UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2018

Written by: Nicholas Gachet Racines, Director; Stéphanie Toschi, Director; Frank Cassata, Assistant Director; Salima B. Mahamoudou, Assistant Director

NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS
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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2018 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to welcome you to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This year’s staff are: Directors Nicholas Gachet (Conference A) and Stéphanie Toschi (Conference B), and Assistant Directors Frank Cassata (Conference A) and Salima Mahamoudou (Conference B). Nicholas received his B.A in economics from Universidad San Francisco de Quito and an MSc from The London School of Economics and is working as a teaching assistant at USFQ. Stéphanie completed her M.A at the College of Europe, Brugge, and is working as Junior Diplomat for the EU Delegation to the Council of Europe. Frank completed his Bachelors in Political Science from Illinois State University. He is pursuing a Master’s in United Nations and Global Policy from Rutgers University. Salima is a Research Analyst at the World Resources Institute and is also pursuing a MSc in Climate Change and Development from the University of London SOAS.

The topics under discussion for the United Nations Development Programme are:

1. The Role of Access to Clean Water in Eradicating Poverty
2. Sustainable Cities and Transportation: A Bridge to Development
3. Promoting Resilient Communities

As one of the United Nations’ operational programs, UNDP is directly involved on the ground in over 170 countries, in order to help implement policies within its three main pillars: sustainable development, democratic governance and peacebuilding, and climate and disaster resilience. In this context, UNDP works to promote and advance the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015. Finally, in an effort to create better coordination between different UN program lines, UNDP also looks for a correct allocation of resources in order to maximize the efficiency of programs related to development in several countries, by administering the UN Capital Development Fund.

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 Development Department, Moritz Müller (Conference A) and Maximilian Jungmann (Conference B), at usg.development@nmun.org.

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

Conference A
Nicholas Gachet, Director
Frank Cassata, Assistant Director

Conference B
Stéphanie Toschi, Director
Salima Mahamoudou , 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAAA</td>
<td><em>Addis Ababa Action Agenda</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>BRT</td>
<td><em>Bus Rapid Transit</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td><em>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>CESCR</td>
<td>Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLEAR</td>
<td>Coherence, linkages, expertise, access, and reporting</td>
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<td>CPI</td>
<td>Cities Prospective Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td><em>Convention on the Rights of the Child</em></td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
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<td>DRD</td>
<td><em>Declaration on the Right to Development</em></td>
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<td>ECOSOC</td>
<td>Economic and Social Council</td>
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<td>EPTA</td>
<td>Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
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<td>GEF</td>
<td>Global Environment Facility</td>
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<td>GEMI</td>
<td>Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative</td>
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<td>GHG</td>
<td>Greenhouse gases</td>
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<td>GLAAS</td>
<td>Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water</td>
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<td>GPST</td>
<td>Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport</td>
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<td>GWTF</td>
<td>Interagency Task Force on Gender and Water</td>
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<tr>
<td>Habitat II</td>
<td>Second UN Conference on Human Settlements</td>
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<td>Habitat III</td>
<td>Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development</td>
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<td>HLAG-ST</td>
<td>UN High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport</td>
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<td>HLMs</td>
<td>High-Level Meetings</td>
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<td>HLPF</td>
<td>High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>HLPW</td>
<td>High-Level Panel on Water</td>
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<td>HRC</td>
<td>Human Rights Council</td>
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<td>ICWE</td>
<td>International Conference on Water and the Environment</td>
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<td>IRU</td>
<td>International Road Transport Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>JMP</td>
<td>Joint Monitoring Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAPS</td>
<td>Mainstreaming, acceleration, and policy support</td>
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<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goal</td>
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<td>MPI</td>
<td>Global Multidimensional Poverty Index</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental organization</td>
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<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
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<td>OHCHR</td>
<td>Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights</td>
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<td>QCPR</td>
<td>Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review</td>
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<td>RC</td>
<td>Resident Coordinator</td>
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<td>Río+20</td>
<td>UN Conference on Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>SCP</td>
<td>Sustainable Cities Programme</td>
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<td>SDGF</td>
<td>SDG Fund</td>
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<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<td>SWA</td>
<td>Sanitation and Water for All</td>
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<tr>
<td>UDHR</td>
<td><em>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</em></td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN DESA</td>
<td>United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs</td>
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<td>UN-Habitat</td>
<td>UN Human Settlements Programme</td>
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<td>UN-Women</td>
<td>United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women</td>
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<td>UNCED</td>
<td>UN Conference on Environment and Development</td>
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<td>UNDG</td>
<td>United Nations Development Group</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNEP</td>
<td>UN Environment Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>UNOPS</td>
<td>United Nations Office for Project Services</td>
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<td>UPPR</td>
<td>Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction</td>
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<td>VNR</td>
<td>Voluntary National Report</td>
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<td>WCED</td>
<td>World Commission on Environment and Development</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<td>WUF</td>
<td>World Urban Forum</td>
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Committee Overview

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) Development Programme (UNDP) embodies Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations (1945), which outlines the organization’s responsibility to promote “higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development,” as prerequisites to peace.\(^1\) Originally, development activities of the UN consisted largely of providing technical advice through the UN Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and support for pre-investment projects through the UN Special Fund, created in 1949 and 1958 respectively, for the benefit of less developed countries.\(^2\) To streamline these assistance programs, General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX) of 22 November 1965 consolidated the EPTA and the UN Special Fund to establish UNDP as of 1 January 1966.\(^3\) Today, as the UN’s “global development network,” UNDP promotes developing countries and territories by carrying out activities aimed at eliminating poverty, reducing inequalities, strengthening democratic governance, and supporting crisis prevention and recovery.\(^4\)

Governance, Structure, and Membership

Executive Board

UNDP leadership is comprised of an administrator and an Executive Board.\(^5\) The administrator, who is currently Achim Steiner, is appointed by the Secretary-General and confirmed by the General Assembly for a four-year term.\(^6\) UNDP is led by an Executive Board that consists of 36 rotating members from five geographic groups: eight from the group of African States, seven from the group of Asian and Pacific States, four from the group of Eastern European States, five from the group of Latin America and the Caribbean States, and 12 from the group of Western European and Other States.\(^7\) Members typically serve three-year terms and are elected by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), but the group of Western European and Other States instead decides on its rotation internally.\(^8\)

The Executive Board oversees all of UNDP’s projects and ensures that projects adapt to changing situations, as well as the unique needs of each country, while following policy guidance provided by the General Assembly and ECOSOC.\(^9\) It holds three sessions each year: one annual session in either New York City or Geneva and two regular sessions in New York City.\(^10\) The Executive Board is under the authority of ECOSOC and reports annually on its program of work and recommendations for field-level improvement.\(^11\) The rules of procedure for the Executive Board aim for decision-making by consensus, but in cases where a vote is needed, the rules of procedure for

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\(^7\) UNDP, *Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS,* 2017.

\(^8\) Ibid.


ECOSOC are used.\textsuperscript{12} The Executive Board also serves as the governing body of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS).\textsuperscript{13}

The Bureau of the Executive Board is responsible for the organization and preparation of meetings, and it supports transparency and dialogue in the decision-making of the Executive Board by organizing and coordinating meetings and selecting teams for field visits.\textsuperscript{14} The Bureau is comprised of one President and four Vice-Presidents who are elected annually at the first regular session according to geographic regions to assure equality.\textsuperscript{15} The Presidency for 2017 is held by H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen from Denmark.\textsuperscript{16} The Vice-Presidents for 2017 are from Libya, Yemen, Panama, and Republic of Moldova.\textsuperscript{17}

\section*{Budget}

Funding channels to UNDP divide between: Governments, multilateral and international institutions and private sector.\textsuperscript{18} Approximately, UNDP and its projects manage $5 billion annually.\textsuperscript{19} The Executive Board decides on budgets and financial plans.\textsuperscript{20} Additional funding for individual projects and activities can come directly from organizations and governments, although UNDP remains the primary source of funding.\textsuperscript{21} The Executive Board estimates total contributions for 2016-2017 to be $9.9 billion, with $6.51 billion from bilateral and multilateral partners, $1.85 billion from regular resources, and $1.5 billion from local resources provided by host governments.\textsuperscript{22}

With initiatives in over 170 countries, the allocation of UNDP’s $5.19 billion budget for 2017 projects demonstrates its current priorities: 32% of the budget is assigned to responsive institutions, 29% to inclusive and sustainable growth, 16% to crisis prevention and recovery, 12% to democratic governance, 6% to climate change and resilience, 4% to development impact and effectiveness, and 1% to gender equality.\textsuperscript{23} Depending on the project, UNDP works with state governments, political entities on a national and community level, and non-governmental organizations to ensure accountability, efficiency, and trust.\textsuperscript{24}

\section*{Mandate, Functions, and Powers}

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX) of 22 November 1965, UNDP retained the “principles, procedures and provisions” of EPTA and UN Special Fund following their consolidation.\textsuperscript{25} Having broadened in scope, UNDP’s present mandate is “to empower lives and build resilient nations” for sustainable human development.\textsuperscript{26} As an assistance program, UNDP is “designed to support and supplement the national efforts of developing countries in solving the most important problems of their economic development, including industrial

\begin{flushleft}
\textsuperscript{13} UNDP, Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, 2017.
\textsuperscript{14} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{15} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{16} UNDP, Members of the Executive Board, 2017.
\textsuperscript{17} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{18} UNDP, UNDP’s Funding Channels, 2017.
\textsuperscript{19} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{21} UNDP, Our Projects, 2017.
\textsuperscript{22} Executive Board of the UNDP, the UNFP and the UNOPS, UNDP Integrated Budget Estimates for 2014-2017 (DP/2013/41), 2013.
\textsuperscript{23} UNDP, Our Projects, 2017.
\textsuperscript{24} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{25} UN General Assembly, Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme (A/RES/2029 (XX)), 1965.
\end{flushleft}
development.” Importantly, as emphasized by General Assembly resolution 59/250, national governments retain “primary responsibility” for development within their countries.

The work of UNDP is carried out through its country offices, which are focused on helping countries develop policies, institutional abilities, leadership skills, and resilience to achieve poverty eradication and the reduction of inequalities. To assist in these efforts, UNDP also administers and utilizes the United Nations Volunteers program, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. To function effectively across the globe, UNDP works to strengthen partnerships, build capacity, and coordinate the UN’s development activities.

Partnerships
Partnerships are crucial to the work of UNDP. Partnerships within the UN system and with the private sector, Civil Society Organizations, financial institutions, and various foundations enable UNDP to finance its activities and carry out projects. Concerning conflicts, UNDP works with governments and local communities to prevent violence by promoting dialogue and laws that uphold human rights. Environment and energy constitutes another area where partnerships are necessary, as the poorest are usually among those most affected by a lack of access to affordable energy, which inhibits sustainable environmental development and requires UNDP to focus on addressing this area on different levels.

Capacity-Building
Building capacity is a focus area that allows UNDP to enhance the performance of various institutions and projects. This is necessary so that programs or initiatives within countries can strengthen development, public services, or aid. For example, in the context of legal frameworks, UNDP, together with national partners, develops justice reforms and works on strategies to further access to legal aid services. Another example is promoting domestic resources in combination with aid, supporting international development goals, and strengthening the private sector to create new jobs and promote infrastructure.

Coordination
With different organizations and entities involved in global development policies, it is important to coordinate their activities. To that end, UNDP leads the UN Development Group (UNDG), which is an inter-agency group that coordinates all UN entities with responsibilities related to development. Established in 1997 by the General Assembly, UNDG brings together 32 UN funds, offices, programmes, departments, and agencies to enhance coherence, efficiency, and effectiveness within the UN development system. UNDP also manages the Resident Coordinator (RC) system, which covers all UN entities that handle development-oriented operational activities. The RC system brings together the “different UN agencies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operational

28 UN General Assembly, Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/59/250), 2005, p. 3.
32 Ibid.
36 Ibid.
37 UNDP, Democratic Governance, 2017.
40 Ibid.
41 UNDG, About the UNDG, 2017; New Zealand, United Nations Handbook 2016-17, 2016, p. 245.
42 UNDG, The UN resident coordinator, 2016.
activities at the country level.” Together, UNDP and the RC system operationalize the development frameworks negotiated at the policy level and implement programs on the ground.  

**Recent Sessions and Current Priorities**

During 2017, UNDP has held the following meetings: Election of Bureau (16 January); first regular session (30 January-3 February); annual session (30 May-9 June); joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and the World Food Programme (WFP) (19 June); and the second regular session (5-11 September); all of these occurred in New York City.

**First Regular Session**

The first regular session adopted the working plan for 2017 and adopted a tentative working plan for the annual session 2017. Furthermore, it adopted subsequent meeting for the rest of the year. Among other topics, the session was used to discuss the new Strategic Plan 2018-2021, which is going to be the first strategic plan that incorporated the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Annual Session**

The annual session took the following decision: The board made the request for analyzing and implementing efficiency and effectiveness indicators in order to make a follow-up of the new Strategic Plan. Furthermore, it also addressed the topic on the evaluation of the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 in order to analyze the budget implemented, the goals achieved, and incorporate the lessons learned. It is important to mention that, in relation to evaluation, UNDP is seeking to adopt theories of change into its projects and programs in order to have the most accurate interventions for development strategies. Another request is to assess country offices in order to maintain coherence with UNDP policies and priorities among country offices.

**Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP**

Following the cooperation of these agencies, the joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP addressed two main issues: Operationalizing the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), specifically climate change and building resilience; and working with adolescents and youth to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In relation with the first topic, the common agreement is to foster the inter-agency cooperation in order to achieve more promising results. Meanwhile in relation to the second topic, the acknowledgement of youth as a fundamental part for development was the core of the discussion, hence bringing together the patterns of interest from youth to align with the SDGs could be important to deliver successful results in 2030.

Finally, the second regular session had a provisional agenda based mainly on financial aspects for the new Strategic Plan 2018-2021. Achim Steiner delivered a speech in which he pointed out several areas that are needed to

43 UNDG, *The UN resident coordinator*, 2016.
44 Ibid.
47 Ibid.
48 Ibid., p. 4.
49 Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS, *Decisions adopted by the Executive board at its annual session 2017 (DP/2017/29)*, 2017, p. 4.
50 Ibid., p. 2.
51 Ibid., p. 4.
52 Ibid.
56 Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS, *Provisional agenda, annotations, list of documents and workplan (DP/2017/L.3)*, 2017, p. 2.
improve the use of funding to meet the objectives of the new Strategic Plan: Accelerate delivery of top quality development results, strengthen the link between results and resources, leverage country office presence, articulate better the role of core funding, respond crises in a timely effective manner through sustainable development, and pursue continued efficiency.\textsuperscript{57}

\textbf{Strategic Plan 2018-2021}

The UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021 has a provisional name of “The road to 2030: Creating opportunity for Sustainable Development,” which makes special emphasis on how to address the SDGs. UNDP’s approach toward the 2030 Agenda rest on the coordination of an inter-agency cooperation.\textsuperscript{58} The “what” of this approach will be inclusive and focus on sustainable development pathways and effective governance for prevention and participation.\textsuperscript{59} The “how” is addressing a broad range of risks to development and to conflict prevention.\textsuperscript{60} Finally another important topic that the plan focuses on is to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment, by strengthening their capacity through political participation and leadership.\textsuperscript{61}

\textbf{Sustainable Development Goals}

UNDP and UNDG played a fundamental role in the determination of the post-2015 development agenda by leading consultative processes and global dialogue that began in 2012 and ultimately resulted in the SDGs.\textsuperscript{62} The SDGs on poverty, inequality, and governance are particularly central to UNDP’s current work and long-term priorities.\textsuperscript{63} UNDP is particularly committed to engaging all people and civil society in not only implementation, but also in monitoring progress of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.\textsuperscript{64} UNDP established the SDG Fund (SDGF) in 2014, which acts as a global multi-donor and multi-agency development tool to support sustainable development activities through combined and multidimensional programs.\textsuperscript{65} The SDGF objective is to “bring together UN agencies, national governments, academia, civil society, and business to the challenges of poverty.”\textsuperscript{66} To support the implementation of the SDGs, UNDG has formulated the “MAPS” approach, which refers to mainstreaming, acceleration, and policy support.\textsuperscript{67} According to this approach, UNDP will assist governments to ensure the SDGs are reflected in national policies, support countries to ensure the achievement of SDG targets by addressing specific barriers to progress, and provide policy expertise at every stage of implementation.\textsuperscript{68} In line with the MAPS approach, UNDP offers support for implementation of the SDGs around issues of coherence, linkages, expertise, access, and reporting (CLEAR).\textsuperscript{69} Through CLEAR, UNDP assists countries in combining knowledge and expertise; acts as a partner to reinforce and facilitate engagement in sub-regional, regional, and global processes and institutions; and helps countries observe, learn, report, and apply lessons learned.\textsuperscript{70} Furthermore, UNDP is putting together sets of actions through its new Strategic Plan in order to accomplish the SDGs aim.\textsuperscript{71} In fact, one outcome of this plan is to facilitate “[d]evelopment plans, policies, partnerships and investments integrate the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.”\textsuperscript{72}

\textbf{Conclusion}

The UNDP Executive Board’s unique position atop three organizations, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS, as well as its cooperative function with UNDG, positions it to further development on all levels. With this wide range of working

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\textsuperscript{57} UNDP, Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator, Statement to the 2nd Regular Session of the UNDP Executive Board, 2017.

\textsuperscript{58} Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS, UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (zero draft) (DP/2017/CRP.2), 2017, p. 7.

\textsuperscript{59} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{60} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{61} Ibid., p. 8.

\textsuperscript{62} UNDP, World leaders adopt Sustainable Development Goals, 2015.

\textsuperscript{63} UNDP, Sustainable Development Goals, 2017.

\textsuperscript{64} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{65} SDGF, About Us, 2017.

\textsuperscript{66} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{67} UNDG, The Sustainable Development Goals Are Coming to Life, 2016.

\textsuperscript{68} UNDP, Sustainable Development Goals, 2017.

\textsuperscript{69} UNDP, Annex 7: UNDP’s ‘Offer’ on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, 2016.

\textsuperscript{70} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{71} Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS, UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (zero draft) (DP/2017/CRP.2), 2017, p. 13.

\textsuperscript{72} Ibid.
areas including crisis prevention, democratic governance, environment, and human rights, the most important aspects for sustainable and equal human development can be targeted by UNDP. UNDP continues to work toward sustainable development by building effective and inclusive democratic governance, strengthening resilience, eradicating poverty, and reducing inequalities. UNDP is taking concrete steps in order to help the world achieve the SDGs, with its primary tool being the Strategic Plan 2018-2021, which formulates the concrete action lines in order to reach the proposed goals.

**Annotated Bibliography**


In this document delegates can investigate the main decisions adopted by UNDP and its related bodies that share the Executive Board being UNFPA and UNOPS. This source will mainly help delegates in the beginning of their research related to what to propose and under which general ideas and existing legal framework. Furthermore, the source will guide the path that UNDP is planning to move on the short-medium term. Also delegates will research the actual interactions between these bodies that share some important decisions together.


This is a substantive document that will help delegates to be up to date in relation to the views that UNDP has in the mid and long term. It helps to develop ideas related to UNDP framework and agenda. It will be instrumental to identify common segments related to the previous strategic plan and to see the relation with the SDGs. In fact, the whole document is structured in a way of aligning UNDP action plans to the SDGs. Furthermore, it makes special emphasis on inter-agency cooperation and the cornerstones for planning and evaluating development issues.


The United Nations Handbook 2017-18 provides information not only on UNDP, but also on the complete organization of the UN. Delegates can find basic information about all programs, committees, and funds within the UN system, including a quick overview of UNDP. Furthermore, it provides information on the involvement of UNDP with those other programs, committees, and funds, providing the ability to gain an overall understanding of UNDP’s role and position within the UN system.


This report provides insights into the efforts taken to implement the SDGs at the country level just six months after their roll-out, presenting snapshots from 16 countries across all regions. It details how countries are integrating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into visions and plans at the national, subnational, and local levels. The report also highlights MAPS, UNDG’s approach for SDG mainstreaming. Delegates should use this as a guide to see how the SDGs can be implemented at the country level.


This guide is a comprehensive introduction to UNDP that explains key aspects such as its structure, development, and function. Furthermore, basic questions such as what UNDP does, what its internal entities do, principles of UNDP, and funding sources are discussed and
explained. This is a great starting point for delegates to gather basic information about the operations and organization of UNDP before dealing with more specific topics.

**Bibliography**


I. The Role of Access to Clean Water in Eradicating Poverty

“All people have the right to safe drinking water, sanitation, shelter and basic services. All people have the right to live with a sense of security.”

Introduction

Currently, 884 million people do not have access to even a basic drinking water service, with at least 159 million dependent on groundwater. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines safely managed drinking water as coming from an improved source with on-site availability, that is accessible when needed, and is free from any type of contamination; a basic drinking water service is service that does not meet the above points, but is accessible within 30 minutes of travel roundtrip. WHO also refers to an “improved drinking water source” as “one [drinking water source] that by nature of its construction adequately protects the source from outside contamination, in particular from fecal matter.” Additionally, nearly 3 billion people worldwide do not have access to sanitation due to unclean sources of water.

In 2015, it was reported that basic services have been achieved by nearly 80% of Member States. On a regional level, the regions with the highest access are North America and Europe, in which 99% of people have at least a basic drinking water service. This differs from Sub-Saharan Africa, where just over half of individuals have access to a basic drinking water service. In July 2017, WHO and the United Nations (UN) Children’s Fund (UNICEF) released a statement on behalf of their Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), an organization created in partnership between UNICEF and WHO dedicated to clean water and sanitation monitoring, which concluded that too many people do not have access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services, mainly in rural areas.

In 2015, the World Bank updated the definition of the poverty line to $1.90 per day, with those who make less than this amount classified as below the poverty line. Between 1981 and 2013, the percentage of the global population at or below the poverty line has dropped by nearly 30%. The relationship between clean water access and poverty eradication is a causal one, with clean water leading to decreases in poverty rates. Furthermore, poverty is closely linked to clean water access, as a lack of access to clean water contributes to inadequate food supplies, educational opportunities, and health accessibility, each a vital component of livelihood and economic security. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) is committed to providing access to clean water as a tool in eradicating poverty.

International and Regional Framework

The UN remains committed to development, specifically in the field of clean water access and poverty reduction. This is already highlighted by Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (1948), which calls for the universal “right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being” of individuals. Reaffirming the commitments made in the UDHR on the right to livelihood, in 1977 the UN hosted the UN Water Conference in

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73 UN DPI, Secretary-General, in Message to Fifth World Urban Forum, Calls Slum Conditions “A Violation of Human Rights” (SG/SM/12797), 2014.
79 Ibid.
81 Ibid.
83 The World Bank, World Bank Forecasts Global Poverty to Fall Below 10% for First Time; Major Hurdles Remain in Goal to End Poverty by 2030, 2015.
86 Ibid.
Mar del Plata, Argentina. The work of the Conference produced an outcome document, the *Mar del Plata Action Plan*. Participants of the conference recognized the difficulty of establishing adequate water resource management, but underscored the necessity of it to ensure a better quality of life and the promotion of human dignity by deliberate and specific actions taken at the national, regional, and international levels. The Water Conference was attended by representatives of 116 Member States, several UN Secretariat departments, 63 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and various UN agencies such as UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

In 1986, the *Declaration on the Right to Development* (DRD) was adopted by the General Assembly. In this Declaration, Member States emphasized development as an inalienable and a natural right, with the central subject of development being the “human person” who in turn possesses a responsibility for development through the promotion and protection of political, social, and economic rights. In 2000, the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/175 on “The Right to Development,” reinforcing the commitments laid down in Article 8 of the DRD. Article 8, which called for Member States to bear responsibility for equal access to basic resources, also reiterated the right to clean water as a foundational human right.

Expanding on the work of the UN Water Conference, the 1992 International Conference on Water and the Environment (ICWE) was held in Dublin, Ireland. This conference addressed ongoing issues of water security and lack of access to clean water as a deterrent to livelihoods. 500 participants from a variety of backgrounds ranging from governmental experts to civil society, including NGOs, addressed the matter, demonstrating the significance of the matter. Together, the participants produced an outcome document based on the work of the conference, *The Dublin Statement*. This document is based on four guiding principles: fresh water is a necessary limited resource vital to survival and sustainable development; water infrastructure development should include a series of parties from both the public and private sectors; women hold a vital role in the procurement and distribution of water; and water has a financial value and therefore ought to be treated as a commodity. Based on the four guiding principles, the conference expressed a series of recommendations, one of which addressed the role of clean water management in poverty alleviation. This recommendation called for water resource management to be prioritized in order to address the accelerated procurement of food, water, and sanitation to those most in need within developing regions.

Acknowledgement of the human right to water as a fundamental right increased following the November 2002 adoption of General Comment Number 15 on the right to water by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). General Comment 15 reiterated the language already outlining the human right to water, such as the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) (1979) and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) (1989). The UN has further been responsible for many major development initiatives, which have brought together the international community surrounding the necessity to

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91 Ibid.
92 Ibid.
93 Ibid.
95 Ibid.
99 Ibid.
100 Ibid., p. vii.
101 Ibid.
102 Ibid., p. 4.
provide for poverty reduction and eradication. In 2000, the adoption of the UN Millennium Declaration led toward the creation of development goals dedicated to address the needs of the world’s poorest. These goals were named the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The first of these eight goals was to “Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger,” and between 2000 and 2015, extreme poverty decreased nearly 40%.

The UN reaffirmed their commitment to development with the adoption of Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, which established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One of the core principles of the SDGs is to ensure longevity, rather than short-term actions. Of the 17 SDGs, several address the cross-cutting issue of poverty, specifically Goal 1, which calls for an end to poverty in all its forms. Under Goal 1, Target 1.4 calls for equal access to economic resources for all, especially focused on poor and vulnerable populations. In addition to SDG 1, the importance of SDG 6 “Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All” holds significance as well. SDG 6 places a major emphasis on possible ways to ensure access to safe water. Target 6.1 specifically calls for the achievement of access for all to safe and affordable water.

Role of the International System

The work of UNDP is divided into three categories: Sustainable Development, Democratic Governance and Peacebuilding, and Climate and Disaster Resilience. Expanding on the role of UNDP, many advancements have been made in the field of sustainable development and livelihood promotion. UNDP has placed a significant focus on securing clean water access as a tool of poverty reduction through economic revitalization. In the 2015 to 2016 reporting period, UNDP reported on their work in the Lake Prespa Basin region of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. 70% of the population of the region is dependent on agriculture as the main economic stabilizing function, with apple farming as one of the main industries reliant on the water from the lake for their economic stability and growth. Due to the mass production of apple crops in the region, increasing pesticide usage has been reported by farmers. The application of pesticides to apples produced a conflict when apples were dumped into the lake, as well as runoff from pesticides drained into the water supply. In response to the problems posed, UNDP worked with farmers and the local government of the town of Resen, where the lake is located, to develop more suitable farming practices and ecosystem management. Through these actions, Lake Prespa has seen an improvement in water quality, as well as a recovery by indigenous fish populations, due to a drastic reduction of pesticide usage each season. On a more longitudinal approach, UNDP, in coordination with the Swiss Development Corporation, introduced a Lake Monitoring System and Management System that includes space to conduct water quality testing for upcoming years.

107 UN General Assembly, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1), 2015.
108 UN DPI, We Can End Poverty: Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015, 2017.
109 Ibid.
111 UN General Assembly, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1), 2015.
113 UN DESA, Sustainable Development Goal 1: End Poverty in All its Forms Everywhere, 2017.
114 Ibid.
117 Ibid.
122 Ibid.
123 Ibid.
124 Ibid.
125 Ibid.
Other UN agencies also place an emphasis on sustainable development across different topical areas, including UN-Water, which addresses water development through policymaking and comprehensive monitoring and reporting mechanisms. As part of its mission, UN-Water categorizes its work into three areas: Inform Policies, Monitor and Report, and Inspire Action. Addressing the importance of monitoring and reporting, in coordination with UNDP, UN-Water initiated the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 in 2015, coinciding with the SDGs. Complementing the established partnership between UNDP and UN-Water, the Integrated Monitoring Initiative brings together the custodian agencies of the SDG 6 global indicators, which include the work of JMP, the inter-agency Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative (GEMI), and the UN-Water/World Health Organization (WHO) Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS), which each provide annual reports on the status of clean water access. By working in conjunction with one another, the reports are produced independently and can be cross-checked against one another in order to determine certain recurring patterns and themes which need to be addressed most urgently.

Under the “Inspire Action” pillar, on an annual basis UN-Water, in coordination with UNDP, organizes the World Water Day, a global day of action every 22 March to inspire and give opportunities to the international community in order to motivate action on the topic of water. Additionally, the pillar addresses water in the sanitation field, as well, with 19 November being World Toilet Day. Between World Water Day and World Toilet Day 2017, hundreds of events were planned and executed by UN-Water, Member States, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Around the globe, events for both days have included bus tours in Palestine, school presentations and the distribution of desalinization kits in sub-Saharan African countries, and an inaugural World Toilet Summit in Australia that brought together government leaders and civil society to discuss the necessity to provide clean water in the field of sanitation to prevent illnesses correlated with poverty. The final pillar of UN-Water is “Inform Policies,” under which UN-Water provides expert briefings to the General Assembly and NGOs regarding the field of clean water accessibility. Most recently, UN-Water’s input to the General Assembly led to the High-Level Panel on Water (HLPW). The HLPW was introduced by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank Group President Jim Kim at the Davos World Economic Forum in January 2016, with the work of the body initially having a two-year time frame. In the Background Note for the HLPW, four major themes for the biennium are outlined. The two most correlated to poverty eradication call for universal responsibility for water management, pointing out the relationships between water access and food security, educational attainment, and employment opportunities, each a determinant of poverty. Furthermore, the second commitment places a vested interest in water over a longitudinal period.

In 2008, WHO issued the GLAAS pilot report showcasing the lack of a comprehensive and unified analysis tool across different levels of governance. The global partnership Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) consists of over 170 Member States, private sector partners, CSOs, and learning and research institutions, and bridges the gap between public and private efforts. SWA holds biennial High-Level Meetings (HLMs), with the most recent being in 2017. The 2017 HLM produced a series of ministerial dialogues, with discussion focused on the topic of

129 Ibid.
138 UN DESA, High Level Panel on Water – Background Note.
139 Ibid., pp. 1, 3.
140 Ibid., p. 1.
141 Ibid., p. 1.
142 Ibid., p. 2.
144 SWA, About SWA, 2017.
“Achieving safely managed sanitation services while eliminating inequalities.”

Through these dialogues, a relationship was established between education, economic development, and sanitation. These HLMs work to serve as a means for dialogue between national ministers to work together toward a solution while proposing policy implementation and programmatic elements that can be brought to the individual Member State for application.

In response to General Comment 15, the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted Decision 2/10 on 27 November 2006 on “Human rights and access to water,” calling for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to conduct a study on the extent to which human rights obligations related to safe drinking water access are implemented. The findings of OHCHR led HRC to adopt resolution 7/22 in 2008, which called for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur “on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation” for a period of three years. OHCHR appointed Catarina de Albuquerque in 2008 as the first Special Rapporteur, tasked with upholding the mandate of the position. The Special Rapporteur is responsible for developing dialogue with Member States, non-state actors, and CSOs, creating a compilation of best practices in the field. Following the conclusion of the initial period of the Special Rapporteur, a new Rapporteur, Mr. Leo Heller, was appointed to the position in 2014, continuing the annual reporting to the General Assembly.

In July 2017, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was held in New York City, where SDG 1 was discussed as part of the agenda. Emerging from the 2017 HLPF, a Ministerial Declaration addressed the relationship between poverty eradication and infrastructure, including clean water access. In the months leading to the HLPF, states could submit Voluntary National Reports (VNRs). In 2017, 43 Member States had submitted reports to the HLPF. These reports address the commitments made by states to the implementation of the SDGs, and provide brief summaries of actions taken by countries to meet the SDGs. The 2018 HLPF will focus its attention on the implementation of SDG 6 more closely with the theme of “Transformation toward sustainable and resilient societies.” For the upcoming 2018 HLPF meeting, 48 Member States are anticipated to submit VNRs prior to the meeting.

Clean Water as a Tool for Poverty Reduction

When discussing poverty, the World Bank definition using daily income is the main indicator that is utilized to classify one as living in poverty. However, metrics such as the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) provide a deeper understanding of the interrelated dimensions of poverty. The three dimensions of health, education, and standard of living are classified as three distinct dimensions; however, there is an overlap between them. Under the dimension of health, the indicators which are tested include nutrition and child mortality. Under the dimension of standard of living, two of the indicators are toilets and water; despite these being classified

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147 Ibid.
151 OHCHR, Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, former Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, 2017.
152 OHCHR, Overview of the Mandate, 2017.
153 OHCHR, Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, 2017.
154 UN DESA, Sustainable Development Goal 1: End Poverty in All its Forms Everywhere, 2017.
156 UN DESA, Voluntary National Reviews, 2017.
158 UN DESA, Voluntary National Reviews, 2017.
159 UN DESA, Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, 2017.
160 UN DESA, Voluntary National Reviews, 2017.
162 UNDP, Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), 2017.
163 Ibid.
as one category, the role of water is one which can fall under the dimensions of health, education, and standard of living.\textsuperscript{165} Lastly, the educational dimensions measure both years of schooling and enrollment rates.\textsuperscript{166}

The World Bank classifies one of the major determinants of poverty on a household level as “employment status,” drawing a relationship that higher levels of education and enrollment have a positive correlation with increased rates of employment, leading to a decline in poverty rates.\textsuperscript{167} JMP concludes that clean water access is lowest in primary schools, with a gradual increase at the intermediate and secondary levels.\textsuperscript{168} The relation drawn here is that the lack of access to clean water at school can lead to waterborne illness and sanitation problems from a lack of hygiene, causing increased absences from school.\textsuperscript{169} This ultimately leads to lower employment prospects due to the lack of education received.\textsuperscript{170} UNICEF visited the small village of Lepara, Honduras, in 2012 to conduct an evaluation of the community’s transformation since clean water and sanitation infrastructure was implemented.\textsuperscript{171} One of their interviews conducted with a 12-year-old boy had demonstrated the challenge that a lack of clean water places on education, as the boy was quoted telling UNICEF staff: “Before, we had to go very early to collect spring water. We walked for a long time to the spring and home again… I know several children who went to fill water jugs each morning. That’s why they could not always come to school.” Lack of access to clean drinking water impacts children who often need to gather water, which reduces their ability to receive quality education, potentially harming employment prospects, thus continuing the cycle of poverty.\textsuperscript{173}

One NGO that has achievements on the topic of clean water is the Maji Safi Group, who focuses their work in Tanzania, a water vulnerable state.\textsuperscript{174} Their ten programmatic areas include community health educators, community outreach, and female hygiene.\textsuperscript{175} More closely assessing the community outreach pillar, progress toward SDG 6 and general water security has been achieved through involvement with the government, especially following the cholera outbreaks in 2015 and 2016.\textsuperscript{176} Maji Safi further acts to meet the goals through their community health educators, who hold meetings with groups of individuals of importance such as fishermen and farmers in order to educate and work together toward actions which can be taken to limit disease and unclean water distribution.\textsuperscript{177}

\textbf{The Human Right to Sanitation}

Directly related to drinking water, the importance of basic sanitation is vital in poverty eradication, as lacking running water and a safe source for handwashing and hygiene leads to increased illness and hindrance from economic gain.\textsuperscript{178} In the 2017 JMP Progress Report, it was reported that the most recent data from 2015 showed that over 2 billion individuals are still without basic sanitation services, with 892 million people worldwide still practicing open defecation, without treatment or disposal of waste.\textsuperscript{179} The necessity of adequate waste disposal is pivotal, as the safe removal of human waste limits the potential for disease from waste draining into ground water when open defecation practices or “hole toilets” exist.\textsuperscript{180} Of significant importance is the role of sanitation in the lives of women and girls especially.\textsuperscript{181} According to UNICEF, in Eastern and Southern Africa, approximately 157 million people are not connected to clean and safe water supplies, but are reliant on external sources.\textsuperscript{182} Increasing the challenges of inadequate sanitation due to lack of water, women and girls are more likely to be victims of

\footnotesize\textsuperscript{165} UNDP, \textit{Technical Notes}, 2017.
\textsuperscript{166} UNDP, \textit{Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)}, 2017.
\textsuperscript{169} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{170} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{172} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{174} Maji Safi Group, \textit{Tanzania Programs}.
\textsuperscript{175} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{176} Maji Safi Group, \textit{Community Outreach}.
\textsuperscript{177} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{179} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{181} UNICEF, \textit{Gender and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)}.
violence and sexual assault in situations where the nearest location for means of waste disposal is not in the immediate vicinity of the home, making women and girls more susceptible to be targeted en route.\footnote{WHO, Gender and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene in Emergencies, 2006, p. 1.} WHO confirms that there have been occurrences of women and girls tasked with the responsibility of water procurement being attacked during their travel for water.\footnote{Ibid.}

Understanding the importance of adequate sanitation, the Interagency Task Force on Gender and Water (GWTF) produced a policy brief in 2006 for the International Decade for Action “Water for Life,” emphasizing the importance of adequate sanitation.\footnote{UN-Water, Gender, Water and Sanitation: A Policy Brief, 2006, p. 2.} This is especially important in schools in order to provide greater opportunities for girls to receive an education, as well as to provide safe and appropriate space which enables young girls and young women to learn about the necessity for hygiene.\footnote{Ibid.} In response to the increased demand for sanitation, largely for vulnerable groups, the policy brief called for increased capacity-building between the international community, mainly UN-Water and national governments in conjunction with the citizenry of under-developed countries.\footnote{Ibid.} GWTF further explained that women are oftentimes under-represented in negotiations, despite often being the individuals who deal with access issues and lack of provision of water from external sources.\footnote{Ibid.} Through capacity-building, the policy brief called for hands-on training and inclusion of women as decision-makers and actors in the process of securing clean drinking water and adequate sanitation, as the main operators of water development and access.\footnote{Ibid.} GWTF discussed the case of an area of India where latrines had fallen into extreme disrepair; this led to the discovery of worms and other parasites from feces to be found often times near water taps, creating a larger issue, as the water source posed a health risk due to weakened sanitation infrastructure.\footnote{Ibid., p. 5.} Community members worked alongside the NGO Gramalaya, which had expressed the need for drinking water facilities and individual toilets, rather than communal facilities, to be installed.\footnote{Ibid., p. 6.} This project brought together many partnerships with Gramalaya, which contributed to the efforts of capacity building through including women in the installation and construction process, and partnering with the NGO WaterAid, which provided the material items and offset costs.\footnote{Ibid.}

**Conclusion**

Increased capacity-building and viable water sources are critical components to the work of successful poverty eradication.\footnote{WHO, Gender and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene in Emergencies, 2006, p. 1.} Poverty eradication in all forms remains a thematic priority of the UN’s work; yet millions are still living in poverty without access to services and resources like clean drinking water.\footnote{Ibid.} Increased access to clean drinking water through the formation of viable networks and infrastructure is a crucial step toward the full eradication of poverty, especially in the developing world.\footnote{UN-Water, Monitor and Report, 2017.} UNDP and other UN agencies have shown an ongoing commitment to the eradication of poverty across various thematic and topical areas; however, major reform and infrastructure are still needed.\footnote{UNDP, Our Work, 2017.} Sustainable development in the field of clean water access and water security calls for capacity-building and innovative ways to be inclusive in order to eradicate poverty.\footnote{UN-Water, Gender, Water and Sanitation: A Policy Brief, 2006.}

**Further Research**

Eliminating poverty and promoting global livelihoods through clean water access remains a core effort of the UN. Moving forward, delegates should consider questions such as: What strategies can UNDP and other UN agencies further utilize to ensure that universal clean water access becomes a reality by 2030? How can strategies be best implemented to ensure that the most vulnerable receive the necessary support in enough time? Is there a greater role...
that developed Member States can play? How can UNDP create further dialogue with various non-state actors, including civil society and NGOs, to adequately combat the challenges of clean water access and implementation?

**Annotated Bibliography**


Sanitation and Water for All’s (SWA) website produces an introduction to the organization, detailing the work of the organization, as well as including information on its membership. The site further points out a series of challenges that are faced in the field of water security and potential solutions to prioritize these items on the political agenda, in addition to a comprehensive YouTube video on the work of the organization, giving a more detailed approach to the work. This site should be consulted by delegates wishing to deepen their understanding of the work being done by non-state actors and civil society to work toward the implementation of SDG 6, as well as create a baseline knowledge that can be expanded in further research of civil society’s role.


This source is a general website produced by UNICEF on the topic of Gender in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). On the WASH site, information is displayed regarding the number of people without access to clean water and adequate sanitation in Eastern and Southern Africa, as well as the correlated effects of lack of clean water access such as health issues like HIV/AIDS, and safety issues such as sexual assault, which can arise from traveling to an unsafe place for waste disposal. Delegates wishing to gain a more in-depth knowledge of the challenges faced by women and girls in developing countries should consult this site, as well as those wanting to have a more regional approach to the Eastern and Southern African regions.


The Field Diary is a press release published by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) regarding the work being done in Honduras as a case study for other states. In the press release, vital information is provided regarding the transformation seen once clean water supplies and access were made easier to reach in comparison to prior to the infrastructure change. Delegates who wish to understand further the relationship between clean water and educational attainment as a determinant of poverty should refer to this website to build a general knowledge on which to expand in further research.


The International Decade for Action “Water for Life” website is a homepage created by the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) on the International Decade for Action 2005-2015. From this page, a variety of information is provided, including different resolutions and comments made on behalf of Member States and members of civil society who had presented findings and suggestions for ways to move toward progress on providing clean water (MDG 7/SDG 6). Although the International Decade for Action concluded in 2015, the framework and foundation established by the work discussed on this site provides a strong basis to understanding ongoing challenges in the field of clean water access. Delegates who seek a general understanding of the Water for Life Decade should consult this site, which forms the basis of this agenda topic.


This Sustainable Development Goal 1 webpage is managed by UN DESA. This site provides a more specific focus on SDG 1 from the main SDG webpage, focusing specifically on the progress...
reports in both 2016 and 2017 on the progress of meeting SDG 1. More specifically, delegates should place an emphasis on the 2017 Progress & Info tab and Targets & Indicators tab, both of which discuss the progress and objectives of the goal. Delegates seeking to understand more specifically the detailed language of the goal and indicators being measured to reach implementation should consult this source to find information and a link to the 2017 Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of the SDGs.


The Millennium Development Goals Report: 2015 is the final publication of progress made on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Of major importance, focus should be given to the overview section in the beginning of the report as statistics and infographics provided show the progress that had been made from goal inception in 2000 until target completion in 2015 at the time of the report. Despite this report being from the MDGs, while the SDGs are the current metric being used to eradicate poverty, it is a necessary text to consult in order to gather an understanding of the progress already made in the field of poverty eradication as well as analysis of aspects unmet in 2015 that need to remain a thematic priority in the SDGs. Delegations seeking to grasp a longitudinal understanding of poverty eradication through the MDGs expanding to the SDGs and thematic concerns for the future should consult this text for a deeper understanding.


The UNDP in Focus 2015/2016 is a publication by UNDP summarizing the work of UNDP, 2015 to 2016 year. Of significance is the regional breakdown provided throughout where cross-cutting issues such as clean water, poverty reduction, and resilience in disaster are addressed on a regional level, summarizing the challenges facing specific regions and providing a short excerpt of work being done by countries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in each region. This resource further provides statistics on matters such as Member State contributions and distribution patterns of funds. Delegates who wish to understand the work of UNDP in various different regions and gather a foundation on which to continue independent research should consult this text, with a more specialized focus on the sections relating to their Member State.


The International Conference on Water and Development produced this report on the work of the body. The first portion includes a direct text of the Dublin Statement on Water and Sustainable Development, a key document in the field of clean water access and poverty eradication. The latter portion of the text includes the final report of the conference, with discussion of key topics discussed during the conference and recommendations made by the body for future meetings and agenda prioritization. Most relevant to the work of this committee, delegates should focus on the text under Section 2: Integrated water resources development and management, which provides information on the role of clean water access as a tool in the infrastructure of Member States, related to poverty reduction measures.


This chapter is a part of a larger text published by The World Bank entitled “Introduction to Poverty Analysis.” In this chapter, the focus is on the core factors which are determinants of poverty, classifying them into three core characteristic categories to more easily understand the components. Chapter 8: Understanding the Determinants of Poverty is an informative text that delegates should consult to better acquaint themselves with the core factors of poverty, a major
issue of UNDP’s agenda. For further research, delegates can find the entirety of the text, which discusses different topical aspects of poverty.


The UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water webpage is a collaborative effort between UN-Water and WHO, with the latter managing the program and webpage. On this site, an introduction to the Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) is provided, discussing the purpose and format of the organization. Further on this page, a series of links provide access to comprehensive GLAAS reports ranging from 2008 to the present, with strategic frameworks provided through different links. This source should be consulted by all delegates, as the GLAAS initiative is one of the main custodians of SDG 6 and has a major role in the implementation of the goal. More specifically, delegates who seek historical and longitudinal data should consult the reports more closely to see the progress made.

Bibliography


II. Sustainable Cities and Transportation: A Bridge to Development

Introduction

Cities, defined as human urban settlements, are the primary living spaces on earth; they represent hubs for ideas, advancement in technology and science, as well as social and economic development.\(^{198}\) There is no common definition for all cities around the world, as they differ in population, area size, and functionality.\(^{199}\) For this background guide, the following definition from the United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) will be used: a city is characterized according to its population size, ranging from fewer than 500,000 to 10 million people.\(^{200}\) For instance, an agglomeration is a city with 10 million people and more; large cities have five to ten million people; and small cities have 500,000 to a million inhabitants.\(^{201}\) The UN estimates that more than half of the global population live in cities.\(^{202}\)

As centers for civilization, innovation, and knowledge, cities can be capitalized to foster solutions for global development challenges such as poverty reduction, access to adequate housing, and transportation, by strategically linking people to opportunities, jobs, and markets.\(^{203}\) But with an expected substantial increase of new city inhabitants in upcoming years, many communities and government can be caught unprepared, as demand for land, housing, water, energy, employment, and opportunities exceed available resources and infrastructure.\(^{204}\) Transportation systems, for instance, are an important field of human activity: they are a means that allow people and communities to access goods and services, facilitate social interactions and education, as well as many other activities contributing to human well-being.\(^{205}\) Transportation can also be a potential driver of development, as it links people to opportunities and thus to the economy.\(^{206}\) Rapidly growing cities often result in an increase in the use of transportation services and existing infrastructure, causing an imbalance between the demand and the offer in the transportation sector.\(^{207}\) As one of the main sources of greenhouse gases (GHG), pollution, but also job creation, transportation and cities are at the center of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), resulting in the implementation of several projects across the world and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.\(^{208}\) Thereby, a well-designed urbanization strategy involving transportation has the potential of creating sustainable cities and transport and thus playing a significant role in achieving the 2030 Agenda.\(^{209}\)

International and Regional Framework

Sustainable development was first established as an idea in 1987 during the UN World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), in its outcome document Our Common Future (the Brundtland Report).\(^{210}\) The Brundtland Report promoted a new approach to development and made recommendations on the type of development that the world can adopt to increase people’s well-being without impacting the ecological bases of their lives in the process.\(^{211}\) In 1992, the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, adopted Agenda 21, which introduced the link between the environment and sustainable development.\(^{212}\) Chapter 7 of Agenda 21 put special emphasis on sustainable cities, by addressing the promotion of sustainable human settlements development.\(^{213}\) Both conferences were early conferences to recognize the role of

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198 UN DPI, Sustainable Development Goal 11: Make Cities Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable.
200 Ibid.
201 Ibid.
202 UN DESA, Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements.
204 UN DESA, Sustainable Transport.
208 UN DESA, Sustainable transport at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
209 UN General Assembly, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1), 2015.
211 Ibid.
urban areas in global development, by highlighting the role of cities as catalysts of innovation, change, and growth. 

Agenda 21 also recognized the important role of transportation in creating sustainable living spaces, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reinforced that recognition in 1996 during the Towards Sustainable Transportation Conference in Vancouver, Canada. 

The latter served as the first common platform where governments and the private sector discussed global priorities for transportation systems in both developing and developed countries, highlighting challenges such as congestion, pollution, and road mortality. 

Agenda 21 also furthered the discussion on sustainable transport by characterizing transportation as a major development challenge in its Chapter 7 on “Human Settlements” and Chapter 9 on “Atmosphere.”

The link between sustainable development and urbanization was further discussed in 1996, at the Second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul.

In its outcome document, the Istanbul Declaration, participants attempted to define sustainable cities with a focus on the eradication of the unsustainable use and production of resources; one of the core objectives was also to focus on adequate shelters and livable and safer cities.

More recently, the link between cities, transport, and development was discussed at several important conferences and summits. The outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), The Future We Want (2012), identified severe threats to global development and highlighted the role of local and regional efforts to achieve a sustainable vision for cities.

Recently, in 2014, the World Urban Forum (WUF 7) gathered in Medellin, Colombia, and proposed ways in which the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and its partners can encourage the development of sustainable cities.

In 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs. The most relevant SDGs to the discussion on sustainable cities and transport are SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 11 (Cities, Their Inclusiveness, Readiness and Sustainability).

This milestone was reinforced in 2015 by the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and thereby developed a global strategy to secure financial resources for sustainable cities’ activities, channeling private sector investment, and driving deeper commitments from key actors.

The Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), organized in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016, resulted in the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. The New Urban Agenda presents a new global urban strategy highlighting the challenges and opportunities related to current urbanization trends.

The New Urban Agenda includes the Quito Implementation Plan which includes commitments to support the New Urban Agenda and work toward sustainable development.

Furthermore, the integration of sustainable transport in global discussions and policymaking for sustainable development was at the center of the 2016 Global Sustainable Transport Conference at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, with specific links with SDG 7 and 11. The Global Sustainable Transport Conference was the first conference to gather multiple stakeholders, including local and national governments, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the international community, and to acknowledge the pivotal role of transport in seeking solutions to reduce environmental impact such as GHG emissions, waste production, and encouraging the adoption of an inclusive approach to urban development.

The outcome document of the conference, the Ashgabat Statement, highlighted

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216 Ibid., p. 35.
221 Ibid.
223 UN DESA, Sustainable cities and human settlements.
224 Ibid.
226 UN Habitat III, The Conference.
228 UN Habitat III, The Conference.
229 UN DESA, Global Sustainable Transport Conference.
230 UNRIC, First ever UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference convened in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 2016.
the need to shift to cleaner and greener transportation systems while encouraging the use of energy-efficient technology and innovative approaches to achieve sustainable transport.  

**Role of the International System**

In 2013, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) adopted a new Urbanization Strategy for cities, allowing a more integrated approach to urban challenges mainly focusing on housing, waste management, and congestion. The adopted three-year (2014 to 2017) strategic plan laid out the technical and financial support that can be provided by UNDP to achieve the expected national and local policy reforms from the New Urban Agenda. In the strategy, UNDP recognized the important role of cities in energy consumption and production, and thereby reinforced its commitment to bridging the gap between rapidly growing cities and sustainable development patterns. UNDP looks to support existing partners and tools to integrate a cross-link to development in urban planning, implementation, and management. UNDP works closely with other UN bodies such as UN-Habitat and UN Environment, as well as external partners such as the World Bank, to ensure the development of socially- and environmentally-sustainable cities.

Established in 1978, UN-Habitat has been a main UN agency supporting human settlements and urban development across the world, with a focus on the development of sustainable urban areas and core objectives on adequate, affordable, and safe housing, as well as an upgrading program for slums. UN-Habitat supports cities and towns using three distinct approaches: technical support, local and national government strategy implementation, as well as recommendations for good governance. Programs such as the Cities Resilience Profiling Programme have been created to provide cities with the adequate tools and guidelines to assess and monitor their resilience level to climate change events; since its launch, 10 cities across the world, including Barcelona, Tehran, and Dar es Salaam, have utilized this program.

Moreover, the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) is a joint program of UN-Habitat and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), providing capacity-building and technical support to reduce the environmental impact of waste production in urban areas. Through SCP, UNDP, other UN bodies, the World Bank, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom assisted countries in implemented tailored urban strategies to urban areas while emphasizing environmentally-sustainable growth. Furthermore, the Cities Prospective Initiative (CPI) is a global initiative launched by UN-Habitat that aims to provide a monitoring platform tracking the evolution of the implementation of SDG 11. To further the promotion of sustainable cities, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 68/239 (2013), in which every 31 October has been designated as World Cities Day.

To support the implementation of sustainable alternatives in urban transport systems, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched in 2014 the UN High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport (HLAG-ST) to develop guidelines for sustainable transport systems that can mitigate current challenges such as pollution and congestion. A report was published by HLAG-ST in 2016, Mobilizing Sustainable Transport for Development, providing an

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233 Ibid., p. 40.

234 Ibid., p. 12.

235 Ibid., p. 22.

236 Ibid., p. 50.

237 UN-Habitat, *UN-Habitat at a glance*.

238 UN-Habitat, *Goals & strategies of UN-Habitat*.

239 City Resilience, *UN-Habitat’s City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP)*, 2017.

240 UN-Habitat, *Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP)*.


242 UN-Habitat, *City Prosperity Initiative*.


244 UN DESA, *Secretary-General’s High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport*.
analytical overview to improving urban planning and decision-making. Similarly, the UN Action Network on Sustainable Transport was created to allow governments and the private sector to collaborate and share information on sustainable transport via the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. The latter integrates different initiatives on sustainability, low carbon, and governance to foster a sustainable strategic planning. In 2014, the European Commission launched the Sustainable Transport Forum, a platform to allow governments and the private sector to discuss alternative transportation systems and finalize the development of a strategy on clean power for transportation. Similarly, in September 2016, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport (GPST) was created between the UN and an independent organization, the International Road Transport Union (IRU), as a primary tool to implement sustainable development transportation systems.

**Sustainable Cities**

The growth of cities is often linked to greater economic opportunities leading to an increasing use of resources. But when planned poorly, urbanization can negatively impact cities by intensifying population growth, pollution, and inequality. In many developing countries, cities are growing faster than the infrastructure and financial resources needed to support them. This situation is alarming, considering that UN-Habitat predicts a large urban population increase in the next decade. Unsustainable cities can cause important stress on housing allocation, leading to the creation and expansion of informal settlements, often known as slums. Slums are a neglected portion of a city with poor housing and living conditions, lacking basic municipal and health services. Slums are different across the world, but most are built on lands with no legal claim and minimal urban planning. According to UN-Habitat, there are about one billion people who live in slums and do not have basic services, and the number is expected to increase by 2050. The rapid migration of people to urban areas, as well as natural population growth in unprepared cities, often lead to the development of inadequate housing in areas where land is scarce. One common approach to limit the expansion of slums in urban areas has been to formalize them using UN-Habitat’s upgrading systems, which aim to improve the living situations in slums rather than eliminating them. The latter approach allows cities to transform slums into important economic contributors.

Sustainable development activities in growing cities often result in the construction of better infrastructures and mobility options; the development of adequate water, sewers, and electricity systems; as well as housing availability. Based on the longstanding experience in global cities providing local services, UNDP often uses its capacity to support the implementation of sustainable cities by establishing a coordination with existing partners and ensuring a cross-link to sustainable development objectives. Through the 2013 Urbanization Strategy, UNDP has also supported countries’ participatory planning and management of urban areas; Bangladesh, for instance, through UNDP’s Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction (UPPR) initiative, developed a planning and outreach tool that increased public participation in the decision-making and urban planning processes. UNDP has also developed an

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247 UN DPI, *World’s population increasingly urban with more than half living in urban areas*, 2014.
248 European Commission, *Sustainable Transport Forum (STF)*.
249 UN Global Compact & International Road Transport Union, *Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport (GPST)*, 2015, p. 8.
252 Ibid.
253 UN-Habitat, *Slum Almanac 2015-2016*.
254 UN-Habitat, *Housing and Slum Upgrading*.
256 UN-Habitat, *Slum Almanac 2015-2016*.
257 Cordaid, *UN-Habitat: Number of Slums Dwellers Grow to 863 million*, 2014.
258 UN-Habitat, *Housing and Slum Upgrading*.
259 Ibid.
260 UN-Habitat, *Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP)*.
263 Ibid., p. 22.
assessment methodology, the Global Environment Outlook Cities Assessment Methodology, in partnership with UN-Habitat and UNEP, to allow countries to evaluate their environmental footprint and develop adequate strategies to reduce their impacts.264

**Transportation**

Transportation plays an essential role in any individual’s daily life, as it enables them to access economic and social activities, education, and health services.265 Most of the current global transportation systems rely heavily on fossil fuels and high carbon transport systems.266 Transportation for people and goods accounts for nearly a third of global carbon dioxide emissions, making it one of the greatest challenges cities are facing today.267 Other estimates from HLAG-ST predict that by 2050, there will be twice as many cars in cities as today, with most in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.268 These transportation estimates present an opportunity for low-carbon urban development, and cities around the world have already begun transitioning from the current fossil fuel dependency to a future built on energy efficiency and renewable energy.269 Cities such as Portland, Vancouver, and Copenhagen support low carbon and less pollutant transport systems by adopting new modes of transportation such as electric vehicles, car sharing, cycling, and walking.270 Where suitable, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) also presents a sustainable solution to the increasing number of cars in cities, as they are given priority through a system of dedicated bus lanes that enable them to avoid traffic congestion and thereby circulate faster and more efficiently.271

To ensure a sustainable transition to low-carbon transport beyond local and national government, substantial behavioral changes are necessary.272 In the era of the 2030 Agenda, UNDP’s urban implementations are increasingly guided by a sustainable and holistic vision of promoting eco-friendly and multiple occupant transportation alternatives.273 To support this effort, the 2013 UN-Habitat Global Report on Human Settlements on sustainable mobility highlighted the notion that mobility should develop transport infrastructure while also addressing economic challenges to growth.274 Moreover, it resulted in greater public and private participation as well as the development of adequate institutional frameworks, allowing the SDGs to create an ideal environment for collaboration.275 In a similar approach, the 10th Annual Transformation Transportation Conference, co-hosted by the World Bank and the World Resources Institute in Washington, D.C., gathered policymakers to discuss opportunities for sustainable transport in cities, as well as share best practices and technologies.276 Furthermore, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in 2001, UNDP promoted the development of low-carbon emission urban transport, and supported many cities with the development of an urban transport portfolio, which resulted in the implementation of over 50 urban transport projects.277 Low-carbon emission projects like a fuel cell bus in Brazil and a hybrid bus system in Egypt resulted in the reduction of 66 million tons of CO₂ of direct emissions and over 120 million tons of CO₂ of indirect emissions.278

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274 Ibid.
275 Ciitscope, *Cities and the SDGs*.
278 Ibid.
Governance and Implementation

It is important to consider urban development and governance. Good governance is often linked to inclusiveness and public engagement in decision-making, two key factors that can facilitate the development of sustainable cities. Thus, to achieve the development of sustainable cities and transport, greater capacity-building of local actors must be ensured to facilitate the transition toward greener behaviors. The joint report from UNDP and the World Bank Group, Transitioning from the MDGs to the SDGs, identified public participation and local actors’ engagement as important. As cities grow and expand around business districts, more congestion is expected, especially when a majority of urban workers live in the periphery; consequently, urban planning is also an important aspect to consider while implementing sustainable development into cities. However, even with good urban planning and tailored governance, the result of proposed city plans is highly dependent on available financial resources. Urban authorities, especially in developing countries, often do not have financial resources to combat challenges related to sustainable development and to invest in further urban activities. The AAAA captured the need of a global financial strategy to support sustainable development and recommended funding avenues that public and private investors could consider while developing their projects. Besides common avenues from public and private investors, a few innovative examples of funding avenues were highlighted in the AAAA such as carbon finance, taxes, quota systems on infrastructure, and green bonds. Many cities across the world have implemented projects using diverse financial resources to foster the development of sustainable urban areas. The following case studies are examples of how a local government can adopt greener alternatives to face urbanization and transportation challenges such as pollution, congestion, and access to markets.

Case Study: Curitiba

Since 1960, Curitiba, Brazil, faced numerous challenges due to a rapid urbanization causing increasing unemployment rates, high congestion levels, and the uncontrolled growth of slums. The most visible problem was the city’s abundant number of cars, causing air pollution and slow traffic. Mayor Jaime Lerner, an architect and urban planner elected in 1971, implemented an innovative urbanization strategy, helping the city to cope with the increasing number of traffic. With very limited funding available, Mayor Learner used a bus system and new roads as a pilot project that were expanded and improved over the years. Through this urban transformation plan, Mayor Lerner reduced the level of congestion in the city and increased travelers’ satisfaction. He also installed a waste management system, green spaces, and innovative parking systems. In 2010, the city of Curitiba received the Global Sustainable City Award for its various improvements and innovative forward-thinking strategies.

Case Study: Lagos

With over 11 million people, Lagos is one of the most populated cities in Nigeria. Its flourishing economic growth and urban expansion caused congestion, pollution, and slow traffic challenges in the city. In 2002, the local

279 UN DESA, Challenges and way forward in the urban sector, 2008, p. 20.
280 UN- Habitat, Governance.
281 Ibid.
282 UNDP & WBG, Transitioning from the MDGs to the SDGs, 2016.
283 UN DPI, UN officials say good urban design key to ensuring sustainable, inclusive cities, 2015.
285 Ibid., p. 6.
287 Ibid.
288 Dalkmann, 3 Promising Pathways to Finance Sustainable Cities, World Resources Institute, 2014.
292 UN DESA, Sustainable Urban Planning (Curitiba City).
293 WRI, A Compilation of Green Economy Policies, Programs and Initiatives from Around the World, 2011.
294 Ibid.
295 Globe Award, The Brazilian city Curitiba awarded the Globe Sustainable City Award 2010, 2010.
297 Ibid., p. 4.
government, in collaboration with the World Bank, implemented a bus system aimed at reducing the amount of cars, encouraging share rides, and restructuring public transportation systems.\textsuperscript{298} A BRT was implemented, allowing the population of Lagos to reduce their travel time by 40\% and also lowering the public transport fees by 30\%, ensuring stable public transportation systems even with rising fuel costs.\textsuperscript{299} Along with the BRT, municipal authorities improved main roads and accommodated pedestrian needs in the planning.\textsuperscript{300} Today, even with a rising population, Lagos has been able to slow down urban sprawl, improve road safety, and reduce congestion.\textsuperscript{301}

Conclusion

There are difficulties and opportunities in building sustainable cities and transportation.\textsuperscript{302} Cities, as centers for development, play an important role in driving current development and environmental agendas forward.\textsuperscript{303} Well-designed cities can facilitate access to greater economic and social opportunities while also allowing better life quality for their residents.\textsuperscript{304} But, when urbanization is unplanned, it offers opportunity for urban division, pollution, waste production, and housing crises.\textsuperscript{305} The \textit{Urbanization Strategy} and the newly adopted \textit{New Urban Agenda} set the stage for greater collaboration between key stakeholders to design sustainable cities and adopt greener alternatives for transportation systems.\textsuperscript{306} UNDP continues to link existing efforts toward development agendas as well as utilize its longstanding experience in implementing projects in order to bridge sustainable cities and transportation.\textsuperscript{307}

Further Research

While further researching the topic, delegates can ask themselves the following questions: How can funding for sustainable cities and transportation be acquired, and which concrete policies could be implemented to make cities and transportation more sustainable? How can the recommendations of the \textit{New Urban Agenda} be achieved at the national level, and how can UNDP ensure government engagement at all levels? To what extent and how can UNDP help in implementing linkages between cities, transportation, and smart technologies?

Annotated Bibliography


\textit{Citiscop} is an international non-profit organization that assists cities in identifying innovations for sustainable development. The webpage presents an introduction to cities and their link to the SDGs as well as further information on adequate implementation processes to develop sustainable practices in cities. Moreover, the website will provide delegates with a background on cities and climate change; cities and the \textit{New Urban Agenda}; and cities with sustainability. The latter pages will support delegates in the formulation of their proposed solutions by informing them on existing sustainable projects in cities as well as the different approaches and partners involved in the implementation processes.


This document critically analyzes urban transportation projects that have been implemented in 25 European cities over the last several years to make cities cleaner and more sustainable. While discussing key aspects of sustainable transportation in cities, including car-independent lifestyles,
urban freight logistics, and clean fuels and vehicles, and delving into some key challenges and lessons learned of implementing the respective aspects, the document illustrates how sustainable transportation can be achieved in the past, present, and future. Moreover, it provides valuable insights into key factors to consider while preparing cities for the future and specific recommendations on what can be done to make urban transportation more sustainable. Accordingly, this document provides a valuable resource for delegates who want to understand what sustainable transportation is, how it can be implemented in different cities across the world, and which successful projects exist already.


Towards Sustainable Transportation is the report issued after the 1996 Vancouver Conference that focused on transportation. The conference addressed questions related to transportation and its impact on sustainable development. The report presents a good overview of sustainable and unsustainable transportation systems, as well as potential drivers of sustainable development. A few barriers to the implementation of sustainable transportation were also highlighted in the document, which could assist delegates in identifying adequate solutions in addressing transportation challenges.


Agenda 21 is one of the most important frameworks on sustainable development. The document provides a detailed action plan on the social and economic dimensions of development, needed capacity-building processes, and implementation avenues such as knowledge sharing and partnerships. This framework will provide delegates with a solid base on various topics directly linked to cities, such as population growth, housing, and greenhouse gas emissions.


This is one of the most important documents shaping the discussion on urban development at the UN. This source will give delegates access to the conference report. It also contains background information on inclusiveness, integrity, and resilience, all under the context of urban development. The latter can be important in providing a context to UNDP’s work in urban areas, as well as inspire delegates to propose new avenues for greater collaboration with existing local and international partners working on urbanization. Delegates can utilize this source to have a full understanding of the complexity of global urbanization.


With this strategy, UNDP seeks to foster the global transition to more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities, especially in the developing world. It explains how cities across the world can better prepare for the future and develop more sustainably, especially when they are growing rapidly. Therefore, the strategy illustrates that rapid growth and sustainable development do not need to contradict each other, but can offer many opportunities for the future. Moreover, the document discusses how UNDP’s role in promoting sustainable cities looks like and introduces a variety of concrete policy and program support activities UNDP is currently working on. Consequently, the strategy constitutes a pivotal resource for delegates to start their research on sustainable cities, since they learn about the major factors leading to sustainable urbanization and at the same time gain insights into UNDP’s work in this field.


This Agenda offers a detailed summary of the policy framework that was agreed upon at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. It also includes additional financial or
non-financial commitments of institutions, Member States, and other entities that were made in the context of sustainable development implementation projects, including green transportation and housing. Various options such as a climate finance fund, taxes, and private sector investments are elaborated upon, as well as recommendations on how to tailor financial assessments to local urbanization projects are presented. The document constitutes a source for delegates to further understand financial implications and assist them while discussing further financing avenues.


  This UN-Habitat report presents an overview of sustainable cities, as well as a detailed summary on the history of sustainability in cities. It highlights best practices and urbanization trends, as well as examples of cities shifting to renewable sources of energy. This report also explores the importance of a planned urban designs and encourages city leaders to integrate monitoring and evaluation systems into their urban operations. Delegates could utilize this report to further understand proposed strategies for planned urban expansions.


  This report was written by the High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport appointed by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to formulate recommendations on how transportation can help advance the sustainable development agenda forward. This report will provide delegates with an overview of the UN and its partner’s actions in the implementation of sustainable transportation systems. It further provides a thorough overview of the different financial mechanisms available to support local governments in this transition. Delegates can utilize this report to identify avenues for collaboration between UNDP and the High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport.


  This report, which is also called the Brundtland Report, establishes the definition for sustainable development, and addresses worldwide discussions about sustainability and sustainable development. It lays down the framework for international agreements such as Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration, as it is the first document to highlight the importance of adopting sustainable development. This document will assist delegates in understanding the history of sustainable development, as well as evaluate its relevance to the current global development agenda. Understanding the dynamics that lead to the Brundtland Report will certainly assist delegates in their understanding of development and also UNDP’s mandate.

Bibliography


III. Promoting Resilient Communities

“To reduce risks from disasters, we must mobilize a broad coalition of partners, from village chiefs to government ministers, from family-run shops to international corporations, from school principals to hospital directors.”

Introduction

With natural hazards increasing in frequency, the United Nations (UN) Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has noted that during the past decade, over 220 million people were impacted by natural disasters, resulting in damage as high as $100 million per year. Resilience is an essential component of disaster risk reduction (DRR), as building resilience is considered one way to reduce the risk and effects of disasters. According to the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), resilience is “the ability of a system, community, or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.” This definition indicates that resilience building is a cross-sectoral and transboundary effort, going beyond simple DRR efforts. Following this definition, resilience building is not to be confused with capacity development, which generally seeks to increase states’ capacity to prepare for the future, and which should be promoted at all times, and not only in response to natural or man-made hazards. In addition to this distinction, capacity development is a long-term process aiming at achieving specific economic and social goals, whereas resilience is just one part of capacity development.

Building resilience is not only essential for capacity development, but also to ensure that sustainable development progress is not eradicated by hazards. Therefore, sustainable development should include efforts to build resilient communities, in order to protect development gains made in communities that are often exposed to disasters. As a result, resilience should be thought of in a context of climate change, resource scarcity, poverty reduction, and health, among other contexts. Climate and disaster resilience aims at building communities that can resist the negative impacts of climate change and the increased frequency of natural disasters, thus being able to recover fast after being affected by a hazard. Human resilience, which is linked to disaster resilience, aims at building communities that are economically resistant, thus supporting development progress made in education, health, and food security. In addition, UN efforts focus on resilient urbanization, as nearly all large cities are vulnerable to natural hazards, such as earthquakes, storms and tsunamis. Considering the damage caused by such hazards, it can take longer for cities to recover from such events, and as a result, it is crucial to build resilience in order for these central economic hubs to recover from disasters. In the following, after outlining the international and regional framework governing resilience building, resilience will be presented as both a global and a local challenge, bringing together a wide variety of actors in an effort to build more sustainable communities. In this context, the UN Development Programme’s (UNDP) actions fall directly into the nexus between DRR and sustainable development, in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, which focuses on making “cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.”

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308 UN CEB, United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, 2013, p. 3.
309 UN-Habitat, Resilience.
314 Ibid.
315 UN ESCAP, Building Resilience to Disasters: Protecting the Gains from Sustainable Development (E/ESCAP/71/17), 2015, p. 6.
316 UNDP, Climate and Disaster Resilience: Overview, 2017.
317 UN CEB, United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, 2013, p. 5.
318 UNDP, Climate and Disaster Resilience: Overview, 2017.
320 UN-Habitat, Resilience.
321 Ibid
International and Regional Framework

The initial landmark document on how to address natural disasters was the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation and its Plan of Action, adopted in 1994 at the first World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction.323 In 2005, to review the Yokohama Strategy, the international community held the second World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, whose outcome was the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA).324 The HFA developed strategies to achieve the goal of reducing the losses in human lives, economic potential, and environmental considerations when confronted with natural disasters.325 Resilience is seen as a key component in this effort, before as well as during a hazard, by using reconstruction as an opportunity to promote resilience in communities.326

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) also recognized the need to include DRR in the post-2015 agenda, which is reflected in the frequency with which DRR is mentioned in the Agenda: in total, 10 of the 17 SDGs reference DRR, and 25 targets are related to it.327 The SDGs that are particularly important for DRR, among others, include SDG 1 (no poverty), SGD 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).328 More specifically, SDG 11 is at the center of efforts to increase resilience, as it links resilience to urbanization, and one of the targets is to build resilient buildings with local materials.329 In 2015, the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction adopted the first framework for action following the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.330 The Sendai Framework closely links DRR and resilience building to sustainable development as well as poverty eradication, by recognizing that a lack of resilience can work against sustainable development efforts.331 It also sets as one of its priorities the “Build Back Better” Initiative, which aims at including resilience building into recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.332 Together with the SDGs, it builds a coherent strategy for UNDP to address resilience building in a cross-sectoral way.333

Building resilience is important in many different sectors and programs within the UN and beyond.334 As such, the resilience of agricultural producers in the face of climate change is recognized in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security (2009), adopted at the World Summit on Food Security held in Rome, as a way to improve food security.335 The importance of building resilient farming systems to reduce the risk of famines was also recognized in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition (2015), adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).336 In addition, the UN Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium (2001), although not mentioning resilience directly, commits to reduce the vulnerability of urban areas, which is a key component of resilience building.337 Climate-related resilience is recognized in the Paris Agreement, adopted by Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in their 21st session held in Paris in 2015, striving to reduce communities’ vulnerability to events related to climate change.338 Finally, in October 2016,

324 UNISDR, World Conference on Disaster Reduction.
326 Ibid., p. 8.
328 UN General Assembly, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1), 2015.
330 UNISDR, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
332 Ibid., p. 16.
334 UN CEB, United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, 2013, p. 5.
338 COP 21, Paris Agreement, 2015, p. 9.
during the third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), stakeholders adopted the *New Urban Agenda*, which also focuses on urban climate and disaster resilience.\(^{339}\)

In addition to UN documents, regional groupings have also tried to institutionalize disaster risk reduction, with an example of this being the Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ (ASEAN) *ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response* (AADMER), which came into force in 2010.\(^{340}\) AADMER aims at rendering its Member States more food resilient, i.e. through the ASEAN Emergency Rice Reserve.\(^{341}\) In addition, the European Union’s (EU) Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) developed an EU Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis Prone Countries 2013-2010, in which it sought to bridge between humanitarian aid and development aid, in an effort to increase resilience.\(^{342}\) One of the programs launched as a result of this action plan was a pay-out system in the Caribbean that seeks to provide immediate monetary resources to those affected by natural disasters.\(^{343}\)

**Role of the International System**

In June 2017, the World Bank’s Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery, together with the EU, UNDP, and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, organized the Third World Reconstruction Conference (WRC3), whose main aim was to streamline resilience in recovery efforts.\(^{344}\) The final communiqué resulting from this conference re-emphasizes the link between resilient recovery and sustainable development, communicating that recovery is an opportunity to build resilience and thus further promote sustainable development, rather than endangering its processes.\(^{345}\)

UNDP is the largest provider of disaster risk reduction within the UN system and thus has a prominent position among the different agencies that are involved with this topic.\(^{346}\) In terms of resilience, UNDP’s work mainly concentrates on building climate and disaster resilience, thus ensuring that communities are equipped to bounce back from natural disasters and climate change-related events, such as droughts and flooding.\(^{347}\) UNDP also supports efforts to build resilience in recovery, such as in Nepal in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake, where it introduced a housing program that used debris from damaged buildings to reconstruct houses.\(^{348}\) Alongside the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, UNDP organized a side-event together with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the EU, and the government of Fiji to discuss DRR and recovery.\(^{349}\) The event was linked to a publication of UNDP and AOSIS on the vulnerability to climate hazards of small island developing states and strategies to enhance capacities in DRR.\(^{350}\) In addition, UNDP cooperates with other actors in the field to better streamline resilience across sectors, such as through its agreement with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for resilience building in Syria.\(^{351}\)

Another actor within the UN system concerned with building resilience is the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), which, among other initiatives, organizes the biennial Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.\(^{352}\) The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction brings together governments, practitioners, civil society, and other relevant actors to share best practices and help with the implementation of the core DRR framework.\(^{353}\) The latest Platform was held in May 2017 in Cancun, Mexico, which recognized the link between

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\(^{341}\) Ibid., p. 2.


\(^{343}\) Ibid., p. 3.


\(^{351}\) UNHCR, UNHCR and UNDP Sign a New Agreement for Resilience Building in Syria, 2017.

\(^{352}\) UNISDR, *The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction*.
Resilience building and poverty eradication, and the need to build resilient infrastructures and housing. Resilient housing is also at the center of the work of UN-Habitat, especially its City Resilience Profiling Programme. Regionally, UN-Habitat is also working on an urban resilience project in Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and Sao Tome and Principe to increase knowledge about technologies that make cities more hazard-resilient.

Resilience is also essential in ensuring food security, as recognized by FAO, which has made resilience building one of its priorities in agriculture-based communities. FAO offers support to strengthen resilience against natural hazards in four key areas: governance, information systems, good practices, and capacity development. In addition, in 2011, the UN World Food Programme (WFP), in cooperation with Oxfam America, launched the initiative R4 Rural Resilience Initiative, which is currently active in Senegal and Ethiopia. Through four different risk management strategies, such as insurance and microcredits, WFP and Oxfam America enable farmers to be more resilient toward climate-related shocks and to thus ensure food production even in the face of natural hazards. In addition, Oxfam has also developed an Asia Resilience Strategy for 2015-2020 to help communities overcome their climate-related vulnerabilities related to agriculture, water, and natural resources. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) also promotes resilience in agriculture-dependent communities, such as with its Adaption for Smallholder Agriculture Programme. Through this program, IFAD proposes adaptation strategies that are directly designed for countries that are community-based and take regional specificities into account.

Moreover, civil society and local communities play a key role when designing and implementing resilience building policies, as those partnerships help make efforts more sustainable, more accepted, and reduce costs, while at the same time create opportunities within communities. A notable advocacy platform is provided through the Huairou Commission, which strives to support women grassroots leaders, especially when it comes to resilience building. Their publications on resilience include a guide on how to better integrate communities into post-2015 resilience building practices, and on agricultural approaches during droughts.

**Building Resilience Globally**

The 2030 Agenda not only set out to build a more sustainable world, but also a more resilient one, in terms of infrastructure, natural resource management, and DRR. Therefore, SDG 9 promotes the building of resilient infrastructure that is accessible to all and helps communities to develop economically and thus reduce poverty, making resilience building an issue to be addressed globally.

**Climate Change, DRR, and Resilience**

Climate change is the main driver of change related to environmental hazards. In fact, 2016 was the hottest year on record, and, as a result, an increase in natural disasters such as droughts and storms was observed. One of the strategies employed to build resilience by UNDP and other agencies is adaptation to climate change, helping
countries to develop new technologies and to diversify economically in order to adapt to the new environment. An example of how UNDP is trying to achieve this is in Mali, where UNDP trained producers in new production techniques to help them diversify their incomes. In Cabo Verde, in order to adapt to climate change and to become more resilient to fresh water shortages, UNDP helped direct investments toward water capture, storage, and distribution technologies. In order to achieve successful DRR in the context of climate hazards, functioning governance structures are of importance, an area recognized in the second priority of the Sendai Framework. UNDP supports these efforts by helping Member States develop coherent policies and by raising awareness about legal and regulatory frameworks of DRR. However, efforts still need to be made to ensure that vulnerable Member States, such as small island states, have adequate means to measure the specific changes in the climate, in order to adequately prepare and develop resilience building capacities. Especially regional data sharing with small countries that might not have the capacities to monitor hazards adequately needs to be improved in order to prepare for potential disasters.

*The Nexus Between Resilience and Development*

Natural disasters are among the reasons why eradicating poverty remains such a challenge for the international community, as they tend to affect already poor communities in a disproportionate way. The World Bank Group, in a research study, found five main reasons why poverty and natural disasters are linked so closely. According to the World Bank Group, this includes the fact that poor communities often live in regions that are overly exposed to natural hazards and that natural hazards have direct impacts on education and health. Resilience and sustainable development are thus intrinsically linked, as resilience is a pre-requisite to protecting development. The effects of disasters on non-resilient communities can be excruciating, increasing poverty levels in developing countries and thus eradicating years of development. Thus, building resilience also means making human development resilient and able to resist shocks or recover quickly if hit by disasters. UNDP cites Latvia as an example on how to build resilient human development, such as their example in the importance of decision-makers prioritizing development goals and enabling each member of the community to achieve those goals. One of the strategies used by the World Bank Group is to address communities becoming financially resilient to cope with the economic burden that is posed by disasters. In 2016, the World Bank developed a model to foresee what the financial burden of natural disasters was going to be for Vietnam in the next 50 years, and developed a financial strategy on that basis. In this strategy, the World Bank proposes several options to render Vietnam more financially resilient, including through the further inclusion of the private sector.

*Partnerships for Resilience*

For resilience building projects to be successful, a multitude of actors must cooperate at different governance levels. One way to incorporate this into resilience building is through public-private partnerships (PPPs), which is...

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379 Ibid., p. 4.

380 Ibid.


384 Ibid., p. 129.


387 Ibid

the main aim of UNISDR’s Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE). During the latest Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in May 2017, ARISE published a manifesto on how to get businesses involved in building resilience, for example by creating incentives for them to invest in DRR initiatives and in more sustainable infrastructure. ARISE identifies four main roles for businesses in DRR: as providers of products, as employers, as customers, and as investors. PPPs specifically can be beneficial in DRR and resilience building initiatives, as they can add expertise and technological capacities where the public sector is in need of those, and can thus increase the efficiency of policies. However, PPPs also face certain challenges, as sometimes there is a lack of accountability when the private sector is involved, and there is a risk that the public sector may get overruled by private businesses.

A key feature of the UN’s work on resilience is its will to include the whole community in DRR efforts, which is why it entertains close relations with civil society, which is often the closest to those affected by disasters. Such cooperation took place, for example, in Chile during the forest fires in January and February 2017, where Inclusiva, a Chilean non-governmental organization (NGO), reported on the situation of disabled people during the fires. Inclusiva’s main task was to observe that Chile complied with international standards on the rights of disabled persons and to pressure policymakers into adapting legislation in order to do so. Another key partnership that UNISDR engages with is with science and technology experts, to ensure that strategies are founded scientifically and technologically feasible. In this context, UNISDR formally launched its Science and Technology Partnership with the goal to provide decision-makers with scientific data and evidence that can support in making informed decisions.

In addition, the media can be an important ally to disseminate information on DRR and help governments in their efforts to build resilience. In a pledge presented during the latest Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union and the European Broadcasting Union noted that a lot of work still remains to be done to fully use the potential of media in DRR. They also pledged to work more closely with other relevant actors in DRR and to find more creative ways to raise awareness about climate change and its effects on natural hazards. As an example, the media was a key component in the effort to make Cabo Verde more resilient, as UN-Habitat produced TV spots in 2010 to promote its “Better City, Better Life” campaign.

Building Resilience Locally

Regional Considerations

The Sendai Framework stipulates that one of the key ways in which DRR can be promoted globally is to conduct extensive surveys on regional disaster risk assessments, including maps, in order to collect data locally and adapt resilience building policies accordingly. This is crucial, as some regions are more prone to natural hazards than others: for example, an individual in the Asia and the Pacific region is twice as likely to experience a natural hazard than an individual in Africa. Due to the high number of natural hazards, a lack of investment in resilience building activities, and climate change, the Asia-Pacific region is much more vulnerable to natural hazards than other regions.

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389 UNISDR, Private Sector.
391 Ibid., p. 3.
393 Ibid., p. 29.
394 UNISDR, Civil Society.
396 Ibid.
397 UNISDR, Science, Technology Research Institutions, Organizations and Networks.
398 UNISDR, Opening statement by Dr. Robert Glasser at the UNISDR Science and Technology Conference, 2016.
399 UNISDR, Media Call for Bigger Disaster Risk Reduction Role, 2017.
400 Ibid.
401 Ibid.
404 UN ESCAP, Building Resilience to Disasters.
Building Resilient Cities

Cities and other urban areas become more prone to be negatively affected by disasters if they develop rapidly and in an unsustainable manner. One of ways in which urban areas are made unsustainable is through buildings that are not built in a way to sustain natural hazards such as earthquakes, which can lead to increased damage and human loss in the event of a natural hazard. As a consequence, urban areas should be built in a way in which they can absorb disasters and recover quickly. Another key aspect of resilient cities is to ensure continuity in access to resources and services, such as potable water, sanitation, and plumbing in general. UN-Habitat has therefore developed the City Resilience Profiling Program to help local authorities with resilient city planning and measuring how resilient cities actually are. In a similar effort, UNDP developed a Sustainable Urbanization Strategy in 2016, one of the aims of which is to include resilience efforts in urbanization. The strategy underlines the importance to include adaptation to climate change and disaster risk management into urban planning and to foresee vulnerabilities when urbanizing areas along coastlines, riverbeds, and hill-slopes. UNDP and UN-Habitat signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2008, reconfirmed in 2012, to institutionalize their cooperation in this area and align both of their strategies with regards to resilient urbanization.

Additionally, the World Bank launched the Resilient Cities Program in 2013, which includes strategies to collect data on risk and resilience in cities and mechanisms to finance the establishment of resilient infrastructure. The first diagnostics on how to make urban areas more resilient was conducted in Vietnam in 2014 and in Ethiopia in 2015. In the latter case, experts from the World Bank Group were sent to Addis Ababa to assess the situation and make proposals on how to make the city more resilient. The priorities developed by the experts included strategies on making services more accessible to vulnerable groups, improving the draining system to reduce the risk of flooding in the future, and on the establishment of an early warning system for housing complexes close to shores.

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407 Ibid., p. 15.
409 Ibid.
413 Ibid.; UN-Habitat, City Resilience Profiling Programme.
415 UN-Habitat, Resilience.
417 Ibid.
418 Ibid., p. 20.
419 The World Bank Group, Resilient Cities Program.
420 Ibid.
422 Ibid., p. 15.
Food Security and Resilience

In 2012, FAO developed a new strategic framework, within which it enumerated “increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises” as one of its five strategic objectives. This is necessary, as the increased occurrence of natural disasters, such as droughts and floods, and also conflicts and water scarcity threaten food security and promote malnutrition. WFP’s and Oxfam’s R4 Initiative currently helps farmers in Ethiopia, Senegal, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, and Zimbabwe, with notable effects: farmers supported by the program in Senegal were able to maintain food security, even after two years of bad harvest. Another approach is climate-smart agriculture, which aims at finding ways to adapt agriculture to climate change, and finding solutions adapted to local conditions. FAO is an important actor in this regard, as it supports climate-smart agriculture through programs such as the National Adaptation Plans that are designed for a range of countries in order to support them in rendering their agriculture climate-resilient in the long term.

Conclusion

Building resilience is crucial to ensure that the world can develop sustainably and fulfill the 2030 Agenda. Because of the deteriorating effect natural disasters can have on development progress, disaster risk management and resilience building need to be streamlined across all development policies. Efforts to build resilience globally include such mainstreaming, as well as climate change adaptation and the building of new partnerships. Regionally, Member States should enhance regional and transboundary cooperation in order to most efficiently share information and support smaller states with less capacities. In addition, resilience building is of importance to ensure global food chains, which is why institutions like FAO and WFP encourage new technologies as well as strategies such as climate-smart agriculture. Going forward, UNDP will continue to discuss the importance of promoting resilient communities.

Further Research

As delegates embark on their own research, they should keep in mind the following questions: How do disasters affect people differently across regions, and how can this be included in international policies? In what ways can Member States further improve regional data sharing and cooperation in the transfer of knowledge to reduce the risk of disasters? To what extent and how can PPPs further help Member States build resilience? How can the international community bring public stakeholders and scientists and other experts closer together? How can resilience building be improved on a local and individual level? What remains to be done to make sure cities are built in a resilient way? How can UNDP support regional and local NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in their efforts to make communities more resilient?

Annotated Bibliography


The Human Development Report for 2016 is the latest in a series of reports published by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) since 1990 that analyze current trends in development. The document manages to give concise examples of the achievements, challenges, and prospects of human development around the world. Especially the chapter on “Making Human Development Resilient” is of interest for delegates, as it proposes strategies on how to make human development resilient, such as through the installation of new meteorological infrastructures and

424 WFP, Resilience Building.
426 FAO, Climate-Smart Agriculture.
427 FAO, Planning.
429 Ibid., p. iv.
430 UNDP, Enhancing Adaption and Resilience, 2017; UNISDR, Private Sector.
431 Thomas, Island States Need Better Data to Manage Climate Losses, Climate Home, 2017.
432 FAO, Climate-Smart Agriculture.
early warning systems. What makes this source stand out from others is that it uses country examples to underpin its findings.


This strategy, developed by UNDP as a response to the rapid urbanization taking place across the globe, is the basis for all of its work on building resilient cities. Among other things, UNDP presents how it sees its role in helping make urbanization more sustainable, in contrast to other organizations such as UN-Habitat. It also outlines that through its work in development, it streamlines disaster risk reduction (DRR), which helps make its policies risk-informed and resilience building. This resource is useful for delegates wishing to focus more on resilient urbanization and how UNDP, as the UN’s main development agency, can make a difference globally and locally.


Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities is a core SDG when discussing resilience building. This website outlines the specific targets that are set for SDG 11 to be achieved before 2030. As building resilience is essential to making cities and communities sustainable, the specific targets can serve as a guideline to delegates to assess what still has to be done in order to achieve SDG 11 and by extension make communities more resilient. It can also serve as a roadmap when conducting research on what currently is being done by UNDP in this area.


This background note, written by the Secretariat of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), outlines the efforts undertaken by ESCAP governments in the region in the areas of disaster risk reduction and resilience building. It presents the current priorities in the region and the action undertaken by regional actors to deliver on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The chapter on how the region monitors resilience is of special interest for delegates wishing to develop strategies in that area. In addition, the note gives insight on how the region can move forward toward further implementation of the Sendai Framework. This is an important document for delegates as they can draw inspiration from it when designing policies for UNDP.


This report, recently published by UN ESCAP for policymakers in the Asia-Pacific region, outlines different ways on how to mainstream DRR into sustainable development. In addition, it explains the most common terms used in disaster risk management, such as DRR and the disaster-development nexus. It then goes on to address the different sectors and how they can prepare better for disasters, such as development sectors, including education and agriculture, and subnational planning, such as city planning. It is a useful source of inspiration for delegates wishing to find ways to include resilience into different sectors of public policy, and how to connect these efforts back to the international framework documents.


The Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted in 2015 as a follow-up to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. It is the basic framework for disaster risk reduction efforts, and as a result places the promotion of resilience at its center. While the
declaration enumerates the political goals of the international community’s efforts, the framework lists clear policies and targets. These can be used as an indicator for delegates as to what the international community has done, and in which areas potential for improvement exists.


This background note, drafted in preparation for the UN Habitat III conference, focuses on how to build sustainable cities that are resilient and environmentally friendly. The paper, rather than recalling what has already been done by the international community, develops plans and strategies on how to move forward in an increasingly urbanized world. The chapter linking urban ecology and resilience is especially of interest for delegates, as it outlines how analyzing risks and threats specific to the local area can help develop strategies to increase resilience in that region. Thus, it connects human and material development and offers insights into how both interact.


This website, set up by UNISDR, explains all the relevant terms related to disaster risk management, including resilience, disaster risk, exposure, and others. The definitions presented here are those universally accepted throughout the UN system, which makes its work more consistent and comprehensible. Accordingly, this constitutes a useful resource for delegates wishing to know the nuances between concepts such as disaster risk governance, disaster risk information, disaster risk management, and others. This glossary can serve as the basis of the research delegates will conduct.


This background note, developed by the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies in preparation for the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun, outlines seven ways in which the private sector can contribute more efficiently to building resilience. The manifesto recognizes the need for the private sector to assist when public institutions are overwhelmed or unable to cope with the effects of disasters. Due to its conciseness, the document is ideal for delegates wishing to learn further about public-private partnerships (PPPs) and the potential of the private sector in building resilience.


This report, published by the World Bank Group in preparation for the publication of a book with the same title, presents the link between poverty and natural disasters. Through a mixture of theoretical examinations and practical examples, the report shows how poor communities are among the most vulnerable in the event of a natural disaster, and how that can eradicat a large part of the development progress. In addition, it argues that financial policies, such as insurance schemes, can increase resilience and thus reduce the risk for poor communities. The source is very useful for delegates, as it points out specific policy examples within the disaster-poverty nexus than can be translated into actions of the international community in support of resilience building.

**Bibliography**


