



Washington, DC USA
9-11 November, 2018
nmun.org/nmun_dc.html



Economic and Social Council Plenary Background Guide 2018

Written by: Daniel Sweeney, Director; Miranda Coleman, Assistant Director;
Tara Kwan, Substantive Assistant



NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

THE WORLD'S LARGEST UNIVERSITY-LEVEL SIMULATION • SINCE 1927
13570 Grove Dr., Suite 294 • Maple Grove, MN 55311
www.nmun.org • info@nmun.org • 612.353.5649

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2018 National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, D.C. (NMUN•DC)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This year's staff is composed of Director Daniel Sweeney and Assistant Director Miranda Coleman. Daniel is pursuing his Master's in International Development with an emphasis on fragile and in-conflict states. He is currently the Program Coordinator for George Washington University's National Security Studies Program and Master of International Policy and Practice. Miranda holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Bachelor of Education and is currently teaching in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. We are very excited to join the NMUN•DC staff and see how delegates address the complex topics before ECOSOC.

The topics under discussion for ECOSOC are:

- I. Increasing the Role of Civil Society in Sustainable Development
- II. Natural Disasters and Climate Change: Mitigating the Effects

ECOSOC is one of six primary organs in the United Nations system addressing cross-cutting issues relating to development, cooperation, and sustainability. ECOSOC oversees both functional and regional commissions in addition to specialized agencies and may initiate studies and convene international conferences. Further, ECOSOC makes recommendations and submits draft conventions to the General Assembly, along with its annual report. As the primary organ working on coordination, and its work with subsidiary bodies, ECOSOC's responsibility has grown to address implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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

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

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the conference itself, feel free to contact the Under Secretary-General for the committee, Courtney Indart; the Deputy Secretary-General, Chase Mitchell; or the Secretary-General for the conference, Angela Shively. You can contact them by email at: usgcourtney.dc@nmun.com, dsg.dc@nmun.org, or secgen.dc@nmun.org.

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

Sincerely,

Daniel Sweeney, *Director*
Miranda Coleman, *Assistant Director*



Committee Overview

“ECOSOC advocates for systemic approach and long-term vision in tackling imminent challenges. It helps keep sustainable development on top of governments’ agendas”¹

Introduction

Chapter X of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) established the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a founding body and one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN).² ECOSOC indirectly oversees the allocation of 70% of UN resources through its oversight of 14 specialized agencies and 13 functional and regional commissions.³ The Council is mandated to serve as the primary body for policy dialogue on economic, social, cultural, educational, and health-related topics; to advise and coordinate the activities of Member States and other UN entities on matters within this mandate; and to lead discussion on the implementation of the international development framework.⁴

The **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** is one of the six primary organs of the UN. Under the authority of the *Charter of the United Nations*, ECOSOC is mandated to address economic and social matters. It submits an annual report to the General Assembly.

ECOSOC has undergone several reforms since its inception.⁵ In the 1960s and 1970s, developing Member States broadened the agenda of the UN and sought a stronger focus on urgent issues such as the promotion of development and the elimination of poverty.⁶ General Assembly resolution 2847(XXVI) (1971) increased ECOSOC membership from 27 to 54 in order to better reflect the UN’s economic and geographic diversity.⁷ The General Assembly then adopted resolution 32/197 in 1977 to address the “Restructuring of economic and social sectors of the United Nations System” and to improve ECOSOC’s effectiveness by increasing coordination with its subsidiary bodies.⁸ To avoid any duplication of work due to broad mandates, General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 1995 clarified that the role of the General Assembly is to provide policy guidance while ECOSOC’s focus is on coordination of work.⁹ This interpretation was reinforced by General Assembly resolution 57/270 in 2002.¹⁰

Since its inception in 1945 ECOSOC has undergone several major reforms, most recently in 2013 when the General Assembly implemented additional reforms to strengthen the working methods of ECOSOC through resolution 68/1. The 2013 reforms included an expansion of its functions and powers to enable ECOSOC to take the lead on identifying and discussing emerging challenges; to act as a policy forum for global leaders, especially concerning the integration of sustainable development efforts; and to provide a platform of accountability for all levels of monitoring and reporting on universal commitments.¹¹ These reforms reinforce ECOSOC’s critical role in preparing, monitoring, implementing, and facilitating global discussions around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).¹²

Governance, Structure, and Membership

ECOSOC is comprised of 54 members, each of which is elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms.¹³ The members are elected according to the geographical distribution of UN Member States to ensure

¹ UN ECOSOC, *Opening remarks by Marie Chatardová, Council President, at the High-level Conference on Financing for Development and the Means of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2017.

² UN ECOSOC, *About ECOSOC*.

³ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945; Educational Broadcasting Corporation, *Kofi Annan – Center of the Storm: Who Does What?*, 2016.

⁴ UN ECOSOC, *About ECOSOC*.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ UN ECOSOC, *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods*, 2014.

¹² UN ECOSOC, *Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 Development Agenda*.

¹³ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945; UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC Members*.



representation from all regions and levels of development: 14 seats are allocated to African Member States, 11 to Asian Member States, six to Eastern European Member States, 10 to Latin American and Caribbean Member States, and 13 to Western European and Other Member States.¹⁴ Each member has one representative and one vote in ECOSOC, and all decisions are made by a simple majority of those members present and voting.¹⁵ ECOSOC is governed by a President, Vice-President, and Rapporteur, in tandem with a Bureau consisting of five representatives: the President and four Vice-Presidents elected from each of the five regions.¹⁶ The current Council President is Inga Rhonda King who was elected as the 74th President in July 2018.¹⁷ All of these representatives are elected to one-year terms at the beginning of each session.¹⁸ The Bureau is responsible for setting ECOSOC's agenda, devising action plans, and collaborating with the Secretariat on administrative duties.¹⁹ Its presidency rotates equally among regional blocs.²⁰

ECOSOC meets twice annually for one organizational session and one substantive session.²¹ Organizational sessions address administrative matters, such as agenda setting and elections to the Bureau.²² During substantive sessions, meetings are divided into five segments focusing on separate thematic aspects of the Council's work.²³ The working methods of the Council were further reformed through General Assembly resolution 68/1 in 2013, and its substantive work is now organized as follows:

- High-level Segment (HLS): The HLS includes a biannual Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), and ministerial-level meetings of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).²⁴
- Integration Segment: This segment consolidates important messages on primary themes and action-oriented recommendations from the Council system to harmonize the work of ECOSOC members, subsidiary bodies, and stakeholders.²⁵
- Operational Activities for Development Segment (OAS-QCPR): This segment helps ECOSOC guide subsidiary bodies on efficient coordination of funding and policy implementation in accordance with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review.²⁶
- Coordination and Management Meetings (CMM): At these meetings, the Council reviews the work of its subsidiary bodies and considers the coordination of work across thematic issues within its mandate, such as gender mainstreaming.²⁷ The Council works closely with the Secretariat of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination during these meetings.²⁸
- Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS): This segment serves as a thematic forum for discussing operational challenges and normative progress on humanitarian policy.²⁹

ECOSOC also has specialized forums and meetings to gather input from groups of special interest and draw attention to important areas.³⁰ Beginning in 2012, ECOSOC has hosted a youth forum annually to encourage youth

¹⁴ UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC Members; Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

¹⁵ UN ECOSOC, *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/5715/Rev.2)*, 1992, p. 22; *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

¹⁶ UN ECOSOC, *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/5715/Rev.2)*, 1992.

¹⁷ UN ECOSOC, *President of ECOSOC*, 2018.

¹⁸ UN ECOSOC, *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/5715/Rev.2)*, 1992.

¹⁹ UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC Bureau*.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ UN ECOSOC, *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/5715/Rev.2)*, 1992, p. 1.

²² *Ibid.*, p. 4.

²³ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

²⁴ UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC High-level Segment*, 2018.

²⁵ UN ECOSOC, *2018 Integration Segment: Innovative communities: leveraging technology and innovation to build sustainable and resilient societies*, 2018.

²⁶ UN ECOSOC, *2018 Operational Activities for Development Segment*.

²⁷ UN ECOSOC, *2018 Coordination and Management Meetings (CMM)*.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ UN ECOSOC, *2018 ECOSOC humanitarian affairs segment*.

³⁰ UN ECOSOC, *About Us*.

to participate in the ongoing global discussions on sustainable development.³¹ It further guides the sustainable development conversation through its Partnerships Forum, which provides a venue for UN entities, private and non-profit sectors, governments, and civil society to work towards a more sustainable future.³² In addition, ECOSOC hosts special meetings concerning global emergencies to raise awareness and formulate a coordinated policy approach to address the situation.³³ ECOSOC held a special meeting on El Niño in 2016, and held a meeting on the topic “Towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies through participation of all” in Spring 2018.³⁴

ECOSOC oversees 14 subsidiary bodies that hold their own sessions and provide recommendations, draft resolutions, and annual reports to the Council.³⁵ The two most common types of subsidiary bodies are functional and regional commissions, but other subsidiary bodies include standing, ad hoc, expert, and other related bodies and committees.³⁶ Each subsidiary organ has adopted specific methods of work to align with its mandate, and methods are updated regularly.³⁷ Types of subsidiary bodies include:

- **Functional Commissions:** The nine functional commissions are “deliberative bodies whose role is to consider and make recommendations on issues in their areas of responsibility and expertise.”³⁸ Functional commissions, in particular, have a responsibility to follow up on the thematic considerations of major UN conferences and take measurable action in accordance with the role of ECOSOC.³⁹
- **Regional Commissions:** The five regional commissions aim to foster economic integration, oversee the implementation of regional sustainable development initiatives, and help address economic and social issues in sub-regions by promoting multilateral dialogue, cooperation, and collaboration within and between regions.⁴⁰ As regional commissions target problems and challenges within their geographical scope, members in most cases are Member States from this region.⁴¹
- **Expert Bodies Composed of Governmental Experts:** The nine bodies that fall into this category are focused on specific topics that ECOSOC has identified as important and deserving of additional attention or particular expertise.⁴² These bodies, such as the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, consider issues falling within a more narrow scope of the Council’s work, with explicit mandates to improve the information, guidance, policy or regulations on the issue, with the particular aim of providing coherence and consistency at the international level.⁴³

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

The *Charter of the United Nations* mandates ECOSOC to “make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters” including human rights and freedoms, to the General Assembly and its specialized agencies.⁴⁴ ECOSOC may also provide information to and

³¹ UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC Youth Forum*.

³² UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC Partnership Forum*.

³³ UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC Special Meetings on Emergency Situations*.

³⁴ Ibid; UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC Special Meeting “Towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies through participation of all”*, 2018.

³⁵ UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Functional Commissions*, 2014.

³⁶ UN ECOSOC, *Subsidiary Bodies of ECOSOC*.

³⁷ UN General Assembly, *Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (A/RES/67/290)*, 2013, p. 7.

³⁸ UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Functional Commissions*, 2014.

³⁹ UN ECOSOC, *Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related field (E/RES/1998/46)*, 1998, p. 76.

⁴⁰ UN Regional Commissions New York Office, *About*, 2016.

⁴¹ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017.

⁴² UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names, *Overview*, 2016.

⁴³ UN ECOSOC, *Subsidiary Bodies of ECOSOC*.

⁴⁴ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

assist the Security Council when necessary.⁴⁵ As emphasized by recent reforms accentuating this role, ECOSOC also provides coordination, monitoring, and advice to UN programs, agencies, and funds on international development policies and their implementation.⁴⁶ Examples of this coordination role include facilitating cooperation between economic institutions like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in 1998 and establishing what became ECOSOC's HLS in 2007.⁴⁷

ECOSOC fulfills its mandate both through its subsidiary bodies and in consultation of a broad range of civil society organizations (CSOs).⁴⁸ There are 5,083 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with active consultative status that may attend and participate in various UN meetings, conferences, and special sessions to voice their concerns to the international community.⁴⁹ Consultative status is given by ECOSOC's Committee on NGOs, which was established in 1946 and is comprised of 19 Member States.⁵⁰ The Committee on NGOs directly reports to ECOSOC on the procedural and substantive matters raised by CSOs.⁵¹ ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 of 1996 defines the principles, eligibility requirements, rules, procedures, obligations, and responsibilities for NGOs and the UN in establishing the consultative relationship.⁵² For the June 2018 session, the Committee granted special consultative status to 209 non-governmental organizations and deferred 223 applications for consultative status.⁵³

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

Recent ECOSOC sessions have reflected the Council's priorities of strengthening humanitarian assistance and strategies for achieving the SDGs by 2030.⁵⁴ From 23-26 April 2018, the Forum for Financing Development (FfD) met to review the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (2015) on financing sustainable development.⁵⁵ The resulting report raised concerns about financial and economic volatility, such as the potential effects of rising global interest rates and increased debt distress that might hinder development in the medium term, and these concerns are to be communicated to participants in the HLPF meeting later in the year.⁵⁶ Following the 2017 Humanitarian Affairs Segment, ECOSOC adopted resolution 2017/14 on "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations," which calls for a revitalized and central role for affected Member States as key partners of the international humanitarian assistance network.⁵⁷ The theme of the June 2018 Humanitarian Affairs Segment was "Restoring humanity, respecting human dignity and leaving no one behind: working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability."⁵⁸ To facilitate the fulfillment of the SDGs, ECOSOC's segment on operational activities for development, held from 27 February to 1 March 2018, expressed support to reposition the UN's development system to employ a more coordinated, effective, and accountable approach.⁵⁹

⁴⁵ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

⁴⁶ UN ECOSOC, *Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (E/RES/2013/5)*, 2013, p. 1.

⁴⁶ UN ECOSOC, *About ECOSOC*; UN ECOSOC, *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods*, 2014.

⁴⁷ UN General Assembly, *Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/61/16)*, 2006, p. 2.

⁴⁸ UN DESA, *Introduction to ECOSOC Consultative Status*.

⁴⁹ UN DESA, *List of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council as of 1 September 2016 (E/2016/INF/5)*, 2016.

⁵⁰ UN DESA, *Committee on NGOs convenes for first session of 2014*, 2014; UN DESA, *The Committee On NGOs*.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁵² *Ibid.*; UN ECOSOC, *Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations (E/RES/1996/31)*, 1996, pp. 53-61.

⁵³ UN DPI, *Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations Adopts Report of Resumed Session, Meeting Dates for 2019, Status to 209 Entities among Recommendations*, 2018.

⁵⁴ UN ECOSOC, *2017 Operational Activities for Development Segment*, 2017.

⁵⁵ European Commission, *2018 ECOSOC Forum for Financing Development follow-up (FfD Forum)*, 2018.

⁵⁶ UN ECOSOC, *Follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/FFDF/2018/L.2)*, 2018, p.2.

⁵⁷ UN ECOSOC, *Strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (E/RES/2017/14)*, 2017, p. 6.

⁵⁸ UN ECOSOC, *2018 Humanitarian Affairs Segment*.

⁵⁹ UN ECOSOC, *2018 Operational Activities for Development Segment*.

From 10-19 July 2017, HLPF met to discuss the theme of “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world.”⁶⁰ HLPF focused on food security, healthcare, gender equality, infrastructure, and sustainable use of marine resources as means of eradicating poverty, as encompassed by SDGs 1, 3, 5, 9, and 14 respectively.⁶¹ The HLPF meeting from 9-18 July 2018 prioritized “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies.”⁶² Highlighting SDG 17, Partnerships To Achieve The Goals, the meeting concentrated on establishing safe human settlements by effectively managing the sustainable consumption of energy, terrestrial, and water resources as detailed in SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, and 15.⁶³ From 17-20 July 2017, ECOSOC convened its annual HLS with the theme “Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges.”⁶⁴ The HLS emphasized the interrelatedness of social, political, and economic conditions and their impact on development and called upon UN, state, and civil society actors to refocus their efforts on efforts which support sustainable development, such as education and basic healthcare for a population.⁶⁵ The ministerial declaration from the HLPF and HLS underscored the importance of good governance and the rule of law as necessary conditions to empower individuals to mobilize development initiatives within their communities.⁶⁶ Building upon the 2017 segment’s work, the theme of the HLS segment from 16-19 July 2018 was “From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities,” affirming the need for sustainable solutions and reducing risks in the face of economic, environmental, or social crises to facilitate continued development in communities.⁶⁷

Recognizing the importance of partnerships and coordination to further progress, ECOSOC’s Coordination and Management Meeting from 16-18 April 2018 reviewed reports of its subsidiary bodies.⁶⁸ The meeting further reviewed UN system coordination issues with particular emphasis on the economic, environmental, and human rights fields.⁶⁹ To further the discussion on coordination, ECOSOC had its 6th Biennial High-level Meeting of the DCF from 21-22 May 2018 on “The strategic role of development cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda: building sustainable and inclusive societies” which will guide the work of FfD and HLPF.⁷⁰ Beyond the SDGs, ECOSOC engaged youth in dialogue to ensure their voices are incorporated in promoting resilience in communities at its annual youth forum held 30-31 January 2018.⁷¹ Additionally, ECOSOC’s adoption of resolution 2017/26 on its “Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti” reaffirms its commitment in Haiti’s continued sustainable development.⁷²

Conclusion

ECOSOC plays a key role in coordinating activities and programs through the expansive UN system for humanitarian response, sustainable development, and various other issues.⁷³ The Council has demonstrated a commitment to mobilizing resources and efforts to tackle key priority issues, including the promotion of

⁶⁰ UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *High-Level Political Forum 2017*, 2017.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ *Ibid.*

⁶⁴ UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC High-Level Segment: “Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges”*, 2017.

⁶⁵ UN ECOSOC, *2017 Integration Segment: Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: What will it take?*, 2017; UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC High-Level Segment: “Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2017/64)*, 2017, pp. 1, 11-12.

⁶⁶ UN ECOSOC, *Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2017 session of the Economic and Social Council on the annual theme “Eradicating poverty in all its form and dimensions through promoting sustainable development expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges” (E/HLS/2017/1)*, 2017, pp. 1-10.

⁶⁷ UN ECOSOC, *ECOSOC High-level Segment: “From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities”*, 2018.

⁶⁸ UN ECOSOC, *2018 Coordination and Management Meetings (CMM)*, 2018.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

⁷⁰ UN ECOSOC, *6th Biennial High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)*, 2018.

⁷¹ UN ECOSOC, *The role of youth in building sustainable and resilient urban and rural communities- #YOUTH2030*, 2018.

⁷² UN ECOSOC, *Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/RES/2017/26)*, 2017.

⁷³ Educational Broadcasting Corporation, *Kofi Annan – Center of the Storm: Who Does What?*, 2016.



development and the formation and maintenance of international partnerships.⁷⁴ It has also initiated collaboration across UN entities to ensure political commitment towards a new development framework and the SDGs, which former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called a “paradigm shift” for operations across the UN.⁷⁵ The contributions of the Council, both as a forum for discussion and in providing policy guidance, are significant, and its role will continue to grow in the post-2015 era. Clear organizational leadership and strong monitoring mechanisms are vital to assess the progress towards and remaining challenges to achieving the SDGs by 2030 while promoting the role of marginalized groups such as youth.⁷⁶

⁷⁴ UN ECOSOC, *About ECOSOC*.

⁷⁵ UN ECOSOC, *Implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2016/8)*, 2016, p. 6.

⁷⁶ UN ECOSOC, *Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 Development Agenda*.



Annotated Bibliography

Charter of the United Nations. (1945). Retrieved 28 April 2018 from:

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>

The Charter of the United Nations is the foundational document of the UN. It lays out the mandate and structure of not only ECOSOC, but also the remaining five principal organs. Member States are obliged to uphold the Charter's articles above all other treaties. It is an essential starting point in researching the UN. Chapter X, Articles 61-72, of the Charter describes ECOSOC's composition, functions and powers, voting, and rules of procedure.

New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2017). *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*. Retrieved 8 April 2018 from: https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Peace-and-Security/United_Nations_Handbook_2017_18.pdf

This is an excellent source for delegates to gain background information on the complex UN system and its main organs. This comprehensive handbook presents detailed information on UN entities and explains their functions, structures, and roles. It also gives an overview on various subsidiary organs established under the Charter of the United Nations, UN programs and funds, and other organizations related to the UN system. Delegates are encouraged to read the section on ECOSOC in detail to understand its structure, membership, working methods, and its relationships with various subsidiary bodies.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2016). *Implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. Report of the Secretary-General (E/2016/8)*. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/E/2016/8>

This report by the Secretary-General was submitted at ECOSOC's request to reflect the ECOSOC dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system. It reminds UN entities to reconsider their coordinated roles in the UN development system to ensure that they reflect the paradigmatic shift in UN goals following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. Since ECOSOC closely monitors the quadrennial comprehensive policy review mandate and its implementation, delegates should consider the tenants of this report and address short, medium, and long-term strategies in their proposals for sustainable strategies in development and humanitarian assistance.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2017). *ECOSOC High-Level Segment: "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2017/64)*. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from:

<http://undocs.org/E/2017/64>

This report of the Secretary-General from the 2017 HLS session delineates extant challenges to achieving the goals enshrined in the HLS theme of "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges." Drawing upon several SDGs, this report emphasizes the interrelatedness of human well-being and sustainable development. As delegates consider strategies for addressing the eradication of poverty through coordination of UN agencies, they should read this report to better understand the social prerequisites for growth, such as education, healthcare, and gender parity.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2017). *Strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (E/RES/2017/14)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from:

<http://undocs.org/E/RES/2017/14>

This resolution, adopted by the Humanitarian Affairs Segment of ECOSOC in June 2017, reflects the segment's theme of "Restoring humanity and leaving no one behind: working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability." It highlights several areas where UN entities and their state and non-state partners can improve the efficiency of coordinated humanitarian assistance, such as early identification of disaster risks and timely prioritization of the needs of an affected population. The resolution also draws connections between sustainable development and humanitarian needs, and delegates should look to this resolution as an example of the intrinsic link between these two top ECOSOC priorities as they draft their own resolutions.



Bibliography

Charter of the United Nations. (1945). Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>

Educational Broadcasting Corporation. (2016). *Kofi Annan – Center of the Storm: Who Does What?* [Website]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/un/who/ecosoc.html>

European Commission. (2018). *2018 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow up (FfD Forum)* [Website]. Retrieved 28 July 2018 from: https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/sustainable-development-goals/2018-ecosoc-forum-financing-development-follow-ffd-forum-2018-apr-23-0_en

New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2017). *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*. Retrieved 8 April 2018 from: https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Peace-and-Security/United_Nations_Handbook_2017_18.pdf

United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld Library. (2014). *Functional Commissions* [Website]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <http://dagdok.org/en/un-structure/main-bodies/economic-and-social-council-ecosoc/functional-commissions.html>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *The Committee on NGOs* [Website]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <http://csonet.org/?menu=105>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *Introduction to ECOSOC Consultative Status* [Website]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=30>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2014, 21 January). *Committee on NGOs convenes for first session of 2014* [News Article]. Retrieved 28 July 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/ecosoc/ngo-committee.html>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2018, June 11). *Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations Adopts Report of Resumed Session, Meeting Dates for 2019, Status to 209 Entities among Recommendations* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 28 July 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/ecosoc6928.doc.htm>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *About ECOSOC* [Website]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/about-us>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *ECOSOC Bureau* [Website]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/bureau.shtml>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *ECOSOC Members* [Website]. Retrieved 18 June 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/members>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *ECOSOC Partnership Forum* [Website]. Retrieved 28 July 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/ecosoc-partnerships-forum>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *ECOSOC Special Meetings on Emergency Situations* [Website]. Retrieved 18 June 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/ecosoc-special-meetings-emergency-situations>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *ECOSOC Youth Forum* [Website]. Retrieved 30 March 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/ecosoc-youth-forum>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *Humanitarian Affairs Segment* [Website]. Retrieved 28 July 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/humanitarian-affairs-segment>



United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 Development Agenda* [Website]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/mdg.shtml>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *President of ECOSOC* [Website]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/president/index.shtml>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *The role of youth in building sustainable and resilient urban and rural communities- #YOUTH2030* [Website]. Retrieved 20 March 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/2641005>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *Subsidiary Bodies of ECOSOC* [Website]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/subsidiary.shtml>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *2017 Integration Segment: Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: What will it take?* [Website]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/984039>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *2017 Operational Activities for Development Segment* [Website]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/982427>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *2018 Coordination and Management Meetings (CMM)*. Retrieved 25 April 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/5143421>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *2018 Humanitarian Affairs Segment* [Website]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/events/2018/humanitarian-affairs-segment>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *2018 Integration Segment: Innovative communities: leveraging technology and innovation to build sustainable and resilient societies* [Website]. Retrieved 28 July 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/3613435>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *2018 Operational Activities for Development Segment*. Retrieved 27 March 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/4430798>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (1992). *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/5715/Rev.2)*. Retrieved 28 July 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/E/5715/Rev.2>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (1996). *Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations (E/RES/1996/31)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 28 July 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/documents/ecosoc/res/1996/eres1996-31.htm>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (1998). *Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related field (E/RES/1998/46)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 28 July 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/documents/ecosoc/res/1998/eres1998-46.htm>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2013). *Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (E/RES/2013/5)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 4 October 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/E/RES/2013/5>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2014). *The New ECOSOC – Overview of Functions and Working Methods* [Report]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf14/the_new_ecosoc_31_march_2014.pdf



United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2016). *Implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. Report of the Secretary-General (E/2016/8)*. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/E/2016/8>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2016). *List of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council as of 1 September 2016 (E/2016/INF/5)*. Retrieved 18 April 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/E/2016/INF/5>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2017). *Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/RES/2017/26)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 29 March 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/E/RES/2017/26>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2017, July 17). *ECOSOC High-Level Segment: “Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges* [Press Release]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/events/2017/ecosoc-high-level-segment-eradicating-poverty-all-its-forms-and-dimensions-through>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2017). *ECOSOC High-Level Segment: “Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2017/64)*. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/E/2017/64>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2017). *Implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda: The 2017 ECOSOC Forum for Financing Development follow-up* [Website]. Retrieved 7 October 2017 from: http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/publications/ffd_forum_publication_2017.html

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2017). *Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2017 session of the Economic and Social Council on the annual theme “Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities, and addressing related challenges (E/HLS/2017/1)*. Retrieved 29 April 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/E/HLS/2017/1>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2017). *Strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (E/RES/2017/14)* [Resolution]. Adopted on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2017/L.24). Retrieved 29 April 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/E/RES/2017/14>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2018, July 16). *ECOSOC High-level Segment: “From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities”* [Press Release]. Retrieved 18 April 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/events/2018/ecosoc-high-level-segment-%E2%80%9Cglobal-local-supporting-sustainable-and-resilient-societies>

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2018, May 23). *ECOSOC Special Meeting “Towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies through participation of all”* [Press Release]. Retrieved 22 July 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/events/2018-8>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2018). *Follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/FFDF/2018/L.2)*. Retrieved 23 April 2018 from: <https://undocs.org/E/FFDF/2018/L.2>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2018). *6th Biennial High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)* [Website]. Retrieved 17 April 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/996604>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-first session. (2006). *Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/61/16)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 29 April 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/61/16>



United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-seventh session. (2013). *Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (A/RES/67/290)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 29 April 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/67/290>

United Nations, Group of Experts on Geographical Names. (2018). *Overview* [Website]. Retrieved 29 April 2018 from: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/default.html>

United Nations, Regional Commissions New York Office. (2018). *About* [Website]. Retrieved 29 April 2018 from: http://www.regionalcommissions.org/?page_id=20

United Nations, Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. (2017). *High-Level Political Forum 2017* [Website]. Retrieved 29 April 2018 from: <https://oceanconference.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=13&nr=1981&menu=2993>

United Nations, Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. (2018). *High-Level Political Forum 2018* [Website]. Retrieved 19 April 2018 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018>

I. Increasing the Role of Civil Society in Sustainable Development

“It is evident that in order to achieve our goals, we need to harness vast resources, skills, knowledge and innovative ideas from all segments of society... Civil society has an important role and it should play its part in this endeavor.”⁷⁷

Introduction

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are key actors within the international system that often work towards sustainable development and were significant actors in the development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁷⁸ CSOs, sometimes referred to as the third sector of society, encompass a wide range of organizations which can include religious and community groups, academic institutions, or non-governmental organizations.⁷⁹ CSOs have operated within the international system for over 200 years, however the growth of their role since 1948 has been significant.⁸⁰ With the rise of globalization, the United Nations (UN) has increasingly relied on civil society to implement policies and services since they frequently have local capacity that other entities do not.⁸¹ Modern CSOs operate in the areas of emergency response, human rights, and election monitoring, among others; however, with the crafting of new development agendas their role has expanded.⁸² They are considered a crucial aspect of the post-2015 agenda, as reiterated by the former General Assembly President Sam Kutesa.⁸³ The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) pointed out that capacity building to achieve the SDGs can only be done with the aid of CSOs.⁸⁴ To do this, CSOs are often brought in at an early stage in the planning process such that they can assist in the creation of international frameworks.⁸⁵ Still, the role of civil society is not defined within the UN system despite consistent rhetoric and reports stating the critical part they play.⁸⁶ The international community is working to strengthen and leverage the impact CSOs have on sustainable development, however, by more formally integrating them into the international system.⁸⁷

International and Regional Framework

The terms of partnerships between UN organizations and CSOs were enhanced in 1968 by ECOSOC Resolution 1296 (XLIV), titled *Arrangements For Consultation With Non-Governmental Organizations*, which developed the framework for how non-governmental organizations (NGOs) would interact with the UN organ and system entirely.⁸⁸ It requires ECOSOC to support CSOs by allowing them to represent themselves in the body and form joint committees for organizations with similar intents.⁸⁹ In turn, NGOs have an obligation to promote the mission of ECOSOC globally by spreading awareness of its goals and implementing resolutions.⁹⁰ The body which approves consultative status is the Committee on NGOs, which was established by ECOSOC in 1946.⁹¹ The primary responsibilities of the 19-member committee includes recommending and approving consultative relationships with ECOSOC.⁹² It is also charged with monitoring the implementation of ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 on consultative

⁷⁷ UN DPI, *Civil society has ‘important role’ in building sustainable future, says UN General Assembly President*, 2015.

⁷⁸ UN SDKP, *Civil Society & Other Stakeholders*, 2015, p. 2.

⁷⁹ Gemmill and Bamidele-Izu, *The Role of NGOs and Civil Society in Global Environmental Governance*, 2002, p. 3.

⁸⁰ Ibid. 5.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ UN DPI, *Civil society has ‘important role’ in building sustainable future, says UN General Assembly President*, 2015.

⁸⁴ UN ECOSOC, *Synthesis of voluntary submissions by functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums*, 2017, p. 5.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ Salamon and Haddock, *SDGs and NPIs: Private Nonprofit Institutions—The Foot Soldiers for the UN Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015, p. 2.

⁸⁷ Dattler, *Not Without Us: Civil Society’s Role In Implementing The Sustainable Development Goals*, 2016, p. 20.

⁸⁸ UN, ECOSOC, *Official Records 44th Session*, 1968, p. 31.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid, p. 32.

⁹¹ UN DESA, NGO Branch, *The Committee on NGOs*.

⁹² Ibid; UN ECOSOC, *Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations*, 1996.

relationship between the UN and non-governmental organizations, which reaffirmed many of the principles originally established in 1968.⁹³ In the committee's most recent session, it approved 223 NGOs for consultative status while deferring another 242 for consideration for the next year.⁹⁴

While the role of CSOs within the UN has often been unclear, CSOs have helped in crafting contemporary development frameworks, including the *Future We Want*, the outcome document of the 1992 Rio+20 conference.⁹⁵ At that conference, over 10,000 CSO representatives were present alongside 110 heads of state.⁹⁶ This formal inclusion of CSOs was continued with the SDGs; they are designed to be a global framework for all actors, not just Member States.⁹⁷ This has continued to other post-2015 development frameworks, including the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* and *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, which have reiterated the importance of civil society in sustainable development but did not contribute to more formally defining their role.⁹⁸ The theme of collaboration has persisted with draft resolutions from other committees to be adopted by ECOSOC this year, including the work of the Commission on Social Development, which worked to establish nationally appropriate social protection systems in 2018 and noted that governments could only do so with the assistance of CSOs.⁹⁹

CSOs have had an important role in the implementation of regional frameworks as well, including the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063, a long-term plan for implementing development processes on the continent.¹⁰⁰ CSOs are considered a critical component to the data and monitoring in the initial phases of implementing the agenda.¹⁰¹ Additionally, CSOs are prevalent in other regional organizations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), where they have been institutionalized since 1999 and have had a particular importance in promoting bottom-up development within Latin-America and the Caribbean (LAC).¹⁰² Since beginning to promote the involvement of NGOs in sustainable development, OAS has formed over 600 cooperation agreements with 465 CSOs in initiatives, projects, and other activities which have furthered human rights and democracy in LAC.¹⁰³

Role of the International System

As demonstrated by the involvement of CSOs and NGOs in international negotiations, the UN has made more efforts to formalize and leverage them at the international level.¹⁰⁴ The Integrated Civil Society Organizations (iCSO) System, developed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), helps to advance cooperation between UN organizations and CSOs by providing platforms for sharing best practices.¹⁰⁵ Included in this platform are nearly 5,000 NGOs and CSOs that have a consultative status with ECOSOC.¹⁰⁶ Within consultative status, there are three designations an NGO can receive: general, special, and roster.¹⁰⁷ The special classification is by far the largest group with consultative status in ECOSOC, as these are organizations that are usually smaller and have very specific areas of specialization.¹⁰⁸ The general category is usually reserved for larger international NGOs which have the same privileges that CSOs in the special category do but can also add items to the ECOSOC

⁹³ UN DESA, NGO Branch, *The Committee on NGOs*; UN ECOSOC, *Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations*, 1996.

⁹⁴ UN ECOSOC, *Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2018 regular session*, 2018, p. 2.

⁹⁵ Nilsson, *Civil society's major role in sustainable development*, 2012.

⁹⁶ UN Chronicle, *Civil Society and Rio+20*, p. 20.

⁹⁷ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 3.

⁹⁸ Dattler, *Not Without Us: Civil Society's Role In Implementing The Sustainable Development Goals*, 2016, p. 20.

⁹⁹ UN DESA, *Government and civil society leaders agree at UN on way forward to help lift millions out of poverty*, 2018.

¹⁰⁰ UN OSAA, *Civil Society*.

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰² Organization of American States, General Assembly, *Guidelines for The Participation Of Civil Society Organizations In OAS Activities*, 1999.

¹⁰³ Organization of American States, *Relations with Civil Society Organizations*, 2018.

¹⁰⁴ UN SDKP, *Civil Society & Other Stakeholders*, 2015, p. 2.

¹⁰⁵ UN DESA, *Integrated Civil Society Organizations System*.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁷ International Service on Human Rights, *A Practical Guide to The UN Committee On NGOs*, 2015, p. 5.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

agenda.¹⁰⁹ Those in the roster category can attend meetings, but unlike NGOs in the special or general category cannot make policy statements or add to the substantive work of the body, making them an observer in the most literal sense.¹¹⁰ In addition to organizing CSOs within the UN system, the iCSO also serves as a platform to help connect NGOs with diplomats and share best practices.¹¹¹

The UN's Non-Governmental Liaison Services (UN-NGLS) provides analysis, support, and best practices to NGOs so that they are better able to carry out work in the field.¹¹² The UN-NGSL accomplishes this by helping to facilitate the inclusion of relevant NGOs into different UN activities, including conferences, hearings, and workshops.¹¹³ This has included allowing relevant organizations to participate in the World Humanitarian Summit, the Mid-Term Review on the Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries, the UN Sustainable Development Summit, and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.¹¹⁴ Due to not having formalized roles, organizations frequently find themselves cooperating with multiple UN agencies as opposed to the UN as a whole.¹¹⁵ One way the UN has looked to streamline these coordinating efforts is the Partnerships for SDGs online platform which is managed by the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) under DESA.¹¹⁶ The platform allows NGOs to share their development projects with the international community and easily communicate with each other and improve collaboration.¹¹⁷ DSD publishes yearly reports which summarize partnership trends amongst CSOs, which discuss collaborative efforts and highlights key partnerships.¹¹⁸ In its latest report, DSD identified 1,406 voluntary commitments (VCs) towards SDG 14, Life Below Water, with almost half coming from national governments.¹¹⁹ CSOs, which the report breaks down into NGOs, academia, and other institutions, made up 32% of the total VCs.¹²⁰ Notably, the amount of VCs made by partnerships was only at 4%, a total of 50, with that number remaining low when analyzing specific targets.¹²¹

Role of Civil Society in Localizing Sustainable Development

Since they are locally based and frequently have strong community relations, CSOs have the ability to galvanize local communities and governments in an efficient manner.¹²² A major part of this is their non-governmental status, which provides them the perception of being more credible, and therefore are able to bring together a wide range of stakeholders together who might otherwise be opposed to working with other entities.¹²³ By establishing partnerships with governments, NGOs have the ability to not just implement policies but also ensure those who are responsible for providing services do so.¹²⁴ This can also work for private industry; in some instances, civil society has reported on the negative impact companies have had on the environment and economic development of a region.¹²⁵ A prime example of this has been the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Education 2030 Framework for Action (FFA), which has helped partner NGOs with UN agencies and governments to enhance education in local communities.¹²⁶ UNESCO has stressed the importance of having CSOs

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² UN DPI, *Civil Society*.

¹¹³ UN-NGSL, *Objectives and Activities*.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ World Federation of United Nations Associations, *About Us*.

¹¹⁶ UN Partnerships for SDGs, *About*.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ UN DSD, *Analysis of SDG 14 Voluntary Commitments (from UN Ocean Conference)*, 2014, p. 9.

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Ibid, p. 10.

¹²² UNDP, *Partners for Change: UNDP's work with CSO's through the GEF*, 2005, p. 7.

¹²³ Ibid, p. 6.

¹²⁴ African Civil Society Circle, *The Roles of Civil Society in Localising the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2016, p. 6.

¹²⁵ UN High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty And Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development*, 2013, p. 20.

¹²⁶ UNDG, *Tailoring SDG to National, Sub-national and Local Contexts*.

work not only to promote the awareness of the SDGs and other initiatives but also be actively involved in the planning stages of development.¹²⁷

Another role CSOs play in the implementation of sustainable development at the local level is through monitoring and evaluation activities, especially as they frequently have greater understanding and capacity in rural and hard to reach regions.¹²⁸ This was emphasized in the 2030 Agenda, which highlighted the lack of some baseline indicators for the as the Millennium Development Goals and the need to leverage actors, including CSOs, to develop baseline indicators for the SDGs.¹²⁹ This baseline data allows Member States to more effectively turn the commitments outlined in the SDGs into tangible, effective, and measurable implementation strategies.¹³⁰ Additionally, CSOs are often able to more effectively engage with underrepresented individuals, including youth and women, and collect information on their livelihoods in areas where they are seen as legitimate.¹³¹ Data collection gives NGOs the ability to be economic actors by employing youth and women who would otherwise not be.¹³² The non-profit sector, in Member States with available data, make up over 7% of total employment and nearly 5% of gross domestic product, allowing them to improve local economies while strengthening local institutions.¹³³

Civil Society in Least Developed Countries

One of the underlying themes of the SDGs is that peace and prosperity should be shared by all individuals and that achievement of the goals can only be done through global partnerships.¹³⁴ To this end, CSOs have an important role in providing representation in the world's poorest regions.¹³⁵ This can include both reporting on the development of marginalized populations and also advocating for them in different framework processes.¹³⁶ This aspect was demonstrated at the civil society forum of the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, where over 2,000 NGOs came to express a discontent over how current frameworks failed to lift these states out of vulnerable positions.¹³⁷ At the conference, CSOs advocated for better policies to help empower least developed countries and recommended that NGOs be used as primary agents of service delivery.¹³⁸ However, some local communities and researchers have expressed concerns about being overly reliant on donations and services from NGOs based in Western states.¹³⁹ There is some evidence to support the notion that governments which are overly reliant on international aid might not adequately invest in their own public institutions.¹⁴⁰ This highlights the need to not only ensure international aid NGOs are efficient, but also simultaneously strengthen local governance and civil society.¹⁴¹ Therefore, in addition to monetary aid and infrastructure NGOs look at building capacity through sharing best practices and training.¹⁴²

¹²⁷ UNESCO, *Education 2030 Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all*, 2015, p. 24.

¹²⁸ African Civil Society Circle, *The Roles of Civil Society in Localising the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2016, p. 8; UN High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty And Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development*, 2013, p. 9.

¹²⁹ UN SDSN, *Indicators and a Monitoring Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015, p. 22.

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

¹³¹ United Nations Association-UK et al, *Strengthening civil society engagement with the United Nations*, 2017.

¹³² Salamon et al, *The State of Global Civil Society and Volunteering: Latest findings from the implementation of the UN Nonprofit Handbook*, 2013, p. 14.

¹³³ *Ibid.*, pp. 5, 14.

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

¹³⁵ African Civil Society Circle, *The Roles of Civil Society in Localising the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2016, p. 4.

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

¹³⁷ Ngozo, *LDC conference: time for new approaches says civil society*, 2011.

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*

¹³⁹ African Civil Society Circle, *The Roles of Civil Society in Localising the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2016, p. 7.

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

¹⁴¹ African Civil Society Circle, *The Roles of Civil Society in Localising the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2016, p. 8.

¹⁴² *Ibid.*, p. 10.

The SDGs made special note of unique circumstances and challenges concerning Africa's development, and reiterated the role civil society would have in this part of the world.¹⁴³ For a long time, African CSOs did not have the capacity to bring about economic or political change and were unable to help establish peace and security on the continent.¹⁴⁴ A strong reason for this had to do with non-democratic political systems in Africa which prevented civil society from operating effectively.¹⁴⁵ The development of Africa has coincided with increased capacity of CSOs to combat corruption.¹⁴⁶ South Africa and the Republic of Congo both saw surges in the late 20th century where civil society was able to more effectively mobilize against corruption.¹⁴⁷ The result was both national governments holding anti-corruption summits with business leaders and CSOs with the goal of improving the quality of public institutions.¹⁴⁸ Ultimately, this work against corruption in Africa by civil society has been a key factor in the development of the continent and is likely to be an important factor in the future.¹⁴⁹ Despite some of the challenges faced by NGOs in LDCs, there still is important work that they can and have done in sustainable development.¹⁵⁰ One of the key ways they do this is by connecting individuals with the UN system to make them aware of the SDGs and ensure the voices of all, not just large organizations, are taken into account with participatory planning measures.¹⁵¹

Conclusion

While the exact nature of how civil society should interact with the international system remains undefined, their importance is undeniable.¹⁵² CSOs have operated within the international system for over two centuries in some capacity; however, with an increasingly globalized society that role is likely to expand.¹⁵³ ECOSOC has supported this notion by allowing nearly 5,000 CSOs to gain consultative status through the Committee on NGOs.¹⁵⁴ In doing so, ECOSOC has allowed for CSOs with different scopes and missions to share their expertise and enrich the dialogue around issues related to sustainable development.¹⁵⁵ Sustainable development, as approached by the MDGs and SDGs, welcomed civil society and has seen a similar trend in following frameworks including the AU Agenda 2063.¹⁵⁶ The UN system continues to examine methods by which CSOs can better interact with each other to create a more focused policy and better sustainable development.¹⁵⁷ While civil society remains an important aspect of the international system, a more defined role may be beneficial.¹⁵⁸

Further Research

Moving forward, delegates should consider questions such as: How can the iCSO be enhanced to better assist civil society and NGOs with implementing sustainable development? In what ways can the role of NGOs within the international system be better defined? How can civil society have a more distinguishable impact in sustainable development? What successes has ECOSOC had in working with NGOs and how can that relationship be better improved? What guidance should ECOSOC give to its subsidiaries in working with CSOs in the future?

¹⁴³ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 7.

¹⁴⁴ Gyimah-Boadi, *Civil Society In Africa*, 1996.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ Essoungou, *The rise of civil society groups in Africa*, 2013.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ African Union, *African Agenda 2063: What Progress Since Adoption In 2015?*, p. 4.

¹⁵⁰ United Nations Association-UK et al, *Strengthening civil society engagement with the United Nations*, 2017.

¹⁵¹ Ibid, p.14.

¹⁵² UN DPI, *Civil society has 'important role' in building sustainable future, says UN General Assembly President*, 2015.

¹⁵³ Gemmill and Bamidele-Izu, *The Role of NGOs and Civil Society in Global Environmental Governance*, 2002, p. 3.

¹⁵⁴ UN ECOSOC, *Synthesis of voluntary submissions by functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums*, 2017, p. 5.

¹⁵⁵ Ibid.

¹⁵⁶ Chitiga-Mabugu et al, *Civil Society Organisations And Participation in The Millenium Development Goal Processes In South Africa*, 2014, p. 35.

¹⁵⁷ World Federation of United Nations Associations, *About Us*.

¹⁵⁸ Salamon and Haddock, *SDGs and NPIs: Private Nonprofit Institutions—The Foot Soldiers for the UN Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015.



Annotated Bibliography

African Civil Society Circle. (2016). *The Roles of Civil Society in Localising the Sustainable Development Goals* [Report]. Retrieved 1 April 2018 from:

http://www.gppi.net/fileadmin/user_upload/media/pub/2016/KAS_CS0_2016_Localizing_SDGs.pdf

This document from the African Civil Society Circle looks at what the role of CSOs can be and how the international system should utilize them towards implementing the SDGs. It looks at what the main responsibilities are and how they can accomplish these goals. Delegates should look to this document to see not just what the impact of civil society can be, but what remaining opportunities exist.

Dattler, R. (2016). *Not Without Us: Civil Society's Role in Implementing The Sustainable Development Goals*. World Health Organization. Retrieved 1 April 2018 from:

http://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/319308/6-Not-without-us-civil-society-role-implementing-SDGs.pdf?ua=1

In this article, Dattler takes a stronger analytical approach by showing that CSOs are important in achieving sustainable development, and more importantly, that they have a significant role. In particular, this looks at the role of CSOs in ensuring reproductive rights which are an important part of the SDGs. One important chart shows which SDGs can be best implemented with the help of CSOs. The importance of this document is looking specifically at how CSOs can positively impact the implementation of sustainable development.

Gemmill, B., & A. Bamidele-Izu. (2002). *The Role of NGOs and Civil Society in Global Environmental Governance*. D. Esty and M. Ivanova (Ed.), *Global Environmental Governance*. Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy. Retrieved 17 April 2018 from: <https://environment.yale.edu/publication-series/documents/downloads/a-g/gemmill.pdf>

This chapter on global governance and sustainable development discusses the history of CSOs in the international system. Specifically, it shows how the importance of NGOs has increased since the inception of the UN and what relevant frameworks have helped this importance. It also looks at what CSOs have specifically done to help implement certain sustainable development framework. It should be used to understand how CSOs have evolved in the international system and what can be done to improve their system.

Salamon, L., et al. (2013). *The State of Global Civil Society and Volunteering: Latest findings from the implementation of the UN Nonprofit Handbook*. Retrieved 1 April 2018 from: http://ccss.jhu.edu/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/04/JHU_Global-Civil-Society-Volunteering_FINAL_3.2013.pdf

This document from Lester Salamon and his colleagues helps show how CSOs have been a benefit in economic development not just through lobbying and political organization, but direct employment. It highlights eight findings about direct employment from NGOs in developing countries and how non-profits can help spur the economy. The graphs for each finding make it easy to understand the impact. Delegates can use this source to understand some of the other possibilities that CSOs might play outside of their role in the UN.

United Nations Association – UK, et al. (2017). *Strengthening civil society engagement with the United Nations* [Report]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: <http://www.civicus.org/images/CivilSocietyEngagementWithUN.pdf>

This document, written by four different NGOs, highlights thirteen different methods by which civil society can play an important role within the international system. A significant amount of this has to do with engaging youth and civil society's role in peace building processes. It also highlights what will allow CSOs to be the most successful in implementing sustainable developing policy. Delegates can use this source to see what type of traditional methods NGOs have used to implement the SDGs.



Bibliography

- African Civil Society Circle. (2016). *The Roles of Civil Society in Localising the Sustainable Development Goals* [Report]. Retrieved 1 April 2018 from: http://www.gppi.net/fileadmin/user_upload/media/pub/2016/KAS_CS0_2016_Localizing_SDGs.pdf
- African Union. (2017). *African Agenda 2063: What Progress Since Adoption In 2015?*. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/mediaadvisories/31932-ma-african_agenda_2063_where_are_we_towards_implementation_23_01_2017.pdf
- Chitiga-Mabugu, M., et al. (2014). Civil Society Organisations And Participation in The Millenium Development Goal Processes in South Africa. *Human Sciences Research Council Economic Performance and Development*. Retrieved 25 April 2018 from: <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/research-data/mtree-doc/14474>
- Counterpart International. (2015). *What's the role for civil society in SDG Implementation & Monitoring? Check the data to learn more* [Website]. Retrieved 1 April 2018 from: <https://www.counterpart.org/stories/whats-the-role-for-civil-society-in-sdg-implementation-and-monitoring/>
- Dattler, R. (2016). *Not Without Us: Civil Society's Role in Implementing The Sustainable Development Goals*. Retrieved 1 April 2018 from: http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/319308/6-Not-without-us-civil-society-role-implementing-SDGs.pdf?ua=1
- Essoungou, A. (2013). *The rise of civil society groups in Africa*. United Nations Africa Renewal. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2013/rise-civil-society-groups-africa>
- Gemmill, B., & A. Bamidele-Izu. (2002). *The Role of NGOs and Civil Society in Global Environmental Governance*. D. Esty and M. Ivanova (Ed.), *Global Environmental Governance*. Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy. Retrieved 17 April 2018 from: <https://environment.yale.edu/publication-series/documents/downloads/a-gemmill.pdf>
- Gyimah-Boadi, E. (1996). Civil Society in Africa. *Project Muse*, Volume 7 (2). Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/16739>
- International Service for Human Rights. (2015). *A Practical Guide to The UN Committee On NGOs* [Handbook]. Retrieved 24 April 2018 from: http://www.ishr.ch/sites/default/files/article/files/ishr_ngo_handbook_eng_web.pdf
- Ngozo, C. (2011, 11 May). *LDC conference: time for new approaches says civil society*. The Guardian. Retrieved 25 April 2018 from: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2011/may/11/new-approaches-to-least-developed-countries>
- Nilsson, S. (2012). *Civil society's major role in sustainable development*. Politico. Retrieved 1 April 2018 from: <https://www.politico.eu/article/civil-societys-major-role-in-sustainable-development/>
- Organization of American States. (2018). *Relations with Civil Society Organizations* [Website]. Retrieved 24 June 2018 from: http://www.oas.org/en/ser/dia/civil_society/index.shtml
- Organization of American States, General Assembly. (1999). *Guidelines for The Participation Of Civil Society Organizations In OAS Activities* (CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)). Retrieved 24 June 2018 from: www.oas.org/consejo/sp/CUMBRES/documentos/cp06620e04.doc
- Salamon, Lester M., et al. (2013). *The State of Global Civil Society and Volunteering: Latest findings from the implementation of the UN Nonprofit Handbook*. Retrieved 1 April 2018 from: http://ccss.jhu.edu/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/04/JHU_Global-Civil-Society-Volunteering_FINAL_3.2013.pdf



Salamon, Lester M., & M. Haddock. (2015). *SDGs and NPIs: Private Nonprofit Institutions—The Foot Soldiers for the UN Sustainable Development Goals* [Report]. Retrieved 1 April 2018 from: http://ccss.jhu.edu/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2015/11/SDGs-NPIs_Salamon-Haddock_5.2015.pdf

United Nations Association – UK., et al. (2017). *Strengthening civil society engagement with the United Nations* [Report]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: <http://www.civicus.org/images/CivilSocietyEngagementWithUN.pdf>

United Nations Chronicle. (2012). *Civil Society and Rio+20* [Magazine Article]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: <https://unchronicle.un.org/article/civil-society-and-rio20>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *Integrated Civil Society Organizations System* [Website]. Retrieved 1 April 2018 from: <http://esango.un.org/civilsociety/login.do>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, NGO Branch. (n.d.). *The Committee on NGOs* [Website]. Retrieved 24 April 2018 from: <http://csonet.org/?menu=105>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (n.d.). *Civil Society* [Website]. Retrieved 1 April 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/en/sections/resources-different-audiences/civil-society/>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, April 9). *Civil society has 'important role' in building sustainable future, says UN General Assembly President* [News Article]. Retrieved 1 April 2018 from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2015/04/495502-civil-society-has-important-role-building-sustainable-future-says-un-general>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2018, February 8). *Government and civil society leaders agree at UN on way forward to help lift millions out of poverty* [News Article]. Retrieved 1 April 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2018/02/government-civil-society-leaders-agree-un-way-forward-help-lift-millions-poverty/>

United Nations Development Group. (n.d.). *Tailoring SDG to National, Sub-national and Local Contexts* [Website]. Retrieved 3 June 2018 from: <https://undg.org/2030-agenda/mainstreaming-2030-agenda/tailoring-sdg-to-national-context/>

United Nations, Development Programme. (2005). *Partners for Change: UNDP's work with CSO's through the GEF* [Report]. Retrieved 1 April 2018 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/environment-energy/www-ee-library/civil-society-engagement/partners-for-change-undps-work-with-csos-through-the-gef/partners_for_change_cso.pdf?download

United Nations, Division for Sustainable Development. (2017). *Analysis of SDG 14 Voluntary Commitments (from UN Ocean Conference)* [Report]. Retrieved 28 June 2018 from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17193OCVC_in_depth_analysis.pdf

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (1968). *Official Records 44th Session*. Retrieved 24 April 2018 from: <http://www.humanrightsvoices.org/assets/attachments/documents/7.26.2016.ecosoc.res.1278.pdf>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (1996). *Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations* [Resolution]. Retrieved 1 April 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/documents/ecosoc/res/1996/eres1996-31.htm>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2017). *Synthesis of voluntary submissions by functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums* [Report]. Retrieved 24 April 2018 from: <http://www.undocs.org/E/HLPF/2017/3>



United Nations, Economic and Social Council (2018). *Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2018 regular session*. Retrieved 24 April 2018 from: http://csonet.org/content/documents/Draft%20Report%20of%20the%20Committee%20on%20NGOs%202018%20Regular%20Session_Feb%2023_AS%20SUBMITTED.pdf

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2015). *Education 2030 Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all*. Retrieved 25 June 2018 from: http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/ED_new/pdf/FFA-ENG-27Oct15.pdf

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (A/RES/70/1). Retrieved 1 April 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

United Nations, High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. (2013). *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development* [Report]. Retrieved 25 April 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/HLP%20P2015%20Report.pdf

United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service. (n.d.). *Objectives and Activities* [Website]. Retrieved 22 April 2018 from: <https://www.unngls.org/index.php/about-ngls/objectives-and-activities>

United Nations, Office of the Special Advisor on Africa. (n.d.). *Civil Society* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/partnerships/civil.shtml>

United Nations, Partnerships for the SDGs. (n.d.). *About* [Website]. Retrieved 28 June 2018 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/about>

United Nations, Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. (2015). *Civil Society & Other Stakeholders* [Report]. Retrieved 17 April 2018 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/9486ANilo%20Civil%20Society%20&%20Other%20Stakeholders.pdf>

United Nations, Sustainable Development Solutions Network. (2015). *Indicators and a Monitoring Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals* [Report]. Retrieved 28 June 2018 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2013150612-FINAL-SDSN-Indicator-Report1.pdf>

II. Natural Disasters and Climate Change: Mitigating the Effects

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the *International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction* (ISDR) defines a disaster as "a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope with using its own resources."¹⁵⁹ The financial and human cost of natural disasters greatly inhibits the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and work done by Robert Glassier, the UN Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, has shown that an increase and intensification of natural disasters is linked to the prevalence of climate change.¹⁶⁰ Since 2005, over 23 million people have become displaced as a result of natural disasters.¹⁶¹ The World Bank estimates that an additional 100 million people will fall below the poverty line as a result of climate change by 2030.¹⁶² Between 2005 to 2015, natural disasters directly resulted in the death of over 700 thousand people globally; as disasters intensify due to climate change, these effects may worsen.¹⁶³ According to a 2017 report by the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), disaster mitigation funding can save up to \$6 for every \$1 spent on disaster resilience items such as hurricane shutters and early warning systems.¹⁶⁴ Despite this information and the increase in frequency and intensity of disasters due to climate change, less than one percent is spent on disaster preparedness for every \$100 given in humanitarian aid globally.¹⁶⁵ Developing countries are disproportionately affected by natural disasters and severe storms, particularly small island developing states (SIDS).¹⁶⁶ Of the 30 states with the largest relative annual disaster losses, SIDS make up more than two thirds of the list.¹⁶⁷ In 2004, Grenada was devastated by Hurricane Ivan, resulting in \$900 million in damages, roughly 200% of the state's GDP.¹⁶⁸ In 2017, the United States alone took on sixteen major climate change-related disasters, incurring over \$304 billion in damages.¹⁶⁹ As climate change related disasters intensify, it is imperative the international community address the root causes of climate change and simultaneous work to mitigate the effects of natural disasters.¹⁷⁰

International and Regional Framework

In 1987, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 42/186 titled "Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond," which recognized the negative effects of industrialization on the environment and recommended better early warning systems for disasters.¹⁷¹ Within 12 years of this recommendation, early warning systems implemented in the United States reduced disaster related mortality by 45%.¹⁷² In 1992 the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) adopted Agenda 21, which called for an increase in disaster preparedness and resiliency focused reconstruction to support the 1990's goal of disaster reduction.¹⁷³ Several conferences on SIDS and their outcome documents, including the 1994 *Barbados Programme of Action* and

¹⁵⁹ UNOOSA, *Risks and Disasters*, 2017.

¹⁶⁰ Glassier, *Climate Change is the Key Driver for Disasters*, 2017; UN General Assembly, *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015.

¹⁶¹ UN General Assembly, *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015.

¹⁶² World Bank, *Climate-Informed Development Needed to Keep Climate Change from Pushing More than 100 Million People into Poverty by 2030*, 2018.

¹⁶³ UN General Assembly, *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015.

¹⁶⁴ National Institute of Building Sciences, *Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2017 Interim Report*, 2017.

¹⁶⁵ FAO, *The Economics of Early Response and Disaster Resilience*, 2012, p. 9

¹⁶⁶ World Bank, *Small Island Developing States are Taking Action to Strengthen Financial Resilience to Natural Disasters*, 2014.

¹⁶⁷ World Bank, *Climate Change and Natural Disasters in Small Island Developing States*.

¹⁶⁸ World Bank, *Small Island Developing States are Taking Action to Strengthen Financial Resilience to Natural Disasters*, 2014.

¹⁶⁹ UN General Assembly, *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015.

¹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁷¹ UN General Assembly, *Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/RES/42/186)*, 1987.

¹⁷² UNISDR, *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction Atlas*, 2015.

¹⁷³ UNCED, *Agenda 21*, 1992.

its five-year review in 1999, outlined the link between climate variability and natural disasters within the context of SIDS, which face unique challenges caused by disasters, particularly in low lying island states.¹⁷⁴

In 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/1, *Transforming Our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, outlining the 17 SDGs to encourage development that would not create a larger environmental burden.¹⁷⁵ SDG 13, Climate Action, calls for Member States to prevent and reduce climate change and its effects, including the increased incidence natural disasters.¹⁷⁶ SDG 15, Life on Land, addresses the need to protect land and living things from environmental damage.¹⁷⁷ These specific SDGs are particularly relevant to SIDS such as Kiribati, which has encountered a series of disasters and is expected to be entirely underwater by the year 2050, which would make it the first nation to be lost entirely to climate change.¹⁷⁸ The *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015* was adopted in 2005 and was followed up by the *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* in 2015.¹⁷⁹ The Sendai Framework outlines seven global targets for disaster risk reduction, which includes the reduction of: disaster mortality, economic loss, damage to infrastructure, and disruption of basic services.¹⁸⁰ In 2017 the UN Climate Change Conference (COP23) took place in Bonn, Fiji, where the *Talanoa Dialogue* was adopted, calling for open dialogue and concrete action to address and make tangible change to disaster mitigation.¹⁸¹

Role of the International System

ECOSOC has recognized the need to minimize the effects of natural disasters caused by or exacerbated by climate change and taken note of the immense impact on both the international and local level regarding standard of living and sustainable development.¹⁸² ECOSOC has advised other UN agencies, Member States and NGOs to make available any needed resources to the UNISDR to support effective global operations.¹⁸³ The Sendai Framework Online Monitoring Tool, established by UNISDR, uses a disaster loss database to gather complete and accurate data.¹⁸⁴ This database monitors actions that Member States are taking to implement the *Sendai Framework* and the effectiveness of those practices.¹⁸⁵ In 2009, UNISDR published *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations: Roles, mandates and areas of work of key United Nations entities*, which establishes and outlines the roles and responsibilities of services and programs of the UN and the World Bank in relation to disaster risk reduction.¹⁸⁶ UNISDR has two upcoming sessions on regional disaster risk reduction in Armenia and Columbia, as well as the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Mongolia.¹⁸⁷ ECOSOC will also be in an upcoming session for a Humanitarian Affairs Segment where climate-related disasters are expected to be discussed.¹⁸⁸

¹⁷⁴ UN General Assembly, *Declaration and State of Progress and Initiatives for the Future Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*, 1999.

¹⁷⁵ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁸ Bowers, *Waiting for the Tide to Turn: Kiribati's Fight for Survival*, *The Guardian*, 2017.

¹⁷⁹ UN General Assembly, *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015; *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*, 2005.

¹⁸⁰ UN General Assembly, *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015, p.5.

¹⁸¹ UNFCCC, *Fiji Momentum for Implementation*, 2017.

¹⁸² UNISDR, *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations: Roles, mandates and areas of work of key United Nations entities*, 2009, p. 114.

¹⁸³ ECOSOC, *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction*, 2001.

¹⁸⁴ UNISDR, *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations: Roles, mandates and areas of work of key United Nations entities*, 2009, p. 114.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ UNISDR, *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations: Roles, mandates and areas of work of key United Nations entities*, 2009, p. 114.

¹⁸⁷ UNISDR, *Regional Platform Calendar*, 2018.

¹⁸⁸ ECOSOC, *Working arrangements for the 2018 session of the Economic and Social Council*, 2017.

In the UN, disaster response is initially coordinated by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).¹⁸⁹ UNOCHA is responsible for cooperation with local government to provide efficient and effective emergency response.¹⁹⁰ Recent reports by have broken down regional climate change concerns and projected a \$3.1 billion funding gap for natural disaster response.¹⁹¹ UNOCHA is also responsible for coordinating related emergency response systems such as the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination system.¹⁹² In 2014, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) published *Disaster Risk Reduction for Food and Nutrition Security* as a framework for reducing African food insecurity in the event of natural disasters.¹⁹³ In alignment with the disaster efforts of FAO, the European Commission's Office for Humanitarian Affairs has engaged with regional groups through its Disaster Preparedness Program, which empowers communities through sanitation, water, food, and agriculture insecurity preparedness.¹⁹⁴

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) is a coalition of 44 SIDS that make up 20% of the UN's membership, which functions primarily to negotiate within the UN system on the topic of climate change and disaster vulnerability.¹⁹⁵ In 2017, AOSIS adopted *The Urgency of Now - The Alliance of Small Island States Declaration of Action*, which called for an increase in technological and financial support for SIDS when responding to natural disasters and building resilience thereafter.¹⁹⁶ In 2016, 3.6 million people were affected by drought in the Caribbean, which is more than triple the amount impacted by previous droughts in the region.¹⁹⁷ In the same year, 2.5 million people living in the Caribbean were affected by severe storms, more than ten times the annual average number, and more than 37 times the annual average were impacted by flooding.¹⁹⁸ After Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2016, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) launched the CDEMA Legacy Project in which \$50,000 of vouchers were given to 270 peoples displaced in Antigua & Barbuda to purchase food and hygiene items with special considerations made for single and widowed women with children and the elderly.¹⁹⁹

Response, Resilience, and Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster resilience and risk reduction refers to the ability of a group or system to withstand the effects of disasters and recover quickly, such as infrastructure built to withstand severe storms, irrigation systems that contribute to water storage and sanitation in crises, and early warning systems.²⁰⁰ Additionally, critical infrastructure, such as hospitals, need to be built and maintained to a high standard in order to withstand disasters.²⁰¹ The development and incorporation of early warning systems has had a vast impact on emergency preparedness, response, and minimizing damage and loss of life, and is one of the most cost effective ways to save human lives.²⁰² After the Odisha Cyclone of 1999, which resulted in the death of nearly 10,000 people in India and Bangladesh, early warning systems were incorporated in disaster resilience investments.²⁰³ When Cyclone Phailin struck the region in 2013, those who were located in the disaster zone were notified in advance and evacuated the area, saving thousands.²⁰⁴

¹⁸⁹ UNISDR, *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations: Roles, mandates and areas of work of key United Nations entities*, 2009.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.

¹⁹¹ OCHA, *El Nino: Overview of Impact, Projected Humanitarian Needs, and Response*, 2016.

¹⁹² Knowledge Publication, *International Emergency Response*, 2013, p. 6.

¹⁹³ FAO, *Disaster Risk Reduction for Food and Nutrition Security*, 2014, p. 1.

¹⁹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁹⁵ AOSIS, *About AOSIS*, 2015.

¹⁹⁶ AOSIS, *AOSIS Adopts Urgency of Now Declaration of Action*, 2017.

¹⁹⁷ Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, *Annual Disaster Statistical Review 2016: The numbers and trends*, 2017.

¹⁹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹⁹ CDEMA, *CDEMA's Legacy Project successfully implemented in Antigua and Barbuda post Hurricane Irma*, 2018.

²⁰⁰ UN General Assembly, *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015.

²⁰¹ Ibid, p.6.

²⁰² Ibid, p.5.

²⁰³ World Bank, *Building Resilience: Integrating Climate and Disaster Risk into Development*, 2013, p. 10.

²⁰⁴ Ibid.

In the event of a disaster, vulnerable groups such as women, children, and persons with disabilities (PWDs), are at greater risk to succumb to homelessness, injury, and death.²⁰⁵ During a disaster, PWDs are four times more likely to be fatally injured and are often turned away from shelters and refugee camps due to fears of potentially complex medical needs, scarcity of resources, and discrimination.²⁰⁶ Women are also at greater risk during a disaster largely due to existing inequalities such as access to financial and social assets and an unwillingness to or lack of training in emergency preparedness and risk assessment.²⁰⁷ The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) supported national disaster management bodies and women's advocates, while also working to strengthen gender-responsive national plans after the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, Super Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, and the 2015 flooding in Myanmar.²⁰⁸ In partnership with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and UNISDR, UN-Women also launched the *Global Programme in Support of a Gender-Responsive Sendai Framework Implementation*, which made recommendations for reaching gender related target of the Sendai Framework.²⁰⁹ In addition to PWD and women, children are also subject to higher mortality rates restricted access to resources during and after a disaster.²¹⁰ Children are significantly more sensitive to extreme weather as their bodies are still developing and in need of adequate care and nutrition.²¹¹ Children are also more likely to suffer extreme psychological stresses after surviving disasters, such as trauma and PTSD.²¹² Furthermore, children under the age of five whose mothers have been killed in a disaster, are significantly less likely to survive since they lack access to food and health care.²¹³ The Sendai Framework emphasizes the need for all of society to be considered, engaged, and empowered in disaster preparedness and risk reduction in order to reduce risks and mortalities as much as possible.²¹⁴

Case Study: Haiti

Scientists believe that rising sea levels and land erosion caused by climate change effect the stability of the Earth's crust and contribute to the frequency and severity of earthquakes.²¹⁵ In January of 2010 a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck near the Haitian capital, Port au Prince, killing 220,000 people and injuring an additional 300,000.²¹⁶ Before the disaster more than 70% of Haitians were living off of less than \$1 USD a day and 86% of people in Port au Prince were living in slum conditions, making disaster preparedness virtually impossible and disaster recovery significantly more challenging.²¹⁷ Haiti had not yet fully recovered from two hurricanes in 2008 and had not implemented any quantifiable risk reduction and resilience strategies during the recovery process.²¹⁸ In Port au Prince alone, there was over 19 million cubic meters of debris and rubble, resulting in the homelessness of more than 1.5 million survivors.²¹⁹ In October of 2010, Haiti suffered from a massive cholera outbreak, for the first time in over a century, killing at least 9,500 additional people.²²⁰

Since the Earthquake, Haiti and UN bodies have been criticized for mismanagement of funds and a lack of investment in disaster risk reduction and resilience, despite the nation being deemed the most disaster prone state in the Americas.²²¹ This became apparent during Hurricane Matthew in 2016, a category 4 hurricane, whose heavy

²⁰⁵ Hoffman, *Preparing for Disaster: Protecting the Most Vulnerable in Emergencies*, 2009, pp. 1493-1494.

²⁰⁶ CRPD, *Addressing the vulnerability and exclusion of persons with disabilities: the situation of women and girls, children's right to education, disasters and humanitarian crises*, 2015.

²⁰⁷ International Union for Conservation of Nature, *How Natural Disasters Affect Women*, 2009.

²⁰⁸ UN-Women, *Disaster Risk Reduction*.

²⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

²¹⁰ UNICEF, *Children's Vulnerability to Climate Change and Disaster Impacts in East Asia and the Pacific*, 2011.

²¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

²¹² *Ibid.*

²¹³ *Ibid.*

²¹⁴ UN General Assembly, *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015.

²¹⁵ Chen, *Melting Glaciers Are Wreaking Havoc on Earth's Crust*, *The Smithsonian Magazine*, 2016.

²¹⁶ Disasters Emergency Committee, *Haiti Earthquake Facts and Figures*, 2013.

²¹⁷ *Ibid.*

²¹⁸ Encyclopedia Britannica, *Haiti Earthquake of 2010*, 2018.

²¹⁹ Disasters Emergency Committee, *Haiti Earthquake Facts and Figures*, 2013.

²²⁰ Lantagne et al., *The Cholera Outbreak in Haiti: Where and how did it begin?*, 2013, pp. 1-20.

²²¹ UNISDR, *DRR Critical to \$2.7 Billion in Haiti Recovery Effort*, 2017.

rainfall caused flooding, landslides, and massive destruction of agricultural lands.²²² The hurricane's 230 kilometre per hour winds caused over \$604 million USD in damages.²²³ The disaster struck the poorest areas of the state, effecting more than 2 million Haitians and resulting in the loss of 90% of livestock and crops in those areas.²²⁴ Once again Haiti lost critical infrastructure and, due to flooding, cases of cholera spiked.²²⁵ Other diseases and illnesses also increased as the vaccination cold chain was damaged, destroying vaccine stores.²²⁶ The World Bank contributed \$150 million US dollars for agriculture and infrastructure recovery, as well as to minimize the spread of cholera.²²⁷ According to UNICEF, at least 1.4 million Haitians still require significant humanitarian assistance, 600,000 of which are children.²²⁸ More than 178,000 Haitians remain displaced after the hurricane.²²⁹

Conclusion

Between 1980 and 2012, the financial cost of disasters has been approximately \$3.8 billion globally.²³⁰ Since 2005 more than 1.5 billion people have been affected by natural disasters.²³¹ Climate induced natural disasters damage infrastructure, threaten economies, and halt development, making recovery particularly challenging in developing countries which are disproportionately affected.²³² Low lying island states are at a particularly greater risk for flooding, severe storms, and degradation of infrastructure, due to low elevation and geographic features.²³³ Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General addressed ECOSOC in October 2017 by stating that “the international community has a responsibility to support affected countries to become more resilient; to promote a risk-informed approach to reconstruction; and to strengthen their financial systems so that they can cope with such large-scale shocks.”²³⁴ Member States have a serious responsibility to work cooperatively in mitigating the effects of natural disasters exacerbated by climate change.²³⁵

Further Research

Moving forward, delegates should consider the following: How can disaster relief and emergency response become more accessible and inclusive? How can the international system better protect people most vulnerable to natural disasters? How can the allocation of funds prioritize resilience effectively while still addressing the immediate needs of those affected by disaster? What policies and procedures can be established for humanitarian efforts that limits the spread of disease while maintain quick emergency response? How can ECOSOC better support disaster relief agencies, NGOs, and individual state actors?

²²² World Bank, *Rapidly Assessing the Impact of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti*, 2017.

²²³ Stokes, *100 Days After Matthew, Seven Years After the 'Quake': Is Haiti More Resilient*, 2017.

²²⁴ World Bank, *Rapidly Assessing the Impact of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti*, 2017.

²²⁵ Jones, Haiti death toll rises to 842 after Hurricane Matthew, reports say, *The Guardian*, 2016

²²⁶ World Bank, *Rapidly Assessing the Impact of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti*, 2017.

²²⁷ *Ibid.*

²²⁸ UNICEF, *Hurricane Matthew Three Months on, Life for Haiti's Children*, 2016.

²²⁹ Human Rights Watch, *Haiti: Events of 2017*, 2017.

²³⁰ World Bank, *Building Resilience: Integrating Climate and Disaster Risk into Development*, 2013, p. 10.

²³¹ UNISDR, *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations: Roles, mandates and areas of work of key United Nations entities*, 2009, p. 114.

²³² Glasser, *Climate Change is the Key Driver for Disasters*, 2017.

²³³ World Bank, *Climate and Disaster Resilience*, 2016.

²³⁴ UN DESA, *UN urged to help countries devastated by recent natural disasters to 'build back better'*, 2017.

²³⁵ *Ibid.*



Annotated Bibliography

United Nations, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. (2009). *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations*. [Report]. Retrieved 5 March 2018 from:

https://www.unisdr.org/files/9866_DisasterRiskReductionintheUnitedNat.pdf

Established by the UNISDR in accordance with the recommendations from the “Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience for Nations and Communities to Disasters”, this report outlines the roles and responsibilities of bodies in both the international and UN system. The document outlines sections by the responsible body then prioritizes specific tasks outlined. Delegates will use this document to understand the roles, responsibilities, and mandates of various bodies on the topic of disaster risk reduction. Most notable sections are Key UN Systems in Disaster Risk Reduction and the role of ECOSOC.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2015). *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 5 March 2018 from:

<http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/283>

The Sendai Framework is written to succeed the “Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience for Nations and Communities to Disasters” to establish a framework written within context of supporting the 2030 agenda. The resolution was adopted in the General Assembly where member states elected seven global targets and four priorities for action. The Sendai Framework outlines four priorities for action: understand disaster risk, strengthen disaster risk governance, invest in resilience, and invest in preparedness. Delegates will benefit from this resolution as it is recent and defines the direction the global community is heading with regards to disaster relief and reduction.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2005). *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*. Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: <https://www.unisdr.org/2005/wcdr/intergover/official-doc/L-docs/Hyogo-framework-for-action-english.pdf>

The Hyogo Framework for Action is the predecessor to the Sendai Framework. Adopted in 2005, it was a major step forward in defining international efforts to prepare for and respond to natural disasters. Its priority actions are often cited in resolutions and by Member States, especially its fourth priority action to reduce the underlying risk factors. Delegates should read the Hyogo Framework not only to understand the differences between it and the Sendai Framework, but also to gain an understanding of the weaknesses of prior frameworks, including the Yokohama Strategy, which is discussed in the first section of the framework.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2015). *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction Atlas*. Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: <https://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/atlas/>

The Atlas was created by Prevention Web, a subsidiary to the Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, as an interactive companion to the Global Assessment Report (GAR) on Disaster Risk Reduction. The GAR Atlas allows users to learn about patterns and scale of natural disasters across time and space including probabilistic models for potential disasters in the future. Users can investigate real time weather, look up major disasters, case studies, country profiles, and access a “pocket” version of the 2013 and 2015 GAR. Delegates will benefit from this resource as it is interactive and accessible as well as contains a wealth of information both on a regional and global scale.

The World Bank. (2013). *Building Resilience: Integrating Climate and Disaster Risk into Development* [Report]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from:

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/16639/826480WP0v10Bu0130Box37986200OU090.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Written by the World Bank, this document outlines the benefits and challenges of investing in disaster risk reduction and building disaster resilience. The document goes in depth as to how cost prohibitive resilience can be, while providing excellent examples of states who used resilience tools, such as early warning systems, to drastically reduce harm and destruction. The document also addresses the challenges faced specifically by developing countries and how often disaster aid is not used as a resilience investment, but instead on short-term gain projects. Delegates will



find this source useful as it reflects contemporary and practical challenges facing the international community.

Bibliography

- Alliance of Small Island States. (2015). *About AOSIS* [Website]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <http://aosis.org/about/>
- Alliance of Small Island States. (2017). *AOSIS Adopts Urgency of Now Declaration of Action* [Website]. Retrieved 27 May 2018 from: <http://aosis.org/aosis-adopts-urgency-of-now-declaration-of-action/>
- Bowers, M. (2017, October 23). Waiting for the Tide to Turn: Kiribati's Fight for Survival. *The Guardian* Retrieved 27 May 2018 from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/23/waiting-for-the-tide-to-turn-kiribatis-fight-for-survival>
- Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency. (2018). *CDEMA's Legacy Project successfully implemented in Antigua and Barbuda post Hurricane Irma* [Website]. Retrieved 27 May 2018 from: http://www.cdema.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1790:cdemas-legacy-project-successfully-implemented-in-antigua-and-barbuda-post-hurricane-irma-&catid=35:press-releases
- Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters. (2017). *Annual Disaster Statistical Review 2016: The numbers and trends* [Website]. Retrieved 27 May 2018 from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/annual-disaster-statistical-review-2016-numbers-and-trends>
- Chen, J. (2016, September 1). Melting Glaciers Are Wreaking Havoc on Earth's Crust. *The Smithsonian Magazine* Retrieved 27 May 2018 from: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/melting-glaciers-are-wreaking-havoc-earths-crust-180960226/>
- Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Twenty-third session. (2017). *Fiji Momentum for Implementation*. Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/cop23/eng/113.pdf>
- Disasters Emergency Committee. (2013). *Haiti Earthquake Facts and Figures* [Website] Retrieved 27 May 2018 from: <https://www.dec.org.uk/articles/haiti-earthquake-facts-and-figures>
- Encyclopedia Britannica. (2018). *Haiti Earthquake of 2010*. [Website] Retrieved 27 May 2018 from: <https://www.britannica.com/event/Haiti-earthquake-of-2010>
- Food and Agriculture Organization. (2012). *The Economics of Early Response and Disaster Resilience* [Report]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/drought/docs/Econ-Ear-Rec-Res-Full-Report%20.pdf
- Food and Agriculture Organization. (2014). *Disaster Risk Reduction for Food and Nutrition Security* [Report]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3775e.pdf>
- Glasser, R. (2017, August 9). *Climate Change is the Key Driver for Disasters*, Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <https://www.unisdr.org/archive/54505>
- Human Rights Watch. (2017). *Haiti: Events of 2017*. [Report]. Retrieved 27 June 2018 from: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018/country-chapters/haiti#d9658f>
- Jones, S. (2016, October 7). Haiti death toll rises to 842 after Hurricane Matthew, reports say. *The Guardian*. Retrieved 27 May 2018 from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/06/hurricane-matthew-haiti-rescuers-battle-reach-remote-areas>



- Knowledge Publication. (2013). *International Emergency Response* [Website]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/ENG_KP_rampenbestrijding-nov-2013.pdf
- Lantagne et al. (2013). *The Cholera Outbreak in Haiti: Where and how did it begin?* Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <http://www.ijdh.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/The-Cholera-Outbreak-in-Haiti-Where-and-How-it-Begin.pdf>
- National Center for Environmental Information. (2018). *Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters: Overview* [Website]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>
- National Institute of Building Sciences. (2017). *Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2017 Interim Report* [Website]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <http://www.nibs.org/page/mitigationsaves>
- Sheridan, M. (2010, February 17). Haiti Earthquake Damage Estimated up to \$14 Billion. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/16/AR2010021605745.html>
- Stokes, M. (2017). *100 Days After Matthew, Seven Years After the 'Quake': Is Haiti More Resilient* [Article]. Retrieved 27 June 2018 from: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/latinamerica/100-days-after-matthew-seven-years-after-quake-haiti-more-resilient>
- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. (1992). *Agenda 21* [Outcome Document]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2017). *UN urged to help countries devastated by recent natural disasters to 'build back better'* [Press Release]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/ecosoc/ecosoc-event-on-disaster-resilience.html>
- United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2005). *What Does ECOSOC Do* [Website]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/meetings/2005/hl2005/ECOSOCinfo%20rev%20et.pdf>
- United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2017). *Working arrangements for the 2018 session of the Economic and Social Council* [Website]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <http://sdg.iisd.org/events/ecosoc-humanitarian-affairs-segment-2018/>
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (n.d.). *Disaster Risk Reduction* [Website]. Retrieved 27 May 2018 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/humanitarian-action/disaster-risk-reduction>
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (1992). *Convention Documents*. [Website]. Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: http://unfccc.int/key_documents/the_convention/items/2853.php
- United Nations, General Assembly, Forty-second session. (1987). *Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/RES/42/186)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/42/821/Add.5). Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/42/186>
- United Nations, General Assembly, Twenty-second special session. (1999). *Declaration and State of Progress and Initiatives for the Future Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/RES/S-22/2)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/S-22/2>
- United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2015). *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/283>



United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2016). *El Nino: Overview of Impact, Projected Humanitarian Needs, and Response* [Website]. Retrieved 27 May 2018 from: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA_ElNino_Monthly_Report_Sept2016_0.pdf

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2017). *DRR Critical to \$2.7 Billion in Haiti Recovery Effort*. Retrieved 27 May 2018 from: <https://www.unisdr.org/archive/52194>

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2018). *DesInventar Sendai Database*. Retrieved 27 May 2018 from: <https://www.desinventar.net/DesInventar/>

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2005). *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*. Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: <https://www.unisdr.org/2005/wcdr/intergover/official-doc/L-docs/Hyogo-framework-for-action-english.pdf>

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2015). *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction Atlas* [Report]. Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: <https://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/atlas/>

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2018). *Regional Platform Calendar* [Website]. Retrieved 27 May 2018 from: <https://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/regional/key-events/>

United Nations Office for International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. (2009). *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations* [Report]. Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: https://www.unisdr.org/files/9866_DisasterRiskReductionintheUnitedNat.pdf

United Nations Office for International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. (2017). *United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development*. Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/49076_unplanofaction.pdf

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. (2017). *Risks and Disasters* [Website]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <http://www.un-spider.org/risks-and-disasters>

The World Bank. (n.d.). *Climate Change and Natural Disasters in Small Island Developing States* [Website]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/Climate%20change%20and%20natural%20disasters.pdf>

The World Bank. (2013). *Building Resilience: Integrating Climate and Disaster Risk into Development* [Website]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/16639/826480WP0v10Bu0130Box37986200OU090.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

The World Bank. (2014). *Small Island Developing States are Taking Action to Strengthen Financial Resilience to Natural Disasters* [Website]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <http://blogs.worldbank.org/psd/small-island-developing-states-are-taking-action-strengthen-financial-resilience-natural-disasters>

The World Bank. (2016). *Climate and Disaster Resilience* [Report]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/720371469614841726/PACIFIC-POSSIBLE-Climate.pdf>

The World Bank. (2017). *Rapidly Assessing the Impact of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti*. [Website]. Retrieved 27 June 2018 from: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2017/10/20/rapidly-assessing-the-impact-of-hurricane-matthew-in-haiti>