 2009, pp. 1-2.
[118] Ibid.
[119] Fleshman, Africa pushes for better aid quality, *AfricaRenewal*, 2004.
[120] Ibid.
[121] Ibid.
[122] Anderlini, China insists on 'tied aid' in Africa, *Financial Times*, 2007.
[123] Ibid.
[124] Oxfam America, *Smart Development in Practice: The tied aid "round trip"*, 2009.

OECD DAC committed to reducing tied aid and have progressively done so over the past decade; however, other restrictions on aid are still common.[125] Grants and concessional loans often require governments to implement certain policies or engage in certain behavior.[126] Most often, this comes in the form of economic reforms, especially the privatization of industries, that developing countries have argued is detrimental to their development prospects and growth.[127] Other times, development aid is used as a tool in relation to human rights, political, or governance reforms, causing some recipients to claim that development aid is used as a tool to spread ideologies.[128] Representatives of donor countries have openly recognized the "soft power" of development aid.[129] Most donors would argue, however, that restrictions on development aid are not meant to impose an ideology, but rather to encourage respect for human rights, promote democratic traditions, and combat corruption.[130]

Accountability and Results in Aid

While some states would argue that restricting aid based on controversial policy changes, like privatization, can cause harm to recipients, few make the case that doing so to promote human rights is negative.[131] In multiple cases, for example, the United Kingdom has either threatened to or withheld aid from recipient countries over concerns that they were human rights or governance concerns.[132] Officials in some OECD DAC states have begun to ensure that their aid is not complicit in human rights abuses or corruption.[133] In some cases, officials have used corruption to justify reducing or eliminating foreign aid.[134] While others have argued that corruption does not significantly impact how aid funds are spent and disagreements persist, reports have indicated that large inflows of foreign aid can drive corruption, diverting funds into the hands of government officials or other groups and preventing funds from having a positive effect.[135] Corruption in the use of aid can reverse economic development, negatively impact the poor, impede service delivery, and degrade the power of the state as corrupt individuals gather power and money.[136]

The potential for development aid to not only fail to have its intended effect, but to have negative consequences, is at the core of why many donors push for increased transparency and accountability.[137] The nature of accountability has changed over time; in the late 1990s, when developing countries developed poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs), donors began to require that aid be used on "pro-poor" development strategies and built in systems to check to see if funds were being spent in line with each country's PRSP.[138] In recent years, donors have begun to shift toward results-oriented approaches, including collecting data on the effect of aid-funded projects and making that information publicly available.[139] Most of this work falls to development aid agencies, specialized bodies in most donor states that work to improve accountability and aid delivery.[140] Among the largest are the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID).[141] USAID and DFID have both created mechanisms to analyze foreign aid and progressively adapt to modern realities in the

[125] OECD, *Untied Aid*, 2017.
[126] Glennie, When aid comes with strings attached, development unravels, *The Guardian*, 2011.
[127] Ibid.
[128] *The Beijing consensus is to keep quiet*, The Economist, 2010.
[129] Ibid.
[130] Glennie, Should donors give money to countries with poor human rights?, *The Guardian*, 2011.
[131] Ibid.
[132] Ibid.
[133] Ham, *Human Rights Violations: U.S. Foreign Aid for Accountability and Prevention*, 2015.
[134] Gharib, Is Corruption Really A Big Problem in Foreign Aid?, *NPR*, 2017.
[135] European Parliament Directorate-General for External Policies, *Cost of corruption in developing countries – how effectively is aid being spent?*, 2015, p. 17.
[136] Ibid., p. 10.
[137] Apodaca, *Foreign Aid as Foreign Policy Tool*, 2017.
[138] Renzio, *Accountability dilemmas in foreign aid*, 2016, p. 8.
[139] Saldinger, US Congress approves long-sought Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act, *Devex*, 2016.
[140] Myers, Foreign aid: These countries are the most generous, *World Economic Forum*, 2016.
[141] Ibid.

development environment.[142] DFID and BMZ work under the auspices of the EU to share best practices, eliminate redundancies, improve effectiveness, and better realize the goals outlined in the aid effectiveness frameworks.[143]

Implementing the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda in the Changing Aid Environment

Although the frameworks for aid delivery have changed in recent decades, the motivation for donors to provide it has remained largely the same; they can further foreign policy goals, increase commercial ties, and advance their ideologies or morality.[144] Who those donors are has begun to shift, however, as the OECD now identified 29 non-DAC states that provide a substantial level of aid.[145] This is in addition to private donors, foundations, and enterprise, all of which are taking on larger roles.[146] Traditional donors continue to make up the bulk of foreign aid, however, and the amount of net ODA from DAC countries reached a new peak of $142.6 billion in 2016.[147] The DAC members are also the furthest along in their implementation of the aid effectiveness principles, although emerging development partners and institutions are slowly catching up.[148] Some emerging donors and institutions are side-stepping the traditional aid effectiveness frameworks, including the definitions provided by DAC, and attempting to form a new aid paradigm.[149] Some have argued that the OECD should step back from its role in defining ODA and aid frameworks to allow multilateral institutions, or other mechanisms, to develop more recipient-focused frameworks.[150] There is general recognition that as the context in which aid is delivered continues to change, implementation of the aid effectiveness frameworks needs to continue and improve based on lessons learned.[151]

Case Study: Implementation of Paris and Accra in Latin America and the Caribbean
The Latin American and Caribbean region is diverse; per capita income varies widely as does the overall level of development, with states ranging from being classified as less-developed to middle-income.[152] During the 2000s, as the aid effectiveness frameworks were developed, the region was changing: aid dependence was decreasing, states sought more control over their development, and the role of non-traditional donors and SSC was increasing.[153] Several states, in light of the new frameworks, began to take a series of steps to align with Paris and Accra.[154] At the core of the actions taken was capacity development; Latin American states worked with developed partners to improve their ability to plan and control their long-term development.[155] At a basic level, this allowed states to communicate to donors how they intended to spend aid and allowed them to link expenditures to development priorities.[156] Efforts were also made in analysis, monitoring, and evaluation.[157] Some states created registries or databases to analyze programs and studies and received international support, including technology and training, to build up analytical capacity.[158] Analysis of implementation throughout the 2000s revealed that capacity building and effective monitoring were key to effective implementation in the region, but also identified that major opportunities

[142] Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network, *Deliver More with U.S. Development Cooperation*; Holzapfel, *Boosting or Hindering Aid Effectiveness? An Assessment of Systems for Measuring Agency Results*, German Development Institute, 2014.
[143] European Commission, *The EU Approach to Development Effectiveness*, 2017.
[144] Apodaca, *Foreign Aid as Foreign Policy Tool*, 2017.
[145] Ibid.
[146] Ibid.
[147] OECD, *Development aid rises again in 2016*, 2017.
[148] Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, *Making Development Co-operation More Effective: 2016 Progress Report*, 2016.
[149] Glennie, The OECD should give up control of the aid agenda, *The Guardian*, 2011.
[150] Ibid.
[151] Ellmers, *How to spend it Smart procurement for more effective aid*, 2011.
[152] Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior, *Implementing Paris and Accra: Towards a Regional Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2009, p. 3.
[153] Ibid., p. 3.
[154] Ibid., pp. 6-17.
[155] Ibid., p. 7.
[156] Ibid., p. 7.
[157] Ibid., pp. 13-14.
[158] Ibid., pp. 13-14.

remained in communication between donors and recipients and harnessing and improving the effectiveness of South-South aid flows.[159]

Conclusion

The Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda laid the groundwork for states and international organizations to improve the coherence and effectiveness of aid, a groundwork that has been built on by many organizations, including the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation.[160] The aid effectiveness principles that were developed at the high level fora are generally recognized as important and coherent, but the extent to which they are abided by donors and recipients is varied, and the changing nature of donors and the aid environment is causing the international community to revisit how to best incorporate the aid effectiveness principles in the modern context.[161] By drawing on lessons learned from past efforts to adhere to the aid effectiveness principles, the international community has an opportunity to ensure that funds are having the maximum effect and helping to achieve not only the SDGs, but the development goals of Member States.[162]

Further Research

While considering what policies should be pursued by the General Assembly Second Committee on the topic of aid effectiveness, delegates should contemplate the following questions: How effective are the existing international frameworks on aid effectiveness? To what extent are international organizations, programs, and bodies able to assist Member States in implementing the aid effectiveness frameworks? Has your Member State been a donor or recipient of aid and can their experience be applied to the greater international community? What is the role of emerging donors in implementing the aid effectiveness principles? Are changes in the relationships between donors and recipients necessary to improve aid effectiveness?

[159] Ibid., pp. 19-20.
[160] Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, *Making Development Co-operation More Effective: 2016 Progress Report*, 2016.
[161] Apodaca, *Foreign Aid as Foreign Policy Tool*, 2017.
[162] Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior, *Implementing Paris and Accra: Towards a Regional Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2009; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

Annotated Bibliography

Apodaca, C. (2017). *Foreign Aid as Foreign Policy Tool*. Oxford University Press. Retrieved 29 August 2017 from: http://politics.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-332

This publication by Clair Apodaca provides an excellent snapshot of the current transitions taking place in development aid in addition to providing some context for how the current systems were established. Not only does Apodaca identify several opportunities to improve the effectiveness of aid, but she discusses the motivations of donors and recipients and provides links to many additional resources. Delegates should look to use this source to understand the current situation after they have grasped the basic concepts of the topic and the frameworks that already exist.

European Union. (2011). *EU Common Position for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness*. Retrieved 29 August 2017 from: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/126060.pdf

Although slightly dated, this position statement from the EU is an excellent example of the western perspective on aid effectiveness and provides insight into regional and national implementation of the aid effectiveness frameworks. Delegates should look to this document after they have a general understanding of the topic and the various perspectives on it. As delegates read this document, they should make note of what is included, how much time is spent on those things, and what is not included. It is worth paying particular attention to the differences in principles between this document and the larger international frameworks.

Führer, H. (1996). *The Story of Official Development Assistance: A History of the Development Assistance Committee and the Development Cooperation Directorate in Dates, Names, and Figures*. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Retrieved 29 August 2017 from: http://www.oecd.org/dac/1896816.pdf

Mr. Helmut Führer prepared this paper after concluding his tenure as the Director of the Development Cooperation Director of the OECD, a post that he filled from 1975 to 1993. The document is very thorough in its review of the history of aid and provides the specifics of how and why certain international aid policies and frameworks were developed. Delegates should look to use this early on in their research to gain a complete understanding of what has been done in the past and the reasoning for it. As delegates read the paper, they should consider the institutions involved and note that it is written from the perspective of the OECD.

Fleshman, M. (2004, January). Africa pushes for better aid quality. *AfricaRenewal*. Retrieved 29 August 2017 from: http://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/january-2004/africa-pushes-better-aid-quality `

This article, written by Michael Fleshman and published by the UN in AfricaRenewal, provides a high-level view of how donors can cause aid to be ineffective. Delegates should note that this article was published in the year before the Paris Declaration was adopted and consider the context and timing of the sentiments expressed. Delegates should also consider how the views articulated in this article may have changed as the aid effectiveness frameworks progressed, and to what extent developing countries are still likely to support those sentiments.

Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior. (2009). *Implementing Paris and Accra: Towards a Regional Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Retrieved 29 August 2017 from: http://fride.org/download/DB_Implementing_Paris_Accra_eng_enero09.pdf

This study from an independent Spanish think-tank provides an overview of how aid effectiveness frameworks were implemented in the Latin America and the Caribbean region after the adoption of the Paris Declaration and looking forward to the Accra Agenda. The study examines how each of the aid effectiveness principles were applied in the region, the struggles with their implementation, and possible paths forward. Reading this document will not only give delegates an understanding how implementation of these frameworks occurs, but it will also reinforce all of the concepts laid out in the aid effectiveness frameworks.

Glennie, J. (2011, April 29). The OECD should give up control of the aid agenda. *The Guardian*. Retrieved 29 August 2017 from: https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/apr/29/oecd-control-aid-agenda

Jonathan Glennie, who wrote regularly about aid and development for The Guardian, goes into excellent detail regarding the role of the OECD in development finance and suggests many

possible areas for improvement. Although this article is from 2011, much of what it discusses is still relevant today. Delegates should pay extra attention to the description of the Paris Declaration included in the article—it provides unique insight into how the document is slowly changing aid and hints at challenges and opportunities in its implementation.

Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. (2016). *Making Development Co-operation More Effective: 2016 Progress Report*. Retrieved 29 August 2017 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/development-impact/--2016%20progress%20report--Final%20(e-book).pdf

This report was written by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, which became responsible for reporting on the status of development cooperation after the 2011 High Level Forum in Busan. This report, their most recent, provides both an excellent overview and details information regarding the current state of aid effectiveness. Delegates may want to begin by reading the section titled "2016 Monitoring Findings at a Glance" as it provides a quick overview of the successes and challenges of recent years in a generally easy-to-understand format. Overall, the report is drafted for an audience that is comfortable with aid terminology; delegates may want to save this for later in their research so they have built up an adequate vocabulary on the topic.

High Level Fora on Aid Effectiveness. (2008). *The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action*. Retrieved 29 August 2017 from: http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/34428351.pdf

The Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda constitute the core of international thought on aid effectiveness, encompassing views from donors and recipients alike. Adopted in 2005 and 2008 respectively, the two documents make the case for why increasing aid effectiveness is important and then lay out policies and strategies for making improved effectiveness a reality. Although the topic of aid effectiveness can be technical, these two documents are relatively easy to parse and will provide a high-level overview of international policy and actions that can be taken at every level to meet the documents goals. As the basis for discussion on this topic, delegates should spend time ensuring that they understand the various aspects and viewpoints built into these documents and how they will apply or set precedent for any actions they take in committee.

International Aid Transparency Initiative. (n.d.). *About IATI* [Website]. Retrieved 29 August 2017 from: http://www.aidtransparency.net/about

The International Aid Transparency Initiative is among the most well-known NGOs working to improve aid effectiveness and accountability. Delegates should familiarize themselves with how the IATI functions, consider the roles of NGOs both in the implementation of development projects and in improving aid effectiveness, and after doing so seek to look through reports published by IATI elsewhere on their web site. A video is included on this "About" page that will give delegates a quick and easy-to-understand overview of the organization.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. [Resolution]. Adopted without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.1). Retrieved 29 August 2017 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1

The 2030 Agenda is the culmination of years of work at the UN and defines the international development agenda through 2030. There are specific goals and targets related to ODA and aid effectiveness, including 8.a, 10.b, and 17.2, all of which focus on meeting aid commitments and highlighting some ways to maximize effectiveness, but the entire framework of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs can be supported by improved aid policies. In reading this document, delegates should consider how aid policies and frameworks at the international level can be molded to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs, including at the national and regional levels.

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Apodaca, C. (2017). *Foreign Aid as Foreign Policy Tool*. Oxford University Press. Retrieved 29 August 2017 from: http://politics.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-332

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European Union. (2011). *EU Common Position for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness*. Retrieved 29 August 2017 from: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/126060.pdf

Fleshman, M. (2004, January). Africa pushes for better aid quality. *AfricaRenewal*. Retrieved 29 August 2017 from: http://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/january-2004/africa-pushes-better-aid-quality `

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Führer, H. (1996). *The Story of Official Development Assistance: A History of the Development Assistance Committee and the Development Cooperation Directorate in Dates, Names, and Figures*. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Retrieved 29 August 2017 from: http://www.oecd.org/dac/1896816.pdf

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II. The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

"Cities are increasingly the home of humanity. They are central to climate action, global prosperity, peace and human rights. More than half of all people live in cities and human settlements, and that proportion is projected to grow to two thirds by 2050. To transform our world, we must transform its cities."[163]

Introduction

Urbanization is defined as an "increase in the proportion of a population living in urban areas."[164] This phenomenon has become a rapidly growing force over the course of the past century, as an increasing number of people have begun to move to towns and cities.[165] Over the past 25 years, the global urban population has grown from just over 2.5 billion people in 1990 to just under 4 billion in 2015, which represents an increase from 43% to 54% of the global population.[166] During the 1990s, urban populations grew at a rate of 57 million people per year and from 2010 to 2015 that growth increased to 77 million people per year.[167] By 2030, 60% of the global population is anticipated to reside in cities.[168] While there are many advantages to urbanization, such as more efficient use of resources, there are also numerous challenges and threats associated with rapid urbanization and poor urban planning.[169] A major challenge is the growth of slums, which frequently form due to rapid urbanization and a lack of affordable housing and are more vulnerable to natural disasters and crime.[170] Another challenge is the high rate of discrimination and segregation that is commonly observed in quickly growing cities, leaving the urban poor out of the decision-making process despite their high stakes in urban planning and policymaking.[171] Moreover, access to education and healthcare becomes a challenge in poorly planned urban areas.[172] Middle and low-income countries have experienced the highest rate of urbanization since 1995, with continents like Africa and Asia experiencing 90% of urban growth.[173] As the rate of urbanization has increased, the international community has increasingly sought to achieve sustainable urban development, which "strives to meet the essential needs of all, without overstepping the limitations of the natural environment."[174]

The increasing role played by urbanization in sustainable development has been recognized by numerous recent documents, most recently with the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) (2015) and the New Urban Agenda (2016).[175] While numerous Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relate to urbanization, goal 11 addresses this topic directly, as it aims to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and

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[163] UN Secretary-General, *Secretary-General's message on World Cities Day*, 2016.
[164] OECD, *Glossary of Statistical Terms: Urbanization*, 2003.
[165] Ibid., Population Reference Bureau, *Human Population: Urbanization*, 2016; UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report: Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*, 2016, p. 6.
[166] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report: Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*, 2016, p. 6.
[167] Ibid.
[168] UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*, 2016, p. 1.
[169] Davenport, *More voices mean smarter cities*, 2015.
[170] UN ECOSOC, *Effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2014/67)*, 2014, p. 11; UN-Habitat & UNDP, *Asia-Pacific Issue Brief Series on Urbanization and Climate Change No. 1: Urbanization and Climate Change*, 2014, p. 7; UN ECOSOC, *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2017/66)*, 2017, p. 13.
[171] UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*, 2016, p. 2; Davenport, *More voices mean smarter cities*, 2015.
[172] UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*, 2016, pp. 6-7; UN-Habitat, *Housing & slum upgrading*.
[173] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report: Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*, 2016, p. 7; UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*, 2016, p. 1.
[174] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report: Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*, 2016, p. 38.
[175] UN Conference on Environment and Development, *Agenda 21*, 1992; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, pp. 9, 21-22; UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, *New Urban Agenda*, 2017.

sustainable."[176] While SDG 11 and its targets are a crucial aspect of achieving sustainable development, the reaches of the role of urbanization in sustainable development are far greater.[177]

International and Regional Framework

In 1976, the first United Nations (UN) Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I), convened in Vancouver, Canada, and adopted the first declaration pertaining to human settlements, known as the *Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements*.[178] This declaration recognized opportunities, threats, and solutions to the growth of human settlements, and created the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to address emerging issues related to urbanization.[179] Since Habitat I, the global community has reconvened in Turkey for Habitat II (1996) and in Ecuador for Habitat III (2016).[180] During Habitat III, Member States, international organizations, Civil Society Organizations, and advocacy groups adopted the *Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All* (New Urban Agenda), building on the outcome document of Habitat II known as *The Habitat Agenda: Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements* (1996).[181] The New Urban Agenda recognizes housing, basic services and infrastructure, access to healthcare and education, employment, food security, and safety as some of the most pressing issues facing cities in the 21st century.[182] Unlike the previous agendas, the New Urban Agenda approaches the question of human settlements and urbanization in the context of the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 11.[183]

In addition to the actions taken by UN-Habitat, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development adopted the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA) in July 2015, outlining a global financing framework to further reduce inequality, including that between urban and rural populations, which is often referred to as the rural-urban divide.[184] The AAAA aligns with the SDGs in its aims to end hunger and promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, but specifically seeks to secure the financial support necessary for their achievement by mobilizing national and international funds.[185] Furthermore, it suggests cooperation between private and public sector, such as building rural infrastructure through public-private partnerships creating accountable blended finance instruments that mix public and private funds.[186]

Like the AAAA, the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, the outcome document of the Third UN World Conference in March 2015, also highlights the vulnerabilities caused by the rural-urban divide and emphasizes that unplanned and rapid urbanization can cause or compound disasters.[187] The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), which coordinates UN disaster reduction activities across the UN system, is tasked with the document's implementation and review.[188] The *Sendai Framework* promotes annual regional meetings and encourages governments to share concerns and risk reduction approaches with their regional neighbors.[189] Examples of this regional cooperation are the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016 in New Delhi, India, the Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas in Montreal, Canada, and the 6th Session of Africa Regional Platform and 5th High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in Mauritius.[190]

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[176] UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 14.
[177] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Goal 11: Targets & Indicators*.
[178] UN Conference on Human Settlements, *The Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements*, 1976, pp. 2-3.
[179] Ibid., UN-Habitat, *History, mandate & role in the UN system*.
[180] UN-Habitat, *Habitat III*.
[181] UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, *New Urban Agenda*, 2017; UN General Assembly, *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*, 2017; UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/RES/71/235)*, 2017, pp. 3-4.
[182] Ibid., p. 11.
[183] UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, *New Urban Agenda*, 2017, p. 12.
[184] 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.
[185] Ibid.
[186] Ibid., pp. 6, 8, 15-16.
[187] UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, 2015, p. 10.
[188] Ibid, p. 5.
[189] Ibid.
[190] UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, 2015; Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, *About AMCDRR 2016*, 2016; Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster

Role of the International System

As the principle Main Committee for addressing development, the General Assembly Second Committee regularly discusses issues related to urbanization and its effects.[191] During its 70th session in 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolutions 70/189 and 70/214, on "Financial inclusion for sustainable development" and "Culture and sustainable development," both of which provide recommendations on reconsidering economic and financial instruments within the sustainable development framework and their effects on urbanization.[192] Furthermore, General Assembly resolution 70/189 highlights the inclusion of clauses pertaining to inclusive financial development as outlined in the AAAA, and focus on sustainable urbanization while solving food security issues from both a rural and an urban perspective.[193] Moreover, General Assembly resolution 70/214 contributes to financial inclusivity, by recommending a stronger focus on cultural relations in economic opportunities and financial development.[194] This has also been highlighted by the *World Urbanization Prospects*, a report published by the UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs (DESA), which compiles economic, environmental and social data to enhance and support intergovernmental cooperation.[195] The Second Committee has also considered ensuring access to transportation, through resolutions 69/213 of 30 January 2015, titled "Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development" and 70/197 of 16 February 2016, titled "Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transport corridors."[196] These resolutions identify the need for safe and reliable transportation both within urban areas and internationally, highlighting the need for accessible, safe, and reliable transportation, which is important when considering urbanization, rapid urban growth, and the implications for achieving sustainable development.[197] Other General Assembly resolutions that deliberate on factors tying into the role of urbanization in sustainable development are resolutions 69/266 on "A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development", and 71/221, titled "Entrepreneurship for sustainable development."[198]

Under the auspices of the General Assembly and ECOSOC, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) convenes to discuss, among other things, the application of specific SDGs and to develop best practices for local communities in implementing and achieving the SDGs.[199] The 2017 HLPF focused on SDGs relating to providing basic human needs, such as food, environmental protection, gender equality, and economic opportunities.[200] Continuing with the focus on rotating SDGs, the 2018 HLPF will focus on a different set of SDGs including Goal 11.[201]

Risk Reduction in the Americas, *Virtual Brochure*, 2017; UNISDR, *6th Session of Africa Regional Platform and 5th High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017.

[191] UN General Assembly, *Financial inclusion for sustainable development (A/RES/70/189)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development (A/RES/69/266)*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *Entrepreneurship for sustainable development (A/RES/71/221)*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/RES/71/315)*, 2017.

[192] UN General Assembly, *Financial inclusion for sustainable development (A/RES/70/189)*, 2015, p. 2; UN General Assembly, *Culture and sustainable development (A/RES/70/214)*, 2015, p. 3.

[193] Ibid., 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, pp. 7, 16.

[194] UN General Assembly, *Culture and sustainable development (A/RES/70/214)*, 2015, p. 3.

[195] Ibid., UN DESA, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision: Highlights (ST/ESA/SER.A/352)*, 2014, p. 3.

[196] UN General Assembly, *Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development (A/RES/69/213)*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors (A/RES/70/197)*, 2015.

[197] Ibid., pp. 4-5.

[198] UN General Assembly, *A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development (A/RES/69/266)*, 2014, p. 3; UN General Assembly, *Entrepreneurship for sustainable development (A/RES/71/221)*, 2016, pp. 3-7.

[199] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: High-Level Political Forum*.

[200] Ibid., UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Themes of High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development decided for next three years*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level (A/RES/70/299)*, 2015, p. 2; UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goals*.

[201] UN General Assembly, *Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level (A/RES/70/299)*, 2015, p. 2; UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Themes of High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development decided for next three years*, 2016; UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goals*.

As part of its role as the UN agency responsible for sustainable urban development, UN-Habitat published the *World Cities Report 2016, Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures* in the lead up to Habitat III.[202] The report highlights many goals of sustainable urban development, such as promoting environmental stability, fostering inclusive growth, and empowering collaboration among all stakeholders in urban areas.[203] It also examines the progress, opportunities, risks, and threats of the last 20 years of urbanization since Habitat II.[204] It includes discussions on the expansion of slums and the resulting social inequality, the effects of climate change on urban areas, and spreading of crime.[205] UN-Habitat's work provided participants in Habitat III with timely information about the status of urbanization.[206]

UN DESA, in cooperation with the Yangzhou Municipal People's Government, held a High Level Symposium on Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Urbanisation in 2013, which produced a set of best practices for local and regional governments titled the *Yangzhou Recommendations on Sustainable Cities and Urbanization*.[207] Similarly, UN-Habitat, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments launched a platform called "Localizing the SDGs" to increase the accessibility of SDGs.[208] The platform provides cities and smaller communities with a toolbox for raising awareness of the SDGs, acts as an advocacy platform, and offers practical support to developing communities.[209] Through organizations such as the UNISDR, UNDP, the World Health Organization (WHO), and UN-Habitat, numerous programs have emerged that aim to bring together international organizations, national governments, and other stakeholders, such as local governments and civil society groups, to improving urban governance.[210] The Health and Environment Linkages Initiative (HELI), a joint effort between WHO and the UN Environment Programme, encourages Member States to prioritize and address environment health risks, including those caused by rapid urbanization.[211] The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) works within the framework of Habitat III and collaborates with UN-Habitat to provide sexual and reproductive health to urban slums.[212] Furthermore, UNFPA has partnered with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) to promote human rights and social inclusion in urban environments.[213] In cooperation with other research institutions and Civil Society Organizations, IIED has launched programs such as Urban Africa Risk Knowledge and the Urban Crises Learning Fund to provide capacity-building measures and to improve future urban planning and urban humanitarian initiatives.[214]

Various local initiatives have also contributed to reduce the negative impacts of rapid urbanization.[215] National frameworks such as Morocco's Cities Without Slums Programme ("Villes sans bidonvilles") and Indonesia's National Slum Upgrading Program (KOTAKU) provide strategic frameworks that focus on slum upgrading.[216] "Villes sans bidonvilles" aims to increase the accessibility to basic services in cooperation with UN-Habitat.[217] KOTAKU has been a cooperative effort of the Indonesian national government, municipal governments, non-

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[202] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report: Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*, 2016.
[203] Ibid., pp. 169-170.
[204] Ibid., pp. 13-24.
[205] Ibid., pp. 13-24.
[206] Ibid.
[207] UN DESA & Yangzhou Municipal People's Government, *Yangzhou Recommendations on Sustainable Cities and Urbanization*, 2013.
[208] UCLG, *Global Taskforce, UNDP and UN-Habitat launch engagement platform on localizing the SDGs*, 2016.
[209] UCLG et al., *Localizing the SDGs: Purpose*, 2017.
[210] UNISDR, *Regional Platforms*; UN-Habitat, *Urban Governance Index*; UNDP, *Local governance and local development*, 2017; WHO & UN-Habitat, *Hidden Cities: Unmasking and Overcoming Health Inequities in Urban Settings*, 2010, pp. 71-79; UNISDR, *Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready: About The Campaign*.
[211] WHO & UNEP, *Health and Environment Linkages Initiative*, 2017.
[212] UNFPA, *Urbanization*.
[213] Ibid.
[214] IIED, *Urban Africa Risk Knowledge (Urban ARK)*; IIED, *Urban Crises Learning Fund*.
[215] UN-Habitat, *Morocco-Housing and Slum Upgrading*; World Bank, *Indonesia: Improving Infrastructure for Millions of Urban Poor*, 2016.
[216] Ibid.
[217] UN-Habitat, *Morocco-Housing and Slum Upgrading*.

governmental organizations, the World Bank, and private corporations.[218] Aside from upgrading current slums, the program has increased the institutional capacity of municipal governments to improve future urban planning.[219]

Cultural, Social, and Political Aspects of Urbanization

As the rate of urbanization has increased, numerous social, cultural, and political factors have influenced the development of urban areas.[220] Consequently, urbanization is closely tied to a changing social fabric, as cities frequently act as a nexus of different cultures.[221] Although both the New Urban Agenda and General Assembly resolution 70/214 promote cultural dialogue and inclusion, research has shown that changing cultural dynamics caused by rapid urbanization has decreased mental well-being among vulnerable urban dwellers.[222] Though cities offer unparalleled economic opportunities with urban areas accounting for up to 80% of gross national product globally, differences between the rich and poor in cities are exacerbated.[223] Attracted by economic opportunities and the prospect of improved quality of life, poor rural populations migrate to cities.[224] Many urban migrants arrive in cities through unofficial channels and are often unable to afford regulated housing.[225] This rural-urban migration frequently results in inequality and marginalization due to cultural differences as well as prejudices, which are amplified by the creation of slums or temporary residences.[226]

With inequalities amplified, the urban poor form an especially vulnerable population, often marginalized and excluded from accessing services such as waste water management, energy access, transportation, education, and healthcare.[227] While 670 million people used to live in slums in 1990, this number has increased to 863 million in 2017.[228] Adding to the urban migration and consequent growth are displaced people and international migrants, of which 20% live in the world's 20 largest cities.[229] In some cities, less funds are allocated to infrastructure development in poorer neighborhoods.[230] According to UNDP, public spaces accessible to all would mitigate marginalization and reduce inequality as poor and rich neighborhoods become more integrated.[231]As local governments are the most accessible to urban communities, empowering urban governance and planning on the political level closest to the community in question is of utmost importance and has proven to be more effective.[232]

Disaster Management and Security Issues

Rapid urbanization exerts a strain on existing resources within cities and frequently results in poorly planned urban regions, which are more prone to daily threats such as air and water pollution and inadequate waste management, as well as acute threats such as droughts, floods, and storms.[233] Despite international recognition of the importance of health and well-being, sanitation, responsible consumption, and climate action, between 2009 and 2013, 35% of the urban population in 101 cities around the world were not provided with solid waste removal and in 2014, 90% of

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[218] World Bank, *Indonesia: Improving Infrastructure for Millions of Urban Poor*, 2016.
[219] Ibid
[220] UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, *New Urban Agenda*, 2017, p. 11.
[221] Ibid., p. 12.
[222] Trivedi et al., *Rapid urbanization – Its impact on mental health: A South Asian perspective*, 2008.
[223] UNFPA, *Urbanization*.
[224] Ibid.
[225] IOM, *Migration in the 2030 Agenda*, 2017, p. 86.
[226] UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*, 2016, pp. 12-15.
[227] IOM, *Migration in the 2030 Agenda*, 2017, pp. 85-86.
[228] Ibid., p. 85.
[229] IOM, *Global Migration Trends Factsheet*, 2017.
[230] UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*, 2016, pp. 12-15.
[231] Ibid., p. 13.
[232] ELLA, *Urban Upgrading with Social Inclusion: The Case of Villa Tranquila*, 2011, pp. 2-3.
[233] UN ECOSOC, *Effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2014/67)*, 2014, p. 11; UN-Habitat & UNDP, *Asia-Pacific Issue Brief Series on Urbanization and Climate Change No. 1: Urbanization and Climate Change*, 2014, p. 7; UN ECOSOC, *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2017/66)*, 2017, p. 13.

urban residents lived in regions that did not comply with standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO).[234] Communicable diseases, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and cholera, spread more easily in urban areas that lack sanitation and other health measures.[235]

Informal settlements often form in regions prone to environmental risks.[236] As many of these areas are already populated by vulnerable populations due to social and cultural differences, the location of informal settlements in vulnerable environments increases the inequality experienced by recent settlers.[237] UNISDR launched the "Making Cities Resilient" campaign in 2010, with the aim to raise awareness of the benefits of reducing risks, invest wisely in new infrastructure projects, and integrate disaster risk reduction policies into urban planning and development.[238] Disaster risk reduction is critical in improving the quality of life in urban settlements, as it reduces the risk of daily and acute environmental threats, as well as crime and other artificial hazards.[239] Consequently, disaster risk reduction for urban environments is closely linked to achieving SDGs that not only aim to protect the environment but also address human development and well-being.[240]

Economic Opportunities of Urbanization

Urbanization is not only the subject of SDG 11 specifically, but is also a key driver for achieving other SDGs; Goals 8 and 9 specifically highlight and support the benefits of urbanization.[241] Access to jobs, higher wages, education, and healthcare, which are often missing in rural regions, are found in urban areas, as 55% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in low-income states, 73% of GDP in middle-income states, and 85% of GDP in high-income states originate in urban regions.[242] The high rates of urbanization in East Asia and Africa coincide with the fastest growing economic regions in the world, with an annual growth rate of around four percent.[243] This economic growth often originates in cities, where a significant part of the urban workforce is employed in the informal sector.[244] Although this sector provides employment and an income to its workers, low pay, excessive overtime, unsafe working conditions, and little to no social protections are common.[245] Rural-urban migrants who did not receive the level of education offered in cities often work in the informal sector and constitute a group especially vulnerable to economic risks which are associated with urbanization.[246] To address this problem, ILO works toward improving the economic opportunities of those in the informal sector, suggesting that working conditions can be improved through "realizing fundamental principles and rights at work, creating greater and better employment and income opportunities, extending social protection, and promoting social dialogue."[247] Furthermore, as outlined in the UN Economic Commission for Africa's *Economic Report on Africa 2017*, economic opportunities can be enhanced

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[234] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goals*; UN ECOSOC, *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2017/66)*, 2017, p. 13.
[235] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report: Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*, 2016, pp. 22, 89.
[236] UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*, 2016, p. 16.
[237] Ibid.
[238] UNISDR, *Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready: About The Campaign*.
[239] UNDP, *Local governance and local development*, 2017.
[240] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goal 13: Progress of Goal 13 in 2017*; UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goal 3: Progress of Goal 3 in 2017*.
[241] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goal 8: Targets & Indicators*; UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goal 9: Targets & Indicators*.
[242] UN DESA, *Cities for a Sustainable Future*, 2014; UNECA, *Economic Report on Africa 2017: Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation*, p. 56.
[243] UN DPI, *Economic development in Africa centres around urbanization – UN-backed report*, 2016.
[244] UN ECA, *Contribution to the 2015 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Integration Segment: Harnessing the potential of the Informal Sector for inclusive growth in Africa*, 2015, p. 2; ILO, *Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture*, 2013, p. 39.
[245] ILO, *Informal economy*, 2017; UN ECA, *Economic Report on Africa 2017: Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation*, p. 60.
[246] UN ECA, *Contribution to the 2015 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Integration Segment: Harnessing the potential of the Informal Sector for inclusive growth in Africa*, 2015, pp. 2-3.
[247] ILO, *Resolution concerning decent work and the informal economy*, 2002, p. 2; UNECA, *Contribution to the 2015 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Integration Segment: Harnessing the potential of the Informal Sector for inclusive growth in Africa*, 2015, p. 2.

through addressing the quality and form of urban development early on, as well as recognizing different economic opportunities, increasing economic efficiency, and implementing long-term strategies for economic urban planning.[248]

Conclusion

Through SDG 11, urbanization is recognized as an important factor in sustainable development.[249] Even though there are positive effects linked to urbanization, it also poses threats and challenges to certain aspects of sustainable development, as the quality of life can decrease through poorly managed urban migration.[250] Along with other international organizations and UN bodies, the Second Committee has approached the role of urbanization in sustainable development from numerous sides, such as cultural implications, economic opportunities, public transportation, and access to basic services.[251] The SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, as outcome document of the Member States' discussions on the role of urbanization, promote sustainable development while recognizing the influence and impact of urbanization, especially in developing countries, where the rate of urbanization is greatest.[252] To harness the positive effects of urbanization in achieving sustainable development, it is imperative to recognize the benefits and drawbacks of urbanization and consequent economic development.[253]

Further Research

Delegates are encouraged to further research this topic, starting from the considerations reported above. Seeing the negative effects rapid urbanization can have on human settlements, how can this phenomenon be turned into a positive force for sustainable development? How can the current UN framework for strengthening urban governance and increasing social and economic inclusivity be improved? Are there any key aspects missing from the HLPF discussion that would better link the relationship between urbanization and sustainable development? How can equality be effectively promoted in growing urban environments? How can cultural and social barriers be overcome to reduce the risk of conflict in an urban environment? Considering what has been accomplished by the international community so far, and with the New Urban Agenda widely recognized and promoted, which factors still need to be approached to support sustainable development through urbanization?

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> *The UN Centre for Regional Development's contribution to ECOSOC's 1st integration segment pertaining to sustainable urbanization provides pressing challenges of cities and other urban dwellings. The document is divided into four sections. The first three pertain to key opportunities and challenges for Asian, African, and Latin American cities respectively. The fourth section focuses on relevant tools for sub-national decision-making. Delegates will find this document useful as it discusses the importance of sustainable urbanization on regional and sub-national levels, and provides a clear list of opportunities and challenges for different regions in the world.*

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[248] UNECA, *Economic Report on Africa 2017: Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation*, p. 88.
[249] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goal 11: Targets & Indicators*, 2017.
[250] IOM, *Migration in the 2030 Agenda*, 2017, pp. 85-86.
[251] UN General Assembly, *Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development (A/RES/69/213)*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors (A/RES/70/197)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (A/RES/71/233)*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *Culture and sustainable development (A/RES/70/214)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Entrepreneurship for sustainable development (A/RES/71/221)*, 2016.
[252] UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, *New Urban Agenda*, 2017; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.
[253] UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN-Development Agenda, *Sustainable Urbanization: Thematic Think Piece: UN-Habitat*, p. 5.

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. (1992). *Agenda 21* [Outcome Document]. Retrieved 15 July 2017 from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf

This document is one of the main documents creating the foundation upon which the concept of sustainable development, including sustainable urbanization, has been built in the 21st century. The document is divided into four sections, covering social and economic dimensions, such as combating poverty and promoting health; conservation and management of resources for development, which includes promoting sustainable agriculture, combating deforestation, handling hazardous waste, and managing fragile ecosystems; strengthening the role of major groups, such as women, children, local governments, and the business industry; and means of implementation. This is a resourceful document, as it provides information on the origins of sustainable development in the 21st century and the motivation behind the Millennium Development Goals and the SDGs.

United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. (2017). *New Urban Agenda* [Outcome Document]. Retrieved 14 July 2017 from: http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-English-With-Index-1.pdf

The New Urban Agenda is the outcome document of the most recent UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – Habitat III. This document is divided into the Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All and the Quito Implementation Plan for the New Urban Agenda. The agenda serves as a roadmap for a sustainable urban future, while recognizing the importance of environmental factors, urban planning, and human rights. Delegates will find this resource useful when researching recent hallmark conferences and declarations concerning the relationship between urbanization and sustainable development.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2014). *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision: Highlights (ST/ESA/SER.A//352)* [Report]. Retrieved 15 July 2017 from: https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/publications/files/wup2014-highlights.Pdf

The 2014 World Urbanization Prospects is a report published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which compiles economic, social, and environmental data for publications to inform interested governments, and to enhance and support intergovernmental cooperation. The report provides an overview of the recent history of urbanization, as well as trends on the future of urbanization. Additionally, the document provides statistics on urbanization for Member States. Delegates will find this resource useful as it has acted as the roadmap to the 2016 World Cities Report and the New Urban Agenda.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs & Yangzhou Municipal People's Government, High-Level Symposium on Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Urbanisation. (2013). *Yangzhou Recommendations on Sustainable Cities and Urbanization* [Outcome Document]. Retrieved 15 July 2017 from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2923Yangzhourecommendations.pdf

This outcome document of the High-Level Symposium on Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Urbanization provides best practices for sustainable urbanization as well as urban planning. The document highlights important aspects pertaining to slum upgrading, green infrastructure, and the urban built environment. Furthermore, it identifies threats to sustainable urban growth and provides suggestions on approaches to include rural-urban migrants into ever-growing urban settings. This resource is insightful as it provides delegates with clearly listed objectives on attaining sustainable urbanization, as well as presenting an example of international-local cooperation on developing frameworks surrounding the role of urbanization in sustainable development.

United Nations Development Programme. (2016). *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World* [Report]. Retrieved 14 August 2017 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/sustainable-urbanization-strategy.html

This report outlines the UNDP's goals and strategies pertaining to achieving sustainable urbanization. The Sustainable Urbanization Strategy is separated into sections discussing sustainable development trajectories for rapidly growing cities, the UNDP's role in achieving sustainable urbanization, UNDP's policies and program support, as well as suggestions moving forward. The report focuses on three main pillars in achieving sustainable urbanization, which

are inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability. This document is useful for further research as it approaches the topic of urbanization from a sustainable development standpoint and enables delegates to study this topic from the point of view of a thematically specific UN body.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2014). *Effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2014/67)*. Retrieved 25 August 2017 from: http://undocs.org/E/2014/67

This report of the Secretary-General provides a thematic discussion of the role of policymaking and urban governance in achieving sustainable urbanization. The report advocates for effective long-term measures that facilitate urban planning and governance to improve urban quality of life. The report contains four sections covering governing, planning and management instruments for promoting urban sustainability; emerging models for sustainable urbanization; lessons learned from the implementation of different urban governance models; and future recommendations respectively. The report enables delegates to understand the impact of the role of urbanization on sustainable development within the UN framework by providing a discussion of numerous urban governance models and their effectiveness, as well as policy recommendations.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council, High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. (2017). *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2017/66).* Retrieved 15 July 2017 from: http://undocs.org/E/2017/66

This report provides an overview on the achievement of SDGs in 2017. On page 13 of the report, SDG 11"Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" is summarized with the most up-to-date rundown of actions taken in achieving the goal. This section highlights the complications that have arisen in reaching the goal as well as global efforts taken in achieving SDG 11. Delegates will find this document useful as it provides a progress report on achieving SDGs, as well as implications of what still needs to be done and how this can be accomplished.

United Nations, Economic Commission for Africa. (2017). *Economic Report on Africa 2017: Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation*. Retrieved 27 August 2017 from: https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-documents/ERA/ERA2017/era-2017_en_fin_jun2017.pdf

This document presents recent economic developments in Africa, a region that has been experiencing significant economic growth and urbanization. The report is divided into six sections discussing recent economic and social developments in Africa, an overview of structural transformation and urbanization, the urbanization-industrialization nexus, urbanization and industrialization in practice, and policy responses. Furthermore, the report analyzes the role of urbanization in sustainable development in Africa, and covers numerous case studies portraying successes and failures. Delegates will find this report helpful as it presents a regional discussion of the role of urbanization in sustainable development.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2015). *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313).* Retrieved 24 September 2017 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/313

The agenda provides a detailed framework for financing sustainable development. The framework focuses on bridging societal and regional inequalities, focusing on the rural-urban divide. Moreover, the framework provides suggestions on public-private cooperation on financing for development and elaborates on regional organizations taking action. As a hallmark document, the agenda is complementary of the New Urban Agenda in working toward achieving sustainable urbanization. This agenda is the key document on financing for sustainable development and provides insight into economic and financial factors influencing the role of urbanization in sustainable development.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2016). *World Cities Report: Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*. Retrieved 14 August 2017 from: http://wcr.unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WCR-2016-Full-Report.pdf

The World Cities Report is an extensive document that presents and analyzes recent trends that have been influencing cities. The report acts as a supplementary report leading up to the creation

of the New Urban Agenda, and possess policy suggestions for the agenda. The report is divided into a discussion of the history of urbanization, urbanization as a transformative force, housing, the widening urban divide, urban environmental sustainability, urban governance, urban planning, changing urban economies, and principles and outcomes of a new urban agenda. This key document will help delegates understand the origins of the New Urban Agenda and the background of the proposed actions within the agenda.

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III. Sustainable Tourism for Poverty Eradication

"Harnessing tourism's benefits will be critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the post-2015 development agenda."[254]

Introduction

Although the number of people in poverty has considerably decreased, from 1.7 billion in 2000 to 767 million in 2013, there still exists a need for augmented efforts and strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to create more jobs, boost the economy, and provide better social protection systems, especially for those who live under the international poverty line of $1.90 per day.[255] The World Health Organization (WHO) defines poverty as "the undermining of a range of key human attributes, including health."[256] Poverty eradication in all of its forms has been a primary stated goal of the United Nations (UN) for almost two decades.[257] The UN's continuous commitment to eradicate poverty has been present through various mechanisms, including the *Millennium Declaration (2000),* which was signed by all Member States and led to the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).[258] Right before the MDGs expired in 2015, Member States adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2016), establishing 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated Targets in order to set a framework that would further enhance the work that had been made concerning current issues, including poverty eradication.[259]

As one of the most thriving industries in the world, tourism accounts for five percent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP).[260] Taking into consideration the role that this sector plays in the global economy, the UN General Assembly declared 2017 as International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development to encourage and highlight the capability that tourism has in contributing to the implementation and achievement of the SDGs through economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection.[261] Furthermore, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* also links tourism as a driver for the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication.[262] The 2030 Agenda highlights in Targets 8.9 and 12.b the need to create policies within sustainable tourism that promote local cultures and creates jobs, and execute resources that will help to keep track of the progress made in these sectors, respectively.[263]

The outcome document of the Rio+20 conference in 2012, *The Future We Want*, described the importance of sustainable tourism, describing it as a vital contributor "to the three dimensions of sustainable development, (that) has close linkages to other sectors, and can create decent jobs and generate trade opportunities" due to the impact the industry has on other sectors and the local economy, whether it is through job creation or trade.[264]

International and Regional Framework

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)* addresses the commitment by Member States to provide citizens access to a decent standard of living, health and housing, and education; this commitment informs much of the UN's work.[265] In 1980, the UN General Assembly adopted the *Manila Declaration on World Tourism* (1980), which serves as a guideline for Member States in terms of implementation of policies concerning tourism due to its role "as a positive instrument toward the improvement of the quality of life for all peoples, as well as a vital force for peace

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[254] UN DPI, *Secretary-General Message for 2014*, 2014.
[255] UN ECOSOC, *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2017/66)*, 2017.
[256] UN WHO, *Poverty.*
[257] UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000.
[258] Ibid.
[259] UNWTO, *Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015.
[260] World Travel & Tourism Council, *Travel & Tourism: Economic Impact 2017 World*, 2017, p. 1; UNWTO, *Tourism and Poverty Alleviation.*
[261] UNWTO, *2017 is the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017 (A/RES/70/193)*, 2015.
[262] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Tourism.*
[263] Ibid.
[264] UN General Assembly, *The Future We Want (A/RES/66/288)*, 2012.
[265] UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217A (III))*, 1948.

and international understanding."[266] The *Hague Declaration on Tourism* (1989) is the outcome document of the Interparliamentary Conference on Tourism, held in The Hague in 1989, and emphasizes the significance of promoting tourism based on the principles of "the protection and development of the physical environment and the cultural heritage, as well as to improving the quality of life."[267]

In 1999, the General Assembly of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), adopted the *Global Code of Ethics for Tourism*, which established a series of principles concerning tourism development and outlines how tourism plays a key role in the promotion of sustainable development through the protection of the environment, respect for cultural heritage, and the socio-economic empowerment of local communities.[268] One year later at the Millennium Summit, Member States adopted the *Millennium Declaration*, the document that served as the foundation for the MDGs, a set of goals that included objectives such as poverty alleviation, access to education, and socio-economic equality.[269] Member States adopted the *Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development* and the *Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development* at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.[270] The Plan reiterates poverty eradication goals set by the *Millennium Declaration* and *Agenda 21* (1992), the outcome document of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, emphasizing the role of sustainable development in achieving these goals.[271] The outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, *The Future We Want*, recognizes the importance of implementing sustainable development practices and policies in various sectors such as tourism, in order to achieve different global objectives through the empowerment of local communities by providing financial assistance such as the creation of small and medium businesses or access to microcredits.[272]

Implemented in 2016, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) stresses through SDG Targets 8.9, 12.b, and 14.7 the importance of sustainable tourism as a source for jobs, foreign investment and appreciation of local culture, as well as the need for policies that encompass and encourage sustainable development and its economic, social, and environmental pillars.[273] The role of sustainable tourism is not limited to the aforementioned goals, however.[274] Through the implementation of sustainable tourism that strives to benefit local populations, additional SDGs may be realized, including Goal 2, "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture" and Goal 5, "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls," both of which further poverty eradication efforts globally.[275]

Role of the International System

As part of its commitment to promote sustainable development, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) created the UN Division for Sustainable Development (DSD).[276] This division within the UN Secretariat is in charge of overseeing the intergovernmental processes concerning sustainable development, coordinating inter-agency efforts, and hosting the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).[277] HLPF replaced the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and its main task is to provide guidance concerning the implementation of the SDGs and encourage multi-stakeholder partnerships for the achievement of sustainable development's three main pillars.[278] Besides DSD, another agency within the UN Secretariat responsible for providing support in terms of sustainable development's main pillars is DESA.[279] DESA supports different

[266] UN General Assembly, *Manila Declaration on World Tourism (A/RES/36/41)*, 1981.
[267] UNWTO, *Hague Declaration on Tourism*, 1989.
[268] UN General Assembly, *Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (A/RES56/212)*, 2002.
[269] UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000.
[270] UN World Summit on Sustainable Development, *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/CONF.199/20)*, 2002.
[271] Ibid.
[272] UN General Assembly, *The Future We Want (A/RES/66/288)*, 2012.
[273] UN DESA, *Sustainable Tourism*, 2017.
[274] UNWTO, *Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015.
[275] Ibid., UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.
[276] UN DESA, *Division for Sustainable Development.*
[277] Ibid.
[278] UN DESA, *High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*, 2017.
[279] UN DESA, *About UN DESA*, 2017.

initiatives and strategies by the international community aimed to promote sustainable development and the SDGs.[280]

Since its creation in 1975, UNWTO has advocated for the recognition of tourism as an important tool for the achievement of sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development.[281] To address issues concerning the role that sustainable tourism can play in poverty eradication, UNWTO created the Sustainable Tourism-Eliminating Poverty (ST-EP) Initiative at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002.[282] In 2010, the International Labor Organization (ILO), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the UNWTO jointly established the UN Steering Committee on Tourism for Development (SCTD).[283] This initiative comes as part of an inter-agency effort to support least developed countries (LDCs) and developing countries in terms of strengthening and promoting tourism's part in the achievement of sustainable development.[284] In collaboration with other UN agencies, world leaders, and industry partners, UNWTO's main task through ST-EP is to stimulate poverty alleviation through measures related to sustainable development.[285] In 2013, this initiative became an international organization, headquartered in the Republic of Korea, that continues to advocate for: economic and sustainable growth; educating and training local communities; and the respect of cultural and natural heritage sites.[286] That same year, in collaboration with the European Commission, UNWTO produced a document titled "Sustainable Tourism for Development Guidebook."[287] This guideline was first used in six different developing states in Asia and Africa, though its mission is to promote sustainable tourism as an important resource to foment economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection in all Member States.[288]

At the International High-level Meeting of Experts on Sustainable Tourism for Development in the Least Developed Countries held in 2010, members of UNCTAD discussed the need to encourage sustainable tourism as an alternative for economic growth and poverty reduction, due to the dynamism and resilience of the industry.[289] UNCTAD currently plays an important role in the achievement of the of certain targets present in the SDGs, such as Goal 1, which stresses the importance of ending poverty in all levels; Goal 8, which establishes the need for decent work and economic growth; and Goal 12, which highlights the significance of responsible consumption and production.[290] The efforts of this UN agency concerning poverty eradication and sustainable tourism are present in different initiatives, as outlined in the 2017 report, *UNCTAD's Economic Development in Africa Report 2017: Tourism for Transformative and Inclusive Growth*, a document that analyzes the role of tourism in Africa as a driver for economic growth and poverty alleviation through the diversification and development of the industry.[291] Moreover, UNCTAD heads the inter-agency dialogue in charge of monitoring the progress concerning the implementation of the SDGs.[292]

World leaders adopted the *10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns* (10YFP) at Rio+20 to guide Member States toward creating and strengthening sustainable consumption and production (SCP) policies in both developed and developing countries.[293] Within this framework, the United Nations Environmental Programme runs a Sustainable Tourism Programme, which looks to integrate SCP patterns

[280] Ibid.
[281] UNWTO, *Why tourism?*.
[282] UNWTO, *Background and Objectives.*
[283] UNWTO, *UN Steering Committee on Tourism for Development (SCTD).*
[284] Ibid.
[285] UNWTO, *Background and Objectives.*
[286] UNWTO, *Making tourism a tool to fight poverty: ten years of the ST-EP Initiative*, 2017.
[287] UNWTO, *Sustainable Tourism for Development Guidebook*, 2013.
[288] Ibid.
[289] UNCTAD, *International High-level Meeting of Experts on Sustainable Tourism for Development in the Least Developed Countries*, 2010.
[290] UNCTAD, *UNCTAD Delivers on Sustainable Development Goals.*
[291] UNCTAD, *Economic Development in Africa Report 2017*, 2017.
[292] UNCTAD, *UNCTAD Delivers on Sustainable Development Goals.*
[293] UNEP, *What is the 10YFP?*, 2012.

in tourism within policies and frameworks, enhance multi-stakeholder partnerships in the tourism sector, and promote investment and finance within the sector.[294]

The Effects of Tourism

Tourism activities contribute five percent of the world's GDP and are often considered among the most sustainable and viable development options for developing states.[295] Tourism can be especially useful in the alleviation of poverty, as rural regions that typically have very disadvantaged populations can have many of the features that allow for a tourism site to be developed, including warm climate and biodiversity.[296] When tourism ventures are successful, they can have a multitude of positive effects, including directly creating jobs, indirectly creating jobs by allowing for new businesses to be created, and the development of new infrastructure.[297] The possibilities of tourism encourage both governments and the private sector to put resources into communities where they may not otherwise focus.[298] Tourism can lead to the redevelopment or refurbishment of historic sites, the protection of forests, lakes, rivers, and even wildlife through the creation of nature preserves and environmental protection plans.[299] Governments often cite these possible outcomes as reasons to put financial resources into tourism development, but tourism can also have a negative local impact.[300]

As large groups of people begin to traverse a space that was previously used by a much smaller population, there are often unforeseen and negative effects.[301] In some cases, local culture can be subjugated as tourism becomes a priority.[302] The private lives and culture of local people can be treated as a commodity to lure tourists, many of whom lack understanding to treat local cultures with necessary respect.[303] Higher levels of tourism can also increase crime, bring narcotics into communities where they had previously not been available, invite higher levels of waste and pollution without accompanying infrastructure, and cause high levels of damage to the environment as foot traffic increases and local resources and used to create sites for tourists.[304] In some instances, the nature of the economy changes.[305] As many Caribbean countries increased their levels of tourism, they became net importers of food instead of net exporters.[306] In other cases, resources get diverted from supporting local populations in order to provide for tourists.[307] This was the case in Cancun, Mexico, when a water supply was taken away from local inhabitants to ensure that visitors had consistent access.[308] Oftentimes, these issues are driven by the private sector who are trying to recoup their investments and provide the best experience possible for their customers.[309]

The Role of the Private Sector

Tourism inherently attracts private sector investment, especially in hotels, airlines, travel agencies, and restaurants.[310] As in many industries, multinational enterprises (MNCs) are often criticized for being overly dominant in tourism and pushing out small actors, but MNCs carry a minority market share in tourism as compared to small- and medium-sized enterprise (SMEs), especially in industrialized states.[311] In developing countries, where tourism is less common and poverty is higher, foreign direct investment (FDI) from MNCs is one of the easiest

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[294] UNEP, *Sustainable Tourism Programme*.
[295] World Travel & Tourism Council, *Travel & Tourism: Economic Impact 2017 World*, 2017, p. 1.
[296] UNWTO, *Tourism and Poverty Alleviation.*
[297] Simm, Positive and Negative Effects of Tourism, *USA Today*.
[298] Ibid.
[299] Ibid.
[300] Ruxin, Tourism in the Developing World – Beneficial or Exploitative?, *Huffington Post*.
[301] Randle & Halter, The Tourism Crisis: Impacts and Solutions, *Huffington Post*, 2013.
[302] Simm, Positive and Negative Effects of Tourism, *USA Today*.
[303] Pi-Sunyor & Oriol, The Cultural Costs of Tourism, *Cultural Survival Quarterly Magazine*, 1982.
[304] Randle & Halter, The Tourism Crisis: Impacts and Solutions, *Huffington Post*, 2013.
[305] Ibid.
[306] Ibid.
[307] Ibid.
[308] Ibid.
[309] Ibid.
[310] Balalia & Petrescu, *The Involvement of the Public and Private Sector - Elements with Influence on Travel & Tourism Demand During the Crisis Period*, 2011, p. 217.
[311] Zimny, *Foreign Direct Investments and Transnational Corporations in Tourism in Developing Countries*, 2005, p. 14.

vectors to develop tourism infrastructure.[312] If managed well, FDI in tourism can generate new jobs and have a multiplicative effect on the local economy, allowing new businesses to flourish and local infrastructure to improve.[313] If mismanaged or not managed, however, rapid tourism development that often comes with FDI can result in negative pressures on the local environment, including further entrenching the local population in poverty.[314] Governments often lack the capacity to ensure that companies do not cause harm, or they are hesitant to impose regulations that may discourage businesses from investing, so the concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR) emerged to put the onus on the firms themselves.[315]

CSR refers to business practices that seek to benefit the communities in which they operate and minimize the negative effects.[316] Among the largest international mechanisms for CSR is the UN Global Compact (UNGC), an initiative that allows businesses to voluntarily sign up and report the extent to which they are upholding their CSR.[317] The Global Compact includes ten principles, based in part on the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and the ILO's *Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*, including four labor principles meant to protect vulnerable workers, including the impoverished.[318] Over 9,000 companies have already signed up with the UNGC, but the organization itself has recognized that keeping business responsible and leveraging the private sector to reduce poverty requires much higher levels of coordination and effort than exist today.[319] Developing policy to achieve this can be difficult, and although consumer demand for socially positive tourism is growing, research has indicated that tourists are not willing to put in extra effort to ensure that the money they are spending is positively impacting the local economy.[320]

Social Enterprises

Social enterprises, which use business strategies to achieve specific social, environmental, or developmental outcomes while making a profit, are increasingly seeking to meet that demand and provide responsible tourism options that are socially responsible.[321] Social enterprises in tourism often provide employment for marginalized groups, including the poor, and unlike most companies, social enterprises use business models that often include reinvesting profits back into the business and community rather than dispersing them to owners or shareholders.[322] This can increase the multiplicative effect that tourism has on the local economy.[323] Some companies also engage in human capital development by providing training and education that can allow the local population to better seek employment or even start their own business. They can even partner with local governments to develop infrastructure.[324] One example is ETHOS, a company operating out of Vietnam, that works directly with rural Hmong populations to bring in small groups of tourists into their communities, providing employment and bringing in external funds.[325] To help ensure that negative effects are minimized, ETHOS asks its customers to commit to a code of conduct and actively engaged with its local partners to develop CSR plans.[326] Firms like this are important to maximizing the positive impact of tourism, as tourism does not inherently promote the alleviation of poverty.[327]

Promoting Tourism for Poverty Eradication

In addition to the other potential pitfalls of tourism development, tourist spending that is spent on imports or is earned by foreign labor or foreign firms does little to contribute to the local economy or provide income to the

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[312] UNCTAD, *FDI in Tourism: The Development Dimension*, 2007, p. xi.
[313] Simm, Positive and Negative Effects of Tourism, *USA Today*.
[314] Ibid.
[315] UNWTO, *Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives*.
[316] Ibid.
[317] UN Global Compact, *What's the Commitment?*.
[318] UN Global Compact, *The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact*.
[319] UN Global Compact, *Our Participants*; Confino, Compelling sustainability vision needed to align business initiatives, *The Guardian*, 2013.
[320] Chafe, *Consumer Demand and Operator Support for Socially and Environmentally Responsible Tourism*, 2005, pp. 2-3.
[321] UN Global Compact, *A Framework for Action: Social Enterprise and Impact Investing*, 2012.
[322] Scott & Noll, Travel as a Source of Good: Social Enterprise and Community Impact, *Medium*, 2015.
[323] Ibid.
[324] ETHOS, *Spirit of the Community*.
[325] Ibid.
[326] Ibid.
[327] Blake et al., *Tourism and Poverty Alleviation in Brazil*, 2008, p. 2.

impoverished and studies have indicated that in some developing states, as much as 75% of tourism spending benefits a foreign industrialized state.[328] The international community regularly talks about how to improve this situation and ensure that tourism benefits host states, contributes to poverty alleviation, and helps to achieve the SDGs.[329] During the 71st session of the General Assembly, the Second Committee highlighted the important role the private sector can play in capacity-building and promoting sustainable tourism, but also the need for Member States and the UN to improve their work and policies to maximize the benefits from tourism for the SDGs, especially in terms of poverty eradication.[330] Many UN bodies and agencies have given guidance on how Member States and other stakeholders can leverage tourism for poverty eradication, and UNWTO stated 10 principles for pursuing poverty eradication in 2010.[331] The overarching theme of these principles is that the goal of poverty alleviation should be considered in all aspects of tourism sector development in such a way that ensures the impoverished local populations are given access to viable development opportunities.[332]

While management of the destination and actions by the private sector have a huge impact on the extent to which the above principles are realized, governments remain critically important to achieving poverty eradication through tourism development.[333] Most developing states already have tourism included in their poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs), which are high level plans for eradicating poverty prepared by governments with assistance from civil society, development partners, and international financial institutions.[334] PRSPs often lack detailed policy items and rarely outline specifics for leveraging and growing the tourism sector, so many states prepare national tourism strategies, the most successful of which consider the location of impoverished communities and proposals for funding, training, and support services to build up tourism in or near those communities.[335] Governments can also enact laws that make it much more likely that tourism will prosper, such as supporting SMEs with incentives or tax relief, encouraging or requiring public-private partnerships in tourism that will ensure development benefits each country's poor, and even requiring that local people have the opportunity to be employed in new tourism ventures.[336] When undertaken in conjunction with business development policies that encourage investment, such as infrastructure planning and spending, tax exemption in remote areas, and land tenure laws that allow businesses to buy or lease and build property, governments have been able to directly reduce poverty as levels of tourism rise.[337]

Case Study: Tourism in Panama

Like most developing states, Panama has long characterized by high levels of inequality with most poor populations living in peri-urban and rural areas.[338] In Panama's case, 85% of the impoverished lived in rural areas and the poverty rates were almost three times as high as in urban areas throughout the 2000s.[339] Between 2004 and 2006, Panama had been doing economically well, averaging 7.5% growth in gross domestic product, but those gains were having little impact on rural poverty.[340] As part of an overall development and poverty reduction strategy, Panama received funding and technical assistance from the Inter-American Development bank and UNDP to develop a Tourism Sector Master Plan that was finalized in 2008.[341] The plan expanded the list of government-supported tourism destinations from nine to 26 and outlined 21 programs with 72 projects meant to build up the infrastructure and technical expertise in more rural areas such that they could support and attract higher levels of tourism.[342] The

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[328] Ibid.
[329] UN General Assembly, *Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection (A/RES/71/240)*, 2017.
[330] Ibid.
[331] UNWTO, *Manual on Tourism and Poverty Alleviation – Practical Steps for Destinations*, 2010.
[332] Ibid., p. 146.
[333] Ibid., p. 3.
[334] Ibid.
[335] Ibid., p. 4.
[336] Ibid., pp. 4-5.
[337] Ibid., p
[338] Klytchnikova & Dorosh, *Tourism sector in Panama. Regional economic impacts and the potential to benefit the poor*, 2014, p. 62; Klytchnikova & Dorosh, *How tourism can (and does) benefit the poor and the environment – A case study from Panama*, p. 1.
[339] Klytchnikova & Dorosh, *How tourism can (and does) benefit the poor and the environment – A case study from Panama*, p. 1.
[340] Ibid.
[341] Inter-American Development Bank, *PN-T1031: Tourism Master Plan 2007 – 2020*, 2017; Klytchnikova & Dorosh, *How tourism can (and does) benefit the poor and the environment – A case study from Panama*, p. 1.
[342] *Tourism "Master Plan" in Panama will need $741 million in investment*, CentralAmericaData, 2008.

plan was presented to the UNWTO and over time, investments were main and public-private-partnerships were created to build up guest services, hotels, and related tourism necessities.[343] Even as the plan was executed, there was still concern that the "leakage" of benefits would be high, as much of the construction and business management was not being carried out by local people and firms.[344] The net results were very positive, however, as poverty levels declined significantly, employment levels rose, and local communities were able to exploit much higher levels of visitors.[345] Although it may have been possible for the reductions to be greater, positive results were seen regardless of the investment type, including community-based, ecotourism, and mass tourism on the coasts.[346]

Conclusion

On World Tourism Day in 2014, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recognized "harnessing tourism's benefits will be critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the post-2015 development agenda."[347] The achievement of these goals is vitally important to the first SDG, "End poverty in all its forms everywhere," because of the role targets such as reducing inequality and ensuring inclusive and quality education play in poverty eradication.[348] Sustainable tourism holds the unique opportunity of address globally poverty levels by providing local populations, particularly those in rural areas, the opportunity to realize economic growth and benefit from new industries entering their communities.[349] However, as has been seen before, some tourism endeavors have proven to be detrimental to the health and prosperity of local and rural populations and therefore great care should be taken when pursuing policies to develop tourism sector so as to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of local populations and allow for their economic growth and development in the long-run.[350]

Further Research

As delegates continue their research, they should consider questions such as: How can Member States ensure that policies pursued in the development a tourism sector are considerate of the local populations and culture? What best practices exist in sustainable tourism that further poverty eradication efforts? How can Member States encourage philanthropic and private sector investment into the tourism sector in a way that benefits local populations? What safeguards need to be in place to protect local populations from potential negative impacts in the development of sustainable tourism in their communities?

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United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2017). *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2017/66)* [Report]. Retrieved 7 September 2017 from: http://undocs.org/E/2017/66

This report by the Secretary-General discusses in detail the progress concerning the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. In terms of Goal 1, it talks about how the most vulnerable groups are the ones who lack of more social protections and there is a considerable part of the population that lives under the poverty line. Furthermore, it debates how the number of children working has increased and that there is still gender inequality in the workforce. This document will be useful for delegates in understanding the progress that has been made concerning the SDGs and also what areas need to be improved.

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Sustainable Tourism Programme* [Website]. Retrieved 18 July 2017 from: http://www.unep.org/10yfp/programmes/sustainable-tourism-programme

Adopted by Member States at the Rio+20 Conference, the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YPF) is an initiative whose Secretariat is

[343] Ibid.
[344] Klytchnikova & Dorosh, *How tourism can (and does) benefit the poor and the environment – A case study from Panama*, p. 2.
[345] Ibid., p. 4.
[346] Ibid., p. 4.
[347] UNWTO, *Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015.
[348] Byanyima, How can we eradicate poverty by 2030?, *World Economic Forum*, 2015.
[349] WTO, *Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015.
[350] Randle & Halter, The Tourism Crisis: Impacts and Solutions, *Huffington Post*, 2013; Simm, Positive and Negative Effects of Tourism, *USA Today*.

UN Environment Programme and which aims to establish a global framework of programs concerning sustainable consumption and production patterns. This website gives information concerning the 10YPF's objectives, areas of action—such as sustainable tourism—and its mission. Furthermore, it provides a wide array of resources for delegates to understand what sustainable consumption and production is.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017 (A/RES/70/193)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/472). Retrieved 18 July 2017 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/193

The adoption of this resolution by the General Assembly came as a result of the Member States interest to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable tourism by establishing 2017 as the "International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development." It specifically addresses main areas of action when it comes to leveraging tourism for poverty reduction. This document will be of great aid for delegates in obtaining a better understanding on why sustainable tourism is currently of great importance to the international community.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2017). *Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection (A/RES/71/240)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/71/467). Retrieved 4 November 2017 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/71/240

This resolution, drafted by the Second Committee, highlights the role of sustainable tourism in poverty eradication. It also recognizes the important role sustainable tourism has in facilitating the achievement of the SDGs. However, the General Assembly emphasizes the importance of respect for indigenous cultures, as well as the empowerment of women, in the development of sustainable tourism. This is an excellent resource to begin with when searching for similar prior resolutions, reports, and actions related to the promotion of sustainable tourism as a means of eradicating poverty.

United Nations Global Compact. (2012). *A Framework for Action: Social Enterprise & Impact Investing* [Report]. Retrieved 4 November 2017 from: https://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues_doc/development/Framework_Social_Enterprise_Impact_Investing.pdf

This report, drafted by the United Nations Global Compact in partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation, is useful to delegates in understanding the role of social enterprises and impact investment in poverty eradication. It recognizes that the resources provided by governments and philanthropists are not sufficient to spur the development needed to meet the SDGs. However, investors generally seek a return on their investments and so the development of a framework that assists investors in aligning their business interests with positive social impact was necessary to encourage additional business ventures. This report is important for delegates in building their understanding of the ways in which private sector funding can be directed to address global poverty.

United Nations, World Summit on Sustainable Development. (2002). *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/CONF.199/20).* Retrieved 2 September 2017 from: http://undocs.org/A/CONF.199/20

Adopted in 2002, this report includes resolutions adopted during the World Summit, including the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The plan examines the role of finance and trade in the achievement of sustainable development. The plan makes a series of recommendations that Member States can implement in order to create a more sustainable form of production and consumption. Furthermore, it invites Member States to create an international collaborative framework that will promote international cooperation in topics concerning sustainable consumption and production (SCP), as well as further enhance sustainable tourism's role as a driver for poverty eradication in all levels. This document is an excellent source in understanding importance of fomenting sustainable consumption and production (SCP), as well as the linkages between tourism and poverty eradication.

United Nations World Tourism Organization. (2010). *Manual on Tourism and Poverty Alleviation – Practical Steps for Destinations*. Retrieved 4 November 2017 from: http://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284413430

The UNWTO drafted this manual as a guide for Member States and local municipalities on how to best develop a tourism sector that draws significant economic growth while still benefitting local populations. The manual provides exercise worksheets use when developing a tourism sector that ensures local populations and poverty eradication goals are kept in mind. Exercise 1 in this manual covers 10 principles on how best to eliminate poverty through the pursuit of tourism. Delegates should familiarize themselves with as they consider best practices and solutions for guiding the use of sustainable tourism as a means to eradicate poverty.

United Nations World Tourism Organization. (2013). *Sustainable Tourism for Development* [Report]. Retrieved 17 July from: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---sector/documents/publication/wcms_216669.pdf

In 2013, the UNWTO produced this report concerning sustainable tourism and its linkages with development. The document highlights in its fourth pillar the different opportunities that sustainable tourism has to play in poverty reduction and giving back to the local communities by providing employment, empowering less favored groups while having a low impact on the environment This document will be useful for delegates in understanding how sustainable tourism can impact in different areas of society, especially since it represents 10% of the world's GDP.

United Nations World Tourism Organization. (2015). *Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals* [Brochure]. Retrieved 19 July 2017 from: http://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284417254

Produced by UNWTO, this brochure explains the role that tourism plays in the achievement of the SDGs. By providing background information on each goal, it also highlights the different mechanisms and opportunities that tourism offers Member States to accomplish each goal. Delegates can gain important insight into how tourism is vital for the promotion of the SDGs, specifically goals 1, 5, 7, 8, and 12.

United Nations World Tourism Organization. (2017). *Making tourism a tool to fight poverty: ten years of the ST-EP Initiative* [Report]. Retrieved 18 July from: http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/brochure_st-ep_web.pdf

The Sustainable Tourism-Eliminating Poverty (ST-EP) initiative began in 2002 as part of a multi-stakeholder partnership between the UNWTO, the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Government of Italy, the Netherlands Development Organization, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development, the Government of Flanders, and the Government of Macao, China. This initiative aspires to provide governments, NGOs, and the public with resources to implement sustainable tourism in their communities as a form of poverty alleviation, as well as enhancing local participation and cooperation between sectors. This report is of critical reading for delegates since it provides up-to-date information on the progress that has been made concerning poverty alleviation through tourism at the local, regional, and international levels.

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