



NEW YORK CITY, NY, USA
18 - 22 March (Conf. A) / 25 - 29 March (Conf. B)



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME BACKGROUND GUIDE 2018

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Dear Delegates,

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

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

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

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

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a [Position Paper](#) by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) on 1 March 2018 in accordance with the guidelines in the [NMUN Position Paper Guide](#).

Two resources, to download from the [NMUN website](#), that serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions are the:

1. [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#) - explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not start discussion on the topics with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) - include the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the Conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, please contact the Under-Secretaries-General for the Development Department, Moritz Müller (Conference A) and Maximilian Jungmann (Conference B), at usg.development@nmun.org.

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

Conference A

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Conference B

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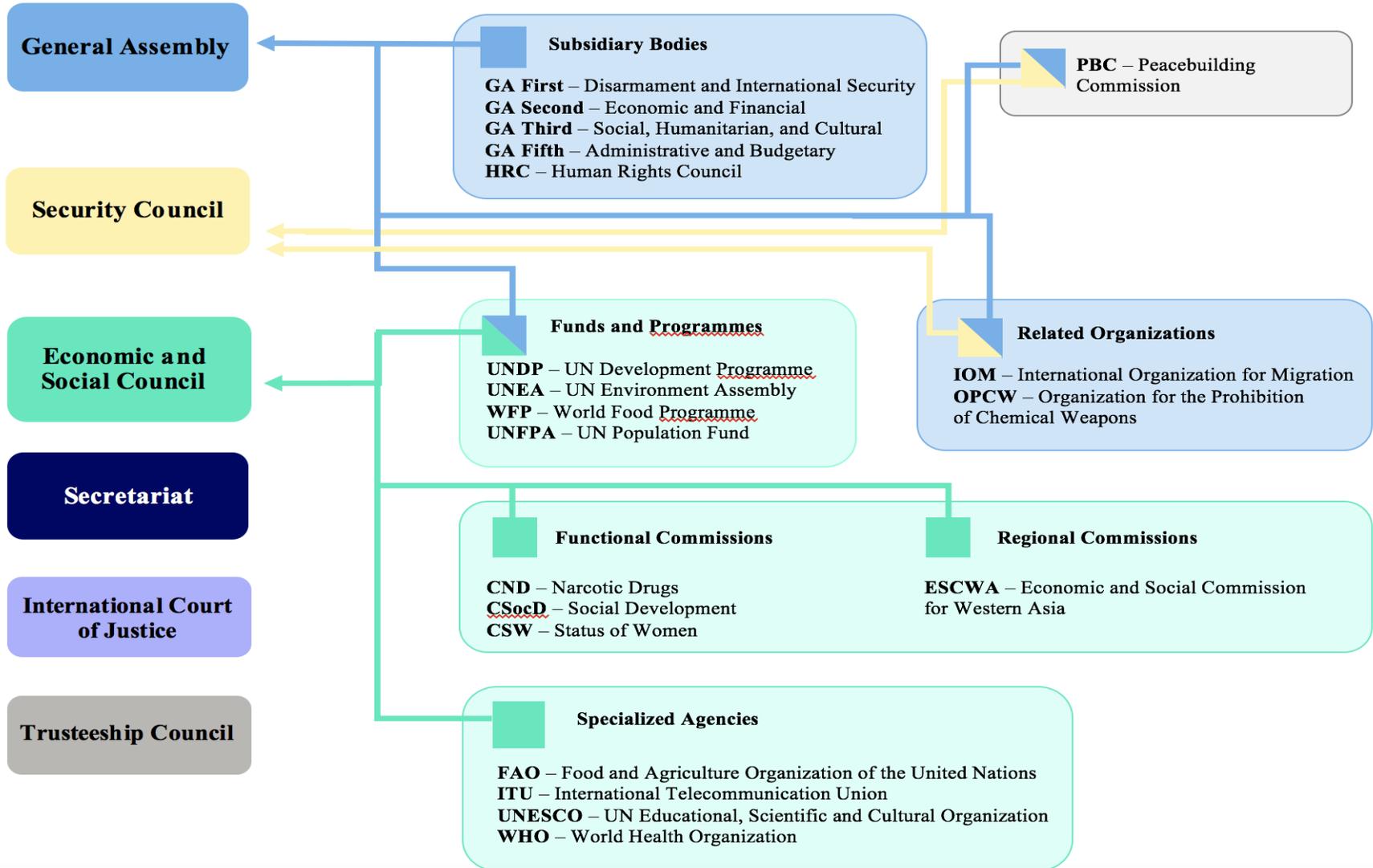
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United Nations System at NMUN•NY

This diagram illustrates the UN system simulated at NMUN•NY and demonstrates the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose, and powers within the UN system.



Abbreviations

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



UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UPPR	Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction
VNR	Voluntary National Report
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WUF	World Urban Forum

Committee Overview

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) Development Programme (UNDP) embodies Article 55 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), which outlines the organization’s responsibility to promote “higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development,” as prerequisites to peace.¹ Originally, development activities of the UN consisted largely of providing technical advice through the UN Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and support for pre-investment projects through the UN Special Fund, created in 1949 and 1958 respectively, for the benefit of less developed countries.² To streamline these assistance programs, General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX) of 22 November 1965 consolidated the EPTA and the UN Special Fund to establish UNDP as of 1 January 1966.³ Today, as the UN’s “global development network,” UNDP promotes developing countries and territories by carrying out activities aimed at eliminating poverty, reducing inequalities, strengthening democratic governance, and supporting crisis prevention and recovery.⁴

At NMUN·NY 2018, 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·NY 2018, 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

Executive Board

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

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

¹ UNDP JPO Service Centre, *UNDP for Beginners: A Beginner's Guide to the United Nations Development Programme*, 2015, p. 4; *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 55.

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*, 2017.

⁵ UNDP, *Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS*, 2017.

⁶ UNDP, *Achim Steiner*, 2017.

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

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ UNDP, *Executive Board*, 2017.

¹⁰ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 245.

¹¹ UNDP, *Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS*, 2017.

ECOSOC are used.¹² The Executive Board also serves as the governing body of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN 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 Republic of Moldova.¹⁷

Budget

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

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

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

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

¹² UN DPI, *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 UNDP, *UNDP's Funding Channels*, 2017.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ UN DPI, *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.

²¹ UNDP, *Our Projects*, 2017.

²² Executive Board of the UNDP, the UNFP and the UNOPS, *UNDP Integrated Budget Estimates for 2014-2017 (DP/2013/41)*, 2013.

²³ UNDP, *Our Projects*, 2017.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ UN General Assembly, *Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme (A/RES/2029 (XX))*, 1965.

²⁶ UNDP JPO Service Centre, *UNDP for Beginners: A Beginner's Guide to the United Nations Development Programme*, 2015, p. 4.

development.”²⁷ Importantly, as emphasized by General Assembly resolution 59/250, national governments retain “primary responsibility” for development within their countries.²⁸

The work of UNDP is carried out through its country offices, which are focused on helping countries develop policies, institutional abilities, leadership skills, and resilience to achieve poverty eradication and the reduction of inequalities.²⁹ 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.³⁰ To function effectively across the globe, UNDP works to strengthen partnerships, build capacity, and coordinate the UN’s development activities.

Partnerships

Partnerships are crucial to the work of UNDP.³¹ Partnerships within the UN system and with the private sector, Civil Society Organizations, financial institutions, and various foundations enable UNDP to finance its activities and carry out projects.³² Concerning conflicts, UNDP works with governments and local communities to prevent violence by promoting dialogue and laws that uphold human rights.³³ Environment and energy constitutes another area where partnerships are necessary, as the poorest are usually among those most affected by a lack of access to affordable energy, which inhibits sustainable environmental development and requires UNDP to focus on addressing this area on different levels.³⁴

Capacity-Building

Building capacity is a focus area that allows UNDP to enhance the performance of various institutions and projects.³⁵ This is necessary so that programs or initiatives within countries can strengthen development, public services, or aid.³⁶ For example, in the context of legal frameworks, UNDP, together with national partners, develops justice reforms and works on strategies to further access to legal aid services.³⁷ 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.³⁸

Coordination

With different organizations and entities involved in global development policies, it is important to coordinate their activities.³⁹ To that end, UNDP leads the UN Development Group (UNDG), which is an inter-agency group that coordinates all UN entities with responsibilities related to development.⁴⁰ Established in 1997 by the General Assembly, UNDG brings together 32 UN funds, offices, programmes, departments, and agencies to enhance coherence, efficiency, and effectiveness within the UN development system.⁴¹ UNDP also manages the Resident Coordinator (RC) system, which covers all UN entities that handle development-oriented operational activities.⁴² The RC system brings together the “different UN agencies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operational

²⁷ 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.

²⁸ UN General Assembly, *Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/59/250)*, 2005, p. 3.

²⁹ UNDP, *A world of development experience*, 2017.

³⁰ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 245.

³¹ UNDP, *Partners*, 2017.

³² *Ibid.*

³³ UNDP, *Crisis Prevention & Recovery*, 2017.

³⁴ UNDP, *Environment & Energy*, 2017.

³⁵ UNDP, *Capacity Development*, 2017.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ UNDP, *Democratic Governance*, 2017.

³⁸ UNDP, *Poverty Reduction*, 2017.

³⁹ UNDP, *Partners*, 2017.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ UNDG, *About the UNDG*, 2017; New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2016-17*, 2016, p. 245.

⁴² UNDG, *The UN resident coordinator*, 2016.

activities at the country level.⁴³ Together, UNDP and the RC system operationalize the development frameworks negotiated at the policy level and implement programs on the ground.⁴⁴

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

During 2017, UNDP has held the following meetings: Election of Bureau (16 January); first regular session (30 January-3 February); annual session (30 May-9 June); joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and the World Food Programme (WFP) (19 June); and the second regular session (5-11 September); all of these occurred in New York City.⁴⁵

First Regular Session

The first regular session adopted the working plan for 2017 and adopted a tentative working plan for the annual session 2017.⁴⁶ Furthermore, it adopted subsequent meeting for the rest of the year.⁴⁷ Among other topics, the session was used to discuss the new *Strategic Plan 2018-2021*, which is going to be the first strategic plan that incorporated the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.⁴⁸

Annual Session

The annual session took the following decision: The board made the request for analyzing and implementing efficiency and effectiveness indicators in order to make a follow-up of the new *Strategic Plan*.⁴⁹ Furthermore, it also addressed the topic on the evaluation of the *Strategic Plan 2014-2017* in order to analyze the budget implemented, the goals achieved, and incorporate the lessons learned.⁵⁰ It is important to mention that, in relation to evaluation, UNDP is seeking to adopt theories of change into its projects and programs in order to have the most accurate interventions for development strategies.⁵¹ Another request is to assess country offices in order to maintain coherence with UNDP policies and priorities among country offices.⁵²

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

Following the cooperation of these agencies, the joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP addressed two main issues: Operationalizing the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), specifically climate change and building resilience; and working with adolescents and youth to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁵³ In relation with the first topic, the common agreement is to foster the inter-agency cooperation in order to achieve more promising results.⁵⁴ Meanwhile in relation to the second topic, the acknowledgement of youth as a fundamental part for development was the core of the discussion, hence bringing together the patterns of interest from youth to align with the SDGs could be important to deliver successful results in 2030.⁵⁵

Finally, the second regular session had a provisional agenda based mainly on financial aspects for the new *Strategic Plan 2018-2021*.⁵⁶ Achim Steiner delivered a speech in which he pointed out several areas that are needed to

⁴³ UNDG, *The UN resident coordinator*, 2016.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ UNDP, *Schedule of meetings in 2017*, 2017.

⁴⁶ Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS, *Report of the first regular session 2017 (DP/2017/13)*, 2017, p. 2.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid., p. 4.

⁴⁹ Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS, *Decisions adopted by the Executive board at its annual session 2017 (DP/2017/29)*, 2017, p. 4.

⁵⁰ Ibid., p. 2.

⁵¹ Ibid., p. 4.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ UNFPA, *Joint meeting of the executive boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP*, 2017.

⁵⁴ UNDP et al, *Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, 19 June 2017, New York: Working with adolescents and youth to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2017, p. 3.

⁵⁵ UNDP et al, *Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, 19 June 2017, New York: Working with adolescents and youth to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2017, p. 2.

⁵⁶ Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS, *Provisional agenda, annotations, list of documents and workplan (DP/2017/L.3)*, 2017, p. 2.

improve the use of funding to meet the objectives of the new *Strategic Plan*: Accelerate delivery of top quality development results, strengthen the link between results and resources, leverage country office presence, articulate better the role of core funding, respond crises in a timely effective manner through sustainable development, and pursue continued efficiency.⁵⁷

Strategic Plan 2018-2021

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

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

Conclusion

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

⁵⁷ UNDP, *Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator, Statement to the 2nd Regular Session of the UNDP Executive Board*, 2017.

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

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

⁶² UNDP, *World leaders adopt Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015.

⁶³ UNDP, *Sustainable Development Goals*, 2017.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶⁵ SDGF, *About Us*, 2017.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

⁶⁷ UNDG, *The Sustainable Development Goals Are Coming to Life*, 2016.

⁶⁸ UNDP, *Sustainable Development Goals*, 2017.

⁶⁹ UNDP, *Annex 7: UNDP’s ‘Offer’ on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs*, 2016.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

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

⁷² *Ibid.*

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

Annotated Bibliography

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services. (2017). *Decisions adopted by the Executive board at its annual session 2017 (DP/2017/29)*. Retrieved 28 August 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/DP/2017/29>

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

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services. (2017). *UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (zero draft) (DP/2017/CRP.2)* [Draft Document]. Retrieved 28 August 2017 from:

<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Executive%20Board/2017/Second-regular-session/DP2017CRP2.docx>

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

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

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

United Nations Development Group. (2016). *The Sustainable Development Goals Are Coming to Life* [Report]. Retrieved 28 August 2017 from: <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/SDGs-are-Coming-to-Life-UNDG-1.pdf>

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

United Nations Development Programme, Junior Professional Officer Service Centre. (2015). *UNDP for Beginners: A Beginner's Guide to the United Nations Development Programme*. Retrieved 25 August 2017 from: http://www.jposc.org/documents/UNDP%20for%20Beginners/UNDP_for_Beginners_en.pdf

This guide is a comprehensive introduction to UNDP that explains key aspects such as its structure, development, and function. Furthermore, basic questions such as what UNDP does, what its internal entities do, principles of UNDP, and funding sources are discussed and

explained. This is a great starting point for delegates to gather basic information about the operations and organization of UNDP before dealing with more specific topics.

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

*“All people have the right to safe drinking water, sanitation, shelter and basic services. All people have the right to live with a sense of security.”*⁷³

Introduction

Currently, 884 million people do not have access to even a basic drinking water service, with at least 159 million dependent on groundwater.⁷⁴ The World Health Organization (WHO) defines safely managed drinking water as coming from an improved source with on-site availability, that is accessible when needed, and is free from any type of contamination; a basic drinking water service is service that does not meet the above points, but is accessible within 30 minutes of travel roundtrip.⁷⁵ WHO also refers to an “improved drinking water source” as “one [drinking water source] that by nature of its construction adequately protects the source from outside contamination, in particular from fecal matter.”⁷⁶ Additionally, nearly 3 billion people worldwide do not have access to sanitation due to unclean sources of water.⁷⁷ One of the ongoing issues with clean water access is its lack of universality.⁷⁸ In 2015, it was reported that basic services have been achieved by nearly 80% of Member States.⁷⁹ On a regional level, the regions with the highest access are North America and Europe, in which 99% of people have at least a basic drinking water service.⁸⁰ This differs from Sub-Saharan Africa, where just over half of individuals have access to a basic drinking water service.⁸¹ In July 2017, WHO and the United Nations (UN) Children’s Fund (UNICEF) released a statement on behalf of their Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), an organization created in partnership between UNICEF and WHO dedicated to clean water and sanitation monitoring, which concluded that too many people do not have access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services, mainly in rural areas.⁸²

In 2015, the World Bank updated the definition of the poverty line to \$1.90 per day, with those who make less than this amount classified as below the poverty line.⁸³ Between 1981 and 2013, the percentage of the global population at or below the poverty line has dropped by nearly 30%.⁸⁴ The relationship between clean water access and poverty eradication is a causal one, with clean water leading to decreases in poverty rates.⁸⁵ Furthermore, poverty is closely linked to clean water access, as a lack of access to clean water contributes to inadequate food supplies, educational opportunities, and health accessibility, each a vital component of livelihood and economic security.⁸⁶ The UN Development Programme (UNDP) is committed to providing access to clean water as a tool in eradicating poverty.⁸⁷

International and Regional Framework

The UN remains committed to development, specifically in the field of clean water access and poverty reduction.⁸⁸ This is already highlighted by Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948), which calls for the universal “right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being” of individuals.⁸⁹ Reaffirming the commitments made in the UDHR on the right to livelihood, in 1977 the UN hosted the UN Water Conference in

⁷³ UN DPI, *Secretary-General, in Message to Fifth World Urban Forum, Calls Slum Conditions “A Violation of Human Rights”* (SG/SM/12797), 2014.

⁷⁴ WHO, *Drinking Water Fact Sheet*, 2017.

⁷⁵ WHO, *Monitoring Drinking-Water*, 2017.

⁷⁶ WHO, *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water: Fast Facts*, 2017.

⁷⁷ Lifewater, *Water and Poverty: How Access to Safe Water Reduces Poverty*, 2017.

⁷⁸ UNICEF, *Drinking Water: Current Status + Progress*, 2017.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

⁸⁰ WHO & UNICEF, *Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 2017 Update and SDG Baselines*, 2017, p. 104.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

⁸² WHO, *2.1 Billion People Lack Safe Drinking Water at Home, More than Twice as Many Lack Safe Sanitation*, 2017.

⁸³ The World Bank, *World Bank Forecasts Global Poverty to Fall Below 10% for First Time; Major Hurdles Remain in Goal to End Poverty by 2030*, 2015.

⁸⁴ The World Bank, *Poverty*, 2017.

⁸⁵ UN DESA, *International Decade for Action “Water for Life” 2005-2015*, 2017.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

⁸⁷ UNDP, *Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation*, 2017.

⁸⁸ UN DESA, *International Decade for Action “Water for Life” 2005-2015*, 2017.

⁸⁹ UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/211 A (III))*, 1948, p. 7.

Mar del Plata, Argentina.⁹⁰ The work of the Conference produced an outcome document, the *Mar del Plata Action Plan*.⁹¹ Participants of the conference recognized the difficulty of establishing adequate water resource management, but underscored the necessity of it to ensure a better quality of life and the promotion of human dignity by deliberate and specific actions taken at the national, regional, and international levels.⁹² The Water Conference was attended by representatives of 116 Member States, several UN Secretariat departments, 63 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and various UN agencies such as UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).⁹³

In 1986, the *Declaration on the Right to Development* (DRD) was adopted by the General Assembly.⁹⁴ In this Declaration, Member States emphasized development as an inalienable and a natural right, with the central subject of development being the “human person” who in turn possesses a responsibility for development through the promotion and protection of political, social, and economic rights.⁹⁵ In 2000, the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/175 on “The Right to Development,” reaffirming the commitments laid down in Article 8 of the DRD.⁹⁶ Article 8, which called for Member States to bear responsibility for equal access to basic resources, also reiterated the right to clean water as a foundational human right.⁹⁷

Expanding on the work of the UN Water Conference, the 1992 International Conference on Water and the Environment (ICWE) was held in Dublin, Ireland.⁹⁸ This conference addressed ongoing issues of water security and lack of access to clean water as a deterrent to livelihoods.⁹⁹ 500 participants from a variety of backgrounds ranging from governmental experts to civil society, including NGOs, addressed the matter, demonstrating the significance of the matter.¹⁰⁰ Together, the participants produced an outcome document based on the work of the conference, *The Dublin Statement*.¹⁰¹ This document is based on four guiding principles: fresh water is a necessary limited resource vital to survival and sustainable development; water infrastructure development should include a series of parties from both the public and private sectors; women hold a vital role in the procurement and distribution of water; and water has a financial value and therefore ought to be treated as a commodity.¹⁰² Based on the four guiding principles, the conference expressed a series of recommendations, one of which addressed the role of clean water management in poverty alleviation.¹⁰³ This recommendation called for water resource management to be prioritized in order to address the accelerated procurement of food, water, and sanitation to those most in need within developing regions.¹⁰⁴

Acknowledgement of the human right to water as a fundamental right increased following the November 2002 adoption of General Comment Number 15 on the right to water by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).¹⁰⁵ General Comment 15 reiterated the language already outlining the human right to water, such as the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) (1979) and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) (1989).¹⁰⁶ The UN has further been responsible for many major development initiatives, which have brought together the international community surrounding the necessity to

⁹⁰ UN Water Conference, *Report of the United Nations Water Conference (E/CONF.70/29)*, 1977.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ UN General Assembly, *Declaration on the Right to Development (A/RES/41/128)*, 1986, p. 186.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ UN General Assembly, *The Right to Development (A/RES/54/175)*, 2000, p. 1.

⁹⁷ UN OHCHR, *The Right to Water: Fact Sheet 35*, 2010, p. 3.

⁹⁸ UN ICWE, *The Dublin Statement and Report of the Conference*, 2002.

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid., p. vii.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Ibid., p. 4.

¹⁰³ UN Water Conference, *Report of the United Nations Water Conference (E/CONF.70/29)*, 1977.

¹⁰⁴ UN ICWE, *The Dublin Statement and Report of the Conference*, 2002.

¹⁰⁵ UN CESCR, *General Comment No. 15 (2002): The right to water (arts. 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) (E/C.12/2002/11)*, 2002.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.; UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979; UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/RES/44/25)*, 1989.

provide for poverty reduction and eradication.¹⁰⁷ In 2000, the adoption of the UN *Millennium Declaration* led toward the creation of development goals dedicated to address the needs of the world's poorest.¹⁰⁸ These goals were named the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).¹⁰⁹ The first of these eight goals was to "Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger," and between 2000 and 2015, extreme poverty decreased nearly 40%.¹¹⁰

The UN reaffirmed their commitment to development with the adoption of *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in 2015, which established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).¹¹¹ One of the core principles of the SDGs is to ensure longevity, rather than short-term actions.¹¹² Of the 17 SDGs, several address the cross-cutting issue of poverty, specifically Goal 1, which calls for an end to poverty in all its forms.¹¹³ Under Goal 1, Target 1.4 calls for equal access to economic resources for all, especially focused on poor and vulnerable populations.¹¹⁴ In addition to SDG 1, the importance of SDG 6 "Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All" holds significance as well.¹¹⁵ SDG 6 places a major emphasis on possible ways to ensure access to safe water.¹¹⁶ Target 6.1 specifically calls for the achievement of access for all to safe and affordable water.¹¹⁷

Role of the International System

The work of UNDP is divided into three categories: Sustainable Development, Democratic Governance and Peacebuilding, and Climate and Disaster Resilience.¹¹⁸ Expanding on the role of UNDP, many advancements have been made in the field of sustainable development and livelihood promotion.¹¹⁹ UNDP has placed a significant focus on securing clean water access as a tool of poverty reduction through economic revitalization.¹²⁰ In the 2015 to 2016 reporting period, UNDP reported on their work in the Lake Prespa Basin region of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.¹²¹ 70% of the population of the region is dependent on agriculture as the main economic stabilizing function, with apple farming as one of the main industries reliant on the water from the lake for their economic stability and growth.¹²² Due to the mass production of apple crops in the region, increasing pesticide usage has been reported by farmers.¹²³ The application of pesticides to apples produced a conflict when apples were dumped into the lake, as well as runoff from pesticides drained into the water supply.¹²⁴ In response to the problems posed, UNDP worked with farmers and the local government of the town of Resen, where the lake is located, to develop more suitable farming practices and ecosystem management.¹²⁵ Through these actions, Lake Prespa has seen an improvement in water quality, as well as a recovery by indigenous fish populations, due to a drastic reduction of pesticide usage each season.¹²⁶ On a more longitudinal approach, UNDP, in coordination with the Swiss Development Corporation, introduced a Lake Monitoring System and Management System that includes space to conduct water quality testing for upcoming years.¹²⁷

¹⁰⁷ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

¹⁰⁸ UN DPI, *We Can End Poverty: Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015*, 2017.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁰ UN DPI, *The Millennium Development Goals Report: 2015*, 2015.

¹¹¹ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

¹¹² UNDP, *Sustainable Development Goals*, 2017.

¹¹³ UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 1: End Poverty in All its Forms Everywhere*, 2017.

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁵ UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All*, 2017.

¹¹⁶ UNDP, *Goal 6 Targets*, 2017.

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁸ UNDP, *Frequently Asked Questions*, 2017.

¹¹⁹ UNDP, *Sustainable Development*, 2017.

¹²⁰ UNDP, *UNDP in Focus 2015/2016: Looking Forward: Building Partnerships for a Better Future*, 2016, p. 13.

¹²¹ UNDP, *Restoring hope in the future for Prespa Lake, FYR Macedonia*, 2017.

¹²² *Ibid.*

¹²³ *Ibid.*

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*

¹²⁶ UNDP, *UNDP in Focus 2015/2016: Looking Forward: Building Partnerships for a Better Future*, 2016, p. 13.

¹²⁷ UNDP, *Restoring hope in the future for Prespa Lake, FYR Macedonia*, 2017.

Other UN agencies also place an emphasis on sustainable development across different topical areas, including UN-Water, which addresses water development through policymaking and comprehensive monitoring and reporting mechanisms.¹²⁸ As part of its mission, UN-Water categorizes its work into three areas: Inform Policies, Monitor and Report, and Inspire Action.¹²⁹ Addressing the importance of monitoring and reporting, in coordination with UNDP, UN-Water initiated the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 in 2015, coinciding with the SDGs.¹³⁰ Complementing the established partnership between UNDP and UN-Water, the Integrated Monitoring Initiative brings together the custodian agencies of the SDG 6 global indicators, which include the work of JMP, the inter-agency Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative (GEMI), and the UN-Water/World Health Organization (WHO) Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS), which each provide annual reports on the status of clean water access.¹³¹ By working in conjunction with one another, the reports are produced independently and can be cross-checked against one another in order to determine certain recurring patterns and themes which need to be addressed most urgently.¹³²

Under the “Inspire Action” pillar, on an annual basis UN-Water, in coordination with UNDP, organizes the World Water Day, a global day of action every 22 March to inspire and give opportunities to the international community in order to motivate action on the topic of water.¹³³ Additionally, the pillar addresses water in the sanitation field, as well, with 19 November being World Toilet Day.¹³⁴ Between World Water Day and World Toilet Day 2017, hundreds of events were planned and executed by UN-Water, Member States, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).¹³⁵ Around the globe, events for both days have included bus tours in Palestine, school presentations and the distribution of desalination kits in sub-Saharan African countries, and an inaugural World Toilet Summit in Australia that brought together government leaders and civil society to discuss the necessity to provide clean water in the field of sanitation to prevent illnesses correlated with poverty.¹³⁶ The final pillar of UN-Water is “Inform Policies,” under which UN-Water provides expert briefings to the General Assembly and NGOs regarding the field of clean water accessibility.¹³⁷ Most recently, UN-Water’s input to the General Assembly led to the High-Level Panel on Water (HLPW).¹³⁸ The HLPW was introduced by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank Group President Jim Kim at the Davos World Economic Forum in January 2016, with the work of the body initially having a two-year time frame.¹³⁹ In the Background Note for the HLPW, four major themes for the biennium are outlined.¹⁴⁰ The two most correlated to poverty eradication call for universal responsibility for water management, pointing out the relationships between water access and food security, educational attainment, and employment opportunities, each a determinant of poverty.¹⁴¹ Furthermore, the second commitment places a vested interest in water over a longitudinal period.¹⁴²

In 2008, WHO issued the GLAAS pilot report showcasing the lack of a comprehensive and unified analysis tool across different levels of governance.¹⁴³ The global partnership Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) consists of over 170 Member States, private sector partners, CSOs, and learning and research institutions, and bridges the gap between public and private efforts.¹⁴⁴ SWA holds biennial High-Level Meetings (HLMs), with the most recent being in 2017.¹⁴⁵ The 2017 HLM produced a series of ministerial dialogues, with discussion focused on the topic of

¹²⁸ UN-Water, *About United Nations Water*, 2017.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*

¹³⁰ UN-Water, *Monitor and Report*, 2017.

¹³¹ UN-Water, *Integrated Monitoring*, 2017.

¹³² *Ibid.*, WHO, *UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water*, 2017.

¹³³ UN-Water, *22 March: World Water Day*, 2017.

¹³⁴ UN-Water, *19 November: World Toilet Day: 2017*, 2017.

¹³⁵ UN-Water, *22 March: World Water Day*, 2017; UN-Water, *19 November: World Toilet Day: 2017*, 2017.

¹³⁶ UN-Water, *World Water Day Events*, 2017; UN-Water, *19 November: World Toilet Day Events*, 2017.

¹³⁷ UN-Water, *Inform Policies*, 2017.

¹³⁸ UN DESA, *High Level Panel on Water – Background Note*.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 1, 3.

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

¹⁴² *Ibid.*, p. 2.

¹⁴³ WHO, *GLAAS 2008 Pilot Report*, 2017.

¹⁴⁴ SWA, *About SWA*, 2017.

¹⁴⁵ SWA, *2017 High-level Meetings*, 2017.

“Achieving safely managed sanitation services while eliminating inequalities.”¹⁴⁶ Through these dialogues, a relationship was established between education, economic development, and sanitation.¹⁴⁷ These HLMs work to serve as a means for dialogue between national ministers to work together toward a solution while proposing policy implementation and programmatic elements that can be brought to the individual Member State for application.¹⁴⁸

In response to General Comment 15, the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted Decision 2/10 on 27 November 2006 on “Human rights and access to water,” calling for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to conduct a study on the extent to which human rights obligations related to safe drinking water access are implemented.¹⁴⁹ The findings of OHCHR led HRC to adopt resolution 7/22 in 2008, which called for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur “on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation” for a period of three years.¹⁵⁰ OHCHR appointed Catarina de Albuquerque in 2008 as the first Special Rapporteur, tasked with upholding the mandate of the position.¹⁵¹ The Special Rapporteur is responsible for developing dialogue with Member States, non-state actors, and CSOs, creating a compilation of best practices in the field.¹⁵² Following the conclusion of the initial period of the Special Rapporteur, a new Rapporteur, Mr. Leo Heller, was appointed to the position in 2014, continuing the annual reporting to the General Assembly.¹⁵³

In July 2017, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was held in New York City, where SDG 1 was discussed as part of the agenda.¹⁵⁴ Emerging from the 2017 HLPF, a *Ministerial Declaration* addressed the relationship between poverty eradication and infrastructure, including clean water access.¹⁵⁵ In the months leading to the HLPF, states could submit Voluntary National Reports (VNRs).¹⁵⁶ In 2017, 43 Member States had submitted reports to the HLPF.¹⁵⁷ These reports address the commitments made by states to the implementation of the SDGs, and provide brief summaries of actions taken by countries to meet the SDGs.¹⁵⁸ The 2018 HLPF will focus its attention on the implementation of SDG 6 more closely with the theme of “Transformation toward sustainable and resilient societies.”¹⁵⁹ For the upcoming 2018 HLPF meeting, 48 Member States are anticipated to submit VNRs prior to the meeting.¹⁶⁰

Clean Water as a Tool for Poverty Reduction

When discussing poverty, the World Bank definition using daily income is the main indicator that is utilized to classify one as living in poverty.¹⁶¹ However, metrics such as the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) provide a deeper understanding of the interrelated dimensions of poverty.¹⁶² The three dimensions of health, education, and standard of living are classified as three distinct dimensions; however, there is an overlap between them.¹⁶³ Under the dimension of health, the indicators which are tested include nutrition and child mortality.¹⁶⁴ Under the dimension of standard of living, two of the indicators are toilets and water; despite these being classified

¹⁴⁶ SWA, *2017 High-level Meetings Summary Report*, 2017, p. 5.

¹⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁸ SWA, *2017 High-level Meetings*, 2017.

¹⁴⁹ UN HRC, *Human Rights and Access to Water (Decision 2/104)*, 2006.

¹⁵⁰ UN HRC, *Human Rights and Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation (A/HRC/7/22)*, 2008.

¹⁵¹ OHCHR, *Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, former Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation*, 2017.

¹⁵² OHCHR, *Overview of the Mandate*, 2017.

¹⁵³ OHCHR, *Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation*, 2017.

¹⁵⁴ UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 1: End Poverty in All its Forms Everywhere*, 2017.

¹⁵⁵ UN HLPF, *Ministerial Declaration of the 2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, Convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, on the theme “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world,”* 2017, p. 6.

¹⁵⁶ UN DESA, *Voluntary National Reviews*, 2017.

¹⁵⁷ UN HLPF, *2017 Voluntary National Reviews: Compilation of Main Messages*, 2017.

¹⁵⁸ UN DESA, *Voluntary National Reviews*, 2017.

¹⁵⁹ UN DESA, *Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals*, 2017.

¹⁶⁰ UN DESA, *Voluntary National Reviews*, 2017.

¹⁶¹ The World Bank, *Poverty*, 2017.

¹⁶² UNDP, *Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)*, 2017.

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁴ UNDP, *Technical Notes*, 2017.

as one category, the role of water is one which can fall under the dimensions of health, education, and standard of living.¹⁶⁵ Lastly, the educational dimensions measure both years of schooling and enrollment rates.¹⁶⁶

The World Bank classifies one of the major determinants of poverty on a household level as “employment status,” drawing a relationship that higher levels of education and enrollment have a positive correlation with increased rates of employment, leading to a decline in poverty rates.¹⁶⁷ JMP concludes that clean water access is lowest in primary schools, with a gradual increase at the intermediate and secondary levels.¹⁶⁸ The relation drawn here is that the lack of access to clean water at school can lead to waterborne illness and sanitation problems from a lack of hygiene, causing increased absences from school.¹⁶⁹ This ultimately leads to lower employment prospects due to the lack of education received.¹⁷⁰ UNICEF visited the small village of Lepará, Honduras, in 2012 to conduct an evaluation of the community’s transformation since clean water and sanitation infrastructure was implemented.¹⁷¹ One of their interviews conducted with a 12-year-old boy had demonstrated the challenge that a lack of clean water places on education, as the boy was quoted telling UNICEF staff: “Before, we had to go very early to collect spring water. We walked for a long time to the spring and home again...I know several children who went to fill water jugs each morning. That’s why they could not always come to school.”¹⁷² Lack of access to clean drinking water impacts children who often need to gather water, which reduces their ability to receive quality education, potentially harming employment prospects, thus continuing the cycle of poverty.¹⁷³

One NGO that has achievements on the topic of clean water is the Maji Safi Group, who focuses their work in Tanzania, a water vulnerable state.¹⁷⁴ Their ten programmatic areas include community health educators, community outreach, and female hygiene.¹⁷⁵ More closely assessing the community outreach pillar, progress toward SDG 6 and general water security has been achieved through involvement with the government, especially following the cholera outbreaks in 2015 and 2016.¹⁷⁶ Maji Safi further acts to meet the goals through their community health educators, who hold meetings with groups of individuals of importance such as fishermen and farmers in order to educate and work together toward actions which can be taken to limit disease and unclean water distribution.¹⁷⁷

The Human Right to Sanitation

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

¹⁶⁵ UNDP, *Technical Notes*, 2017.

¹⁶⁶ UNDP, *Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)*, 2017.

¹⁶⁷ The World Bank, *Chapter 8: Understanding the Determinants of Poverty*, 2005, p. 124.

¹⁶⁸ WHO & UNICEF, *Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 2017 Update and SDG Baselines*, 2017, p. 45.

¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁷¹ UNICEF, *Field Diary: Clean Water Improves Health and Education for Children in Cerritos II, Honduras*, 2012.

¹⁷² *Ibid.*

¹⁷³ The World Bank, *Chapter 8: Understanding the Determinants of Poverty*, 2005, p. 124.

¹⁷⁴ Maji Safi Group, *Tanzania Programs*.

¹⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁶ Maji Safi Group, *Community Outreach*.

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁸ WHO & UNICEF, *Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 2017 Update and SDG Baselines*, 2017, p. 18.

¹⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁰ WHO, *Gender and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene in Emergencies*, 2006, p. 1.

¹⁸¹ UNICEF, *Gender and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)*.

¹⁸² *Ibid.*

violence and sexual assault in situations where the nearest location for means of waste disposal is not in the immediate vicinity of the home, making women and girls more susceptible to be targeted en route.¹⁸³ WHO confirms that there have been occurrences of women and girls tasked with the responsibility of water procurement being attacked during their travel for water.¹⁸⁴

Understanding the importance of adequate sanitation, the Interagency Task Force on Gender and Water (GWTF) produced a policy brief in 2006 for the International Decade for Action “Water for Life,” emphasizing the importance of adequate sanitation.¹⁸⁵ This is especially important in schools in order to provide greater opportunities for girls to receive an education, as well as to provide safe and appropriate space which enables young girls and young women to learn about the necessity for hygiene.¹⁸⁶ In response to the increased demand for sanitation, largely for vulnerable groups, the policy brief called for increased capacity-building between the international community, mainly UN-Water and national governments in conjunction with the citizenry of under-developed countries.¹⁸⁷ GWTF further explained that women are oftentimes under-represented in negotiations, despite often being the individuals who deal with access issues and lack of provision of water from external sources.¹⁸⁸ Through capacity-building, the policy brief called for hands-on training and inclusion of women as decision-makers and actors in the process of securing clean drinking water and adequate sanitation, as the main operators of water development and access.¹⁸⁹ GWTF discussed the case of an area of India where latrines had fallen into extreme disrepair; this led to the discovery of worms and other parasites from feces to be found often times near water taps, creating a larger issue, as the water source posed a health risk due to weakened sanitation infrastructure.¹⁹⁰ Community members worked alongside the NGO Gramalaya, which had expressed the need for drinking water facilities and individual toilets, rather than communal facilities, to be installed.¹⁹¹ This project brought together many partnerships with Gramalaya, which contributed to the efforts of capacity building through including women in the installation and construction process, and partnering with the NGO WaterAid, which provided the material items and offset costs.¹⁹²

Conclusion

Increased capacity-building and viable water sources are critical components to the work of successful poverty eradication.¹⁹³ Poverty eradication in all forms remains a thematic priority of the UN’s work; yet millions are still living in poverty without access to services and resources like clean drinking water.¹⁹⁴ Increased access to clean drinking water through the formation of viable networks and infrastructure is a crucial step toward the full eradication of poverty, especially in the developing world.¹⁹⁵ UNDP and other UN agencies have shown an ongoing commitment to the eradication of poverty across various thematic and topical areas; however, major reform and infrastructure are still needed.¹⁹⁶ Sustainable development in the field of clean water access and water security calls for capacity-building and innovative ways to be inclusive in order to eradicate poverty.¹⁹⁷

Further Research

Eliminating poverty and promoting global livelihoods through clean water access remains a core effort of the UN. Moving forward, delegates should consider questions such as: What strategies can UNDP and other UN agencies further utilize to ensure that universal clean water access becomes a reality by 2030? How can strategies be best implemented to ensure that the most vulnerable receive the necessary support in enough time? Is there a greater role

¹⁸³ WHO, *Gender and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene in Emergencies*, 2006, p. 1.

¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁵ UN-Water, *Gender, Water and Sanitation: A Policy Brief*, 2006, p. 2.

¹⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

¹⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

¹⁹¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁹² *Ibid.*

¹⁹³ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

¹⁹⁴ WHO, *Drinking Water*, 2017.

¹⁹⁵ UN-Water, *Monitor and Report*, 2017.

¹⁹⁶ UNDP, *Our Work*, 2017.

¹⁹⁷ UN-Water, *Gender, Water and Sanitation: A Policy Brief*, 2006.

that developed Member States can play? How can UNDP create further dialogue with various non-state actors, including civil society and NGOs, to adequately combat the challenges of clean water access and implementation?

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<http://sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/>

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

United Nations Children's Fund. (n.d.). *Gender and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)*. Retrieved 29 August 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/esaro/7310_Gender_and_WASH.html

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

United Nations Children's Fund. (2012, May 21). *Field Diary: Clean Water Improves Health and Education for Children in Cerritos II, Honduras* [Press Release]. Retrieved 29 August 2017 from:

https://www.unicef.org/health/honduras_62483.html

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

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2017). *International Decade for Action "Water for Life" 2005-2015* [Website]. Retrieved 19 August 2017 from:

<http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/background.shtml>

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

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2017). *Sustainable Development Goal 1: End Poverty in All its Forms Everywhere* [Website]. Retrieved on 22 August 2017 from:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg1>

This Sustainable Development Goal 1 webpage is managed by UN DESA. This site provides a more specific focus on SDG 1 from the main SDG webpage, focusing specifically on the progress

reports in both 2016 and 2017 on the progress of meeting SDG 1. More specifically, delegates should place an emphasis on the 2017 Progress & Info tab and Targets & Indicators tab, both of which discuss the progress and objectives of the goal. Delegates seeking to understand more specifically the detailed language of the goal and indicators being measured to reach implementation should consult this source to find information and a link to the 2017 Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of the SDGs.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2017). *The Millennium Development Goals Report: 2015*. Retrieved 22 August 2017 from:

<https://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2015/English2015.pdf>

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

United Nations Development Programme. (2016). *UNDP in Focus 2015/2016: Looking Forward: Building Partnerships for a Better Future* [Report]. Retrieved 27 September 2017 from:

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/overview/_jcr_content/successStoryPar/developmentreport_0/file.res/In%20Focus%202016_En.pdf

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

United Nations, International Conference on Water and Development. (1992). *The Dublin Statement and Report of the Conference*. Retrieved 19 September 2017 from: <https://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/71-ICWE92-9739.pdf>

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

The World Bank. (2005). *Chapter 8: Understanding the Determinants of Poverty*. Retrieved 28 August 2017 from: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PGLP/Resources/PMch8.pdf>

This chapter is a part of a larger text published by The World Bank entitled "Introduction to Poverty Analysis." In this chapter, the focus is on the core factors which are determinants of poverty, classifying them into three core characteristic categories to more easily understand the components. Chapter 8: Understanding the Determinants of Poverty is an informative text that delegates should consult to better acquaint themselves with the core factors of poverty, a major

issue of UNDP's agenda. For further research, delegates can find the entirety of the text, which discusses different topical aspects of poverty.

World Health Organization. (2017). *UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water* [Website]. Retrieved 26 August 2017 from:

http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/investments/glaas/en/

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

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II. Sustainable Cities and Transportation: A Bridge to Development

Introduction

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

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

International and Regional Framework

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

¹⁹⁸ UN DPI, *Sustainable Development Goal 11: Make Cities Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable*.

¹⁹⁹ UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2016, p. 1.

²⁰⁰ Ibid.

²⁰¹ Ibid.

²⁰² UN DESA, *Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements*.

²⁰³ UN SDSN, *Why the World Needs an Urban Sustainable Development Goal*, 2013, p. 2.

²⁰⁴ UN DESA, *Sustainable Transport*.

²⁰⁵ UN General Assembly, *Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development (A/RES/69/213)*, 2015, p. 1.

²⁰⁶ UN SG's HLAG-ST, *Mobilizing Sustainable Transport for Development*, 2016, p. 14.

²⁰⁷ UN SDSN, *Why the World Needs an Urban Sustainable Development Goal*, 2013, p. 2.

²⁰⁸ UN DESA, *Sustainable transport at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*.

²⁰⁹ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

²¹⁰ UN WCED, *Our Common Future (Brundtland Report) (A/42/427)*, 1987.

²¹¹ Ibid.

²¹² UNCED, *Agenda 21*, 1992, p. 7.

²¹³ UN CSD, *Framing Sustainable Development: The Brundtland Report - 20 Years On*, 2007, p. 1.

urban areas in global development, by highlighting the role of cities as catalysts of innovation, change, and growth.²¹⁴ *Agenda 21* also recognized the important role of transportation in creating sustainable living spaces, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reinforced that recognition in 1996 during the Towards Sustainable Transportation Conference in Vancouver, Canada.²¹⁵ The latter served as the first common platform where governments and the private sector discussed global priorities for transportation systems in both developing and developed countries, highlighting challenges such as congestion, pollution, and road mortality.²¹⁶ *Agenda 21* also furthered the discussion on sustainable transport by characterizing transportation as a major development challenge in its Chapter 7 on “Human Settlements” and Chapter 9 on “Atmosphere.”²¹⁷ The link between sustainable development and urbanization was further discussed in 1996, at the Second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul.²¹⁸ In its outcome document, the *Istanbul Declaration*, participants attempted to define sustainable cities with a focus on the eradication of the unsustainable use and production of resources; one of the core objectives was also to focus on adequate shelters and livable and safer cities.²¹⁹

More recently, the link between cities, transport, and development was discussed at several important conferences and summits.²²⁰ The outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), *The Future We Want* (2012), identified severe threats to global development and highlighted the role of local and regional efforts to achieve a sustainable vision for cities.²²¹ Recently, in 2014, the World Urban Forum (WUF 7) gathered in Medellin, Colombia, and proposed ways in which the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and its partners can encourage the development of sustainable cities.²²² In 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and its 17 SDGs.²²³ The most relevant SDGs to the discussion on sustainable cities and transport are SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 11 (Cities, Their Inclusiveness, Readiness and Sustainability).²²⁴ This milestone was reinforced in 2015 by the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which adopted the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA) and thereby developed a global strategy to secure financial resources for sustainable cities’ activities, channeling private sector investment, and driving deeper commitments from key actors.²²⁵ The Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), organized in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016, resulted in the adoption of the *New Urban Agenda*.²²⁶ The *New Urban Agenda* presents a new global urban strategy highlighting the challenges and opportunities related to current urbanization trends.²²⁷ The *New Urban Agenda* includes the *Quito Implementation Plan* which includes commitments to support the *New Urban Agenda* and work toward sustainable development.²²⁸

Furthermore, the integration of sustainable transport in global discussions and policymaking for sustainable development was at the center of the 2016 Global Sustainable Transport Conference at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, with specific links with SDG 7 and 11.²²⁹ The Global Sustainable Transport Conference was the first conference to gather multiple stakeholders, including local and national governments, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the international community, and to acknowledge the pivotal role of transport in seeking solutions to reduce environmental impact such as GHG emissions, waste production, and encouraging the adoption of an inclusive approach to urban development.²³⁰ The outcome document of the conference, the *Ashgabat Statement*, highlighted

²¹⁴ UNCED, *Agenda 21*, 1992, p. 7.

²¹⁵ OECD, *Towards Sustainable Transportation: The Vancouver Conference*, 1996, p. 10.

²¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 35.

²¹⁷ UNCED, *Agenda 21*, 1992, p. 7.

²¹⁸ McGarahan & Satterthwaite, *Urbanization Concepts and Trends*, 2014, p. 8.

²¹⁹ UN-Habitat, *The Habitat Agenda: Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements*, 1996.

²²⁰ UN General Assembly, *The Future We Want* (A/RES/66/288), 2012.

²²¹ *Ibid.*

²²² UN-Habitat, *WUF Past Sessions; IISD, Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF 9)*, 2017.

²²³ UN DESA, *Sustainable cities and human settlements*.

²²⁴ *Ibid.*

²²⁵ 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.

²²⁶ UN Habitat III, *The Conference*.

²²⁷ UN Habitat III, *Urban Agenda*, 2017, p. 20.

²²⁸ UN Habitat III, *The Conference*.

²²⁹ UN DESA, *Global Sustainable Transport Conference*.

²³⁰ UNRIC, *First ever UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference convened in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan*, 2016.

the need to shift to cleaner and greener transportation systems while encouraging the use of energy-efficient technology and innovative approaches to achieve sustainable transport.²³¹

Role of the International System

In 2013, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) adopted a new Urbanization Strategy for cities, allowing a more integrated approach to urban challenges mainly focusing on housing, waste management, and congestion.²³² The adopted three-year (2014 to 2017) strategic plan laid out the technical and financial support that can be provided by UNDP to achieve the expected national and local policy reforms from the *New Urban Agenda*.²³³ In the strategy, UNDP recognized the important role of cities in energy consumption and production, and thereby reinforced its commitment to bridging the gap between rapidly growing cities and sustainable development patterns.²³⁴ UNDP looks to support existing partners and tools to integrate a cross-link to development in urban planning, implementation, and management.²³⁵ UNDP works closely with other UN bodies such as UN-Habitat and UN Environment, as well as external partners such as the World Bank, to ensure the development of socially- and environmentally-sustainable cities.²³⁶

Established in 1978, UN-Habitat has been a main UN agency supporting human settlements and urban development across the world, with a focus on the development of sustainable urban areas and core objectives on adequate, affordable, and safe housing, as well as an upgrading program for slums.²³⁷ UN-Habitat supports cities and towns using three distinct approaches: technical support, local and national government strategy implementation, as well as recommendations for good governance.²³⁸ Programs such as the Cities Resilience Profiling Programme have been created to provide cities with the adequate tools and guidelines to assess and monitor their resilience level to climate change events; since its launch, 10 cities across the world, including Barcelona, Tehran, and Dar es Salaam, have utilized this program.²³⁹

Moreover, the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) is a joint program of UN-Habitat and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), providing capacity-building and technical support to reduce the environmental impact of waste production in urban areas.²⁴⁰ Through SCP, UNDP, other UN bodies, the World Bank, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom assisted countries in implemented tailored urban strategies to urban areas while emphasizing environmentally-sustainable growth.²⁴¹ Furthermore, the Cities Prospective Initiative (CPI) is a global initiative launched by UN-Habitat that aims to provide a monitoring platform tracking the evolution of the implementation of SDG 11.²⁴² To further the promotion of sustainable cities, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 68/239 (2013), in which every 31 October has been designated as World Cities Day.²⁴³

To support the implementation of sustainable alternatives in urban transport systems, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched in 2014 the UN High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport (HLAG-ST) to develop guidelines for sustainable transport systems that can mitigate current challenges such as pollution and congestion.²⁴⁴ A report was published the by HLAG-ST in 2016, *Mobilizing Sustainable Transport for Development*, providing an

²³¹ UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference, *Ashgabat Statement on Commitments and Policy Recommendations of the Global Sustainable Transport Conference*.

²³² UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2016, p. 12.

²³³ *Ibid.*, p. 40.

²³⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 12.

²³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 22.

²³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 50.

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

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

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

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

²⁴¹ Gebre-Egziabher, *Sustainable Cities Programme: A Joint UN-HABITAT-UNEP Facility on the Urban Environment with Participation of the Dutch Government*, 2004.

²⁴² UN-Habitat, *City Prosperity Initiative*.

²⁴³ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/RES/68/439)*, 2013; UN DPI, *World Cities Day: 31 October*.

²⁴⁴ UN DESA, *Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport*.

analytical overview to improving urban planning and decision-making.²⁴⁵ Similarly, the UN Action Network on Sustainable Transport was created to allow governments and the private sector to collaborate and share information on sustainable transport via the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.²⁴⁶ The latter integrates different initiatives on sustainability, low carbon, and governance to foster a sustainable strategic planning.²⁴⁷ In 2014, the European Commission launched the Sustainable Transport Forum, a platform to allow governments and the private sector to discuss alternative transportation systems and finalize the development of a strategy on clean power for transportation.²⁴⁸ Similarly, in September 2016, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport (GPST) was created between the UN and an independent organization, the International Road Transport Union (IRU), as a primary tool to implement sustainable development transportation systems.²⁴⁹

Sustainable Cities

The growth of cities is often linked to greater economic opportunities leading to an increasing use of resources.²⁵⁰ But when planned poorly, urbanization can negatively impact cities by intensifying population growth, pollution, and inequality.²⁵¹ In many developing countries, cities are growing faster than the infrastructure and financial resources needed to support them.²⁵² This situation is alarming, considering that UN-Habitat predicts a large urban population increase in the next decade.²⁵³ Unsustainable cities can cause important stress on housing allocation, leading to the creation and expansion of informal settlements, often known as slums.²⁵⁴ Slums are a neglected portion of a city with poor housing and living conditions, lacking basic municipal and health services.²⁵⁵ Slums are different across the world, but most are built on lands with no legal claim and minimal urban planning.²⁵⁶ According to UN-Habitat, there are about one billion people who live in slums and do not have basic services, and the number is expected to increase by 2050.²⁵⁷ The rapid migration of people to urban areas, as well as natural population growth in unprepared cities, often lead to the development of inadequate housing in areas where land is scarce.²⁵⁸ One common approach to limit the expansion of slums in urban areas have been to formalize them using UN-Habitat's upgrading systems, which aim to improve the living situations in slums rather than eliminating them.²⁵⁹ The latter approach allows cities to transform slums into important economic contributors.²⁶⁰

Sustainable development activities in growing cities often result in the construction of better infrastructures and mobility options; the development of adequate water, sewers, and electricity systems; as well as housing availability.²⁶¹ Based on the longstanding experience in global cities providing local services, UNDP often uses its capacity to support the implementation of sustainable cities by establishing a coordination with existing partners and ensuring a cross-link to sustainable development objectives.²⁶² Through the 2013 Urbanization Strategy, UNDP has also supported countries' participatory planning and management of urban areas; Bangladesh, for instance, through UNDP's Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction (UPPR) initiative, developed a planning and outreach tool that increased public participation in the decision-making and urban planning processes.²⁶³ UNDP has also developed an

²⁴⁵ UN SG's HLAG-ST, *Mobilizing Sustainable Transport for Development*, 2016, p. 5.

²⁴⁶ UN DESA, *Launch of Sustainable Transport Action Network*, 2013.

²⁴⁷ UN DPI, *World's population increasingly urban with more than half living in urban areas*, 2014.

²⁴⁸ European Commission, *Sustainable Transport Forum (STF)*.

²⁴⁹ UN Global Compact & International Road Transport Union, *Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport (GPST)*, 2015, p. 8.

²⁵⁰ AfDB, *Urban Development Strategy: Transforming Africa's Cities and Towns into Engines of Economic Growth and Social Development*, p. 16.

²⁵¹ UN-Habitat, *The Challenge of Slums: Global Report on Human Settlements 2003 (Revised Version)*, 2010, p. 13.

²⁵² *Ibid.*

²⁵³ UN-Habitat, *Slum Almanac 2015-2016*.

²⁵⁴ UN-Habitat, *Housing and Slum Upgrading*.

²⁵⁵ The World Bank Group, *What is Urban Upgrading?: Overview*.

²⁵⁶ UN-Habitat, *Slum Almanac 2015-2016*.

²⁵⁷ Cordaid, *UN-Habitat: Number of Slums Dwellers Grow to 863 million*, 2014.

²⁵⁸ UN-Habitat, *Housing and Slum Upgrading*.

²⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁰ UN-Habitat, *Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP)*.

²⁶¹ Oxfam, *The New Urban: Towards progressive secondary cities*, 2014.

²⁶² UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2016, p. 57.

²⁶³ *Ibid.*, p. 22.

assessment methodology, the Global Environment Outlook Cities Assessment Methodology, in partnership with UN-Habitat and UNEP, to allow countries to evaluate their environmental footprint and develop adequate strategies to reduce their impacts.²⁶⁴

Transportation

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

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

²⁶⁴ UNEP, *Methodology for the Preparation of GEO Cities Reports*, 2009.

²⁶⁵ Ribeiro et al., *Transport and its Infrastructure*, 2007, p. 6.

²⁶⁶ UN SG's HLAG-ST, *Mobilizing Sustainable Transport for Development*, 2016, p. 20.

²⁶⁷ Little, *The Future of Urban Mobility*, p. 4.

²⁶⁸ Steer, *Sustainable Cities: From a Vision to Reality*, *World Resources Institute Blog*, 2014.

²⁶⁹ CIVITAS, *Innovative Urban Transport Solutions*, p. 11.

²⁷⁰ UN DESA, *Principles for Bus Rapid Transit Systems*, 2016.

²⁷¹ UNCRD, *United Nations Centre for Regional Development: Contribution to the 2014 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Integration Segment*, 2014, p. 2.

²⁷² UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2016, p. 18.

²⁷³ UN-Habitat, *Planning and Design for Sustainable Urban Mobility: Global Report on Human Settlements 2013 – Policy directions*, 2013.

²⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁵ Citiscope, *Cities and the SDGs*.

²⁷⁶ Parsons, *4 Big Ideas to Revolutionize Transportation*, *World Resources Institute Blog*, 2013.

²⁷⁷ UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2016, p. 55.

²⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

Governance and Implementation

It is important to consider urban development and governance.²⁷⁹ Good governance is often linked to inclusiveness and public engagement in decision-making, two key factors that can facilitate the development of sustainable cities.²⁸⁰ Thus, to achieve the development of sustainable cities and transport, greater capacity-building of local actors must be ensured to facilitate the transition toward greener behaviors.²⁸¹ The joint report from UNDP and the World Bank Group, *Transitioning from the MDGs to the SDGs*, identified public participation and local actors' engagement as important.²⁸² As cities grow and expand around business districts, more congestion is expected, especially when a majority of urban workers live in the periphery; consequently, urban planning is also an important aspect to consider while implementing sustainable development into cities.²⁸³ However, even with good urban planning and tailored governance, the result of proposed city plans is highly dependent on available financial resources.²⁸⁴ Urban authorities, especially in developing countries, often do not have financial resources to combat challenges related to sustainable development and to invest in further urban activities.²⁸⁵ The AAAA captured the need of a global financial strategy to support sustainable development and recommended funding avenues that public and private investors could consider while developing their projects.²⁸⁶ Besides common avenues from public and private investors, a few innovative examples of funding avenues were highlighted in the AAAA such as carbon finance, taxes, quota systems on infrastructure, and green bonds.²⁸⁷ Many cities across the world have implemented projects using diverse financial resources to foster the development of sustainable urban areas.²⁸⁸ The following case studies are examples of how a local government can adopt greener alternatives to face urbanization and transportation challenges such as pollution, congestion, and access to markets.

Case Study: Curitiba

Since 1960, Curitiba, Brazil, faced numerous challenges due to a rapid urbanization causing increasing unemployment rates, high congestion levels, and the uncontrolled growth of slums.²⁸⁹ The most visible problem was the city's abundant number of cars, causing air pollution and slow traffic.²⁹⁰ Mayor Jaime Lerner, an architect and urban planner elected in 1971, implemented an innovative urbanization strategy, helping the city to cope with the increasing number of traffic.²⁹¹ With very limited funding available, Mayor Lerner used a bus system and new roads as a pilot project that were expanded and improved over the years.²⁹² Through this urban transformation plan, Mayor Lerner reduced the level of congestion in the city and increased travelers' satisfaction.²⁹³ He also installed a waste management system, green spaces, and innovative parking systems.²⁹⁴ In 2010, the city of Curitiba received the Global Sustainable City Award for its various improvements and innovative forward-thinking strategies.²⁹⁵

Case Study: Lagos

With over 11 million people, Lagos is one of the most populated cities in Nigeria.²⁹⁶ Its flourishing economic growth and urban expansion caused congestion, pollution, and slow traffic challenges in the city.²⁹⁷ In 2002, the local

²⁷⁹ UN DESA, *Challenges and way forward in the urban sector*, 2008, p. 20.

²⁸⁰ UN-Habitat, *Governance*.

²⁸¹ *Ibid.*

²⁸² UNDP & WBG, *Transitioning from the MDGs to the SDGs*, 2016.

²⁸³ UN DPI, *UN officials say good urban design key to ensuring sustainable, inclusive cities*, 2015.

²⁸⁴ GEF Secretariat, *Investing in Sustainable Transport and Urban Systems: The GEF Experience*, 2009, p. 5.

²⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

²⁸⁶ 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.

²⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁸ Dalkmann, 3 Promising Pathways to Finance Sustainable Cities, *World Resources Institute*, 2014.

²⁸⁹ Rabinovitch, *Curitiba: Towards Sustainable Urban Development*, 1992.

²⁹⁰ Reed, How Curitiba's BRT Stations Sparked a Transport Revolution – a History of Cities in 50 Buildings, Day 43, *The Guardian*, 2015.

²⁹¹ Rabinovitch, *Curitiba: Towards Sustainable Urban Development*, 1992.

²⁹² UN DESA, *Sustainable Urban Planning (Curitiba City)*.

²⁹³ WRI, *A Compilation of Green Economy Policies, Programs and Initiatives from Around the World*, 2011.

²⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁵ Globe Award, *The Brazilian city Curitiba awarded the Globe Sustainable City Award 2010*, 2010.

²⁹⁶ UN DESA, *The World's Cities in 2016*, 2016, p. 1.

²⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

government, in collaboration with the World Bank, implemented a bus system aimed at reducing the amount of cars, encouraging share rides, and restructuring public transportation systems.²⁹⁸ A BRT was implemented, allowing the population of Lagos to reduce their travel time by 40% and also lowering the public transport fees by 30%, ensuring stable public transportation systems even with rising fuel costs.²⁹⁹ Along with the BRT, municipal authorities improved main roads and accommodated pedestrian needs in the planning.³⁰⁰ Today, even with a rising population, Lagos has been able to slow down urban sprawl, improve road safety, and reduce congestion.³⁰¹

Conclusion

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

Further Research

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

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

The CIVITAS Initiative. (n.d.). *Innovative Urban Transport Solutions*. Retrieved 22 September 2017 from: <http://civitas.eu/sites/default/files/civitas-plus-innovative-urban-transport-solutions-www-final.pdf>

This document critically analyzes urban transportation projects that have been implemented in 25 European cities over the last several years to make cities cleaner and more sustainable. While discussing key aspects of sustainable transportation in cities, including car-independent lifestyles,

²⁹⁸ Mobereola, *Lagos Bus Rapid Transit*, 2009, p. 4.

²⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

³⁰⁰ Lagos State Government, *Ojodu Berger Pedestrian Bridge*.

³⁰¹ Genzy Transport, *First step to winning the fight: A Three Tier Approach to Traffic and Congestion Management*, 2010.

³⁰² UN DESA, *World Economic and Social Survey 2013*, 2013, p. 64.

³⁰³ UN DESA, *Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements*.

³⁰⁴ UN General Assembly, *The Future We Want (A/RES/66/288)*, 2012.

³⁰⁵ UN DESA, *World Urbanization Prospects*, 2014, p. 17.

³⁰⁶ UN Habitat III, *New Urban Agenda*, 2017, p. 20.

³⁰⁷ UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2016, p. 22.

urban freight logistics, and clean fuels and vehicles, and delving into some key challenges and lessons learned of implementing the respective aspects, the document illustrates how sustainable transportation can be achieved in the past, present, and future. Moreover, it provides valuable insights into key factors to consider while preparing cities for the future and specific recommendations on what can be done to make urban transportation more sustainable. Accordingly, this document provides a valuable resource for delegates who want to understand what sustainable transportation is, how it can be implemented in different cities across the world, and which successful projects exist already.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (1996). *Towards Sustainable Transportation: The Vancouver Conference*. Retrieved 20 September 2017 from: <http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/greening-transport/2396815.pdf>

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

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. (1992). *Agenda 21 [Outcome Document]*. Retrieved 22 September 2017 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>.

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

United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. (2017). *New Urban Agenda*. Retrieved 22 September 2017 from: <http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-English.pdf>

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

United Nations Development Programme. (2016). *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*. Retrieved 22 September 2017 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Sustainable%20Development/Urbanization/UNDP_Urban-Strategy.pdf?download

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

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2015). *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313)*. Retrieved 22 September 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/313>

This Agenda offers a detailed summary of the policy framework that was agreed upon at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. It also includes additional financial or

non-financial commitments of institutions, Member States, and other entities that were made in the context of sustainable development implementation projects, including green transportation and housing. Various options such as a climate finance fund, taxes, and private sector investments are elaborated upon, as well as recommendations on how to tailor financial assessments to local urbanization projects are presented. The document constitutes a source for delegates to further understand financial implications and assist them while discussing further financing avenues.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2013). *Planning and Design for Sustainable Urban Mobility: Global Report on Human Settlements 2013 – Policy directions*. Retrieved 22 September 2017 from: <https://unhabitat.org/books/planning-and-design-for-sustainable-urban-mobilityglobal-report-on-human-settlements-2013-policy-directions/#>

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

United Nations Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport. (2016). *Mobilizing Sustainable Transport for Development* [Report]. Retrieved 22 September 2017 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2375Mobilizing%20Sustainable%20Transport.pdf>

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

United Nations, World Commission on Environment and Development. (1987). *Our Common Future (The Brundtland Report)* (A/42/27). Retrieved 22 September 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/42/427>

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

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III. Promoting Resilient Communities

*“To reduce risks from disasters, we must mobilize a broad coalition of partners, from village chiefs to government ministers, from family-run shops to international corporations, from school principals to hospital directors.”*³⁰⁸

Introduction

With natural hazards increasing in frequency, the United Nations (UN) Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has noted that during the past decade, over 220 million people were impacted by natural disasters, resulting in damage as high as \$100 million per year.³⁰⁹ Resilience is an essential component of disaster risk reduction (DRR), as building resilience is considered one way to reduce the risk and effects of disasters.³¹⁰ According to the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), resilience is “the ability of a system, community, or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.”³¹¹ This definition indicates that resilience building is a cross-sectoral and transboundary effort, going beyond simple DRR efforts.³¹² Following this definition, resilience building is not to be confused with capacity development, which generally seeks to increase states’ capacity to prepare for the future, and which should be promoted at all times, and not only in response to natural or man-made hazards.³¹³ In addition to this distinction, capacity development is a long-term process aiming at achieving specific economic and social goals, whereas resilience is just one part of capacity development.³¹⁴

Building resilience is not only essential for capacity development, but also to ensure that sustainable development progress is not eradicated by hazards.³¹⁵ Therefore, sustainable development should include efforts to build resilient communities, in order to protect development gains made in communities that are often exposed to disasters.³¹⁶ As a result, resilience should be thought of in a context of climate change, resource scarcity, poverty reduction, and health, among other contexts.³¹⁷ Climate and disaster resilience aims at building communities that can resist the negative impacts of climate change and the increased frequency of natural disasters, thus being able to recover fast after being affected by a hazard.³¹⁸ Human resilience, which is linked to disaster resilience, aims at building communities that are economically resistant, thus supporting development progress made in education, health, and food security.³¹⁹ In addition, UN efforts focus on resilient urbanization, as nearly all large cities are vulnerable to natural hazards, such as earthquakes, storms and tsunamis.³²⁰ Considering the damage caused by such hazards, it can take longer for cities to recover from such events, and as a result, it is crucial to build resilience in order for these central economic hubs to recover from disasters.³²¹ In the following, after outlining the international and regional framework governing resilience building, resilience will be presented as both a global and a local challenge, bringing together a wide variety of actors in an effort to build more sustainable communities. In this context, the UN Development Programme’s (UNDP) actions fall directly into the nexus between DRR and sustainable development, in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, which focuses on making “cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.”³²²

³⁰⁸ UN CEB, *United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience*, 2013, p. 3.

³⁰⁹ UN-Habitat, *Resilience*.

³¹⁰ UNISDR, *Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2015, p. 1.

³¹¹ UNISDR, *Terminology*, 2017.

³¹² European Commission, *Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis Prone Countries 2013-2020*, 2013, p. 3.

³¹³ UNISDR, *Terminology*, 2017.

³¹⁴ *Ibid.*

³¹⁵ UN ESCAP, *Building Resilience to Disasters: Protecting the Gains from Sustainable Development (E/ESCAP/71/17)*, 2015, p. 6.

³¹⁶ UNDP, *Climate and Disaster Resilience: Overview*, 2017.

³¹⁷ UN CEB, *United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience*, 2013, p. 5.

³¹⁸ UNDP, *Climate and Disaster Resilience: Overview*, 2017.

³¹⁹ UNDP, *Towards Human Resilience: Sustaining MDG Progress in an Age of Economic Uncertainty*, 2011, p. 1.

³²⁰ UN-Habitat, *Resilience*.

³²¹ *Ibid.*

³²² UNDP, *Goal 11 Targets*, 2017.

International and Regional Framework

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

The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) also recognized the need to include DRR in the post-2015 agenda, which is reflected in the frequency with which DRR is mentioned in the Agenda: in total, 10 of the 17 SDGs reference DRR, and 25 targets are related to it.³²⁷ The SDGs that are particularly important for DRR, among others, include SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).³²⁸ More specifically, SDG 11 is at the center of efforts to increase resilience, as it links resilience to urbanization, and one of the targets is to build resilient buildings with local materials.³²⁹ In 2015, the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction adopted the first framework for action following the 2030 Agenda, the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*.³³⁰ The Sendai Framework closely links DRR and resilience building to sustainable development as well as poverty eradication, by recognizing that a lack of resilience can work against sustainable development efforts.³³¹ It also sets as one of its priorities the “Build Back Better” Initiative, which aims at including resilience building into recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.³³² Together with the SDGs, it builds a coherent strategy for UNDP to address resilience building in a cross-sectoral way.³³³

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

³²³ UN WCDR, *Report of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/6)*, 2005.

³²⁴ UNISDR, *World Conference on Disaster Reduction*.

³²⁵ UN WCDR, *Report of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/6)*, 2005, p. 7.

³²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

³²⁷ UNISDR, *Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2015, p. 2.

³²⁸ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

³²⁹ UNDP, *Goal 11 Targets*, 2017.

³³⁰ UNISDR, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*.

³³¹ UN General Assembly, *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015, p. 2.

³³² *Ibid.*, p. 16.

³³³ UNDP, *UNDP & the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017, p. 2.

³³⁴ UN CEB, *United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience*, 2013, p. 5.

³³⁵ UN FAO WSFS, *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security (WSFS 2009/2)*, 2009, p. 2.

³³⁶ ICN2, *Rome Declaration on Nutrition (ICN2 2014/2)*, 2014, p. 4.

³³⁷ UN General Assembly, *Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium (A/RES/S-25/2)*, 2001, p. 8.

³³⁸ COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015, p. 9.

during the third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), stakeholders adopted the *New Urban Agenda*, which also focuses on urban climate and disaster resilience.³³⁹

In addition to UN documents, regional groupings have also tried to institutionalize disaster risk reduction, with an example of this being the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) *ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response* (AADMER), which came into force in 2010.³⁴⁰ AADMER aims at rendering its Member States more food resilient, i.e. through the ASEAN Emergency Rice Reserve.³⁴¹ In addition, the European Union's (EU) Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) developed an EU Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis Prone Countries 2013-2010, in which it sought to bridge between humanitarian aid and development aid, in an effort to increase resilience.³⁴² One of the programs launched as a result of this action plan was a pay-out system in the Caribbean that seeks to provide immediate monetary resources to those affected by natural disasters.³⁴³

Role of the International System

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

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

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

³³⁹ UN Habitat III, *New Urban Agenda*, 2017.

³⁴⁰ ASEAN, *ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response*, 2005.

³⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

³⁴² European Commission, *Building Resilience: The EU's approach*, 2016, p. 2.

³⁴³ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

³⁴⁴ UNDP, *World Reconstruction Conference 3*, 2017.

³⁴⁵ WRC 3, *Joint Communiqué – 8 June 2017*, 2017, p. 1.

³⁴⁶ UNDP, *Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017.

³⁴⁷ UNDP, *Enhancing Adaptation and Resilience*, 2017.

³⁴⁸ UNDP, *UNDP & the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017, p. 7.

³⁴⁹ UNDP, *Small Island Nations at the Frontline of Climate Action*, 2017.

³⁵⁰ UNDP & AOSIS, *Rising Tides, Rising Capacity - Supporting a Sustainable Future for Small Island Developing States*, 2017.

³⁵¹ UNHCR, *UNHCR and UNDP Sign a New Agreement for Resilience Building in Syria*, 2017.

³⁵² UNISDR, *The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction*.

³⁵³ *Ibid.*

resilience building and poverty eradication, and the need to build resilient infrastructures and housing.³⁵⁴ Resilient housing is also at the center of the work of UN-Habitat, especially its *City Resilience Profiling Programme*.³⁵⁵ Regionally, UN-Habitat is also working on an urban resilience project in Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and Sao Tome and Principe to increase knowledge about technologies that make cities more hazard-resilient.³⁵⁶

Resilience is also essential in ensuring food security, as recognized by FAO, which has made resilience building one of its priorities in agriculture-based communities.³⁵⁷ FAO offers support to strengthen resilience against natural hazards in four key areas: governance, information systems, good practices, and capacity development.³⁵⁸ In addition, in 2011, the UN World Food Programme (WFP), in cooperation with Oxfam America, launched the initiative R4 Rural Resilience Initiative, which is currently active in Senegal and Ethiopia.³⁵⁹ Through four different risk management strategies, such as insurance and microcredits, WFP and Oxfam America enable farmers to be more resilient toward climate-related shocks and to thus ensure food production even in the face of natural hazards.³⁶⁰ In addition, Oxfam has also developed an Asia Resilience Strategy for 2015-2020 to help communities overcome their climate-related vulnerabilities related to agriculture, water, and natural resources.³⁶¹ The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) also promotes resilience in agriculture-dependent communities, such as with its Adaption for Smallholder Agriculture Programme.³⁶² Through this program, IFAD proposes adaptation strategies that are directly designed for countries that are community-based and take regional specificities into account.³⁶³

Moreover, civil society and local communities play a key role when designing and implementing resilience building policies, as those partnerships help make efforts more sustainable, more accepted, and reduce costs, while at the same time create opportunities within communities.³⁶⁴ A notable advocacy platform is provided through the Huairou Commission, which strives to support women grassroots leaders, especially when it comes to resilience building.³⁶⁵ Their publications on resilience include a guide on how to better integrate communities into post-2015 resilience building practices, and on agricultural approaches during droughts.³⁶⁶

Building Resilience Globally

The 2030 Agenda not only set out to build a more sustainable world, but also a more resilient one, in terms of infrastructure, natural resource management, and DRR.³⁶⁷ Therefore, SDG 9 promotes the building of resilient infrastructure that is accessible to all and helps communities to develop economically and thus reduce poverty, making resilience building an issue to be addressed globally.³⁶⁸

Climate Change, DRR, and Resilience

Climate change is the main driver of change related to environmental hazards.³⁶⁹ In fact, 2016 was the hottest year on record, and, as a result, an increase in natural disasters such as droughts and storms was observed.³⁷⁰ One of the strategies employed to build resilience by UNDP and other agencies is adaptation to climate change, helping

³⁵⁴ Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, *The Cancun High-Level Communiqué – 24 May 2017: Ensuring the Resilience of Infrastructure and Housing*, 2017, pp. 2, 4.

³⁵⁵ UN-Habitat, *City Resilience Profiling Programme*.

³⁵⁶ UN-Habitat, *Towards Sustainable Urban Development in Cabo Verde: An Integrated Approach*, 2014, p. 17.

³⁵⁷ FAO, *Resilience*.

³⁵⁸ FAO, *Resilience to Natural Hazards and Resulting Disasters*.

³⁵⁹ WFP, *The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative*.

³⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

³⁶¹ Oxfam International, *Oxfam's Strategy for Resilience in Asia*, 2015.

³⁶² IFAD, *Promoting the Resilience of Poor Rural Households*, 2014, p. 5.

³⁶³ *Ibid.*

³⁶⁴ GFDRR, *GFDRR on Civil Society and Community-Driven Resilience*, 2015, p. 1.

³⁶⁵ Huairou Commission, *About Huairou*.

³⁶⁶ Huairou Commission, *Resilience Publications*.

³⁶⁷ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, pp. 4, 8, 9.

³⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 20.

³⁶⁹ UNDP, *Climate Change*, 2017.

³⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

countries to develop new technologies and to diversify economically in order to adapt to the new environment.³⁷¹ An example of how UNDP is trying to achieve this is in Mali, where UNDP trained producers in new production techniques to help them diversify their incomes.³⁷² In Cabo Verde, in order to adapt to climate change and to become more resilient to fresh water shortages, UNDP helped direct investments toward water capture, storage, and distribution technologies.³⁷³ In order to achieve successful DRR in the context of climate hazards, functioning governance structures are of importance, an area recognized in the second priority of the Sendai Framework.³⁷⁴ UNDP supports these efforts by helping Member States develop coherent policies and by raising awareness about legal and regulatory frameworks of DRR.³⁷⁵ However, efforts still need to be made to ensure that vulnerable Member States, such as small island states, have adequate means to measure the specific changes in the climate, in order to adequately prepare and develop resilience building capacities.³⁷⁶ Especially regional data sharing with small countries that might not have the capacities to monitor hazards adequately needs to be improved in order to prepare for potential disasters.³⁷⁷

The Nexus Between Resilience and Development

Natural disasters are among the reasons why eradicating poverty remains such a challenge for the international community, as they tend to affect already poor communities in a disproportionate way.³⁷⁸ The World Bank Group, in a research study, found five main reasons why poverty and natural disasters are linked so closely.³⁷⁹ According to the World Bank Group, this includes the fact that poor communities often live in regions that are overly exposed to natural hazards and that natural hazards have direct impacts on education and health.³⁸⁰ Resilience and sustainable development are thus intrinsically linked, as resilience is a pre-requisite to protecting development.³⁸¹ The effects of disasters on non-resilient communities can be excruciating, increasing poverty levels in developing countries and thus eradicating years of development.³⁸² Thus, building resilience also means making human development resilient and able to resist shocks or recover quickly if hit by disasters.³⁸³ UNDP cites Latvia as an example on how to build resilient human development, such as their example in the importance of decision-makers prioritizing development goals and enabling each member of the community to achieve those goals.³⁸⁴ One of the strategies used by the World Bank Group is to address communities becoming financially resilient to cope with the economic burden that is posed by disasters.³⁸⁵ In 2016, the World Bank developed a model to foresee what the financial burden of natural disasters was going to be for Vietnam in the next 50 years, and developed a financial strategy on that basis.³⁸⁶ In this strategy, the World Bank proposes several options to render Vietnam more financially resilient, including through the further inclusion of the private sector.³⁸⁷

Partnerships for Resilience

For resilience building projects to be successful, a multitude of actors must cooperate at different governance levels.³⁸⁸ One way to incorporate this into resilience building is through public-private partnerships (PPPs), which is

³⁷¹ UNDP, *Advancing Cross-Sectoral Climate Resilient Livelihoods*, 2017.

³⁷² UNDP, *Enhancing Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change in the Agriculture Sector in Mali*, 2015, p. 2.

³⁷³ GEF, *Cape Verde: Building Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change in the Water Sector*, 2008, p. 2.

³⁷⁴ UN General Assembly, *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015, p. 8.

³⁷⁵ UNDP, *Disaster & Climate Risk Governance*, 2017.

³⁷⁶ Thomas, *Island States Need Better Data to Manage Climate Losses*, *Climate Home*, 2017.

³⁷⁷ UN ESCAP, *Building Resilience to Disasters: Protecting the Gains from Sustainable Development (E/ESCAP/71/17)*, 2015, p. 13.

³⁷⁸ The World Bank Group, *Unbreakable: Building Resilience of the Poor in the Face of Natural Disasters*, 2017, p. 3.

³⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

³⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

³⁸¹ The World Bank Group, *Building a New Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2015.

³⁸² The World Bank Group, *Building Resilience: Integrating Climate and Disaster Risk into Development*, 2013, p. 7.

³⁸³ UNDP, *Human Development Report 2016*, 2016, p. 15.

³⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 129.

³⁸⁵ The World Bank Group, *Managing Disaster Risks for Resilient Development*, 2014.

³⁸⁶ The World Bank Group, *Financial Protection Strategy Necessary to Improve Vietnam's Resilience to Natural Disasters*, 2016.

³⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸⁸ UNDP, *Human Development Report 2016*, 2016, p. 125.

the main aim of UNISDR’s Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE).³⁸⁹ During the latest Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in May 2017, ARISE published a manifesto on how to get businesses involved in building resilience, for example by creating incentives for them to invest in DRR initiatives and in more sustainable infrastructure.³⁹⁰ ARISE identifies four main roles for businesses in DRR: as providers of products, as employers, as customers, and as investors.³⁹¹ PPPs specifically can be beneficial in DRR and resilience building initiatives, as they can add expertise and technological capacities where the public sector is in need of those, and can thus increase the efficiency of policies.³⁹² However, PPPs also face certain challenges, as sometimes there is a lack of accountability when the private sector is involved, and there is a risk that the public sector may get overruled by private businesses.³⁹³

A key feature of the UN’s work on resilience is its will to include the whole community in DRR efforts, which is why it entertains close relations with civil society, which is often the closest to those affected by disasters.³⁹⁴ Such cooperation took place, for example, in Chile during the forest fires in January and February 2017, where Inclusiva, a Chilean non-governmental organization (NGO), reported on the situation of disabled people during the fires.³⁹⁵ Inclusiva’s main task was to observe that Chile complied with international standards on the rights of disabled persons and to pressure policymakers into adapting legislation in order to do so.³⁹⁶ Another key partnership that UNISDR engages with is with science and technology experts, to ensure that strategies are founded scientifically and technologically feasible.³⁹⁷ In this context, UNISDR formally launched its Science and Technology Partnership with the goal to provide decision-makers with scientific data and evidence that can support in making informed decisions.³⁹⁸

In addition, the media can be an important ally to disseminate information on DRR and help governments in their efforts to build resilience.³⁹⁹ In a pledge presented during the latest Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union and the European Broadcasting Union noted that a lot of work still remains to be done to fully use the potential of media in DRR.⁴⁰⁰ They also pledged to work more closely with other relevant actors in DRR and to find more creative ways to raise awareness about climate change and its effects on natural hazards.⁴⁰¹ As an example, the media was a key component in the effort to make Cabo Verde more resilient, as UN-Habitat produced TV spots in 2010 to promote its “Better City, Better Life” campaign.⁴⁰²

Building Resilience Locally

Regional Considerations

The Sendai Framework stipulates that one of the key ways in which DRR can be promoted globally is to conduct extensive surveys on regional disaster risk assessments, including maps, in order to collect data locally and adapt resilience building policies accordingly.⁴⁰³ This is crucial, as some regions are more prone to natural hazards than others: for example, an individual in the Asia and the Pacific region is twice as likely to experience a natural hazard than an individual in Africa.⁴⁰⁴ Due to the high number of natural hazards, a lack of investment in resilience building activities, and climate change, the Asia-Pacific region is much more vulnerable to natural hazards than other

³⁸⁹ UNISDR, *Private Sector*.

³⁹⁰ UNISDR & ARISE, *ARISE Manifesto for Action: Business for Resilience*, 2017, p. 1.

³⁹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

³⁹² UN ESCAP, *Resilient Business for Resilient Nations and Communities*, 2014, p. 28.

³⁹³ *Ibid.*, p. 29.

³⁹⁴ UNISDR, *Civil Society*.

³⁹⁵ UNISDR, *Chile’s Fires: Reaching Everyone*, 2017.

³⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁹⁷ UNISDR, *Science, Technology Research Institutions, Organizations and Networks*.

³⁹⁸ UNISDR, *Opening statement by Dr. Robert Glasser at the UNISDR Science and Technology Conference*, 2016.

³⁹⁹ UNISDR, *Media Call for Bigger Disaster Risk Reduction Role*, 2017.

⁴⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰¹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰² UN-Habitat, *Towards Sustainable Urban Development in Cabo Verde: An Integrated Approach*, 2014, p. 21.

⁴⁰³ UN General Assembly, *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015, p. 9.

⁴⁰⁴ UN ESCAP, *Building Resilience to Disasters*.

regions.⁴⁰⁵ Most of the hazards are transboundary, meaning that they affect multiple countries at the same time, which is why regional cooperation is of utmost importance.⁴⁰⁶ In addition, if a country is hit by a natural disaster, the neighboring countries can potentially send aid faster, as was the case in 2015 after the Nepal earthquake, when India sent the first Member State humanitarian aid.⁴⁰⁷ Another example of how to harness regional expertise is through the Regional Earthquake Recovery Dialogue for Building Back Better which was held in Kathmandu in October 2015.⁴⁰⁸ The aim of the meeting was to connect regional experts in order to develop strategies that included resilience in the recovery process after the 2015 Nepal earthquake.⁴⁰⁹ In their outcome document, the experts noted seven main lessons to draw from the earthquake recovery process, including that sustainability needs to be at the center of recovery efforts, and that recovery requires time in order to be sustainable.⁴¹⁰

Building Resilient Cities

Cities and other urban areas become more prone to be negatively affected by disasters if they develop rapidly and in an unsustainable manner.⁴¹¹ One of ways in which urban areas are made unsustainable is through buildings that are not built in a way to sustain natural hazards such as earthquakes, which can lead to increased damage and human loss in the event of a natural hazard.⁴¹² As a consequence, urban areas should be built in a way in which they can absorb disasters and recover quickly.⁴¹³ Another key aspect of resilient cities is to ensure continuity in access to resources and services, such as potable water, sanitation, and plumbing in general.⁴¹⁴ UN-Habitat has therefore developed the City Resilience Profiling Program to help local authorities with resilient city planning and measuring how resilient cities actually are.⁴¹⁵ In a similar effort, UNDP developed a Sustainable Urbanization Strategy in 2016, one of the aims of which is to include resilience efforts in urbanization.⁴¹⁶ The strategy underlines the importance to include adaptation to climate change and disaster risk management into urban planning and to foresee vulnerabilities when urbanizing areas along coastlines, riverbeds, and hill-slopes.⁴¹⁷ UNDP and UN-Habitat signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* in 2008, reconfirmed in 2012, to institutionalize their cooperation in this area and align both of their strategies with regards to resilient urbanization.⁴¹⁸

Additionally, the World Bank launched the Resilient Cities Program in 2013, which includes strategies to collect data on risk and resilience in cities and mechanisms to finance the establishment of resilient infrastructure.⁴¹⁹ The first diagnostics on how to make urban areas more resilient was conducted in Vietnam in 2014 and in Ethiopia in 2015.⁴²⁰ In the latter case, experts from the World Bank Group were sent to Addis Ababa to assess the situation and make proposals on how to make the city more resilient.⁴²¹ The priorities developed by the experts included strategies on making services more accessible to vulnerable groups, improving the draining system to reduce the risk of flooding in the future, and on the establishment of an early warning system for housing complexes close to shores.⁴²²

⁴⁰⁵ UN ESCAP, *Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development: A Guidebook for the Asia-Pacific*, 2017, p. v.

⁴⁰⁶ UN ESCAP, *Disasters in Asia and the Pacific: 2015 Year in Review*, 2016, p. 10.

⁴⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

⁴⁰⁸ UN ESCAP, *Regional Earthquake Recovery Dialogue for Building Back Better*, 2015.

⁴⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴¹⁰ UN ESCAP, *Regional Earthquake Recovery Dialogue for Building Back Better – Summary*, 2015.

⁴¹¹ UN General Assembly, *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015, p. 4.

⁴¹² UN ESCAP, *Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development: A Guidebook for the Asia-Pacific*, 2017, p. 66.

⁴¹³ *Ibid.*; UN-Habitat, *City Resilience Profiling Programme*.

⁴¹⁴ The World Bank Group, *Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Enhancing Urban Resilience*, 2015, p. 15.

⁴¹⁵ UN-Habitat, *Resilience*.

⁴¹⁶ UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy – UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*, 2016, p. 16.

⁴¹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴¹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 20.

⁴¹⁹ The World Bank Group, *Resilient Cities Program*.

⁴²⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴²¹ The World Bank Group, *Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Enhancing Urban Resilience*, 2015, p. 12.

⁴²² *Ibid.*, p. 15.

Food Security and Resilience

In 2012, FAO developed a new strategic framework, within which it enumerated “increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises” as one of its five strategic objectives.⁴²³ This is necessary, as the increased occurrence of natural disasters, such as droughts and floods, and also conflicts and water scarcity threaten food security and promote malnutrition.⁴²⁴ WFP’s and Oxfam’s R4 Initiative currently helps farmers in Ethiopia, Senegal, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, and Zimbabwe, with notable effects: farmers supported by the program in Senegal were able to maintain food security, even after two years of bad harvest.⁴²⁵ Another approach is climate-smart agriculture, which aims at finding ways to adapt agriculture to climate change, and finding solutions adapted to local conditions.⁴²⁶ FAO is an important actor in this regard, as it supports climate-smart agriculture through programs such as the National Adaptation Plans that are designed for a range of countries in order to support them in rendering their agriculture climate-resilient in the long term.⁴²⁷

Conclusion

Building resilience is crucial to ensure that the world can develop sustainably and fulfill the 2030 Agenda.⁴²⁸ Because of the deteriorating effect natural disasters can have on development progress, disaster risk management and resilience building need to be streamlined across all development policies.⁴²⁹ Efforts to build resilience globally include such mainstreaming, as well as climate change adaptation and the building of new partnerships.⁴³⁰ Regionally, Member States should enhance regional and transboundary cooperation in order to most efficiently share information and support smaller states with less capacities.⁴³¹ In addition, resilience building is of importance to ensure global food chains, which is why institutions like FAO and WFP encourage new technologies as well as strategies such as climate-smart agriculture.⁴³² Going forward, UNDP will continue to discuss the importance of promoting resilient communities.

Further Research

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

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United Nations Development Programme. (2016). *Human Development Report 2016*. Retrieved 21 July 2017 from: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016_human_development_report.pdf

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

⁴²³ FAO, *Building Resilience to Enhance Food Security and Nutrition in the Near East and North Africa (FSN)*, 2012, p. 2.

⁴²⁴ WFP, *Resilience Building*.

⁴²⁵ WFP, *R4 Rural Resilience Initiative*, 2017, p. 2.

⁴²⁶ FAO, *Climate-Smart Agriculture*.

⁴²⁷ FAO, *Planning*.

⁴²⁸ UN ESCAP, *Mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development: A Guidebook for the Asia-Pacific*, 2017, p. 5.

⁴²⁹ *Ibid.*, p. iv.

⁴³⁰ UNDP, *Enhancing Adaption and Resilience*, 2017; UNISDR, *Private Sector*.

⁴³¹ Thomas, *Island States Need Better Data to Manage Climate Losses*, *Climate Home*, 2017.

⁴³² FAO, *Climate-Smart Agriculture*.

early warning systems. What makes this source stand out from others is that it uses country examples to underpin its findings.

United Nations Development Programme. (2016). *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*. Retrieved 21 July 2017 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Sustainable%20Development/Urbanization/UNDP_Urban-Strategy.pdf?download

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

United Nations Development Programme. (2017). *Goal 11 Targets* [Website]. Retrieved 21 July 2017 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-11-sustainable-cities-and-communities/targets/>

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

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2015). *Building Resilience to Disasters: Protecting the Gains from Sustainable Development (E/ESCAP/71/17)* [Background Note]. Retrieved 21 July 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/E/ESCAP/71/17>

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

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2017). *Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development: A Guidebook for the Asia-Pacific* [Report]. Retrieved 28 August 2017 from: http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/publication_WEBdrr02_Mainstreaming.pdf

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

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2015). *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*. Retrieved 21 July 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/283>

The Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted in 2015 as a follow-up to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. It is the basic framework for disaster risk reduction efforts, and as a result places the promotion of resilience at its center. While the

declaration enumerates the political goals of the international community's efforts, the framework lists clear policies and targets. These can be used as an indicator for delegates as to what the international community has done, and in which areas potential for improvement exists.

United Nations, General Assembly, Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. (2016). *Policy Paper 8: Urban Ecology and Resilience* [Background Note]. Retrieved 21 July 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/CONF.226/PC.3/21>

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

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2017). *Terminology* [Website]. Retrieved 25 August 2017 from: <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology>

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

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction & Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies. (2017). *ARISE Manifesto for Action: Business for Resilience* [Background Note]. Retrieved 21 July 2017 from: http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/5923793bd62beARISE_Manifesto_for_Action.pdf

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

The World Bank Group. (2017). *Unbreakable: Building the Resilience of the Poor in the Face of Natural Disasters*. Retrieved 28 August 2017 from: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/25335/211003ovEN.pdf>

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

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