

The Premier Model United Nations Conference in the Pacific Northwest



Background guide for the
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
(ECOSOC)

Northwest Model United Nations | November 22-24, 2013 | Seattle, Washington, USA

August 1, 2013

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2013 Northwest Model United Nations (NWMUN) Conference and the Economic and Social Council Plenary. The committee staff of the Economic and Social Council Plenary, consisting of Director Sara Leister, Assistant Director Evin Sanders, and Special Adviser Nguyen Cao, is looking forward to working with you at our conference.

The entire Secretariat is very excited to work with you in November and appreciate the hard work and research you are undertaking in preparation for what we are confident will be a great conference!

We are immensely pleased to present to you the background guide, written by the General Assembly committee staff.

The topics for this year's Economic and Social Council Plenary are:

- I. Private Sector Involvement in Sustainable Development
- II. Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Settlements on the Palestinian People in the Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem

Every participating delegation is required to submit a position paper prior to attending the conference. NWMUN will accept position papers until **Sunday, November 10th at 11:59 pm Pacific Time. Please submit all position papers to ecosoc@nwmun.org AND positionpapers@nwmun.org.**

Please refer to the following pages for position paper requirements, as well as an example position paper. Delegates' adherence to these guidelines is crucial, because it not only ensures a well-prepared committee, but is also a key component of the awards process.

We wish each of you the best as you prepare for this conference and committee. We urge you to move beyond the background guide as you learn more about both the Member State you will represent and the topics we will be discussing. Please do not hesitate to direct any questions or concerns toward your Director or the Director-General. We look forward to meeting you at the conference!

Sincerely,

Sara Leister
Director,
Economic and Social Council Plenary
ecosoc@nwmun.org

Evin Sanders
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Economic and Social Council Plenary
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Sasha Sleiman
Director-General
NWMUN 2013
dg@nwmun.org

Position Paper Guidelines

Your position paper should consist of a well-developed introduction and a summary of the position of your country on each of the topics to be discussed in your committee. It is important to remember that while you will have lots of information on your country's actions on a local or national level, you must discuss your country's position on an international level, particularly including suggestions for policies and future action that could be taken by the committee. Additional examples of high quality position papers are available on the NWMUN website.

Formatting

Position papers should be formatted using the following specifications:

1. Times New Roman
2. Size 10 – 12 font
3. Single spaced
4. 2 pages in length

Please Note: Anything over two pages will not be read.

Submission Process

NWMUN will accept position papers until **Sunday, November 10th at 11:59 pm Pacific Time.**

1. Please **send each position paper in a separate e-mail to the committee** with the subject line: COUNTRY – COMMITTEE
 - a. Example: BELARUS – HRC
 - b. Example: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO - GA
2. Please **cc all position paper submissions** to positionpapers@nwmun.org.

General Assembly Plenary:	ga@nwmun.org	Economic and Social Council:	ecosoc@nwmun.org
UN Environment Programme:	unep@nwmun.org	Security Council:	sc@nwmun.org
Reformed Security Council	rsc@nwmun.org	UN High Commissioner for Refugees:	unhcr@nwmun.org

Please Note: Delegates who have not submitted a position paper by the specified deadline will not be given consideration for awards.

Content Requirements

Position papers should include, and will be graded, on the following items

1. **Formatting** and presentation;
2. **Spelling and grammar that is reflective of the level of education** being pursued by attendees to the conference.
3. The content should include:
 - a. **Background information on the topic**, why your country thinks it is important, relevant national commitments and action on the issue. Remember to focus on national policies which influence your country's action on this topic within the UN and internationally.
 - b. **International commitments and your country's support of specific resolutions**, initiatives, conventions or treaties. Describe what actions have been taken by your country to address prior international agreements made by your country.
 - c. **Specific and concrete proposals** for next steps on the topic, priority issues, and how your country can move forward on addressing the topic. This is the most important section of the position paper, and should be the longest paragraph.

Research Tips

1. Look for statements made by your country – you will often find the exact position of your country within a speech that they have been made.
2. Look for the voting record of your country, which indicates its support or lack of support for particular resolutions on the topics when they were previously discussed.
3. Look for recommendations made in Secretary-General reports or within resolutions that have been adopted in order to identify the ways in which you can move forward or take action on the topic.

Key Resources

1. **UN Website “On the Record”**: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/unms/>
This website provides direct access to official documents reflecting the views of United Nations Member States.
2. **UN Website “Global Issues”**: <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/>
This website offers an overview of some of the global issues we will be discussing at NWMUN, and links to other resources where you can get additional information.
3. **UN Economic and Social Council Website**: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/>
This is the official website of the Economic and Social Council. Delegates can use it to find previous actions taken by ECOSOC, including agendas, resolutions, and other information. The website also contains information on the programmes and agencies funded by ECOSOC and other interactions between ECOSOC and the rest of the United Nations system.

Sample Format & Content of Position Papers

Delegation from
(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12)
[Member State]
(Bold, Times New Roman, Size 10-12)

Delegation from
(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12)
[Member State]
(Bold, Times New Roman, Size 10-12)

Position Paper for [Committee Name] **(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12, Centered)**

Introductory sentence providing an overview of the topics and, if appropriate, your delegation's relationship with the committee. (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

I. Topic One Title **(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12, Centered)**

Paragraph #1: Background information on the topic, why your country thinks it is important, relevant national commitments and action on the issue. Remember to focus on national policies which influence your country's action on this topic within the UN and internationally. (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

Paragraph #2: International commitments and your country's support of specific resolutions, initiatives, conventions or treaties. Describe what actions have been taken by your country to address prior international agreements made by your country (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

Paragraph #3: Specific and concrete proposals for next steps on the topic, priority issues, and how your country can move forward on addressing the topic. This is the most important section of the position paper, and should be the longest paragraph. (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

II. Topic Two Title **(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12, Centered)**

Paragraph #1: Background information on the topic, why your country thinks it is important, relevant national commitments and action on the issue. Remember to focus on national policies which influence your country's action on this topic within the UN and internationally. (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

Paragraph #2: International commitments and your country's support of specific resolutions, initiatives, conventions or treaties. Describe what actions have been taken by your country to address prior international agreements made by your country (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

Paragraph #3: Specific and concrete proposals for next steps on the topic, priority issues, and how your country can move forward on addressing the topic. This is the most important section of the position paper, and should be the longest paragraph. (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

(Repeat the topic header and content for other topics if your committee has more than two.)

Example Position Paper

Delegation from
Canada

Represented by
University of Southern Washington

Position Paper for the Economic and Social Council Plenary

The topics before the Economic and Social Council are: 1) Promoting Economic and Social Gender Equality as a Means to Achieve Sustainable Peace, 2) Implementing International Agreements to Ensure Global Public Health, and 3) Promoting Sustainable Cities. Canada is committed to strengthening the role of ECOSOC on the issues before it, and looks forward to promoting enhanced cooperation amongst Member States in order to reach consensus and take concrete action.

I. Promoting Economic and Social Gender Equality as a Means to Achieve Sustainable Peace

In conflict and post-conflict societies, economic and social rights are often given lower priority than political and civil rights. In these cases, women are not treated equally, and are often the victims of gender discrimination, which manifests itself in violations of human rights such as rape, violence and displacement. The prevalence of these crimes is exacerbated by a lack of protection for women, who often do not possess the right to own land, have no means to receive adequate health care and have no access to justice.

Canada has long been a champion of women's economic, social, and cultural rights. As an original signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Canada has a formal commitment to gender equality and, more specifically, supports the explicit and systematic integration of a gender perspective into all peace-building and foreign aid initiatives. Canada continues to press for specific initiatives with concrete and measurable outcomes when addressing gender inequality. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has developed its own Framework for Addressing Gender Equality Results. This framework has been an important advance in assessing the effectiveness of its initiatives and has consistently provided CIDA with useful and relevant data. Canada recognizes the advancements made in Security Council resolution 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) to strengthen the original principals of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). However, Canada firmly believes that ensuring the implementation of SCR 1325 (2000) at the national level is vital. That is why Canada suggests that the CEDAW committee issue recommendations to both the Security Council and ECOSOC on positive models for National Action Plans (NAP) for incorporating SCR 1325 (2000), a set of progress and impact indicators through which its implementation can be monitored, and benchmarks designed towards strengthening the principals of SCR 1325 (2000).

Canada recommends that the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), along with the ECOSOC Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) reach out to local NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) to coordinate the monitoring of, and reporting on, the progress of these NAPs. CSW will then report its findings to ECOSOC, the Security Council, and the Secretary General. Canada urges for the adoption of benchmarks requiring 30% of UN-mandated peacekeeping forces and negotiating delegations be women. Canada also believes that while peacekeeping troops are vital to facilitating the cessation of hostilities, a separate unit with a specialized mandate is necessary to deal with the psychological and health issues of women that continue in post-conflict situations long after the

violence is over. The specialized mandate will also lay the groundwork for legal procedures that may need to be taken to ensure just peace. Canada calls for the creation of this specially trained unit to be deployed in post-conflict situations, with a specific mandate to address sexual and gender based violence, help to eliminate impunity, and offer same-sex interviewers for rehabilitation purposes. The newly created unit will facilitate reconciliation and violence prevention.

II. Implementing International Agreements to Ensure Global Public Health

Effectively addressing global public health lies at the center of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Through agreements such as the Paris Declaration on AID Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA), and global health initiatives such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI), and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, the international community has made significant progress in addressing the world's health concerns. Canada is focused on creating frameworks and resolutions that foster greater coordination, eliminate corruption and overlap, improve AID consistency, encourage the untying of AID, emphasize a focus on national health systems, and hold all the countries involved accountable for producing tangible and measurable results.

Canada has been a leader in the use of innovative funding mechanisms, such the Advance Market Commitment (AMC), which provides incentives for pharmaceutical companies to accelerate the development of vaccines and sell them at prices that poor countries can afford. This project, which is being implemented in coordination with the World Bank and GAVI, is expected to save an estimated 7.7 million lives by 2030. Canada will continue to urge its fellow member states to become more involved in the creation and implementation of such innovative funding mechanisms.

Especially now, due to the downturn in the global economy, where the world's poor are disproportionately suffering, there is a greater need for all donor countries to fulfill their Official Development Aid (ODA) commitments. Canada was the first country to fulfill its G8 commitment to double ODA in Africa by 2008, and throughout the world by 2010. This has been accomplished through both the African Health Systems Initiative (AHSI) and the Catalytic Initiative to Save a Million Lives. Canada has not only committed USD 450 million to these initiatives, but with them has demonstrated its focus on both strengthening, and developing local ownership, of national health systems. Canada urges the implementation of year-by-year funding targets to ensure that ODA commitments for health initiatives are kept. Currently The Measles Initiative is facing a funding gap of \$59 million for 2010, and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria is also facing a funding crisis of \$5 billion for this year. These gaps in funding could cause millions their lives. Canada strongly urges it fellow member states to fulfill their commitments to these funds.

Canada is also a strong proponent of the International Health Partnership & Related Initiatives (IHP+). The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), through the IHP+ framework, is the chair of the Mozambique National AIDS Council (CNCS) and has made long-term financial commitments to IHP+. Canada believes that IHP + will not only prove to be extremely effective in addressing the issues of AID effectiveness, redundancy, and accountability, but will also go a long way towards creating a united front dedicated to improving global public health. Canada urges for the creation of new commitments that compel 15 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries to join in either bilateral or compact agreements through IHP+ by 2020.

The Economic and Social Council at NWMUN 2013

NWMUN works each year to create as accurate a simulation as is possible for our delegates. Therefore, we have developed some additional ways for delegates to interact within the simulation, including enabling delegates to take action other than passing resolutions on an issue. This section aims to provide additional, specific information for the Economic and Social Council at NWMUN 2013.

Briefings

While discussing a topic, ECOSOC delegates are able to receive briefings from representatives of relevant member states or UN subject matter experts. The specific thematic experts available will be announced on the NWMUN website, as well as the beginning of the conference.

Mandate

The mandate of the Economic and Social Council Plenary is:

The Economic and Social Council may make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters and may make recommendations with respect to any such matters to the General Assembly to the Members of the United Nations, and to the specialized agencies concerned.

Functions & Powers

- It may make recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.
- It may prepare draft conventions for submission to the General Assembly, with respect to matters falling within its competence.
- It may call, in accordance with the rules prescribed by the United Nations, international conferences on matters falling within its competence.
- It may co-ordinate the activities of the specialized agencies through consultation with and recommendations to such agencies and through recommendations to the General Assembly and to the Members of the United Nations.

Outcome Documents

When taking action on a topic, the Economic and Social Council Plenary can adopt **resolutions**. Economic and Social Council Plenary resolutions are not binding but rather recommendations to the General Assembly on issues relating to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and other related matters.

Rules of Procedure

The Economic and Social Council Plenary will use the standard NWMUN rules of procedure, available on our website as well as at the conference.

Members of the Economic and Social Council at NWMUN 2013:

Albania	Austria	Belarus	Benin	Bolivia
Brazil	Bulgaria	Burkina Faso	Cameroon	Canada
China	Columbia	Croatia	Cuba	Denmark
Dominican Republic	Ecuador	El Salvador	Ethiopia	France
Gabon	Haiti	India	Indonesia	Ireland
Japan	Kuwait	Kyrgyzstan	Latvia	Lesotho
Libya	Malawi	Mauritius	Mexico	Nepal
Netherlands	New Zealand	Nicaragua	Nigeria	Pakistan
Qatar	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	San Marino	Senegal
South Africa	Spain	Sudan	Sweden	Tunisia
Turkey	Turkmenistan	United Kingdom	United States of America	

Economic and Social Council Committee History

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) draws its mandate from Article 61 of the Charter of the United Nations established in 1945 and represents the UN in a wide range of social, cultural, environmental, economic, and humanitarian issues.¹ Since its formation, ECOSOC has grown from 27 members to 54 members as of 2013.² The growth and increasing complexity of the body are much needed as a plethora of challenges have arisen since its formation. A few notable ones are ongoing, disputes in the Middle East regions, unprecedented climate disasters due to anthropogenic causes, cyber warfare, overpopulation, and extreme water scarcity.

Committee Framework & Membership

One of the six primary bodies of the UN, ECOSOC has 54 members, with one-third elected by the General Assembly (GA) each year for staggered three-year terms.³ To ensure the variety and breadth of ideas and suggestions discussed, seats in ECOSOC are geographically allotted, with 14 assigned to African states, 10 to Latin American and Caribbean states, 11 to Asian states, 6 to Eastern European states, and 13 to Western European and other States.⁴ The ECOSOC Executive Bureau, elected annually by the Council at large, is in charge of proposing agendas, drafting the program of work, and organizing sessions in conjunction with the UN Secretariat.⁵ The Bureau is made up of five members, with one president and four vice presidents.⁶ In response to the degree of intricacy in dealing with economic and social issues, ECOSOC has established various subsidiary bodies for a more thorough, effective, and focused performance, with each supervising a certain level of the problem-solving processes. These encompass nine Functional Commissions, five Regional Commissions, three Standing Committees, Ad hoc bodies, eight expert bodies, and other related bodies such as the International Narcotics Control Board.⁷

Meeting and Voting Patterns

ECOSOC holds a four-week substantive session each July with five segments (High-level, Coordination, Operational Activities, Humanitarian Affairs, and General) alternating annually between Geneva and New York.⁸ Considered the heart of the body's substantial activities, these high-level meetings welcome policy-makers from governments across the world.⁹ In addition, the organization hosts year-round regular meetings in order to attract policy-makers from international business sectors, academics, and registered non-governmental organizations.¹⁰ Furthermore, the Council operates several short sessions and panel discussions through the year.¹¹ These regular meetings and discussions are excellent preparations for the involved parties and ECOSOC as policy makers get to intensively discuss essential issues for the annual meeting. Each ECOSOC member holds one vote in the Council.¹²

Mandate

ECOSOC's mandate includes, but is not limited to, coordinating discussions and collaboration on economic and social issues between Member States, recommending policies on global development and international assistance, initiating studies pertaining to the aforementioned topics, and representing the UN in its efforts of regulating economic and humanitarian-related activities across the world.¹³ Known as a policy-recommending rather than a policy-making body, ECOSOC submits its recommendations and drafted conventions directly to the General Assembly.¹⁴ For this reason, ECOSOC is often critiqued as being limited in its ability to exercise authority.

¹ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter10.shtml>

² United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter10.shtml>

³ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC Members*, n.d. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/members.shtml>

⁴ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC Members*, n.d. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/members.shtml>

⁵ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC Bureau*, n.d. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/bureau.shtml>

⁶ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC Bureau*, n.d. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/bureau.shtml>

⁷ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Subsidiaries Body of ECOSOC*, n.d. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/subsidiary.shtml>

⁸ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Substantive Sessions*, n.d. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/substantive.shtml>

⁹ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *About ECOSOC*, n.d. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/index.shtml>

¹⁰ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *About ECOSOC*, n.d. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/index.shtml>

¹¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Substantive Sessions*, n.d. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/substantive.shtml>

¹² United Nations, *Main Bodies*, n.d. <http://www.un.org/en/mainbodies/>

¹³ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter10.shtml>

¹⁴ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter10.shtml>

However, since its establishment, ECOSOC has undertaken reforms to make the body stronger, more authoritative, and more efficient.

Three reforming approaches have been proposed and/or applied in ECOSOC itself. Such suggested methods consist of the proposal to establish the “Economic and Security Council” in the 1980s, the suggestion to launch a G20 or L20+ outside the UN, and the possible upgrade of ECOSOC via the formation of an Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and a biennial Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), presented in the World 2005 Summit.¹⁵ Out of the recommendations, upgrading ECOSOC via AMR and DCF has been put into effect since 2005, which has been proven to be very efficacious.¹⁶ While the AMR gives the Council the right to frequently assess progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the DCF reviews progress in international development, enhances consistency in development activities among various developmental partners, and promotes coherence between the operative and normative work of the UN.¹⁷ These newly established functions vitally fortify all of ECOSOC’s capacities. The AMR helps engage policy makers, government leaders, non-governmental organizations, and all stakeholders available to actively take part in and review the UN’s development work.¹⁸ The DCF enables all crucial development actors to bring their unique and valuable views to the table, addressing development goals in multi-layered approaches, in turn creating a more concrete and coherent strategy for accomplishing pre-planned development goals.¹⁹

To better facilitate deliberations and gather recommendations over ongoing economic and social issues, ECOSOC drafts detailed agendas prior to each annual session. Such programs specify precise goals for each segment, delegate clear-cut tasks to the responsible parties, and discuss potential further roles of ECOSOC in the UN’s strategic development programs.²⁰ Given the ongoing financial crisis and the need to achieve sustainable development, ECOSOC’s 2012 July meeting agenda focused on international trade in the high-level segment, transnational development cooperation for the operational activities segment, all-inclusive conferences on finance for the coordination segment, and global-scale adversity relief assistance for the humanitarian affairs segment; other focuses included the social ramification of the Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory or the critical role of technology science in sustainability.²¹ In 2013, the high-level segment will focus on technology and development goals, the coordination segment will consider economic issues of poverty eradication and international finance, and the operational activities segment will assess the progress in the implementation of GA resolution 67/266 (2013) in “development cooperation landscape.” The humanitarian affairs segment will deal with risk reduction and humanitarian innovations and the general segment will review a number of other major issues such as the Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS and tobacco control.²²

Conclusion

As ECOSOC slowly approaches 70 years of existence, it has been proven to be an extremely significant body of the UN, overseeing a broad scope of economic and social matters. Another thing making ECOSOC’s role more unique is that ECOSOC is the only primary organ of the UN that closely collaborates with the UN’s non-governmental partners. Having faced complex and multifaceted issues since its establishment, ECOSOC has undergone a number

¹⁵ Martens, *The Reform of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): A Never-Ending Story?*. 2006.

<https://www.globalpolicy.org/social-and-economic-policy/social-and-economic-policy-at-the-un/reform-of-ecosoc-and-the-social-and-economic-policy-process-at-the-un/47509.html>

¹⁶ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *About ECOSOC*, n.d. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/index.shtml>

¹⁷ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *New Functions of ECOSOC*, n.d.

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/index.shtml>;

United Nations Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, *Development Cooperation Policy Branch (DCPB)*, n.d.

<http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/dcpb.htm>

¹⁸ United Nations, *Press Release:2005 World Summit Must Take Bold Steps Toward Making Poverty History, Says Secretary-General in Address to Economic and Social Council (SG/SM/9970 ECOSOC/6156)*, 2005.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/sgsm9970.doc.htm>

¹⁹ United Nations, *Press Release:2005 World Summit Must Take Bold Steps Toward Making Poverty History, Says Secretary-General in Address to Economic and Social Council (SG/SM/9970 ECOSOC/6156)*, 2005.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/sgsm9970.doc.htm>

²⁰ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/2012/100)*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2012/100

²¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/2012/100)*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2012/100

²² United Nations Economic and Social Council. *High-Level Segment*. n.d. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/has2013.shtml>

of changes to make it a more efficient body in terms of problem solving, policy recommending, and authority exercising. Newly established functions such as AMR and DCF are evidence of ECOSOC's ongoing efforts to tackle challenges more effectively and to represent the UN to the highest possible standard on development issues in the broader international community.

I. Private Sector Involvement in Sustainable Development

“We underscore that sustainable development requires concrete and urgent action. It can only be achieved with a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and the private sector, all working together to secure the future we want for present and future generations.”

- The General Assembly of the United Nations, “*The Future We Want*”²³

Introduction

Emerging in 1992 with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), sustainable development is an increasing priority in United Nations activity, particularly in discussions over the post-2015 development agenda.²⁴ This new agenda is to take effect at the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and will include specific Sustainable Development Goals as well as a comprehensive international development agenda.²⁵ The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 (UNCSD), entitled *The Future We Want*, recognized sustainable development as including the eradication of poverty, changing of unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, promoting sustained equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, and the sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.²⁶

In A/42/427 (1987), *Our Common Future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development*, sustainable development is defined as an understanding of growth in the present without compromising the landscape for growth in the future.²⁷ Economic, social, and political development is recognized as being essential to meeting the needs of people around the world.²⁸ Despite the need for this type of development, the pursuit of it without sustainable and inclusive growth development policies, increased poverty can occur as a result, even while increasing productivity and output.²⁹ Starting developing states on a path of sustainable development will create the opportunity for improved access to necessary resources, improved health, and the protection of traditions and cultures that are currently at risk.³⁰

In September 2012, the General Assembly adopted *The Future We Want* (A/RES/66/288), which established the understanding that, in order to ensure that the basic needs of food, water, sanitation, economic opportunity, electricity, education and environmental stability are met for all, it is imperative to coordinate development efforts toward a sustainable future.³¹ The GA also agreed to work together with all major groups and stakeholders to encourage active participation in the planning and implementation of sustainable development at all levels.³² The resolution repeatedly notes the importance of the private sector and public-private partnerships in facilitating transitions to sustainable practices internally, and to provide financial support for joint efforts for sustainable development.³³ The United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) is endorsed by *The Future We Want* for its role in

²³ United Nations General Assembly. *The future we want* (A/RES/66/288), 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

²⁴ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. *Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 Chapter 18*, 1992. <http://www.un-documents.net/a21-18.htm>

²⁵ United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Sustainable Development Goals*. 2013.

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1300>

²⁶ United Nations General Assembly, *The Future We Want* (A/RES/66/288), 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

²⁷ World Commission on Environment and Development. *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future* (A/42/472/1987), 1987. <http://www.un-documents.net/a42-427.htm>

²⁸ United Nations General Assembly, *The Future We Want* (A/RES/66/288), 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

²⁹ United Nations General Assembly, *The Future We Want* (A/RES/66/288), 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

³⁰ Economic and Social Council, Development Cooperation Forum. *Official Summary of the President of the Economic and Social Council*, 2012. http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf12/ecosoc_prez_summary_22_oct_2012.pdf

³¹ United Nations General Assembly, *The Future We Want* (A/RES/66/288), 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

³² United Nations General Assembly, *The Future We Want* (A/RES/66/288), 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

³³ United Nations General Assembly, *The Future We Want* (A/RES/66/288), 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

fostering the best practices of sustainable development in the private sector.³⁴ The 10 principles that govern the Compact were developed in previously-adopted United Nations documents, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.³⁵ The Compact is designed to ensure that the private sector members of the Compact embrace and enact these principles, with the support of the other stakeholders of the compact.³⁶ This effort to create cooperation and a voluntary set of best practices observed by the private sector stakeholders as a whole is governed through seven entities within the overarching Compact system.³⁷ This framework allows for involvement and ownership of the initiative to be held by the participants.³⁸ This style of cooperative and inclusive governance is typical of sustainable development, and the participation of all relevant parties is recognized as a main factor in the successful adoption of sustainable policies and practices.³⁹

International Framework

The history of sustainable development and the private sector begins with the ideas discussed when the GA called the Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 and brought together Member States to discuss the human right to a healthy and productive environment.⁴⁰ The UNCED was first held in 1992, and it was here that an agenda for the environment and development in the 21st century, *Agenda 21*, would be drafted.⁴¹ The UNCED found that sustainable development is an integration of economic, social and environmental policy which will provide a better future for all people, and asserted that in order to reach this point, policy should be adapted and implemented by member states internally.⁴²

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was convened in Johannesburg in 2002 to renew global commitments to sustainable development; the WSSD agreed on the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and tasked the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to follow up on the implementation of sustainable development.⁴³

In 2000, the GA adopted, the *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, which established the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).⁴⁴ When the MDGs expire in 2015, a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be incorporated into a post-2015 agenda to facilitate and support Member States, the private sector, the UN and other stakeholders in their sustainable development efforts.⁴⁵ The SDGs are based on the outcome document of UNCED Rio+20, *The Future We Want*.

³⁴ United Nations General Assembly, *The Future We Want (A/RES/66/288)*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

³⁵ United Nations Global Compact, *About Us, the Ten Principles*, n.d.

<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheGC/TheTenPrinciples/index.html>

³⁶ United Nations Global Compact, *About Us, the Ten Principles*, n.d.

<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheGC/TheTenPrinciples/index.html>

³⁷ United Nations Global Compact, *About us, Global Compact Governance*, 2013.

http://www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheGC/stages_of_development.html

³⁸ United Nations Global Compact, *About us, Global Compact Governance*, 2013.

http://www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheGC/stages_of_development.html

³⁹ United Nations Global Compact, *About us, Global Compact Governance*, 2013

http://www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheGC/stages_of_development.html

⁴⁴ History of Sustainable Development in the UN. *Rio +20 UN conference on Sustainable Development*, n.d.

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/history.html>

⁴¹ History of Sustainable Development in the UN. *Rio +20 UN conference on Sustainable Development*, n.d.

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/history.html>

⁴² United Nations General Assembly. *The future we want (A/RES/66/288)*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

⁴³ History of Sustainable Development in the UN. *Rio +20 UN conference on Sustainable Development*, n.d.

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/history.html>

⁴⁴ United Nations General Assembly. *United Nations Millennium Development Goals (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000.

<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>

⁴⁵ United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Sustainable Development Goals*, 2013.

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1300>

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is dedicated to improving the standard of living for all peoples, and building states so that they are able to withstand crises.⁴⁶ Established in 1965 by the GA, UNDP is the center of the UN's efforts to reduce poverty; UNDP officials chair the United Nations Development Group, and the agency reinforces joint action with forums such as ECOSOC.

The World Bank is one of the largest sources of financing for development around the world, and has created a Sustainable Development Network (SDN) to coordinate its sustainable development projects.⁴⁷ Creating cooperation between stable financial institutions and the private sector is essential to advancing sustainable development.⁴⁸ The *Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome Document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus* calls on Member States to contribute to efforts which promote “global stability, economic growth, and sustainable development.”⁴⁹

The CSD operated through a Multi-Year Programme of Work, which will run from 2004 to 2017; the programme includes seven two-year cycles in which a thematic cluster of issues is reviewed in the first year and then addressed through new policies developed and approved in the second.⁵⁰ This process was designed with the intent to address issues in an integrated manner, taking into account a comprehensive range of factors and participants.⁵¹ However, the CSD as an institution is in the process of being replaced, pursuant to the Rio +20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*.⁵² That document began the process of creating a high-level political forum with universal membership to “[build] on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the [CSD]” and to replace it.⁵³ The first session of the forum is scheduled for September 2013 at the time of the opening of the General Assembly's 68th session.⁵⁴ The broad parameters established within *The Future We Want* were expanded upon by informal consultations led by Brazil and Italy within the General Assembly and later confirmed by that body, defining the forum as meeting at the head of state or government level every four years at the GA's annual session and meeting at the ministerial and sub-ministerial level annually “under the auspices of ECOSOC,” with each meeting creating “a negotiated declaration.”⁵⁵

The Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) was created by the 2005 World Summit in order to “review trends and progress in international development cooperation and promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners.”⁵⁶ The creation of the DCF has helped establish the ECOSOC as a principal forum for international development cooperation, and the DCF itself is a leader for sustainable development cooperation because it includes diverse participants from various levels of development efforts.⁵⁷ This forum provides opportunities for stakeholders from different sectors to become involved in a discussion, and frame a cohesive action plan for future development.⁵⁸ *The Future We Want*, the outcome document of the United Nations

⁴⁶ United Nations Development Programme. *Frequently Asked Questions*. 2013.

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/about_us/frequently_askedquestions/#related

⁴⁷ The World Bank. *Sustainable Development Network*, 2013.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSDNET/0,,contentMDK:22113416~menuPK:64885073~pagePK:64885161~piPK:64884432~theSitePK:5929282,00.html>

⁴⁸ International Conference on Financing for Development. *Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: Review of the Monterrey Consensus*, 2009. http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/documents/Doha_Declaration_FFD.pdf

⁴⁹ International Conference on Financing for Development. *Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: Review of the Monterrey Consensus*, 2009. http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/documents/Doha_Declaration_FFD.pdf

⁵⁰ United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, *UNCSD*, 1992. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/csd.html>

⁵¹ United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, *UNCSD*, 1992. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/csd.html>

⁵² United Nations General Assembly. *The future we want (A/RES/66/288)*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

⁵³ United Nations General Assembly. *The future we want (A/RES/66/288)*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

⁵⁴ United Nations General Assembly. *The future we want (A/RES/66/288)*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

⁵⁵ United Nations, *High-level political forum*, n.d. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1556>

⁵⁶ Economic and Social Council. *Development Cooperation Forum*, 2005. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/DCF/index.shtml>

⁵⁷ Economic and Social Council. *Development Cooperation Forum*, 2005. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/DCF/index.shtml>

⁵⁸ Economic and Social Council, Development Cooperation Forum, *Report of the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum*, 2012. http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf12/DCF_report_11_feb_rev.pdf

Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20, specifically recognized the need for public and private partnerships to be created in order to facilitate the successful implementation of sustainable policies.⁵⁹

UN System Involvement

The Future We Want, approved by the General Assembly on September 11, 2012, affirms that ECOSOC is the primary UN body working on a successive set of goals to the MDGs and commits to strengthening ECOSOC to help it meet its mandate under the Charter.⁶⁰ The GA had previously adopted, in 2007, resolution 61/16, entitled *Strengthening the Economic and Social Council*, which commits to the continued strengthening of ECOSOC in its mandate under the Charter and to ensuring ECOSOC has a key role in achievement of the three dimensions of sustainable development: environmental, economic, and social.⁶¹ As the main UN body responsible for ensuring implementation and progress of the MDGs, ECOSOC has recognized that partnerships between governments, civil society, and the private sector will be crucial to the successful completion of the post-2015 agenda.⁶²

The 2012 DCF was an agreement to launch a process of regular dialogues to promote multi-stakeholder cooperation in order to integrate private sector organizations into the development strategy of the post-2015 goals and beyond.⁶³ The outcome document of the 2012 DCF outlined the main themes of the forum, which included the future of development cooperation, development assistance, private philanthropic organizations, focusing cooperative efforts supporting sustainable development, and partnering for future development.⁶⁴ The role of ECOSOC is to collect these opinions and strategies and formulate further opportunities for cooperation between the stakeholders to improve efficiency in development.⁶⁵ The forum suggested the creation of an opportunity for stakeholders to make multi-year pledges to private philanthropic organizations, which can be more innovative in their approach but are limited by funding support.⁶⁶

The UNGC has dedicated three of its ten principles specifically to the environment. The UNGC is governed through seven entities, each of which performs a specific task, and a board of appointees chaired by the United Nations Secretary-General.⁶⁷ The increasing globalization of world markets has created a need for the private sector to coordinate with governments, societies, labor, and the UN in order to conduct their business efficiently.⁶⁸ The Global Compact embodies this spirit of collaboration by creating partnerships and voluntary standards of practice, which apply equally to all people.⁶⁹

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) opened the Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD) in 2011, in recognition of “the need for markets and private enterprises that create jobs, provide goods and services for the poor and generate tax revenues to finance essential social and economic

⁵⁹ United Nations General Assembly, *The future we want* (A/RES/66/288), 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

⁶⁰ United Nations General Assembly. *The future we want* (A/RES/66/288), 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

⁶¹ United Nations General Assembly. *Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council* (A/RES/64/292), 2007.

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/cdp_res_dec/ares61_16.pdf

⁶² Economic and Social Council, Development Cooperation Forum. *Official Summary of the President of the Economic and Social Council*. 2012. http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf12/ecosoc_prez_summary_22_oct_2012.pdf

⁶³ Economic and Social Council, Development Cooperation Forum. *Official Summary of the President of the Economic and Social Council*, 2012. http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf12/ecosoc_prez_summary_22_oct_2012.pdf

⁶⁴ Economic and Social Council, Development Cooperation Forum. *Official Summary of the President of the Economic and Social Council*, 2012. http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf12/ecosoc_prez_summary_22_oct_2012.pdf

⁶⁵ Economic and Social Council, Development Cooperation Forum. *Official Summary of the President of the Economic and Social Council*, 2012. http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf12/ecosoc_prez_summary_22_oct_2012.pdf

⁶⁶ Economic and Social Council, *Private Philanthropic Organizations in International Development Cooperation: New opportunities and Specific Challenges*, 2012.

[http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf/philanthropy_key_messages\(19_jun\).pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf/philanthropy_key_messages(19_jun).pdf)

⁶⁷ United Nations Global Compact. *Board Members*, 2013.

http://www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheGC/The_Global_Compact_Board/bios.html

⁶⁸ Economic and Social Council, Development Cooperation Forum, *Report of the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum*, 2012. http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf12/dcf_report_11_feb_rev.pdf

⁶⁹ United Nations Global Compact, *The Ten Principles*, 2010.

<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheGC/TheTenPrinciples/index.html>

infrastructure.”⁷⁰ This center will function as a part of the UNDP’s Private Sector Division, and will independently work towards poverty alleviation, foster private sector engagement in the realization of internationally agreed development goals, promote skill-building and access to finances for entrepreneurial expansion and create partnerships between and within the public and private sectors.⁷¹

Key Issues

The role of stable financial institutions in promoting sustainable development initiatives

Supporting cooperation between public and private actors and within the private sector to finance sustainable development is one way that ECOSOC can heavily influence energy generation to transition to sustainable practices. One example of successful collaborations between the private sector and sustainable development initiatives is the American financial institution Bank of America. Bank of America stood out as a large private sector investor in 2012 when it announced a 50 billion USD environmental business initiative, which provides lending and equipment finance to capital markets and will focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy infrastructure, transportation, water, and waste.⁷² This announcement was made as a follow-up to the very successful commitment of 20 billion USD to accelerate low carbon activities in a wide range of markets six years sooner than they initially allotted for the project.⁷³ Solarcity, a solar electricity generation company, and Bank of America agreed on financing for the creation of 300 megawatts of solar generation capacity in 2011, and also joined a project to build the largest distributed rooftop solar generation project in the world.⁷⁴

The growth of private philanthropic organizations (PPOs) has allowed innovative and result-oriented action to be taken across the world to help achieve the many dimensions of the MDGs.⁷⁵ These organizations are known for their ability to provide focused and well-funded efforts to improve the living conditions for communities around the world, relying on their ability to connect with local actors to maintain stability with funding and practices in the spirit of the private sector.⁷⁶ A larger focus on the connection between local actors and large finance organizations has allowed for targeted improvements to be made in communities by individuals who feel the impact directly; further growth in this direction will create more focused development.⁷⁷ Bringing PPOs to coordinate with the UN and Member States in creating a long term investment and development strategies will allow for a greater coordination of efforts for the future and is the main function of the DCF.⁷⁸

Creating universal sustainable energy access through public-private partnerships

Renewable energy sources are growing in usage but are still producing a minority of global energy generation, with the International Energy Association (IEA) estimating that 19.5% of energy production came from renewable sources in 2009.⁷⁹ The IEA has multiple long-term estimates, with the “central scenario” of their predictive document, the *World Energy Outlook*, predicting a three-fold increase in absolute renewable energy production from

⁷⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development*, 2013. http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/partners/private_sector/iicpsd/

⁷¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development*, 2013. http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/partners/private_sector/iicpsd/

⁷² Bank of America. *Bank of America Announces new \$50 Billion Environmental Business Initiative*, 2012. <http://about.bankofamerica.com/en-us/partnering-locally/50b-commitment-061112.html#fbid=b36o9vU UX7>

⁷³ Bank of America. *Bank of America Announces new \$50 Billion Environmental Business Initiative*, 2012. <http://about.bankofamerica.com/en-us/partnering-locally/50b-commitment-061112.html#fbid=b36o9vU UX7>

⁷⁴ Bank of America. *Solarcity and Bank of America Merrill Lynch move forward with Project Solarstrong*, 2011. <http://about.bankofamerica.com/en-us/partnering-locally/solarcity.html#fbid=b36o9vU UX7>

⁷⁵ Economic and Social Council, *Private Philanthropic Organizations in International Development Cooperation: New opportunities and Specific Challenges*, 2012. [http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf/philanthropy_key_messages\(19_jun\).pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf/philanthropy_key_messages(19_jun).pdf)

⁷⁶ Economic and Social Council, *Private Philanthropic Organizations in International Development Cooperation: New opportunities and Specific Challenges*, 2012. [http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf/philanthropy_key_messages\(19_jun\).pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf/philanthropy_key_messages(19_jun).pdf)

⁷⁷ Economic and Social Council, *Private Philanthropic Organizations in International Development Cooperation: New opportunities and Specific Challenges*, 2012. [http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf/philanthropy_key_messages\(19_jun\).pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf/philanthropy_key_messages(19_jun).pdf)

⁷⁸ Economic and Social Council, Development Cooperation Forum. *Report of the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum*, 2012. http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf12/DCF_report_11_feb_rev.pdf

⁷⁹ International Energy Agency, *FAQs: Renewable Energy*, n.d. <http://www.iea.org/aboutus/faqs/renewableenergy/>

2009 to 2035.⁸⁰ Although creating a diversified portfolio of electricity generation has been advocated and claimed as a policy by many Member States, the use of sustainable sources has been largely neglected by the public and private sector, and only recently has significant investment been made in sustainable electricity generation technologies.⁸¹ Meeting the increasing demand, particularly in developing states with portions of their populations lacking access to electricity, will require a comprehensive and global sustainable energy policy, including developing and utilizing renewable energy sources, reducing consumption, increasing efficiency, and creating cooperation between large stable financial institutions, PPOs, and local governments to create access to finances for developing regions.⁸² The efforts to create a cooperative environment among the public sector, private sector, PPOs and the UN agencies are increasing continually; one example of this is the regularity of ECOSOC forums which invite stakeholders from all relevant sectors to discuss policy and action.⁸³

In particular, the private sector has the ability to transform local economies and create exponential growth for a region when managed with regard to cooperative efforts like the UNGC.⁸⁴ Husk Power Systems provides an example of this. It began operating in 2008 with a mission to “provide renewable and affordable power to India’s villages.”⁸⁵ Their successful service has allowed businesses and homes to be lit with electricity instead of kerosene and saves other businesses from needing to run diesel generators.⁸⁶ Further than that, Husk’s biomass power plants purchase the fuel from local farmers, who can then afford to hire more employees and grow the economy.⁸⁷ Husk’s activity in India has reduced the creation of CO2 and other health-damaging pollutants while simultaneously fueling sustainable economic growth.⁸⁸ In a country where 44% of the population still does not have access to electricity, Husk has found a way to fill part of a gap the public sector was unable to fill.⁸⁹ This demonstrates just one instance in which the private sector has been able to create sustainable growth; with cooperation and support from the public sector these efforts can be a model used in the development of the SDGs.⁹⁰

Water as a key resource in sustainable development

Water was officially recognized as a basic human right by the General Assembly in A/RES/61/16 (2010) and Millennium Development Goal 7c.⁹¹ However, there are still nearly 800 million people without basic water access around the world, and by the year 2050, a problem the global population is expected to grow by an additional 2 billion people.⁹² Addressing the environmental impact of human water consumption and demand will be imperative to the success of sustainable farming and resource management.⁹³ Chapter 18 of *Agenda 21* addresses the

⁸⁰ International Energy Agency, *FAQs: Renewable Energy*, n.d. <http://www.iea.org/aboutus/faqs/renewableenergy/>

⁸¹ Bank of America. *Bank of America Announces new \$50 Billion Environmental Business Initiative*, 2012.

http://about.bankofamerica.com/en-us/partnering-locally/50b-commitment-061112.html#fbid=b36o9vU_UX7

⁸² The World Bank, *Data: Financial Sector*, 2010. <http://data.worldbank.org/about/world-development-indicators-data/financial-sector>

⁸³ Economic and Social Council, *Private Philanthropic Organizations in International Development Cooperation: New opportunities and Specific Challenges*, 2012.

[http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf/philanthropy_key_messages\(19_jun\).pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf/philanthropy_key_messages(19_jun).pdf)

⁸⁴ United Nations Global Compact. *The Ten Principles*, 2010.

<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheGC/TheTenPrinciples/index.html>

⁸⁵ Sustainable Energy for All, *Husk Power Systems*, 2008. <http://www.sustainableenergyforall.org/actions-commitments/high-impact-opportunities/item/25-husk-power-systems-india>

⁸⁶ Sustainable Energy for All, *Husk Power Systems*, 2008. <http://www.sustainableenergyforall.org/actions-commitments/high-impact-opportunities/item/25-husk-power-systems-india>

⁸⁷ Sustainable Energy for All, *Husk Power Systems*, 2008. <http://www.sustainableenergyforall.org/actions-commitments/high-impact-opportunities/item/25-husk-power-systems-india>

⁸⁸ Sustainable Energy for All, *Husk Power Systems*, 2008. <http://www.sustainableenergyforall.org/actions-commitments/high-impact-opportunities/item/25-husk-power-systems-india>

⁸⁹ Sustainable Energy for All, *Husk Power Systems*, 2008. <http://www.sustainableenergyforall.org/actions-commitments/high-impact-opportunities/item/25-husk-power-systems-india>

⁹⁰ Sustainable Energy for All, *Husk Power Systems*, 2008. <http://www.sustainableenergyforall.org/actions-commitments/high-impact-opportunities/item/25-husk-power-systems-india>

⁹¹ United Nations General Assembly. *Human Right to Water and Sanitation (A/RES/61/16)*, 2010.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/64/292

⁹² United Nations Millennium Development Goals. *Millennium Development Goal Reports*. 2010.

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/reports.shtml>

⁹³ United Nations General Assembly. *Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. (A/RES/64/236)*, 2010.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/64/236

importance of water resource management and its related socio-economic effects, and repeatedly states the value of cooperation, at the regional, national and lowest sub-national levels, between various stakeholders to perform tasks best suited for each of those levels.⁹⁴ It was further recognized that there is a significant need for infrastructure development, human resource development, education and a review body for the impact of climate change on water and creation of response strategies.⁹⁵

The private sector's resources make it particularly suited to finance and undertake large engineering and construction projects, and with a domestic policy of environmental responsibility and sustainable development, can provide freshwater resources to combat water scarcity.⁹⁶ Projects like "Every Drop Matters" are partnerships between private investors and UNDP to help increase access to water and sanitation, which are both recognized as a basic human right.⁹⁷ Creating further opportunities for private sector financing for aid and investment to be put toward already existing development programs is a crucial aspect of the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs. The private sector can benefit from responsible resource management just as much as the environment can, a fact recognized by numerous transnational corporations as well; an example of this is Coca-Cola, who notes its dependency on the "careful management of this resource."⁹⁸ Their partnership with UNDP recognized that water as a natural resource plays a vital role in poverty alleviation and the environment, and that both could be served better through cooperation between the United Nations and corporations.

Remaining Challenges & Next Steps

Currently, 925 million people are malnourished around the world, and environmental degradation continues to destroy the planet's biological resources while climate change increasingly stresses the environment as well.⁹⁹ The *Future We Want* recognizes the role indigenous peoples play in the revitalization of local agricultural development and improving access to the financial, technological and educational resources of indigenous peoples and the developing world will be crucial to improving local agricultural development.¹⁰⁰ The Rio+20 conference's Issue Brief on Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture defines food security and sustainable agriculture: "Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preference for an active and healthy life."¹⁰¹ To achieve this goal, the relevant stakeholders from government, private sector and the UN will collaborate on an action plan for the post-2015 development agenda.¹⁰² Creating stable access to food and water in a sustainable way will also create exponential growth in the production capacity of all states.¹⁰³

ECOSOC's most important tool in promoting sustainable development is the DCF, which could evolve to work more closely with other major development forums to promote synergy and prevent overlap. Creating and enabling institutional improvement, development of legislation and regulation, good governance and transparencies can encourage capital flow into development projects from the private sector, assisting in the creation of stable and transparent governance can foster a sense of safety for investors. The passage of domestic legislation alongside

⁹⁴ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. *Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 Chapter 18*, 1992, <http://www.un-documents.net/a21-18.htm>

⁹⁵ United Nations General Assembly. *Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*. (A/RES/64/236). 31 March, 2010. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/64/236

⁹⁶ United Nations Development Programme. *Private Sector Strategy*. 5 July, 2013.

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/partners/private_sector/OurStrategy/

⁹⁷ United Nations Development Programme. *Every Drop Counts, partnership for water access and sanitation*. (2011)

<http://www.everydropmatters.com/>

⁹⁸ United Nations Development Programme. *Every Drop Matters, Background*. n.d. <http://www.everydropmatters.com/about-edm/background/>

⁹⁹ United Nations Water. *Statistics; Drinking water, Sanitation & hygiene*. 2012. http://www.unwater.org/statistics_san.html

¹⁰⁰ United Nations General Assembly. *The future we want* (A/RES/66/288), 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

¹⁰¹ United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio +20. *Issue Brief on Food security and Sustainable Agriculture*, 2013. <http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=227&menu=45>

¹⁰² United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, *Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 chapter 18*, 1992. <http://www.un-documents.net/a21-18.htm>

¹⁰³ World Commission on Environment and Development, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future* (A/42/472/1987), 1987. <http://www.un-documents.net/a42-427.htm>

international treaties and resolutions is essential to the successful implementation of sustainable practices.¹⁰⁴ Integrating the private sector in the drafting of this legislation is an essential step of the process, and is encouraged by the UNDP in its private sector strategy, a framework for an inclusionary approach to sustainable development.¹⁰⁵ Ghana has shown great leadership in this regard by passing several laws to create a comprehensive energy strategy which will mandate that 10% of national energy generation will come from renewable sources, while simultaneously reducing the share of its population without access to electricity, which is currently one-third of all Ghanaians.¹⁰⁶ Encouraging even greater levels of renewable energy generation, as well as the development of domestic legislation in all member states, are two ways in which ECOSOC can make a difference.

Conclusion

The involvement of private sector representatives in the planning of future development by Member States is necessary for the success of development planning. ECOSOC should seek to improve relations between the private sector and member states to support the drafting of sustainable development goals. To accomplish this task, ECOSOC will use the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies like the DCF who will coordinate multi-stakeholder forums to discuss issues, and draft policy for the future development process. At the conclusion of the MDGs, the new post-2015 development agenda will take effect; it is the responsibility of ECOSOC to gather stakeholders to create a cooperative effort to achieve all of the new goals of the post-2015 agenda, including the sustainable development goals that will make up a large portion of the agenda. The private sector has shown to be resourceful, innovative, and efficient in its areas of expertise, and putting those talents to use for sustainable development initiatives is recognized as an integral step to achieving the SDGs.

Questions for Consideration

How can the ECOSOC encourage the private sector to invest in sustainable development programs?

How can ECOSOC coordinate Private Philanthropic Organizations with financial institutions to advance development efforts around the world?

What can be included in a comprehensive and inclusive plan for private sector involvement in the development and achievement of the SDGs and the broader post-2015 development agenda?

¹⁰⁴ Sustainable Energy for All, *Ghana Leads on Sustainable Energy For All*, 2012.

<http://www.sustainableenergyforall.org/actions-commitments/country-level-actions/item/60-ghana-leads>

¹⁰⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Private Sector Strategy*, 2013.

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/partners/private_sector/OurStrategy/

¹⁰⁶ Sustainable Energy for All, *Ghana Leads on Sustainable Energy For All*, 2012.

<http://www.sustainableenergyforall.org/actions-commitments/country-level-actions/item/60-ghana-leads>

II. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem

“The existence of the settlements has had a heavy toll on the rights of the Palestinians. Their rights to freedom of self-determination, non-discrimination, freedom of movement, equality, due process, fair trial, not to be arbitrarily detained, liberty and security of person, freedom of expression, freedom of access to places of worship, education, water, housing, adequate standard of living, property, access to natural resources and effective remedy are being violated consistently and on a daily basis.”

- United Nations Human Rights Council, *“Report of the independent international factfinding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem”*¹⁰⁷

Introduction

The *Charter of the United Nations* mandates the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to “make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters.”¹⁰⁸ Under this mandate, ECOSOC annually considers the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian People in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt), including East Jerusalem.¹⁰⁹ The occupation affects Palestinians in several ways: violence between settlers and Palestinians inhibit economic activity and children’s ability to go to school; restriction on import and export affect health, education, and trade; land seizure, dispossession, and displacement are common, which affects socioeconomic stability and agricultural economic capacity.¹¹⁰ Restriction of movement by military rule and the Israeli Separation Wall encourages high unemployment, food insecurity, and deteriorating purchasing power.¹¹¹

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Brief History

The Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories has been an international concern since Israel declared its independence in 1948, at which point it claimed and occupied 77% of Palestinian-allotted territory and created more than half a million refugees by expelling a majority of the Palestinian population during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.¹¹² Israel pursued the publicly-stated goal of achieving a Jewish majority among the population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, pointing to the historical tradition of similar actions in territories seized in war.¹¹³ In 1987, the Palestinians started the First Intifada, or uprising, against the occupation with demonstrations, strikes, and boycotts.¹¹⁴ Israel responded with violence; more than one thousand Palestinians were killed between 1988 and 1993, tens of thousands more were injured, and numerous civilians were detained, incarcerated, or deported.¹¹⁵ Israel shut down schools, prohibited teaching, cut off social services, and outlawed media while settler violence against Palestinians continued to escalate.¹¹⁶

Implementation agreements after the 1993 Oslo Accords resulted in partial withdrawal of some Israeli forces, but the Palestinians’ Second Intifada in 2000 triggered Israeli reoccupation, military incursions and extrajudicial killings, and destruction of Palestinian property.¹¹⁷ Israel retaliated against Palestinian rockets, mortars, and suicide bombings by restricting Palestinian movement with checkpoints, access restrictions, and the construction of the

¹⁰⁷ HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*, 2013. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

¹⁰⁸ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>

¹⁰⁹ ECOSOC, *E/RES/2012/23*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/6

¹¹⁰ ECOSOC, *E/RES/2012/23*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/6

¹¹¹ ECOSOC, *E/RES/2012/23*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/6

¹¹² United Nations, *History of the Question of Palestine*, n.d. <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/his.htm?OpenForm>

¹¹³ United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights, *The Origins and Evolution of the Palestine Problem: 1917-1988*, 1990. <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/0/40AF4C8615BC9837802564740046F767>.

¹¹⁴ United Nations, *The Question of Palestine and the United Nations*, 2008, p.27. <http://unispal.un.org/pdfs/DPI2499.pdf>

¹¹⁵ United Nations, *The Question of Palestine and the United Nations*, 2008, p.27-28. <http://unispal.un.org/pdfs/DPI2499.pdf>

¹¹⁶ United Nations, *The Question of Palestine and the United Nations*, 2008, p.28. <http://unispal.un.org/pdfs/DPI2499.pdf>

¹¹⁷ United Nations, *History of the Question of Palestine*, n.d. <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/his.htm?OpenForm>

West Bank Separation Wall.¹¹⁸ Recent occupation is characterized by restriction mobility, land seizure, and general inhibition of Palestinian economic and social rights.¹¹⁹ After the Palestinian legislative elections in 2006 led to Hamas winning control of the legislature and the Prime Minister's office, Israel implemented a blockade in Gaza, with the assistance of Egypt, that inhibits access to economic inputs and raw materials necessary for development.¹²⁰

International Framework

Several international documents address the social and economic rights of Palestinians. The *Charter of the United Nations* recognizes and affirms the right of all peoples to self-determination, which all Member States are bound by Article 1 to uphold.¹²¹ Article 11 also applies to the relationship between Israel and Palestine, requiring Member States who administer territories to “recognize the principle that the interests of the inhabitants of these territories are paramount.”¹²² The *Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War*, adopted on 12 August 1949, prohibits causing any changes in the geographic, legal, and demographic status in the war region and thus legally restrains the actions of Israel within the oPt.¹²³ Other documents pertaining to the treatment and rights of Palestinians include the *Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* of 14 May 1954; the *Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 on the Laws and Customs of War on Land*; the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*; the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*; and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.¹²⁴

UN System Involvement

The UN has adopted numerous resolutions relating the rights of the Palestinian people since Security Council (SC) resolution 242 of 22 November 1967 called for “a just and lasting peace,” which it defined as Israel withdrawing from captured territories from the 1967 Six-Day War, just treatment of the refugee issue, and termination of belligerency.¹²⁵ SC resolutions 465 of 1 March 1980 and 1860 of 8 January 2009 are two of many resolutions calling for durable peace in the Occupied Territory in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map.¹²⁶ Beginning in 1999 with resolution 53/196, the General Assembly (GA) has annually adopted a resolution concerning the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the oPt, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.¹²⁷

The GA has established several entities to assist Palestinians. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) provides humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees, including within the Occupied Territories and in the surrounding region.¹²⁸ UNRWA's relief and social services provide social safety nets to impoverished Palestinians and strive to serve vulnerable populations, like women and children.¹²⁹ The United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL) collects and disseminates relevant information and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) facilitates international conversations on Palestinians' rights.¹³⁰ The UN Division for Palestinian Rights administers the efforts

¹¹⁸ United Nations, *History of the Question of Palestine*, n.d. <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/his.htm?OpenForm>

¹¹⁹ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹²⁰ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹²¹ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>

¹²² United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>

¹²³ United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights, *The Origins and Evolution of the Palestine Problem: 1917-1988*, 1990.

<http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/0/40AF4C8615BC9837802564740046F767>

¹²⁴ United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights, *The Origins and Evolution of the Palestine Problem: 1917-1988*, 1990.

<http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/0/40AF4C8615BC9837802564740046F767>

¹²⁵ Security Council, *Resolution 242*, 1967. <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=S/RES/242>

¹²⁶ Security Council, *Resolution 465*, 1980. <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/5AA254A1C8F8B1CB852560E50075D7D5;>

Security Council, *Resolution 1860*, 2009. <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/96514396E8389A2C852575390051D574>

¹²⁷ General Assembly, *A/RES/53/196*, 1999. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/53/196

¹²⁸ UNRWA, *Overview*, n.d. <http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/2012091861555.pdf>

¹²⁹ UNRWA, *Relief and Social Services*, n.d. <http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=30>

¹³⁰ United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights, *Division for Palestinian Rights*, n.d.

<http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/div.htm?OpenForm>

of both of these bodies.¹³¹ Destruction and displacement from the construction of the Israeli Separation Wall has required the creation of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the oPt to track its negative economic impacts.¹³²

ECOSOC involvement concerning Palestine addresses economic, social, cultural, educational, and health issues, as per the Council's mandate. ECOSOC has adopted resolutions concerning the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the oPt, including East Jerusalem, since a note by the Secretary-General in 1991 concerning Israeli land and water practices and policies in the same region initiated conversations within ECOSOC on the topic. The most recent of these, resolution 2012/23 of 14 September 2012, addresses the need for unfettered access to Gaza border crossing for people and goods, and affirms Palestinian rights to their natural and economic resources.¹³³ It reaffirms that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territory are illegal and a barrier to Palestinian social and economic development and similarly reaffirms the illegality of the Separation Wall and its similar impacts in the West Bank.¹³⁴

Key Issues

Settler Violence and Intimidation

The UN considers Israeli settlements within the Palestinian Territory to be illegal and a significant barrier to the region's peace process.¹³⁵ Israel has seized 40% of the West Bank and has established 144 illegal settlements, as of 2012, which collectively host 519,000 Israeli settlers.¹³⁶ Settlements are on the rise; 2011 saw a 20% increase in new construction over 2010, with 4,000 new settler-housing units approved in occupied East Jerusalem alone.¹³⁷ A minority of settlers has attempted to force Palestinians off their land by utilizing violence and intimidation; this has been reported consistently since 1973.¹³⁸

Settler violence has significantly increased over time. The number of recorded settler attacks that caused Palestinian casualties or property damage increased by 165% from 2009 to 2011, while two-thirds of Palestinian casualties from March 2011 to March 2012 was due to settler violence.¹³⁹ "Price-tag" attacks are considered a distinct form of settler violence, where settlers extract a "price" from local Palestinians for any legal or political move made they see as contradictory to settler interests.¹⁴⁰ Israeli authorities are aware of this violence yet appear to directly support the attacks, according to documentation by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.¹⁴¹ Palestinians face further institutionalized discrimination, such as being subject to a stricter military judiciary system than the settlers.¹⁴²

The Separation Wall and Restriction of Palestinian Movement

Israel has pursued a physical, political and economic segregation of the Palestinian Territory. Expansions of Israeli settlements and construction of the Separation Wall have severely impacted Palestinians and effectively redrawn

¹³¹ United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights, *Division for Palestinian Rights*, n.d.

<http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/div.htm?OpenForm>

¹³² UNRDC, *Progress Report from the Board of the UNRDC*, 2012. <http://www.unrod.org/docs/Letter15June2011.pdf>

¹³³ ECOSOC, *E/RES/2012/23*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/6

¹³⁴ ECOSOC, *E/RES/2012/23*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/6

¹³⁵ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹³⁶ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹³⁷ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹³⁸ HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*.

2012. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

¹³⁹ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁴⁰ HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*.

2012. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

¹⁴¹ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁴² ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

pre-1967 borders.¹⁴³ The Wall plans isolate East Jerusalem from the rest of the Palestinian Territory and the urban center of Jerusalem while sealing off nearly 12% of West Bank lands in the “Seam Zone” between the United Nations-recognized pre-1967 borders and the Separation Wall, which in various places deviates from the border to encapsulate Palestinian land on the “Israeli” side of the Wall¹⁴⁴ A series of emergency session GA resolutions in 2003 and 2004 (ES-10/13 and ES-10/14) asked the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to consider the legal consequences of the construction of the Wall by Israel.¹⁴⁵ The subsequent advisory opinion of the ICJ found the construction to be illegal under international law, called for construction to cease and Israel to make reparations including changing the route of the wall back to the pre-1967 borders, and reiterated the illegality of settlements.¹⁴⁶ Construction on both still continues.¹⁴⁷

Restrictions on movement and the existence of the Wall have succeeded in dividing Palestinians from their agricultural land and economic markets, which has contributed to high unemployment and low economic productivity.¹⁴⁸ Access to land within the Seam Zone is controlled by gates only open during limited harvest times to individuals with an Israeli-issued permit and sufficient documentation proving (to Israeli authorities) a “connection to the land,” restrictions which severely inhibit the economic agricultural activity of Palestinians.¹⁴⁹ Mobility is restricted not only into the Seam Zone, but also throughout the West Bank and in occupied East Jerusalem.¹⁵⁰ This also effectively restricts religious freedom, as Palestinians are denied access to places of worship; Israeli policies emphasize Jewish culture to the detriment of other cultural histories in key historical locations, especially in Hebron and Jerusalem.¹⁵¹

Land Dispossession and Displacement and Subsequent Agricultural Impacts

Israeli occupying forces utilize a variety of mechanisms to seize Palestinian land, including discriminatory zoning and planning policies that facilitate settlement development. Seizure is justified through military orders, selective Ottoman Land Code interpretation and application, absentee property laws, and declaration of state lands.¹⁵² “Relocation plans,” forced evictions, and demolition orders move Palestinian populations to allow for settlement consolidation.¹⁵³ Relocation plans often target vulnerable Bedouin communities that have already been displaced multiple times, resulting in high rates of food insecurity, water scarcity, and separation from services and international aid.¹⁵⁴

Discriminatory land and housing regulations have caused housing shortages. Palestinians face stringent barriers to receiving building permits, without which they are subject to displacement and demolition of their homes by Israel.¹⁵⁵ More than 32% of Palestinians residing in East Jerusalem lack such permits, meaning 86,500 residents risk

¹⁴³ UNTCAD, *The Palestinian Economy in East Jerusalem*, 2013.

¹⁴⁴ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁴⁵ GA, A/RES/ES-10/14, 2003. <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/ES-10/14>

¹⁴⁶ GA, A/RES/ES-10/15, 2004. <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/ES-10/14>

¹⁴⁷ B’Tselem, *Separation Barrier surrounding al-Walajah to leave family isolated*, 2013.

http://www.btselem.org/separation_barrier/20130624_hajajleh_family_isolated_in_al_walajah

¹⁴⁸ HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*, 2012. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

¹⁴⁹ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁵⁰ HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*, 2012. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

¹⁵¹ HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*, 2012. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

¹⁵² HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*, 2012. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

¹⁵³ HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*, 2012. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

¹⁵⁴ HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*, 2012. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

¹⁵⁵ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

displacement in this part of the oPt alone.¹⁵⁶ In 2011 Israeli authorities increased destruction of Palestinian-owned structures by 42% over the previous year, including demolishing “222 homes, 170 animal shelters, 43 rainwater cisterns or pools, two classrooms and two mosques,” affecting 4,200 people.¹⁵⁷ Dispossession and displacements outside of the city are characterized by destruction of water sources and restriction to Palestinian agricultural lands.¹⁵⁸

Agriculture is the “cornerstone of Palestinian economic development” and is hard hit by land dispossession.¹⁵⁹ In 2011, West Bank Palestinians lost about 350,000 square miles of agricultural land to confiscation by Israeli authorities.¹⁶⁰ Israelis seize not just land but also wells, restricting Palestinian access to water and causing a shift to crops with a lower economic return.¹⁶¹ Movement restrictions further inhibit economic activity by prohibit farmers from accessing both domestic and external markets.¹⁶² Settler violence also particularly targets agriculture, by restricting access to farming land close to settlements, destroying Palestinian crops, and fencing off Palestinian agricultural lands for construction.¹⁶³ A primary sector for Palestinian farmers, the olive industry, has been particularly hit hard by settler violence; settlers destroyed or damaged over 7,500 trees in 2012 alone.¹⁶⁴

Barriers to Health and Growth of the Palestinian Economy

The Palestinian economy has not performed well in recent years, in part due to barriers to market access and economic inputs as well as labor and mobility restrictions. Gaza in particular faces low trade, high unemployment, poverty, and food insecurity.¹⁶⁵ Recent unsustainable economic growth has been based on non-tradables; 2011 growth rates are skewed due to increased construction in Gaza after Israel relaxed blockade restrictions.¹⁶⁶ The West Bank simultaneously saw decreased growth and output due to fiscal retrenchment and the liquidity crisis resulting from declining aid.¹⁶⁷ The Palestinian Authority (PA) also faces a fiscal crisis as the budget deficit exceeds expectations and the local banking sector reaches its loan limitations.¹⁶⁸

Employment barriers significantly contribute to economic stagnation. Palestinians face widespread unemployment due to barriers to market access, economic inputs, and mobility restrictions. The 2011 labor force participation was about 44%, with unemployment rates of the most affected population, youths aged 20-24, reaching 38%.¹⁶⁹ These

¹⁵⁶ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁵⁷ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁵⁸ HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*, 2012. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

¹⁵⁹ HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*, 2012. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

¹⁶⁰ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁶¹ HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*, 2012. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

¹⁶² HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*, 2012. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

¹⁶³ HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*, 2012. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

¹⁶⁴ HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*, 2012. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

¹⁶⁵ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁶⁶ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁶⁷ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁶⁸ World Bank, *Fiscal Crisis, Economic Prospects*, 2012. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWESTBANKGAZA/Resources/AHLReportFinal.pdf>

¹⁶⁹ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

rates are slightly better than 2010, but real wages dropped as purchasing power decreased by 2.8% that year.¹⁷⁰ Palestinians also face employment and wage discrimination as compared to Israeli settlers in the oPt.¹⁷¹

Trade restrictions prevent citizens of the oPt from realizing the economic potential of their assets and traditional markets. Israeli restrictions cause Palestinian purchasing power to decrease, as basic commodity prices escalate, while preventing long-term urban and regional economic planning necessary for sustainable development.¹⁷² Additionally, Israel has prohibited pharmaceutical, dairy and meat product trade from the West Bank into East Jerusalem markets since June 2010, resulting in annual Palestinian economic losses of \$48 million.¹⁷³

The economy in East Jerusalem faces particular challenges. Israel has sought to integrate the region into its own economy since the 1993 Oslo Accords, including attempting to formally annex it, and its importance in the Palestinian economy continues to significantly diminish despite its historical role as “the commercial, transport, tourism, cultural and spiritual center for Palestinians throughout the occupied territory.”¹⁷⁴ While East Jerusalem is structurally dependent on the West Bank economy for inputs, trade, and labor, it is dependent upon Israeli market and employment regulations and systems. Reliance on both economies without full integration into either causes East Jerusalem to operate in a “development limbo.”¹⁷⁵ Palestinian Jerusalemites also have a different legal status than Israelis and continue to face barriers to financing, housing, employment, education, and health services.¹⁷⁶

Impact of the Gazan Blockade

The blockade of Gaza since 2006 also has significant economic and social repercussions. Planned to deter Hamas, the collective punishment of the people of Gaza has deterred economic productivity by restricting imports of agricultural and manufacturing inputs, and exports of Gaza-produced goods to market.¹⁷⁷ Infrastructure and health, education, and water and sanitation services continue to deteriorate as rapid population growth compounds shortages from import restrictions.¹⁷⁸ Furthermore, the blockade has prevented Gaza from accessing the materials necessary to rebuild infrastructure such as schools and hospitals damaged or destroyed during Israel’s “Cast Lead” operation in 2008-2009.¹⁷⁹ This two-month operation caused direct damages of 81 million USD, as well as 44 million USD in long-term agricultural costs.¹⁸⁰

As an urban area, Gaza’s economy has traditionally been based on trading goods and services; due to blockade restrictions, the economy currently depends upon external aid, a shadow tunnel economy, and remittances.¹⁸¹ Recent growth rate spikes in 2011 reflect increased construction as inputs move through the tunnel economy rather than sustainable growth.¹⁸² The combination of the buffer zone and three-mile fishing limit restrictions of the Israeli

¹⁷⁰ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁷¹ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁷² ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁷³ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁷⁴ UNCTAD, *The Palestinian Economy in East Jerusalem*, 2013. http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsapp2012d1_en.pdf

¹⁷⁵ UNCTAD, *The Palestinian Economy in East Jerusalem*, 2013. http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsapp2012d1_en.pdf

¹⁷⁶ UNCTAD, *The Palestinian Economy in East Jerusalem*, 2013. http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsapp2012d1_en.pdf

¹⁷⁷ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁷⁸ OCHA-oPt, *Five Years of the Blockade*, 2012. http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_gaza_blockade_factsheet_june_2012_english.pdf

¹⁷⁹ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

¹⁸⁰ UN Country Team in the oPt, *Gaza in 2020: A Livable Place?*, 2013. <http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/file/publications/gaza/Gaza%20in%202020.pdf>

¹⁸¹ UN Country Team in the oPt, *Gaza in 2020: A Livable Place?*, 2013. <http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/file/publications/gaza/Gaza%20in%202020.pdf>

¹⁸² UN Country Team in the oPt, *Gaza in 2020: A Livable Place?*, 2013. <http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/file/publications/gaza/Gaza%20in%202020.pdf>

blockade cause Gazans to lose an estimated 76.7 million USD annually from fishing and agricultural production.¹⁸³ Currently, Gazans cannot access 35% of their agricultural land due to its placement in the buffer zone; Gazans also are unable to access 85% of the maritime areas the Oslo Accords declared as Gaza's.¹⁸⁴

Remaining Challenges and Next Steps

Dependence on International Aid

Over 1.4 million Palestinians are registered as refugees and live in camps across the Occupied Territory, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Syria.¹⁸⁵ UNRWA defines a Palestine refugee as “people whose normal place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948, who lost both their homes and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict.”¹⁸⁶ Since Operation Cast Lead and the implementation of the blockade in 2006, one-third of the Gaza population live in camps with inadequate conditions where they lack access to health care and electricity.¹⁸⁷ In 2011, 80 % of the Gaza population depended on humanitarian assistance.¹⁸⁸

Decades of occupation have caused the Palestinian Authority (PA) to become highly dependent on foreign donor aid and Israeli collection of Palestinian import and export taxes.¹⁸⁹ The PA faces an increasing fiscal crisis as economic activity continues to slow and donors have been reducing aid, causing an increase in the government's budget deficit.¹⁹⁰ While the PA has done well to develop institutions benefiting Palestinians when compared to other countries in the region, the region is in desperate need of private sector investment for sustainable economic growth to replace declining donor aid.¹⁹¹ Administrative and physical restrictions prevent this necessary private investment, especially in resource-rich Area C of the West Bank, a designation from the Oslo Accords for land which is under Israeli civil and military control.¹⁹²

Food insecurity faces more than million Palestinians in the oPt, and is primarily caused by occupation and ongoing conflict.¹⁹³ Food prices are driven up by the movement restrictions on people and goods, which in turn erodes the purchasing power of Palestinian families.¹⁹⁴ Even after accounting for UN food distributions to nearly 1.1 million people in the region, more than half of Gazan households are food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity.¹⁹⁵ In April 2013 UNRWA closed offices and suspended food aid distribution after Gazans violently demonstrated against program cutbacks due to fund shortages; operations have since resumed and several countries have since pledged new funds for food aid in the oPt.¹⁹⁶

Vulnerable Populations: Women and Children

Women and children are especially vulnerable to economic and social repercussion of Israeli settlements and occupation. In March 2013, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), an ECOSOC subsidiary body, considered a resolution entitled “Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,” (E/CN.6/2013/L.4) which it

¹⁸³ UN Country Team in the oPt, *Gaza in 2020: A Livable Place?*, 2013.

<http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/file/publications/gaza/Gaza%20in%202020.pdf>

¹⁸⁴ UN Country Team in the oPt, *Gaza in 2020: A Livable Place?*, 2013.

<http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/file/publications/gaza/Gaza%20in%202020.pdf>

¹⁸⁵ UNRWA, *Palestine Refugees*, n.d. <http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=86>

¹⁸⁶ UNRWA, *Palestine Refugees*, n.d. <http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=86>

¹⁸⁷ OCHA, *Occupied Palestinian Territory Consolidated Appeal 2013*, 2012, p. 2.

https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/CAP_2013_oPt.pdf

¹⁸⁸ ECOSOC, *E/CN.6/2013/6*, 2013. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/6

¹⁸⁹ ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*.

¹⁹⁰ World Bank, *Fiscal Crisis, Economic Prospects*, 2012.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWESTBANKGAZA/Resources/AHLCReportFinal.pdf>

¹⁹¹ World Bank, *Fiscal Crisis, Economic Prospects*, 2012.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWESTBANKGAZA/Resources/AHLCReportFinal.pdf>

¹⁹² World Bank, *Fiscal Crisis, Economic Prospects*, 2012.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWESTBANKGAZA/Resources/AHLCReportFinal.pdf>

¹⁹³ OCHA, *Occupied Palestinian Territory Consolidated Appeal 2013*, 2012, p. 2.

https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/CAP_2013_oPt.pdf

¹⁹⁴ OCHA, *Occupied Palestinian Territory Consolidated Appeal 2013*, 2012, p. 2.

https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/CAP_2013_oPt.pdf

¹⁹⁵ UN Country Team in the oPt, *Gaza in 2020: A Livable Place?*, 2013.

<http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/file/publications/gaza/Gaza%20in%202020.pdf>

¹⁹⁶ UNRWA, *Statement on Today's Demonstrations*, 2013. <http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=1698>

recommended for ECOSOC approval.¹⁹⁷ The body reaffirmed the occupation of Palestine as the most significant barrier to women's advancement in Palestinian society and called for the international community to integrate a gender perspective in reconstruction and assistance programs.¹⁹⁸ Occupation and settlement policies impact all Palestinians, but gender inequalities and discrimination cause women and girls to have different experiences, and trigger the need for this perspective.¹⁹⁹ Mobility restrictions particularly impact expectant mothers by preventing access to specialized maternal care during high-risk pregnancies, while forced displacement causes devastating impacts on women's psychosocial wellbeing.²⁰⁰

Women and youth face even more limited employment opportunities than the general Palestinian population.²⁰¹ One solution to spur jobs and economic growth recently recommended by the World Bank is microwork, or the division and distribution of "microtasks" to workers via the Internet for greater cost efficiencies.²⁰² These tasks include data input and verification, proofreading and copyediting, market research, and translation.²⁰³ Microwork proposes a viable option for women and youth seeking employment, as the Palestinian territories have high mobile penetration and 53.7% of Palestinians had access to computers in 2011.²⁰⁴ This access plays a critical role in the ability of women to accept microwork over the Internet.²⁰⁵

Children face severe social and economic repercussions from arbitrary arrest and detention by Israeli forces as they secure settlement areas.²⁰⁶ In a 2013 study, UNICEF found a widespread and systematic ill treatment of children across the Israeli military detention system.²⁰⁷ Israel operates the only juvenile military court in the world, which by definition denies children from the basic rights acknowledged in the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, to which Israel is a party.²⁰⁸ Military and security agents arrest, interrogate and detain about 700 Palestinian children each year; nearly all are 12 to 17 years old and most are boys.²⁰⁹ Many are arrested by armed soldiers in their homes at night and not informed of a right to legal counsel.²¹⁰ Children are bound, detained and interrogated until they confess, and face incarceration without communication with their families due to limited movement allowed in the oPt.²¹¹ While in the military court system, children are also denied access to education.²¹²

¹⁹⁷ ECOSOC, *E/CN.6/2012/L.4*, 2013. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/L.4

¹⁹⁸ ECOSOC, *E/CN.6/2012/L.4*, 2013. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/L.4

¹⁹⁹ ECOSOC, *E/CN.6/2013/6*, 2013. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/6

²⁰⁰ ECOSOC, *E/CN.6/2013/6*, 2013. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/6

²⁰¹ World Bank, *Feasibility Study: Microwork for the Palestinian Territories*, 2013.

<http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/923A77FD509756C385257B3C004B803D>

²⁰² World Bank, *Feasibility Study: Microwork for the Palestinian Territories*, 2013.

<http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/923A77FD509756C385257B3C004B803D>

²⁰³ World Bank, *Feasibility Study: Microwork for the Palestinian Territories*, 2013.

<http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/923A77FD509756C385257B3C004B803D>

²⁰⁴ World Bank, *Feasibility Study: Microwork for the Palestinian Territories*, 2013.

<http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/923A77FD509756C385257B3C004B803D>

²⁰⁵ World Bank, *Feasibility Study: Microwork for the Palestinian Territories*, 2013.

<http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/923A77FD509756C385257B3C004B803D>

²⁰⁶ HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*,

2012. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

²⁰⁷ UNICEF, *Children in Israeli Military Detention*, 2013, p. 1.

http://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_oPt_Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_6_March_2013.pdf

²⁰⁸ UNICEF, *Children in Israeli Military Detention*, 2013, p. 1, 6.

http://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_oPt_Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_6_March_2013.pdf

²⁰⁹ UNICEF, *Children in Israeli Military Detention*, 2013, p. 9.

http://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_oPt_Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_6_March_2013.pdf

²¹⁰ UNICEF, *Children in Israeli Military Detention*, 2013, p. 9.

http://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_oPt_Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_6_March_2013.pdf

²¹¹ HRC, *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements*,

2013. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf

²¹² ECOSOC, *Report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/91

Palestinian children face barriers to education outside of incarceration. Children in East Jerusalem have the highest rates of non-enrollment in school due to a lack of residency permits.²¹³ Schools in Gaza and East Jerusalem are overcrowded, especially as many schools destroyed during Israeli invasions in Gaza have not been rebuilt.²¹⁴ Just traveling to and from school is a deterrent to many families due to risk of Israeli soldier and settler harassment or attack during the commute, especially in Area C and Gaza.²¹⁵ Child labor is also an increasing problem in the oPt; West Bank child labor has increased to near 15,000 cases, and while reported cases in Gaza drop, the mortality rate and danger of work in tunnels and the buffer zone are increasing.²¹⁶

Questions for Consideration

How can ECOSOC relieve high unemployment and deteriorating purchasing power given the current reality of the existence of the Separation Wall and the Gazan blockade?

What can ECOSOC do to encourage sustainable economic growth and development in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)?

What options are available to alleviate food insecurity while Palestinians have restricted access to traditional agricultural lands and markets?

How can ECOSOC help maintain gender awareness in trying to alleviate high unemployment in the Palestinian Territory?

How can ECOSOC play a role in developing a consistent framework in East Jerusalem, given the unique conditions of the area, to improve Palestinian access to basic needs and services and exercise of social and economic rights?

²¹³ Palestinian National Authority, *Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, 2011, p. 14. <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/4058.pdf>

²¹⁴ Palestinian National Authority, *Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, 2011, p. 14. <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/4058.pdf>

²¹⁵ Palestinian National Authority, *Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, 2011, p. 14. <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/4058.pdf>

²¹⁶ Palestinian National Authority, *Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, 2011, p. 15. <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/4058.pdf>

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