NMUN•DC

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2016

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2016 National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, DC (NMUN•DC)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). This year's staff is: Director Tristan Rightnar and Assistant Director Courtney Indart. Tristan completed his B.A. in European History in 2013 and his Elementary Teaching Credential in 2014 and currently works as a first grade Teacher in San Bernardino, California. This will be his third year on DC staff, and he is excited to return to NMUN•DC. Courtney graduated with a B.A. in International Political Economy from The College of Idaho in 2015. This will be her second year on DC staff, and she is looking forward to return to NMUN•DC.

The topics under discussion for UNDP are:

I.   Empowering Youth through Sustainable Development
II.   The Role of Women and Girls in Combating Climate Change

The United Nations Development Program is an important organization within the UN system, and it plays a critical role in coordinating and funding development initiatives across the globe. UNDP offers a forum for the international community to communicate, offer financial assistance, and share ideas on issues of development. Working closely with governments and other stakeholders, UNDP is a crucial coordinator and facilitator for the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We hope you will find this Background Guide useful as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We highly encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in-depth, as well as use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the conference, each delegation will submit a position paper. Please take note of the NMUN policies on the website and in the Delegate Preparation Guide regarding plagiarism, codes of conduct, dress code, sexual harassment, and the awards philosophy and evaluation method. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

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

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the conference itself, feel free to contact the Under-Secretary-General for the committee, Angela Shively, or the Secretary-General for the conference, Lauren Shaw. You can reach either staff member by contacting them at: usgangela.dc@nmun.org or secgen.dc@nmun.org.

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

Sincerely,

Tristan Rightnar, Director
Courtney Indart, Assistant Director

Committee Overview

Introduction

In 1958 the General Assembly (GA) created the Special Fund through resolution 1240 (XIII) in order to "provide systematic and sustained assistance in fields essential to the integrated technical, economic and social development of the less developed countries."[1] The GA also created the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.[2] This program was founded in 1949 in order to provide a framework for the provision of aid and funds to governments in need.[3] The Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance was responsible for aiding the development of public infrastructure, education systems, and the social development of less developed states.[4] The United Nations (UN) Development Programme (UNDP) was founded through GA resolution 2029 (XX) in 1965 after the GA decided to combine the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund in order to streamline UN relief efforts.[5] Since then, UNDP has worked in nearly 170 countries, providing relief and aid to populations in need.[6] UNDP's main areas of operation are economic and peacebuilding capacities, disaster resilience, and sustainable development.[7] Through the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNDP has seen an updated framework and highlighted goals, which it aims to achieve by 2030.[8] Specifically through the SDGs, UNDP has been able to focus on its goal to reduce inequalities and achieve the elimination of poverty.[9]

Governance, Structure, and Membership

The current administrator of UNDP is Helen Clark of New Zealand.[10] The program is governed by the UNDP Executive Board, which is made up of 36 Member States and meets every year.[11] The membership rotates annually and the members come from five different regional groups.[12] The Executive Board oversees the actions of UNDP and holds it accountable and in line with its mandate.[13] As outlined in GA resolution 2029 (XX), there is also the Governing Council of UNDP which is made up of 37 intergovernmental organizations as decided by ECOSOC.[14] Through the reduction of staff by 12% starting in 2014 and the increased decentralization of UNDP offices, the program hopes to become more efficient and closer to the stakeholders in order to implement the SDGs.[15] Through the organizational decentralization and the strengthening of country offices, UNDP aims to provide higher quality programs, improve its financial management, and become a more adaptable and efficient organization.[16] This change was brought about through the *Strategic Plan 2014-2017* and the *Integrated Results and Resource Framework,* which were created by the Executive Board.[17]

UNDP reports to the GA through its funds and programs section, as well as ECOSOC.[18] There are two organizations that are subordinate to UNDP and report to it.[19] These two bodies are the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

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[1] UN General Assembly, *Establishment of the Special Fund,* 1958.
[2] 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.
[3] UNESCO, *Extended Programme of Technical Assistance,* 2016.
[4] Ibid.
[5] 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.
[6] UNDP, *Our Work – Overview,* 2016.
[7] UNDP, *A World of Development Experience,* 2016.
[8] UNDP, *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),* 2016.
[9] UNDP, *A World of Development Experience,* 2016.
[10] UNDP, *Chair and Advisory Group,* 2016.
[11] UNDP, *Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS,* 2016.
[12] Ibid.
[13] Ibid.
[14] 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.
[15] UNDP, *A World of Development Experience,* 2016.
[16] UNDP, *UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017: Changing with the World,* 2014.
[17] UNDP, *A World of Development Experience,* 2016.
[18] UN DPI, *The United Nations System,* 2015.
[19] Ibid.

and UN Volunteers (UNV).[20] Founded in 1966, the UNCDF's mandate is to "assist developing countries in the development of their economies by supplementing existing sources of capital assistance by means of grants and loans."[21] The UNV is the organization responsible for managing UN volunteers and promoting volunteerism worldwide.[22] It has offices in 86 countries around the world.[23] Funding for UNDP comes from a number of sources.[24] The UN development system operates with an annual budget of approximately $20 billion, one quarter of which is provided by governments.[25] Other funding partners include the UN system, international financial institutions, the private sector, foundations, and civil society organizations.[26] Private sector initiatives such as the Business Call to Action and the Growing Inclusive Markets help raise awareness and involve private businesses in multilateral development projects.[27] The variety of funding UNDP receives creates an accountable and transparent environment for all those involved.[28] UNDP is furthermore a member of the International Aid Transparency Agency, having committed to strict accountability and transparency guidelines.[29]

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

The current mandate of UNDP is to support states on their path to development and to represent the UN at country and regional levels.[30] UNDP is a relatively large program and was created to aid national efforts of developing countries in overcoming existing obstacles to development.[31] The three main focus areas of UNDP are sustainable development, democratic governance and peace building, and climate and disaster resilience.[32] UNDP focuses most of its aid and relief efforts through one of these three channels; however, it continues to promote the recognition of human rights and the empowerment of women and minority groups through conventions, special sessions, and programs such as the Gender Equality Certification Programme.[33]

There are a number of key documents for UNDP. These include the GA resolutions on "Establishment of Special Fund" and "Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme," which merged the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in order to create UNDP.[34] The next key document is GA resolution 48/162 (1993), which aims to revitalize, restructure, and streamline certain bodies and aspects of the UN, including UNDP.[35] As a result, UNDP, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) now have a joint Executive Board.[36] The final key document is UNDP's *Strategic Plan 2014-17*.[37] Through the adoption of the SDGs, 17 specific goals were decided upon in order to streamline development projects and highlight the importance of different development goals ranging from ensuring healthy lives to mitigating climate change.[38] Since the end of 2015, the SDGs have been at the forefront of UNDP's strategic outlook and will continue to significantly shape UNDP's actions until 2030.[39]

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[20] UN DPI, *The United Nations System,* 2016.
[21] UN General Assembly, *Establishment of the United Nations Capital Development Fund,* 1966.
[22] UNV, *About us,* 2016.
[23] Ibid.
[24] UNDP, *UNDP's Funding Channels,* 2016.
[25] UNDP, *Partners,* 2016.
[26] Ibid.
[27] UNDP, *UNDP and the Private Sector,* 2016.
[28] UNDP, *Transparency,* 2016.
[29] Ibid.
[30] UNDP, *UNDP's Mandate,* 2016.
[31] 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.
[32] UNDP, *A World of Development Experience,* 2016.
[33] UNDP, *A World of Development Experience,* 2016; UNDP, *Gender Equality Certification Programme,* 2016.
[34] 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.
[35] UN General Assembly, *Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (A/RES/48/162),* 1993.
[36] UNDP, *Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS,* 2016.
[37] UNDP, *UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017: Changing with the World,* 2014.
[38] UNDP, *Sustainable Development Goals,* 2016.
[39] UNDP, *UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017: Changing with the World,* 2014.

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

Two UNDP's recent focus areas are the SDGs and the World Humanitarian Summit.[40] Through the 17 goals that were set in the post-2015 development agenda, UNDP has been able to continue developing a strong operational framework.[41] Some of the most relevant goals to UNDP are zero hunger, quality education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, sustainable cities and communities, climate action, and strong institutions, as they directly align with UNDP's mandate.[42] Aside from these points, UNDP's current strategic plan emphasizes the eradication of poverty and decreasing exclusion and inequalities.[43] The World Humanitarian Summit took place in 2016 and concluded in late May.[44] The conference was held in order to highlight the importance of human rights and development.[45] The final document of the World Humanitarian Summit, "Standing up for Humanity: Committing to Action," summarized the needed approaches to creating a more humane world.[46] These approaches include the need for strong political leadership, upholding the norms that safeguard humanity, fostering inclusivity, and investing in humanity.[47]

As UNDP is heading into its 50th year, there are a number of different areas of focus. Over the course of the last two sessions, UNDP has largely focused on gender issues as well as specific country and regional problems.[48] The economic development of Africa has been at the forefront, as the continent is urbanizing at a rapid rate and is the second-fastest growing region.[49] UNDP also continues to focus on war-torn regions such as Syria by providing refuge and educational opportunities for refugees.[50] UNDP also continues to focus mainly on issues related to sustainable development, democratic governance, and disaster resilience.[51] As country or region specific projects are launched, most focus on one to two of UNDP's three key focal points.[52] In Ethiopia, for example, UNDP has been funding a green energy project which dramatically increases the availability of electricity.[53] This project falls within the premises of both the area of sustainable development and disaster resilience, as it provides Ethiopians with access to electricity and also guarantees a certain degree of independence in the case of a natural disaster.[54]

Conclusion

UNDP was created in order to channel development projects through one holistic UN body. UNDP's main focus areas are the elimination of poverty, the promotion of human rights, and sustainable development. These areas are furthered by goals such as achieving gender equality and mitigating the effects of climate change. The SDGs have become the new focus of UNDP, supplementing its three main focus areas. Through the SDGs and special sessions, UNDP has been able to draw a stronger focus on issues such as the treatment of refugees, gender equality, and the sustainable development in post-conflict regions. UNDP remains committed to sustainable development and democratic growth.

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[40] World Humanitarian Summit, *Report of the United Nations Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit,* 2016.
[41] UNDP, *Sustainable Development Goals,* 2016.
[42] Ibid.
[43] UNDP, *UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017: Changing with the World,* 2014.
[44] World Humanitarian Summit, *Learn,* 2016.
[45] World Humanitarian Summit, *Chair's Summary,* 2016.
[46] World Humanitarian Summit, *Standing up for Humanity: Committing to Action,* 2016.
[47] Ibid.
[48] ECOSOC, *Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Projects Services (E/2015/35),* 2015.
[49] UNDP, *Africa: Economic Transformation Hinges on Unlocking Potential of Cities, says the African Economic Outlook 2016,* 2016.
[50] UNDP, *Building a Better Future for Syrians in Turkey,* 2016.
[51] UNDP, *About us,* 2016.
[52] UNDP, *Projects and Initiatives,* 2016.
[53] UNDP, *The biogas solution: Ethiopia's path toward greener growth,* 2016.
[54] Ibid.

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> *UNDP regularly publishes strategic plans for the program. The UNDP Strategic Plan provides a detailed outline of UNDP's goals and strategies over the next few years. UNDP's goals were re-evaluated in light of the post-2015 development agenda. As such, the SDGs were created. These goals reflect the strategies outlined in this document, as they have become the focal point of UNDP and its projects. This document is a valuable source as it will help delegates to stay on track with the UNDP's strategic goals.*

United Nations Development Programme. (2016). *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* [Website]. Retrieved 22 May 2016 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sdgoverview/post-2015-development-agenda.html

> *This Website was created in light of the post-2015 development agenda. Through the creation of the SDGs, the UN and specifically UNDP extended and updated the MDGs that were set in 2000. This Website provides a detailed overview of the post-2015 Development Agenda's SDGs. These goals are used to classify UNDP's projects and they aim to eradicate issues such as hunger; lack of education; and discrimination based on age, gender, or ability. When discussing the two topics, the SDGs will be a helpful resource.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2015). *Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services (E/2015/35)* [Report]. Retrieved 10 June 2016 from: http://www.undocs.org/E/2015/35

> *This report was created at the end of the most recent session of UNDP. It provides a detailed review of the topics that were discussed in the 2015 session. Aside from a breakdown of the UNDP's budget, the report also includes country specific projects and recommendations that have been made to governments, the GA, and ECOSOC. The most recent projects provide great insight into the most recent actions of UNDP and facilitate further research into current topics that are discussed within UNDP.*

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United Nations Development Programme. (2016). *Building a Better Future for Syrians in Turkey* [Website]. Retrieved 10 June 2016 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2016/5/23/Building-a-better-future-for-Syrians-in-Turkey/

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I. Empowering Youth through Sustainable Development

Introduction

Today's youth generation holds more political, economic, and social capital compared than other age groups.[55] Over the last 30 years the United Nations (UN) has created countless multilateral youth programs and missions to empower and include youth in the development conversation.[56] As the UN enters a new era of development with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) has taken initiatives to empower youth to take charge of their development.[57] Helen Clark, Administrator of the UNDP, outlined in her closing remarks at the 2016 Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) Youth Forum that UNDP is continuously pushing forward in its promotion of youth movements, entrepreneurship, civic engagement, and political participation.[58] The age of youth was first defined in 1981 by the Secretary-General's (SG) report, *International Youth Year*, as persons between the ages of 15 to 24.[59] However, many countries, regional groups, and other UN organizations have found that the original definition does not provide accurate statistical data.[60] The African Youth Charter recognizes youth from the age of 15 up to 35, while the European Union defines "young people as 15 to 29."[61] Currently, the world is facing a "youth bulge," which has led to an astounding 1.8 billion youth between the ages of 15 to 24, with a majority being in low-income countries.[62] Due to the youth bulge, UNDP's Youth Strategy for 2014-2017 definition broadens the scope to 30 or 35 to address specific socio-cultural issues such as education, employment, and health care.[63]

In 2015, the GA adopted "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," better known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[64] Sustainable development is ensuring that present day development does not harm future generations and the environment.[65] The SDGs outline a development initiative that is holistic, including economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection.[66] Today's global youth population faces a myriad of daunting development issues, which include access to quality and affordable education, health care, employment opportunities, and participation in the political process.[67] According to UNDP, 85% of the world's youth live in developing countries and "more than 600 million youth live in fragile and conflict-affected countries and territories."[68] Young workers comprise 24% of the working poor, living on less than US $1.25 a day due to the lack of opportunity to gain skills or find decent work.[69] Youth are one of the most politically underrepresented populations, with only six percent of all government representatives currently under the age of 35.[70] To address these problems it is up to Member States, the UN, and the greater global community to meet the challenge of involving youth in every facet of development and decision making.[71]

International and Regional Framework

The international community has recognized the importance of protecting the rights of children since the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) was adopted in 1948.[72] In Article 16, the UDHR states that "the family is the

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[55] UNDP, *Youth Strategy 2014-2017*, 2014.
[56] UN OSGEY*, Envoy on Youth*, 2016.
[57] UNDP, *Youth Strategy 2014-2017*, 2014.
[58] UNDP, Speech *Helen Clark: Closing Remarks to 2015 ECOSOC Youth Forum 2 February 2016*, 2016.
[59] UN General Assembly, *International Year of Youth (A/36/215)*, 1981.
[60] UNDP, *Youth Strategy 2014-2017*, 2014.
[61] UNDP, *Youth Strategy 2014-2017*, 2014; EU, *European Union Youth Strategy*, 2016.
[62] UN OSGEY*, Envoy on Youth*, 2016.
[63] UNDP, *Youth Strategy 2014-2017*, 2014.
[64] UN DPI, *Sustainable Development Agenda*, 2016.
[65] Ibid.
[66] Ibid
[67] UNDP, *Youth Strategy 2014-2017*, 2014.
[68] Ibid., pp. 8, 21.
[69] Ibid., p. 15.
[70] UN OSGEY, *#YouthStats*, 2016.
[71] UN OSGEY, *Meet the Envoy*, 2016.
[72] UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217A (III))*, 1948.

natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State," with children clearly being a part of the family unit.[73] Further, Article 25 specifies that children shall be treated equally regardless of whether they were born out of wedlock or have broken families.[74] In 1989 the UN furthered the protection of children through the adoption of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC).[75] The CRC outlines that all children have the right to life, equal treatment, and the freedom to express what they believe and who they are.[76] The global community's interest in protecting the rights of children have been expressed through the various national and international youth programs that focus on employment protections, access to education, and equal representation in political spheres.[77]

In 1985, ECOSOC began the negotiations that formed the *World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond* (WPAY), which was adopted in 1996 under GA resolution 50/81.[78] WPAY recognized and outlined 15 key areas for youth policies, such as participation in decision-making, health, education, girls and women, HIV/AIDS, and employment.[79] In 1998 the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth produced the *Lisbon Declaration On Youth Policies and Programmes* to commit to adopting national youth policies that would implement WPAY.[80] WPAY was reinforced and edited to meet new demands facing youth after the global economic crisis began in 2008 through GA resolution 62/126, which called for better inclusion and protection of youth in the globalized economy.[81] The formation of the SDGs has been the most youth-inclusive global effort.[82] The goals that are most applicable to youth are: Goal 3 towards ensuring healthy lives; Goal 4 towards ensuring inclusive and equitable education; Goal 5 towards achieving gender equality and empowerment; Goal 8 to promote sustainable economic growth; and Goal 16 to provide justice for all.[83]

Regionally, the European Union (EU) commissioned the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018 to further support regional youth programs.[84] The strategy works to promote youth participation in political and social spheres through the annual Structured Dialogue program; promote affordable higher education through Erasmus+; and spearhead projects to create equal employment opportunities.[85] Further, the African Union (AU) created the African Union Youth Council (AUYC) to provide support for national youth programs, encourage civic participation at Member State youth meetings, and protect the continents large entrepreneurial young generation.[86] Currently, the AUYC supports the AU Volunteer Corps and Technical Vocational Education Training programs.[87] Such regional programs were created in response to the UN's system wide efforts to include youth voices in decision-making and focus on sustainable development of youth.[88]

Role of the International System

WPAY ushered in a new more robust international focus on youth through its formal framework for national policies and international support systems.[89] However, youth inclusions were not common during the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000.[90] To be more inclusive of youth at the UN, the UN Department for

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[73] UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217A (III))*, 1948, Article 16.
[74] Ibid., Article 25.
[75] UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/RES/44/24)*, 1989.
[76] Ibid.
[77] UN DESA, *Youth and Political Participation*, 2012, p. 2.
[78] UN General Assembly, *World Programme of Action for Youth (A/RES/50/81)*, 1996.
[79] Ibid.
[80] UNESCO, *Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes*, 1998.
[81] UN General Assembly, *Policies and programmes involving youth: youth in the global economy—promoting youth participation in social and economic development (A/62/126)*, 2008.
[82] UN OSGEY, *Envoy on Youth*, 2016.
[83] UN DPI, *Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform*, 2016.
[84] EU, *European Union Youth Strategy*, 2016.
[85] Ibid.
[86] Youth Policy, *African Union Youth Council*, 2016.
[87] Ibid.
[88] Ibid.
[89] UN General Assembly, *World Programme of Action for Youth (A/RES/50/81)*, 1996.
[90] Results Canada, *Youth Inclusion was a welcome change at the UN*, 2015.

Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) formed the UN Youth Delegate Program, which provides greater opportunities for youth to be involved in international negotiations.[91] This program brought youth selected by their Member State to join the GA, the Commission for Social Development, and the SDG negotiations.[92] Ban Ki-moon made incorporating the youth voice one of his highest priorities in 2012 when he called for the creation of the System Wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SWAP) to increase coherence of current UN youth programs.[93] Further, he created the Office of the SG's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY) and appointed Ahmad Alhendawi, the youngest ever UN senior official, as the Envoy on Youth.[94] OSGEY is mandated with harmonizing the efforts of the UN on youth issues and bringing youth voices to international discussions.[95] In coordination with OSGEY, ECOSOC held its fourth Youth Forum at the beginning of 2016 with the focus of discussing how youth can best implement the SDGs.[96] The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization holds annual youth forums to discuss educational needs and implementation of policy goals.[97] DESA publishes the bi-annual *World Youth Report,* which brings greater attention to issues such as civic participation, migration, and employment.[98]

UNDP continues to be one of the foremost UN agencies to champion youth issues through promoting participation in effective governance, equal employment, and inclusion of youth in development.[99] In 2014 UNDP adopted the *Youth Strategy 2014-2017*, which provides insights into new development challenges facing youth and recommendations for development stakeholders.[100] In many ways, the new strategy is UNDP's extension of the WPAY to meet the SDGs by mainstreaming youth issues, better supporting capacity development, and continued support of national youth policy implementation.[101] Additionally, UNDP co-chaired the Youth-SWAP's Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD).[102] Through annual meetings, the network serves as an outlet for all stakeholders in youth development to collaborate to increase policy and program effectiveness.[103] IAYND promotes that civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are imperative to the promotion of youth empowerment, as they provide educational services and are formal outlets for youth to express their concerns.[104] The International Youth Foundation (IYF), an international NGO, has been a pillar of youth development promoting employment programs, educational programs, entrepreneurship networks, and supporting social innovation.[105] IYF, through partnerships with multinational corporations, has worked to appropriately train youth through entrepreneurial skills programs and providing networks for youth to find accountable business partnerships.[106] Its social innovation programs are pursued by the YouthActionNet, which provides resources for youth that seek to make greater social change.[107]

Youth Empowerment

Empowerment through Employment
According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), 40% of the global youth population in 2015 was either unemployed or working and poor.[108] In a 2013 report, Youth-SWAP found that 13.7% of youth were unemployed equaling 74 million people, which was one of the highest global unemployment rates for an age group.[109] In some

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[91] UN DESA, *UN Youth Delegate Programme*, 2016.
[92] Ibid.
[93] UN Youth-SWAP, *UN Youth-Swap*, 2012.
[94] UN OSGEY, *Meet the Envoy*, 2016.
[95] Ibid.
[96] UN ECOSOC, *Youth Forum*, 2016.
[97] UNESCO, *Youth Forum: Youth for Change*, 2016.
[98] UN ECOSOC, *World Youth Reports*, 2015.
[99] UNDP, *Youth Strategy 2014-2017*, 2014, p. 3.
[100] Ibid.
[101] Ibid.
[102] UN Youth-SWAP, *UN Youth-Swap*, 2012.
[103] Ibid.
[104] UN Youth-SWAP, *IAYND*, 2012.
[105] IYF, *International Youth Foundation*, 2016.
[106] Ibid.
[107] IYF, *YouthActionNet*, 2016.
[108] UN OSGEY, *#YouthStats*, 2016.
[109] UN Youth-SWAP, *UN Youth-Swap*, 2012.

developing countries 75% of youth are under-utilized, meaning they are under-employed, employed in the informal sector, or lacking in formal training.[110] Commonly, youth work in the informal sector due to their inability to find decent work.[111] Decent work is employment that provides a living wage, equal opportunity, and healthy working conditions.[112] UN Population Fund survey data reveals that that 66% of youth are not being trained with entrepreneurial and employment skills and 73% do not have access to adequate and accountable financing.[113] Due to the continuously high youth unemployment rate worldwide, the *2011 World Youth Report* found that youth are either choosing not to look for work or staying in school much longer.[114] The *UNDP Human Development Report in 2015* and the IYF's *Global Youth Wellbeing Index* found that through sustainable employment, youth that are able to find long-term employment lead overall healthier and happier lives.[115]

According to the *2011 World Youth Report*, 25% of youth in Africa and the Middle East were consistently unemployed.[116] In 2016, UNDP, the World Bank, and the German Technical Fund will be ending their decade long Youth Empowerment and Employment Programme (YEEP) in Sierra Leone, which has supported the country's national Agenda for Change 2008-2012 and Agenda for Prosperity 2013-2017.[117] In 2012, one-third of Sierra Leone's population was made up of youth, of which 70% were underemployed or unemployed and 50% were either unskilled or illiterate.[118] The YEEP Sierra Leone program has been a great success despite the issues it has had with limited funding.[119] Since 2011, it has provided 850 youths, 48% of which are women, with skills and business training.[120] Furthermore, the YEEP has supported 200 youth-led enterprises secure funding and global marketing while also supporting 400 youth-led agri-business programs.[121] The IYF has been supporting initiatives, such as EquipYouth and Build Your Business, with partners Caterpillar International and Microsoft, which provide youth with labor resources and business techniques.[122] In Jordan, the IYF's initiatives have built over 70 local partnerships and provided 14,000 men and women with necessary job skills to build businesses.[123] Sierra Leone and Jordan are simply two examples that show when international organizations and national governments invest in training youth and supporting their visions, youth will be empowered to create businesses and be able to find decent work.[124]

Empowerment through Civic Participation
Civic participation refers to the engagement of communities to take interest in their development and be heard by key decision-makers.[125] From the information gathered in a survey conducted by UNDP prior to the post-2015 development agenda, two out of three countries do not consult youth on a regular basis when making development or youth-centered decisions.[126] Less than two percent of government representatives are in their twenties and a third of all states require representatives to be older than 25.[127] Additionally, the youth turnout for voting is lowest among all eligible age groups and youth are less likely to participate in political parties.[128] According to the *2015 World Youth Report*, more youth are politically engaging through social media contexts and find politics to be increasingly negative; they instead are participating in community life through creating sports programs and peace building initiatives.[129]

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[110] UNDP, *Youth Strategy 2014-2017*, 2014, p. 15.
[111] UN Youth-SWAP, *UN Youth-Swap*, 2012.
[112] Ibid.
[113] UN OSGEY*, #YouthStats*, 2016.
[114] UN ECOSOC, *World Youth Report*, 2011.
[115] UNDP, *Human Development Report*, 2015; Goldin, *The Global Youth Wellbeing Index*, 2014.
[116] UN ECOSOC, *World Youth Report*, 2011.
[117] UNDP, *Youth Empowerment and Employment Programme*, 2013.
[118] UNDP, *Joint Response on Employment in Sierra Leone*, 2012.
[119] Ibid.
[120] UNDP, *Youth Empowerment and Employment Programme*, 2013.
[121] Ibid.
[122] IYF, *Jordan*, 2016.
[123] Ibid.
[124] UNDP, *Youth Empowerment and Employment Programme*, 2013.
[125] Goggin, *What Do We Mean By Civic Engagement?*, 2005, p. 236.
[126] UN OSGEY, *#YouthStats*, 2016.
[127] Ibid.
[128] UNDP, *Youth Strategy 2014-2017*, 2014, p. 19.
[129] UN ECOSOC, *World Youth Report*, 2015.

Over the last decade UNDP has increased its efforts to support country and region specific programs that aim to increase political participation.[130] From 2005 to 2009 UNDP partnered with LEAD international to provide leadership training to 185 youths across East Asia through the Asia Young Leaders for Governance program.[131] As part of its Strengthening Democracy initiative, UNDP partnered with the Swedish International Development Agency and BBC Media Action to harness the civic capacity of youth in Cambodia.[132] Cambodia boasts the largest youth population in Southeast Asia with more than 30% of its 14.7 million people aged 15 to 30.[133] The project, called Loy9, aimed to encourage youth participation in community life and decision-making at the smallest community levels.[134] This was achieved through creation of television and YouTube public service announcements, weekly radio discussions on youth engagement, and social media campaigns.[135] Loy9 was successful in its encouragement with more than 90% of youth reporting they would be likely to continue participation in community and national politics.[136] Even further, over 80% of youth said they would continue to seek parent approval to participate in volunteering and community engagement programs.[137] As a snap-shot of the interest youth hold in civic participation, Cambodia shows that youth need targeted encouragement to engage civically in a world where older generations generally control a majority of decision-making processes and civic participation opportunities.[138]

Conclusion

Ban Ki-moon identified youth as one of his priorities in his Five Year Action Plan to end his second and final term.[139] Youth have an incredible stake in sustainable development as the younger generations will live with the outcomes of unsustainable development over the next fifty years.[140] The keys to empowering youth are through a variety of initiatives to improve employment, civic participation, and the various other issues that youth face.[141] The UN has truly formed an impressive network of youth programs and policies over the past decade, but more work is needed.[142] With the successful adoption and inclusion of youth in the SDGs, it is up to the entire global community to continue actions to help youth and other marginalized communities.[143]

Further Research

Going forward with research, delegates are encouraged to look at more specific impacts youth can have on a variety of sustainable development issues. Delegates should strive to answer questions such as: How can the international system better integrate youth in national governance and international institutions? How can the entrepreneurial spirit of youth be best harnessed in developing countries to not only provide economic opportunities, but provide products and services that help their communities? How can the UNDP better address the countless development issues facing youth today to improve sustainable human development?

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[130] UN DESA, *Youth and Political Participation*, 2012, p. 3.
[131] Ibid., p. 6.
[132] UNDP, *Researching and Engaging the Cambodian Youth on Issues of Civic Participation*, 2014.
[133] Ibid.
[134] Ibid.
[135] Ibid.
[136] Ibid.
[137] Ibid.
[138] Ibid.
[139] UN OSGEY, *Envoy on Youth*, 2016.
[140] UN ECOSOC, *World Youth Report*, 2015.
[141] UNDP, *Youth Strategy 2014-2017*, 2014.
[142] UN OSGEY, *Envoy on Youth*, 2016.
[143] UN DPI, *Sustainable Development Agenda*, 2016.

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> *This report is an easy-to-use version of the original 1995 GA resolution 50/81, which created the World Programme of Action for Youth and includes the 2005 extension. It outlines the priority areas that were decided in both 1995 and 2005, including such areas as education, employment, HIV/AIDS, globalization, and environment. It provides policy frameworks for both national and international levels and explicitly encourages Member States to implement more programs for youth development.*

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2016). *World Youth Reports*. Retrieved 13 April 2016 from:
http://www.unworldyouthreport.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=120&Itemid=268

> *Produced bi-annually, the World Youth Reports focus on specific issues involving youth. The 2015 report focuses on civic and political participation, while the 2013 report focuses on youth migration and the 2011 report focuses on youth employment opportunities. These reports not only provide detailed information about UNDP's focuses, but also have an easy to use Website that allows delegates to quickly find specific information.*

United Nations Development Program. (2014). *United Nations Development Program Youth Strategy 2014-2017: Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future* [Report]. Retrieved 13 April 2016 from:
http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/youthstrategy/

> *The new youth strategy and report was created in response to the need for new youth goals to meet current needs for youth globally and build upon previous programs. It emphasizes the need to find sustainable employment for youth and encourage participation in the political and decision making process. Additionally, delegates will find insights into current UN programs that emphasize the need for multilateral partnerships to address youth issues.*

United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. (2016). *Envoy On Youth* [Website]. Retrieved 13 April 2016 from: http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/

> *SG Ban Ki-moon's emphasis on youth and the vision he has for youth programs is easy accessible through the Envoy's Website. Specifically, it gives detailed outlines of programs and strategies for youth under other UN organs and multilateral partners. Even further, delegates can find up-to-date statistics on youth in regards to the priority areas outlined in the World Programme of Action for Youth and the SDGs. This Website can be a great starting point for delegates as it connects information from across agencies.*

United Nations System Wide Action Plan On Youth. (2012). *United Nations Youth-SWAP* [Website]. Retrieved 13 April 2016 from: http://unyouthswap.org/

> *The UN Youth-SWAP Website provides background information on the goals and initiatives of the system wide action plan. It is another great place for delegates to start their research to better understand current UN goals and the immense development network working to help youth. Also, information on the Inter-Agency Network for Youth Development can be found here with detailed information about the networks formation and meetings.*

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II. The Role of Women and Girls in Combating Climate Change

Introduction

Climate change has been called the greatest threat to humanity; whether it is evident through drought, flooding, sea level rising, or record heat, nearly every community on earth is affected by climate change.[144] Climate change is global phenomena characterized by an increased global temperature, melting of snow packs and ice, and a variety of local weather events.[145] Climate change is also linked to an increased production of greenhouse gases.[146] Women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate for a variety of reasons, including the fact that they make up a majority of agricultural workers.[147] Women own only 10-20% of land, have substantially less access to policy making apparatuses, and are substantially more likely to die in environmental disasters linked to climate change.[148] Climate change is a cornerstone of the work of the United Nations (UN) Development Programme (UNDP).[149] As sustainability has moved to the forefront of the development agenda, UNDP continues to focus on climate change and mitigation efforts through sustainable development.[150] Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.[151] With this definition in mind, the role that climate change plays is clear.[152] The UN's work on this issue focuses on how development through and by women and girls can help to promote sustainability and avert climate change.[153]

International and Regional Framework

To respond to climate change, the international community has held several meetings and adopted multiple treaties on the issue.[154] The basis of the current international strategy is the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC), which entered into force in 1994 and formally establishes the international understanding that climate stability is impacted by carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, as well as outlining mitigation strategies for States Parties.[155] Adopted in 1997, the *Kyoto Protocol* to the UN FCCC established carbon dioxide reduction targets for States Parties to reduce and prevent emissions that contribute to anthropogenic, human caused climate change.[156] The *Paris Agreement*, negotiated at the 21st meeting of the States Parties to the UN FCCC in December 2015, further expands upon the work of the Kyoto Protocol by moving to a bottom up approach in the reduction of greenhouse emissions, including the adoption of nationally determined contributions to reduce greenhouse emissions.[157] This will change the international structure from a system where the international community establishes reduction goals to states establishing their own goals.[158] Furthermore, climate change takes a central role in the understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[159] SDG 13 highlights this connection by directly addressing climate change.[160] Goal 13 regards integrating climate change into national policies, improving disaster readiness, and establishing a funding source to support sustainable development.[161] Meanwhile, SDG 5 addresses the role of gender in development, including increasing women's leadership roles and access to economic resources and recognizing women's contributions to society.[162]

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[144] UN DPI, *Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*, 2015.
[145] Ibid.
[146] Ibid.
[147] Habtezion, *Overview of linkage between gender and climate Change-Asia*, 2013, pp. 2-3.
[148] Ibid.
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[161] Ibid.
[162] UN DPI, *Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls*, 2015.

The international community has worked consistently on the rights of women and girls.[163] Part III of the *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) (1981) calls for full economic involvement of women and the elimination of economic discrimination against women.[164] Articles 13 and 14 address the right of women to access the economy and provides specific protections for women in rural communities.[165] The *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (1995) addresses a variety of issues affecting women and prescribes methodology to address them.[166] The Declaration discusses extensively the economic and political rights of women and recommends removing legal barriers and expanding access to credit, and also discusses the effects of climate change on women and girls.[167] Section K further highlights the need for women to participate in environmental decision making as well as the need to incorporate the perspectives of women in the combating of climate change.[168]

Role of the International System

Through the international system there are a variety of bodies that address the role of women and girls in combating climate change. The main bodies of the UN system that address this are UNDP, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).[169] UNEP produces the Emissions Gap Report annually, and in 2015 it highlighted the work of Member States to reduce emissions in accordance with the *Paris Agreement*.[170] UNEP's key objectives when addressing gender and the environment are gender equality, equal treatment in environmental sectors, and conservation and development.[171] UN-Women conducts a variety of programs designed to improve the situation of women politically and economically.[172] This includes partnering with local non-governmental organizations (NGO) to provide economic support for women starting businesses.[173] UN-Women works with local communities and NGOs to support women combating climate change through training and community action.[174] UNDP does substantial work on climate change, gender, and the intersection of these topics due to each topic's significance in the SDGs.[175] Furthermore, the UNDP's central role in the UN system gives it more ability to address climate change and the role women and girls play in it.[176] UNDP has established the Global Gender and Economic Policy Management Initiative which partners with different regions to increase the role of women in addressing national debt.[177] UNDP has also produced a variety of publications on gender including the *UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017* and *Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability*.[178]

The UN General Assembly (GA) adopted two resolutions on this topic in the 70th session. GA resolution 70/219 (2015) addresses women in development, drawing attention to programs like microfinance, lingering legal and governmental barriers to women, and highlighting the impact of climate change on women.[179] GA resolution 70/205 (2015) highlights the impact of climate change on the world, including desertification and the reduction of biodiversity.[180] The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted resolution 2015/12 which stresses the

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[163] UN DPI, *Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls*, 2015.
[164] UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (A/RES/34/180*, 1979.
[165] Ibid.
[166] UN Fourth Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Program For Action*, 1995.
[167] Ibid.
[168] Ibid.
[169] UNEP, *The Emissions Gap Report 2015*, 2015.
[170] Ibid.
[171] UNEP, *Gender and the Environment: Gender Action Plan*, 2015.
[172] UN-WOMEN, *Economic Empowerment*, 2015.
[173] Ibid.
[174] UN-WOMEN, *Sustainable Development and Climate Change*, 2015.
[175] Ibid.
[176] UNDP, *Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability,* 2013.
[177] UNDP*, Brochure Global Gender and Economic Policy Management Initiative*, 2010.
[178] UNDP, *Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability,* 2013.
[179] UN General Assembly, *Women in Development (A/RES/70/219)*, 2015.
[180] UN General Assembly, *Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (A/RES/70/205)*, 2015.

importance of all bodies and programs within the UN system ensuring gender issues are addressed.[181] The Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA), a partnership of 90 UN agencies, intergovernmental bodies, and civil society organizations, focuses on capacity building, improving finance mechanisms for NGOs, and promoting specific policies.[182] UNDP's work focuses on gender-sensitive sustainable development as a tool to combat climate change.[183]

Regional organizations have continued to remain active on combating climate change; however, the role of women and girls in combating climate change varies.[184] The African Union's (AU) Climate Change and Desertification Unit provides political and policy guidance to Member States as well as coordinates activities in the field.[185] While the AU also has the African Union Women's Committee to address gender issues, it does not have an established strategy to incorporate women and girls into its response to climate change.[186] The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) also has a structured program to address climate change, the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change.[187] One of its subprograms includes Climate Smart Agriculture which establishes best practices and guidelines.[188] The Climate Smart Agriculture program does include women in its plan, but it is limited because the program but does not address gender issues directly.[189] The European Union synthesizes gender and climate change the most thoroughly of any regional body through the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).[190] The EIGE addresses gender and climate change by not only highlighting areas in which women are disproportionately affected, such as transportation and energy, but also establishing indicators to monitor the situation.[191]

Women and Girls in Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development

In developing countries women make up half of the agricultural workforce but own less than 20% of the land.[192] Partially because of the lack of land ownership, women are informally restricted from agricultural decision making and are substantially less likely to have authority over land use.[193] Women across the developing world are also more vulnerable to climate change, especially women who are charged with gathering food, water and fuel for their families.[194] Because of these issues, two areas that provide the most opportunity for growth for the role of women in combating climate change are educating women on sustainable farming practices and utilizing women to become local experts and train others on renewable practices.[195] In places where this has been implemented women make up almost 60% of community-based rural development workers.[196] Both of these areas require an additional focus of increasing the station of women in their communities and expanding their roles as community leaders.[197]

In rural communities, training women in renewable agriculture practices and then having them train other farmers has been successful.[198] An example of such a practice is the planting of nutrient rich foods and methodology to prevent crop and livestock diseases.[199] Providing women with sustainable farming equipment, especially in

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[181] UN ECOSOC, *Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/RES/2015/12),* 2015.
[182] Global Gender and Climate Alliance, *Who We Are,* 2015.
[183] UNDP, *Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability,* 2013.
[184] AU, *Climate Change and Desertification,* 2010.
[185] AU, *Women, Gender and Development,* 2015.
[186] AU, *Climate Change and Desertification,* 2010.
[187] ASEAN, *ASEAN Cooperation on Climate Change,* 2015.
[188] ASEAN, *ASEAN Regional Guidelines for Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture Practices,* 2015, p. 15.
[189] Ibid.
[190] EIGE, *Review of the Implementation in the EY of area K of the Beijing Platform for Action: Women and the Environment Gender Equality and Climate Change,* 2012, pp. 16-25.
[191] Ibid.
[192] Habtezion, *Overview of linkage between gender and climate change-Asia,* 2013, p. 2.
[193] Ibid.
[194] Ibid.
[195] UNDP, *Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability,* 2013, p. 170.
[196] Ibid.
[197] Ibid.
[198] Ibid.
[199] UNDP, *Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability,* 2013, p. 170.

communal farming situations, has both increased women's leadership role in their communities and increased sustainability.[200] Due to women's reduced access to land, the UNDP has endorsed Member States enacting laws to give widows automatic land rights to their husband's property.[201] Many UN bodies, including UNDP, continue to advocate for equal legal protections for women.[202] Many women's groups also advocate for the prevention of deforestation, which has been increasing in developing states.[203] The Green Belt Movement, an NGO founded by the National Council of Women of Kenya, has supported tree nurseries to combat deforestation.[204]

Domestic work in rural areas can also be improved to be more sustainable.[205] In rural communities, establishing renewable practices, especially in fuel consumption and in sanitation and waste management, is often difficult.[206] For example, the most widely used fuel in least developed countries for cooking and heating is burning wood.[207] In addition to environmental consequences, the smoke produced can cause fire damage to dwellings and respiratory harm, disproportionately impacting women who prepare food.[208] UNDP recommends identification of access to resources in rural communities as a gender issue, especially water.[209] Water and sanitation programs have been shown to be more effective when women are placed in design and implementation leadership.[210] World Bank water programs that were gender inclusive are seven to eight times more effective than those that are not.[211]

Women and Girls in Sustainable Industrial and Urban Development

Women and women's viewpoints are not adequately represented during the formulation of climate change policy.[212] Women hold only 17% of cabinet positions and 19% of parliamentary seats globally.[213] UNDP has identified inclusive and democratic governance as one of the pillars of its Gender Equality Strategy.[214] In order to achieve this, UNDP regularly calls for Member States to increase women's representation, resulting in only a few successes.[215] Educating girls on sustainable development has shown to be successful in the past, depending schools' effectiveness and safety.[216] UNDP identifies that sustainability education should be tailored to the local community, incorporate science and technology, and provide technical and vocational training.[217]

Further, UNDP provides extensive financial and training support to women entrepreneurs.[218] UNDP and the GA advocate for increasing microfinance loans to women in developing states.[219] These microfinance loans increase women's ability to develop their own businesses, especially in areas where traditional financing options are either too restrictive, too financially demanding, or non-existent.[220] UNDP often partners with local civil society organizations or NGOs to provide training to women.[221] One such case is women's groups in Kenya training women to make handicrafts out of recycled materials, as well as make solar lanterns.[222]

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[200] UNDP, *Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability,* 2013, p. 171.
[201] Ibid., p. 178.
[202] Ibid.
[203] Ibid.
[204] Ibid.
[205] Ibid.
[206] UNDP, *Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability,* 2013, pp. 176-177.
[207] Ibid.
[208] Ibid.
[209] Ibid.
[210] Ibid.
[211] Ibid.
[212] Habtezion, *Overview of linkage between gender and climate Change-Asia*, 2013, p. 2.
[213] UNDP, *UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017*, p. 9.
[214] Ibid.
[215] Ibid.
[216] UNDP, *Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability,* 2013, p. 162.
[217] Ibid., p. 163.
[218] UNDP, *UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017*, p. 9.
[219] UNDP, *Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability,* 2013, pp. 62-63.
[220] Ibid.
[221] Ibid.
[222] Ibid.

Case Study-Sustainable Dryland Agriculture Programme

The Sustainable Dryland Agriculture Programme is conducted in collaboration with the UNDP by the Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society in India.[223] The program works to improve women's access to resources, increase cultivation to dry lands, and ensure food security.[224] Dry land agriculture is reliance on rain to water crops by cultivating land outside of watersheds.[225] Only 12% of wells are considered overexploited for agriculture in areas implementing dry-land programs.[226] This is not only less taxing on delicate water systems but also requires less pumping of ground water.[227] The project works with 500 women's village groups and provides financial support, gives farming equipment, and provides special training on sustainable practices.[228] Through this program the women grow a variety of crops and have been able to increase food security, especially in drought situations, and produce income by selling the excess products.[229] In addition to this, the program has improved public perceptions of women, granting them prestige in the surrounding villages and challenging gender stereotypes.[230] Programs such as this not only reduce the environmental impact of agriculture, but also increase local development and the status of women.[231] Additional dry-land agricultural programs have been implemented through Latin America and Africa.[232] In South Asia, dry-land programs have mitigated land degradation in nearly half million square kilometers.[233]

Conclusion

UNDP and the international system have established a large range of targeted practices as well as guiding principles on the role of women and girls in combating climate change. There has been substantial success with individual programs and partnerships made by the UNDP, especially in agricultural development.[234] In order to continue these successes, UNDP must expand these partnerships and develop more in urban industries.[235] Increased work still needs to be done to develop more cohesion between the various policies on these issues and across the Member States and regions.[236] Many states still look at development without considering sustainability, gender, or both.

Further Research

Delegates should consider the important role women play in combating climate change and look toward sustainable development. It is important to ask how synergies between UNDP's gender initiatives and its green initiatives can be increased. What is the role of educating women and girls in the fight against climate change? How can the UNDP support national and regional groups in increasing women's leadership on this issue? What barriers exist to further integrate women and girls into solutions for combating climate change?

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[223] UNDP, *Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability,* 2013, p. 171.
[224] Ibid.
[225] Ibid.
[226] CGIAR, *New Research Approaches to improve dryland agriculture,* 2013, p. 1.
[227] UNDP, *Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability,* 2013, p. 171.
[228] Ibid.
[229] Ibid.
[230] Ibid.
[231] CGIAR, *New Research Approaches to improve dryland agriculture,* 2013, p. 20.
[232] Ibid.
[233] Ibid.
[234] UNDP, *Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability,* 2013, p. 163.
[235] Ibid., p. 62-63.
[236] UNDP, *UNDP and Climate Change*, 2015, p. 6.

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> *The new climate change agreement from the States Parties to the UN FCCC has important implications for UNDP. This source includes the strategic vision for the upcoming years regarding climate change adaptation and also Member States' commitment to it. As the* Paris Agreement *has set a general outline for following decades, its implementation falls into the responsibility of individual committees and Member States. Delegates will find this source helpful in identifying necessary priorities that can be discussed within the mandate of UNDP.*

International Institute for Sustainable Development. (2010). *Sustainable Development: From Brundtland to Rio 2012*. Retrieved 15 May 2016 from: http://www.un.org/wcm/webdav/site/climatechange/shared/gsp/docs/GSP1-6_Background%20on%20Sustainable%20Devt.pdf

> *Delegates will find a detailed history of sustainable development in this document. The document provides future goals for sustainable development. As UNDP focuses on sustainable development, this will be essential for delegates to better understand how sustainable development has evolved over the last few decades. Additionally, this document identifies problem areas for sustainable development and provides recommendations for moving forward.*

United Nations Development Programme. (2013). *Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability* [Report]. Retrieved 16 April 2016 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/powerful-synergies/

> *UNDP provides a comprehensive synthesization of the topic in this report, especially in addressing gender and sustainable development. Within the report, UNDP provides several case studies to demonstrate best practices. Delegates should use this document to guide their research and see what programs have been successful in promoting women's economic empowerment within the green economy. Delegates will continue to see how UNDP generally operates when addressing this topic.*

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *UNDP and Climate Change* [Report]. Retrieved 16 April 2016 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/climate-and-disaster-resilience-/undp-and-climate-change/

> *This report from UNDP provides a clear guide to the role of the UNDP in regards to climate change. This report covers the entirety of the UNDP's work to address climate change, including policy formulation and active field work. As such, delegates will find an abundance of information on both UNDP and individual Member States. The document, in every section, addresses the role of gender to further provide a detailed, holistic explanation of the topic.*

United Nations, Fourth World Conference on Women. (1995). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. Retrieved 15 May 2016 from: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/

> *This Declaration forms the most comprehensive document on gender equality in the UN system. Delegates can use the information within the Platform to guide what best practices the international community has employed and how we can expand them moving forward. Additionally, section K addresses women and the environment and can help delegates gain a better understanding of the intersections of these issues and also understand the foundation on which this topic stands.*

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