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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME BACKGROUND GUIDE 2017

Written by: Daniel Sweeney, Director; Zachery Stuebs, Assistant Director;
Noah Vetter, Substantive Assistant



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2945 44th Avenue South • Minneapolis, MN 55406

www.nmun.org • info@nmun.org • 612.353.5649



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2017 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 Daniel Sweeney and Assistant Director Zachery Stuebs. Daniel is currently working on his M.A. in International Development from George Washington University. This will be his second year on DC staff, and he is excited to return to NMUN•DC. Zachery is working on his B.S. in Computer Science and Biology at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. This will be his first year on DC staff, and he is looking forward to the work of the body, as delegates craft solutions to international development issues.

The topics under discussion for UNDP are:

1. Harmonizing National Development Plans with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2. Developing Infrastructure for Disaster Risk Reduction

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 (SDGs).

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 13 October 2017 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 Deputy Secretary-General, Jess Mace, at dsg.dc@nmun.org.

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

Daniel Sweeney, *Director*
Zachery Stuebs, *Assistant Director*



Committee Overview

Introduction

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works to fulfill 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 United Nations (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 development by funding and carrying out projects aimed at eliminating poverty, reducing inequalities, strengthening democratic governance, and supporting crisis prevention and recovery.⁴

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a program and fund of the United Nations, reporting to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

At NMUN•DC 2017, we are simulating the **Executive Board of UNDP** in terms of composition and size; however, delegates are not limited to the strict mandate of the Executive Board, as a budgetary and administrative body, during the Conference. For the purposes of NMUN•DC 2017, and corresponding with the educational mission of the Conference, the committee has the ability to make programmatic and policy decisions on issues within the mandate of UNDP in line with the overall function of the organization.

Governance, Structure, and Membership

UNDP leadership is comprised of an Administrator and an Executive Board.⁵ The Administrator, currently Achim Steiner, is appointed by the Secretary-General and confirmed by the General Assembly for a four-year term.⁶ The Executive Board consists of 36 rotating members from five geographic groups: eight from the African Group, seven from the Asia-Pacific Group, four from the Eastern European Group, five from the group of Latin American and Caribbean Group, and 12 from the group of Western European and Others Group.⁷ Members typically serve three-year terms and are elected by the 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 not only adapt to changing situations and the unique needs of each Member State, but also follow 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

¹ UNDP Junior Professional Officer Service Centre, *UNDP for Beginners: A Beginner's Guide to the United Nations Development Programme*, 2015, p. 4; *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

² UN General Assembly, *Expanded programme of technical assistance for economic development of under-developed countries (A/RES/304 (IV))*, 1949; UN General Assembly, *Establishment of the Special Fund (A/RES/1240 (XIII))*, 1958.

³ 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.

⁴ UNDP, *A world of development experience*, 2016.

⁵ UNDP, *Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS*, 2016.

⁶ UNDP, *Biography of the Administrator-Designate of the United Nations Development Programme*, 2017.

⁷ UNDP, *Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS*, 2016.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ UNDP, *Executive Board*, 2014.

¹⁰ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2016-17*, 2016, p. 248.

¹¹ UNDP, *Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS*, 2016.



ECOSOC are used.¹² The Executive Board also serves as the governing body of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).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.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.¹⁵ The Presidency for 2017 is held by H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen from Denmark.¹⁶ The Vice-Presidents for 2017 are from Libya, Yemen, Panama, and the Republic of Moldova.¹⁷

Budget

The Executive Board decides on budgets and financial plans.¹⁸ Consisting solely of voluntary contributions, UNDP's budget is supported largely by donor countries, international financial institutions, and the private sector.¹⁹ Additional funding for individual projects can come directly from organizations and governments, although UNDP is the primary source of funding for most of its activities.²⁰ 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.²¹ With initiatives in over 170 Member States, the allocation of UNDP's \$4.65 billion budget for 2017 projects is indicative of its current priorities: 34% of the budget is assigned to responsive institutions, 29% to inclusive and sustainable growth, 14% 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.²² 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.²³

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX) of 22 November 1965, UNDP retained the "principles, procedures, and provisions" of the EPTA and UN Special Fund following their consolidation.²⁴ Having broadened in scope, UNDP's present mandate is "to empower lives and build resilient nations" for sustainable human development.²⁵ 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 development."²⁶ Importantly, as emphasized by General Assembly resolution 59/250, national governments retain

¹² Executive Board of the UNDP, the UNFP and the UNOPS, *Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, of the United Nations Population Fund and of the United Nations Office for Project Services (DP/2011/18)*, 2011.

¹³ UNDP, *Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS*, 2017.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ UNDP, *Members of the Executive Board*, 2017.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Executive Board of the UNDP, the UNFP and the UNOPS, *Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, of the United Nations Population Fund and of the United Nations Office for Project Services (DP/2011/18)*, 2011.

¹⁹ UNDP, *Partners*, 2017.

²⁰ UNDP, *Our Projects*, 2017.

²¹ Executive Board of the UNDP, the UNFP and the UNOPS, *UNDP Integrated Budget Estimates for 2014-2017 (DP/2013/41)*, 2013.

²² UNDP, *Our Projects*, 2017.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ UNDP Junior Professional Officer Service Centre, *UNDP for Beginners: A Beginner's Guide to the United Nations Development Programme*, 2015, p. 4.

²⁶ 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.

“primary responsibility” for development within their countries.²⁷ The work of UNDP is carried out through its country offices, which focus on helping Member States develop policies, institutional abilities, leadership skills, and resilience to achieve poverty eradication and the reduction of inequalities.²⁸ 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.²⁹ To function effectively across the globe, UNDP works to strengthen partnerships, build capacity, and coordinate the UN’s development activities.³⁰

Partnerships

Often, partnerships make it possible for the UNDP to carry out its program of work.³¹ With 10,551 registered partners in 2017, UNDP has been able to greatly increase the number of projects it expects to complete.³² These partners include bodies across the UN system, national governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, financial institutions, and various foundations to finance its activities and carry out projects.³³ Partners, especially national governments and foundations, provide much of the funding for UNDP’s projects, with \$5 billion being provided annually by national governments alone.³⁴ In addition to working within the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF), UNDP works with its partners to develop the capacities of national organizations, foster multi-disciplinary approaches to development, strengthen knowledge generation and management, and increase the sharing of best practices.³⁵

Capacity-Building

Building capacity is a focus area that allows UNDP to enhance the performance of various institutions and projects.³⁶ This is necessary so that programs or initiatives within Member States can strengthen development, public services, or aid.³⁷ For example, in the context of legal frameworks, UNDP, together with national partners, develops justice reform strategies and works to further access to legal aid services.³⁸ 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.³⁹ UNDP also works in Member States to build up their capacity to respond to disasters, especially in terms of preparedness and the development of early warning systems that will allow for the mitigation of disasters.⁴⁰

Coordination

With different organizations and entities involved in global development policies, it is important to coordinate their activities.⁴¹ To that end, UNDP leads the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), which is an inter-agency group that coordinates all UN entities with responsibilities related to development.⁴² Established in 1997 by the General Assembly, UNDG brings together 32 UN funds, offices, programs, departments, and agencies to enhance coherence, efficiency, and effectiveness within the UN development system.⁴³ UNDP also manages the Resident Coordinator (RC) system, which covers all UN entities that handle development-oriented operational activities.⁴⁴ The RC system brings together the “different UN agencies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operational

²⁷ UN General Assembly, *Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/59/250)*, 2005, p. 3.

²⁸ UNDP, *A world of development experience*, 2017.

²⁹ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2016-17*, 2016, p. 248.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ UNDP, 2017 UNDP Partner Survey, 2017.

³² *Ibid.*

³³ UNDP, *Partners*, 2017.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ UNDP Junior Professional Officer Service Centre, *UNDP for Beginners: A Beginner's Guide to the United Nations Development Programme*, 2015, p. 15.

³⁶ UNDP, *Capacity Development*, 2017.

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ UNDP, *Access to justice and capable justice services*, 2017.

³⁹ UNDP, *Poverty Reduction*, 2017.

⁴⁰ UNDP, *Preparedness & early warning*, 2017.

⁴¹ UNDP, *Partners*, 2017.

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ UNDG, *About the UNDG*, 2016; New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2016-17*, 2016, p. 245.

⁴⁴ UNDG, *Resident Coordinator System*, 2017.



activities at the country level.”⁴⁵ Together, UNDP and the RC system operate the development frameworks negotiated at the policy level and implement programs on the ground.⁴⁶

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

The first regular session of the Executive Board for 2017 was held in New York from 30 January-3 February 2017 and the 2017 annual session was held 30 May-9 June 2017.⁴⁷ The second regular session is scheduled to be from 5-11 September 2017.⁴⁸ Regular sessions are divided into segments for UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS, along with a joint segment that focuses on Member State programs.⁴⁹ Discussions in the first regular session included the role of UNDP in promoting climate change initiatives, the role of UNDP in advancing the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, and the development of the *UNDP Strategic Plan: 2018-21*.⁵⁰

UNDP is acknowledged as a leader in the UN system for promoting and implementing climate change initiatives in development programs.⁵¹ An emphasis is placed on the promotion of climate change initiatives because UNDP has recognized climate change as one of the most serious threats to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in part due to the higher incidence of natural disasters that result from climate change.⁵² In her statement to the Executive Board during the first regular session, then Administrator Helen Clark highlighted the successes of UNDP in 2016, including their involvement in the Climate Change Conference in Marrakech (COP 22) and the UN Biodiversity Conference in Paris (COP 13).⁵³ The session also included a discussion of the 2030 Agenda and the importance UNDP places upon ensuring that the international community upholds the principal of leaving no one behind.⁵⁴ The Executive Board encouraged UNDP to ensure that their policies and programs are flexible and inclusive of all Member States.⁵⁵ They also encouraged the UNDP to strengthen the RC system and become a leader in establishing inter-agency communication to enhance cooperation and coordination.⁵⁶

During the 2016 annual session, the midterm review of the *UNDP Strategic Plan: 2014-17* found that the UNDP was on track to complete many of its targets.⁵⁷ However, there were several gaps in performance identified, including in the areas of energy efficiency, anti-corruption, civil society engagement, basic services, and global development financing.⁵⁸ In the *UNDP Strategic Plan: 2018-21*, UNDP hopes to address these gaps but also recognizes that emerging global trends that will impact the new plan, such as: the need to respond to protracted crises, violent extremism, forced displacement, and major migrant movements; the deepening effects of climate change, which call for supporting accelerated adaptation and new models of inclusive and low-carbon growth; rapid urbanization, particularly in developing countries; and rising or high inequality within many countries and the ramifications for the economy, governance, human development, and social cohesion.⁵⁹

The Annual Session included the annual report of the Administrator, discussion of financial, budgetary and administrative matters, a review of the drafted *UNDP Strategic Plan: 2018-21*, and a report on the success of UNDP

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ UNDG, *Resident Coordinator System*, 2017; UNDP, *Schedule of meetings in 2017*, 2017.

⁴⁹ UNDP, *Executive Board: Report of first regular session 2017*, 2017.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ UNDP, *UNDP demonstrates continued leadership on climate neutrality*, 2017.

⁵² UNDP and UNRISD, *Global Trends: Challenges and Opportunities in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2017.

⁵³ UNDP, *Executive Board: Report of first regular session 2017*, 2017.

⁵⁴ UNDP and UNRISD, *Global Trends: Challenges and Opportunities in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2017.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ UNDP, *Executive Board: Report of first regular session 2017*, 2017.

⁵⁷ Executive Board of the UNDP, the UNFP and the UNOPS, *Report of the Executive Board on its work during 2016*, 2017.

⁵⁸ Executive Board of the UNDP, the UNFP and the UNOPS, *Midterm Review of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, Including the Annual Report of the Administrator for 2015 (DP/2016/9)*, 2016.

⁵⁹ UNDP, *Executive Board: Report of first regular session 2017*, 2017.



at implementing a gender equality strategy in 2016.⁶⁰ The session also included a discussion of the 2016 *Human Development Report* released by the UNDP Human Development Report Office on 21 March 2017 and a presentation by the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the *2016 Annual Report on Evaluation*.⁶¹ This report analyzes UNDP's current programs and budget and presents recommendations to the Executive Board for improvements, including a more strategic allocation of resources to improve the quality of programming.⁶²

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.⁶³ The SDGs on poverty, inequality, and governance are particularly central to UNDP's current work and long-term priorities.⁶⁴ 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*.⁶⁵ 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.⁶⁶ The SDGF objective is to "bring together UN agencies, national governments, academia, civil society, and business to the challenges of poverty."⁶⁷

To support the implementation of the SDGs, UNDG has formulated the "MAPS" approach, which refers to mainstreaming, acceleration, and policy support.⁶⁸ 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.⁶⁹ In 2017, UNDP has been active in promoting full-scale implementation. Recognizing both challenges and opportunities, UNDP has been responsible for studying the successes and gaps in 2016 implementation to improve future efforts.⁷⁰ One push has been for better implementation of the SDGs at all levels of government, highlighted by a recent report entitled *Parliament's Role in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: A Parliamentary Handbook*.⁷¹ The report presents ways in which parliaments can effectively implement the SDGs and incorporate them into their national agendas.⁷²

Conclusion

The UNDP Executive Board's unique position atop three organizations, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS, as well as its work in facilitating cooperation through the UNDG, positions it to further development on all levels.⁷³ With its wide range of work in areas including crisis prevention, democratic governance, the environment, and human rights, the UNDP can target its work on the most important aspects of sustainable and equal human development.⁷⁴ UNDP continues to work toward sustainable development by building effective and inclusive democratic governance, strengthening resilience, eradicating poverty, and reducing inequalities.⁷⁵ With its broad leadership and mandate, UNDP is uniquely positioned to take a strong role in achieving the SDGs and ensuring no one is left behind.⁷⁶

⁶⁰ Executive Board of the UNDP, the UNFP and the UNOPS, *Provisional agenda, annotations, list of documents and work plan*, 2017.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ UNDP, *World leaders adopt Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015.

⁶⁴ UNDP, *Sustainable Development Goals*, 2017.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ SDGF, *About Us*, 2017.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ UNDG, *The Sustainable Development Goals Are Coming to Life*, 2017.

⁶⁹ UNDP, *Sustainable Development Goals*, 2016.

⁷⁰ UNDP, *Global Trends: Challenges and Opportunities in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2017.

⁷¹ UNDP, *Parliament's Role in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: A Parliamentary Handbook*, 2017.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ UNDP, *Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS*, 2017.

⁷⁴ UNDP Junior Professional Officer Service Centre, *UNDP for Beginners: A Beginner's Guide to the United Nations Development Programme*, 2015, p. 6.

⁷⁵ Ibid, p. 4.

⁷⁶ UNDP, *A world of development experience*, 2017.



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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services. (2016). *Midterm Review of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, Including the Annual Report of the Administrator for 2015 (DP/2016/9)* [Report]. Retrieved 21 May 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/DP/2016/9>

This midterm review of the UNDP Strategic Plan is one of the key outcomes from UNDP's 2016 annual session. The review focuses on the changing development landscape and performance on priorities and outcomes of the Strategic Plan. The document presents UNDP's performance profile for the period based on multiple measures as well as providing an explanation for the results the measures. The review also highlights a way forward, pointing out UNDP's vision for 2016-2017. Delegates will find this document useful as it will assist them in identifying the key shortcomings that must be addressed to ensure the Strategic Plan is achieved.

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2016). *United Nations Handbook 2016-17*. Retrieved 21 May 2017 from: https://mfat.govt.nz/assets/_securedfiles/Handbooks/United_Nations_Handbook-2016-2017.pdf

The United Nations Handbook 2016-17 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.

United Nations Development Group. (2016). *The Sustainable Development Goals Are Coming to Life* [Report]. Retrieved 21 May 2017 from: <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/SDGs-are-Coming-to-Life-UNDG-1.pdf>

This report provides insight 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 Member States are integrating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into visions and plans at the national, sub-national, 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.

United Nations Development Programme. (2017). *Executive Board* [Website]. Retrieved 21 May 2017 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/executive_board/overview.html

This website explains the Executive Board of UNDP. The current membership is shown as well as the dates for each membership term so delegates can see when it changes. Latest updates, session documents, and other key information can be accessed here to follow and understand the work of the Executive Board. Delegates can access recent and older session reports to familiarize themselves with the decisions and work of UNDP. For a better understanding of the process during sessions, the rules of procedure for the Executive Board can also be accessed.

United Nations Development Programme Junior Professional Officer Service Centre. (2015). *UNDP for Beginners: A Beginner's Guide to the United Nations Development Programme*. Retrieved 21 May 2017 from:

<http://www.jposc.undp.org/content/dam/jposc/docs/Recruitment-documents/UNDP%20for%20Beginners%20-%205%20edition%20-%20May%202015.pdf>

This guide is a comprehensive introduction to UNDP that explains key aspects such as its structure, development, and function. The document also clearly presents UNDP's role within the UN development system and its interactions with other UN bodies and outside organizations. 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.

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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services. (2013). *UNDP Integrated Budget Estimates for 2014-2017 (DP/2013/41)* [Report]. Retrieved 21 May 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/DP/2013/41>

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services. (2013). *UNDP Strategic Plan, 2014-2017*. Retrieved 21 May 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/DP/2013/40>

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New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2016). *United Nations Handbook 2016-17*. Retrieved 21 May 2017 from: https://mfat.govt.nz/assets/_securedfiles/Handbooks/United_Nations_Handbook-2016-2017.pdf

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United Nations Development Programme. (2017). *Executive Board* [Website]. Retrieved 21 May 2017 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/executive_board/overview.html

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I. Harmonizing National Development Plans with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

“Addressing poverty and vulnerabilities and building resilience requires governments to work across ministries and sectors and within broader partnerships. We in the UN development system need to be prepared to work collaboratively in support of countries’ sustainable development plans. A transformative sustainable development agenda demands adaptation and change from us all.”⁷⁷

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were designed to promote full human development, ensure environmental sustainability, and catalyze action on a number of challenges facing the international community in order to reach a specific set of objectives by 2030.⁷⁸ With 836 million, or 20% of people in developing regions, living in extreme poverty and 6 million children under the age of five dying each year, there is a high level of urgency in the international community to make these goals actionable.⁷⁹ Furthermore, climate change threatens to exacerbate food insecurity, natural disasters, and habitat loss by altering weather patterns.⁸⁰ National development plans (NDP) are created by governments and contain development goals and targets, as well as the responsibilities that various actors (the government, civil society, the private sector, and others) have in achieving those outcomes.⁸¹ Typically, the process to implement an NDP involves examining the progress of the previous NDP, drafting a new plan based on lessons learned, and undertaking periodic reviews throughout the implementation process.⁸² Effective national planning has been recognized as necessary to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication.⁸³ To this end, harmonizing national development plans (NDPs) with the SDGs will help Member States achieve the post-2015 development agenda.⁸⁴ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as the preeminent United Nations (UN) body for development, is ideally positioned to assist in this process through its activities in over 170 Member States.⁸⁵

International and Regional Framework

At the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit, representatives of 172 governments and 2,400 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) identified the need to reconcile economic development with environmental protection in policies and planning at both the national and international levels.⁸⁶ *Agenda 21* (1992), one of the outcome documents of the conference, outlined the concept of national sustainable development strategies (NSDS) and encouraged states to develop comprehensive, cross-sectoral plans with the goal of promoting development while respecting the environment and natural resource constraints.⁸⁷ Another outcome document from UNCED was the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* (1992), a collection of 27 principles regarding the international environmental agenda.⁸⁸ These included provisions on national policies and information-gathering in order to make more informed decisions on environmental issues.⁸⁹

⁷⁷ UNDP, *Speech by Administrator of UNDP Helen Clark at the Operational Activities Segment of ECOSOC – Annual Dialogue with Executive Heads on 24 February 2015*, in New York, 2015.

⁷⁸ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 5.

⁷⁹ UN DPI, *Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*, 2017; UN DPI, *Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere*, 2017.

⁸⁰ UN DPI, *Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*, 2017.

⁸¹ UNDP & UNEP, *Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development*, 2015, p. 41.

⁸² *Ibid.*, p. 43.

⁸³ *Ibid.*, p. 41.

⁸⁴ UN DESA, *Mainstreaming SDGs into national policies, plans and strategies and integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development*.

⁸⁵ UNDP, *Sustainable Development Goals*.

⁸⁶ UN DPI, *UN Conference on Environment and Development (1992)*, 1997.

⁸⁷ UN DPI, *UN Conference on Environment and Development (1992)*, 1997; UNCED, *Agenda 21*, 1992.

⁸⁸ UN DPI, *UN Conference on Environment and Development (1992)*, 1997; UNCED, *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, 1992.

⁸⁹ UNCED, *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, 1992, p. 3.

In 2000, Member States at the Millennium Summit adopted a number of commitments, including reducing extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, and improving access to healthcare; these commitments were used to create the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).⁹⁰ Target 7A of the MDGs called for Member States to incorporate sustainable development into NDPs, thereby integrating sustainability across all sectors instead of just within their NSDS.⁹¹ At the 2010 United Nations Summit on the MDGs, the international community identified the need to create a development agenda for the period following the conclusion of the MDGs at the end of 2015.⁹² This sparked a larger debate over the framing of the post-2015 development agenda. Critics of the MDGs recognized the lack of a strong environmental dimension within the goals, while others wanted to retain the focus on poverty alleviation found in the MDGs.⁹³ There was general acknowledgement of some weaknesses within the MDG framework, including the absence of any reference to good governance, institution-building, or monitoring progress at the national level.⁹⁴ Taking these concerns into account, the Member States at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), which created the 17 SDGs and 169 targets.⁹⁵ It also detailed the right of each Government to interpret and integrate the targets into their NDPs as they deemed best.⁹⁶

Apart from the SDGs and their targets and indicators, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* mentions a number of other international agreements that compose the post-2015 development agenda.⁹⁷ The implementation of these documents is considered integral to the achievement of the SDGs, and the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* calls for Member States to integrate these agreements, as well as the targets and indicators of the SDGs, into NDPs.⁹⁸ The *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (2015) highlights several areas relevant to financing for NDPs, including by promoting private investment, identifying infrastructure gaps, addressing tax reform issues, and promoting linkages between regional and national development objectives.⁹⁹ Furthermore, the *Paris Agreement* (2015) is designed to limit an increase in the global temperature to 2°C, and stresses the need to formulate national adaptation plans that identify specific vulnerabilities to climate change.¹⁰⁰

Role of the International System

UNDP is tasked with supporting Member States' monitoring efforts for the SDGs and incorporating the goals within development assistance frameworks and national legislation.¹⁰¹ In its *Strategic Plan 2014-2017*, UNDP committed to working with a broad range of organizations, including international financial institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs).¹⁰² It has followed up by helping Member States raise public awareness for the SDGs, integrate the goals into existing national policies and development frameworks, and examine progress in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).¹⁰³ This process is led by United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), which are headed by a Resident Coordinator and consist of representatives from UN entities operating in a Member State.¹⁰⁴ UNCTs are mandated to harmonize international assistance with national priorities and development plans by examining challenges in implementing the SDGs on a national level, as well as identifying areas for improvement in national

⁹⁰ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000, p. 5; UN DPI, *Background*.

⁹¹ UN DESA, *National Sustainable Development Strategies*, 2017.

⁹² UN DESA, *Process overview*, 2017.

⁹³ Loewe, *Post 2015: How to Reconcile the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?*, pp. 1-3.

⁹⁴ UNDG, *The Global Conversation Begins: Emerging Views for a New Development Agenda*, 2013, pp. 2-3.

⁹⁵ UN DESA, *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2017; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, pp. 15-27.

⁹⁶ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 13.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 28.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

⁹⁹ UN General Assembly, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/RES/69/313)*, 2015, pp. 4, 6, 8, 11.

¹⁰⁰ COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015, p. 10.

¹⁰¹ UNDP, *Millennium Development Goals*.

¹⁰² UNDP, *Changing with the World: UNDP Strategic Plan: 2014-2017*, pp. 21-22, 28; UNDG, *The Sustainable Development Goals Are Coming to Life: Stories of Country Implementation and UN Support*, 2016, pp. 3, 8.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁴ UNDP, *Millennium Development Goals*; WHO, *WHO's work with the United Nations*, 2017.

policies and programs.¹⁰⁵ In order to effectively promote the integration of the SDGs into NDPs, UNCTs follow the MAPS approach, which includes:

- Mainstreaming: placing the SDGs at the center of development plans at the national, sub-national, and local levels;
- Acceleration: directing efforts and financing toward key nationally-determined priorities where they can have the biggest impact; and
- Policy support: assistance from the UN for mainstreaming and acceleration, as well as in the actual implementation of NDPs.¹⁰⁶

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) plays an important role in coordinating action across the UN system and organizing follow-up processes to major international conferences, including by developing regional approaches through its subsidiary bodies.¹⁰⁷ ECOSOC also hosts the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which was envisioned in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* to provide a mechanism for reviewing the SDGs.¹⁰⁸ It meets annually to guide the international community on the implementation of the SDGs and help Member States strengthen their NDPs through the exchange of successes and challenges, using the VNRs submitted by Member States.¹⁰⁹ Additionally, ECOSOC organizes the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), which meets biennially to promote dialogue between Member States, CSOs, the private sector, and other stakeholders.¹¹⁰ The outcomes of the DCF are then implemented by regional organizations and used in the formulation and implementation of national-level policies, such as NDPs.¹¹¹

Integrating the SDGs into National Law and Development Strategies

The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* recognized that each Member State has the primary responsibility for its own development and implementation of the SDGs.¹¹² NDPs provide a basis for action and present an opportunity to mobilize existing national institutions and priorities for this purpose.¹¹³ However, several obstacles have been identified in effective NDPs governance by Member States, including a failure to regularly plan and budget for their implementation and difficulties in adjusting NDPs in response to new challenges.¹¹⁴ Institutionalizing processes that can withstand political transitions, promote stakeholder engagement, and ensure a regular review of progress will promote success where past efforts to incorporate sustainable development into national policies have encountered complications.¹¹⁵ Already, there have been a wide variety of approaches to integrate the SDGs into NDPs.¹¹⁶ Member States such as Egypt and Switzerland have integrated sustainable development into their constitutions, and Madagascar and Estonia undertook studies to determine overlaps between the SDGs and their NDPs in order to identify gaps.¹¹⁷ Colombia, Georgia, and Venezuela, among others, determined the institutions and policies relevant to the implementation of specific targets and indicators during the 2016 VNR review process under the HLPF.¹¹⁸ Additionally, the Republic of Korea, using the guidelines of the Global Compact, has reached out to over 280 companies as part of a broader effort to engage stakeholders in the implementation of

¹⁰⁵ UNDP, *A world of development experience*; UNDG, *UN at the Country Level*, 2016.

¹⁰⁶ Swanson, *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Reference Guide to UN Country Teams*, 2015, p. 9.

¹⁰⁷ UN ECOSOC, *Sustainable Development*, 2017; Paul, *ECOSOC Adopts Regional Plans for 2030 Agenda Implementation*, *International Institute for Sustainable Development*, 2016.

¹⁰⁸ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 33.

¹⁰⁹ UN DESA, *High Level Political Forum 2017*, 2017.

¹¹⁰ UN ECOSOC, *About the Development Cooperation Forum*, 2017.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹¹² UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, pp. 10-11.

¹¹³ Olsen & Zusman, *Governance and National Development Strategies: Implications for the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014, p. 2.

¹¹⁴ Swanson & Pintér, *Governance Structures for National Development Strategies*, 2006, pp. 2, 31.

¹¹⁵ Olsen & Zusman, *Governance and National Development Strategies: Implications for the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014, p. 3.

¹¹⁶ UN DESA, *Synthesis of Voluntary National Reviews*, 2016, p. 13.

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 38-39.

the SDGs.¹¹⁹ At the time of the HLPF session in July 2016, Member States were still in the process of developing systems for tracking progress on the targets and indicators, but the data and the strategies from VNRs will eventually help in the more effective creation and implementation of NDPs.¹²⁰

Case Study: Uganda

In cooperation with UNDP, Uganda has taken a number of steps to harmonize its *2015/16-2019/20 National Development Plan* (NDPII) and subnational plans with the SDGs.¹²¹ The government established its National SDG Task Force to coordinate action and connect with development agencies, CSOs, and the private sector in its implementation.¹²² The UNCT in Uganda established a coordination group to work in parallel with the National SDG Task Force in aligning international efforts with national development priorities.¹²³ Furthermore, with assistance from UNDP, Uganda is in the process of adapting its National Standard Indicator Framework (NSIF) to the SDGs and identified a number of means to improve the system.¹²⁴ These include expanding the NSIF to increase its coverage of SDG indicators from 80 to all 232 and enhancing data collection in collaboration with Global Pulse, an initiative of the Secretary-General for research and development on utilizing data for sustainable development.¹²⁵ These improvements will strengthen the success of the SDGs in Uganda by allowing the NDPII to be adapted based on the results of monitoring and review processes.¹²⁶ Finally, Uganda has submitted a report highlighting good governance objectives, such as improving public sector management, empowering local governments with adequate financial and human resources, and increasing linkages and collaboration between government sectors.¹²⁷ The National CSO Core Reference Group aids in this process by bridging the gap between national and local governments and promoting awareness of the SDGs.¹²⁸ While not necessarily indicative of the effectiveness of these reforms, Uganda has made progress on a number of SDG targets during 2016, including reducing the poverty rate from 33.2% to 31.2%, drastically decreasing the number of cases of tuberculosis, and more than doubling the number of mobile phone subscriptions per capita.¹²⁹

Science, Technology, and Innovation for the SDGs

Due to the far-reaching aims of the SDGs, science, technology and innovation (STI) is vital for data collection, aggregation, and sharing to track and react to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda; despite this, there are inequalities in access to the resources needed to accurately and effectively gather and use data for the SDGs.¹³⁰ Monitoring the SDGs depends on satellite technologies to collect some (but not all) types of data efficiently, access to information systems to store the data, and statistical literacy so governments can analyze progress and adjust the implementation of their NDPs accordingly.¹³¹ Many Member States do not meet one or more of these requirements; over the period 2010-2013, less than 40% of the MDG indicators had data collected from less

¹¹⁹ Ibid, p. 27.

¹²⁰ Ibid, p. 51.

¹²¹ UNDG, *The Sustainable Development Goals Are Coming to Life: Stories of Country Implementation and UN Support*, 2016, p. 16.

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ Ibid, p. 17.

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ UNDG, *The Sustainable Development Goals Are Coming to Life: Stories of Country Implementation and UN Support*, 2016, p. 17; UN Global Pulse, *About*, 2016.

¹²⁶ UNDG, *The Sustainable Development Goals Are Coming to Life: Stories of Country Implementation and UN Support*, 2016, p. 17; UNDG, *The Global Conversation Begins: Emerging Views for a New Development Agenda*, 2013, pp. 3-4; Uganda National Planning Authority, *Second National Development Plan (NDPII) 2015/2016 – 2019/2020*, 2015, p. 263.

¹²⁷ Uganda National Planning Authority, *Review Report on Uganda's Readiness for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda*, 2016, pp. 47-48.

¹²⁸ Ibid, pp. 25-26.

¹²⁹ Bertelsmann Stiftung & Sustainable Development Solutions Network, *SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2017*, 2017, p. 367; Sustainable Development Solutions Network, *SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2016*, 2016, p. 278.

¹³⁰ UN Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, *A World That Counts: Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development*, 2014, p. 2.

¹³¹ Sustainable Development Solutions Network et al., *Data for Development: A Needs Assessment for SDG Monitoring and Statistical Capacity Development*, 2015, pp. 8, 26.

developed countries (LDCs), with the rest estimated or unavailable.¹³² This is partially exacerbated by the low rate of access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) in low-income countries; in 2015, only 9.5% of people living in LDCs had internet access, compared to 82.2% of people in high-income countries.¹³³

STI is directly mentioned in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* as a means to achieve 11 of the 17 SDGs.¹³⁴ The increased development of environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) in a number of sectors, including energy and agriculture, could greatly aid efforts to implement NDPs and promote green economic growth.¹³⁵ To promote the transfer of ICTs and ESTs, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* called for the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), which recently held its second Multi-stakeholder Forum on STI for the SDGs on 15-16 May 2017 to showcase innovators and promote dialogue on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, and 14.¹³⁶ There are several issues to consider when using technology to support NDPs; coherent policies for STI must be in place and thoroughly integrated with NDPs, and technologies must be met with adequate human resources for them to be used effectively.¹³⁷ UNDP works on a number of projects under the TFM to achieve some of these goals, including the upcoming “UN capacity building program on technology facilitation for SDGs.”¹³⁸ There is also bilateral cooperation in support of NDPs; for example, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and Germany have established programs to partner with other Member States on technology transfer, research and development, and technological literacy.¹³⁹

Conclusion

Effective NDP creation and implementation has been recognized as crucial to ensuring the achievement of the SDGs by 2030.¹⁴⁰ While the SDGs are universal, each Member State has the freedom to interpret the goals based on national priorities.¹⁴¹ UNDP is concerned with strategies for effective national policy creation, as well as the role of the international community in supporting the mainstreaming of the SDGs within NDPs.¹⁴² A variety of approaches have already been tested by Member States in cooperation with UNCTs, but Member States will have to adjust as new obstacles emerge.¹⁴³ STI, particularly ICTs, are essential to ensure effective monitoring of the considerable number of targets in the SDGs, which was not adequately achieved under the MDGs.¹⁴⁴ By considering these challenges and lessons learned, UNDP can achieve success in its role as the UN entity responsible for harmonizing NDPs with the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.¹⁴⁵

¹³² UN Secretary-General’s Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, *A World That Counts: Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development*, 2014, p. 12.

¹³³ ITU, *ICT Facts and Figures: The world in 2015*, 2015, p. 3.

¹³⁴ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, pp. 15-26.

¹³⁵ UN DESA, *Technology*, 2017.

¹³⁶ UN DESA, *Technology Facilitation Mechanism*, 2017.

¹³⁷ UN General Assembly, *Science and technology for development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/276)*, 2015, p. 4.

¹³⁸ UN DESA, *Technology Facilitation Mechanism*, 2017.

¹³⁹ UN DESA, *Synthesis of Voluntary National Reviews*, 2016, p. 50.

¹⁴⁰ UN DESA, *Mainstreaming SDGs into national policies, plans and strategies and integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development*, 2017.

¹⁴¹ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 3.

¹⁴² UN DESA, *Mainstreaming SDGs into national policies, plans and strategies and integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development*, 2017.

¹⁴³ UN DESA, *Synthesis of Voluntary National Reviews*, 2016, pp. 13, 48.

¹⁴⁴ UN Secretary-General’s Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, *A World That Counts: Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development*, 2014, pp. 2, 12.

¹⁴⁵ UNDP, *Sustainable Development Goals*.



Annotated Bibliography

Swanson, D. (2015). *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Reference Guide to UN Country Teams*. Retrieved 19 April 2017 from: <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/UNDG-Mainstreaming-the-2030-Agenda-Reference-Guide-Final-1-February-2016.pdf>

This guide provides a wide variety of tools for harmonizing national development plans with the SDGs that have not been previously implemented or could be applied to a wider range of Member States. The guide also contains a number of paradigms, or ways of thinking about the topic, which makes it a great starting point for research. The colored boxes contain case studies on successful strategies used in a wide variety of states, from Bhutan to Uganda. Member State Teams are important to the work of UNDP, which makes it a great resource for understanding how UNDP functions.

United Nations Development Group. (2013). *The Global Conversation Begins: Emerging Views for a New Development Agenda* [Report]. Retrieved 20 May 2017 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/841global-conversation-begins-web.pdf>

This report goes into great detail on the areas where Member States need more assistance, including data collection, institution-building, and good governance. It also contains examples of what states did to include all stakeholders within the process of developing country-level post-2015 development agendas, which can be drawn on by UNDP in drafting best practices for integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into NDPs. Understanding the shortfalls of the MDGs is important to ensure that the SDGs achieve a higher level of success.

United Nations Development Programme. (2013). *Changing with the World: UNDP Strategic Plan: 2014-2017*. Retrieved 19 April 2017 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/UNDP_strategic-plan_14-17_v9_web.pdf

This is UNDP's triennial strategic plan to reaffirm and adjust its operational principles, designate key priority areas, and identify areas for institutional improvement. While the current plan was established before the advent of the SDGs, it provides a good reference for UNDP activities that are relevant for harmonizing national development plans with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This document is also helpful in understanding the unique role of UNDP in assisting Member States integrate the SDGs into their NDPs.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 23 April 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

This resolution contains the SDGs and is the culmination of a multi-year consultative process incorporating the ideas and perspectives of intergovernmental bodies, Member States, private sector entities, and civil society actors. Understanding the goals and how the international community has framed their implementation, in addition to the comments on national plans contained in the document, will be helpful in determining the best role for UNDP in this process. Pay close attention to the other agreements mentioned, such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; the objectives in these documents and the SDGs are mutually reinforcing.

United Nations Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development. (2014). *A World That Counts: Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development* [Report]. Retrieved 22 May 2017 from: <http://www.undatarevolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/A-World-That-Counts.pdf>

This report came out of a consultation between then Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and 20 experts on data science and sheds light on how the process of monitoring and data collection on the SDGs works and how to address shortfalls in institutional capacity. A major component of UNDP's work is related to data collection, and understanding that aspect and how to meet the data needs of all Member States within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will help achieve success on the goals. Chapter 3 focuses on the differing opportunities for the international system and Member States to harness the data revolution for sustainable development.



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II. Developing Infrastructure for Disaster Risk Reduction

Introduction

Natural disasters can be an impediment to both social and economic development and have become more frequent and dangerous as a result of climate change, prompting more frequent discussions at the international level.¹⁴⁶ Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) refers to systemic efforts to mitigate the causes of hazards by reducing exposure and improving preparation.¹⁴⁷ The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) has stated that infrastructure, which can include more secure and disaster resilient buildings, early warning systems, and transportation infrastructure, is a critical element of DRR that can help prevent the loss of life.¹⁴⁸ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has focused recent efforts on helping Member States adapt to climate change and increase the role of women in DRR, as well as help develop the infrastructure in states that are most affected by natural disasters.¹⁴⁹ Scholars have noted that risk resilience impacts a Member State's Human Development Index (HDI), a measurement used by UNDP to analyze total development and policy choices, further highlighting the importance of DRR.¹⁵⁰ UNDP estimates that \$1.3 trillion has been lost affecting \$1.5 billion people over the past decade, leading to an increased desire to focus on early warning systems and other infrastructure developments to help diminish some of the mitigating effects of natural disasters.¹⁵¹

International and Regional Framework

One of the first tangible actions on DRR was the adoption of General Assembly resolution 45/185, the *International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction* (IDNDR) in 1990, which focused on creating emergency plans regarding how to best respond to natural disasters at the international, regional, and local levels.¹⁵² In 1994, the IDNDR was reviewed at the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama, Japan where ten principles were established as essential in DRR, including prevention, mitigation, and preparation.¹⁵³ These principles became part of the *Yokohama Strategy*, which stated that while Member States should take responsibility for the safety of their citizens, it is important for the entire global community to work together on this issue.¹⁵⁴

The *International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction* (ISDR) was adopted in 1999 along with the creation of the UNISDR, which ensures its implementation.¹⁵⁵ The ISDR stresses the need for a gendered approach to DRR and notes that sustainable social and economic development is at least partially dependent on a stable environment and the ability to react quickly in the event of a natural disaster.¹⁵⁶ Building off of the IDNDR and ISDR, the *Hyogo Declaration* was adopted in 2005 to establish a guide for DRR that included developing better infrastructure and early warning systems, which requires cooperation and engagement from all Member States.¹⁵⁷ The declaration was followed by the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* in 2015.¹⁵⁸ One major inclusion in this new framework was a greater emphasis placed on infrastructure, noting that it needed to be created in a way that would be more resilient but also that schools, hospitals, and other essential buildings should be placed outside of "high danger zones."¹⁵⁹ High danger zones can be avoided by placing buildings at high altitudes where tsunamis cannot reach, away from coasts which might flood, not directly on fault lines, and not under areas where debris might fall

¹⁴⁶ UN DESA, *Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017.

¹⁴⁷ UNISDR, *UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction*, p. 11.

¹⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

¹⁴⁹ UNDP, *Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017.

¹⁵⁰ Wisner et al., *At Risk: natural hazards, peoples vulnerability and disasters*, 2003, p. 30.

¹⁵¹ UNDP, *Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017.

¹⁵² UN General Assembly, *International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/RES/45/185)*, 1990.

¹⁵³ UN DESA, *Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017.

¹⁵⁴ UN IDNDR, *Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World: guidelines for natural disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation*, p. 5.

¹⁵⁵ UN General Assembly, *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/RES/58/214)*, 2004.

¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁸ UN General Assembly, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (A/RES/69/230)*, 2015.

¹⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

and cause damage.¹⁶⁰ The *Sendai Framework* also highlighted the concern of African Member States still being susceptible to natural disasters and their infrastructure being insufficient to handle damage of that magnitude.¹⁶¹

The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) highlighted within Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, the importance of making “cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable,” in order to respond to natural disasters, something that was not as clearly highlighted in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).¹⁶² SDG 11.5 includes addressing water related natural disasters and highlights the importance of including persons who are poor or otherwise vulnerable.¹⁶³ SDG 11.b set targets for long-term building of cities and human settlements and described how it was important for them to be resilient to the effects of climate change.¹⁶⁴ The *Sendai Framework* was designed to work alongside the SDGs to allow Member States to better meet the goals of both documents.¹⁶⁵ Likewise, the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific* (FRDP) (2016) was developed in cooperation with the UNISDR in order to address the specific vulnerabilities to natural disasters which affect island nations.¹⁶⁶ The FRDP identifies the need for more collaborative approaches across the global community and further notes the importance of infrastructure in addressing these issues.¹⁶⁷

Role of the International System

Since its inception in 1999, the UNISDR has helped ensure the implementation of the ISDR and has been instrumental in adjusting the dialogue on natural calamities to that of prevention rather than reaction.¹⁶⁸ The UNISDR fulfills its mandate by building on existing partnerships and developing regional and sub-regional partnerships and systems to exchange of information on DRR and infrastructure development.¹⁶⁹ It also conducts audits designed to estimate the impact of implementation of strategies at five, ten, and twenty year intervals.¹⁷⁰ The secretariat’s goal is to create a better informed population and to ensure proper risk management in development plans while creating funding sources to better prepare less developed states for the effects related to natural disasters.¹⁷¹ This goal is informed by the reality that UNISDR cannot prevent natural hazards from occurring; however it can assist in reducing some of the risks through well placed infrastructure investment.¹⁷² The UNISDR often works alongside other organizations and in 2004 collaborated with the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), the African Union (AU), and the African Development Bank to produce the *African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction*.¹⁷³ The strategy highlights infrastructure specifically as one key element to risk reduction in addition to highlighting the need for cooperative strategy building across international bodies.¹⁷⁴

UNDP has demonstrated a commitment to DRR to ensure sustainable economic and social development by investing over \$150 million annually to mitigate the risks of natural hazards.¹⁷⁵ UNDP employs local persons in less developed regions to help build natural disaster resistant infrastructure, such as bridges, which helps invigorate the local economy while also ensuring sustainable growth that is not as easily disrupted by unforeseen incidents.¹⁷⁶ One program UNDP operates is called the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Thematic Trust Fund (CPR TTF) which has

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁶² UN DESA, *Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017.

¹⁶³ Ibid.

¹⁶⁴ Ibid.

¹⁶⁵ UN General Assembly, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (A/RES/69/230)*, 2015.

¹⁶⁶ Pacific Communities, *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific*, 2016, p. vii.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid, p. 1.

¹⁶⁸ UNISDR, *What is the International Strategy?*.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

¹⁷⁰ Ibid.

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

¹⁷² Ibid.

¹⁷³ UNISDR, *Africa Regional for Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2004.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid, p. 3.

¹⁷⁵ UNDP, *Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017.

¹⁷⁶ UNDP, *Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017.

raised over \$1 billion since 2000 and given aid to over 100 Member States.¹⁷⁷ The fund, which is managed by the UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) is designed to offer technical expertise in the areas of both disaster prevention and recovery.¹⁷⁸ One successful example was in 2012 where UNDP partnered with the government in Bangladesh to create an early warning system that delivered Short Message Service (SMS) messages to individual citizen's mobile devices.¹⁷⁹

Gender in Disaster Risk Reduction

UNDP collects information on the effects of natural disasters and has found that women and children are 14 times more likely to be the victims of natural disasters.¹⁸⁰ Women often do not have equal access to certain types of infrastructure important for DRR, notably early warning systems and resilient housing.¹⁸¹ Warnings of cataclysmic events are often transmitted by men to men and women are sometimes not made aware of impending danger.¹⁸² In some regions, cultural norms prevent women from evacuating due to a lack of escort or a lack of certain clothing.¹⁸³ In the Asian tsunami of 2004, 70% of women were abandoned within their homes while male family members fled the disaster.¹⁸⁴ Despite this, women often respond to disasters by creating preparedness plans for the local populous enabling them to respond quickly to an event.¹⁸⁵ Further, having better representation of women in government can lead to better DRR for entire communities.¹⁸⁶

In South Asia, women have been shown to be disproportionately affected by natural hazards not just in terms of injuries, but due to the lack of financial means required to rebuild their homes.¹⁸⁷ In addition, since many women in South Asia work in agriculture, they are disproportionately affected by disasters.¹⁸⁸ Dams and other types of infrastructure that can help prevent material loss in the event of a natural disaster can help reduce economic and social inequalities.¹⁸⁹ Ensuring women are more involved in projects like Climate Risks & Early Warning Systems (CREWS), an international coalition that seeks to protect the most vulnerable in the event of a natural disaster, would allow for a more gendered approach to DRR.¹⁹⁰

Developing Infrastructure Resistant to a Changing Climate

UNDP is involved in over 200 projects globally to bring early warning systems to Member States and develop roads and buildings that are designed to be resilient to a changing climate.¹⁹¹ Most of these projects are in less-developed states, which are disproportionately affected by natural disasters.¹⁹² UNISDR, as part of the mid-term review of the *Hyogo Framework* also recognized that climate change was a significant part of DRR and found that policy promoting resilient infrastructure was still lacking in the developing world.¹⁹³ In Africa, roads and water collection sites in rural areas are particularly susceptible to natural hazards, while informal settlements in cities are at increased risk of flooding.¹⁹⁴ In Asia and Latin America, urbanization has occurred as a result of economic necessity making it a priority for governments to build climate resilient infrastructure.¹⁹⁵ However, since urbanization in Africa has

¹⁷⁷ UNDP, *Crisis Prevention and Recovery Thematic Trust Fund*.

¹⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁹ UNDP, *Prevent Crisis Enabling Recovery: A Review of UNDP's Work in Conflict and Disaster Ridden Countries: 2012*, 2012, p. 12.

¹⁸⁰ UNDP, *Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2013.

¹⁸¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁸² *Ibid.*

¹⁸³ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁴ UNDP, *Gender adaptation and disaster risk reduction*, p. 4.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

¹⁸⁶ *I*

¹⁸⁷ Mehta, *Gender Matters: Lessons for Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia*, 2007, p. 24.

¹⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 12.

¹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁰ UNISDR, *Climate Risks & Early Warning Systems*.

¹⁹¹ UNDP, *Enhancing adaptation and resilience*, 2017.

¹⁹² *Ibid.*

¹⁹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁴ UNISDR, *Effective measures to build resilience in Africa to adapt to climate change*, p. 2.

¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

occurred for different reasons there has been less focus on developing infrastructure that can withstand increased flooding with other issues that have a more immediate impact being prioritized by local governments.¹⁹⁶

Investments in climate change-resilient infrastructure requires a willingness to look ahead. In this regard, UNDP has deemed it necessary for the overall sustainable economic and social development of the African continent.¹⁹⁷ However, while there is a desire to build climate change resilient infrastructure in Africa, at this point actual investments and funding remain low, with just over half of 29 reporting Member States having made some effort to implement the *Hyogo Framework*.¹⁹⁸ There is some belief that with an increase in natural hazards due to climate change there will be an increased urgency for investment; however, there remains little evidence to suggest this will happen.¹⁹⁹ Nonetheless, UNDP continues to collaborate with the Economic Community of West African States to increase the effectiveness of early warning systems and technologies that can access the potential threats of natural hazards.²⁰⁰

Conclusion

UNDP has taken a significant role in DRR and in collaboration with UNISDR and the rest of the international community.²⁰¹ In addition, it has analyzed the impact that climate change has had regarding gender and an unequal equal access to infrastructure and technologies such as early warning systems.²⁰² The UN system has the ability to better develop infrastructure for DRR that is climate resilient and accessible to all people.²⁰³ It is therefore a responsibility of UNDP and in collaboration with its partners, to ensure adequate preparation exists through proper infrastructure development.²⁰⁴

Annotated Bibliography

Mehta, M. (2007). *Gender Matters: Lessons for Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia*. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development. Retrieved 21 April 2017 from:

http://lib.icimod.org/record/22175/files/attachment_145.pdf

This report looks at the role of gender specifically as it relates to DRR in South Asia, analyzing the 2004 Tsunami as an example. This resource takes a look at infrastructure development, while also ensuring equality of access to technology. Early warning systems are not universally accessible because of cultural norms that make them difficult to take advantage of. As a UN agency with greater capability, it is incumbent on UNDP to install technologies for DRR in a way that ensures they are available to all.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2004). *Guidelines for Reducing Flood Losses* [Report]. Retrieved 11 April 2017 from:

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/flood_guidelines.pdf

This source identifies flooding as one of the most damaging natural disasters as it disproportionately affects developing Member States. It effectively discusses the role of gender in flooding and community preparedness and how empowering women is a vital component of DRR. Delegates can use this source to look at the negative effects of climate change and also how gender is important in discussing DRR.

United Nations Development Programme. (2017). *Disaster Risk Reduction* [Website]. Retrieved 14 May 2017 from:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/climate-and-disaster-resilience.html>

¹⁹⁶ Wisner et al., *At Risk: natural hazards, peoples vulnerability and disasters*, 2003, p. 79.

¹⁹⁷ UNISDR, *Effective measures to build resilience in Africa to adapt to climate change*, p. 1.

¹⁹⁸ *Ibid*, p. 3.

¹⁹⁹ UNISDR, *Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction*, p. 6.

²⁰⁰ UNISDR, *Effective measures to build resilience in Africa to adapt to climate change*, p. 6.

²⁰¹ UNDP, *Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017.

²⁰² *Ibid*.

²⁰³ UNISDR, *Effective measures to build resilience in Africa to adapt to climate change*, p. 3.

²⁰⁴ UNDP, *Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017.



This source looks at how UNDP plays a role in DRR and how it interacts with the international community. It analyzes the organization's role as a normative body with the capability to build infrastructure and discusses what sorts of projects UNDP has taken on in recent years. Delegates should use this source as a means for understanding what the role of the committee will be and how they can direct the agency to better address this topic.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2008). *Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction* [Report]. Retrieved 17 April 2017 from: <http://eird.org/publicaciones/Climate-Change-DRR.pdf>

This is the first of four briefing notes from the ISDR that discuss what the projected effects of climate change are and what must be done to prevent any negative impacts. While much of the document focuses on how to prevent climate change, something covered by other UN agencies, it also discusses how the groups can adapt to these effects through capacity building. Delegates in UNDP, especially, may find this document useful in understanding what the international consensus is for disaster prevention and how to mitigate the impacts. By understanding what the strategies already in place are, this document can be improved upon by expanding it or finding creative ways to implement these strategies.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2010). *Strengthening climate change adaptation through effective disaster risk reduction* [Background Note]. Retrieved 19 May 2017 from: http://www.unisdr.org/files/16861_ccbriefingnote3.pdf

This background note from the UNISDR looks at climate change and DRR and how they affect each other, further highlighting that one cannot be discussed without the other. It also analyzes how infrastructure can be built to be adaptive to climate change over time. This background note analyzes what the goals of UNISDR are and how it operates with the rest of the international community to develop technologies for DRR. This source is valuable to understanding the intricacies and codependences of climate change and DRR.

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