

Southern Regional Model United Nations XVIII  
*Fostering a Culture of Peace for International Development*  
November 15-17, 2006  
Atlanta, GA  
Email: [gaplen@srmun.org](mailto:gaplen@srmun.org)



Dear Honorable Delegates,

I would like to welcome you all to what will be a very inspiring and thought-provoking Southern Regional Model United Nations XVIII conference. The General Assembly Plenary committee has been hard at work to pick the best topics, thus allowing your skills of debate and diplomacy to flourish. My name is Elizabeth Kayed, and I will serve as the Director for GA Plen. In 2005, I graduated from UNC Charlotte, with degrees in International and Comparative Politics and Mass Media Communications. What began in high school as a "resume builder," Model United Nations became a formative and beloved part of my college experience. Having been involved with the MUN programs for over seven years, this is my sixth year at SRMUN, and my third year on SRMUN staff. I am thrilled at the opportunity to work in this plenary-sized body which represents the core of UN diplomacy.

My Assistant Director, Cortney Mosher, and I worked hard to encompass the many aspects of the theme for SRMUN XVIII: *Fostering a Culture of Peace for International Development*, into our topics. They are a great mix of controversial and groundbreaking subject matter that will allow for a better understanding of our global community:

- Topic I: Fostering a Culture of Peace: the role of NGOs and Civil Society
- Topic II: Taking Stock and Moving Forward: Review of Millennium Development Goal One
- Topic III: UN Peacebuilding Commission: The Future of Peace Building Operations in the United Nations

The role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and civil society raise questions about the structure of the General Assembly and how NGOs and observer nations impact the dialogue and flow of debate. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are some of the most revolutionary and progressive steps the UN have taken in its sixty years. But time is of the essence, and a number of these goals, specifically MDG One, are not going to be accomplished without a call to action from the GA Plen to the international community. Our third topic, The Future of the Peacebuilding Commission, is the most connected to our theme as it strives to take stock of what accomplishments have been made and what steps need to be taken moving forward in this newly formed UN committee. My favorite part of these topics is that they share a common ground - their impact undeniably affects the people and places we represent. There will not be one member state that is not intrinsically involved and linked to the topics at hand, which makes the GA even more impressive in its scope. Keep this in mind as you piece together your position paper and begin to think about the order of debate in committee.

I want you to know that I understand first-hand the amount of research and effort that each of you have put forth thus far and am eager to see these topics come to fruition. On that note, remember that position papers are due no later than MIDNIGHT EST on Friday, October 26, 2007. They should be submitted in Microsoft Word Format to [GAPLEN@srmun.org](mailto:GAPLEN@srmun.org). Further specifications can be found on the SRMUN website. Late or improperly formatted position papers will no be considered for awards.

One of the best tools to prepare for this conference will be the SRMUN website (<http://www.srmun.org>), which is filled with links, position paper guidelines, and the highly important rules of procedure. The SRMUN website will prove to be very beneficial to your delegation's success, so use it to its full advantage! It is also important to note that you will serve on one of the few committees that comprises every member state, an impressive and essential aspect of the GA Plen.

If you have any questions along the way please feel free to contact Cortney or myself. We are here for you. It is with great pleasure and honor to once again welcome you to SRMUN XVIII!

Elizabeth Kayed  
Director  
[GAPLEN@srmun.org](mailto:GAPLEN@srmun.org)

Cortney Mosher  
Assistant Director  
[GAPLEN@srmun.org](mailto:GAPLEN@srmun.org)

Sarah Donnelly  
Director-General  
[DG@srmun.org](mailto:DG@srmun.org)

## History of the General Assembly Plenary

### *The General Assembly Plenary*

Established by the Charter of the United Nations (the Charter) on October 24, 1945, the General Assembly (GA) stands as one of the six main organs of the United Nations.<sup>1</sup> The General Assembly works through its plenary committee, as well as six main committees: the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee); The Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee); The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee); The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee); The Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee); and The Legal Committee (Sixth Committee) and deals with international legal matters.<sup>2</sup>

The General Assembly was created in response to many of the problems with the League of Nations, including misrepresentation felt by its member nations. After the destruction and chaos of World War II, it became clear to the nations of the world that diplomacy and compromise must be utilized in creating the United Nations. They felt success hinged upon equal opportunity for representation within their organization. What the League of Nations lacked - cohesiveness, representation, power, and legitimacy - the United Nations strived to overcome. Thus, in accordance with Chapter II Article four of the United Nations Charter, the admission of any State for membership in the UN was to be decided by vote of the General Assembly.<sup>3</sup>

It is within the General Assembly's mandate, through Article 10 of the Charter, to address "all matters within the scope of the present Charter."<sup>4</sup> This includes, but is not limited to, the power to set the United Nations budget, and the revision of the powers and functions of other United Nations organs. Because of the expansiveness of this mandate, topics brought up for discussion in the GA are first directed to a committee for consideration.<sup>5</sup> Then the committees present the General Assembly draft resolutions and decisions for consideration.<sup>6</sup> However, some topics are only discussed in the General Assembly Plenary session, such as applications for membership.<sup>7</sup>

### *Functions and Responsibilities*

The Charter of the UN designates five main responsibilities and jurisdictions to the General Assembly: to maintain and promote international peace and security; to promote diplomatic and "friendly" relations among the Member States; to assist in and provide solutions for international problems; to further advance respect for human rights; and to serve as a center for harmonizing the actions of Member States.<sup>8</sup> The GA executes those tasks through the work of its sub-commissions, committees, and in the plenary sessions. Sessions are held annually to address the pressing issues on the international agenda such as climate change, the Millennium Development Goals, gender equality, prevention of armed conflicts, and the protection and promotion of human rights.

As the plenary body of the United Nations, the General Assembly's resolutions are seen as landmark steps taken by the Member States. One of the most critical resolutions passed by the GA was Resolution 377 (V), known as the "Uniting for Peace" resolution. This resolution gives the GA the ability to act in circumstances when the Security Council is unable to maintain international peace due to a negative vote by a permanent member.<sup>9</sup> In all other cases, the General Assembly would be seen as overstepping its bounds by discussing any issue currently under debate in

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<sup>1</sup> Article 4. *Charter of the United Nations*. The United Nations. June 26, 1945.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> "Milestones in United Nations History: A selective chronology." United Nations Department of Public Information. February 5, 1997. <http://www.un.org/Overview/milesto4.htm>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> "Committees of the General Assembly." United Nations General Assembly 61<sup>st</sup> Session. <http://www.un.org/ga/61/background/committees.shtml>

<sup>7</sup> Franz Cede and Lilly Sucharipa-Berhmann, Ed. *The United Nations Law and Practice*. Kluwer Law International: The Hague, 1999.

<sup>8</sup> "General Assembly: Frequently Asked Questions." United Nations Documentation: Research Guide. [www.un.org/depts/dhl/resguide/gafaq.htm](http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/resguide/gafaq.htm)

<sup>9</sup> "Functions and powers of the General Assembly." United Nations General Assembly 61<sup>st</sup> Session. <http://www.un.org/ga/61/background/background.shtml>

the Security Council.<sup>10</sup> However, the Security Council does submit reports to the General Assembly to keep the committee informed on issues of international peace and security.

Many resolutions passed in the early years of the GA have had a lasting impact on today's international affairs. For example, Resolution 181(II), entitled Future Government of Palestine, officially divided Palestine into the territories it is known as today and began the long journey of Israeli/Palestinian conflict.<sup>11</sup> Also, the Essentials for Peace resolution, resolution 290 (IV), asked each nation to refrain from using hostile means in lieu of negotiation and to recognize the UN as a critical component of international cooperation.<sup>12</sup> However, the GA continues to pass resolutions today, which resonate strongly with the international community. Most recently, the passage of the 2000 Millennium Declaration clearly "reflects the commitment of Member States to reach specific goals" but more importantly, through the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, "strengthen the United Nations" as a whole.<sup>13</sup>

### ***Voting and Membership***

Article 2 of the Charter states that membership of the GA shall be comprised of all members of the UN: "the Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its members."<sup>14</sup> Decisions made by the GA truly represent a global decision on a certain issue, which makes it a unique and incredibly important committee in the UN system. Every Member State is allowed one vote, with no superseding Member States or vetoes.<sup>15</sup> Member States are required to vote on all procedural matters and allowed to vote yes, no, or abstain on all substantive matters. The abstention vote is not granted to members who register as present and voting during roll call at the start of the session. Instances involving the designation of an important question, which typically relate to issues of peace and security, elections, admissions and expulsions of members nations, and measure concerning the budget, require a 2/3rds majority from the GA.<sup>16</sup> All other resolutions require a simple majority to be accepted by the body. In recent years, however, there has been a trend to work towards consensus for the passage of resolutions.

The GA also allows for observer status to those nations that are not recognized internationally. The Palestinian National Authority, Republic of China (Taiwan), and the Holy See have all been granted observer status in the GA. This special membership status within the GA stems from either opposition to full membership by current members of the UN, or in the case of the Holy See, declining membership in lieu of permanent observer status.<sup>17</sup>

The presidency of the GA rotates each year among Member States from the five regions, as defined by the UN Charter.<sup>18</sup> H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain, was elected President of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly in 2006.<sup>19</sup> The President-Elect of the sixty-second session is Srgjan Kerim of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.<sup>20</sup> In this role, the President can call a Special Session, in addition to the regularly scheduled session of the GA. Special Sessions are used to highlight an issue of particular importance to the international community. Recent Special Sessions have discussed the issue of HIV/AIDS, children, the world drug problem, women's empowerment, and population.

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<sup>10</sup> Article 12. *Charter of the United Nations*. The United Nations. June 26, 1945.

<sup>11</sup> "General Assembly: Resolutions Adopted in the Second Session." General Assembly.

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/2/ares2.htm>

<sup>12</sup> "General Assembly: Resolutions Adopted in the Fourth Session." General Assembly.

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/4/ares4.htm>

<sup>13</sup> "Functions and powers of the General Assembly." United Nations General Assembly 61<sup>st</sup> Session.

<http://www.un.org/ga/61/background/background.shtml>

<sup>14</sup> Article 2. *Charter of the United Nations*. The United Nations. June 26, 1945.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*, Article 9.

<sup>16</sup> "General Assembly 61<sup>st</sup> Session Background Information." General Assembly.

<http://www.un.org/ga/61/background/background.shtml>

<sup>17</sup> *List of Non-Member States, Entities and Organizations Having Received a Standing Invitation to Participate as Observers in the Sessions and Work of the General Assembly*. United Nations General Assembly 59<sup>th</sup> Session.

[http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/igos\\_list.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/igos_list.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> Article 21. *Charter of the United Nations*. The United Nations. June 26, 1945.

<sup>19</sup> "General Assembly President." United Nations General Assembly 61<sup>st</sup> Session. <http://www.un.org/ga/president/61/>

<sup>20</sup> "General Assembly Elects Srgjan Kerim of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as President of the Sixty-Second Session." General Assembly Department of Public Information. May 24, 2007.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/ga10597.doc.htm>

## I: Fostering a Culture of Peace: the role of NGOs and Civil Society

*“The United Nations once dealt only with Governments. By now we know that peace and prosperity cannot be achieved without partnerships involving Governments, International Organizations, the business community and the Civil Society. In today’s world, we depend on each other.”*<sup>21</sup>

*Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan*

### **Introduction**

According to the United Nations Charter Chapter 2, Article 4, the admission of any state as a member to the United Nations (UN) “will be effected by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.”<sup>22</sup> A unique aspect of the General Assembly (GA) is the inclusion of all recognized members of the United Nations. Each member is also given the same power, with one vote and no vetoes.<sup>23</sup> Therefore equal powers and responsibilities are granted to all members, allowing each member an equally heard voice in the GA.

Among the 192 members of the General Assembly there are also a number of observers and non-member entities, which are granted many of the same powers as the Member States. Observer status in the GA allows for making motions, serving as signatories on proposals, and voting on procedural matters. Observers can not serve as sponsors of resolutions nor can they vote on resolutions.<sup>24</sup> Permanent observers at the UN include: non-Member States that maintain permanent observer status, entities receiving Permanent Observer status; intergovernmental organizations maintaining permanent offices at UN headquarters; intergovernmental organizations not maintaining permanent offices at UN headquarters; as well as other entities not maintaining permanent offices at UN headquarters.<sup>25</sup> Nations that have current observers include: Palestine, Western Sahara, and the Holy See. The GA extends observer status to intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) like the European and African Unions, and nongovernmental organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross.<sup>26</sup>

These contributing groups work hand in hand with Member States in the GA, and through grassroots campaigns in regions around the world, to achieve advancements for developing regions and areas where their voice is limited. Their work can be seen in civil society through their educational, cultural, and economic programs that have been put in place. Often times Observers’ work is culturally sensitive, and thus adapts according to location, which is necessary as a way of reaching out to all societies, all people, and all cultures. By allowing a broader collection of minds and voices, the GA strengthens its relationship to each Member State.

### **Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs)**

Founded in 1863, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement stands as one of the first and the largest humanitarian NGOs globally. It is also an example of an NGO that enjoys permanent observer status to the UN. Non-member state status in the General Assembly extends to non-governmental organizations, commonly referred to as NGOs.<sup>27</sup> The term “NGO” is an umbrella term that incorporates a myriad of economic, social, cultural, and medicinal topics and issues that are present within the Member States of the UN.<sup>28</sup> Each NGO is different in their contribution to the General Assembly, and in the scope of their work. Working independently from the structure of a government, NGOs are valuable assets since they provide resources such as research, time, and funds that Member States may not have access to.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> “The United Nations and Civil Society.” Department of Public Information. <http://www.un.org/issues/civilsociety/>

<sup>22</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*. The United Nations. Chapter. II, Art. IV. June 26, 1945.

<sup>23</sup> “General Assembly 61<sup>st</sup> Session Background Information.” General Assembly.

<http://www.un.org/ga/61/background/background.shtml>

<sup>24</sup> “Permanent Missions to the United Nations.” United Nations Member States. <http://www.un.org/members/missions.shtml>

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> “Growth in United Nations membership, 1945-present.” United Nations Member States.

<http://www.un.org/members/growth.shtml>

<sup>27</sup> “NGOs.” Global Policy Forum. March 28, 2006. <http://www.globalpolicy.org/ngos/index.htm>

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

Nearly 25 percent of all NGOs have been created since the 1990's, which illustrates the increased presence these organizations have on Member States, as well as the UN as a whole.<sup>30</sup> While this increase has been seen at the UN, it is often not felt at the levels where the information and aid is most needed. NGOs support civil society through educational programs that strive to promote healthy living styles, increased literacy rates, and improving the levels of technology. NGOs aid the UN in a similar manner by representing a group of people who share a common interest who are not held together by national boundaries. NGOs are also known for financial assistance to both the civil society and to UN created groups and organizations. NGOs have played a significant role in lobbying key issues for the UN. The Coalition for an International Criminal Court was essential to the implementation of the 1998 Treaty of Rome.<sup>31</sup> The Jubilee 2000 Campaign hand delivered a petition to former Secretary-General Kofi Annan to "urging the Group of Eight nations to cancel the global debt."<sup>32</sup> Assistance has also been seen in the aftermath of the Pakistani earthquake of October 2005. The UN, Member States and a coalition of NGOs came together to provide immediate and long-term assistance to the people of Pakistan, which included reconstruction, rehabilitation and medial assistance.<sup>33</sup>

With the increased role NGOs are playing in providing assistance, their credibility and legitimacy has been questioned as well. Often times these grassroots campaigns have governmental representation and lack accountability.<sup>34</sup> Accountability refers to an organization's ability to balance the wants and needs of the groups impacted during the decision-making process.<sup>35</sup> An effective NGO will utilize a standard protocol to ensure these accountability requirements are upheld.<sup>36</sup> This is imperative due to the role that NGOs play in working with the UN.

### ***Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)***

IGOs exist to increase international relations, promote education, health care, economic development, environmental protection, human rights, and conflict resolution throughout a region. An IGO is a lot like a NGO in terms of their purpose or focus, but an IGO is established by a treaty giving it legitimacy and legal recognition. IGOs are created as subjects of international law, with the ability to enter into agreements among themselves or with other states to build peaceful relations globally, regionally, or locally. In comparison an NGO is a private organization with no direct ties to a specific state or states. Simply put, an IGO differs from an NGO by including the governments. The United Nations itself is an IGO, as well the International Criminal Police Organization (InterPol) and the World Trade Organization, and all three are represented by international membership. There are also regional IGOs such as the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN); the Organization of American States; and the North Atlantic Treaty Organizations (NATO). Such organizations function according to the principles of intergovernmentalism, which is a "theory of decision-making in international organizations, where power is possessed by the Member States and decisions are made by unanimity."<sup>37</sup> Intergovernmentalism requires unanimity, with the exception being the EU in certain circumstances.<sup>38</sup>

IGOs legally speaking are different from regional or cultural groupings of Member States like the G-8. While a treaty establishes an IGO, like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a treaty alone can not create an organization therefore membership requirements are determined to increase participation. Some IGOs, such as the United Nations, have an "open membership" policy which allows any nation to join as long as they can meet a certain set of criteria. Other IGOs' membership is only open to States located in a certain region or who have committed themselves to a certain legal agreement.

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<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Paul, James A. "NGOs and Global Policy-Making." Global Policy Forum. June 2000.

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/ngos/analysis/anal00.htm>

<sup>32</sup> "Daily Briefings by office of Spokesman for Secretary-General." United Nations Press Release. September 07, 2000.

<http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2000/20000907.db090700.doc.html>

<sup>33</sup> "FY2006 Guidelines for NGO Projects: Emergency Relief for Victims of Pakistan Earthquake." The US Department of State.

<http://www.state.gov/g/prm/fund/57750.htm>

<sup>34</sup> "The Good Enough Guide." Impact Measurement and Accountability in Emergencies. February 9, 2007.

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/ngos/aid/2007/0209goodenough.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> "Intergovernmentalism." Reference.com. <http://www.reference.com/search?r=13&q=Intergovernmentalism>

<sup>38</sup> Morten Egeberg. "Transcending Intergovernmentalism." ARENA Working Papers.

[http://www.arena.uio.no/publications/wp98\\_24.htm](http://www.arena.uio.no/publications/wp98_24.htm)

### *IGOs, NGOs and the UN*

At the UN, numerous resolutions have been passed by the GA, as well as other committees, to strengthen the relationship between IGOs, NGOs and the UN. GA resolution A/60/180, which created the UN Peacebuilding Commission, stipulates and provides for consultations of NGOs.<sup>39</sup> The rights of NGOs must be upheld, according to the new Human Rights Council. ECOSOC (the Economic and Social Committee) resolution 1996/31, as provided by GA resolution 60/251, stipulates that NGOs must be: “fully involved in discussions leading to the adaptations of new rules and procedures for the Human Rights Council. The transfer from the Commission to the Council must not weaken or eliminate any of the current NGO rights and privileges with the commission.”<sup>40</sup>

GA resolution 60/251 is a formative resolution in the roles and functions of NGOs. The increase in responsibility gives more legitimacy to these groups in the eyes of the UN, thus creating more opportunities for partnerships between NGOs and the UN.

Another groundbreaking resolution that helped to further define the peaceful relationship between the UN and NGOs is ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31.<sup>41</sup> Resolution 1996/31 strives to define the consultative status of an NGO, specifically stating:

“69. The Secretary-General is requested to make every effort to enhance and streamline as appropriate Secretariat support arrangements, and to improve practical arrangements on such matters as greater use of modern information and communication technology, the establishment of an integrated database of non-governmental organizations, wide and timely dissemination of information on meetings, distribution of documentation, provision of access and transparent, simple and streamlined procedures for the attendance of non-governmental organizations in United Nations meetings, and to facilitate their broad-based participation.”<sup>42</sup>

NGOs are, however, frustrated by the lack of Member States’ support needed to provide formal consultative rights within the General Assembly, which seemed a given after the passing of this resolution. Steps since then have failed to bring about this change.<sup>43</sup> ECOSOC Decision 1996/297 was an attempt at giving more participation rights to NGOs to “all areas of work” within the UN.<sup>44</sup> Decision 1996/297 tried to get increased participation of NGOs in every facet of the UN, including the Security Council. The United States of America was vocal in its desire to keep the Security Council exempt from the expansion of NGOs. This dilemma caused dissention between the groups that believe the strengthened relationship would be positive and those that were against any change in areas related to the Security Council.<sup>45</sup>

While building this relationship, it has been seen time and time again that both parties work to ensure that the people and the region are the priority. The work of NGOs at the UN is often seen as positive and necessary, but this work is enhanced from the vocal outlet the UN provides. The UN is a platform and an audience for these NGOs, in a way that would be impossible to recreate. By allowing representatives the opportunity to speak with all member nations, they are able to get their message or cause out to more regions of the world. The UN also gives NGOs a direct hand in the formation and creation of resolutions. Through their status as Observers to the UN, NGOs can directly impact the flow of debate.<sup>46</sup>

The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) is an international organization comprised of NGOs that works to encourage and increase the voice of NGOs at the UN. Founded in 1948, CONGO works as an advocate of various NGOs. The organization also

<sup>39</sup> A/RES/60/180 *The Peacebuilding Commission*. United Nations General Assembly. December 30, 2005.

<sup>40</sup> “NGOs.” Global Policy Forum. March 28, 2006. <http://www.globalpolicy.org/ngos/index.htm>

<sup>41</sup> 1996/31. *Consultative Relationship Between the United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations*. United Nations Economic and Social Council. July 25, 1996. <http://www.un.org/documents/ecosoc/res/1996/eres1996-31.htm>

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> “NGOs and the United Nations.” Comments for the Report of the Secretary-General. Global Policy Forum. June 1999. <http://www.globalpolicy.org/ngos/docs99/gpfrep.htm#2>

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> “Permanent Missions to the United Nations.” United Nations Member States. <http://www.un.org/members/missions.shtml>

ensures that the proper NGO is present at UN sessions.<sup>47</sup> CONGO's first role in assembling NGOs was by forming a worldwide NGO forum on human rights in 1968.<sup>48</sup> Other CONGO roles include increasing NGO participation at UN world conferences, and advocating on behalf of NGOs at UN Headquarters. Among CONGO's main responsibilities is to make certain that NGOs are present for discussions and forums between governments on issues of global concern at the United Nations.<sup>49</sup>

The criticism of most NGOs falls in the application of their work, and from the research they provide. Often times the "non-governmental" aspect is ignored. Some NGOs turn from being an advocate of the people to a spokesperson of the country or the government they are headquartered, thus censoring, corrupting, or placing bias on the information they provide.<sup>50</sup> Financial aid from a NGO comes from donations from individuals, but also from governments - governments that benefit from their partnership with the NGO.<sup>51</sup> These corrupt circumstances tend to befall developing nations, who may already suffer from exploitative governments.

The thin line between NGOs and the governments they are helping has become increasingly blurred over the years. Often times the work of the UN is carried out by a NGO, which can create problems but can also be beneficial. An example of this blurred line is the Human Rights Watch, a non-profit NGO that works to protect the rights of citizens of the world. The Human Rights Watch (HRW) began 1978 and was originally known as the Helsinki Watch, an effort to observe the agreement of former Soviet countries to maintain the human rights set forth at the Helsinki Accords.<sup>52</sup> The success of this organization snowballed into Americas Watch, which was created to monitor the abuses in Central America. From there the organization grew to include regions of the world, sparking the creation of "Watch" committees in 1988, which eventually led to the Human Rights Watch.<sup>53</sup> The work of HRW contributes to programs created and set up by the UN, which brings question where the work of Member States and the UN stop and the aid of the NGO begin.<sup>54</sup>

#### ***Non-Member and Member Observers: Holy See and Palestine***

In 1948, only seventeen non-member states were appointed permanent observer status, the Holy See was one of those states.<sup>55</sup> The Holy See, which represents the Vatican City, stands as the only permanent non-member observer state in the UN.<sup>56</sup> This allows the Holy See to be present at all GA sessions, as well as the ability to vote on procedural matters. The Holy See may also provide a voice and input into the drafting of resolutions. However, the Holy See is not permitted to vote of resolutions or serve as a sponsor of any resolution, though it may enter into treaties as well as send representation to UN sessions.<sup>57</sup> At any time the Holy See may present, as Switzerland did in 2002, a petition for consideration as a full member state.<sup>58</sup> However, now the Holy See has accepted a permanent non-member status at the UN. This is due primarily to the desire of the Holy See to maintain absolute neutrality in specific political problems.<sup>59</sup> As a non-member or an Observer, both are granted access to the discussions and work done in the GA. They have the ability to work hand-in-hand with Member States in the drafting of resolutions. They are also provided a platform for these entities to detail their research or outside work on the issues being discussed.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> "About, Introduction." CONGO. <http://www.ngocongo.org/index.php?what=about>

<sup>48</sup> "The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations CONGO." <http://www.ngocongo.org>

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> "Sins of NGOs." The Economist. January 2000.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> "About HRW." Human Rights Watch. <http://www.hrw.org/about/whoweare.html>

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> "Status of Palestine at the UN." The Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations. <http://www.un.int/palestine/status.shtml>

<sup>56</sup> "Non-member state..." United Nations Member States. <http://www.un.org/members/nonmembers.shtml>

<sup>57</sup> "Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations." Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations. 2007. <http://www.holyseemission.org/index2.html>

<sup>58</sup> "Non-member state..." United Nations Member States. <http://www.un.org/members/nonmembers.shtml>

<sup>59</sup> "Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations." Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations. 2007. <http://www.holyseemission.org/index2.html>

<sup>60</sup> "Growth in United Nations membership, 1945-present." United Nations Member States. <http://www.un.org/members/growth.shtml>

The Holy See understands that they do not have the final choice in what topics are discussed in committee. However, they do remain free to participate at their will. The Holy See has worked to create a society that extends beyond its territory that is peaceful.<sup>61</sup> The Holy See has worked towards a “Path to Peace,” which works to provide education and establish projects around the world in response emerging issues.<sup>62</sup>

Often organizations are also granted observer status, as in the case of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1974. The question of Palestine was first brought to the GA in 1947. General Assembly Resolution 181 divided the area known as Palestine into two states, one Arab and one Jewish. The Arab state was slow to grow as the leaders refused to negotiate and became a refugee nation. This led to the Arab-Israeli War of 1948, in which Israel key portions of the Arab land. Thus grew the divide between the two nations, resulting in a slew of GA resolutions aimed at repairing the area. Resolution 3237 (XXIX), in 1974, gave the people independence and the country sovereignty by granting Palestine Observer status.<sup>63</sup> Also in that year the UN invited other “national liberation movements” to participate in the General Assembly, and using the same language from Resolution 3237 (XXIX), granted the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) from Namibia observer status in 1976. In 1988, through Resolution 43/160A, both Palestine and SWAPO were uniquely “entitled to have [their] communications issued and circulated as official documents of the United Nations,” as to this day no other observer enjoys that right.<sup>64</sup>

Palestine’s membership today can more specifically be defined as a permanent observer that has a permanent mission headquarter at the UN in New York and Geneva. This form of membership recognizes the territory but does not give legitimacy to the government, nor does it recognize Palestine as a sovereign state.<sup>65</sup> These are distinct differences that have often caused tension within the UN organization. By not recognizing or giving legitimacy to a particular county’s government is the UN disqualifying the work of that country?<sup>66</sup> How powerful and meaningful can permanent observer status really be?

### ***The Civil Society***

Civil society, working as a third sector separate from government or business, is composed of voluntary civic and social organizations as well as organizations that form the basis for a functioning society as opposed to structure like the state government or commercial institutions.<sup>67</sup> This ever changing group has become known as the new superpower.<sup>68</sup> The unity of a society of people, is proving that it is not just money and power that can make real change in the world. The alliance of people not only increases communication, acceptance, and knowledge, but opens the door to peace. In an interconnected and globalized world, civil society impacts the world we live in and the manner in which we operate with one another.<sup>69</sup>

Civil society is often reference to the social life of an area: the interaction between the citizens that habitate a particular place or region. While some fear that as our world becomes globalized and homogenous, the unique intrinsic qualities of a civil society will vanish. However, there are those that believe that a strengthened and more interconnected world will do the exact opposite to the civil society. They believe that as globalization increases so will the role of the civil society.<sup>70</sup> The Centre for Civil Society, developed as an agency working to understand the inner-procedures of NGOs, created a working definition to assist in explaining this social grouping:

“Civil society refers to the arena of un-coerced, collective action around shared interests, purposes and values. In theory, its institutional forms are distinct from those of the state, family and market, though in practice, the boundaries between state, civil society, family and market are often

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<sup>61</sup> “Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations.” Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations. 2007. <http://www.holyseemission.org/index2.html>

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> “Status of Palestine at the UN.” The Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations. <http://www.un.int/palestine/status.shtml>

<sup>65</sup> “Non-member state...” United Nations Member States. <http://www.un.org/members/nonmembers.shtml>

<sup>66</sup> “The Question of Palestine.” Division for Palestinian Rights. United Nations 2007. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa/qpal/>

<sup>67</sup> “What is a Civil Society?” Civil Society International. <http://www.civilsoc.org/whatisCS.htm>

<sup>68</sup> “Civil Society, the New Superpower.” Inter Press Service. 2007. [http://ipsnews.net/new\\_focus/c\\_society/index.asp](http://ipsnews.net/new_focus/c_society/index.asp)

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.



complex, blurred and negotiated. Civil society commonly embraces a diversity of spaces, actors and institutional forms, varying in their degree of formality, autonomy and power. Civil societies are often populated by organizations such as registered charities, development non-governmental organizations, community groups, women's organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, trades unions, self-help groups, social movements, business associations, coalitions and advocacy group.”<sup>71</sup>

These groups play a vital role in society by allowing different voices to be heard, thus impacting the information and views of the world. Examples of institutions that comprise the civil society include: private voluntary organizations (PVOs); non-profit organizations (NPOs); community-based organizations; civic clubs; religious groups; charities and social and sports clubs. The list also includes non-governmental organizations which tends to be used an umbrella term for a group that has no affiliation to a government, in this instance it is not the same as a NGO which would work at the UN level.<sup>72</sup> However, NGOs draw from the civil society for their membership, to sometimes execute their grassroots campaigns, and to gather new ideas and cultural changes. Civil society organizations, with the work of NGOs, are being viewed as the next power player on the international stage.

### ***Steps towards the future: building partnerships for Peace***

Looking to the past for guidance it is clear that the work of NGOs at the UN only stands to increase and strengthen. It is to that end that the international community must evaluate how far this relationship can go. Today's NGO is quickly evolving as a center piece at the UN table, working with civil society to ensure above all that peace is protected. Cultural and religious differences need to be highlighted so that the Civil Society is protected. It is not about separating or showing differences, but rather embracing the individual parts that make the society. A civil society is proof that the differences are smaller than the sum of all its parts. It is the work of the NGO to protect the basic fundamentals of a free civil society, which allows for a fair and balanced playing ground.

The UN serves as a voice for people across the globe, whether they are represented by Member States, Observer Members, NGOs, or IGOs. The relationship being developed between these non-member states and the UN organization is mutually beneficial as the UN receives valuable information, research, and insight on a wide range of topics. If current trends are any indication, the work provided by these groups will not quickly disappear which leads to the necessity to discuss the importance and the potential dangers of strengthening these relationships. When the victors of the Second World War emerged to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war” by establishing the UN, they may have not envisioned the organization engaging with so many non-state actors.<sup>73</sup> In today's world, the engagement of these non-state actors is critical to the future of development, international peace, and the promulgation of the ideals brought forth in the UN Charter.

### ***Committee Directive***

The GA allows a variety of NGOs, IGOs, and non-member states observer status, and regularly invites these organizations to participate in sessions. Special status for NGOs allows their representation at the UN, but in cases directly related to their work should they too be allowed voting rights? How would this change the dynamic of the General Assembly? What happens when the GA increases the voting members? How can the GA continue to dispense information and aid without increased involvement from the NGOs? What solution is mutually beneficial? When starting your research evaluate the working relationship that NGOs, IGOs, and other organizations have with your country. Did your country ever have a special membership status due to de-colonization or an independence movement? How can these relationships help build partnerships for peace?

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<sup>71</sup> “What is Civil Society?” Centre for Civil Society. March 2004.

[http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CCS/what\\_is\\_civil\\_society.htm](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CCS/what_is_civil_society.htm)

<sup>72</sup> “What is a Civil Society?” Civil Society International. <http://www.civilsoc.org/whatisCS.htm>

<sup>73</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*. The United Nations. June 26, 1945.

## II: Taking Stock and Moving Forward: Review of Millennium Development Goal One

*“Eradicating extreme poverty, the overarching aim of the MDGs, cannot, however, take place without the involvement of all sections of society, including government, civil society, the private sector, the media and ordinary citizens alike. As is being demonstrated around the world today, volunteers have a unique and important role to play as active participants in development.”*

*-Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Kemal Dervis*

### **Introduction**

Over 40 years ago Member States of the United Nations were brought together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the foundation to addressing human rights issues. The document, passed by the General Assembly (GA) in 1948 stood as a statue and testament to the work of the UN. Since that groundbreaking resolution, the UN has worked to ensure basic civil and human rights for the citizens of the world. Human rights efforts include the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which was adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Austria on June 25, 1993.<sup>74</sup> The Conference concluded that “all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated.”<sup>75</sup>

After that the GA adopted The Millennium Declaration in the 8th plenary of the Millennium Summit on September 8, 2000.<sup>76</sup> The Millennium Declaration established eight major development goals. As defined in the UN Millennium Goals set forth in 2000, the eradication of “extreme poverty and hunger” is top priority.<sup>77</sup> During September 14-16, 2005 world leaders, convening in New York City, participated in the 2005 World Summit to discuss the progress of the Millennium Goals.<sup>78</sup> The outcome presented renewed focus and ambition toward meeting the eight goals, including the protection and progress of education. Outlined in the General Assembly Resolution 58/291, countries agreed to “provide immediate support for quick impact initiatives in education.”<sup>79</sup> The World Summit proved a positive step towards creating universal education, but regional directive is needed to ensure that these goals are achieved.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are key areas in global policy agreed upon by Member States of the United Nations. These goals have been deemed paramount to ensure sustainability of the human race. As stated in the Millennium Declaration, signed on September 18, 2000 by Member States of the International Community: “We recognize that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality, and equity at the global level.”<sup>80</sup> The Millennium Summit was a historical event in 2000 because it was the largest gathering of world leaders ever at one time.<sup>81</sup> With the creation of this declaration, Member States of the United Nations, 190 Member States to be exact, have garnered their support to ensure compliance with the United Nations Charter and the Millennium Declaration and more importantly committed themselves to each other, as one International Community working toward tangible change and reaching the targets set forth in the MDGs.<sup>82</sup>

The Millennium Development Goals were introduced as a large block of goals addressing critical development issues. These goals were introduced as an incentive or encouragement for Member States to stop talking about making changes and actually take action.<sup>83</sup> Within these goals were 18 targets set up to serve as benchmarks and

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<sup>74</sup> “Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.” Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights. World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. June 25, 1993.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> A/RES/55/2. *United Nations Millennium Declaration*. United Nations General Assembly. September 8, 2000. <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>78</sup> “Fact Sheet.” 2005 UN World Summit. [http://www.un.org/summit2005/presskit/fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.un.org/summit2005/presskit/fact_sheet.pdf)

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

<sup>80</sup> A/RES/55/2. *United Nations Millennium Declaration*. United Nations General Assembly. September 8, 2000. <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>

<sup>81</sup> “About the MDGs.” UN Millennium Project. <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/index.htm>

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> “Millennium Development Goals.” Department for International Development. <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/>

tangible quota for the accomplishment of the MDGs.<sup>84</sup> The MDGs were established with a completion date for accomplishment by 2015.<sup>85</sup>

The eradication of poverty and hunger serve as MDG Goal One. It is the aim of this goal to “half by 2015 the proportion of people living on less than one dollar a day” and “half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.”<sup>86</sup> With such tall orders to provide results for the important issues, the General Assembly Plenary Committee is suited to discuss MDG One because of the representation of all Member States to the United Nations engaged in debate and dialogue, which allows, “The MDGs [to] provide a framework for the entire UN system to work coherently together towards a common end.”<sup>87</sup>

As stated in the Millennium Declaration, “We resolve therefore to reaffirm the Central Position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, decision-making and representative organ of the United Nations, and to enable it to play that role effectively.”<sup>88</sup> As set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly has the ability and authority to make decisions that will ensure support from the collective body and will truly represent the United Nations.

The MDGs offer the nations of the world a significant and stable set of goals to strive for and, “the broad global consensus around a set of clear, measurable, and time-bound set of development goals has generated unprecedented coordinated action.”<sup>89</sup> It is cooperation, collaboration and a clear goal in sight that have inspired many areas of the world to make significant changes in their efforts of achieving the MDGs.

### ***Addressing Poverty and Hunger***

As stated in the Millennium Declaration, “We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected.”<sup>90</sup> Reminded of the intended goals of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs, analyzing statistical data provides some of the best evidence of means currently used in the attempts at achieving the targets.

Already many developing nations have taken the responsibility themselves in reducing extreme poverty, disease and hunger, and extending access to primary education.<sup>91</sup> Just one example of a region that is taking the process of poverty alleviation seriously is in South-Eastern Asia, where there are 200 million fewer people living in extreme poverty since 1990.<sup>92</sup> There is even progress in northern Africa, where the region continues to meet the target of halving those living in poverty by 2015.<sup>93</sup> There are over 1.2 billion people in the world today that live on less than one dollar a day.<sup>94</sup> Despite this statistic, there are 43 Member States accounting for about 60 percent of the world’s population that are on track or have already met the goal of reducing by half those living hungry.<sup>95</sup>

Children are disproportionately living in poverty and going hungry as compared to adults. Of those that live on less than one dollar a day, over 200 million of them are young children with malnutrition a prevalence of everyday living.<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> “Health in the Millennium Development Goals.” World Health Organization. <http://www.who.int/mdg/goals/en/index.html>

<sup>87</sup> “The Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Role.” Implementing the Millennium Declaration. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/MDGs-FACTSHEET1.pdf>

<sup>88</sup> A/RES/55/2. United Nations Millennium Declaration. United Nations General Assembly. September 8, 2000. <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>

<sup>89</sup> “UN finds progress on world anti-poverty goals, but crisis area remains.” Implementing the Millennium Declaration. [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/mdg\\_pr\\_09\\_2004.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/mdg_pr_09_2004.pdf)

<sup>90</sup> A/RES/55/2. United Nations Millennium Declaration. United Nations General Assembly. September 8, 2000. <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>

<sup>91</sup> “UN finds progress on world anti-poverty goals, but crisis area remains.” Implementing the Millennium Declaration. [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/mdg\\_pr\\_09\\_2004.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/mdg_pr_09_2004.pdf)

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> The Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations Cyber School Bus. <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/mdgs/goal.asp?iGoal=1&iLang=en&iKeyword=anim>

More than 65 Member States and several regions or sub-regions have issued their own reports that discuss the MDGs and their attempts to meet the goals set forth for the year 2015: “Their preparation has tended to move from drafting by a small group to a process whereby governments are engaging in national debates and tailoring MDG targets to national priorities and circumstances.”<sup>97</sup>

Even though there are many successes when dealing with the MDGs, there are still many areas of the globe that have a tremendous hardship when combating the eight goals set up by the Millennium Declaration. The poorest nations of the world, including most of sub-Saharan Africa and those nations land-locked or lacking access to the water resources of the world, are facing trying times in order to reach the desired outcome of the MDGs.: “The world is making progress toward the MDGs—but it is uneven and too slow. A large majority of nations will reach the MDGs only if they get substantial support—advocacy, expertise and resources—from outside.”<sup>98</sup> Alternative sources and organizations must band together in order to reach the goals of the MDGs, specifically Goal One.

### ***A Region in Need: sub-Saharan Africa***

In 2000, when the MDGs were decided and agreed upon by the members of the UN, it was the area known as sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) that was most afflicted by the devastation of hunger and poverty from global climate change and other factors such as HIV/AIDS and corruption. Africa as a whole has experienced problems with maintaining their already dismal statistics as it relates to the MDGs. Since the 1990’s, strengthened by the MDGs, most developing regions have shown improvements in the areas of economic and sustainable growth.<sup>99</sup> Among 56 developing nations, an average economic growth of 4.4 percent per year was achieved.<sup>100</sup> In the case of Africa, the economic statistics have actually declined at a rate of .6 percent per year.<sup>101</sup>

In Sub-Saharan Africa, which saw a cumulative reduction in the GDP per capita by 5 percent, had its extreme poverty rate rising from 47.4 percent in 1990 to 49 percent in 1999. The numbers are believed to be still rising. The rampant spread of hunger and malnutrition has claimed the lives of nearly 6 million children a year.<sup>102</sup> More devastating is the fact that more people are malnourished in SSA this decade than in the 1990s, according to a report released by the Food and Agriculture Organization in 2005.<sup>103</sup> In 2006 the number of malnourished people in sub-Saharan Africa grew to 203.5 million people between 2000-2002, increasing from 170.4 million in 1990.<sup>104</sup>

While hunger has been an everyday struggle within the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, the poverty rate is just as bleak. Between 1990-2001 citizens in the region living on less than \$1 grew by 4 percent, as compared with other developing regions, such as South Asia, which reduced that number by 25 percent and by 50 percent in East Asia.<sup>105</sup> The reasons for this decline in the region are debated; however there are commonly agreed-upon motives. The impact of climate change on this historically arid and dry climate has made it that much more difficult if not impossible for crop growth. More than 70 percent of the poorest nations in the International Community rely on subsistence farming for nourishment.<sup>106</sup> However, many are not able to grow in this region thus making it difficult and expensive for the people to access food.<sup>107</sup> Climate change has negatively affected crop production and thus has

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<sup>97</sup> “UN finds progress on world anti-poverty goals, but crisis area remains.” Implementing the Millennium Declaration.

[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/mdg\\_pr\\_09\\_2004.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/mdg_pr_09_2004.pdf)

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

<sup>99</sup> Robert W. Kates. “African Exceptionalism: A Grand Challenge Reducing Poverty and Hunger in Africa.” Grand Challenges of Sustainability Science. San Francisco. February 17, 2007. [http://sustsci.aas.org/files/GC\\_Kates.pdf](http://sustsci.aas.org/files/GC_Kates.pdf)

<sup>100</sup> Ibid.

<sup>101</sup> Ibid.

<sup>102</sup> Ibid.

<sup>103</sup> “24 Sub-Saharan African Countries Face Food Emergencies.” FAO Newsroom. September 28, 2005.

<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2005/107852/index.html>

<sup>104</sup> “The State of Food Insecurity in the World.” Agricultural and Development Economics. 2006.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0750e/a0750e00.htm>

<sup>105</sup> Robert W. Kates. “African Exceptionalism: A Grand Challenge Reducing Poverty and Hunger in Africa.” Grand Challenges of Sustainability Science. San Francisco. February 17, 2007. [http://sustsci.aas.org/files/GC\\_Kates.pdf](http://sustsci.aas.org/files/GC_Kates.pdf)

<sup>106</sup> “Agriculture and Rural Development: Agriculture and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals.” The World Bank. <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTARD/0,,contentMDK:20752822~pagePK:148956~piPK:21661~theSitePK:336682,00.html>

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

impacted those living in a state of abject poverty. Flash flooding and intense droughts have plagued many regions of the world, but specifically Africa, which predicated a poor crop, often leading to malnutrition.<sup>108</sup> Aside from the climate, the geographic location is also undesirable. Most countries are landlocked making access to clean water and ports very limited. Additionally most countries in SSA are small in size but large in population, which further limits the amount of natural resources available to each citizen.<sup>109</sup>

Poverty can be credited to even more challenges in the area. Conflict and corruption have plagued both the developed and developing nations throughout the world. But Africa continues to experience corrupt governments and political groups which threaten the distribution of funds, and stability, throughout the region.<sup>110</sup> Even areas like Sierra Leon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, both rich with natural resources like diamonds, remain poverty stricken with numerous civil wars ravaging each country.<sup>111</sup> Those states have also lived by \$1-\$2 a day per person as a standard, while other regions have seen those number as a below the average.<sup>112</sup>

### ***Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)***

Recognizing the extreme importance in achieving MDG One, other organizations within the UN umbrella, such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), have taken action to reduce poverty, ramping up their efforts in the wake of the new millennium. Heavily Indebted Countries (HIPC) was a term coined by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1996.<sup>113</sup> HIPC were created as a way to assist countries with extreme poverty and debt. HIPC account for 37 of the least developed countries with the highest levels of poverty and debt overhang. Due to this classification, the countries listed as HIPC are eligible for special assistance from the World Bank and the IMF.<sup>114</sup> HIPC stand to get a break when faced with the idea of debt relief and financial assistance when, “given evidence that countries have been using debt relief savings to invest in MDG-focuses areas such as health and education, relief should be accelerated.”<sup>115</sup>

Success within the elimination of debt has been seen since the creation of HIPC. On December 21, 2005 the IMF announced that further steps in eradicating poverty would be initiated. The IMF granted a preliminary debt relief measure in the amount of \$3.3 billion granted to 19 of the world's poorest countries. This was pledged in connection with the World Bank's promise to write off the larger debts owed by 17 HIPC in mid-2006.<sup>116</sup>

While there has been praise for the program there has also been some criticism. To be considered a HIPC a strict criteria must be met. Even further, some critics believe that the IMF and World Bank do not provide enough debt relief to these struggling nations to make a difference.<sup>117</sup> They also require countries to put into action measures which have shown to increase poverty, for instance the requirement that these countries spend their scarce monetary resources repaying debt instead of allowing them to invest in new programs that are successful in eliminating and reducing poverty.<sup>118</sup>

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<sup>108</sup> “Impacts on Millennium Development Goals.” Social Impacts of Climate Change.

<http://www.cana.net.au/socialimpacts/global/millennium-development-goals.html>

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.

<sup>110</sup> Ibid.

<sup>111</sup> Ian Smillie, Lansana Gberie and Ralph Hazleton. “The Heart of The Matter: Sierra Leone, Diamonds & Human Security.” Partnership Africa Canada, January 2000.

<sup>112</sup> Robert W. Kates. “African Exceptionalism: A Grand Challenge Reducing Poverty and Hunger in Africa.” Grand Challenges of Sustainability Science. San Francisco. February 17, 2007. [http://sustsci.aaas.org/files/GC\\_Kates.pdf](http://sustsci.aaas.org/files/GC_Kates.pdf)

<sup>113</sup> “Debt Relief Under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.” International Monetary Fund. April 2007. <http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/facts/hipc.htm>

<sup>114</sup> Ibid.

<sup>115</sup> “UN finds progress on world anti-poverty goals, but crisis area Remains.” Implementing the Millennium Declaration. [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/mdg\\_pr\\_09\\_2004.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/mdg_pr_09_2004.pdf)

<sup>116</sup> “Debt Relief Under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.” International Monetary Fund. April 2007. <http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/facts/hipc.htm>

<sup>117</sup> Ibid.

<sup>118</sup> Ibid

In 1999 The IMF lessened the restrictions in an effort to allow a larger group of countries and a larger amount of debt relief to qualify for HIPC status. Additionally many of the creditors, which include the IMF and the World Bank, began to provide assistance earlier.<sup>119</sup>

### ***Successes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)***

There have been great strives by Member States and Regional Blocks of the United Nations in the efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Between the years 1990 and 2002 the average income has increased over 21 percent overall.<sup>120</sup> Additionally the number of people living under extreme poverty has decreased by about 130 million.<sup>121</sup> This success is held in part by partnerships through multiple organizations and Member States. For example, the United Nations Capital Development Fund have offered “a unique combination of investment capital, capacity building and technical advisory services to promote microfinance and local development in the Least Developed Countries,” to ultimately reduce poverty, stimulate development, and achieve MDG One.<sup>122</sup>

The International Alliance Against Hunger (IAAH) strives to partner with other international organizations in order to end hunger now: “The idea of creating such an alliance was incorporated in the June 2002 Declaration of the World Food Summit... The objective is to reinforce efforts of all parties to achieve the World Food Summit target of halving the number of undernourished people no later than 2015.”<sup>123</sup>

An alternative or more specifically a customized way to achieve the MDGs is through the use of a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).<sup>124</sup> Through the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, these papers are the basis of needed assistance for the HIPC.<sup>125</sup> These papers are about the Member State and are detailed with the aid required and the breakdown for the WB and IMF of possibilities for their assistance.<sup>126</sup> They describe the finance and economics of Member States, the policies in place that will promote poverty reduction, and the specific needs that each Member State has for financial aid: “in essence, the PRSP is the “roadmap” for reaching longer-term MDG targets through short/medium-term policy reforms and budget restructuring.”<sup>127</sup>

Collaboration between Member States is essential for success in the realization of the MDGs and also a peaceful coexistence for all people and States of the International Community. Fostering a Culture for Peace stands to aid in completing the targets for Goal One because of the importance, but also because of strength in numbers and the compelling perception of solidarity among Member States in reaching the intended goals of the MDGs.

### ***Challenges Toward Progress***

Keeping in mind the intended goals of the Millennium Declaration, it is unlikely that the targets will be fully realized by the year 2015 without more support from the global community. However many positive steps towards the goals are being met today. There are many organizations and groups working toward the eradication of poverty, such as the youth of the world, faith-based movements, local governments and even the media.<sup>128</sup>

Despite great strives to eradicate the plight of the poor and to prevent hunger from spreading throughout the world, there are a tremendous amount of people living below the poverty line and even more hungry when they go to sleep at night. When dealing with poor, it is also important to understand the role that Member States have pledged to

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<sup>119</sup> “(HIPC) The Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative.” Economic Policy and Debt. The World Bank. 2007. <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTDEBTDEPT/0,,contentMDK:20260411~menuPK:64166739~pagePK:64166689~piPK:64166646~theSitePK:469043,00.html>

<sup>120</sup> “About the MDGs.” Millennium Project. <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/index.htm>

<sup>121</sup> Ibid.

<sup>122</sup> “About UNCDF.” United Nations Capital Development Fund. [http://www.uncdf.org/english/about\\_uncdf/](http://www.uncdf.org/english/about_uncdf/)

<sup>123</sup> “Becoming More Effective in the Campaign to End Hunger Now.” Handbook for National Alliance Against Hunger. <http://www.iaahp.net/docs/IAAHbookleten.pdf>

<sup>124</sup> A/RES/60/1. 2005 World Summit Outcome. United Nations General Assembly. October 24, 2005.

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/UN/UNPAN021752.pdf>

<sup>125</sup> The World Bank. PovertyNet.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/EXTPRS/0,,menuPK:384209~>

<sup>126</sup> Ibid

<sup>127</sup> Ibid

<sup>128</sup> “Goal 1: The Eradication of Hunger and Extreme Poverty.” Millennium Campaign News.

<http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c=grKVL2NLE&b=185518>

become in order to protect the vulnerable.<sup>129</sup> Member States of the United Nations have agreed to work together and foster a sustainable peace in which the people of the world and the Member States will abide by the United Nations Charter, the Declaration of Human Rights, and the Millennium Development Goals.<sup>130</sup>

Working together will be the key to a lasting program or mechanism to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. As stated at the World Summit in 2005, “we believe that today, more than ever before, we live in a global and interdependent world. No state can stand wholly alone. We acknowledge that collective security depends on effective cooperation, in accordance with international law.”<sup>131</sup>

Incredibly as important, before jumping into programs and using mechanisms to eradicate poverty and hunger from the world, must be comes the planning process. These active evaluations are necessary to ensure that cohesive steps are taken to make progress: “The MDG targets must be set at levels that balance ambition with feasibility. This can only be done through an inclusive in-country political process not through a debate among technocrats or sectoral specialists.”<sup>132</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

Despite the great strives that have been made to abide by the Millennium Development Goals, a tremendous number of people still live under the poverty line and suffer from hunger. Even though there are negative report statistics for the attainment of the MDGs, there are great achievements that must be revered and modeled after to spread the success. The Millennium Development Goals are simply that; goals that must be met in order to promote sustainable development. Incredibly important for the programs and policies that come out of the General Assembly Plenary Committee must abide by the rule of law and adhere to the Millennium Declaration in its entirety.

### ***Committee Directive***

Coming to understand the severity of the issues addressed in Millennium Development Goal One, the General Assembly Plenary Committee should be aware of the following questions and directions this committee could go during conference. What has the General Assembly accomplished towards the successful attainment of the Millennium Development Goals? What can the GA learn from its successes and failures? What is it going to take to achieve MDG One? Also, while the most pressing issue is the need for assistance in the developing nations, what is happening with those afflicted in the developed world?

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<sup>129</sup> A/RES/55/2. *United Nations Millennium Declaration*. United Nations General Assembly. September 8, 2000. <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>

<sup>130</sup> A/RES/60/1. *2005 World Summit Outcome*. United Nations General Assembly. October 24, 2005. <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/UN/UNPAN021752.pdf>

<sup>131</sup> Ibid.

<sup>132</sup> Ibid.

### III: UN Peace Building Commission: The Future of Peacebuilding Operations in the United Nations

*“There are few issues on which there is greater consensus, or higher expectations, than on the responsibility of the United Nations to help States and societies recover from the devastation of war. The international community now has at its disposal a unique intergovernmental body: the first devoted specifically to peacebuilding. This new Commission will aim to provide more sustained, more coordinated and more focused support to countries emerging from conflict.”*<sup>133</sup>

*Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General 1997-2006*

#### **Introduction**

Peacebuilding operations are considered the backbone of the work that the United Nations performs. Since the creation of the UN there have been 61 Peacekeeping Operations.<sup>134</sup> In the formative years of both the UN, these peacekeeping missions were minimal in both the amount of missions and their scope. The 1990’s sparked the most operations to date, and the numbers indicate that this decade will be no different as peace building operations have been on the incline.<sup>135</sup>

The definition of peace building was first formulated by author Senzo Ngubane for the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) study on *Peacebuilding in Southern Africa*.<sup>136</sup> ACCORD was commissioned by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in 2004. ACCORD defined peace building as when: “hostilities end, usually marked by a cease-fire or peace agreement, and typically progress through three stages, namely a stabilization phase, a transitional phase, and a consolidation phase. Peacebuilding ends when a society can sustain its transition without external support and it is replaced by a sustainable development period.”<sup>137</sup>

Through its new Peacebuilding commission, the UN hopes to bring more countries through the peace building process and into stable governance.

#### **The first engagement: India and Pakistan**

The first of such endeavors occurred in 1948 and was called the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization or UNTSO.<sup>138</sup> This was the first peace building operation of its kind, and UNTSO still remains as an active operation stationed in the Middle East. UNTSO facilities currently includes 18 troops, 18 military observers, 8 international staff, and 4 local civilian staff.<sup>139</sup> The military observers still work on the ground to monitor and protect the people from ceasefires and bombings, while also maintaining a level of peace so that no small disturbance can escalate. UNTSO also works in cooperation with other peacekeeping missions in the area to provide comprehensive support.<sup>140</sup> On the heels of UNTSO was the creation of the United Nations Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

The United Nations made a groundbreaking decision to aid in the development of Pakistan in the wake of the country’s separation from India in 1947 through UNMOGIP. The UN worked to maintain peace and ensure order in the areas of Jammu and Kashmir.<sup>141</sup> Kashmir, a mostly Muslim area, was given the opportunity to accede to either Pakistan or India. Cultural similarities indicated the government would opt to become part of Pakistan. The Maharaja, Sanskrit for High King and common name for the leader of Kashmir, hesitated and Pakistani troops were

<sup>133</sup> “Opening First Session of Peacebuilding Commission.” Statement by the Secretary-General. SG/SM/10533 PBC/2. Department of Public Information. News and Media Division. New York.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/sgsm10533.doc.htm>

<sup>134</sup> “UN Peacekeeping Operations.” United Nations Department of Public Information.

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/bnote.htm>

<sup>135</sup> Ibid.

<sup>136</sup> “Who Are We?” The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes. <http://www.accord.org.za/web/home.htm>

<sup>137</sup> Cedric de Coning. “Civil-Military Coordination and UN Peacebuilding Operations.”

<http://www.trainingforpeace.org/pubs/accord/civmil2005.pdf>

<sup>138</sup> “United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.” United Nations Truce Supervision Organization

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/missions/untso/>

<sup>139</sup> Ibid.

<sup>140</sup> Ibid.

<sup>141</sup> “Department of Peacekeeping Operations.” United Nations Peacekeeping. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/>



called into the area.<sup>142</sup> The result was a deadly onslaught which caused the Maharaja to look to its neighbor India for assistance. The Governor General of India agreed, and forces were sent in to remove Pakistani troops from the area. At this point the Maharaja turned over the area to India, and all but a fraction of the Pakistani forces were removed.<sup>143</sup> This decision did not rest well with Pakistan and fueled an eruption between the countries. The matter was taken to the UN and passed in Security Council resolution 39, which established the United Nations Commission on India and Pakistan (UNCIP).<sup>144</sup>

The membership of UNCIP was enlarged under the Security Council resolution 47 in 1948. The resolution strived to assist the ceasefire in the region. India and Pakistan signed the Karachi Agreement in March 1951 and established a ceasefire line. As the resolution dictated, a termination of UNCIP in 1951 caused the Security Council to pass resolution 91 to establish *United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan* (UNMOGIP) to observe and report violations of ceasefire.

This was not the last disturbance in the area as a war broke out between India and Pakistan in 1971. The ceasefire began when the two countries signed another agreement in 1972 to define the Line of Control in Kashmir. India and Pakistan continue to disagree on UNMOGIP's mandate in Kashmir. India argues that the mandate of UNMOGIP has expired because it was specifically established to observe ceasefire and is no longer appropriate for the area.<sup>145</sup> The Secretary-General has maintained that the UNMOGIP is still functional and should continue because no resolution has been established to solve the issue. India has restricted the activities of the UNMOGIP in its territory. However, Pakistan has continued to cooperate with UNMOGIP, which was established in response to the United Nations Commission on India and Pakistan.<sup>146</sup>

The importance of UNMOGIP is the groundbreaking work it created, as well as the longevity of the cause. When hostilities sparked again in the 1970's it was the presence of UNMOGIP which proved vital to the region. Since then the mission has remained in the region as a source of information and assistance to the citizens. One of the most important aspects of the continued support of UNMOGIP is providing and maintaining peace and security in the area. UNMOGIP also serves a strong case study for future peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding activities in the UN.

#### ***Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support***

Both of the landmark operations in Indian and Pakistan aided in the establishment of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). The DPKO is a department of the United Nations which is responsible with the planning, preparation, management, and direction of UN peacekeeping operations.<sup>147</sup> Before then peacekeeping missions were handled by United Nations Office of Special Political Affairs. Peacekeeping operations were directed by a strict doctrine under which peacekeepers did not choose sides or use firearms; they also were not allowed to meddle in politics. In 1992 Boutros Boutros-Ghali became the Secretary-General of the United Nations and high on his list of priorities was the creation of the DPKO. The above way is the correct way to spell BBG's name... it is not consistent in this section...

The role of the DPKO was actually established in June 1992, with Boutros-Ghali's written plan for UN diplomacy and peacekeeping entitled *An Agenda For Peace*.<sup>148</sup> The DPKO is divided into two separate organs: the Office of Operations, and the Office of Mission Support. Currently the DPKO is involved in 18 missions, covering the regions in Africa, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. The DPKO funds these missions with a budget of over 5 billion USD, with over 100,000 uniformed and civilian personnel.<sup>149</sup>

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<sup>142</sup> "Jammu and Kashmir." The Official Website of Jammu and Kashmir Government, India. <http://jammukashmir.nic.in/>

<sup>143</sup> Ibid.

<sup>144</sup> "UN Peacekeeping Operations." United Nations Department of Public Information.

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/bnote.htm>

<sup>145</sup> Ibid.

<sup>146</sup> Ibid.

<sup>147</sup> "Department of Peacekeeping Operations." United Nations Peacekeeping. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/bnote.htm>

<sup>148</sup> Boutros-Ghali, Boutros. "An Agenda for Peace: Preventive diplomacy and related matters." A/RES/47/120

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/47/a47r120.htm>

<sup>149</sup> "United Nations Peacekeeping Fact Sheet." UNDPKO. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/factsheet.pdf>

Now, fifteen years later, the UN has added the Department of Field Support as a means to strengthen and reinforce the goals of the DPKO.<sup>150</sup> Currently the numbers of peacekeeping operations around the globe are at an all time high. These numbers indicate the complexity of the organization and the need for restructuring and improvement, which is the intent of the newly formed Department of Field Support, which will be headed up by the Under-Secretary-General.<sup>151</sup> It will continue to support the main office and direct resources to the regions most in need.

### ***Peacekeeping and the UN***

The UN has since created departments to handle and oversee these peacekeeping operations. Among them is the General Assembly Fourth Committee: the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), which serves as one of the six main committees of the General Assembly (GA). The Fourth Committee first dealt only with Trusteeship and Decolonization matters. As the number of these issues decreased as the trust territories became independent causing the decolonization movement to progress, the functions of SPECPOL became part of the Fourth Committee during the 1990s. As a result SPECPOL now considers and reviews the peacekeeping operations and reports back to the plenary committee.<sup>152</sup> These reports are presented to the GA with their deliberations and recommendations, and then voted on by the plenary body.<sup>153</sup>

Additionally, the GA created the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which was established by resolution 2006 (XIX) in February of 1965. The mandate of the Committee is to provide a comprehensive review of the myriad of issues that relate to peacekeeping. It is required to report to the General Assembly, and works hand and hand with the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, on its work. The committee is comprised of 124 United Nations Member States, with another 17 Member States who participate in the work of the Committee and its working groups as observers.<sup>154</sup> The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations is comprised of: General Debate during which members accompanied by senior military advisors address the Committee on the main peacekeeping issues in each of their respective countries; DPKO Briefings in which a series requests from other members are discussed to the group at large; a Working Group of the Special Committee after the general debate and briefings conclude, members convene into working groups in order to draft the report of the Special Committee.

Each of these operations is met with a host of issues ranging from local corruption, to climate changes, and mindset of the civilians, depending on severity of the problem as well as the location. Regardless of operation they each require financial contribution. To date the operations total cost is over 41 billion dollars, with over 3 billion left still uncollected.<sup>155</sup> This year over 5 billion has been allotted to operations of this kind.<sup>156</sup> However, the UN has consistently argued that its peacekeeping efforts have remained relatively low in costs and more successful than unilateral military actions.<sup>157</sup>

### ***Peacebuilding Case Study: The Middle East***

Since the inception of the peacekeeping mission, the Middle East has been a noted area of war and turmoil. As the first region to receive such intervention, peace has yet to prevail. A clear example of this is the still present United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) forces.<sup>158</sup> Currently the Middle East ranks second in the amount of active peacekeeping missions after Africa.<sup>159</sup> The region has been plagued by the inability to retain lasting peace stemming from cultural and religious differences, corrupt leaders, climate and resources among others.

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<sup>150</sup> “GA Gives Support to Secretary-General’s Proposals to Restructure United Nations Peacekeeping, Disarmament.” Department of Public Information. GA/10579. <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/ga10579.doc.htm>

<sup>151</sup> Ibid.

<sup>152</sup> “Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee.” General Assembly Peacekeeping. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/ctte/CTTEE.htm>

<sup>153</sup> Ibid.

<sup>154</sup> Ibid.

<sup>155</sup> “Department of Peacekeeping Operations.” United Nations Peacekeeping. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/bnote.htm>

<sup>156</sup> Ibid.

<sup>157</sup> “United Nations Peacekeeping Fact Sheet.” UNDPKO. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/factsheet.pdf>

<sup>158</sup> “United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.” UNTSO. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/missions/untso/>

<sup>159</sup> “UN Peacekeeping Operations.” United Nations Department of Public Information. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/bnote.htm>

This came to an all time high for the region after the summer of 2006. The Lebanon War, also known by the Lebanese as the July War, was a military conflict between Lebanon and northern Israel. Hezbollah is a Lebanese based Shi'a Islamic political and paramilitary organization. Developed during the Lebanese Civil War Hezbollah works to strengthen three pillars for the group: working towards the eradication of what they consider Western colonialism in Lebanon; bringing to justice those found guilty of atrocities during the war; and to establishing an Islamic government in Lebanon.<sup>160</sup>

The Lebanon war began when Hezbollah forces fired at Israeli villages on the border between Lebanon and Israel. At the time of the attacks a group of Hezbollah soldiers crossed the border and killed three Israeli soldiers and kidnapped two others.<sup>161</sup> Hezbollah paramilitary forces and the Israeli military began the conflict in July of 2006.<sup>162</sup> A ceasefire went into effect only after intervention from the United Nations on August 14, 2006. Formal ceasefire did not happen until September 8, 2006 after the Israeli Navy removed their blockade of Lebanon.<sup>163</sup> On August 11, 2006 the Security Council, by a unanimous vote, approved UN Resolution 1701. The goal of Resolution 1701 was a means to control, and eventually end, the hostility in the region and create a peaceful coexistence between the two nations. The resolution was accepted by both Lebanese and Israeli governments the following days, and called for disarmament of Hezbollah, withdrawal of Israel from Lebanon, and the deployment of Lebanese soldiers. Resolution 1701 enlarged the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) force in southern Lebanon.<sup>164</sup>

Other peace operations in the region include the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) which began as an answer to the 1974 ceasefire between Israel and Syria.<sup>165</sup> The two countries agreed to a peaceful end to the almost yearlong battle in Golan Heights. The eruption began between Egypt and Israel in October of 1973 spread to an uprising between Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights.<sup>166</sup> To combat the initial problem the UN sent the Second United Nations Emergency force, (UNEF II), to safeguard to Suez Canal at the Sinai. While this assuaged the incident, the conflict between Israel and Syria worsened.<sup>167</sup> The UN intervened again in March of 1974 and produced an Agreement on Disengagement (S/11302) which called for areas of separation and dictated two zones with a limited number of weapons and forces. UNDOF was enacted to maintain this order and peace.<sup>168</sup>

In 1978 the UN had to mediate again when the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) began a terrorist attack on Israel in March of 1978, which resulted in the death of 37 Israelis. Israel responded by invading Lebanon, as it was a source of power for the PLO during the 1970's. The attack is known in Israel as the Litani Operation.<sup>169</sup> The government of Lebanon approached the Security Council, and argued that it was not connected with the PLO. The Lebanese Government asked for assistance with Israeli forces in the region.<sup>170</sup> The UN got involved to ensure the peaceful withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was adopted by Security Council Resolution 425 and 426 in March of 1978. UNIFIL also acted to restore international peace and security, while providing the government of Lebanon the tools necessary to restore authority. UNIFIL ensured Israel would immediately cease military action and withdraw forces from all Lebanese territory. The first UNIFIL troops arrived in the area on March 23, 1978.<sup>171</sup>

The work of the peacekeeping operation in Lebanon has strengthened since its initial conception. Since then, UNIFIL has single-handedly supported the cause of the region and has experienced great success in maintaining

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<sup>160</sup> Westcott, Kathryn. "Who are Hezbollah?" BBC News. April 4, 2002. [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/1908671.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/1908671.stm)

<sup>161</sup> Anderson, Jon Lee. "The Battle for Lebanon." *The New Yorker*. August 7, 2007.

<sup>162</sup> Ibid.

<sup>163</sup> "Timeline 2006." Cab. [http://www.caabu.org/index.asp?homepage=resources&article=time\\_lines&detail=timeline\\_2006](http://www.caabu.org/index.asp?homepage=resources&article=time_lines&detail=timeline_2006)

<sup>164</sup> S/RES/1701. *Middle East situation/Cessation of hostilities in Lebanon/Peace process*. United Nations Security Council. August 11, 2006.

<sup>165</sup> "The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force." Department of Public Information. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/missions/undof/index.html>

<sup>166</sup> Ibid.

<sup>167</sup> Ibid.

<sup>168</sup> Ibid.

<sup>169</sup> "The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon." Department of Public Information. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/missions/unifil/>

<sup>170</sup> Ibid.

<sup>171</sup> "The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon." Department of Public Information. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/missions/unifil/>

peace for the citizens. Most notably among the accomplishments of the peacekeeping operation is the fulfillment of Security Council resolution 425, which called for the removal of outside Israeli forces from the Lebanon territory. The Secretary-General reported on 16 June that Israeli forces had been removed from the area under the guidelines set forth by the UN.

Today, military observers of UNTSO aid in the peacekeeping missions of UNDOF.<sup>172</sup> UNDOF, or the Force as it is commonly known, patrols and supervises the areas between Egypt and Israel and is called to action when military force is needed or the political make-up of the area is threaten by outside groups.<sup>173</sup> Peace and security is maintained by these observer forces that make up the present day peacekeeping operation in the region.

### ***United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process***

The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) is based in Gaza, along with stations in Jerusalem and Ramallah.<sup>174</sup> By mandate, UNSCO coverage includes Israel, the occupied Palestinian territory, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. UNSCO serves as the focal point and primary source of communication in the region for UN peacekeeping operations. UNSCO works to support peace initiatives and for improved humanitarian aid to the Palestinians. 2006 began with expectations of Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, in hopes that the parties would begin the work necessary to complete the Road Map and the two State solution.<sup>175</sup>

Alvaro de Soto, who serves as Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, said in the wake of the conflict work from all authorities and from UNSCO must be tailored towards the undertakings of terrorists in the region.<sup>176</sup> De Soto urged the international community, and specifically the Palestinian people, to embrace the work of the UN and to expect that work to increase. He expressed his concern that the issues of these groups represent the needs of the Palestinian people, as well as worked towards the interest of peace. He went on further to warn that this increase in peace operations, and the efforts of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), could not and should not replace what was now the responsibility of the Palestinian Authority, which included financial assistance to the region.<sup>177</sup>

### ***Peacebuilding Case Study: Africa***

Africa remains a region with many ongoing peace operations to this day. The Security Council established the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS).<sup>178</sup> UNMIS is an off branch of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in January 2005.<sup>179</sup> The UNMIS mandate included the monitoring of the ceasefire while also deploying armed forces. UNMIS initially worked towards disarmament, demobilization, restoring authority, and promoting the law of the government. Today, UNMIS supports and works hand in hand with the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS), the UN, and the Secretary-General to provide support and resources in the region. The work of the UNMIS has gone a long way in bringing awareness and contributions to the region of Darfur and Africa as a whole. This work coincides with Security Council resolutions 1556 from July 30, 2004 and 1564 from September 18, 2004.<sup>180</sup>

The Arusha Accords, representing the Arusha Peace Agreement and Arusha negotiations, were a set of five protocols that were signed in Arusha, Tanzania in August of 1993.<sup>181</sup> The Arusha Accords was signed by both the government of Rwanda and the rebel Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF), to end a three year civil war. The truce was organized and mediated by the Organization of African Unity and Member States, most notably the United States

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<sup>172</sup> "The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force." Department of Public Information.

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/missions/undof/index.html>

<sup>173</sup> Ibid.

<sup>174</sup> "Year in Review 2005." United Nations. [http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/pub/year\\_review06/middle\\_east.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/pub/year_review06/middle_east.htm)

<sup>175</sup> Ibid.

<sup>176</sup> "Special Coordinator for Middle East Peace Briefs Security Council." Department of Public Information. News and Media Division. <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/sc8652.doc.htm>

<sup>177</sup> Ibid.

<sup>178</sup> "United Nations Mission in Sudan." Background. United Nations. <http://www.unmis.org/english/en-main.htm>

<sup>179</sup> Ibid.

<sup>180</sup> Ibid.

<sup>181</sup> "United Nations Operation in Burundi." Department of Public Information. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/missions/onub/>

and France.<sup>182</sup> At the conclusion of the mediation the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) was established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1545.<sup>183</sup> ONUB was signed in May of 2004 as a means to ensure cooperation with the peace agreements for the region. The Security Council ended resolution 1545 and the mission with the passing of SC 1719. In January 2007, the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) was established by Security Council Resolution 1719.<sup>184</sup> The United Nations Intergrated Office in Burundi has helped to facilitate support to the Government in their efforts to maintain not just peace, but long-term peace and stability to the region.

In response to the increase of peacekeeping operations, the desire to not only see conflicts end but to have nations rebuild, and pressure from the international arena, the UN recently launched a new initiative in its mission to achieve peace.

### ***The Peacebuilding Commission***

Established by General Assembly resolution 60/180, The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was created in response to the 2005 World Summit Outcome.<sup>185</sup> The UN specifically acted in response to paragraph, which said that: “Emphasizing the need for a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach to post-conflict peacebuilding and reconciliation with a view to achieving sustainable peace, recognizing the need for a dedicated institutional mechanism to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and to assist them in laying the foundation for sustainable development, and recognizing the vital role of the United Nations in that regard, we decide to establish a Peacebuilding Commission as an intergovernmental advisory body.”<sup>186</sup>

The General Assembly created the Peace Building Commission to work hand in hand with these missions throughout the world. The committee is comprised of members of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC) to act an advisory body to perform the following tasks:

- “(a) To bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and to advise on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery;
- (b) To focus attention on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts necessary for recovery from conflict and to support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development;
- (c) To provide recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, to develop best practices, to help to ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and to extend the period of attention given by the international community to post conflict recovery;”<sup>187</sup>

Shortly following the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, the GA passed Resolution 60/287 to create the Peacebuilding Fund, which hoped to increase the financial support of the Commission’s operations through financial support.<sup>188</sup> To date, The Peacebuilding Fund has seen \$226,249,000 in pledges and \$186,672,000 in commitments from UN Member States. So far \$138,001,000 has been deposited from 34 donors.<sup>189</sup>

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<sup>182</sup> Ibid.

<sup>183</sup> Ibid.

<sup>184</sup> Ibid.

<sup>185</sup> A/RES/60/180. *The Peacekeeping Commission*. United Nations General Assembly. December 30, 2005.

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/498/40/PDF/N0549840.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>186</sup> “The World Summit.” General Assembly. <http://www.un.org/summit2005/>

<sup>187</sup> “The Peacekeeping Commission.” GA Resolution. A/RES/60/180.

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/498/40/PDF/N0549840.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>188</sup> A/RES/60/287. *Peacebuilding Fund*. September 21, 2006.

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/504/82/PDF/N0550482.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>189</sup> “The United Nations Peacebuilding Fund: bridging the gap between conflict and recovery.” UN Peacebuilding Fund.

<http://www.unpbf.org/>

Critical to the committee's development, and ultimate future, was requesting advice from Member States, the Secretary-General, ECOSO, and the Security Council.<sup>190</sup> In February of 2007, this request was completed when the Security Council reviewed The Commission.<sup>191</sup> General Assembly President H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa presented the progress of the Peace Building Commission to the Secretary-General. The letter was meant as a means of updating the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, but even more as a plea to the Member States to follow through with their pledges. Addressed in the letter was the chronic plague that poverty and instability wreck on peace building missions.<sup>192</sup> Pointing out these critical deterrents to continued peace in regions throughout the world opened discussions for ways to improve and reverse the effects of war and violence. Madam President Sheikha Haya went on to address the success the Commission had in regards to Burundi and Sierra Leone. A caveat was placed on the future success of the Commission, due to Member States not fulfilling their financial pledges, and the acknowledgment that the \$250 million funding target had not yet been reached.<sup>193</sup>

The financial contributions show the support of Member States towards creating a peaceful world. By donating to The Fund the goals and strategies of peace and security are brought to the forefront. By placing more attention and focus on the development of The Fund and Peacekeeping missions, Member States and the UN shows their commitment to the cause of peace. Merely pledging the money will not allow the PBC to grow, there must be proactive steps taken to fulfill pledges.

### ***Security Council Review***

On January 31, 2007, at the request of the Security Council (SC), an open debate review of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was held.<sup>194</sup> The intent of the SC was to take stock of the success and failures of the PBC and define the future of the Commission. Another goal was to discover new ways in which the Commission and SC can increase communication and improve the work that both groups do by creating more unity between them. While it was a review of the PBC, the Security Council was able to make suggestions to the GA on room for improvement with their role in peacekeeping and the relationship the body has with the PBC. At the end of the review it was clear the Security Council had some dominant and clear cut suggestions.

First, the SC made suggestions on the ways in which the PBC could improve the work it is doing, with careful attention placed on the speed or urgency for the PBC to move towards more substantive work.<sup>195</sup> The SC wanted to see the PBC work more directly with the countries in question, getting key players more involved, which would in turn cut down on the committee's workload.<sup>196</sup> The major issue the SC hoped to resolve was the lack of communication between the two groups. The SC believes that after this first year and the suggestions of the Review, a more cohesive working environment will take shape.

The SC also stressed the importance of unity and communication between the agencies within the PBC, and with the Security Council. The SC discussed how more communication early into conflict issues and about potential problems or setbacks would improve the effectiveness of the PBC.<sup>197</sup> The Security Council also wanted to see more mentorship between them and the PBC since the Resolution that created the PBC outlined that seven members of the Security Council should serve on the Commission as well. The SC went on to ask that the committee to look to them for help or recommendations with a new operation or in the negotiations process of a mandate, as they are a new committee. The new Commission acts as an advisory group and could greatly benefit from the experience and first-hand knowledge that the SC has on many of the issues. The SC believes this collaboration will allow for better planning and implementation. Working off this same idea, is the time factor. The Security Council believes that the PBC must get to the SC at the early stages, through briefings or reviews, as well as on a regular basis. Included in

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<sup>190</sup> Ibid,

<sup>191</sup> "The President of the United Nations General Assembly at the Meeting of the General Assembly to Resume Consideration of Agenda Items 47, 113, and 149, in Order to Discuss the Progress Achieved in the Work of the Peacebuilding Commission." February 6, 2007.. H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa

<sup>192</sup> Ibid.

<sup>193</sup> Ibid.

<sup>194</sup> "March 2007: Peacebuilding Commission." The Security Council Review.

[http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/site/c.gKWLeMTIsG/b.2549867/k.2C4D/March\\_2007BRPeacebuilding\\_Commission.htm](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/site/c.gKWLeMTIsG/b.2549867/k.2C4D/March_2007BRPeacebuilding_Commission.htm)

<sup>195</sup> Ibid.

<sup>196</sup> Ibid.

<sup>197</sup> Ibid.

these discussions could also be the presidents of both ECOSOC and the GA.<sup>198</sup> These groups not only are comprised of the most Member States, but their abilities to ascertain information as well as disperse information is indispensable to the Commission. Overall the SC found that the best steps for the future was to development a stronger partnership between the two bodies to implement long-term success.

### ***Conclusion***

The work of the Security Council is vital to the support and efforts of each Peacekeeping Operation. The Peacebuilding Commissions relies heavily on the work that Member States are able to achieve through Resolutions. In times of conflict it is not only the peacekeeping forces on the ground that aid and assist the missions of the UN, but the strength behind the Resolutions.

While the beginning stages of the Commission has yielded great success there is room for improvement. The Commission must find a means to work within the ramifications set forth by the GA and the SC. Like the organs of the UN, the collective work of the Commissions and the other Committees will only serve to strengthen the whole. The Commission must find means to be both a powerful advisory committee, as well as liaison between the UN and the citizens it serves. Currently, there is no sign that the need for peacebuilding operations in on the decline and the GA has the power to provide real solutions for nations who are struggling in conflict. It is the execution, maintenance, and development of those solutions through partnerships and the Peacebuilding Commission that will be of most benefit for the nations in need and the global community.

### ***Committee Directive***

The Peacebuilding Commission is the current undertaking of the GA but there are many more solutions out there as well. The UN states that its missions are successful yet, the need for peacekeeping bodies is on the rise. What is accounting for this and what will be in the GA's role in addressing these issues? Are Peacekeeping Operations as a whole suffering from the addition of another bureaucracy? Is help taking too long or coming at a price too high for those in need? What can be done to improve the communication between these groups while also shortening response time to the citizens affected?

The GA must decide what support needs to be granted to the Commission to operate as hoped. What can the Commission do to thwart off the risk of long-term instability and corruption. Most of the work that has been completed by the Commission has been short-term assistance, how can they grow to serve the citizens more fully?

Awareness is key to successfully moving forward and strengthening the work and legitimacy of the commission. The GA must also consider those factors unseen by the Security Council review, as means for improvement. What needs to be added, amended, and removed to make the PBC current, realistic, and successful? More importantly can the Commission rise to these demands?

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<sup>198</sup> Ibid.