

Southern Regional Model United Nations XVIII
Fostering a Culture of Peace for International Development
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Email: undp@srmun.org



Dear Delegates,

My name is Elizabeth Wheat and I would like to welcome you to the 2007 Southern Regional United Nations Conference (SRMUN XVIII) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). I will be serving as your Director for this conference and look forward to an incredible simulation of the UNDP. This marks my eighth year involved with Model UN, first as a delegate for four years, and then as a staff member for several conferences. Model UN is a unique experience where we not only learn about problems in the world, but where we imagine solutions to them. We transfer what we learn in the classroom to a one-of-a-kind diplomatic simulation. I have enjoyed being a part of this work for years and I am excited about SRMUN XVIII!

The UNDP was established in 1965 for the purpose of facilitating development work of the United Nations. Since the creation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the UNDP has devoted considerable effort and finance to developing countries seeking to meet these targets. The main programme areas of the UNDP include poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, good governance, energy and the environment, and crisis prevention and recovery. For our simulation, we will focus on the following topics:

- I. Civil Society and HIV/AIDS Reduction Strategies;
- II. Corruption, Poverty, and Development: Good Governance for the Developing World;
- III. Energy Use and Sustainable Development.

The background guide will provide you with a foundation for your research. However, it is by no means exhaustive of the information available to you for each topic. I should remind you that thorough preparation of each topic is expected from every delegate in order to ensure the success of our committee. This background guide will provide an initial step in your research, but you will need to do research beyond the material presented in this background guide.

Each delegation is required to submit a position paper for consideration. It should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your country's position, policies and recommendations on each of the three topics. For more information regarding the position papers please visit the SRMUN website at <http://www.srmun.org>. **All position papers must be submitted to UNDP@srmun.org no later than Midnight EST on Friday, October 26, 2007.** Late or improperly formatted position papers will not be considered for awards.

Justin and I wish you the best as you prepare for the 2007 SRMUN Conference.

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History of the United Nations Development Program

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) was created in 1965 under General Assembly Resolution 2029 to replace the special UN Fund for Economic Development and the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance.¹ The UNDP serves as the lead organization for all the United Nations development efforts and provides development assistance to its 166 Member States.² The UNDP is headquartered in New York City and has over 170 offices worldwide.³ Its mission is to contribute to the achievement of strategic human development by strengthening international cooperation for strategic human development and serving as a major substantive resource on how to achieve it, helping the UN family become a unified, powerful force for strategic human development, and by focusing its strengths and resources in order to maximize UNDP's contribution to strategic human development in countries served.⁴ The UNDP coordinates its efforts to address five major international challenges which are:

- Democratic Governance
- Poverty Reduction
- Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- Energy and environment
- HIV/AIDS⁵

UNDP gained responsibility for the implementation of many new UN efforts aimed at promoting sustainable development after the 1992 Earth Summit.⁶ Agenda 21 of that summit resulted in strategic partnerships being formed between UNDP and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, United Nations Conference on Trade And Development (UNCTAD), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the International Development Association, and regional development banks such as the east African development bank to carry out over one thousand recommendations decided on in the summit.⁷ With these new responsibilities the UNDP took on a coordination role between UN agencies, in order to promote development and is now responsible for distributing the majority of the technical assistance resources that the UN system provides.⁸ After adopting these new responsibilities, the UNDP's mission statement was expanded to include efforts involving humanitarian assistance and social development.⁹

The UNDP is governed by a rotating executive board of 36 members that represent five different regional groups.¹⁰ The regional areas are African states with 8 members, Asian states with 7 members, Latin American and Caribbean states with 5 members, Eastern European states with 4 members, and Western European and other states with 12 members.¹¹ The UNDP executive board is also the governing body for the UN Population Fund.¹² UNDP activities are the largest item on the UN budget and most of its funding is received from voluntary contributions, which it distributes to approximately 65 countries representing 90 percent of the worlds poor.¹³

In order to accomplish its mission UNDP utilizes a "roundtable" process where donor countries and recipient countries jointly set mutually acceptable priorities on the agenda. With its new responsibilities, UNDP has placed special emphasis on promoting gender equality and advocating an increased role for woman in developing

¹ John Allphin Moore and Jerry Pubantz. "The New United Nations International Organization in the Twenty-first Century." New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ "Part One. Chapter 1. UNDP Mission." United Nations Development Program. February 26, 2007
<http://www.undp.org/eo/documents/mec1-3.htm>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ "Members of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board." United Nations Development Program. February 16, 2007.
http://www.undp.org/execbrd/word/EB_membership.doc

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ John Allphin Moore and Jerry Pubantz. "The New United Nations International Organization in the Twenty-first Century." New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006.

countries.¹⁴ As a result UNDP joined with the UN Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 2003 to create a special task force on gender and trade to study issues affecting the economic role of women in developing countries.¹⁵

Currently UNDP has focused its efforts on the fight against HIV/AIDS, and it is one of the implementing agencies of the Global Programme to Combat HIV/AIDS as well as one of the co-sponsors of UNAIDS.¹⁶ The overall goal of these efforts is to achieve the MDG of halting and starting to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.¹⁷ The agency is also playing a leading role in coordinating efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, by partnering with various organizations and devoting its development resources towards these goals, since they closely relate with the agency's mission of poverty reduction and democratization.¹⁸ Another important role of UNDP is the publication of the annual Human Development Report that compiles statistics of comparative country data, as well as providing information on specific countries and regional trends.¹⁹

Current Member States of the United Nations Development Programme:

ALGERIA, ANGOLA, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHAMAS, BANGLADESH, BELGIUM, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, COLUMBIA, COSTA RICA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, FRANCE, GERMANY, GHANA, HAITI, HUNGARY, INDIA, INDONESIA, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, ISRAEL, JAPAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KENYA, KYRGYZSTAN, MEXICO, MONACO, MOROCCO, NETHERLANDS, PAKISTAN, POLAND, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SWEDEN, THAILAND, TURKEY, TUVALU, UGANDA, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ "Human Development Report 2006." United Nations Development Program. February 16, 2007.
<http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/report.cfm>

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

I: Civil Society and HIV/AIDS Reduction Strategies

Introduction

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 2006 *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic* estimated that 38.6 million people globally were living with HIV, with approximately 4.1 million newly infected.²⁰ HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects Africa, with nearly two-thirds of HIV/AIDS-infected people living in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).²¹ While every part of the world is touched by HIV/AIDS, SSA is the worst-affected region.²² The 2006 Report also emphasizes the acute effects of the virus on women in SSA where for every two HIV-infected men, there are three infected women and for people 15-24 years old, the ratio is more significant as three young women are infected for every one man.²³ Fifty-two percent (5.9-7.7 million) of women with HIV live in southern Africa.²⁴

Children are also a highly vulnerable population with respect to this virus. Currently 64 percent of *everyone* living with HIV live in SSA. 1.5-3.0 million are children 15 years or younger, and approximately nine in ten children who have HIV are in SSA. This leads to nearly 12.0 million orphans just in SSA.²⁵ In southern Africa, 43 percent *all* children live with HIV.²⁶

In other regional trends, HIV/AIDS prevalence has been decreasing in parts of India, Cambodia and Thailand, where prevention efforts have been enacted. India still remains host to more than two-thirds of all adult women with HIV in Asia, and Cambodia has one of the worst AIDS epidemics in Asia.²⁷ However, the prevalence is increasing in Southeast Asia, particularly China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Vietnam, with new outbreaks in Bangladesh and Pakistan.²⁸ One of the driving factors in this region has been the sex trade, particularly when it is combined with increased use of injecting drugs. For example, in the Tamil Nadu part of India, an HIV prevalence of 50 percent among sex workers has been found.²⁹ In Vietnam, an estimated 20 percent of sex workers in Ho Chi Minh City and 43 percent in Hanoi report injecting drugs.³⁰ Further complicated by the fact that less than half of these workers use condoms, it maximizes their risk of both becoming infected and infecting others.³¹ With the social stigma and illegal status of the sex workers, this population is a very difficult one to reach with HIV prevention or treatment options.

In Europe, the Russian Federation has the most significant AIDS rate in Europe, emphasizing the need for cooperative international efforts to become involved.³² In contrast to the sex trade in Southeast Asia, Russia's epidemic finds its roots in socioeconomic conditions of the 1990s when drug markets/use and HIV risk escalated. Presently, three in every four individuals infected with HIV in Russia is less than 30 years old and the majority became infected through unsafe drug injection behaviors.³³ This country's most at-risk populations include juveniles, young adults, and prison inmates, who were found to have a four times increased risk of infection than the

²⁰ 2006 *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*. "Chapter 02 Overview of the Global AIDS Epidemic." UNAIDS. 2006. http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_CH02_en.pdf

²¹ Flora Jennifer Jones. "The End is Nigh: The Varied Responses of African States to AIDS." Conference Paper-American Political Science Association. 2004. <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=16025820&site=ehost-live>

²² A/RES/60/262. *Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS*. United Nations General Assembly. 2 June 2006.

²³ Flora Jennifer Jones. "The End is Nigh: The Varied Responses of African States to AIDS." Conference Paper-American Political Science Association. 2004. <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=16025820&site=ehost-live>

²⁴ 2006 *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*. "Chapter 02 Overview of the Global AIDS Epidemic." UNAIDS. 2006. http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_CH02_en.pdf

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

greater populations.³⁴ Other countries in the former Soviet Union face similar risks and have comparable target populations.

In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), prevalence has remained relatively constant over the last four years and as of 2005, there are an estimated 1.6 million adults/children with HIV.³⁵ The largest population of those infected is in Brazil, where one-third of those in Latin America with HIV live. At-risk populations include drug users and prisoners in urban jails, and sex workers in Central America.³⁶ In the Caribbean alone, 330,000 people have HIV, including 22,000 who are younger than 15 years old. Fifty-one percent of the infections are women. This region is the second-most affected one in the world, and AIDS is the number one cause of death for adults.³⁷ The primary means of transmission in this part of the world is unprotected heterosexual intercourse, compounded by deep poverty and gender inequality.

Trends in HIV/AIDS Reduction Strategies

Several trends have been identified by the international community as effective in reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS. The first is improved access to antiretroviral therapies. Data on increased treatment access and the number of people receiving antiretroviral therapies shows an increase from 400,000 people with treatment in 2003 to more than 1.3 million in December 2005.³⁸ For SSA, this meant an increase of eight-fold from 2003 and 2005, with those receiving treatment doubling in 2005.³⁹ Five countries in SSA have pioneered this enhanced access and significantly contributed to the region's progress: Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia.⁴⁰

With any form of access program, it is essential to tailor the strategy to the community and its needs. For example, reduction strategies will differ from primarily rural communities to urban areas. NGOs in Burkina Faso have targeted urban populations and can serve as a valuable example. In countries with dispersed populations, however, improving both rural access and providing information is crucial. The NGO Avert has worked in regions throughout the world such as Southern Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, and the Caribbean to provide information, anti-retroviral drugs, and health care resources to these populations hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.⁴¹ The British NGO ActionAid has also made it a priority to work through community support groups that can best reach the most vulnerable populations, particularly women and children.⁴² Cultural sensitivities can also pose formidable barriers to reduction strategies. In its 2006 report, UNAIDS described how Haiti adopted a series of programs in which reduction behaviors have been targeted, such as encouraging the use of condoms and fewer sexual partners.⁴³

A second important trend has been greater attention to strengthening weak health infrastructure. In June 2007, Mozambique announced plans to recruit 8,000 doctors over the next decade to help the country's struggling health care system. For a population of nearly 20 million people, Mozambique has a mere 650 doctors to serve the entire population and many of these doctors and other health care workers are also infected.⁴⁴ Other countries, such as Pakistan, continue to work with international donors like the European Community (EC) for funding to improve health care systems.⁴⁵ In Rwanda, for instance, 93 percent of total health expenditures on AIDS are out-of-pocket

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Flora Jennifer Jones. "The End is Nigh: The Varied Responses of African States to AIDS." Conference Paper-American Political Science Association. 2004.

³⁹ 2006 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic. "Chapter 02 Overview of the Global AIDS Epidemic." UNAIDS. 2006. http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_CH02_en.pdf

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ "AVERTing HIV and AIDS." Avert. 2007. <http://www.avert.org>

⁴² "Our work on HIV/AIDS." ActionAid. 2007. <http://www.actionaid.org/main.aspx?PageID=192>

⁴³ 2006 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic. "Chapter 02 Overview of the Global AIDS Epidemic." UNAIDS. 2006. http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_CH02_en.pdf

⁴⁴ "Mozambique to Recruit Doctors From Other African Countries to Improve Health Infrastructure, Minister Says." Medical News Today. June 29, 2007. <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/75448.php>

⁴⁵ "EC to Help Pakistan in improving health infrastructure." Associated Press of Pakistan. February 22, 2007. http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4457&Itemid=2

expenses, which force people to rely on their churches or extended family for assistance.⁴⁶ In many countries, particularly those in Africa, civil society organizations (CSOs) shoulder most of the burden of HIV and providing care to those infected. UNAIDS and the WHO conducted a joint survey in 2004 of 274 community-based organizations throughout 45 countries and 210,400 clients. They found that 184 organizations were providing the antiretroviral therapy (including prescribing the drugs), 133 offered medical follow-up services, 156 provided psychosocial follow-up for therapy patients, and 141 organizations also provided treatment for “opportunistic infections” such as tuberculosis.⁴⁷ Overall, the AIDS/HIV epidemic strains every sector of a country’s health care system beginning with an overload of patients lacking any medicine, to access of trained physicians, all the way through the understaffed doctors and health care professionals trying to serve as much of the affected population as possible.

A third area to look at is increased awareness of AIDS and education on the virus. One strategy adopted by many countries is harm reduction for drug users. Spain developed a program in the late 1990s that combined methadone treatment with a needle-exchange project and witnessed a dramatic decrease among HIV diagnoses of drug users who injected.⁴⁸ Other programs organized by NGOs including AVERT, World Vision, and VSO’s RAISA project, work on community education on the virus itself including means of transmission, health care options, and preventative measures.⁴⁹ A significant barrier for many awareness programs is the lack or direct opposition of national governments. Any educational program must find a way to circumvent this problem in order to be successful in educating at-risk populations about HIV/AIDS.

Role of Civil Society

One of the contributing factors to the improved access and global awareness of HIV/AIDS has been the increased involvement of civil society organizations. There is no official definition of a CSO, but the UNAIDS 2006 Report describes them as “ordinary citizens who organize themselves outside of government and the public service to deal with specific issues and concerns that normal governmental process cannot address by itself.”⁵⁰ CSOs have a long history of work on HIV/AIDS issues dating back to 1987 with the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power in New York City and the AIDS Support Organisation in Uganda. The former consisted of gay and lesbian activists campaigning for awareness of pharmaceutical companies’ excessive profits on AIDS drugs, the slow process of drug approval, and AIDS-related discrimination. The latter CSO was founded by individuals who had firsthand experience with the virus, either personally infected or through the loss of family members, and worked to advocate the principle of “living positively with AIDS”.⁵¹

At the beginning stages of the virus, CSOs were the first to confront the discrimination faced by HIV-positive individuals and assist individuals who were denied treatment by health care workers and fired from their jobs. Some CSOs also realized that some of the most at-risk populations, such as sex workers or drug users, were condemned through a country’s legal system or social norms, making it very difficult for a government to address their health needs. A professor at the University of Casablanca in Morocco understood this and founded the Association marocaine de lutte contre le SIDA, the first non-governmental AIDS group in the Magreb, to work with these populations.⁵² Shortly after this organization, the group Stigma was founded in Slovenia by former drug users to set up a needle-exchange program, and the group Pakistan AIDS Prevention Society was formed in Pakistan as a community effort with educators and trade workers.⁵³

With more global recognition of the virus in the 1990s, networks of CSOs working on HIV developed. Madrid, Spain hosted the Fourth International Conference for People Living with HIV/AIDS in 1990 and 500 people from 43

⁴⁶ “Civil society and HIV/AIDS.” International AIDS Alliance. 2007. <http://www.aidsalliance.org/sw7188.asp>

⁴⁷ *2006 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*. UNAIDS. 2006. “Chapter 09 The Essential Role of Civil Society.” http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_CH09_en.pdf

⁴⁸ *2006 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*. “Chapter 02 Overview of the Global AIDS Epidemic.” UNAIDS. 2006. http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_CH02_en.pdf

⁴⁹ “Our Programme Initiatives-RAISA.” VSO. 2007. http://www.vso.org.uk/about/programme_initiatives/raisa.asp

⁵⁰ *2006 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*. UNAIDS. 2006. “Chapter 09 The Essential Role of Civil Society.” http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_CH09_en.pdf

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

countries attended, enabling the later launch of the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in 1992.⁵⁴ However, this network trend did not end with the 1990s. In 2003, the Egyptian NGO Network Against AIDS was created and included 19 NGOs who, with no experience on the issue, committed themselves to learning how to better address the needs of people living with HIV.⁵⁵

One of the biggest events for CSOs was the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS), held in 2001 and the Declaration of Commitment signed by 189 heads of state at that Session.⁵⁶ The declaration put forth a specific role for civil society, established goals with target dates, prescribed government partnerships, and emphasized a commitment to monitoring government compliance with the declaration. The deadlines to review the commitments were 2003, 2005, and 2010. By 2005, a civil society consortium with NGOs had been organized and includes the following NGOs: Fundar, Gestos and Panos (Mexico, Brazil, and the UK, respectively), the Public Health Watch/Open Society Institute, the International Council for AIDS Service Organizations, the World AIDS Campaign, and the Latin American Caribbean Council of AIDS Organizations.⁵⁷ In a report published by the consortium, the NGOs included their data and recommendations generated by research of communities in Kenya, the Philippines, Ukraine, and Venezuela (pilot regions affected by HIV). This report identified five “areas of commitment”: access to treatment, women’s empowerment, human rights of people living with HIV, allocation of resources, and the involvement of civil society”.⁵⁸

Barriers Facing Civil Society Actors

One of the barriers facing civil society is government recognition. With the critical role that CSOs can play, official legal recognition is also essential. In countries such as Brazil, CSOs are supported and recognized for the AIDS work they do.⁵⁹ This is not to underscore challenges the organizations face, but the support increases the likelihood of successful policies. A possible reason for the lack of government support is that some politicians are wary of supporting an organization they feel may later challenge their authority and highlight their ineffectiveness. A second reason is that some national and international experts can feel as if the CSOs are also challenging their expertise and effectiveness.⁶⁰ Whether such perceptions are valid or not, they emphasize the importance of collaborative efforts with CSOs, experts, and government agencies with each actor having a role in the HIV/AIDS policy efforts.

A second barrier is lack of funding for the programming CSOs feel is necessary for the populations they serve and a dependency on international donors. Some of the most significant sources of funding are the Global Fund on AIDS, TB and Malaria (the Global Fund), the World Bank’s Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Programme (MAP) for Africa, and the United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), but these are not enough to get ahead of HIV/AIDS spreading.⁶¹ Additional resources must be mobilized and it is in this area that CSOs can be particularly effective as they work to secure additional funds.

Future Needs for CSOs to Address

With HIV/AIDS, CSOs have filled an essential void in societies throughout the world, providing health care and services that are either unaffordable or unavailable from national health care systems. They have also helped increase public awareness at both the national and international levels, worked to hold pharmaceutical companies accountable, and assisted with initiatives such as the World AIDS Campaign through UNAIDS.⁶² In order for CSO efforts to be successful, however, partnerships must be established with governments and coordination must occur among the large number of actors involved with HIV/AIDS. The 2001 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV (UNGASS) and UNGASS +5 in 2006 both set targets for civil society actors and for UN Member States as they work to form these types of partnerships and combat the spread of HIV/AIDS.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ C. Camara. “Relationship between the government and the civil society: A differential in the Brazilian response to AIDS. *Impulso: Revista de Ciências Sociais e Humanas*. 2002, 13:32, Sept-Dec, 13 (32) 57-67.

⁶⁰ B. Rau. “The politics of civil society in confronting HIV/AIDS.” *International Affairs*. 2006: 82(2), 285-295.

⁶¹ “International HIV/AIDS Alliance and International Council of AIDS Service Organizations

Discussion Paper: Civil Society and the ‘Three Ones’.” International AIDS Alliance. 2007. Available as pdf online.

⁶² Ibid.

In 2004 an NGO HIV/AIDS Code of Practice was developed and remains a valuable source of guidelines for CSOs.⁶³ Using a human rights-based approach that involves people living with HIV, the Code includes principles for good practices for both advocacy work and AIDS programming. As of the 2006 UNAIDS report previously mentioned, over 160 NGOs have agreed to implement this code and hopefully more will follow.⁶⁴ A similar resource for NGOs is a toolkit developed by The International AIDS Alliance. The kit was field tested by over 50 NGOs in three countries and focuses on the following capacity areas: “organizational strength, technical understanding of HIV, participation of people living with HIV and other affected groups, partnerships, and coordination and effective advocacy”.⁶⁵

Another essential purpose for CSOs is monitoring activities of governments and engaging in accountability efforts for both the NGO community and NGO-government partnerships. In some countries, this is done by having a coordinated treatment strategy where every member of the network assists in providing services to people living with HIV. An example of this is the Kenya Coalition on Access to Essential Medicines, which includes people with HIV, the Kenya Medical Association, international NGOs, and civil society groups.⁶⁶ For accountability among CSOs, participating in a “harmonized approach to monitoring, evaluating, and reporting” will improve the capacity of the CSOs and strengthen the networks working on AIDS programming.⁶⁷

As CSOs continue their involvement with this issue, it is important to keep in mind the at-risk populations of HIV/AIDS, particularly women and children, sex trade workers, and prison populations. The Global Coalition on WOMEN and AIDS (launched by UNAIDS) is an informal global alliance with CSOs, governments, and UN agencies, and provides starter funds of up to US\$ 50,000 to UN Theme Groups who then disburse the money to countries affected by HIV and working on strategies to better include women in CSOs and HIV/AIDS programs.⁶⁸ The UN has also been involved with other organizations such as the Women’s Union with 13 million members globally, to help develop HIV strategies specifically for women. Regarding children, many faith-based organizations have focused on the needs of children with HIV and those orphaned by it. In Africa, the Christian Health Association works with the state health ministers to provide health services to those living with HIV. In Lesotho, this involves 40 percent of the country’s health care, 45 percent in Zimbabwe, 48 percent in Tanzania, 47 percent in Liberia, 40 percent in Kenya, and 30 percent in Zambia. According to a 2004 WHO report, these kinds of faith-based organizations make up one in five organizations providing AIDS care.⁶⁹ The faith-based organizations have also worked on moral challenges of HIV/AIDS such as discrimination and stigmatization of being tested and receiving treatment.

Committee Directive

This topic will address the following: work by UNGASS to improve civil society participation in reducing HIV/AIDS; strategies targeting at-risk populations such as women, children and youth, and sex workers; transparency measures for aid received and distributed by CSOs; means of harmonizing national monitoring systems; and ways to best incorporate civil society into global work towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals. With each of these policy areas, it is important to be sensitive to cultural practices and beliefs and the timing of disease. Countries with high prevalence rates will need to adopt very different policies than those at the beginning of an outbreak. Understanding cultural sensitivities and the unique needs of at-risk populations in each country will enable efforts by both CSOs and governments to be more effective.

⁶³ “Analyzing Civil Society Participation in Country-Level HIV/AIDS UNGASS 2006 Reporting.” CARE International. April 2006.

⁶⁴ 2006 *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*. UNAIDS. 2006. “Chapter 09 The Essential Role of Civil Society.” http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_CH09_en.pdf

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ “Analyzing Civil Society Participation in Country-Level HIV/AIDS UNGASS 2006 Reporting”. CARE International. April 2006.

⁶⁸ 2006 *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*. UNAIDS. 2006. “Chapter 09 The Essential Role of Civil Society.” http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_CH09_en.pdf

⁶⁹ Ibid.

II: Corruption, Poverty, and Development: Good Governance for the Developing World

Introduction

Effective programs that allow for sustainable development have been elusive despite billions of dollars in financial aid invested in the developing world. Most of the developing world simply lacks the national financial and governmental institutions that allow aid to be used for sustained growth and poverty reduction. If the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving world poverty by 2015 is to be met, efficient national institutions must be developed and creative financial aid strategies should be formed in order for financial aid to have a significant impact on poverty and sustainable development.⁷⁰

One of the key factors in determining national institutions' effective use of financial aid relates to the development of "efficient, responsive, transparent, and accountable public administrations."⁷¹ Only when national governments act in the best interest of their citizens will they put development at the forefront of their policies and establish an uncorrupt system that encourages foreign investment. As such, Article 8 of The Declaration on Social Progress and Development states, "Each Government has the primary role and ultimate responsibility of ensuring the social progress and well being of its people," implying that progress can only be made when individual national governments recognize and create an environment that fosters development.⁷²

Another important issue resulting in the ineffectiveness of financial aid programs is the destabilizing effect of corruption. The effects of corruption are numerous, but the main ones are financial aid being squandered for the benefit of a few government individuals and the interests of ordinary citizens being ignored. Recognizing this, the UNDP states that, "minimizing corruption is critical to reduce poverty and promote social and people-centered sustainable development."⁷³ In order to implement financial aid programs that result in effective, long-term sustainable development, policies that encourage good governance, micro-credit aid, public administration reform, and fiscal decentralization should be undertaken.

Good Governance

One of the most important requirements for sustainable development is establishing practices of good governance. The pillars of good governance are developing institutions that are transparent, participatory, accountable, responsive, equitable, strategic, consensus orientated, and inclusive.⁷⁴ The main idea behind good governance is that institutions enacting these principles will be the most likely to act in the best interests of their citizens by implementing development strategies and using financial aid effectively. Doing so will create the necessary infrastructure and environment for development to occur. The principles of good governance also ensure that institutions consent to the universal participation of all citizens and allow individuals to easily interact with government. Furthermore, institutions that are accountable to citizens and transparent in their interactions are less likely to be corrupt, since they are monitored by numerous citizens and organizations. As a result of having an uncorrupt government, there is a higher chance for foreign direct investment (FDI) in the economy, which results in further development.⁷⁵

Clearly, good governance promotes a cycle resulting in continuous development and improvement for states by creating a stable and uncorrupt environment in which development can flourish. Related to this, the UNDP is a strong advocate of democracy because it can successfully incorporate many of the principles of good governance. UNDP views democracy as providing an "enabling environment for the realization of the MDGs and, in particular,

⁷⁰ A/RES/55/2. *United Nations Millennium Declaration*. United Nations General Assembly. September 18, 2000.

⁷¹ "Public Administration Reform and Anti-Corruption." United Nations Development Program. Democratic Governance. 2007.
<http://www.undp.org/governance/sl-par.htm>

⁷² "Declaration on Social Progress and Development." United Nations. 1969.

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/256/76/IMG/NR025676.pdf?OpenElement>

⁷³ "Public Administration Reform and Anti-Corruption." United Nations Development Program. Democratic Governance. 2007.
<http://www.undp.org/governance/sl-par.htm>

⁷⁴ "Good governance - and sustainable human development." United Nations Development Program.
<http://mirror.undp.org/magnet/policy/chapter1.htm>.

⁷⁵ "Public Administration Reform." United Nations Development Program Practice Note.
http://www.undp.org/governance/docs/PARPN_English.pdf

the elimination of poverty.”⁷⁶ It is important to note that it is almost impossible for any state to completely integrate all of the principles of good governance. As such, good governance policies must be personalized in order to meet the needs and priorities of individual states.⁷⁷ Through these principles, the main purpose of good governance is to make sure that national public policy is implemented effectively and consistently, which in turn makes specific policies more successful in achieving development.⁷⁸

Fiscal Decentralization

Another important program that can result in more effective financial aid use and distribution for many states is fiscal decentralization. The main concept behind decentralization is providing greater authority and autonomy to local governments in the use of financial resources, which are more knowledgeable with the needs of individual populations and regions. These local governments can then develop the infrastructure and distribute financial aid to areas where it is most needed and can have the greatest long term impact for development. The UNDP’s views are that “the empowerment of communities by fiscally strengthening their local governments and the entire system of sub-national government finance are an integral part of the policies and strategies needed for achieving the MDGs.”⁷⁹

Some of the most important concepts of fiscal decentralization are that local governments need to have access to revenue to provide services to citizens, citizens actively participate and voice needs to local governments, and local governments have allocation efficiencies in providing local services.⁸⁰ Fiscal decentralization also promotes the principles of good governance in that local governments are more transparent and accountable to the citizens they serve, since individuals have more knowledge of the activities of their local government. As such, the basic theory behind decentralization is that providing greater funding and authority to local governments enhances the ability for economic development on the local level and thus reduces poverty.⁸¹

When implemented in the right conditions, fiscal decentralization has the ability to facilitate easy access to information, increase efficiency in delivering public services, foster sensibility to local needs, enhance social and economic development, and allow for greater participation of diverse groups.⁸² On the other hand, if decentralization is enacted in areas without effective oversight, central government control, some degree of infrastructure, or in ethnically unstable regions, it can make conditions worse by placing power in the hands of elites, encouraging corruption, and increasing ethnic tension.⁸³ As such, fiscal decentralization should be considered on a case by case basis with personalized programs, and a thorough understanding of the region is necessary before attempting to implement a decentralization program.

In regions that lack necessary infrastructure or institutions, capacity development can allow for future decentralization to occur. National governments should be actively involved in developing the capacity of local governments to provide services and creating opportunities for development. Relating to this, many of the terms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights such as, guaranteeing the right to education and an adequate standard of living, are dependent on the ability of local governments to serve their citizens.⁸⁴

Public Administration Reform

⁷⁶ "Governance and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)." United Nations Development Program. *Democratic Governance*. 2007. <http://www.undp.org/governance/mdgs.htm>

⁷⁷ "Public Administration Reform and Anti-Corruption." United Nations Development Program. *Democratic Governance*. 2007. <http://www.undp.org/governance/sl-par.htm>

⁷⁸ "Good Governance defined." Asian Development Bank. 2007. <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Policies/Governance/gov200.asp?p=policies>

⁷⁹ "Fiscal Decentralization and Poverty Reduction." United Nations Development Program. November 2005. http://www.undp.org/governance/docs/DLGUD_Pub_FDPR.pdf

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² "Decentralization and Human Rights." International Council on Human Rights Policy. *Local Rule*. http://www.ichrp.org/paper_files/116_p_01.pdf

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." United Nations. December 8, 1948. <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/043/88/IMG/NR004388.pdf?OpenElement>

Public administration reform (PAR) refers to programs supporting the development of a strong and capable government that is able to adequately serve the needs of its citizens. The main focus of PAR is improving the overall capacity of governments to allow them to take advantage of opportunities for development. The three main benefits of modernizing and improving public administration in the developing world are that national resources are freed to use for development, increased transparency, and reduced corruption prevents resources from being misdirected, and governments are able to more effectively respond to their citizens.⁸⁵ The position of the UNDP in regards to the benefits of PAR is that “a strong administrative capacity offers much-needed clarity and coherence for the implementation of national priorities, including those connected with MDG targets.”⁸⁶

In order to develop successful programs, the UNDP breaks down PAR into four areas: civil service reform, increasing the efficiency and responsiveness of the policy-making system, reforming the machinery of government, and reforming the public sector revenue and expenditure management system.⁸⁷ The overall goal of these four areas is to create a strong public administration capable of responding to the needs of its citizens, to take advantage of opportunities for development, and to create an environment of stability that encourages development. PAR ties in closely with good governance in that the primary focus of PAR is to achieve many of the principles common to good governance, such as accountability, transparency, and responsiveness.

Micro-credit

One of the most recent and promising programs to effectively use financial aid is micro-credit. It involves directly providing small scale loans for individuals in the developing world, which allows them to develop as entrepreneurs and create their own businesses. As a result of these new businesses, additional local employment opportunities are created and a substantial amount of development can occur.⁸⁸ The success of these programs was summed up in General Assembly Resolution 52/194 which states, “microcredit programmes have proved to be an effective tool in freeing people from the bondage of poverty” and successful in “encouraging all involved in poverty eradication programmes to consider incorporating microcredit schemes in their strategies.”⁸⁹

These programs usually involve the use of very small loans, often \$100-\$200, to allow for the opportunity of productive self-employment. It is also promising to note that many institutions providing micro-credit are financially stable and have experienced widespread growth. The best example of this is the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh which reaches over 2 million people and with overall lending thus far of about \$2.1 billion.⁹⁰ The success of these programs means that they can be extremely useful in eradicating poverty at the local level, since financial aid can be provided directly to individuals who need it. This reduces the chance of the aid being misused by corruption or ineffective national priorities. Recognizing this, UNDP Administrator Mark Malloch Brown stated:

“Microfinance is much more than simply an income generation tool. By directly empowering poor people, particularly women, it has become one of the key driving mechanisms towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals, specifically the overarching target of halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.”⁹¹

Although these programs have experienced widespread success, certain institutions are necessary for them to succeed including the availability of financial institutions to run the programs and an environment conducive to entrepreneurship. These programs should also involve further participation of national governments and require more foreign aid to reach even more individuals. Many of these programs have received praise by national leaders such as Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury from Bangladesh who said in his statement before the UN, that

⁸⁵ “Good governance - and sustainable human development.” United Nations Development Program.
<http://mirror.undp.org/magnet/policy/chapter1.htm>.

⁸⁶ “Public Administration Reform and Anti-Corruption.” United Nations Development Program
2007. <http://www.undp.org/governance/sl-par.htm>

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ “Countdown 2005.” United Nations--General Assembly Resolution 52/194. 2005.
<http://www.microcreditsummit.org/campaigns/resolution.htm>

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ “International Year of Microcredit 2005.” Resource Library-Recommended Reading. 2005.
http://www.yearofmicrocredit.org/pages/reslib/reslib_recreading.asp#kit

“we sure are better equipped and more confident than ever to take up the challenges before us. Micro-credit is one tool which provides us with a confident means of using synergistically with other measures to combat poverty.”⁹²

Conclusion

These various new and successful strategies for using financial aid and developing effective national institutions are very promising. It appears that there may be newfound hope for reaching the MDGs and the inalienable right to development set forth in the GA Declaration on the Right to Development.⁹³ All that remains is to successfully use and develop the various strategies and to effectively implement them in the developing world.

Although these strategies are promising, many require specific environments to function and this should not be overlooked or they can do more harm than good. Thus it is important for all organizations focused on development to continue to push for an enabling environment for progress in the developing world. In creating an environment that fosters development, the key concern must be establishing effective national institutions that are transparent, accountable, efficient, responsive, and participatory – elements that are essential in bringing the FDI essential for sustained development.

One of the primary concerns with these strategies is the sheer amount of information on them and differing views of how they should be implemented. As a result, all information should be carefully considered and personalized strategies, based on those with a history of success, should be developed. Overall these strategies offer needed hope for eradicating poverty and achieving the MDGs, but they must be pursued in a responsible and thorough manner.

Committee Directive

The UNDP is in a strong position to enact these new strategies based on its widespread network of operations in the developing world. Although it may seem that these strategies are easy to understand, it is imperative that delegates do their research and determine their country’s position. Many of the ideas are controversial and some states are sure to oppose aspects of the strategies. As such, it is important that delegates acquaint themselves with the advantages and disadvantages of each strategy.

It is important to note that these are not the only valid strategies on the topic, but are a good starting point for new delegates. Thus, delegates are encouraged to search out other strategies and courses of action that relate to the topic. Finally, many of these topics may seem intimidating and complex, but a basic understanding of them should be sufficient in developing meaningful resolutions.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ “Declaration on the Right to Development.” United Nations. December 4, 1986.

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/496/36/IMG/NR049636.pdf?OpenElement>

III: Energy Use and Sustainable Development

Introduction

With approximately 2 billion people lacking access to modern energy services,⁹⁴ 1.6 billion without electricity, and 2-2.4 billion still relying on firewood and dung to cook and heat, energy use is a pressing issue for the global community.⁹⁵ Not only does the lack of energy access affect economic development, the reliance on traditional biomass fuels increases harmful health effects of indoor pollution and perpetuates environmentally *un*-sustainable practices.

Energy policy has increasingly become an issue for the international community, particularly in recent years as research linking climate change and the importance of renewable energy technologies (RETs) has been conducted. Since the creation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and with the 2002 Johannesburg Summit and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) combining social factors with energy use, addressing both the energy gap between developed and developing countries and how best to facilitate environmentally sustainable practices has been a global priority.⁹⁶ The Johannesburg Summit also marks the first acceptance of the term “sustainable development” which more clearly identifies “best practices” in development.⁹⁷ In addition to this summit recognizing the relationship between sustainable development and energy use, other important international actors include the United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the UN World Energy Council, the UN Department of Environmental and Social Affairs, and the Clean Development Mechanism (which finances energy opportunities). Each of these actors works with governments, businesses, civil society actors, and others to create and maintain multi-sector approaches for more efficient energy use and for economic development practices that are environmentally sustainable.

Developments in RETs

In addition to recognizing energy as an important aspect of sustainable development, the JPOI calls for several types of actions by Member States with regards to developing RETs. Paragraph 20(c) calls for states to “develop and disseminate alternative energy technologies with the aim of giving a greater share of the energy mix to renewable energy and with a sense of urgency, substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources.”⁹⁸ Renewable energy sources such as geothermal, solar, and wind energy are becoming more widespread, but are still used a fraction of the time compared to other energy sources such as fossil fuels.⁹⁹ JPOI also calls for better:

“access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources, taking into account national specificities and circumstances, through various means, such as enhanced rural electrification and decentralized energy systems, increased use of renewables, cleaner liquid and gaseous fuels and enhanced energy efficiency, by intensifying regional and international cooperation in support of national efforts, including through capacity-building, financial and technological assistance and innovative funding mechanisms, including at the micro and meso levels, recognizing the specific factors for providing access to the poor.”¹⁰⁰

⁹⁴ “Sustainable Development Topics.” UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs-Division for Sustainable Development. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2006. <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/energy/enr.htm>

⁹⁵ “Publications.” United Nations Division for Sustainable Development-Publications. 2006.

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/trends2006/index.htm>; “Energy”. UNDP. *Ibid*.

⁹⁶ “Sustainable Development Topics.” UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs-Division for Sustainable Development. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2006. <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/energy/enr.htm>

⁹⁷ Adil Najam and Cutler J. Cleveland. “Energy and Sustainable Development at Global Environmental Summits: An Evolving Agenda.” *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 5:117-138. 2003.

⁹⁸ “Sustainable Development Topics.” UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs-Division for Sustainable Development. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2006. <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/energy/enr.htm>

⁹⁹ “Publications.” United Nations Division for Sustainable Development-Publications. 2006. <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/trends2006/index.htm>

¹⁰⁰ Adil Najam and Cutler J. Cleveland. “Energy and Sustainable Development at Global Environmental Summits: An Evolving Agenda.” *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 5:117-138. 2003.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has also worked on renewable energies through the Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD). GNESD is a network supported by UNEP that works on accomplishing the MDGs. It was established as a Type II partnership in Energy at the WSSD in 2002.¹⁰¹ One of its main themes was RETs and developing policy guidelines to reduce poverty using RETs. GNESD's initial conclusions found that innovative funding mechanisms must be developed, RETs should be better promoted in rural areas, more effective public-private partnerships need to be created, and knowledge-sharing of best practices should be encouraged.¹⁰²

Access Strategies for Providing Rural Populations with Sustainable Energy Sources

Currently there are wide discrepancies among the electrification rates in the world, with rates in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) half to a quarter of the rest of the world.¹⁰³ Additionally, many rural populations depend on traditional fuels, particularly women and children who are responsible for cooking and heating in conditions with little ventilation, and therefore most heavily impacted by the smoke generated by these fuels. The World Health Organization (WHO) states that this kind of indoor air pollution is more harmful on one's health than urban air pollution. Nearly 2 million children die a year as a result of respiratory infections cause in large part by this indoor pollution with Asian and African countries most significantly impacted.¹⁰⁴ Cleaner sources and electricity are thus essential resources to reduce the effects of these problems and improve productivity.¹⁰⁵

One successful example of a program focusing on rural development is the Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP) in Nepal. Beginning in 1996, REDP worked with local organizations to provide energy systems including micro-hydros, biogas, solar energy, and improved cooking stoves in more than 150 villages in the country. This enabled villagers to have more income generating activities as they could better process their agricultural products.¹⁰⁶

Relationship Between Energy Use and Poverty Eradication

The JPOI marked the first recognition of sustainable development and energy as being closely connected to one another. This was a step beyond Agenda 21's focus on social factors of energy and sustainable development because it looked at energy as a "prerequisite for basic human needs including those defined in the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)."¹⁰⁷

In a brief statement recently made by Shoji Nishimoto, Assistant Administrator and Director of the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy, Nishimoto discussed the relationship between development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Nishimoto said, "Although there is no specific MDG relating to energy, it will be impossible to achieve the MDGs without improving access to, as well as the quality and quantity of, energy services in the developing world."¹⁰⁸ With poverty eradication as a goal by 2015 under the MDGs, energy services are therefore a key component to success.

One example of a partnership committed to increasing access and reducing poverty is the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) with over 425 partners globally including developing and industrialized countries, public and private organizations, and several multilateral institutions. GVEP is working on 17 programmes in Africa and Latin America that bring together major stakeholders in energy development with water, health, education, microfinance,

¹⁰¹ "Poverty reduction- Can Renewable Energy make a real contribution?" Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development. 2006. <http://www.gnesd.org>

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ "Publications." United Nations Division for Sustainable Development-Publications. 2006. <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/trends2006/index.htm>

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ "Energy." United Nations Development Programme- Energy & Environment Bureau for Environment Policy. UNDP. 2007. www.undp.org

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ Adil Najam and Cutler J. Cleveland. "Energy and Sustainable Development at Global Environmental Summits: An Evolving Agenda." *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 5:117-138. 2003.

¹⁰⁸ "Energy." United Nations Development Programme- Energy & Environment Bureau for Environment Policy. UNDP. 2007. www.undp.org

and gender sectors to develop comprehensive national energy development plans. GVEP plans to expand to Asia in the future.¹⁰⁹

Another important initiative of the UNDP is its Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Development (FSSD) agenda that identifies four support areas:

1. Integrating sustainable management of environment and natural resources into Poverty Reduction Strategies, key national development frameworks and sector strategies
2. Adopting and implementing National Strategies for Sustainable Development for integrating responses to economic, social, and environmental issues
3. Setting targets and demonstrating progress towards environmental sustainability (Millennium Development Goal 7).¹¹⁰

The UNDP also attempts to address these kinds of environmental concerns with its “environmental mainstreaming” approach that:

“Refers to the integration of environmental policy considerations into core institutional thinking and to ensure policy coherence. [It] involves integrating sustainability objectives into poverty reduction strategies . . . through building internal and external capacities, promoting regional environmental strategies, enhancing environmental soundness and sustainability of UNDP policies, programmes and operational processes, and improving the quality of environment programmes in achieving broader socio-economic and human development goals.”¹¹¹

Future Outlook

With future energy use projects, it is important to make any project sustainable and in line with the priorities of the MDGs. The UNDP has extensive experience with sustainable development projects, but there are also a range of NGOs, public and private sectors, and other actors within the UN that can contribute. A successful energy program will have a dual focus; improving domestic energy sources and increasing the productivity of energy to assist with income generating activities. The UNDP can provide several examples of these kinds of programs and Member States will want to consider their expertise along with local NGOs and organizations.

Conclusion

With the largest energy portfolio of any UN agency, the UNDP is one of the most significant actors in energy use and development. In the 166 countries where the UNDP is working, 96 percent of them have at least one UNDP energy project.¹¹² From 1996-2003, the UNDP’s portfolio consisted of \$2 billion (US) and included more than 400 projects in 160 countries.¹¹³ The UNDP has identified the following five energy priorities:

- Strengthen national policy frameworks for poverty reduction and sustainable development
- Promote rural energy services to support growth and equity
- Promote clean energy technology for sustainable development
- Increase access to financing for sustainable energy
- Cross-cutting initiative in which UNDP conducts advocacy and analysis of energy trends and linkages with development.¹¹⁴

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ “Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Development (FSSD).” United Nations Development Programme- Energy & Environment Bureau for Environment Policy. UNDP. 2007. www.undp.org

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² “Energy.” United Nations Development Programme- Energy & Environment Bureau for Environment Policy. UNDP. 2007. www.undp.org

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

Incorporating these priority areas, this topic will look at developments in RETs, access strategies for reaching isolated rural populations and providing them with sustainable energy sources to meet their basic needs, the relationship between energy use and poverty eradication, and how international efforts can best be coordinated to further the MDGs that address poverty and environmental sustainability.

Committee Directive

Energy is crucial for sustainable development as it can greatly improve health, access to water, and increase agricultural productivity among other things. As you research this topic, you will need to become familiar with your country's energy policy and levels of energy use among the different sectors such as agriculture and transportation. Delegates should also consider the various renewable energy sources and technologies that are available to decrease dependence on coal, oil and natural gas. However, do not solely review these technologies from a cost-benefit perspective, as many of benefits that these technologies provide are not easily quantifiable. Additionally, delegates should consider access to and financing for such technologies.