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General Assembly Second Committee Background Guide 2022

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2022 National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, DC (NMUN•DC)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the General Assembly Second Committee. This year's staff is Director Vikram Sakkia and Assistant Director Bryant Larson. The topics under discussion for General Assembly Second Committee are:

1. Addressing International Migration and Development
2. The Promotion of Information and Communications Technologies for Sustainable Development

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 conduct additional research, explore your Member State's policies in-depth, and examine the policies of other Member States to improve your ability to negotiate and reach consensus. In preparation for the conference, each delegation will use their research to draft and submit a [position paper](#). Guidelines are available in the [NMUN Position Paper Guide](#).

The [NMUN website](#) has many additional resources, including two that are essential both in preparation for the conference and as a resource during the conference. They are:

1. The [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#), which 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 discuss the topics or agenda with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. The [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#), which includes the long and short form of the rules as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the conference itself, please contact the Under-Secretary-General Zachary Parker at usgzack.dc@nmun.org or Secretary-General Adam Wolf at secgen.dc@nmun.org.

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

Sincerely,
Vikram Sakkia, Director
Bryant Larson, Assistant Director



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Committee Overview

Introduction

Article 7 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) established the General Assembly as one of the six foundational organs of the United Nations (UN).¹ The General Assembly is composed of six Main Committees, including the General Assembly Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee).² The Main Committees share similar arrangements in structure, governance, membership, functions, and powers, but each Committee addresses a specific thematic area.³ The Second Committee represents the economic and financial aspects of the General Assembly.⁴ It addresses a variety of issues related to financing for development, information and communication technologies (ICTs), macroeconomic policy, globalization and interdependence, as well as the eradication of poverty.⁵ The work of the Second Committee involves other UN development bodies such as, but not limited to, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to complete its policy work and to bridge national action and international policies.⁶ For instance, the Second Committee partners with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), through which it gains substantive support and reports on development targets.⁷ Likewise, the Second Committee works in collaboration with the United Nations Development Group and the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination to operationalize and implement development policies and activities.⁸ Additionally, to support General Assembly resolution 70/1 on “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” the Second Committee works to implement the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (2015) through policy recommendations that address economic growth and development.⁹ The Second Committee drafts proposals, prepares recommendations, and reports back to the Main Committee of the General Assembly.¹⁰

Governance, Structure, and Membership

Chapter IV of the *Charter of the United Nations* regulates its functioning, and empowers the General Assembly and its Main Committees to formulate recommendations that promote international economic and social cooperation.¹¹ Membership of the General Assembly Second Committee includes all 193 Member States, two observer states, numerous non-governmental organizations and other entities.¹² Each Member State has a single vote, while Observer States and NGOs can participate in the general

¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

² New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2021-22*, 2021, p. 17.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 23.

⁴ UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

⁵ Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, *The GA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2017, p. 71; UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

⁶ UN General Assembly, *Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the Special High-Level Meeting of the Council with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (A/69/83)*, 2014.

⁷ Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, *The GA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2017, p. 73; UN DESA, *About UN DESA*.

⁸ UN ECOSOC, *Office for Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development*, 2019.

⁹ UN General Assembly, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda (A/RES/69/313)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015).

¹⁰ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2021-22*, 2021, p. 23.

¹¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

¹² *Ibid.*

debate but may not vote.¹³ The General Assembly seeks to adopt resolutions by consensus, which requires a high level of cooperation among Member States.¹⁴

The General Assembly convenes annually in the third week of September and commences with General Debate and the allocation of agenda items.¹⁵ The General Committee of the General Assembly allocates the agenda items for each of the Main Committees, which lays out the primary areas for discussion.¹⁶ The President of the General Assembly and 21 Vice-Presidents constitute the General Committee of the General Assembly.¹⁷ In June 2021, the General Assembly elected Honorable Abdulla Shahid of the Maldives as President and Vanessa Frazier as chair for the Second Committee for the 76th session.¹⁸ Vanessa Frazier has previously served as Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations.¹⁹ From January to September, the General Committee focuses on thematic debates, consultations, and meetings through organized working groups that discuss specific topics.²⁰ The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Governing councils of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the 1992 *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), and the 1994 *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification* (UNCCD) report about their activities and outcomes to the Second Committee.²¹

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

As part of the General Assembly, Articles 55 to 60 of the *Charter of the United Nations* mandate the Second Committee to promote higher standards of living and employment, and improved conditions of economic and social development.²² The Second Committee has a strong focus on development-related topics such as international trade, poverty eradication, human settlements, globalization, financing for development, and the implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda).²³ To fulfill its mandate, the Second Committee drafts proposals and reports and agenda items to the General Assembly Plenary on policy recommendations, and is working on their current practices for

¹³ UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*; UN General Assembly, *List of non-Members States, Entities and Organizations Having Received a Standing Invitation to Participate as Observers in the Session and the Work of the General Assembly (A/INF/73/5/Rev.1)*, 2019; UN General Assembly, *About Permanent Observers*.

¹⁴ UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*.

¹⁵ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2021-22*, 2021, p. 17.

¹⁶ Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, *The GA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2017, pp. 18-38; UN General Assembly, *Allocation of Agenda Items to the Second Committee, A/C.2/76/1*, 2021; UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

¹⁷ UN General Assembly, *General Committee, Composition for the 76th session*.

¹⁸ UN DGC, *Election of the 76th President of the General Assembly*, 2021; H.E. Vanessa Frazier Elected Chair of the UN Second Committee (Economic and Financial Committee) for the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, 2021.

¹⁹ H.E. Vanessa Frazier Elected Chair of the UN Second Committee (Economic and Financial Committee) for the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, 2021.

²⁰ UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*.

²¹ Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, *The GA Handbook: A practical Guide to the United Nations general Assembly*, 2017, p. 72; UN DGC, *The United Nations System*, 2019; UN Convention to Combat Desertification, *Rio Conventions Join Forces for Sustainable Development and the Future We Want*, 2012.

²² UNEG, *UNEG Handbook for Conducting Evaluations of Normative Work in the UN System*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021; *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

²³ UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

efficiency in debate.²⁴ Once reports have been discussed and voted on by the General Assembly Plenary, the General Assembly may make recommendations to Member States through resolutions.²⁵

Due to its special focus on development issues and the 2030 Agenda, the Second Committee observes the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).²⁶ To track and monitor progress on the SDGs, the Second Committee requests reports from the Secretary-General.²⁷ For example, in the report to the General Assembly on “Macroeconomic Policy Questions: External Debt Sustainability and Development,” the Second Committee requests the Secretary-General to assess the impact of investment requirements on external debt sustainability in developing states.²⁸ Following this report, the General Assembly adopted resolution 73/221 on “External Debt Sustainability and Development,” which requests the Secretary-General to analyze the core indicators on external debt sustainability in developing states and invites Member States to take the necessary measures to achieve SDG target 17.4.²⁹ Additionally, the Second Committee supports Member States in enacting legislation and implementing policies.³⁰ For instance, the Second Committee collaborates with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development and ECOSOC to enact policy recommendations on financing for sustainable development and to implement the 2030 Agenda.³¹

General Assembly resolution 72/313, “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,” focuses on the working methods and practices of its committees by formulating more concise resolutions through grouping agenda items.³² The result eliminated agenda duplication in the Second and Third committees, ECOSOC and its substantive bodies, and the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).³³ The Second Committee provides recommendations related to international social and health issues of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and providing possible directions for least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and small island developing states (SIDS).³⁴

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

Due to the current pandemic, the UN is limiting the number of delegates allowed into the General Assembly Hall, and is utilizing a hybrid meeting format for the Seventy-sixth session with some in-person attendance.³⁵ The Seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly will take place from 13 September 2022 through 27 September 2022 in New York City, United States.³⁶ The agenda items for the 76th session are outlined in A/76/251, with topics being “promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences,” “maintenance of international peace and security,” “development of Africa,” “Promotion of human rights,” effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts,” “promotion of justice and international law,” “disarmament,” “drug control, crime prevention and combating international

²⁴ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2021-22*, 2021, p. 2; UN General Assembly, *Organization of Work of the Second Committee: Note by the Secretariat (A/C.2/73/L.1)*, 2018; UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

²⁵ UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*.

²⁶ UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

²⁷ Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Reports of Principal Organs to the General Assembly*, 2019.

²⁸ UN General Assembly, *Macroeconomic Policy Questions: External Debt Sustainability and Development (A/73/536/Add.3)*, 2018.

²⁹ UN General Assembly, *External Debt Sustainability and Development (A/RES/73/221)*, 2019, UN General Assembly, *External Debt Sustainability and Development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/74/234)*, 2019.

³⁰ UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

³¹ UN DGC, *Fourth Industrial Revolution Taken Up in Report of Task Force on Financing for Development (GA/EF/3492)*, 2018.

³² UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly, (A/72/313)*, 2018.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, *Programme of Actions for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-202 (A/CONF.219/Rev.1)*, 2011; UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

³⁵ UN General Assembly, *Agenda of the 76th Session*, 2021.

³⁶ IISD, *77th Session of the UN General Assembly, (UNGA 77)*, 2022.

terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,” and “organizational, administrative and other matters.”³⁷ The theme of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly is “Building resilience through hope to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalize the UN.”³⁸ The Seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly adopted a wide range of resolutions, 37 coming from the Second Committee.³⁹ The resolutions covered a wide number of topics, focusing particularly on sustainable development work, the eradication of poverty, and fostering more financial security for Member States.⁴⁰

The Second Committee voted on resolution 76/217, “Follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on Land-Locked Countries,” which calls for the special attention of LDCs and to push for more effective implementation of the *Vienna Programme of Action* and to push for development in the targeted regions.⁴¹ The General Assembly also adopted resolution 76/216, “Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries,” which noted with concern the debt disparity along with unprecedented climate risks.⁴² The resolution underlines the importance of addressing the financial and environmental climate within these countries.⁴³ The reports submitted by the Second Committee to the General Assembly during the 76th session include important topics such as Macroeconomic policy questions, sustainable development, and financial inclusion.⁴⁴ General Assembly resolution 76/531, entitled “The Macroeconomic Policy Questions Report of the Second Committee,” focused once more on international trade, financial systems, debt sustainability, sustainable development promotion, and financial inclusion.⁴⁵ The report on “Sustainable Development” to the General Assembly includes recommendations on “ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy.”⁴⁶ At the 76th conference, the Second Committee adopted 76/197, “Promoting investments for sustainable development.”⁴⁷ The resolution emphasizes the need for investment, promotion, and the creation of innovative but sustainable financing opportunities.⁴⁸ The General Assembly also adopted resolution 76/210 on “Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for all,” which detailed the Sustainable Development Goals and highlights Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) to increase the awareness and investments of supplying individuals with sustainable energy.⁴⁹

General Assembly resolution 73/223, “Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development,” recalls that financing for sustainable development requires a global financial environment anchored in sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic growth.⁵⁰ Effectively, this report to the General Assembly highlights the need for further national resource mobilization, partnerships and international cooperation, and investments in data and capacity.⁵¹ To that end, the General Assembly Second Committee recommends that Member States implement the

³⁷ UN General Assembly, *Allocation of agenda items for the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly*, (A/76/252), 2021.

³⁸ United Nations, High-Level Week, September 2021, *Overview, General Debate*, 2021.

³⁹ United Nations, Meetings Coverage, General Assembly, Plenary, *General Assembly takes Action on Second Committee Reports by Adopting 37 Resolutions, 2 Decisions*, 2021.

⁴⁰ UN General Assembly, Plenary, *General Assembly takes Action on Second Committee Reports by Adopting 37 Resolutions, 2 Decisions*, Meetings Coverage, 2021.

⁴¹ UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on Land-Locked Countries*, (A/RES/76/217), 2021.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries*, (A/RES/76/216).

⁴⁴ UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee), Reports of the 76th Session*, 2021.

⁴⁵ UN General Assembly, *Macroeconomic policy questions (A/RES/76/531)*, 2021.

⁴⁶ UN General Assembly, *Sustainable Development (A/75/457)*, 2020.

⁴⁷ UN General Assembly, *Promoting investments for Sustainable development (A/RES/76/197)*, 2022.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to and Implementation of the Outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (A/RES/73/223)*, 2019.

⁵¹ UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to and Implementation of the Outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (A/RES/73/223)*, 2019.

agreed conclusions of the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development that tackle a variety of issues such as debt sustainability, international trade and cooperation, and domestic and international private business and finance.⁵² At the 76th session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 76/192, “International Financial system and development,” noting that the UN provides a forum to discuss international and economic issues and concerns, with efforts being made to help respond to the current global economic crisis.⁵³ The resolution also called for a more inclusive economic international environment for sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda.⁵⁴ The General Assembly passed resolution 76/194, “Commodities,” stressing how growth and debt is threatened in developing countries due to commodity prices.⁵⁵ The General Assembly also focused on resolution 76/195, “Financial Inclusion for Sustainable Development.”⁵⁶ The resolution noted that 1.7 billion individuals globally do not have access to financial services while recognizing the importance of technology and online financial services.⁵⁷ The resolution motioned to include a sub-item agenda question by the 78th session for “Macroeconomic policy questions” entitled “Financial Inclusion for Sustainable Development.”⁵⁸

The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered financial and economic disruptions, especially in areas that have limited infrastructure and fiscal capabilities.⁵⁹ As part of the UN’s comprehensive response to COVID-19, the UN has created a UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund to assist the low and middle income countries in their immediate socio-economic response.⁶⁰ The Second Committee intends to strengthen multilateral cooperation to maintain and achieve the commitments set forth by the 2030 Agenda by building an inclusive and sustainable economy to help reduce these types of risks in the future.⁶¹

The body continued to discuss the topic of “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,” during the 76th session.⁶² It was tasked topics such as sustainable development technologies, agriculture development, and the eradication of poverty.⁶³ In a report from the Second Committee, “Eradication of Poverty and Other Development Issues: Eradicating Rural Poverty to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” Member States reaffirmed commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda, emphasizing that poverty is still the greatest global change and urged the prioritization of its eradication.⁶⁴ This report states that 1.3 billion people still live in poverty that is not just restricted to lack of finances, but rather a culmination of factors.⁶⁵ Eradication of multidimensional poverty requires targeted programs at rural levels with specific objectives, engagement of national governments with rural stakeholders, and enhanced monitoring and implementation techniques to ensure these measures benefit all people.⁶⁶ The 2020 SDG Report finds that between 119 to 124 million people globally are considered impoverished.⁶⁷ The Second Committee also recommended to the General Assembly various strategies to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture and food security.⁶⁸ The resolution mentioned how 80% of those who work in agriculture live in extreme poverty areas and recommends the implementation of

⁵² UN ECOSOC, *Report of the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up (E/FFDF/2018/3)*, 2018; UN General Assembly, *Follow up to and Implementation of the Outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (A/RES/73/223)*, 2019.

⁵³ UN General Assembly, *International Finance System and Development*, (A/RES/76/192), 2021.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ UN General Assembly, *General Assembly Takes Action on Second Committee Reports by Adopting 37 Draft Resolutions, 2 Decisions*, 2021.

⁵⁶ UN General Assembly, *Financial Inclusion for Sustainable Development*, (A/RES/76/195), 2021.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ UN General Assembly, *2020 ECOSOC Forum on FfD-Final Draft*, 2020.

⁶⁰ UN SDG, *United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better*, 2020.

⁶¹ UN General Assembly, *2020 ECOSOC Forum on FfD-Final Draft*, 2020.

⁶² UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly*, (A/RES/76/542), 2021.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ UN General Assembly, *Eradication of Poverty and Other Development Issues: Eradicating Rural Poverty to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, (A/76/536/Add. 2), 2021.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *End poverty in all its forms everywhere*.

⁶⁸ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition*, (A/76/222), 2021.

economic and social policies with the aim to eliminate poverty.⁶⁹ The report also recommended more efforts to be made on rural development planning and developing new technologies to help with digitalization.⁷⁰ resolution 76/219, “Eradicating Rural Poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”⁷¹ This resolution recognized the importance of women that help enhance rural development, along with the promotion of socioeconomic development in rural areas, with all stakeholders encouraged to promote economic transformation and to give universal access to decent work, employment, and quality public services.⁷²

In 2022, the Second Committee adopted resolution 76/205 on “Protection of Global Climate for Present and Future Generations of Humankind,” in which the body reaffirmed the immense threat of climate change and the need to adopt an environmental approach to COVID policies and the 2030 Agenda.⁷³ Currently, the UN’s pledge to address the SDGs and climate change has fallen behind the pace necessary to achieve the goals by 2030.⁷⁴ The Second Committee adopted resolution 76/219, “Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development,” reaffirming the momentum to the Sustainable Development Goals and to support other countries in the efforts to eradicate poverty in all forms.⁷⁵ With regards to commitments within the *Paris Agreement*, according to the 2019 Emissions Gap Report issued by UNEP, there is a gap in political will that must be eliminated as the current limit set for global temperature far surpasses safe levels.⁷⁶ Emission levels are rising exponentially worldwide, so the amount that governments would need to reduce emissions is also increasing rapidly.⁷⁷

Conclusion

The Second Committee continues to streamline its work with the overarching goals of improving economic and financial systems worldwide and achieving the SDGs.⁷⁸ In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, measuring and reporting on the progress made towards achieving the SDGs has been limited due to meeting restrictions.⁷⁹ The Second Committee will continue to play a pivotal role in advancing efforts to promote sustainable development in the global recovery response to the ongoing pandemic.⁸⁰ Throughout 2022, the General Assembly is planning on working towards “The Revitalization of the General Assembly” and collaborating on other solutions before the 77th session in September.⁸¹

Annotated Bibliography

⁶⁹ UN General Assembly, *Eradication of Poverty and Other Development Issues: Eradicating Rural Poverty to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, (A/76/536/Add.2), 2021.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ UN General Assembly, *Eradication of poverty and other development issues: eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, (A/RES/76/219), Adopted on the Report the Second Committee, (A/RES/76/536/Add.2), 2021.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ UN General Assembly, *Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind*, 2022.

⁷⁴ UN General Assembly, *Statement by H.E. Tijani Muhammad Bande, President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly*, 2020.

⁷⁵ UN General Assembly, *Eradication of poverty and other development issues: eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, (A/RES/76/219), Adopted on the Report the Second Committee, (A/RES/76/536/Add.2), 2021.

⁷⁶ UNEP, *Emission Gap Report 2019*, 2019.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945; UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)*, 2021.

⁷⁹ UN General Assembly, *2020 ECOSOC Forum on FfD-Final Draft*, 2020.

⁸⁰ UN General Assembly, *Organization of the 76th Regular Session of the General Assembly, Adoption of the Agenda and Allocation of Items*, 2021.

⁸¹ UN General Assembly, *Schedule of the General Assembly Plenary and Related Meetings*, 2022.

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2021). *United Nations Handbook 2021-22*. Retrieved 17 September 2021 from: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Peace-Rights-and-Security/Our-work-with-the-UN/UN-Handbook-2021-22.pdf>

The United Nations (UN) Handbook provides a comprehensive look at the UN and its principal organs and committees. Delegates can find a detailed explanation of the structure, processes, and procedures of the Main Committees of the General Assembly in this source. The breakdown of the structure, membership, and functionality of these committees is a useful point for delegates to begin their research and gain an overall understanding of where the committee falls within the UN framework. In particular, the detailed listing of all current membership and leadership of key committees, as well as the structure and reporting of subsidiary organs will be a useful starting point for understanding the complicated framework of UN action.

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. (2020, December 21). *Taking Up Second Committee Reports, General Assembly Adopts 36 Resolutions, Including Text Calling for Building Back Better in Wake of Pandemic (GA/12306)*. Retrieved 27 June 2021 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/ga12306.doc.htm>

This publication summarizes the recommendations of the 36 adopted draft resolutions of the Second Committee that were submitted to the General Assembly Plenary. It provides a good starting point for delegates to do research on the outcome documents of the 75th session. It highlights the objectives set forth by the General Assembly for the upcoming year. One of the key areas of focus is building back better in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it outlines necessary steps and policies for Member States to undertake to build more resilient social and economic systems.

United Nations, General Assembly. (2021). *Resolutions of the 76th Session*. Retrieved 19 March 2022 from: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/76/resolutions.shtml>

This publication by the United Nations General Assembly provides information on all the approved draft resolutions and reports submitted during the 76th session. Each document also provides information on policy recommendations by the Second Committee and other committee's to Member States. Delegates should use this compilation to find adopted draft resolutions that pertain to their research when seeking information on recent outcome documents of the Second Committee.

United Nations General Assembly. (2022, March 18). *Schedule of General Assembly Plenary and Related Meetings, 76th Session*. Retrieved 19 March 2022 from: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/info/meetings/76schedule.shtml>

This publication includes the schedule for the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Plenary and Related Meetings. This list holds important conference dates of what is upcoming throughout the year of 2022. Delegates will find this useful when researching current priorities of the General Assembly. It includes information about important topics throughout the year and a way for delegates to see what is talked about in the six main committees. Delegates will also find this source useful in tracking topics being discussed in other committees, such as working on the revitalization of the General Assembly, economic, humanitarian issues, and reports made by the Secretary General.

United Nations Sustainable Development Group. (2020). *United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better*. Retrieved 20 September 2021 from: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/united-nations-comprehensive-response-covid-19-saving-lives-protecting-societies-0>

This report gives an overview over the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic on Member States and the efforts made to contain the crisis. The report further provides a roadmap with steps necessary in order for the global community to recover from the pandemic. Delegates should read the report in order to get a better overview over the UN's actions and to get a better understanding of the socio-economic impact and its long-lasting effects.

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1. Addressing International Migration and Development

Introduction

Humanity has undergone migration for centuries due to a variety of reasons, including work or economic opportunities, to join family, to study, to escape conflict, persecution, terrorism, or human rights violations, and due to adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters, or other environmental factors.⁸² There are estimated to be over 280.6 million international migrants as of mid-2020 as recorded by the United Nations (UN) Population Division.⁸³ This accounts for over 3.8% of the global population that does not reside within their country of birth, and includes approximately 14% actively trying to migrate as well which has grown from 2.3% of the global population in the 1980s with an ever-growing list of reasons.⁸⁴

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), commonly referred to as the United Nations Migration Agency, defines a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a state away from their habitual place of residence, regardless of the person's legal status, whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary, what the causes for the movement are, or what the length of the stay is.⁸⁵ The IOM identified that over two-thirds of the migrants recorded in 2020 were labor migrants that moved to seek better work and economic opportunities.⁸⁶ Although many migrate out of choice for better opportunities, there is a large proportion that migrate out of necessity.⁸⁷ As data collected by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) indicates, the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide was 82.4 million at the end of 2020.⁸⁸

The General Assembly works towards broad areas that need to be addressed to manage international migration and development through two global compacts that facilitate migration by enabling international cooperation and partnerships, regulate migration by gathering data and research to manage crises, and address forced migration by working towards dealing with criminal organizations and forced displacement.⁸⁹ Migration and development are identified as being closely linked to the General Assembly resolution 70/1 on "the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda)," which was adopted through General Assembly resolution 70/1 since migration is a powerful driver of sustainable development, for migrants and their communities.⁹⁰ Migration brings significant benefits in the form of skills, strengthening the residing Member State's labor force and cultural diversity, and contributes to improving the lives of communities in their Member States of origin through the transfer of skills and financial resources.⁹¹ Migration requires proper governance, otherwise it can negatively impact development as migrants can be put at risk and communities can come under strain if the right frameworks are not put in place.⁹²

International and Regional Framework

One of the first declarations adopted by the UN General Assembly was the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) in 1948 as a common standard for fundamental human rights.⁹³ Article 13 of the UDHR outlines that everyone may move freely within each state and everyone has the right to leave and return to their country, which are essential in providing the basis of free migration.⁹⁴ In 2003, the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their*

⁸² IOM, *Migration*, 2022.

⁸³ UN DESA, *International Migrant Stock 2020*, 2020.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ IOM, *Glossary on Migration, International Migration Law Series No. 25*, 2011.

⁸⁶ IOM, *World Migration Report 2020*, 2020.

⁸⁷ UNHCR, *Figures at a Glance*, 2022.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

⁸⁹ IOM, *Our Work*, 2022; UN General Assembly, *Migration & Refugees*, 2022.

⁹⁰ IOM, *Migration, Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda*, 2022.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*

⁹² *Ibid.*

⁹³ UN, General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*, 1948.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

Families entered into force after being adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1990.⁹⁵ This convention aimed to take a more comprehensive stance on migration and in better understanding migration flows internationally.⁹⁶ It explicitly identifies different types of migrants and creates specific terms for each category, underscores established human rights, and guarantees migrants' equality of treatment.⁹⁷ The convention asserts these rights for all migrants regardless of their country of origin.⁹⁸ In 2003, the UN General Assembly in its resolution 58/208 on "International migration and development," outlined several aspects that need to be noted to ensure migration was entrusted to enable sustainable development, influencing certain goals in the 2030 Agenda.⁹⁹

The 2030 Agenda established the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), of which 11 goals recognize the importance of migration and mobility towards sustainable development.¹⁰⁰ The Agenda's core principle is to "leave no one behind," which includes migration and development, as identified explicitly in SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).¹⁰¹ SDG 8 on decent work asserts the need for individuals to have access to fair and decent employment opportunities; lack of such opportunities is a central driver in irregular migration, and many of these migrants continue to struggle with fair and decent work once they arrive in their host country.¹⁰² SDG 10 explicitly calls for safe, regular, and responsible migration which is another challenge faced by migrants when trying to traverse borders.¹⁰³ Finally, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities reinforces the need for Member States to work towards the development of communities of growth, tolerance, and sustainability which is an important consideration in the development of cities.¹⁰⁴

During the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants in 2016, numerous Member States met to discuss the complications associated with borders, refugees, and both regular and irregular migration and created the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* (New York Declaration).¹⁰⁵ The Declaration calls on Member States to address the root causes of migration, improve data collection and monitoring, address forced displacement, and facilitate cooperation.¹⁰⁶ Following the adoption of the New York Declaration, the General Assembly developed the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration* (2018) to facilitate and regulate migration toward development, as well as the adoption of the *Global Compact on Refugees* (2018).¹⁰⁷ This compact became the first-ever UN global agreement on a common approach to international migration including methods for safe and orderly traversal of borders for migrants.¹⁰⁸

In 2021, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), established by the UNHCR in 2007, held their 13th summit meeting which focused on labor migration.¹⁰⁹ This summit meeting resulted in an integrated proposal, "The Future Of Human Mobility: Innovative Partnerships For Sustainable Development" which outlined several mechanisms, such as planning long-term financial stability, GFMD-Global Compact relations, and terms of reference for reform to address: the governance of labor

⁹⁵ UN General Assembly, *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families* (A/RES/45/158), 1990.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ UN General Assembly, *International migration and development* (A/RES/58/208), 2003.

¹⁰⁰ Overseas Development Institute, *Migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2018; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (A/RES/70/1), 2015.

¹⁰¹ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (A/RES/70/1), 2015.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ UN General Assembly, *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* (A/RES/71/1), 2016.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ UN General Assembly, *Part II: Global Compact on Refugees* (A/73/12(PartII)), UN General Assembly, *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* (A/RES/73/195), 2018.

¹⁰⁸ UN General Assembly, *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*, 2018.

¹⁰⁹ GFMD, *GFMD Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration*, 2021.

migration in the context of changing employment landscapes, skilling migrants for employment, leveraging new technologies to empower migrants, and addressing gaps in migrant protection.¹¹⁰

Role of the International System

In 2003, the UN General Assembly in its resolution 58/208 formulated a high-level dialogue (HLD) on international migration and development which was implemented in the sixty-first session of the General Assembly in 2006.¹¹¹ The purpose of the HLD is to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development and identify appropriate ways to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts.¹¹² There have been two HLDs held, the first in 2006, which examined the relationship and synergies between international migration and development and the second in 2013, which discussed the post-2015 development framework and integrating migration into development policies, labor migration, migrant's rights, safe migration, among other topics.¹¹³ The first HLD led to the creation of the GFMD, an international forum for informal dialogue and cooperation on migration and development.¹¹⁴ The second HLD resulted in the eight-point agenda on Making Migration Work which included respect for the human rights of all migrants; the protection of migrant women; the need to respect and promote international labor standards and the rights of migrants in their workplaces; the contribution of applying international conventions, including the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*, to the international system for the protection of migrants; and cooperation on labor mobility programs.¹¹⁵ The dialogue identified concrete measures to strengthen coherence and cooperation in order to enhance the development benefits of international migration and development.¹¹⁶

The IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems, and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need.¹¹⁷ The IOM Constitution gives explicit recognition to the link between migration and economic, social, and cultural development, as well as to the right of freedom of movement of persons.¹¹⁸ The IOM works closely with governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental partners.¹¹⁹ The Migration Data portal, launched in December 2017 by the IOM, aims to serve as a unique access point to timely, comprehensive migration statistics and reliable information about migration data globally.¹²⁰ The Data portal has been a key element for Member States to aid in migration and development by assessing the situation in other Member States and reevaluating policies.¹²¹

In 2006, the UN Secretary-General established the Global Migration Group (GMG), an interagency coordination mechanism to work with agencies such as the IOM, International Labor Organization (ILO), and UNHCR, to promote the wider application of international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive, and better coordinated inter-agency approaches.¹²² In 2020, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on report of the Second Committee (*A/75/460/Add. 2, para. 8*) on the agenda item of international migration and development.¹²³ This General Assembly resolution 75/226 on "International migration and development"

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ UN General Assembly, *International migration and development (A/RES/58/208)*, 2003.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ UN Population Division, *First High-level Dialogue on international migration and development*, 2006.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ UN Secretary-General, *Making migration work: an eight-point agenda for action*, 2016.

¹¹⁶ UN General Assembly, *International migration and development (A/RES/58/208)*, 2003; UN Secretary-General, *Making migration work: an eight-point agenda for action*, 2016.

¹¹⁷ IOM, *Our Work*, 2022.

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Migration Data Portal, *About the Migration Data Portal*, 2022.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² IOM, *Global Migration Group*, 2022.

¹²³ UN General Assembly, *International migration and development (A/RES/75/226)*, 2021.

presented the latest global levels and trends in international migration, progress in measuring the SDGs and targets related to migration, and the status of ratification of the main international instruments related to international migration.¹²⁴ This resolution also noted the severe disruption to the economy and societies as well as the devastating impact to the lives and livelihoods of migrants all over the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic, further leading to a lack of progress towards the SDGs.¹²⁵

Addressing Labor Migration

In today's globalized economy, workers are increasingly looking for job opportunities beyond their home country in search of decent work and better livelihoods.¹²⁶ Developing countries are home to the majority of the world's migrants due to the lack of socio-economic opportunities available in their home countries.¹²⁷ In many of these Member States, labor migration represents a large share of the workforce in key developing economic sectors since migrants are seeking better livelihoods.¹²⁸ There are enormous challenges migrants face to even begin the process of migration including governance, migrant workers' protection, migration and development linkages, and international cooperation.¹²⁹ As outlined in the 2030 Agenda, and the two global compacts, Member States have to work towards key aspects such as policy coherence, socio-economic reintegration, and fair recruitment to enable more robust labor migration and development.¹³⁰

The growing influx of migration is stretching current labor migration policies since the policies in place have not been catered for the rising number of migrants.¹³¹ Policy coherence can ensure better protection of migrant workers' rights, reducing abuse and exploitation in recruitment, and adequately matching jobs, leading to a greater potential for the positive contribution of labor migration to development.¹³² If migrants decide to return to their places of origin, the absence of sustainable reintegration increases the likelihood of reintegrating migrants falling into poverty or being displaced again.¹³³ Providing operational support through income-generating opportunities for both returnees and communities in areas of return might help the overall reintegration process.¹³⁴

The ILO has launched an initiative to combat the issue of unfair recruitment through unscrupulous employment agencies, informal labor intermediaries, and other operators acting outside the legal and regulatory framework that prey especially on low-skilled workers.¹³⁵ One of the more successful employment operations has been The Fair Recruitment Initiative (FRI) launched by the ILO.¹³⁶ The FRI was launched in 2014 as part of the ILO Director-General's call for a Fair Migration Agenda and was envisioned to ensure that recruitment practices nationally and across borders are grounded in labor standards, are developed through social dialogue, and ensure gender equality.¹³⁷

In 2020, these challenges to labor migration were exacerbated due to the closure of businesses amid lockdowns, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.¹³⁸ Many migrant workers faced termination, with employers unable or unwilling to provide earned wages and end-of-service benefits, and workers sometimes repatriated the migrant workers without any compensation.¹³⁹ Not only has the GMFD worked on publishing work in this regard but the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ ILO, *Fair Recruitment*, 2022.

¹²⁷ UN DESA, *International Migrant Stock 2020*, 2020.

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ ILO, *ILO Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers – Results and Methodology*, 2021.

¹³⁰ Ibid; UN General Assembly, *Part II: Global Compact on Refugees (A/73/12(PartII))*.

¹³¹ ILO, *Policy Coherence and Labour Migration*, 2022.

¹³² Ibid.

¹³³ ILO, *Socio-economic reintegration*, 2022.

¹³⁴ Ibid.

¹³⁵ ILO, *Fair Recruitment*, 2022.

¹³⁶ ILO, *Fair Recruitment Initiative*, 2022.

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ ILO, *ILO Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers – Results and Methodology*, 2021.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

(OECD) has also developed comparative reports to identify how much of the economy is due to migrant labor.¹⁴⁰ The OECD also has case studies on a few Member States that have been identified as growing economies, to help other developing Member States follow ideas and initiatives that have been proven to work.¹⁴¹ The comparative report of the case studies illustrates five policy priorities for Member States to consider, including adapting migration policies to labor market needs, leveraging the impact of immigration on the economy, protecting migrant rights and fight discrimination, investing in immigrants' integration, and better monitoring of the economic impact of migration.¹⁴²

Providing Accessible Migration to Prevent Migrant Smuggling

Reasons for migration vary, but one overarching motivation is the search for better social and economic opportunities in other Member States.¹⁴³ The process for migration through legal means often involves preparing documents, undergoing medical examinations, obtaining a visa, and securing a job before migrating.¹⁴⁴ This process can create barriers for low-income or uneducated people searching for enhanced social and economic opportunities in other Member States and for Member States looking to enhance their workforce with extra migrant workers, which promotes development.¹⁴⁵ To overcome these barriers, some choose to migrate irregularly – without valid travel documentation.¹⁴⁶ However, this kind of migration can be dangerous for migrants.¹⁴⁷ Smugglers often operate on unreliable sources of information, since they often do not have reliable sources within the border control between Member States which puts migrants in danger of unsafe means of transportation or border patrols.¹⁴⁸ Smugglers are not incentivized to care about the well-being of migrants, further increasing the risk to the migrants.¹⁴⁹

The challenge, as outlined by the OECD, is that Member States need to regulate migration to promote development by providing accessible options for potential migrants to prevent smuggling.¹⁵⁰ Raising awareness of the dangers of migrant smuggling and promoting cooperation between Member States can help prevent migrant smuggling.¹⁵¹ Educating migrants about the possible dangers of migrant smuggling can also reinforce existing policies and laws against fraud, bribery, and other related charges.¹⁵² This may help deter illegal practices such as the falsification of documents and identify possible existing loopholes in existing legislation for border control.¹⁵³ The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has outlined the importance of raising awareness in its Global Review in 2011, and to further facilitate the spread of knowledge, UNODC launched several guides, a toolkit, and websites to serve as foundational material for other Member States to follow in implementing new policies and programs.¹⁵⁴ The UNODC toolkit also endorses awareness-raising campaigns and public service announcements to discourage potential migrants from consenting to smuggling.¹⁵⁵

The international community is working on how to tackle the root causes of migrant smuggling, which often involves job opportunities and economic stability in their countries of origin and bureaucratic barriers to regular migration methods.¹⁵⁶ An example program in place is the European Employment Services Job

¹⁴⁰ OECD, *Assessing the Economic Contribution of Labour Migration in Developing Countries as Countries of Destination (ECLM)*, 2022.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² Ibid.

¹⁴³ UN DESA, *International Migration*, 2022.

¹⁴⁴ UN-Women, *Women Migrant Workers' Journey Through the Margins: Labour, Migration and Trafficking*, 2016.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ IOM, *Glossary on Migration, International Migration Law Series No. 25*, 2011; UN-Women, *Women Migrant Workers' Journey Through the Margins: Labour, Migration and Trafficking*, 2016.

¹⁴⁷ IOM, *Glossary on Migration, International Migration Law Series No. 25*, 2011.

¹⁴⁸ OECD, *Can we put an end to human smuggling?*, 2015.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid.

¹⁵⁰ IOM, *Glossary on Migration, International Migration Law Series No. 25*, 2011.

¹⁵¹ UNODC, *Toolkit to Combat Smuggling of Migrants Tool 1 Understanding the Smuggling of Migrants*, 2010.

¹⁵² Ibid.

¹⁵³ OECD, *Can we put an end to human smuggling?*, 2015.

¹⁵⁴ UNODC, *Toolkit to Combat Smuggling of Migrants Tool 1 Understanding the Smuggling of Migrants*, 2010.

¹⁵⁵ Ibid.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

Mobility Network, which creates an international labor market available to all looking to apply for jobs, or companies looking to announce vacancies and raises awareness in the EU region.¹⁵⁷ In the African continent, the Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration in West Africa identified that enhancing legal migration opportunities could also reduce the incentive for people to partake in irregular migration.¹⁵⁸

Conclusion

International migration and development require the continued international cooperation of all Member States as mentioned in the 2030 Agenda and the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration*.¹⁵⁹ Increasing cooperation would synchronize the flow of information and create a more cohesive system to provide accessible migration for development.¹⁶⁰ Tackling migrant smuggling requires a multipronged approach and can be successful with implementation at different levels to increase awareness, international border cooperation, and the alleviation of bureaucratic barriers.¹⁶¹ Cooperation between regional, governmental, and international agencies, as well as domestic efforts at raising awareness, could support progress in addressing international smuggling and development.¹⁶²

Further Research

In their own research on addressing international migration and development, delegates should consider the following important questions: How can the existing the legal framework on international migration be improved to take into account the concerns, interests, and vulnerabilities of all Member States? How can the international community provide further financial and legal assistance to promote development utilizing labor migration? How can partnerships take a greater role in promoting cooperation, capacity-building, and knowledge sharing to enable safe and orderly migration? What mechanisms can be implemented to prevent the smuggling of migrants? What is the best method to achieve international cooperation for border security? Given the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic, how could other groups have support in developing more comprehensive policy on migration?

Annotated Bibliography

International Organization for Migration. (2020). *World Migration Report 2020*. Retrieved 20 March 2022 from: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2020.pdf

The World Migration Report is a key document in understanding the global migration patterns and consequences. It provides key statistics, looks at global events that cause migration, and attempts to find key factors that influence migration patterns. The 2020 report analyzes the role the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration plays and aims to look at how migration can be managed better in the future by understanding the world now. Delegates can find updated statistics and information on migration as reported by the international community.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2022). *Assessing the Economic Contribution of Labour Migration in Developing Countries as Countries of Destination (ECLM)*. Retrieved 20 March 2022 from: <https://www.oecd.org/dev/migration-development/economic-contribution-labour-migration-developing-countries-destination-eclm.htm>

The OECD provides key statistics of labor migration and the causes and effects of it. The reports published take a comparative view before and after the influx of migrant workers in several Member States. It also provides detailed case studies of Member States that have a large proportion of labor migrants. It aims to look at how labor migration can be

¹⁵⁷ European Commission, *EURES*, 2022.

¹⁵⁸ UNHCR, *Regional Conferences on Refugee Protection and International Migration in Central America, Western Africa, Eastern Africa, and Asia*, 2011.

¹⁵⁹ UN DESA, *International Migration*, 2022.

¹⁶⁰ Migration Data Portal, *About the Migration Data Portal*, 2022.

¹⁶¹ UNODC, *Toolkit to Combat Smuggling of Migrants Tool 1 Understanding the Smuggling of Migrants*, 2010.

¹⁶² UN DESA, *International Migration*, 2022.

managed better in the future by understanding the impact of the migration. Delegates may find key takeaways on migration and development from specific case studies carried out in Member States around the world.

United Nations, General Assembly, Forty-fifth session. (1990). *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/RES/45/158)* Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/838). Retrieved 20 March 2022 from:

<http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/45/158>

Proposed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1990, this convention was one of the first on the topic of migrants and development. It was only adopted in 2003, but it laid the foundation for all future documents on this topic. It aims to address protection of migrants and promotion of migrant labor. It is a great starting point to delve into the first sub-topic of labor migration and provides a protocol for international cooperation in order to alleviate the socio-economic issues causing migration.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1)*. Retrieved 20 March 2022 from: <http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/71/1>

First established in 2016, the New York Declaration reaffirms the importance of the international refugee and migrant regime and contains a wide range of commitments by Member States to strengthen and enhance mechanisms to protect people on the move. It has paved the way for the adoption of two new global compacts in 2018: a Global Compact on Refugees and a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Delegates will find this document useful as the declaration expresses the path to aid and assist migration and development internationally.

United Nations, General Assembly. (2018). *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*. Retrieved 20 March 2022 from:

https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180713_agreed_outcome_global_compact_for_migration.pdf

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration is the latest key document in setting global migration best practices and goals. It is an international agreement, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly that covers all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. Delegates will find this useful as it was developed as a result of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and it stands as the latest guiding documents in current migration practices.

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2. The Promotion of Information and Communications Technologies for Sustainable Development

Introduction

Information and communications technologies (ICTs) have transformed societal interactions and have allowed for the creation of new approaches to solving complex issues via improved analytical models.¹⁶³ According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics, this term refers to the “diverse set of technological tools and resources used to transmit, store, create, share or exchange information” and include “computers... the Internet... live broadcasting technologies... recorded broadcasting technologies... and telephony.”¹⁶⁴ Regardless of the definition that one adopts, ICTs are vital to achieving the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda), which was adopted in 2015, because they facilitate global connectivity and promote social inclusion.¹⁶⁵ By improving global partnerships, in turn, ICTs have ensured that resources are being efficiently utilized and Member States are able to share best practices with regards to sustainable development.¹⁶⁶

However, despite these potential benefits, approximately “4.9 billion people – or 63% of the world’s population” – had access to the internet in 2021.¹⁶⁷ While this estimate reflects “an increase of 17% since 2019,” it still indicates that 2.9 billion people lack internet access around the world.¹⁶⁸ The General Assembly Second Committee is cognizant that least developed countries (LDCs) often encounter setbacks when they attempt to integrate ICTs into national development frameworks.¹⁶⁹ Thus, this body has emphasized that developed Member States should improve the flow of technology to developing Member States and invest in ICT infrastructure for LDCs.¹⁷⁰

In recent years, the benefits associated with ICTs have grown considerably and, despite the disruptions to daily life caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, companies have begun utilizing ICTs to their advantage.¹⁷¹ In developed Member States, for instance, many doctors use ICTs to monitor patients remotely.¹⁷² In less developed Member States, however, these services have been used to link local health-care providers with specialists from around the world.¹⁷³ Although the use of ICTs within this domain has improved clinical management and health-care services for vulnerable populations, several challenges nonetheless persist, with the most prominent including users being unfamiliar with digital platforms, patients being skeptical of telemedicine, and developing Member States having poor internet coverage.¹⁷⁴

In addition to their impact on the medical sector, ICTs have transformed learning opportunities for students globally.¹⁷⁵ For instance, the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) reports that ICTs can complement national education systems by increasing access for

¹⁶³ UN DESA, *Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)*, 2017.

¹⁶⁴ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Guide to Measuring Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Education*, 2009, p. 120.

¹⁶⁵ UN DGC, *Information and Communications Technologies Integrally Tied to Sustainable Development, Speakers Say at Second Committee Debate*, 2016.

¹⁶⁶ Ibid.

¹⁶⁷ ITU, *Facts and Figures 2021*, 2021.

¹⁶⁸ Ibid.

¹⁶⁹ UN General Assembly, *International Financial System and Development (A/RES/73/220)*, 2019.

¹⁷⁰ UN General Assembly, *Role of the United Nations in Promoting Development in the Context of Globalization and Interdependence (A/RES/55/212)*, 2001; UN General Assembly, *Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development (A/RES/74/229)*, 2020; UN General Assembly, *Provisional Agenda of the Seventy-fifth Regular Session of the General Assembly* (A/75/150)*, 2021.

¹⁷¹ ITU, *Digital Health*, 2021.

¹⁷² Dorn, *UN Technology to Cope with COVID and Beyond*, 2020; Dzenowagis, *Bridging the Digital Divide in Health*, 2021; WHO, *Telemedicine: Opportunities and Developments in Member States*, 2010, pp. 8-11.

¹⁷³ Ibid; Ibid.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid; Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ UNESCO, *ICT in Education*, 2021.

underserved communities, improving student engagement, and encouraging classroom collaboration.¹⁷⁶ However, despite these potential benefits, UNESCO finds that they cannot compensate for limited oversight, inadequate pedagogy, or teachers with minimal experience using technology.¹⁷⁷ Thus, UNESCO recommends that, if ICTs are to become effective tools for educating students, leaders of Member States need to work together to reduce the digital divide, understand learners' needs and capabilities, and improve teachers' technological competencies.¹⁷⁸

International and Regional Framework

In 2001, the General Assembly passed resolution 56/183, which created the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).¹⁷⁹ This annual forum, which is held by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and UNESCO, has provided opportunities for heads of state, civil society, and academics to participate in multi-stakeholder meetings concerning the implementation of ICTs.¹⁸⁰ Since its inception, the WSIS has constituted the world's largest "gathering of the ICT for development community," and has routinely emphasized the importance of increasing digital access for citizens residing in low-income states.¹⁸¹ Following each annual forum, the WSIS also updates its Stocktaking Database.¹⁸² This global repository, which is available for annual submission, contains thousands of successful ICT initiatives, which Member States are encouraged to replicate.¹⁸³ In its *2021 Outcome Document*, the WSIS highlighted that while the COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted daily life, telemedicine and remote learning have supported continued access to hospitals and schooling.¹⁸⁴ Thus, it emphasized the importance of scaling up current global efforts to improve rural and low-income residents' access to ICTs.¹⁸⁵

In addition, the *Education 2030: Incheon Declaration and Framework for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4* (Incheon Declaration) (2015) articulates that refugee status does not preclude an individual from obtaining an education.¹⁸⁶ Instead, Member States have an obligation to provide opportunities that align with refugees' cultural values and prepare them for a secure and responsible future.¹⁸⁷ As it relates to sustainable development, the importance of improving education rates lies in the fact that schooling promotes socioeconomic mobility, helping achieve SDG 1 (no poverty) and 8 (decent work and economic growth), and it helps to reduce inequalities between men and women, helping achieve SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities).¹⁸⁸ The reason for this observation is each additional year of schooling raises income earnings by about 10% for men and 20% for women.¹⁸⁹ According to the Incheon Declaration, one method for ensuring equality and inclusion in educational access is through the use of ICTs, given their ability to foster learning environments even in remote areas and conflict zones.¹⁹⁰ However, the agreement also emphasizes that content should be taught by staff who are well-qualified and highly knowledgeable regarding their students' cultural backgrounds.¹⁹¹ Through this approach, Member States note that high-functioning learning environments

¹⁷⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷⁷ Ibid.

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

¹⁷⁹ ITU, *Declaration of Principles Building the Information Society: a global challenge in the new Millennium.*, 2003; UN General Assembly, *World Summit on the Information Society (A/RES/56/183)*, 2001.

¹⁸⁰ UN DESA, *World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022*, 2022.

¹⁸¹ Ibid.

¹⁸² ITU, *WSIS Stocktaking*, 2022.

¹⁸³ Ibid.

¹⁸⁴ ITU, *WSIS Forum 2021: Outcome Document*, 2021.

¹⁸⁵ Ibid.

¹⁸⁶ World Education Forum, *Education 2030: Incheon Declaration and Framework for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4*, 2015.

¹⁸⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸⁸ UN DESA, *Quality Education: Why it Matters*, 2020.

¹⁸⁹ Oxfam, *The Power of Education to Fight Inequality*, 2019.

¹⁹⁰ World Education Forum, *Education 2030: Incheon Declaration and Framework for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4*, 2015.

¹⁹¹ Ibid.

can be made available to refugees even in the midst of difficult transitions and harrowing circumstances.¹⁹²

Less than a year after the Incheon Declaration was passed, Member States unanimously adopted the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* (2016).¹⁹³ This decision reaffirms the world's commitment to protecting the human rights and educational opportunities of people on the move.¹⁹⁴ Following the adoption of the Declaration, Member States devised two new frameworks: the *Global Compact on Refugees* (2018) and the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration* (2018).¹⁹⁵ In the former, Member States emphasized that education is a fundamental human right to which all are entitled, regardless of national origin.¹⁹⁶ However, given that only 63% of refugees attend primary school, Member States underscored the importance of increasing investment in refugee education and developing innovative solutions through the use of technology to promote the SDGs.¹⁹⁷ The reason for this understanding is that a strong education system broadens access to employment, bolsters the resilience of communities, and provides individuals with the skills to succeed in a globalized economy.¹⁹⁸ Moreover, in the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration*, Member States highlighted that refugees are entitled to the same basic freedoms and human rights as natural-born citizens.¹⁹⁹ The committee also stated that due to the challenges that refugees may face, national governments should make use of ICTs to provide inclusive and equitable opportunities for those who cannot attend formal schooling through improvements in wireless connectivity access.²⁰⁰

Finally, UN-Habitat's "Addressing the Digital Divide" playbooks (2021) instruct countries on how to promote digital literacy among marginalized populations through community driven and evidence-based approaches.²⁰¹ This framework for reducing disparities in internet use also includes a set of best practices that Member States can replicate and several financing strategies that government leaders can leverage to achieve their ICT goals.²⁰²

Role of the International System

In 2001, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/212, the "Role of the United Nations in Promoting Development in the Context of Globalization and Interdependence," which explained that while financing for sustainable development required a global financial environment anchored in inclusive economic growth, the current system had historically favored developed Member States at the expense of the Global South.²⁰³ As a result, the report to the General Assembly highlighted that further resource mobilization, Member State cooperation, and infrastructure investments were needed for universal ICT access to be achieved.²⁰⁴ Through General Assembly resolution 74/229, "Science, technology, and innovation for Sustainable Development," the Second Committee emphasized that the sheer difference in ICT access between the Global North and Global South had become one of the most important barriers to achieving the SDGs.²⁰⁵ This is because ICTs promote the financial inclusion of the world's two billion unbanked, foster a universal access to knowledge, support climate monitoring, and aid in global

¹⁹² Ibid.

¹⁹³ UN General Assembly, *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1)*, 2016.

¹⁹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁹⁶ UN General Assembly, *Part II: Global Compact on Refugees (A/73/12(PartII))*, 2022.

¹⁹⁷ UNHCR, *Refugee Education in Crisis: More than Half of the World's School-age Refugee Children do not get an Education*, 2019.

¹⁹⁸ Karam, Education as the Pathway towards Gender Equality, *UN Chronicle*, 2014.

¹⁹⁹ UN General Assembly, *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*, 2018.

²⁰⁰ UNDP, *The Role of Governments in Promoting ICT Access and Use by SMEs*, 2007; UN General Assembly, *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration*, 2018.

²⁰¹ UN-Habitat, *Addressing the Digital Divide: Taking Action Towards Digital Inclusion*, 2021.

²⁰² Ibid.

²⁰³ UN General Assembly, *Role of the United Nations in Promoting Development in the Context of Globalization, and Interdependence (A/RES/55/212)*, 2001.

²⁰⁴ Ibid.

²⁰⁵ UN General Assembly, *Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development (A/RES/74/229)*, 2020.

connectivity.²⁰⁶ In General Assembly resolution 75/202 on “Information and Communications Technologies for Sustainable Development,” Member States recommended that private companies, state governments, and civil society work together to bridge the digital divide through increased investments to developing Member States.²⁰⁷ In its accompanying resolution, the Second Committee revealed that although the Global North had achieved near universal coverage for ICTs, West Asia, Africa, and Latin America had not kept pace; rather, Member States emphasized that these differences were growing at alarming rates.²⁰⁸

The General Assembly Second Committee works with several international bodies, including ITU and UNCTAD, to address the issue of ICT implementation.²⁰⁹ Together, these agencies develop solutions and programs that Member States can utilize to narrow the digital divide.²¹⁰ As a result of these disparities, ITU's mission is to ensure that every individual has the opportunity to “use and benefit from digital information, products, and services.”²¹¹ In pursuit of this mission, ITU collects data on 200 Member States, which it uses to both measure their progress on internet use and assess the connectivity needs of marginalized communities.²¹² Beyond data collection, ITU provides advice on how technology can accelerate the achievement of the SDGs through its Connect 2030 Agenda.²¹³ This global vision for ICT development recommends that Member States increase the number of households with ICT access, enhance ICT reliability, and strengthen cooperation among Member States, civil society, and private companies.²¹⁴ It also operates in tandem with several other ITU conventions, including the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), and the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR).²¹⁵ The WTSA supports the work of the body by conducting studies on global ICT access and providing recommendations to the United Nations (UN) on how to extend ICTs' benefits to citizens residing in low-income states.²¹⁶ The WTDC aims to promote digital inclusion by gathering ITU members, government leaders, and tech executives to develop innovative solutions for issues such as overcoming financing barriers and infrastructural weaknesses.²¹⁷ Similarly, the GSR convenes each year in February to collate a set of best practices that Member States should utilize to promote the digital inclusion of marginalized communities and low-income individuals.²¹⁸

UNCTAD supports the work of ITU through its “Information and Communications Technology Policy Reviews” (ICTPR).²¹⁹ This method for assessing the implementation of national ICT strategies delineates specific policies that Member States should implement to increase internet access, provides detailed instruction on how to overcome institutional limitations, and determines that certain Member States have failed to develop robust ICT sectors due to low investment.²²⁰ ICTPRs have demonstrated a strong commitment to the 2030 Agenda by fostering collaboration between the Global North and Global South in accordance with SDG 17.²²¹

²⁰⁶ Ibid.

²⁰⁷ UN General Assembly, *Information and Communications Technologies for Sustainable Development (A/RES/75/202)*, 2021.

²⁰⁸ Ibid.

²⁰⁹ ITU, *About the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)*, 2022; UNCTAD, *E-commerce and the Digital Economy*, 2022.

²¹⁰ Ibid.

²¹¹ Internet Society, *ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2020: Background Paper*, 2022.

²¹² Ibid.

²¹³ ITU, *Connect 2030 – An Agenda to Connect All to a Better World*, 2020.

²¹⁴ Ibid.

²¹⁵ Internet Society, *ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2020: Background Paper*, 2022.

²¹⁶ Ibid.

²¹⁷ Ibid.

²¹⁸ Ibid.

²¹⁹ UNCTAD, *A Framework for Information and Communications Technology Policy Reviews*, 2014, p. 1.

²²⁰ Ibid.

²²¹ ITU, *How ICTs are Accelerating the SDGs*, 2017.

Improving the Educational Opportunities of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons through ICTs

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 84 million people were forcibly displaced as a result of climate change, armed conflict, persecution, and human rights violations in 2021.²²² The UNHCR also notes that internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees are “50% less likely to have internet access” than the general population.²²³ The issues with such low connectivity rates among displaced populations is that they prevent such individuals from becoming employed, which impacts SDGs 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and well-being), and 8 (decent work and economic growth), and gaining an education, which affects SDGs 1, 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality and women’s empowerment), and 10 (reduced inequalities).²²⁴

As a result, the UNHCR introduced the “Connectivity for Refugees” initiative to make the internet more affordable, available, and usable for those on the move.²²⁵ The first stage of this program began in Jordan, Greece, and Tanzania, while the second stage expanded to include Chad, Malawi, and Uganda; thereafter, the third stage included Kenya and Ethiopia.²²⁶ In Tanzania’s Nyarugusu camp, ITU experts worked with Vodacom to construct three cellular towers that, since 2016, have provided consistent 3G coverage for thousands of Burundian and Congolese refugees.²²⁷ In Greece, Connectivity for Refugees cooperated with Stand by Me and several other major tech companies, to improve the internet access of Syrian refugee camps, which, prior to 2016, had reported very low connectivity rates.²²⁸

The improvements in ICT access for displaced populations achieved through Connectivity for Refugees and related UN projects have allowed refugees to begin using mobile devices to improve their education rates.²²⁹ For instance, since 2015, the Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER) project has provided teacher training to untrained educators working in the Kenyan refugee camps of Dadaab.²³⁰ While the lecturing portion occurs onsite, those participating in the program can utilize their tablets to access learning platforms that contain thousands of articles, videos, and textbooks.²³¹ Similarly, the Connect to Learn (CTL) program has provided Syrian educators in the Domiz refugee camps with access to digital resources via a cloud-based server.²³² The content, which focuses both on developing social skills and increasing literacy rates among the student population, also gives teachers opportunities to share their experiences with fellow educators at different schools in the region.²³³ Finally, in certain institutions, such as those in Malaysia and Jordan, ICTs have been used to track the educational progress of refugee children.²³⁴ The open-source Education Management Information System (OpenEMIS), which was created by UNESCO in 2018, incorporates Rapid SMS technology to analyze the enrollment, attendance, and performance rates of refugee children.²³⁵ Since its creation, OpenEMIS has served more than 3 million students and close to 18,000 education sites.²³⁶

As previously mentioned, a strong education system “broadens access to opportunities” and “bolsters the resilience of communities,” and provides individuals with the skills to succeed in a globalized economy.²³⁷

²²² UN DGC, Violence, Insecurity and Climate Change Drive 84 million People from their Homes, *United Nations News*, 2020.

²²³ UNHCR, *Connectivity for Everyone*, 2016.

²²⁴ *Ibid.*

²²⁵ *Ibid.*

²²⁶ *Ibid.*

²²⁷ UNHCR, *How to Work with Mobile Network Operators – Lessons from Tanzania*, 2016.

²²⁸ UNHCR, *Connectivity for Everyone*, 2016.

²²⁹ UNESCO, *A Lifeline to Learning: Leveraging Mobile Technology to Support Education for Refugees*, 2018, p. 1.

²³⁰ UNESCO, *A Lifeline to Learning: Leveraging Mobile Technology to Support Education for Refugees*, 2018, p. 40.

²³¹ *Ibid.*

²³² *Ibid.*

²³³ UNESCO, *A Lifeline to Learning: Leveraging Mobile Technology to Support Education for Refugees*, 2018, p. 43.

²³⁴ *Ibid.*

²³⁵ *Ibid.*

²³⁶ *Ibid.*

²³⁷ World Economic Forum, *Why Education is the Key to Sustainable Development*, 2022.

For low-income citizens around the world, the importance of improving education access lies in the fact that schooling enables socioeconomic mobility and improves their livelihoods.²³⁸ Although such programs may have reduced education barriers for at-risk groups, several challenges nonetheless persist.²³⁹ The most prominent of which include teachers' limited experience with technology, the failure of leaders to understand learners' needs and capabilities, and the growing digital divide between the Global North and South.²⁴⁰

Utilizing ICTs to Provide Medical Assistance for Citizens in Developing States

While unaffordability and inequity are commonplace in developing Member States' health-care systems, ICTs have great potential to overcome these institutional limitations by improving patient outreach.²⁴¹ In Mexico, for instance, the Opportune Breast Cancer Screening and Diagnosis Program (OBCSDP) has contributed to helping rural women overcome the financial barriers that they encounter when in need of mammograms.²⁴² With over \$2.8 million in funding from Mexico's national government, state governments, and the non-profit sector, this telemedicine service has linked over 30 screening sites to the National Center for Technological Excellence in Health and the National Directorate for Gender Equity through ICTs.²⁴³

Similarly, the Swinfen Charitable Trust Telemedicine Network has linked local health-care workers in developing nations to an "international pool of consulting specialists."²⁴⁴ Based in the United Kingdom, this organization includes more than 193 referral hospitals from 60 Member States and relies on a web-based messaging system to respond to assistance inquiries.²⁴⁵ These services are of particular benefit to physicians in low-income countries given that, without this telemedicine network, they would not have access to second opinions or advice from specialists with diverse clinical experience.²⁴⁶ The Swinfen Charitable Trust Telemedicine network has also benefitted patients and their families, given that they no longer have to "travel long distances to obtain specialty health care services."²⁴⁷

Nevertheless, more than half of the world's population lacks access to essential health care services due to a lack of medical insurance and medical providers in their respective regions.²⁴⁸ Although these programs can reduce the barriers that low-income residents often face in the health-care system, several challenges nonetheless persist.²⁴⁹ The most prominent of which include users being unfamiliar with digital platforms, patients being skeptical of telemedicine, and developing Member States having poor internet coverage.²⁵⁰

Conclusion

Given that ICTs aid in global connectivity, promote social inclusion, and assist in environmental protection efforts, they are necessary for achieving the 2030 Agenda.²⁵¹ ICTs are often used to provide opportunities for marginalized communities to obtain an education and ensure that rural populations can receive the

²³⁸ UN DESA, *Quality Education: Why it Matters*, 2020.

²³⁹ UNESCO, *ICT in Education*, 2021.

²⁴⁰ Ibid..

²⁴¹ WHO, *Implementing Telemedicine Services During COVID-19: Guiding Principles and Considerations for a Stepwise Approach*, 2021.

²⁴² WHO, *Telemedicine: Opportunities and Developments in Member States*, 2010, pp. 20-27.

²⁴³ Ibid.

²⁴⁴ WHO, *Telemedicine: Opportunities and Developments in Member States*, 2010, pp. 62-79.

²⁴⁵ Ibid.

²⁴⁶ Ibid.

²⁴⁷ Ibid.

²⁴⁸ WHO, *World Bank and WHO: Half the World Lacks Access to Essential Health Services, 100 Million Still Pushed Into Extreme Poverty Because of Health Expenses*, 2017.

²⁴⁹ Dorn, *UN Technology to Cope with COVID and Beyond*, 2020; Dzenowagis, *Bridging the Digital Divide in Health*, 2021; WHO, *Telemedicine: Opportunities and Developments in Member States*, 2010, pp. 8-11.

²⁵⁰ Ibid; Ibid.

²⁵¹ UN DCG, *Information and Communications Technologies Integrally Tied to Sustainable Development, Speakers Say at Second Committee Debate*, 2016.

medical treatment they need.²⁵² However, despite the growing importance of these devices in recent years, the international community continues to face great challenges in terms of bridging the digital divide.²⁵³ This is because developing Member States are less likely than developed Member States to have the necessary infrastructure; thus, progress regarding the SDGs remains critically low.²⁵⁴ In light of these limitations, the Second Committee has recommended that developed Member States improve the flow of technology to low-income countries and invest in ICT infrastructure for developing countries.²⁵⁵

Future Research

When conducting research, delegates should consider the following important questions: How should ICTs be improved to increase access for underserved communities? How can ICTs support current education programs? How can the UN and private sector improve the technological infrastructure of developing Member States and rural areas? How can Member States and private companies protect digital security and sensitive health information? What programs could the Second Committee implement to improve training modules for teachers in refugee camps? What role do regional governments and private companies play in financing ICTs for sustainable development? How can Member States overcome financing barriers for developing Member States?

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Information and Telecommunication Union. (2022). *WSIS Stocktaking*. Retrieved 27 March 2022 from: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking/>

This source provides a useful introduction for delegates wishing to understand how ICTs can be used to accelerate the SDGs. It is a global repository that contains best practices and successful initiatives that Member States and companies have implemented over the last several years. This source will help delegates in developing solutions for improving ICT access for developing Member States and rural residents.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1)*. Retrieved 20 March 2022 from: <http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/71/1>

This resolution outlined the need for the Global Compact on Refugees, and the Global Compact on the Right for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. This source identifies the collaboration occurring between various UN bodies and the global community. In consideration of this topic, delegates will gain a strong understanding of the current work that is taking place in the international arena with regards to refugees.

United Nations, High Commissioner for Refugees. (2016). *Connectivity for Everyone*. Retrieved 24 March 2022 from: <https://www.unhcr.org/innovation/connectivity-for-everyone/>

This initiative is an example of how ICTs can overcome educational barriers for refugee children. It includes information regarding the achievements of this program and its failures. Delegates will find this source useful, given that it provides practical examples of how ICTs have been used to provide learning environments for at-risk groups.

United Nations, Human Settlements Programme. (2021). *Addressing the Digital Divide: Taking Action Towards Digital Inclusion*. Retrieved 21 April 2022 from: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/11/addressing_the_digital_divide.pdf

²⁵² ITU, *Digital Health*, 2021; UNESCO, *ICT in Education*, 2021.

²⁵³ UN DESA, *Narrowing Digital Divide Could Become 'Greatest Equalizer' in Promoting Equality*, Secretary-General Tells Online Conference, Calling on Nations to Support Youth, 2020.

²⁵⁴ UN General Assembly, *Role of the United Nations in Promoting Development in the Context of Globalization and Interdependence (A/RES/73/228)*, 2019.

²⁵⁵ UN General Assembly, *Role of the United Nations in Promoting Development in the Context of Globalization and Interdependence (A/RES/55/212)*, 2001; UN General Assembly, *Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development (A/RES/74/229)*, 2020; UN General Assembly, *Provisional Agenda of the Seventy-fifth Regular Session of the General Assembly* (A/75/150)*, 2020.

The UN-Habitat's "Addressing the Digital Divide" playbooks instruct countries on how to promote digital literacy among marginalized populations through community driven and evidence-based approaches. This framework for reducing disparities in internet use also includes a set of best practices that Member States can replicate, and it lists several financing strategies that government leaders can leverage to achieve their ICT goals. Delegates will find this source useful as it will give them a strong understanding of the international system is addressing the digital divide between the Global North and Global South.

World Health Organization. (2010). *Telemedicine: Opportunities and Developments in Member States*. Retrieved 27 March 2022 from:

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/44497/9789241564144_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

This document contains several examples of how ICTs have been improving low-income citizens' access to healthcare around the world. This document includes a detailed analysis on the failures and achievements of this telemedicine program. Delegates will find this source useful because it shows how private companies, Member States, and the UN interact to provide healthcare through ICTs.

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