

**Southern Regional Model United Nations, Atlanta 2013**  
***Beyond 2015: Reshaping the Millennium Development Goals for an Empowered Future Sustainability***  
November 21-23, 2013 - Atlanta, GA  
Email: [ecosoc\\_atlanta@srmun.org](mailto:ecosoc_atlanta@srmun.org)



Dear Delegates,

I would like to welcome you to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the Southern Regional United Nations (SRMUN) Atlanta 2013 conference. My name is Monique Atherley and with my Assistant Director Devon Preston, it will be an honor serving as your dais for ECOSOC at SRMUN Atlanta 2013. We have worked diligently with our Deputy Director-General Fawn Apgar on this background guide in order to create a document that not only heightens your awareness of the issues at hand, but will also serve as a great resource to your conference preparation. It is our hope that your Model UN experience at this conference – from this background guide to your research and position papers to your diligent work in committee – will be nothing short of memorable and a strong foundation for your future work in leadership and advocacy at your campuses and in your communities.

ECOSOC is one of six main bodies of the United Nations, and purposed with discussing issues of significant economic and social importance such as promoting higher standards of living and economic and social progress. As you will read in the Committee History, as a primary body ECOSOC has a number of entities that report to it, including specialized agencies and commissions, to address a myriad of issues and concerns of development. Noting the SRMUN Atlanta 2013 Conference Theme, “*Beyond 2015: Reshaping the Millennium Development Goals for an Empowered Future*”, the topics chosen are a fusion of tackling current social and economic issues in emerging and recurring situations and viewed through the lens of their effects on our rapid global growth and development. The topics for ECOSOC at SRMUN Atlanta 2013 are:

- I. Examining the Relationship between Peacebuilding, Post-Conflict Recovery, and Economic Security; and
- II. Continuing Progress in the Eradication of Extreme Poverty through Addressing the Needs of the Aging Population

Every delegation must submit a position paper addressing each of the topics listed above and only those listed above. Position papers should not be longer than 2 pages in length and single spaced. A proper position paper should provide insight into your countries position, history, and statement of goals for the topic. The objective of the position paper is to convince and persuade the members of your committee that the approach in your paper is the best course of action. Therefore, the position papers are critical in providing insight into not only the policies and positions of each country, but should also offer insight into the direction each county will undertake in providing solutions to the challenges of this body. Strong, well developed position papers are an excellent foundation for conference preparation. It is important to ensure all sides of each issue are adequately addressed and presented in a clear and concise manner that is easy for your audience to understand. More detailed information about how to write position papers can be found at the SRMUN website ([www.srmun.org](http://www.srmun.org)). **All position papers MUST be submitted by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 by 11:59pm EST using the submission system on the SRMUN website.**

I look forward to the opportunity to serve as your director for the ECOSOC during the 2013 Southern Regional Model United Nations in Atlanta. I wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and look forward to meeting and working with each of you. Please feel free to contact Fawn, Devon or myself if you have any questions.

Happy Researching and again welcome to the Economic and Social Council!

Monique Atherley  
Director  
[ecosoc\\_atlanta@srmun.org](mailto:ecosoc_atlanta@srmun.org)

Devon Preston  
Assistant Director  
[ecosoc\\_atlanta@srmun.org](mailto:ecosoc_atlanta@srmun.org)

Fawn Apgar  
Deputy Director-General  
[ddg\\_atlanta@srmun.org](mailto:ddg_atlanta@srmun.org)

## History of the Economic and Social Council

The history of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) dates back to the creation of the United Nations (UN) after World War II. ECOSOC is one of six main bodies established by Chapter III, Article 7 of the United Nations Charter.<sup>1</sup> One of ECOSOC's main responsibilities is to discuss issues of significant economic and social importance, and to make policy recommendations to Member States and the United Nations system that promote higher standards of living and economic and social progress.<sup>2</sup> In addition to acting as a primary forum for policy discussions, ECOSOC is charged with coordinating a host of economic and social programs in the United Nations system including fourteen specialized UN agencies, nine functional commissions, and five regional commissions<sup>3</sup>. These programs may also organize and coordinate follow-up on major international conferences in relevant economic and social fields.<sup>4</sup> When necessary, ECOSOC supplies information to the UN Security Council and provides assistance upon request.<sup>5</sup> According to its mandate in Chapter 10 of the United Nations Charter, ECOSOC may make recommendations to the General Assembly, Member States, and the specialized agencies "for the purpose of promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all."<sup>6</sup> These agencies include the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Health Organization (WHO)<sup>7</sup>. Many studies and reports initiated by ECOSOC serve as a primary catalyst of discussion within the body and the basis on which many of these recommendations are made. To further the body's topical knowledge, ECOSOC may invite a representative of any specialized agency or Member of the United Nations to participate without vote in ongoing discussions of issues relating directly to the specialized agency or Member State.<sup>8</sup>

ECOSOC consults with expert academics and business sector representatives, as well as granting consultative status to more than 3,200 registered non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in an effort to fulfill its mandate.<sup>9</sup> Additionally, working with a number of NGOs, specialized agencies, functional and regional commissions, expert and standing committees, and ad hoc advisory groups; ECOSOC is unique from other UN bodies in that its primary interaction extends beyond Member States to other bodies.<sup>10</sup> Some of these bodies include the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the International Court of Justice (ICJ).<sup>11</sup> ECOSOC receives reports from these agencies, as well as others; and communicates findings of these reports to the General Assembly to further economic and social progress.<sup>12</sup>

In regards to financing, ECOSOC stands at the forefront of development financing, particularly maintaining functional relationships with the Bretton Woods institutions, IMF, WTO, and UNCTAD to strengthen development organization, facilitation, and distribution through the Financing for Development Office.<sup>13</sup> ECOSOC has also issued a number of resolutions in support of finances for development and continued support for implementation and cooperation with the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration.<sup>14</sup>

---

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

<sup>2</sup> "UN Economic and Social Council." The United Nations Economic and Social Council.  
<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/index.shtml>

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*. The United Nations. June 26, 1945.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> "The UN in Brief: Specialized Agencies." The United Nations Publications.  
<http://www.un.org/Overview/uninbrief/institutions.shtml>

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> "UN Economic and Social Council." The United Nations Economic and Social Council.  
<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/index.shtml>

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> "The UN in Brief: The UN System." The United Nations Publications.  
<http://www.un.org/Overview/uninbrief/unsystem.shtml>

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

<sup>13</sup> "Mission Statement of Financing for Development." The United Nations Financing for Development Office.  
<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/overview/mission.htm>

<sup>14</sup> "Official ECOSOC Documents on Financing for Development." The United Nations Financing for Development Office.  
<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/documents/ecosoc.htm>

Furthermore, ECOSOC provides policy guidance to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to ensure implementation on General Assembly policy<sup>15</sup>.

Historically, ECOSOC takes the lead in many areas of international policy including issues such as human rights, the digital divide, African development, health, education, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and full and productive employment.<sup>16</sup> At the request of UN Member States and with the approval of the General Assembly, ECOSOC may also undertake additional functions; especially in regards to development initiatives like the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).<sup>17</sup> At the 2005 World Summit, Members States requested that ECOSOC organize a new Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) to be conducted every other year as a means for benchmarking progress and upholding accountability in achieving goals.<sup>18</sup> General Assembly Resolution 61/16 (2006) endorsed the creation of the AMR and DCF to support the strengthening of ECOSOC.<sup>19</sup> These entities review trends<sup>20</sup>, follow up, and assess progress on agreed upon conferences, conventions, summits, and Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs) that constitute the United Nations Development Agenda (UNDA)<sup>21</sup>. With the first AMR held in 2007 and the first DCF held in 2008, both have assessed efforts and initiatives surrounding the MDGs through opening dialogue and making recommendations on implementation.<sup>22</sup> Looking toward the next phase, the 2012 ECOSOC AMR, entitled “Towards a Post-2015 UN Development Agenda”, continues to examine how to approach the remaining MDGs.<sup>23</sup>

ECOSOC meets for four weeks during July in a substantive session divided into five segments to cover an array of global issues, technical, and administrative questions.<sup>24</sup> Each segment has a particular topical function as described in their titles - Coordination, Operational Activities, Humanitarian Affairs, and General.<sup>25</sup> The High-Level segment hosts the AMR and DCF.<sup>26</sup> Eighteen Member States are elected to ECOSOC by the General Assembly each year to serve overlapping three year terms.<sup>27</sup> The Body is governed by a bureau consisting of representatives from each region and led by President that is elected amongst Bureau representatives each year.<sup>28</sup> A simple majority of Member States present and voting makes decisions of ECOSOC.<sup>29</sup> In total, ECOSOC is composed of 54 members – 14 from Africa, 11 from Asia, 6 from Eastern Europe, 10 from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 13 Western European and other states.<sup>30</sup>

The current members of the UN Economic and Social Council are:

ALBANIA, AUSTRIA, BELARUS, BENIN, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, CANADA, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CROATIA, CUBA, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, ETHIOPIA, FRANCE, GABON, HAITI, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRELAND, JAPAN, KUWAIT, KYRGYZSTAN, LATVIA, LESOTHO, LIBYA, MALAWI, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZELAND, NICARAGUA, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN, QATAR, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAN MARINO, SENEGAL, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SUDAN, SWEDEN, TUNISIA. TURKEY, TURKMENISTAN, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

---

<sup>15</sup> “UNFPA in the UN System” The United Nations Population Fund. <http://www.unfpa.org/public/cache/offfonce/about/pid/4629>

<sup>16</sup> “UN Economic and Social Council.” The United Nations Economic and Social Council.

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

<sup>17</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*. The United Nations. June 26, 1945.

<sup>18</sup> “New Functions of ECOSOC.” The United Nations Economic and Social Council. <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/>

<sup>19</sup> “UN Economic and Social Council: Strengthen of ECOSOC”. The United Nations Economic and Social Council.

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/strengtheningofecosoc.shtml>

<sup>20</sup> “Development Cooperation Forum.” The United Nations Economic and Social Council.

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/develop.shtml>

<sup>21</sup> “Annual Ministerial Review.” The United Nations Economic and Social Council.

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/amr.shtml>

<sup>22</sup> “Development Cooperation Forum.” The United Nations Economic and Social Council.

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/develop.shtml>

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> “UN Economic and Social Council.” The United Nations Economic and Social Council.

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

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> “ECOSOC Members.” The United Nations Economic and Social Council. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/members.shtml>

<sup>28</sup> “The United Nations Economic and Social Council – Frequently Asked Questions.” The United Nations Economic and Social Council.

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/faqs.shtml>

<sup>29</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*. The United Nations. June 26, 1945.

<sup>30</sup> “ECOSOC Members.” The United Nations Economic and Social Council. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/members.shtml>

## I. Examining the Relationship between Peacebuilding, Post-Conflict Recovery, and Economic Security

*“Foreign and economic policies must follow the way of compassion for true peace to be possible”.*

- Thich Nhat Hanh<sup>31</sup>

### *Introduction*

Economic security is vital to survival in both times of conflict and peace. There is an interdependent relationship between the two and as such, a large shift in either serves as a determinant of instigating conflict. The post-2015 era is calling for the next phase global development to be identified and further the work accomplished in the previous fifteen years; and protection (regardless of conflict status) needs to be provided for the financial development attained. The United Nations has worked diligently to respond to the unique political, economic, and social climates of each Member State and increased focus on the concept of peacebuilding.<sup>32</sup> Peacebuilding is a grassroots initiative consisting of “efforts to reduce a country's risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities for conflict management and efforts to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development”.<sup>33</sup> With the term introduced in the 1970s by sociologist Johan Galtung, Galtung sought to promote sustainable peace through concentrating on “‘root causes’ of violent conflict and indigenous capacities for peace management and conflict resolution”.<sup>34</sup> Although its particular definition has continued to evolve over time, the basis of effective peacebuilding lies in a multipronged approach comprised of a plan that adequately responds to the individual needs of the Member State and respects its sovereignty and autonomy; and has activities that are strategically planned to meet distinct goals and objectives.<sup>35</sup>

Even though it has become more apparent in the last twenty years, beginning with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's report, *An Agenda for Peace* (1992), peacebuilding has been a driving force within the work of the United Nations.<sup>36</sup> In 1966, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) outlined basic human rights of education, health, housing, food and water, work, social security, an adequate standard of living, a healthy environment, and the right to development, without discrimination and regardless of state of conflict.<sup>37</sup> Furthermore, in the same year Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) identified the right to vote as an international human right, which becomes instrumental to exercise in post conflict rebuilding of political processes.<sup>38</sup> The Agenda For Peace officially inserted “post-conflict peacebuilding” into global dialogue as a concept linked to preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, and peacekeeping.<sup>39</sup> Peacebuilding was defined as “action to identify and support structures which will tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflict”.<sup>40</sup> Further, it acknowledged peacebuilding assistance in various contexts such as “rebuilding the institutions and infrastructures of nations torn by civil war and strife; building bonds of peaceful mutual benefit among nations formerly at war; and in the largest sense, to address the deepest causes of conflict”.<sup>41</sup>

These international agreements particularly buttressing the need for peace and its supportive initiatives delineate and reaffirm the rights of all persons in the global community. The ICESCR and the ICCPR are two of the documents

---

<sup>31</sup> “Inspirational Quotes”, Mindful Peacebuilding. <http://www.mindfulpeacebuilding.org/node/59> (Accessed June 20, 2013)

<sup>32</sup> “Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery”, United Nations Economic and Social Council. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/peacebuilding.shtml> (Accessed June 20, 2013)

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> “Peacebuilding and the United Nations”, The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pbun.shtml> (Accessed June 19, 2013)

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> “Peacebuilding and the United Nations”, The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pbun.shtml> (Accessed June 19, 2013)

<sup>37</sup> “Socio-Economic rights/Development”, PeaceWomen. [http://www.peacewomen.org/themes\\_theme.php?id=40&subtheme=true](http://www.peacewomen.org/themes_theme.php?id=40&subtheme=true) (Accessed June 20, 2013)

<sup>38</sup> “Electoral Processes & Political Parties: Elections, Political Parties, Democracy & Peacebuilding”, The Peacebuilding Initiative. <http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org/index.cfm?pageId=1943> (Accessed June 20, 2013)

<sup>39</sup> “History”, The Peacebuilding Initiative. <http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org/index.cfm?pageId=1764> (Accessed June 19, 2013)

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

that comprise the International Bill of Human Rights; its main document being the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.<sup>42</sup> Without these documents, there would be no minimum standards of living, no accountability for gross injustices, and no roadmap to assist Member States in reassuring the well-being of their constituents during rebuilding processes. The ICESCR and ICCPR are very similar in their preambles and articles 1, 3 and 5.<sup>43</sup> Both preambles “recall the obligation of States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote human rights; remind the individual of his responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of those rights; and recognize the ideal of free human beings”.<sup>44</sup> Furthermore, articles 1, 3, and 5 in both documents endorse the right to self-determination, equal rights of men and women to the enjoyment of all human rights, and “provide protection against the destruction or undue limitation of any human right or fundamental freedom and misinterpretation as a means of justifying infringement of a right or freedom”, respectively.<sup>45</sup> Understanding human rights is essential in peacebuilding because it is important to put into context who is experiencing conflict and what is at risk of being compromised. Another significant right that needs to be acknowledged in conflict is the Right to Development.

The right to development is “an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development”.<sup>46</sup> This right is declared in General Assembly Resolution 41/128 (1986), which established the Declaration on the Right to Development.<sup>47</sup> While in an intentional development period, conflict has hindered many Member States from realizing this basic right. Although desperately desiring development, a majority of the Member States that have recently undergone violent conflict are vulnerable and experiencing difficulty in meeting any targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) opposed to other developing nations.<sup>48</sup> Highlighted in a Joint Meeting between ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), “twenty-two of the thirty-four poor countries farthest from reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are in, or emerging from, a conflict - from isolated violence to full-scale civil war”.<sup>49</sup> Attaining the MDGs can be instrumental to post-conflict recovery and Member States attempting to return to normalcy by “offering a coherent long-term development vision”. Especially since the MDGs cover a majority of basic human rights and promotes economic advancement, focusing on attainment yields morale and increased expectation for brighter future without conflict.<sup>50</sup>

Even the private sector has an integral role in peacebuilding, which can either be developmental or detrimental. Unlike the rest of society, the private sector does not face the same level of destruction in conflict, but it is greatly damaged.<sup>51</sup> A working paper from the World Bank states, “Private sector development cuts across political, governance, and security dimensions, as well as a broad range of development themes”.<sup>52</sup> The private sector has the potential to serve as the hub for financial regeneration for a post-conflict recovery area. Due to its self-governance, the private sector has the latitude to offer assistance in the form of employment, income-generating activity, developing skills, or providing basic services to the community, and assist the government with establishing “legitimacy to the state”.<sup>53</sup> Additionally, using its financial dividends and investments, the private sector can also “introduce innovative approaches to development and generate tax revenues for reconstruction efforts”.<sup>54</sup> Businesses can also work to “sustain peace after conflict through strategic partnerships, participating directly in peace

<sup>42</sup> “Fact Sheet No.2 (Rev.1), The International Bill of Human Rights”, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet2Rev.1en.pdf> (Accessed July 1, 2013)

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> “Fact Sheet No.2 (Rev.1), The International Bill of Human Rights”, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet2Rev.1en.pdf> (Accessed July 1, 2013)

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> “The Right to Development at a glance” The United Nations.

[https://www.un.org/en/events/righttodevelopment/pdf/rtd\\_at\\_a\\_glance.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/events/righttodevelopment/pdf/rtd_at_a_glance.pdf) (Accessed July 3, 2013)

<sup>48</sup> “Issues Note from the Joint Special Event of The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on ‘MDGs in Countries Emerging from Conflict’” (19 July 2010), ECOSOC and PBC. (Accessed July 1, 2013)

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> “World Development Report 2011 Background Paper – The Role of the Private Sector in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States”, The World Bank.

[http://web.worldbank.org/archive/website01306/web/pdf/wdr\\_background\\_paper\\_peschka\\_04dbd.pdf?keepThis=true&TB\\_iframe=true&height=600&width=800](http://web.worldbank.org/archive/website01306/web/pdf/wdr_background_paper_peschka_04dbd.pdf?keepThis=true&TB_iframe=true&height=600&width=800) (Accessed July 2, 2013)

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

negotiations or talks to prevent conflict, and engaging indirectly by undertaking activities to influence the negotiations”.<sup>55</sup> In the inverse, there have been concerns about the private sector in conflict and connections between private businesses and organized crime.<sup>56</sup> During conflict, the private sector can be an addition to disparity through “providing goods and services to the armed combatants and to illegal activities related to the conflict”.<sup>57</sup> Outweighing the negative perceptions, little thought is given to the private sector when reviewing conflict and the possible impact from the private sector on post-conflict recovery validates adding its restoration to peacebuilding goals in order to offer post-conflict areas a “legitimate driver of economic activity” that can begin the process economic infrastructure repair.<sup>58</sup>

### ***The Peacebuilding Commission, Support Office, and Fund***

Sharing the same mindset of actively attaining peace, three resolutions passed in tandem by the General Assembly and Security Council yielded The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).<sup>59</sup> Substantiating a decision made at the 2005 World Summit<sup>60</sup>, General Assembly Resolution 60/180 (2005) and the Security Council Resolutions 1645 (2005) and 1646 (2005) established the Commission, an intergovernmental advisory body with the purpose of convening relevant actors to gather resources and “propose strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery”.<sup>61</sup> The PBC’s focuses on the reconstruction and restoration of institutions and infrastructure and encouraging integrated approaches that provide the foundation for sustainable development.<sup>62</sup> In order to strengthen response to peacebuilding issues and needs, the PBC “provides recommendations and information to improve response coordination, develop best practices, and ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities”.<sup>63</sup> The PBC assists in keeping the international community aware and focused on the importance of post-conflict recovery.<sup>64</sup> The PBC opened its first session in June 2006 and has thirty-one members<sup>65</sup>, split between seven members each from the Security Council (SC), General Assembly (GA), and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); the five top financial contributors, the EU, World Bank, IMF and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.<sup>66</sup> There are three functional areas in which the PBC operates: the Organizational Committee, Country-Specific Configurations, and the Working Group on Lessons Learned.<sup>67</sup> The Commission produces an annual report on its work and findings that is up for review and debate and added to the next GA Session Provisional Agenda.<sup>68</sup> The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) created in 2005 governs the PBC, with the goal of acquiring support from the global community for nationally owned and led peacebuilding efforts to sustain peace in conflict-affected areas.<sup>69</sup>

---

<sup>55</sup> “World Development Report 2011 Background Paper – The Role of the Private Sector in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States”, The World Bank.  
[http://web.worldbank.org/archive/website01306/web/pdf/wdr\\_background\\_paper\\_peschka\\_04dbd.pdf?keepThis=true&TB\\_iframe=true&height=600&width=800](http://web.worldbank.org/archive/website01306/web/pdf/wdr_background_paper_peschka_04dbd.pdf?keepThis=true&TB_iframe=true&height=600&width=800) (Accessed July 2, 2013)

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> “Documents per agenda items A. Maintenance of international peace and security Report of the Peacebuilding Commission”, United Nations General Assembly. [http://www.un.org/en/ga/63/plenary/A\\_pbc\\_report.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/63/plenary/A_pbc_report.shtml) (Accessed June 20, 2013)

<sup>60</sup> “Report of the Peacebuilding Commission; Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund: joint debate”, United Nations General Assembly. [http://www.un.org/en/ga/62/plenary/peacebuilding\\_commission/bkg.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/62/plenary/peacebuilding_commission/bkg.shtml) (Accessed June 21, 2013)

<sup>61</sup> “Documents per agenda items A. Maintenance of international peace and security Report of the Peacebuilding Commission”, United Nations General Assembly. [http://www.un.org/en/ga/63/plenary/A\\_pbc\\_report.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/63/plenary/A_pbc_report.shtml) (Accessed June 20, 2013)

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> “Report of the Peacebuilding Commission; Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund: joint debate”, United Nations General Assembly. [http://www.un.org/en/ga/62/plenary/peacebuilding\\_commission/bkg.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/62/plenary/peacebuilding_commission/bkg.shtml) (Accessed June 21, 2013)

<sup>65</sup> “Documents per agenda items A. Maintenance of international peace and security Report of the Peacebuilding Commission”, United Nations General Assembly. [http://www.un.org/en/ga/63/plenary/A\\_pbc\\_report.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/63/plenary/A_pbc_report.shtml) (Accessed June 20, 2013)

<sup>66</sup> “About PBSO”, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO).. <http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbsso/about.shtml> (Accessed June 19, 2013)

<sup>67</sup> “Structure and Membership”, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO).  
<http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/structuremember.shtml> (Accessed June 19, 2013)

<sup>68</sup> “Documents per agenda items A. Maintenance of international peace and security Report of the Peacebuilding Commission”, United Nations General Assembly. [http://www.un.org/en/ga/63/plenary/A\\_pbc\\_report.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/63/plenary/A_pbc_report.shtml) (Accessed June 20, 2013)

<sup>69</sup> “About PBSO”, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). <http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbsso/about.shtml> (Accessed June 19, 2013)



In order to assist Member States with resources, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) launched in 2006.<sup>70</sup> The PBF is designed to “support activities, actions, programs and organizations that seek to build a lasting peace in Member States emerging from conflict”.<sup>71</sup> The PBF is managed by the head of the PBSO and administered through the UNDP-MPTF.<sup>72</sup> The Fund deals with the immediate needs when “emerging from conflict at a time when sufficient resources are not available from other funding mechanisms and supports inventions to address gaps in the peacebuilding process”.<sup>73</sup> In each Member State, a Joint Steering Committee manages the Fund; the national Government chairs it in collaboration with United Nations membership comprised of both national and international stakeholders.<sup>74</sup> Furthermore, the Secretary General appoints an independent Advisory Group for the Fund in order to “provide advice and oversight of the speed and appropriateness of fund allocations and to examine performance and financial reports”.<sup>75</sup> The Fund is sustained through voluntary contributions from a majority of Member States and continually looks to increase its financial support.<sup>76</sup>

In 2010, the PBC and ECOSOC convened a Joint Meeting to discuss the status and plight of Member States emerging from conflict situations.<sup>77</sup> In this Meeting, the body identified the numerous threats in achieving the MDGs that conflict areas face.<sup>78</sup> First and foremost, conflict distorts the impact of rule of law leading to a lack of security and respect for its position and obstructs participation from individuals, communities, and members of the private sector in a “sustainable economic activities in many post-conflict societies”.<sup>79</sup> Additionally, conflict often leads to displacement or mass forced migration as citizens search for safety and security; therefore disconnecting them from their livelihoods and means of employment/income and access to education and healthcare.<sup>80</sup> As communities break down, conflict directly impacts infrastructure and economic, sanitation/filtration, health, and educational systems disintegrate.<sup>81</sup> The body concluded that in order to accurately assist Member States emerging from conflict, global actors must “recognize and responding to internal as well as external risk factors that are further challenges to be addressed”.<sup>82</sup>

### ***ECOSOC's Role in Peacebuilding***

Peacebuilding is a process which requires commitment from all entities involved in the peace process. It is not an overnight fix, but a long-term sustained effort that includes “supporting justice and security sector reform; monitoring ceasefires and other policies in place, and reestablishing infrastructure (e.g. organizing and monitoring elections of a new government)”.<sup>83</sup> Additionally, as much as safety and structural restoration is an immediate need, peacebuilding also includes rebuilding of the people, “assisting with the return of refugees and displaced persons, demobilizing and reintegrating combatants, and enhancing human rights protections and fostering reconciliation after past atrocities”.<sup>84</sup> The UN has recently become more adept to efficiently attain peace through the establishment of PBC, PBF, and PBSO; entities that encompass the Peacebuilding Architecture.<sup>85</sup>

---

<sup>70</sup> “About PBSO”, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). <http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/about.shtml> (Accessed June 19, 2013)

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> “Frequently Asked Questions”, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). <http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/faq.shtml> (Accessed June 20, 2013)

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

<sup>75</sup> “Frequently Asked Questions”, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). <http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/faq.shtml> (Accessed June 20, 2013)

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> “Issues Note from the Joint Special Event of The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on ‘MDGs in Countries Emerging from Conflict’” (19 July 2010), ECOSOC and PBC. (Accessed July 1, 2013)

<sup>78</sup> Ibid.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

<sup>80</sup> “Issues Note from the Joint Special Event of The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on ‘MDGs in Countries Emerging from Conflict’” (19 July 2010), ECOSOC and PBC. (Accessed July 1, 2013)

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> “Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery”, UN Economic and Social Council. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/peacebuilding.shtml> (Accessed July 3, 2013)

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> “The UN Peacebuilding Architecture”, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). [http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/pbso\\_architecture\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/pbso_architecture_flyer.pdf) (Accessed July 1, 2013)

In particular, the ECOSOC body has been tackling the dynamics of conflict, post-conflict recovery, and peacebuilding for over two decades through the development of Ad-Hoc Advisory Groups and strategic alignments with global partners.<sup>86</sup> One example of collaboration is with the PBC for its Joint Meeting, which fostered dialogue and served as a floor to prepare information on the challenges for conflict stricken Member States in MDG attainment at that year's High-Level Plenary Meeting.<sup>87</sup> On a larger scale, ECOSOC has the backing of both The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC) for post-conflict recovery efforts. DESA's work in the global community is centered around the United Nations development agenda and they contribute to accomplishing this agenda through consultation with global stakeholders, policy research and analysis on the behalf of Member State governments, and "facilitating major global conferences and summits as mandated by UN Member States to find common ground".<sup>88</sup> Supporting deliberations for the General Assembly, ECOSOC, and ECOSOC's subsidiary bodies, DESA is "responsible for ensuring civil society engagement with the UN via ECOSOC and also aims to campaign for strengthening accountability in achieving UN development goals", particularly the MDGs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>89</sup> OESC, a division of DESA, "supports ECOSOC's Annual Ministerial Review and Development Cooperation Forum to ensure a comprehensive, qualitative review of progress in implementing the MDGs".<sup>90</sup> DESA aides this process through coordinating global preparatory meetings, regional consultations, and national reviews for "a substantive ministerial-level review and action-oriented dialogue on development cooperation issues".<sup>91</sup> In conflict matters, OESC offers advice on "strengthening the interaction between ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission in order to contribute to a coordinated, coherent, and integrated approach to post-conflict peacebuilding".<sup>92</sup>

On a more local scale, ECOSOC's Ad-Hoc Advisory groups have displayed The Council's forward-looking leadership in developing responses to crisis in Member States emerging from conflict, therefore preventing further decline in human security.<sup>93</sup> Established in 2002, the Ad Hoc Advisory groups are used to outline long-term goals and programs that support Member States emerging from conflict; the groups are dissolved when a stable and peaceful environment is restored.<sup>94</sup> The first two groups were created on Guinea-Bissau (October 2002) and Burundi (July 2003), of which issues of peace in these nations are now being addressed in the PBC.<sup>95</sup> Currently, an Ad Hoc Advisory Group continues to consult with Haiti, initially referred by Security Council, to determine "a long-term development strategy to promote socio-economic recovery and stability through the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti".<sup>96</sup> Most recently, ECOSOC discussed the role of the UN and global community with the situation of South Sudan.<sup>97</sup> The Council called for attention to be paid to the situation and its coordination of activities in ECOSOC Resolution 2011/43, and later requested a report on "how the United Nations development system implemented integrated, coherent, and coordinated support to South Sudan, consistent with national priorities".<sup>98</sup>

Although the ECOSOC body has engaged and managed a number of efforts toward peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery, their actual effectiveness and impact in attaining the two has often come into question. Successful peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery requires the input, resources, and efforts of members of the local, national,

---

<sup>86</sup> "Meetings and Events of ECOSOC and its Subsidiary Bodies", UN Economic and Social Council. <http://esango.un.org/irene/ecosoc.html?page=viewContent&nr=10402&type=8> (Accessed July 1, 2013)

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> "About Us", UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/what-we-do.html> (Accessed July 1, 2013)

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

<sup>90</sup> "About OESC", Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC). <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/oesc/about/index.shtml> (Accessed July 2, 2013)

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> "Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery", Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC). <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/oesc/peacebuilding.shtml> (Accessed July 2, 2013)

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> "Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery", Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC). <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/oesc/peacebuilding.shtml> (Accessed July 2, 2013)

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.



and international communities. Because of the massive coordination that is required in different situations, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali noted decades ago that this task may be more than the ECOSOC could effectively handle.<sup>99</sup> He then called for the development of a “intercessional mechanism in the form of a competent standing body to deal with economic and social problems affecting international security on a continuing basis to enhance ECOSOC’s role in peacebuilding”.<sup>100</sup> This request went to no avail from the global community.<sup>101</sup> Much later, Secretary-General Annan suggested, “establishing a humanitarian affairs segment in ECOSOC to better equip the body in dealing with that essential element in peacebuilding”, which was approved by the GA.<sup>102</sup> Furthermore, the Secretariat “consolidated support for ECOSOC into one department, which has given the Council the advantage of support personnel who are more knowledgeable and closely tied to the various economic and social activities of the UN that ECOSOC is supposed to coordinate”.<sup>103</sup> Despite the many instances to mobilize supplemental units and identify better direction to generate a more efficient role, these efforts have pulled tasks from the Council and instead of strengthening, has added to the ECOSOC’s weak and vague influence on peacebuilding.<sup>104</sup>

ECOSOC’s vague influence on peacebuilding is cemented and demonstrated in policy and resource availability.<sup>105</sup> The Council can only provide recommendations, which they cannot further enforce if an agreeing Member State does not implement, the influence on specialized agencies, where a majority of peacebuilding work is done, is minimal, and there are no resources available to the Council for its work.<sup>106</sup> Noting the size of the Council in comparison to the weight of its power and jurisdiction, much debate behind the invigoration of ECOSOC has been conducted, as it can also lead to an answer to the issue of centralized control over specialized agencies that is constantly avoided.<sup>107</sup> An invigorated and revitalized ECOSOC could fill that gap if there is more commitment and participation from Member States so the body could develop stronger authority.<sup>108</sup> This authority can be achieved through Member States willingly regarding The Council as a principal forum for global policy formulation and giving clear responsibility to coordinate programs in the system; successes from structural reform in economic and social areas in the UN; experts in economic and social areas providing the intellectual catalyst in global policy formation; and developing a closer working relationship with Security Council”.<sup>109</sup>

### ***Present Day Status of Peacebuilding and Security***

#### ***Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations (FCS)***

Fragile is the state in which many conflict stricken areas are left in post-conflict recovery. Some identities of a Fragile state included having an “inability to deliver on core functions such as the provision of security and basic services; weak policy and institutional capacity; economic decline; the inability to protect its citizens or be itself a threat to its citizens; and being unable to fulfill international obligations”.<sup>110</sup> Fragile states are on the global agenda due to overall instability, susceptibility to violence, and inability to maintain human development.<sup>111</sup> Consequently, these states are also viewed as “breeding grounds for international crime and terrorism”, which cause the practice of statebuilding to be closely linked to security concerns.<sup>112</sup> Although both developmental and restorative efforts, statebuilding and peacebuilding are not the same course of action.<sup>113</sup> The process of statebuilding seeks to “enhance

<sup>99</sup> James S. Sutterlin, *The United Nations and the Maintenance of International Security: A Challenge to Be Met 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Connecticut: Pranger Publishers, 2003), 92

<sup>100</sup> Ibid.

<sup>101</sup> Ibid.

<sup>102</sup> Ibid.

<sup>103</sup> James S. Sutterlin, *The United Nations and the Maintenance of International Security: A Challenge to Be Met 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Connecticut: Pranger Publishers, 2003), 92

<sup>104</sup> Ibid.

<sup>105</sup> Ibid.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

<sup>107</sup> James S. Sutterlin, *The United Nations and the Maintenance of International Security: A Challenge to Be Met 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Connecticut: Pranger Publishers, 2003), 93-94

<sup>108</sup> James S. Sutterlin, *The United Nations and the Maintenance of International Security: A Challenge to Be Met 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Connecticut: Pranger Publishers, 2003), 94

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.

<sup>110</sup> “What is Peacebuilding?: Statebuilding and Peacebuilding”, Interpeace. (Accessed July 1, 2013)

<sup>111</sup> Ibid.

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

<sup>113</sup> Ibid.

capacity, institutions and legitimacy of the state driven by state-society relations through reciprocal relations between a state that delivers services for its people and social and political groups who constructively engage with their state”.<sup>114</sup> As there are a large number of Member States who are in FCS, a number of strategies are being constructed to begin recovery processes. For example, a World Bank Document entitled “Fragility and Conflict: Shifting the Paradigm”, focuses on six points to aid in changing direction.<sup>115</sup> These points encourage making FCS strategies more fragility focused through identifying and assessing need; strengthening partnerships on development, security, and justice; increasing attention to jobs and private sector development; realigning results and risk management frameworks including sustained long-term support; seeking less volatility in financing such as seeking additional resources for the State and Peace-Building Fund to channel to critical projects in FCS; and striving for global excellence.<sup>116</sup>

In solidarity and support of fragile states and their unique predicaments, a voluntary association of Member States that have experienced conflict or are in the midst of it was formed in April 2010.<sup>117</sup> The g7+, launched during but separate from the OECD’s International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), is a forum hoping to share experiences, as well as lessons learned, and work with international stakeholders to “reform and reinvent a new paradigm for international engagement”.<sup>118</sup> It includes Member States across Africa, Asia, and the Pacific who have struggled with conflict-related matters.<sup>119</sup> One of the organization’s aims is to “influence global policy through the founding principles of peacebuilding and statebuilding”.<sup>120</sup> The g7+ and partners have developed a “New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States”, that was endorsed by some 40 countries and international organizations, including the World Bank, at the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan in November 2011”.<sup>121</sup> This initiative maintains heavy importance on “country led and driven transitions out of fragility, calls on development partners to support five Peace-and State building Goals (PSGs) as a prerequisite for achieving the MDGs, and requests commitment to transparency, risk sharing, use of country systems, and timely and predictable aid”.<sup>122</sup> There is also an OECD International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF), focusing on “aid effectiveness in fragile and conflict-affected countries and examining the substantive policy issues of security, peace building, and state capacity”.<sup>123</sup>

Furthermore, conducting assessment has become extremely instrumental to aiding FCS and areas in post-conflict recovery as they assist with identifying necessary and appropriate response. In particular, many FCS use Post-Conflict Needs Assessments (PCNAs) as a first step in “conceptualizing, negotiating and financing a common shared strategy for recovery and development in fragile, post-conflict settings”.<sup>124</sup> PCNAs are “multilateral exercises undertaken by the United Nations Development Group, the European Commission (EC), the World Bank (WB) and Regional Development Banks in collaboration with the national government and with the cooperation of donor countries”.<sup>125</sup> The use of these assessments are rapidly increasing in the international community and PCNAs have assisted with timely and substantial support and distribution.<sup>126</sup> Financial assistance and donations have been mobilized due to PCNAs through “international reconstruction conferences, at which donors make pledges based on the overall assessment of post-conflict recovery needs”.<sup>127</sup> There are a number of PCNAs that have initiated or are continuing in the global community as of 2010, including Afghanistan, Georgia, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Pakistan,

<sup>114</sup> “What is Peacebuilding?: Statebuilding and Peacebuilding”, Interpeace. (Accessed July 1, 2013)

<sup>115</sup> “Fragility and Conflict: Shifting the Paradigm”, World Bank.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTLICUS/Resources/sixpoints-brochure.pdf> (Accessed July 2, 2013)

<sup>116</sup> Ibid.

<sup>117</sup> “Home”, g7+. <http://www.g7plus.org/> (Accessed July 2, 2013)

<sup>118</sup> Ibid.

<sup>119</sup> Ibid.

<sup>120</sup> “Home”, g7+. <http://www.g7plus.org/> (Accessed July 2, 2013)

<sup>121</sup> “The New Deal and the g7+”, g7+. <http://www.g7plus.org/new-deal-document/> (Accessed July 2, 2013)

<sup>122</sup> Ibid.

<sup>123</sup> “Partnerships”, The World Bank.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/PROJECTS/STRATEGIES/EXTLICUS/0..contentMDK:22016724~menuPK:6432757~pagePK:64171531~piPK:64171507~theSitePK:511778,00.html> (Accessed July 1, 2013)

<sup>124</sup> “Post Conflict Needs Assessments”, United Nations Development Group. <http://pcna.undg.org/> (Accessed July 12, 2013)

<sup>125</sup> Ibid.

<sup>126</sup> Ibid.

<sup>127</sup> “Post Conflict Needs Assessments”, United Nations Development Group. <http://pcna.undg.org/> (Accessed July 12, 2013)

Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan (Darfur), Timor-Leste, Zimbabwe, and Yemen”.<sup>128</sup> After a global review hosted by the UN and WB on PCNAs, information on the outcomes and recommendations were disseminated through a series of briefing meetings with the goal “to strengthen the knowledge of, ownership of, or linkages with other key players in post-conflict transition, including security, political, humanitarian and development partners, in advance of the next PCNA”.<sup>129</sup>

*Economic and Political Recovery Strategy/Mechanisms/Practice to Reestablish Infrastructure*

Over 1.5 billion people live in countries affected by conflict.<sup>130</sup> Understanding the impact of employment on reestablishing infrastructure and looking at sustainable employment as a way to stimulate economic recovery in post-conflict situations, the ILO has a number of programs aimed at increasing employment and integration back into the work force for all those involved or affected by conflict. First, UNDP and the ILO drafted the United Nations Policy for Post-Conflict Employment Creation, Income Generation and Reintegration.<sup>131</sup> This Policy was yielded from a three-year consultation and is intended to “contribute to peace through gainful employment and steady incomes”.<sup>132</sup> The Policy is meant to “maximize the impact, coherence and efficiency of employment and reintegration support provided to post-conflict countries by UN agencies”.<sup>133</sup> The consultation report identified the critical relationship between employment and peacebuilding, with officials stating, “Jobs and self-employment opportunities provide communities and individuals the means for survival and recovery”.<sup>134</sup> The Policy also looks at the social ramifications of under to no employment, especially in both times of peace and post-conflict recovery, and the basics difficulties in engaging the skills and enthusiasm of young people – calling for a balance in “security concerns and equity considerations”.<sup>135</sup> Further, the document highlights transition to peace as an opportune means to “improve the rights of the whole conflict-affected population, such as displaced people, returnees and ex-combatants, paying particular attention to reducing inequalities towards women and young people”.<sup>136</sup> Second, the ILO’s Program on Crisis Response and Reconstruction confronts the “challenges posed to Decent Work by crises, operating through a combination of knowledge development, technical and policy guidelines, advocacy, capacity building and rapid-response interventions in the field”.<sup>137</sup> The program aspires to revive livelihoods and to facilitate the socioeconomic reintegration of diverse crises affected groups, therefore promoting the reconstruction and development of their Member States.<sup>138</sup> Third, the Employment Intensive Investment Program (EIIP) works with “governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations, the private sector and community associations in orienting infrastructure investments towards the creation of higher levels of productive employment and towards the improvement of access to basic goods and services for the poor”.<sup>139</sup> Directly relating to infrastructure, the EIIP uses “the infrastructure project cycle as a means of realizing its objectives of employment creation, local participation and resource use, and the promotion of good governance”.<sup>140</sup>

---

<sup>128</sup> Ibid.

<sup>129</sup> “Post Conflict Needs Assessments”, United Nations Development Group. <http://pcna.undg.org/> (Accessed July 12, 2013)

<sup>130</sup> “Fragile and Conflict Affected Situations”, The World Bank.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/PROJECTS/STRATEGIES/EXTLICUS/0,,contentMDK:22978911~menuPK:4168000~pagePK:64171540~piPK:64171528~theSitePK:511778,00.html> (Accessed July 2, 2013)

<sup>131</sup> “Official Launch of the Post-Conflict Employment and Reintegration Policy Rebuilding Broken Places: UN Scales Up Sustainable Employment in Post-Conflict Settings”, International Labour Organization.

[http://www.ilo.org/employment/Whatwedo/Eventsandmeetings/WCMS\\_117564/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/employment/Whatwedo/Eventsandmeetings/WCMS_117564/lang--en/index.htm) (Accessed July 2, 2013)

<sup>132</sup> Ibid.

<sup>133</sup> Ibid.

<sup>134</sup> “Official Launch of the Post-Conflict Employment and Reintegration Policy Rebuilding Broken Places: UN Scales Up Sustainable Employment in Post-Conflict Settings”, International Labour Organization.

[http://www.ilo.org/employment/Whatwedo/Eventsandmeetings/WCMS\\_117564/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/employment/Whatwedo/Eventsandmeetings/WCMS_117564/lang--en/index.htm) (Accessed July 2, 2013)

<sup>135</sup> “United Nations Policy for Post-Conflict Employment Creation, Income Generation and Reintegration”, International Labour Organization. [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_116195.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_116195.pdf) (Accessed July 2, 2013)

<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

<sup>137</sup> “About the EIIP”, International Labour Organization.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/about/index.htm> (Accessed July 2, 2013)

<sup>138</sup> Ibid.

<sup>139</sup> Ibid.

<sup>140</sup> Ibid.

### ***Financing Improvement Opportunities***

In 2011, the PBF allocated \$100 million to stimulate smarter UN responses to critical and politically sensitive peacebuilding activities.<sup>141</sup> and it continues to focus on Member States and actors that have shown their desire and commitment to navigating difficulties and achieving sustainable reconciliation and peace.<sup>142</sup> From a financial perspective, the World Bank has partnered with the UN to assist post-conflict and fragile states.<sup>143</sup> For more than a decade and a half, the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) fund has provided over “\$22 billion in post-conflict reconstruction assistance to fragile and conflict-affected Member States”.<sup>144</sup> The 2008 UN-WB Partnership Framework for Crisis and Post-Crisis Situations offered “principles of engagement for a more effective and sustainable response, that stressed an integrated approach linking politics, security and development”.<sup>145</sup> The UN-World Bank Partnership Trust Fund, established in 2010 through a hefty donation from the Government of Switzerland, supports implementation of the Partnership Framework and is managed by a joint UN-World Bank Steering Committee.<sup>146</sup> The Fund sustains “a staff exchange of Partnership Advisers who drive forward partnership initiatives”, and a small grants program provides for “joint UN-WB projects, initially in four pilot countries (Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau and Liberia); other countries are now eligible to apply for funding”.<sup>147</sup> To assess Multi-Donor Trust Funds (MDTFs) in post-conflict need, the WB conducted a comprehensive review of their role and discovered that their contribution through the MDTFs had increased exceedingly.<sup>148</sup>

Building for both State and Peace is influential to post-conflict recovery and have their own dedicated fund for those needs. Created in 2008, the State- And Peace-Building Fund (SPF) “supports measures to improve governance, institutional performance, and reconstruction and development in countries emerging from, in, or at risk of sliding into crisis or arrears”.<sup>149</sup> Some examples of SPF funding initiatives are “strategic initiatives/projects that pilot innovative initiatives that address the challenges of fragility and create a foothold for wider development involvement; assist countries that are in arrears; promote cross-cutting, innovative approaches to the challenges of conflict and fragility”.<sup>150</sup> The Fund is available to all Bank Member States, IDA-eligible, and Member States in arrears.<sup>151</sup> By June 2012, the SPF portfolio “consisted of 50 projects (53 grants) for a total of \$134.6 million, 53 percent of which were implemented in Africa, with the Middle East and North Africa (15 percent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (10 percent) not far behind”.<sup>152</sup> There is currently preparation for SPF initiatives to be executed in Central America, ECA, and Yemen.<sup>153</sup>

### ***Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration***

In efforts to maintain peace while reestablishing economic stability, peacebuilding also looks at assisting combatants return to mainstream society. With disparities a main reason for Member States to go into war, it is important to provide supportive structures that increase successful outcomes in post-conflict recovery. Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration programs executed by through international partnerships are looking to fill that gap. The purpose of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) or Disarmament, Demobilization,

<sup>141</sup> “Frequently Asked Questions”, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO).

<http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/faq.shtml> (Accessed July 1, 2013)

<sup>142</sup> Ibid.

<sup>143</sup> “Partnerships”, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO).

<http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/partners.shtml> (Accessed July 2, 2013)

<sup>144</sup> Ibid.

<sup>145</sup> Ibid.

<sup>146</sup> Ibid.

<sup>147</sup> Ibid.

<sup>148</sup> “Multi-Donor Trust Funds (MDTFs)”, The World Bank.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/PROJECTS/STRATEGIES/EXTLICUS/0,,contentMDK:22214607~menuPK:6434066~pagePK:64171531~piPK:64171507~theSitePK:511778,00.html> (Accessed July 11, 2013)

<sup>149</sup> “State- and Peace-Building Fund (SPF)”, The World Bank.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/PROJECTS/STRATEGIES/EXTLICUS/0,,contentMDK:22031772~menuPK:6434064~pagePK:64171531~piPK:64171507~theSitePK:511778,00.html> (Accessed July 11, 2013)

<sup>150</sup> Ibid.

<sup>151</sup> Ibid.

<sup>152</sup> Ibid.

<sup>153</sup> Ibid.

Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (DDRR) in post-conflict areas is to add to security and stability to allow a strong foundation on recovery and development to be erected.<sup>154</sup> DDR is multifaceted in that it looks at “political, military, security, humanitarian and socio-economic dimensions” to deal with the security issues that surface when ex-combatants are not considered in restoration initiatives.<sup>155</sup> DDR seeks to address the lacking positive support systems (e.g. networks, access to employments, livelihood/quality of life) during transition to set the stage for long-term peace.<sup>156</sup> According to the United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Resource Centre, Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration are broken down to cover different areas. The process of Disarmament seeks to develop management programs for arms, ammunition, and explosives, and mainly collects, documents, controls, and disposes of “small arms, ammunition, explosives and light and heavy weapons of combatants and the civilian population”.<sup>157</sup> For combatants, demobilization is the formal and controlled discharge from armed forces or other armed groups, which includes two stages: processing individuals to temporary assigned centers or in masses at camps, and reinsertion.<sup>158</sup> Reinsertion assistance given to ex-combatants and their families offers temporary support for immediate transition activities and attaining basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, education, training, and employment.<sup>159</sup> The last phase of DDR is the long-term polish to the process; bringing DDR to the national level and making it the Member State’s responsibility for execution.<sup>160</sup> As described in its name, Reintegration is a social and economic process that assists ex-combatants with reentering larger society and allows them to acquire civilian status and gain sustainable employment and income”.<sup>161</sup>

DDR has grown in scope as a consequence of becoming a collaborative effort among global partners and Member States, offering the latitude to look deeply at each aspect of post-recovery through the lenses of ex-combatants as well as the civilians. First and foremost, there is a large amount of political considerations that need to be made to execute a successful DDR program. DDR programs are initiated through “being defined within a ceasefire, cessation of hostilities or comprehensive peace accord, providing the political operational framework for the process”.<sup>162</sup> As a result of lingering distrust and lacking capacity to execute, some programs are delayed or not completely executed as designed.<sup>163</sup> Parties to DDR programs have to be willing to enter the program and address all lacking aspects in order to be successful.<sup>164</sup> Successful DDR programs are also gender-responsive to provide adequate services for both male and female ex-combatants.<sup>165</sup> Furthermore, children in conflict who are released from armed groups undergo “release and reintegration” programs to recover from the human rights violation of being illegally mobilized.<sup>166</sup>

### ***Case Study: United Nations Inter-agency Rehabilitation Program (UNIRP) in Nepal***

In November 2006, the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies (AMMAA) concluded a long period of violence in Democratic Republic of Nepal.<sup>167</sup> The United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) in conjunction with the UNDP, ILO, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) implement a collaborative reintegration

---

<sup>154</sup> “What Is DDR?”, United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Resource Centre. [http://www.unddr.org/what-is-ddr/introduction\\_1.aspx](http://www.unddr.org/what-is-ddr/introduction_1.aspx) (Accessed July 13, 2013)

<sup>155</sup> Ibid.

<sup>156</sup> Ibid.

<sup>157</sup> “What Is DDR?”, United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Resource Centre. [http://www.unddr.org/what-is-ddr/introduction\\_1.aspx](http://www.unddr.org/what-is-ddr/introduction_1.aspx) (Accessed July 13, 2013)

<sup>158</sup> Ibid.

<sup>159</sup> Ibid.

<sup>160</sup> “What Is DDR?”, United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Resource Centre. [http://www.unddr.org/what-is-ddr/introduction\\_1.aspx](http://www.unddr.org/what-is-ddr/introduction_1.aspx) (Accessed July 13, 2013)

<sup>161</sup> Ibid.

<sup>162</sup> “Key Considerations In Planning & Implementation”, United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Resource Centre. [http://www.unddr.org/what-is-ddr/key-considerations-in-planning-implementation\\_2.aspx](http://www.unddr.org/what-is-ddr/key-considerations-in-planning-implementation_2.aspx) (Accessed July 13, 2013)

<sup>163</sup> Ibid.

<sup>164</sup> Ibid.

<sup>165</sup> Ibid.

<sup>166</sup> Ibid.

<sup>167</sup> “UN Interagency Rehabilitation Programme (UNIRP)”, United Nations Development Program. [http://www.undp.org/content/nepal/en/home/operations/projects/crisis\\_prevention\\_and\\_recovery/unirp/](http://www.undp.org/content/nepal/en/home/operations/projects/crisis_prevention_and_recovery/unirp/) (Accessed July 13, 2013)

program for Verified Minors and Late Recruits (VMLRs) who have now exited conflict.<sup>168</sup> After the end of a ten year armed conflict between the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and the Nepali government, the UNDP assisted UNMIN to verify the amount of combatants held in cantonment sites spread over 28 sites in Nepal.<sup>169</sup> During this verification process, out of a 19,602 members of the Maoist army a monstrous 4008 combatants were listed as VMLRs – 2,973 minors as of the date of the ceasefire on May 25, 2006 and 1,035 late recruits.<sup>170</sup> In response to the large numbers of young ex-combatants found and their ineligibility to stay in the cantonments as members of the army; the United Nations Inter-agency Rehabilitation Program (UNIRP) was established to identify and to address their unique post-recovery needs.<sup>171</sup> As a part of an action plan to discharge and rehabilitate young ex-combatants in 2009; at the beginning of 2010, “2,394 VMLRs were discharged from the cantonments and briefed on their entitlements and how to access the rehabilitation options”.<sup>172</sup> With 1614 absent for official discharge, after discharge UNICEF administered “a tracing initiative through its Children Associated with Armed Force and Armed Group (CAAFAG) network” to determine their whereabouts.<sup>173</sup> This initiative revealed that the number of VMLRs was much less than originally counted due to “60% of those traced going abroad for foreign employment, while another 13% were engaged in a form of self/employment inside Nepal”.<sup>174</sup> The official discharge process was supported and funded through the UNDP/Assistance to the Peace Process in Nepal (APPN) project, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), and The Kingdom of Norway.<sup>175</sup>

Noting the success during this partnership, since the middle of 2010 the UNIRP has been supporting the rehabilitation process of VMLRs post-discharge.<sup>176</sup> The focus of this program is “to support the transition of the discharged VMLRs from military to civilian life by providing them with training and education to access employment and livelihood opportunities”.<sup>177</sup> Focusing on assisting them with developing a livelihood and strong quality of life, the UNIRP services sustain training on vocational skills, micro-enterprise development, health education, and formal and informal education; in which participants can select the option of what they want to partake.<sup>178</sup> Furthermore, UNIRP specifically offers gender specific support to woman participants with young children (such as childcare), mentoring events to teach and build trust and deal with stress, and psychosocial support in the form of referrals and care to participants and their immediate families.<sup>179</sup> Continuing their roles in this process, UNDP coordinates the overall management of the program as well as training on vocational skills and micro-enterprise development options; UNICEF directs the education, psychological and psychosocial counseling, and peacebuilding activities; UNFPA offers training on health related topics and provides gender specific support; and the ILO offers a number of resources on employment.<sup>180</sup> Any donations to UNIRP are made through the UN Peace Fund Nepal.<sup>181</sup> The total funded budget for the program is almost \$13 million dollars, with Norway and the DFID as lead contributors.<sup>182</sup>

Each of the training and rehabilitation options has different services available. Within the health care/education option, there is a “15 to 18 month course of institutional training and three month On-the-Job Training (OJT)”<sup>183</sup> offered. The vocational training sector offers literacy and numeracy training, as well as on-the-job-training to assist with harnessing their new skills and potential.<sup>184</sup> The education section provides instruction at government run

---

<sup>168</sup> Ibid.

<sup>169</sup> Ibid.

<sup>170</sup> “UN Interagency Rehabilitation Programme (UNIRP)”, United Nations Development Program.

[http://www.undp.org/content/nepal/en/home/operations/projects/crisis\\_prevention\\_and\\_recovery/unirp/](http://www.undp.org/content/nepal/en/home/operations/projects/crisis_prevention_and_recovery/unirp/) (Accessed July 13, 2013)

<sup>171</sup> Ibid.

<sup>172</sup> Ibid.

<sup>173</sup> Ibid.

<sup>174</sup> Ibid.

<sup>175</sup> Ibid.

<sup>176</sup> Ibid.

<sup>177</sup> Ibid.

<sup>178</sup> “Rehabilitation of Ex-Combatants – UNIRP Factsheet”, United Nations Development Program.

[http://www.undp.org/content/dam/nepal/docs/projects/UNDP\\_NP\\_UNIRP%20factsheet.pdf](http://www.undp.org/content/dam/nepal/docs/projects/UNDP_NP_UNIRP%20factsheet.pdf) (Accessed July 13, 2013)

<sup>179</sup> Ibid.

<sup>180</sup> “UN Interagency Rehabilitation Programme (UNIRP)”, United Nations Development Program.

[http://www.undp.org/content/nepal/en/home/operations/projects/crisis\\_prevention\\_and\\_recovery/unirp/](http://www.undp.org/content/nepal/en/home/operations/projects/crisis_prevention_and_recovery/unirp/) (Accessed July 13, 2013)

<sup>181</sup> Ibid.

<sup>182</sup> Ibid.

<sup>183</sup> Ibid.

<sup>184</sup> Ibid.



schools for little to no cost - the admission fee, annual school fee, school uniform, and school supplies and materials are covered, and a monthly stipend is issued.<sup>185</sup> Micro-Financing/Enterprising participants receive an “11-day business induction course and one to three month skill training courses on the enterprise type of choice to equip them with the basic skills to start and run a small business”.<sup>186</sup> To date, UNIRP has had 2,538 of their registered ex-combatants receive career counseling and 2,477 choose one of the four other training and rehabilitation options.<sup>187</sup> Of those who chose from the training and rehabilitation options, by March 2013 “1,786 participants had completed one of the options, 1,234 of them have been either self-employed or employed, and 3% of the registrants have dropped out prior to starting”.<sup>188</sup> Additionally, 1,288 completed their training and received start-up support for their new enterprises after learning about micro financing, 413 participants have completed vocational training, 358 participants pursued the education option and 28 completed, 57 participants have graduated from health-education training, and “70% of 1,758 graduates from training (except education) had found employment or had established their own businesses”.<sup>189</sup> UNIRP is set to continue to run across all five development regions areas in Nepal until August 31, 2015.<sup>190</sup>

## Conclusion

As human beings, we are taught that conflict is an inevitability at almost all level of our lives – personal, professional; locally, nationally, internationally. As a global community, we are shown an image of a locale that experiences conflict frequently – developing, lacking resources, and/or corrupt. Noting the great conflicts played out on a public stage, we have seen all types, locales, persons, and leaders face and endure conflict. We have seen the impact in the tangibles of infrastructure, finances, and aesthetics; and the affects on the hidden intangibles of morale, loyalty, and tolerance of others. Peacebuilding requires reconciliation, which by regular definition means “to reestablish a close relationship between, to settle or resolve, to bring oneself to accept, or to make compatible or consistent”.<sup>191</sup> The concept of Reconciliation often comes up in peacebuilding but is not officially defined in the global community.<sup>192</sup> However, its lack of definition does not lessen its vital functioning as a “dynamic, complex, difficult, long-term and unpredictable process, that is both backward and forward looking and aims for more than just coexistence”.<sup>193</sup> A main scholar in peace studies, John Paul Lederach, looks at a potential solution to conflict through conflict transformation.<sup>194</sup> Conflict transformation is “an ongoing process of transformation from negative to positive relations, behavior, attitudes and structures that a holistic and multi-faceted approach to managing violent conflict in all its phases”.<sup>195</sup> Conflict transformation attempts to “find solutions to the issues underlying the conflict, but also works to alter the structural elements that underlie the conflict as well as the adversary’s relationships, which is what reconciliation is about”.<sup>196</sup> According to Lederach, “A sustainable transformative approach suggests that the key lies in the relationship of the involved parties, with all that the term encompasses at the psychological, spiritual, social, economic, political and military levels”.<sup>197</sup> Furthermore, he discusses “reframing situations and creating a new context in which people cooperate and become a part of the solution and attack problems, rather than each other”.<sup>198</sup> In order to attain peace, as a community we cannot allow peacebuilding to be the impetus of the next person or organization; but each member must actively exemplify what we expect and desire to be demonstrated. This includes sorting out the confusion and clarifying protocol, chain of command, and governance. When able to

---

<sup>185</sup> Ibid.

<sup>186</sup> “UN Interagency Rehabilitation Programme (UNIRP)”, United Nations Development Program.  
[http://www.undp.org/content/nepal/en/home/operations/projects/crisis\\_prevention\\_and\\_recovery/unirp/](http://www.undp.org/content/nepal/en/home/operations/projects/crisis_prevention_and_recovery/unirp/) (Accessed July 13, 2013)

<sup>187</sup> Ibid.

<sup>188</sup> Ibid.

<sup>189</sup> Ibid.

<sup>190</sup> Ibid.

<sup>191</sup> “Reconcile”, The Free Dictionary. <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/reconcile> (Accessed July 15, 2013)

<sup>192</sup> “Reconciliation: Definitions & Conceptual Issues”, Peacebuilding Initiative  
<http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org/index.cfm?pageId=1974> (Accessed July 15, 2013)

<sup>193</sup> Ibid.

<sup>194</sup> “Reconciliation: Reconciliation & Peacebuilding Processes”, Peacebuilding Initiative.  
<http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org/index.cfm?pageId=1975> (Accessed July 15, 2013)

<sup>195</sup> Ibid.

<sup>196</sup> Ibid.

<sup>197</sup> Ibid.

<sup>198</sup> Peacebuilding Initiative. Reconciliation: Reconciliation & Peacebuilding Processes  
<http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org/index.cfm?pageId=1975> (Accessed July 15, 2013)

extend our successful practices and lessons learned to address the multiple factors and levels in conflict on a global scale, we will be able to attack conflict at its core and discontinue it from hindering our global development.

### ***Committee Directive***

Conflict greatly affects our entire global community as the pain and violence takes its toll on Member States and International Partners both directly or indirectly. Therefore, Post-conflict recovery is not a solitary initiative, but it is a massive community endeavor. With that in mind, delegates need to look at the increasing importance of interdependency in rebuilding efforts as a major factor in successful recovery mechanisms. How and when can the global community define reconciliation? What are some resilience-based responses/mechanisms used for Post-Conflict Recovery and Peacebuilding? Furthermore, delegates should look particularly at the effects of conflict on the economy and how peacebuilding/post-conflict recovery establishes an economic momentum. How can Member State use transitioning from times of conflict to peace (or vice versa) to their economic benefit? What economic changes or patterns are seen with peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery? What impact is had on overall infrastructure within these changes or patterns? And what can be done to keep in mind infrastructure in the process of conflict transformation? Finally and most importantly, where does ECOSOC fall in the scope of peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery? Has The Council's work moved our global community forward to finding solutions or left more room to question its effectiveness in the matter, highlighting the need for a more centralized body for coordination?

## II. Continuing Progress in the Eradication of Extreme Poverty through Addressing the Needs of the Aging Population

*“A test of a people is how it behaves toward the old. It is easy to love children. Even tyrants and dictators make a point of being fond of children. But the affection and care for the old, the incurable, the helpless are the true gold mines of a culture”. - Abraham J. Heschel<sup>199</sup>*

### Introduction

“Population ageing — the process whereby older individuals account for a proportionally larger share of the total population — was a key demographic outcome of population trends during the twentieth century; and will surely be the distinctive trait of populations during the twenty-first century”<sup>200</sup> As of 2012 Japan was the only country in the world where over 30 percent of the total population was over age 60; by 2050 64 countries will have that same percentage.<sup>201</sup> Furthermore, from 2012 to 2050, the number of centenarians, individuals who live to be 100 years or older, will grow from 316,600 to 3.2 million.<sup>202</sup> By 2030, there will be more people over the age of 60 than under the age of 10 worldwide – to put this in perspective, as of 2000 there were already more than those under age five. More pressing is the fact that in 10 years there will be one billion elderly people in the world.<sup>203</sup> Interestingly looking at gender breakdowns, since women live longer than men it leads to a higher proportion of women in these at-risk groups. Worldwide, women now account for 55 percent of the population aged 60 years and over. Among the very old (aged 80 and over), women are almost twice as numerous as men.<sup>204</sup> Two people celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday every second – a total of nearly 58 million birthdays annually.<sup>205</sup>

The experiences and stories possessed by the ageing population can teach even the youngest members of our society a plethora of subjects. Unfortunately, there are also many issues that ageing individuals in society face, such as poverty, cruelty, as well as disease; much work can be done to ease the stresses upon them. As described above, in the coming years, the number of persons over the age of 60 will continue to increase, and efforts need to be made now to protect those individuals and all those who follow. Luckily, there have been documents drafted towards helping and protecting that population, including the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and the United Nations Principles for Older Persons. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established functional commissions including the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) which was developed in response to the increasing number of individuals considered to be within the ageing population.<sup>206</sup> CSocD aims to study challenges facing this population and make specific policy recommendations.<sup>207</sup> As part of the follow-up to the MIPAA, ECOSOC and the General Assembly designated the CSocD as the main forum for MIPAA evaluation and documents developed regarding its next phase.<sup>208</sup> Established in 1946 as the Social Commission, the CSocD was later renamed Social Development Commission to help clarify its role as an ECOSOC preparatory body, and it meets yearly in New York and is open to participation by accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs).<sup>209</sup>

According to Kofi Annan, the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations, “The MIPAA and the Political Declaration adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in April 2002 marks a turning point in how the world addresses the key challenge of ‘building a society for all ages’”.<sup>210</sup> The plan focuses on three priority areas: older

---

<sup>199</sup> The Insecurity of Freedom: Essays on Human, Abraham J. Heschel Existence p. 72 1959

<sup>200</sup> World Population Ageing 2009, Economic and Social Affairs:

[http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WPA2009/WPA2009\\_WorkingPaper.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WPA2009/WPA2009_WorkingPaper.pdf)

<sup>201</sup> Global AgeWatch: <http://www.helppage.org/global-agewatch/>

<sup>202</sup> Ibid.

<sup>203</sup> Ibid.

<sup>204</sup> Ageing societies: The benefits, and the costs, of living longer: [http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/magazines-and-journals/world-of-work-magazine/articles/WCM\\_041965/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/magazines-and-journals/world-of-work-magazine/articles/WCM_041965/lang-en/index.htm)

<sup>205</sup> Ageing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: <http://www.helppage.org/resources/ageing-in-the-21st-century-a-celebration-and-a-challenge/ageing-in-the-21st-century-infographic/>

<sup>206</sup> Global Action on Ageing: <http://www.globalaging.org/agingwatch/events/CSD/>

<sup>207</sup> Ibid.

<sup>208</sup> Ibid.

<sup>209</sup> Ibid.

<sup>210</sup> Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: <http://social.un.org/index/Portals/0/ageing/documents/Fulltext-E.pdf>

persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments.<sup>211</sup> The plan serves as a resource that allows for policymakers to include ways that Governments, NGOs, and other actors might reorient the ways their respective societies perceive, interact with, and care for their older citizens.<sup>212</sup> Another UN document that outlines concerns and methods of action to aid the ageing population is the United Nations International Plan of Action on Ageing, which notes that “The issue of the ageing of populations, with its vast implications both for overall development at the national level and for the welfare and safety of older individuals, is therefore one which will concern all countries in the relatively near future; it already affects some of the more developed regions of the world.”<sup>213</sup> This plan is designed, much like the Madrid Plan of Action, to lead governments the world over in providing a better life for their respective ageing populations, in order to gain from their wealth of knowledge and their assorted expertise.

The United Nations Principles for Older Persons, adopted as General Assembly Resolution 46/91 (1991), encourages governments to incorporate numerous principles such as “independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment, and dignity into their national programs whenever possible”.<sup>214</sup> Some of the ideas pointed out within the Resolution are access to adequate food, water, and shelter; participating actively in the development and implementation of policies affecting their well being; access to social and legal services to enhance their autonomy; and living in dignity and security free of exploitation and physical or mental abuse.<sup>215</sup>

### ***Implications of a Growing Ageing Population***

Initially taking effect in the developed Member States, population ageing has now become apparent in much of the developing world. Expectations are that population aging will affect virtually all Member States, although its intensity will vary considerably considering resources, support, and access to healthcare for this growing population.<sup>216</sup> The most impeding issue on which scholars focus is dealing with the implications of an ageing population on the world economy. Economic concerns consist of labor shortages, spending for pensions, and health care costs; however there are opportunities offered as well, such as a ‘silver economy’ and voluntary work on behalf of retirees.<sup>217</sup> This new ‘silver economy’ is an idea based on the fact that future retirees will be wealthier than their predecessors, will have higher levels of educational attainment which may lead to increasing demands for high quality services, and are used to consumerism.<sup>218</sup> To truly tap into this economy, we must view it as an opportunity for quality of life, economic growth, and competitiveness.<sup>219</sup>

### ***Effects on Employment, the Labor Market, and the Economy***

Ageing has a direct impact on the labor market.<sup>220</sup> Due to demographic and global economic changes, people need to work longer in life though after years of promoting early retirement this is a hard fact to sell to employers.<sup>221</sup> Even though the impact is very apparent, there are different theories with regard to the impact of population ageing on the demand and supply of labor.<sup>222</sup> According to Mrs. Adriana Scardino, the chief of the Office of Actuarial and Economic Evaluation in the Social Insurance Bank of Uruguay, and the author of the International Social Security Association report from 2009: “... We should remember that changes in employment have a direct impact on the sustainability of pension schemes, both public and private. The impact of age structure in a society is shown through the numerical relationship between those who are able to be economically productive (14 to 64 years old) and those

---

<sup>211</sup> Ibid.

<sup>212</sup> Ibid.

<sup>213</sup> UN Documents: <http://www.un-documents.net/ipaa-1.htm>

<sup>214</sup> United Nations Principles for Older Persons: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OlderPersons.aspx>

<sup>215</sup> Ibid.

<sup>216</sup> Ibid.

<sup>217</sup> Journal of Sociology, Population Ageing – Problem or Opportunity:

<http://www.scientificjournals.org/journals2007/articles/1077.htm>

<sup>218</sup> InnoConnections: <http://www.innoconnections.com/opportunities/silver-economy-ageing-population.html>

<sup>219</sup> Ibid.

<sup>220</sup> Journal of Sociology, Population Ageing – Problem or Opportunity:

<http://www.scientificjournals.org/journals2007/articles/1077.htm>

<sup>221</sup> Ibid.

<sup>222</sup> Ibid.

who are dependent (aged 65 and over)<sup>223</sup> there are fewer people in the productive age group able to provide support and protection for the elderly as years go by.<sup>224</sup> Economic growth and rates of participation coincide with problems yielded from population ageing in the labor market, and may call for an evaluation of the trend of early retirement<sup>225</sup>

In many countries, the rapid growth of the ageing population will greatly impact the labor industry, such issues are beginning to evolve within China. Currently the manufacturing hub of the world, the Chinese people are in danger of losing their position.<sup>226</sup> With a population aging and a shortage of replacement workers due to its one-child policy could lead to a major labor shortage by 2050.<sup>227</sup> The labor market is soon to begin contracting in size – the number of new entrants into the workforce will decline by 30 percent in 2020 when compared to 2010.<sup>228</sup> The labor market is not the only avenue of economic activity and growth performance that will be affected by population ageing.<sup>229</sup> Investment, savings, and consumption all play a part in economic growth, and consumption most of all is characterized by change with age.<sup>230</sup> Based on current consumption trends exhibited by persons aged 65 years or over in developed countries, it is possible to anticipate, among other things, that the demand for health, long-term care, housing and energy expenditures will likely increase.<sup>231</sup> Patterns more dependent on population ageing will only change very gradually over time however. Other factors, such as income growth, tend to be more influential in determining consumption expenditures of old and young people alike.<sup>232</sup> Labor earnings are a major component in an individual's income but tend to vary throughout the life cycle, often reaching a peak when that individual is in the prime working years of mid-life. If income declines with age, consumption levels may decline during older ages.<sup>233</sup> Economic growth could then be negatively affected, as increasing shares of consumers grow older.<sup>234</sup>

#### *Access to Health Care and Services*

Disease is an awful turn of events for an individual at any stage in their walk through life – and it is most prevalent in the population over 65 years old. One of the more devastating diseases, not only to the individual but also to their family, is Alzheimer's disease. In the United States alone, there are an estimated 5.2 million individuals with Alzheimer's as of 2013.<sup>235</sup> This includes estimates of five million people age 65 and older and approximately 200,000 individuals younger than 65 that have younger-onset Alzheimer's.<sup>236</sup> By 2050, "the number of people age 65 and older with Alzheimer's disease may nearly triple, from five million to a projected 13.8 million, barring the development of medical breakthroughs to prevent, slow or stop the disease".<sup>237</sup> With the prevalence of the disease in the United States, it is necessary to quantify the hours of commitment to care given in order to demonstrate the impact on family and support units. It shows that "15.4 million caregivers provided more than 17.5 billion hours of unpaid care for Alzheimer's afflicted individuals, care valued at \$216 billion, and the cost of care for Alzheimer's suffering individuals is expected to rise to \$1.2 trillion by 2050".<sup>238</sup> As a global community, we must note that disease is not limited to only the industrialized world and will cause much more of a medical challenge in the aging populations of the developing world.<sup>239</sup> There are other communicable diseases prevalent worldwide and impact the elderly in a specific manner, for instance human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and tuberculosis; as well as those

---

<sup>223</sup> Ibid.

<sup>224</sup> Journal of Sociology, Population Ageing – Problem or Opportunity: <http://www.scientificjournals.org/journals2007/articles/1077.htm>.

<sup>225</sup> Ibid.

<sup>226</sup> Ibid.

<sup>227</sup> Ibid.

<sup>228</sup> Ibid.

<sup>229</sup> Economic Consequences of Population Ageing: <http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wess2007files/chap4>

<sup>230</sup> Ibid.

<sup>231</sup> Ibid.

<sup>232</sup> Ibid.

<sup>233</sup> Ibid.

<sup>234</sup> Ibid.

<sup>235</sup> Alzheimer's Association: [http://www.alz.org/alzheimers\\_disease\\_facts\\_and\\_figures.asp](http://www.alz.org/alzheimers_disease_facts_and_figures.asp)

<sup>236</sup> Ibid.

<sup>237</sup> Ibid.

<sup>238</sup> Alzheimer's Association: [http://www.alz.org/alzheimers\\_disease\\_facts\\_and\\_figures.asp](http://www.alz.org/alzheimers_disease_facts_and_figures.asp)

<sup>239</sup> Oxford Journals, Clinical Infectious Diseases: <http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/39/1/83.short>

that infect on a lesser scale such as diarrhea and pneumonia.<sup>240</sup> A major player in the immunodeficiency of elderly people in the developing world is malnutrition, though it is in no way limited to only the elderly.

Health care costs are a concern, as public expenditure on health comprises a large part of some government budgets. Delaying the onset of disability due to health concerns through prevention approaches can both alleviate the growing demand for health care and, more important, improve the quality of life for the elderly. A prevention approach can prove effective even where there are resource constraints and age discrimination. Unfortunately, there is a "negative aging paradigm" found in developed and developing countries alike that assume older people's health needs require high-cost, long-term treatments.<sup>241</sup> Member States such as Canada and the United States attribute 11.2 and 17.9 percent, respectively, of their gross domestic product (GDP) to health care, in comparison to Member States such as Turkey and Estonia who, as of 2011, were contributing only 6.7 and 6.0 percent, respectively.<sup>242</sup> In respect to developing Member States, despite improvements in providing access to health care, substantial proportions of their populations have limited access and a tough affordability factor to healthcare.<sup>243</sup> According to an Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report, "the over-65 age group accounts for 40-50 percent of healthcare spending and their per capita healthcare costs are three to five times higher than for those under 65".<sup>244</sup> The fear is that the already high expenditures might continue to rise as ageing population rate accelerates. Population ageing is found to be directly related to the concept of "health transition", a phenomenon developing throughout the world.<sup>245</sup> Health transition, also known as "epidemiological transition" is a series of changes, including the change from high to low fertility rates, a steady increase in life expectancy at birth and at advanced ages and a transition from predominantly contagious diseases to non-transmitted diseases and chronic conditions".<sup>246</sup> With this "transition" in mind, access to medical assistance and adequate social services becomes integral to social security and a requirement for healthy aging.<sup>247</sup> Introduction of new ideas on how to improve the systems in order to prevent certain illnesses connected with old age or improve their treatment could lead to better use of resources and the overall improvement of the ageing population's wellbeing.<sup>248</sup>

#### *Post-Employment, Retirement, and Financial Survival*

Pension reform is another large consideration when discussing the rapidly growing ageing population. Italy already has one of the highest percentages of GDP devoted to pension funding at 14.1, while Great Britain devotes only 5.4 percent. Much of the disparity is due to the years of difference between the retiring age of men and women in each country – much like France whose retirees enjoy the longest retirements in the world at 24 to 28 years, six longer than the average of other countries.<sup>249</sup> There has been years of back and forth debate as to the better course of action – trying to work longer or retire earlier and start collecting. Though early retirement generated benefits for some time as more availability of jobs for the young, more leisure time for elder people, and lower unemployment figures for the government, it eventually proved to be an expensive and misleading notion.<sup>250</sup> Employers used this farce as a means to an end – ridding themselves of older workers at the expense of the public; yet individual employees saw them as opportunity to get out of the labor market at an early age without serious financial penalties.<sup>251</sup> The implementation of such schemes decreased the actual retirement age and strengthened people's belief that early retirement is justified.<sup>252</sup> This kind of attitude endangers the pension scheme and deconstructs the idea of the

---

<sup>240</sup> Ibid.

<sup>241</sup> Health care Challenges for Developing Countries with Aging Populations:

<http://www.prb.org/Articles/2006/HealthCareChallengesforDevelopingCountrieswithAgingPopulations.aspx?p=1>

<sup>242</sup> The World Bank, Health Expenditure total: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.TOTL.ZS>

<sup>243</sup> Poverty and Access to Health Care in Developing Countries: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1196/annals.1425.011/pdf>

<sup>244</sup> Fiscal implications of ageing: projections of age-related spending, OECD Economics Department Working Paper, OECD, 2001.

<sup>245</sup> Ageing societies: The benefits, and the costs, of living longer: [http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/magazines-and-journals/world-of-work-magazine/articles/WCM\\_041965/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/magazines-and-journals/world-of-work-magazine/articles/WCM_041965/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>246</sup> Ibid.

<sup>247</sup> Ibid.

<sup>248</sup> Ibid.

<sup>249</sup> The Economist, Feet Up: <http://www.economist.com/node/17008998>

<sup>250</sup> Journal of Sociology, Population Ageing – Problem or Opportunity: <http://www.scientificjournals.org/journals2007/articles/1077.htm>

<sup>251</sup> Ibid.

<sup>252</sup> Ibid.



“generation contract” (the concept of the working age providing for those who are retired) as such.<sup>253</sup> “From the insurance point of view it is [thus] highly questionable that pension assets are to be directed to healthy people, who are fit to work, shifting over from employment to retirement before the general retirement age”.<sup>254</sup> Other than the direct financial burden for the pension system, the underlying ideology of early retirement – older people in the labor market prevent young people from getting jobs – may have more long-term devastation.<sup>255</sup> The early retirement mindset has been promoted and embedded in to the professional world over many decades; and it is difficult to change the attitude toward older employees with new messages affirming their value to their organizations.<sup>256</sup> Therefore, it is hardly surprising that a recent study by the Institute for Applied Economic Research (2004) on the situation of older workers in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg in Germany found that firms and workers alike favor a retirement age well below 65 years.<sup>257</sup> Furthermore, developing countries in Asia have to take action today – they cannot wait for the situation to grow out of control. The retirement age of 60 or even less in some cases is unprecedented, and an age where most are still active in today’s world.<sup>258</sup> While western Member States have met legislation to increase the retirement age with much resistance, the Asian countries find the policy much more acceptable – as their life expectancy has grown so too has the need to revisit the retirement age requirements.<sup>259</sup>

### *Elder Abuse: Psychological, Physical, and Financial Ramifications*

By the year 2025, the global populations of those over 60 years old will more than double, reaching an estimated 1.2 billion.<sup>260</sup> These changing demographics coincide with trends in the developing world such as industrialization and rapid social and economic change which have started to erode the traditional family structures in many societies and have led to the degradation and often destruction of the traditional family and community networks in developing nations. With only 30 percent of the world’s elderly covered by pension schemes, many elderly people have been left without any retirement income and without health and welfare safety nets that may have been previously provided, and often times never existed.<sup>261</sup> The World Health Organization (WHO) predicts that as many countries are experiencing rapidly ageing populations, elder maltreatment is on the rise and will continue to increase.<sup>262</sup> The World Health Organization defines elder abuse as “a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person”.<sup>263</sup> Elder abuse can be physical, psychological/emotional, sexual, or financial. The Toronto Declaration on the Global Prevention of Elder Abuse is a global call to action aimed at preventing all forms of elder abuse. The Declaration states, “In any society some population sub-groups are particularly vulnerable to elder abuse – such as the very old, those with limited functional capacity, women and the poor”, hinting at the cyclical nature of poverty and elder abuse.<sup>264</sup> Not only are the poor more vulnerable to elder abuse, but financial exploitation can lead to further poverty. One example of how overall poverty can contribute to elder abuse in Africa can be seen when economically desperate sons wish to inherit land as a means to their own family’s survival and take a widow’s property, often through violent means.<sup>265</sup> Overall poverty and economic hardships and the patrilineal inheritance laws and land rights in many African nations disproportionately affect the elderly, and, when combined with changes

---

<sup>253</sup> Ibid.

<sup>254</sup> *Pensions are no solution to the unemployment problem: analysis of the suggested introduction of lower retirement ages as a measure against unemployment*, Report No. 10, Helsinki: The Central Pension Security Institute.

<sup>255</sup> Journal of Sociology, Population Ageing – Problem or Opportunity:

<http://www.scientificjournals.org/journals2007/articles/1077.htm>

<sup>256</sup> Ibid.

<sup>257</sup> Ibid.

<sup>258</sup> Greying Asia: A case of increasing the retirement age: <http://blogs.adb.org/blog/greying-asia-case-increasing-retirement-age>

<sup>259</sup> Ibid.

<sup>260</sup> “World Population Aging,” *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division*, 2009,

[http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WPA2009/WPA2009\\_WorkingPaper.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WPA2009/WPA2009_WorkingPaper.pdf)

<sup>261</sup> “Abuse of the Elderly,” *World Health Organization*, 2002, [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2002/9241545615\\_chap5\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2002/9241545615_chap5_eng.pdf)

<sup>262</sup> “Elder Maltreatment,” *World Health Organization*, 2011, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs357/en/index.html>

<sup>263</sup> “Ageing and Life Course,” *The Toronto declaration on the global prevention of elder abuse*, 2002, [http://www.who.int/ageing/projects/elder\\_abuse/alc\\_toronto\\_declaration\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/ageing/projects/elder_abuse/alc_toronto_declaration_en.pdf)

<sup>264</sup> Ibid

<sup>265</sup> Ferreira, Monica, “Elder Abuse in Africa,” *Journal of elder abuse & neglect* 16 no. 2 (2004): 17-32

in the traditional norms of respect for the elderly, can lead to financial exploitation and violent abuse of the elderly.<sup>266</sup>

Financial exploitation of the elderly even in small amounts can have a significant impact, as many older persons survive on limited incomes. Older persons are at particular risk because they may be isolated, lonely, or troubled by illness, making them vulnerable targets for fraudulent schemes.<sup>267</sup> Identifying abuse is a difficult task however, as behavior that is considered exploitive and abusive in one culture may not be considered abuse in another. For instance, researchers in the United States expressed concern over economic exploitation of the elderly by family members in a Navajo tribe, however the tribal elders considered sharing their material belongings with family a cultural duty and a privilege.<sup>268</sup> In contrast, in China and other countries that place high value on the family, when a family member fails to provide food and housing to an elder member, this constitutes neglect and can therefore be considered abuse.

In societies where poverty is rampant, the elderly are often disproportionately disadvantaged. In some traditional societies elderly widows are abandoned and their property is seized. In sub-Saharan Africa, unexplainable local events such as a death, a natural disaster, or a crop failure are often blamed on isolated, elderly women. Many older women are driven from their homes and communities and forced to live in urban areas in destitution and poverty after being accused of witchcraft. While these are social customs that may not be locally considered elder abuse, they can cause a rise in the poverty level of the elderly population and arise as a result of destitution and overall poverty in society. In the United Republic of Tanzania, approximately 500 elderly women are murdered every year as a result of accusations of witchcraft.<sup>269</sup> Elderly men are occasionally accused of witchcraft as well, but the traditional low status of women in society means they are often the main victims.<sup>270</sup>

Social action at the national level is in various stages throughout the world. The United States is possibly the furthest along in terms of developing a system for reporting and treating elder abuse cases. Systems operate at the state level, with minimal federal technical and financial support and policies. In Australia and Canada, some provinces or states do have systems set up, but no federal policy or system exists. In most European countries, actions are limited to individual research groups or local organizations. In Latin America and Africa, other issues such as conflict, poverty, and debt seemingly overshadow the issue of elder abuse.<sup>271</sup>

Researchers in the field have indicated that ageism, or the discrimination against and stigmatization of the elderly, is a major contributing factor to elder abuse. In order to address positive change, stigmatism and stereotypes should be addressed. Poverty and changing social structures are other causes. The absence of reliable data on the needs of older Africans is a serious ongoing problem. While some limited data exists for specific countries, overall the lack of reliable data at the national level is a severe limiting factor to understanding problems and therefore addressing these issues specifically for the aging population in Africa.<sup>272</sup> A great need exists to create an agenda to both protect the rights of older person and to look into and address abusive, often violent, and exploitive practices against them. Too little is known about the inefficiency and inadequacy of the present systems in Africa and much of the world to protect older person against these abusive practices. While ultimately African nations must take action to address the situations within their borders, international guidelines and frameworks, and international dialogue on the importance of addressing this key cyclical issue of poverty and elder abuse may empower and catalyze them to do so.

---

<sup>266</sup> "Abuse of the Elderly," *World Health Organization*, 2002, [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2002/9241545615\\_chap5\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2002/9241545615_chap5_eng.pdf)

<sup>267</sup> Ibid

<sup>268</sup> "Native American Elder Abuse", *Manataka American Indian Council*, 2010, <http://www.manataka.org/page1804.html>

<sup>269</sup> "Abuse of the Elderly," *World Health Organization*, 2002, [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2002/9241545615\\_chap5\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2002/9241545615_chap5_eng.pdf)

<sup>270</sup> Ibid

<sup>271</sup> Ibid

<sup>272</sup> Ramashala, Mapule, "Living Arrangements, Poverty and the Health of Older Persons in Africa," *United Nations Economic and Social Affairs Population Division*, 2013, [http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/bulletin42\\_43/ramashala.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/bulletin42_43/ramashala.pdf)

### *Involvement of ECOSOC and the UN to Present Date*

Work has started towards advancing the daily situations elderly individuals face. A division of the CSocD, in accordance with ECOSOC, is specifically mandated to study and work with these challenges. In resolution 2008/19 (2005), ECOSOC determined the theme for the 2009-2010 policy cycle of CSocD should be “Social Integration”, taking into account the relationship it has with poverty eradication and full employment/decent work for all.<sup>273</sup> The following two cycle decisions were “Poverty Eradication” and thereafter “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all”.<sup>274</sup> From these cycles resolutions such as ECOSOC Resolution 2010/12 (Promoting Social Integration) and ECOSOC Resolution 2012/9 (Poverty Eradication) were introduced and passed, both working towards equality and inclusion of elderly populations in their communities.<sup>275</sup>

General Assembly Resolution 65/182 (2010) established the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Ageing to consider the existing framework of the human rights of older persons and identify possible gaps and how to best address them, including by considering the feasibility of further instruments and measures.<sup>276</sup> Participation by Member States and NGO’s in the working sessions is managed by ECOSOC.<sup>277</sup> The first working session, held in April 2011, hosted expert panelists from different backgrounds, experiences, and origins who “considered the existing international and regional human rights framework and mechanisms, offered information about recent developments, and identified and reflected on a number of gaps in the protection systems.”<sup>278</sup> The information flow identified measures to address gaps at the international level, such as establishing a new international convention on the human rights of older persons; and also mainstreaming the issues of older persons in the work of existing human rights mechanisms, as well as at the national level in policies and programs.<sup>279</sup> The focus of the second working session “surrounded five topics, namely, discrimination – ageism based discriminations such as hindering employment or healthcare – and multiple discrimination – a combination of these and/or more discriminatory factors placed against elderly individuals; right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; violence and abuse; social protection and the right to social security; and age and social exclusion.”<sup>280</sup> In the forum, the panelists discussed “the extent to which the human rights situation of older persons had been addressed at national and international levels, many in reference to concrete legislation, policies and practices”.<sup>281</sup> They also raised many concerns about “the slow pace or little priority granted to older persons at national and international levels, and made reference to the limitations of existing mechanisms”.<sup>282</sup>

In the third session of the OEWG on Ageing, panelists sought to build on the issues and concerns identified at the second working sessions and reviewed “specific issues and rights of older persons to develop a better understanding of these issues and provide more evidence-based options for addressing them”.<sup>283</sup> The third working session consisted of “four interactive expert panel discussions on age discrimination; autonomy, independent living and healthcare; life in dignity, social security and access to resources; abuse and violence; with the addition of a new thematic issue namely, access to justice, that was explored in a fifth panel session”.<sup>284</sup> The third working session

---

<sup>273</sup> DESA, Social Policy and Development Division, Commission for Social Development, Programme of Work: <http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/ProgrammeofWork.aspx>

<sup>274</sup> Ibid.

<sup>275</sup> Resolutions and Decisions adopted at the Commission for Social Development:

<http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/ResolutionDecisions.aspx>

<sup>276</sup> UNDESA: <http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/index.shtml>

<sup>277</sup> “Participation of NGOs at the Third Working Session,” Open Ended Working Group on Ageing for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons,” <http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/ngosthirdsession.shtml> (Accessed July 20, 2013).

<sup>278</sup> Chair’s Summary Open-Ended Working Group First Working Session: <http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/chairmans%20-%205%20May.pdf>

<sup>279</sup> Ibid.

<sup>280</sup> Chair’s Summary Open-Ended Working Group Second Working Session: [http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/Chair\\_summary\\_2nd\\_session\\_OEWG\\_final.pdf](http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/Chair_summary_2nd_session_OEWG_final.pdf)

<sup>281</sup> Ibid.

<sup>282</sup> Ibid.

<sup>283</sup> Chair’s Summary Open-Ended Working Group Third Working Session: <http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/Chairsummary3rdsessionOEWGfinal.pdf>

<sup>284</sup> Ibid.

showed the global community that “through the increased participation by Member States, particularly from Africa and Asia, promotion and protection of human rights as essential elements for creating an inclusive society in which older persons participate fully and without discrimination, continues to be an issue of interest and importance”.<sup>285</sup> There were a number of civil society organizations in attendance, a significant increase from prior sessions; in conjunction with a higher level and quality of “their interventions and documentary submissions”.<sup>286</sup> These OEWG working sessions, alongside the fourth session slated to take place in August 2013, are important forums for evaluation of the work being done towards aiding in solving the issues that the world’s ageing population now faces. They allow experts from all over the world to convene and see if the actions being taken are effective – and if they are enough.

## ***Working Toward Global Solutions***

### *Enacted Policies and Issues with Reforms*

As addressed in Paragraph 15 of the Madrid Plan, “Mainstreaming [the integration of older people’s issues into wider national policymaking] ageing into global agendas is essential. A concerted effort is required to move towards a wide and equitable approach to policy integration. The task is to link ageing to other frameworks for social and economic development and human rights.”<sup>287</sup> In the past decade, there were many age-specific legislations approved worldwide, such as the Federal Law on the Promotion of Affairs of the Older Generation in Austria and the Law on Elderly in Viet Nam, showing that mainstreaming the issue of ageing populations has begun to take effect and provide results.<sup>288</sup> In at least 70 Member States, there is evidence of institutions being led or financed (at least in part) by governments to conduct research on ageing or older people.<sup>289</sup> But, despite all of the positive work done thus far, there are still areas of the world that struggle to achieve the same success. Ageing in Africa is occurring against a background of immense economic and social hardship.<sup>290</sup> Access to health care and medicines for older people is a key concern in the region as well.<sup>291</sup> There is a shortage not only in care providers, but also in health professionals trained to deal with the issues of the elderly.<sup>292</sup> In order for the march forward to continue as it has in the last decade, it must also come to pass that the issues are handled in regions that currently remain in struggle, such as sub-Saharan Africa.

### *Global Initiatives and Awareness Campaigns*

For the 2012 International Day of Older Persons, the theme was “Longevity: Shaping the Future”, while ageing and health was also the theme of 2012’s World Health Day – two important days that are dedicated to the well being of all individuals, and especially elderly members of societies the world over..<sup>293</sup> These themes focus on how healthy behaviors throughout life can help older men and women lead full and productive lives and be a resource for their families and communities.<sup>294</sup> As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated:

Longevity is a public health achievement, not a social or economic liability. On this International Day of Older Persons, let us pledge to ensure the well being of older persons and to enlist their meaningful participation in society so we can all benefit from their knowledge and ability.<sup>295</sup>

Another very important day for awareness about issues the ageing population faces is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – which represents the one day in the year when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse

---

<sup>285</sup> Ibid.

<sup>286</sup> Ibid.

<sup>287</sup> A Review for Progress: <http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2012/UNFPA-Report-Chapter3.pdf>

<sup>288</sup> Ibid.

<sup>289</sup> Ibid.

<sup>290</sup> Ibid.

<sup>291</sup> Ibid.

<sup>292</sup> Ibid.

<sup>293</sup> International Day of Older Persons: <http://www.un.org/en/events/olderpersonsday/>

<sup>294</sup> Ibid.

<sup>295</sup> Ibid.

and suffering inflicted to some of our older generations.<sup>296</sup> This day will gain importance in the coming years as the elderly population swells, and more people become aware of the serious harm the maltreatment of these individuals inflicts. Statistics show around “four to six percent of elderly people have experienced some form of maltreatment at home”.<sup>297</sup> Elder maltreatment can lead not only to physical injury, but also to psychological consequences.<sup>298</sup> The incidence of abuse towards older people is predicted to increase, as many Member States are experiencing rapidly ageing populations.<sup>299</sup>

### ***The Role of NGOs in Protecting Ageing Populations: HelpAge International***

To provide further focus and intentionality to aiding and supporting ageing populations, organizations (in both the private and public sector) have entered the arena to address the services needed by this demographic. In particular, HelpAge International is an organization desiring to “help older people claim their rights, challenge discrimination and overcome poverty, so the elderly can lead dignified, secure, active and healthy lives”.<sup>300</sup> Yielded from the amalgamation of five organizations in 1983 – Help the Aged, HelpAge India, HelpAge Kenya, Help the Aged Canada and Pro-Vida Colombia<sup>301</sup>; HelpAge International has bloomed to become a global network of organizations who share similar sentiments of achieving and is on the ground working in over 65 countries and with over 100 affiliates.<sup>302</sup> Maintaining consulting status with the United Nations and the World Health Organization, HelpAge International has been influential in adding ageing to the global agenda.<sup>303</sup> Its global influence has taken the international community from not having ageing on the development agenda in 1980 and developing nations not considered in the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing in 1982, to wider scale awareness on ageing issues and study done in locales with “rapid demographic transition such as in Europe, China and India”.<sup>304</sup>

Noting the invaluable contribution to society by gems that are “some of the poorest and most neglected in the world”, HelpAge shares the belief that “age helps”; and uses this thought process, as well as foundational values to remain supportive, optimistic, expert, and committed, to place the experiences of older women and men at the center of their work.<sup>305</sup> Since its establishment, HelpAge has had the following achievements – in 1993 HelpAge Kenya conducted the first participatory research with older people<sup>306</sup>. In regards to policy, HelpAge International issued guidelines on how to respond to older people in emergencies in 1999<sup>307</sup>. In 2007, the International coordinated the *Age Demands Action* Campaign to present ageing issues and concerns to government, where organizations in 27 countries took part.<sup>308</sup> And due to their commitment and great impact, HelpAge International was awarded Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize, the world's largest humanitarian prize, and acknowledging extraordinary work to alleviate human suffering, in 2012.<sup>309</sup>

HelpAge collaborates with a number affiliates, predominantly ageing-related organizations or national extensions of HelpAge, in over eight regions including ZIVOT 90 in the Czech Republic<sup>310</sup>, the El-Wedad Society for Community Rehabilitation in the Middle East<sup>311</sup>, HelpAge Canada<sup>312</sup>, Second Breath in Moldova<sup>313</sup>, Reaching Elderly

---

<sup>296</sup> World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: <http://www.un.org/en/events/elderabuse/>

<sup>297</sup> Ibid.

<sup>298</sup> Ibid.

<sup>299</sup> Ibid.

<sup>300</sup> HelpAge International. Who We Are <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>301</sup> HelpAge International. Our History <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/who-we-are/our-history/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>302</sup> HelpAge International. Who We Are <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>303</sup> HelpAge International. Our History <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/who-we-are/our-history/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>304</sup> Ibid.

<sup>305</sup> HelpAge International. Our Values and Ambition <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/who-we-are/our-values-and-ambitions/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>306</sup> HelpAge International. Who We Are <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>307</sup> Ibid.

<sup>308</sup> Ibid.

<sup>309</sup> Ibid.

<sup>310</sup> HelpAge International. Affiliates in Europe <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/our-affiliates-/affiliates-in-europe/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>311</sup> HelpAge International. Affiliates in Middle East <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/our-affiliates-/affiliates-in-the-middle-east/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)



Abandoned Citizens Housebound in Dominica<sup>314</sup>, Pakistan Medico International<sup>315</sup>, the Council on the Ageing in Australia<sup>316</sup>, and The Maseru Women Senior Citizens Association in Lesotho<sup>317</sup>. Believing in transparency and accountability, HelpAge has their high value contracts externally evaluated, reports and plans are compiled and issued to partners and affiliates annually, and each year reviews and documentations are made to measure effectiveness in attaining the target of the year.<sup>318</sup> Furthermore, in order to advance accountability, HelpAge is a member of the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership and uses best practices of the global People In Aid - Code of Good Practice management framework.<sup>319</sup> Financially, HelpAge receives a number of donations from global partners and entities to fund its work. Some of the donors include Irish Aid, UK Aid, European Union, and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.<sup>320</sup> In 2012, 98 percent of HelpAge's expenditures were used on charitable activities and its income was three percent higher than in 2011.<sup>321</sup>

In the past year alone, HelpAge has taken amazing strides to assist with 2.5 million older people receiving social pensions, 350,000 older people gaining access to basic healthcare, social care, or HIV Counseling, treatment and testing, and 250,000 were taught disaster risk management and preparedness.<sup>322</sup> HelpAge also focused on "training the trainers" and provided trainings and information in order to empower and inform older persons and their advocates. A colossal 13,000 people (both inside and outside of the ageing population) were "trained as health care workers, home-based cares, HIV peer educators, paralegal advisers, or disaster preparedness leaders and 4100 older persons associations took action to claim their rights to services and support".<sup>323</sup> Committed to using its sphere of influence, in the last year HelpAge continued to outreach and educate through its *Age Demands Action* campaign, and have dialogue highlighting the need of a convention on the rights of older people in the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.<sup>324</sup>

On the horizon, HelpAge has already identified goals they would like to attain by 2015. A part of its *Global Actions to 2015* to end poverty and discrimination faced by numerous elderly women and men, HelpAge is committed to enabling the elderly to have secure incomes, to receive quality health, HIV, and care services, and to have active say and support in pre and post emergency situations. They hope to continue to empower older person through developing movements locally and globally to challenge ageism and allow older persons to claim their rights.<sup>325</sup> Additionally, they have already identified targets and mechanisms to benchmark the achievement of the *Global Actions*. Within the services provided, HelpAge aims to "increase by two-thirds the number of services directly supporting older men and women, their families and communities and other service providers from 1.2 million in 2010 to 2 million in 2015".<sup>326</sup> Upholding the concept of being a network, the International is looking to "continue to strengthen their existing network and build alliances with new partners to multiply impact".<sup>327</sup> Finally, quantifiably, some of their targets include – "20 percent more older persons in 30 low and middle income countries are receiving

---

<sup>312</sup> HelpAge International. Affiliates in North America <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/our-affiliates/affiliates-in-north-america/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>313</sup> HelpAge International. Affiliates in Eastern Europe and Central Asia <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/our-affiliates/affiliates-in-eastern-europe-and-central-asia/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>314</sup> HelpAge International. Affiliates in the Caribbean <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/our-affiliates/affiliates-in-the-caribbean/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>315</sup> HelpAge International. Affiliates in South Asia <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/our-affiliates/affiliates-in-south-asia/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>316</sup> HelpAge International. Affiliates in East Asia and the Pacific <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/our-affiliates/affiliates-in-east-asia-pacific/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>317</sup> HelpAge International. Affiliates in Africa <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/our-affiliates/affiliates-in-africa/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>318</sup> HelpAge International. How We Are Accountable <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/who-we-are/how-we-are-accountable/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>319</sup> Ibid.

<sup>320</sup> HelpAge International. Finance. <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/who-we-are/finance/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>321</sup> Ibid.

<sup>322</sup> HelpAge International. Our Achievements <http://www.helpage.org/who-we-are/who-we-are/our-achievements/> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>323</sup> Ibid.

<sup>324</sup> Ibid.

<sup>325</sup> "Strategy to 2015". HelpAge International. <http://www.helpage.org/download/4c462c38a1e92> (Accessed August 1, 2013)

<sup>326</sup> Ibid.

<sup>327</sup> Ibid.



state non-contributory pensions or benefits; older persons in 15 countries preventing and managing chronic illness; and in 15 countries, older persons helped by work that prohibits or reduces discrimination against them”.<sup>328</sup> HelpAge is just one of many groups that works toward the advocacy of older person’s rights and actively works to provide that better future as well.

### ***Conclusion***

The older population is growing at a considerably faster rate than that of the world’s total population.<sup>329</sup> In absolute terms, the number of older persons has more than tripled since 1950 and will almost triple again by 2050.<sup>330</sup> In relative terms, the percentage of older persons is projected to double worldwide by the middle of this century.<sup>331</sup> The young-old balance is shifting throughout the world. In the more developed regions, the proportion of older persons already exceeds that of children, and by 2050 it is expected to be more than double that of children.<sup>332</sup> In the less developed regions, age-distribution changes have been slow but will accelerate over the coming decades.<sup>333</sup> Currently, the median age in the more developed regions is more than 13 years higher than in the less developed regions and is 20 years higher than in the least developed countries.<sup>334</sup> As time continues to move forward, we must be ready to receive the influx of aging individuals and allow them to still be the valuable members of society they are. Through many of the programs and forums already established and available, as well as with the possible addition of more or altering of those in place, we as a global society can put forth the best efforts possible to maintain the steps that have been made to protect older persons. Furthermore, we may then begin to make larger, more numerous strides in aiding our ageing populations, not just in developed or developing countries and regions, but worldwide. The elders of this world have plenty left to offer the younger generations, and as the elder population grows, we must do all we can to protect their well being and harvest the fields of lush knowledge and experience that they have sewn over their many years.

### ***Committee Directive***

The importance of the world’s ageing population is already becoming a forefront issue in international policy, and it will continue to gain importance as the years go on. With that in mind, delegates should look at ways to highlight the importance and care of this vulnerable, but extremely worthwhile demographic within the world population. This should be explored both in regards to current international agreements/policies and their effectiveness, as well as new ideas that will aid in the protection and preservation of older populations throughout the world. Delegates should also address how to use and implement what past agreements were purposed for and/or have achieved or lacked in’ and include necessary strides that need to be taken toward furthering their work or correcting their mistakes in the next phase of global development. Areas of focus should include ideas on finances of elderly populations, diseases plaguing elderly populations, as well as the proper care and treatment of elderly populations in different regions of the world.

---

<sup>328</sup> Ibid.

<sup>329</sup> World Population Ageing 2009, Economic and Social Affairs:

[http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WPA2009/WPA2009\\_WorkingPaper.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WPA2009/WPA2009_WorkingPaper.pdf)

<sup>330</sup> Ibid.

<sup>331</sup> Ibid.

<sup>332</sup> Ibid.

<sup>333</sup> Ibid.

<sup>334</sup> Ibid.

## Technical Appendix Guide

### I. Examining the Relationship between Peacebuilding, Post-Conflict Recovery, and Economic Security

United Nations Development Program. Sustaining Post-Conflict Economic Recovery: Lessons and Challenges  
New York: UNDP, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery.

This document outlines the challenges of a sustainable solution to post-conflict economic recovery by looking at specific examples throughout history. Furthermore, it highlights the economics of conflict, discussing the typical economic situation in a way that someone with very little formal education on economics can understand. This document will be helpful as it discusses the effects of conflict on infrastructure, social structures, and government and other institutions; macroeconomic policy in a post conflict world; and the effect on international aid on economic rebuilding.

Centre for the Study of African Economies – Oxford Department of Economics. Post-Conflict Recovery: How Should Policies be Distinctive?

<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~econpco/research/pdfs/PostConflict-Recovery.pdf>

This document discusses the pros and cons of a more tailored national approach to post-conflict recovery. The source goes into detail into how during conflict, economic policy and the economy in general declines discussing debt, inflation, and harmful tax policies. Focusing mostly on Africa, this resource is unique as it mentions the importance of reducing the risk of conflict and elaborates on how important it can be.

Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) Social Development Division Human Rights Unit. Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Strategies and Lessons from Bosnia and Herzegovina, El Salvador and Sierra Leone.

[http://www.cepal.org/publicaciones/xml/6/27306/sps123\\_lcl2613.pdf](http://www.cepal.org/publicaciones/xml/6/27306/sps123_lcl2613.pdf)

This paper reviews specific conflict and peace building efforts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, El Salvador and Sierra Leone. It examines at the peace agreement and the surprising relatively high economic growth following this agreement. Using three case studies, the Human Rights Unit argues that post-conflict peacebuilding increases the chances of better economic growth and performance. This resource will offer insight discusses the incredibly important role of health and education systems in the long-term recovery of the state.

United Nations Development Program. Crisis Prevention and Recovery Report (2008): Post-Conflict Economic Recovery (Enabling Local Ingenuity)

[http://www.undp.org.tr/publicationsDocuments/Post\\_Conflict\\_Economic\\_Recovery\\_Report.pdf](http://www.undp.org.tr/publicationsDocuments/Post_Conflict_Economic_Recovery_Report.pdf)

This report takes a look at local ingenuity and the role it can play in economic recovery. The document investigates the important role of the state in post-conflict recovery and significance of accountability and a legitimate state. This document will be helpful in looking at the role of international aid in mobilizing capital and economic recovery.

Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre. Women, Peace and Security in Post-Conflict and Peacebuilding Contexts

[http://www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/true\\_noref\\_unscr1325\\_feb\\_2013\\_final.pdf](http://www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/true_noref_unscr1325_feb_2013_final.pdf)

This article discusses the important role of women in peacebuilding contexts. This document focuses more on the social aspects of post-conflict peacebuilding and how post-conflict peacebuilding should reinforce gender equality. Further, the document inspects work and ways to improve state responses to gender-based violence, secure the rights of women, and incorporate women into financial recovery efforts.

World Bank. Post-Conflict Peace Building in Africa: The Challenges of Socio-Economic Recovery and Development

<http://www.worldbank.org/afr/wps/wp73.pdf>

This World Bank publication takes an in depth look into socio-economic recovery studying specific peace building missions in Africa. The document analyzes at the mechanisms for financing a transition from emergency crisis spending to economic development. In addition to the economics of economic recovery, the article discusses some important potential institutional reforms and covers such topics as ethnic diversity, employment, and long-term development.

Katwal, Khagendra (2011) “Nepal: Post-Conflict Economic Recovery”

<http://www.telegraphnepal.com/national/2011-12-28/nepal:-post-conflict-economic-recovery-challenges-ahead>

This article argues that leadership is a fundamental aspect of successful, sustainable economic recovery after a conflict. The document focuses on the importance of international support and acknowledges that it is not the sole or most critical aspect. Using the process of rebuilding in Nepal to make that argument, this document takes a look at specific suggestions for aiding Nepal’s recovery. This resource will be helpful as it provides options for solutions may be helpful in formulating your own solutions for the problem in general.

The United States Institute of Peace. Assessing the Transition in Afghanistan

<http://www.usip.org/publications/assessing-the-transition-in-afghanistan>

This document specifically considers at the situation in Afghanistan. While it discusses the economic and political transitions taking place, it ties these two together and argues that only through a legitimate government will allow for successful economic recovery. This article offers suggestions for achieving this transition in post-conflict recovery successfully.

## **II. Continuing Progress in the Eradication of Extreme Poverty through Addressing the Needs of the Aging Population**

HelpAge International. Age Demands Action in Bangladesh (Progress Report on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA))

<http://www.globalaging.org/agingwatch/Madrid.pdf>

This report reviews the progress achieved by the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), specifically in Bangladesh. The report offers thought provoking questions applicable to the rest of the world. This resource will be helpful as many of the issues Bangladesh faces are mirrored throughout the world and thus potential solutions for further progress on the MIPAA in Bangladesh may be used to think of global solutions.

InterAction. “*The World’s Aging Population Is An Opportunity For The Economy - Not Simply A Burden On It*”

<http://www.interaction.org/blog/worlds-aging-population-opportunity-economy-not-simply-burden-it>

This blog provides statistics on ageing and adds a personal spin to the discussion. Furthermore, this website discusses HelpAge’s work on ageing and provides suggested solutions for making progress in this area. This resource will be helpful as it provides links throughout the article to other sources to with delegate research.

Human Development Research Centre. Chronic Poverty Among Old People In Bangladesh

[http://www.hdrc-bd.com/pcs\\_pdf/5%20Poverty/04.%20Chronic%20Poverty%20among%20Older%20People%20in%20Bangladesh.pdf](http://www.hdrc-bd.com/pcs_pdf/5%20Poverty/04.%20Chronic%20Poverty%20among%20Older%20People%20in%20Bangladesh.pdf)

This article draws a connection between ageing and poverty by specifically looking at older people in Bangladesh. This study aims to examine the existing information and data about poverty and increase the amount and efficiency of research on chronic poverty among the aging population. This study can be helpful to the delegates to help frame possible solutions based on research and data management efforts by looking at the data available and the research needed still.

United National Population Fund. “Overview of Available Policies and Legislation, Data and Research, and Institutional Arrangements Relating To Older Persons - Progress Since Madrid”

[http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2011/Older\\_Persons\\_Report.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2011/Older_Persons_Report.pdf)

This document is a thorough review of progress in implementing MIPAA in about 133 countries since 2002. This overview includes a discussion of current policy, legislation, data and research and provides a list of recommendations to address the ongoing needs and failures in implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. The document will be instrumental as discusses in detail the importance of sharing good practices in order to avoid policy failures and ensure that capacity can be built in order to build a society inclusive of all ages.

United Nations. "Living Arrangements, Poverty, and the Health of Older Persons in Africa"

[http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/bulletin42\\_43/ramashala.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/bulletin42_43/ramashala.pdf)

This article investigates the dire economic conditions in much of Africa and how they disproportionately affect older Africans. The document discusses not only the economic disparity among the ageing population, but also the health effects of poverty on the older population including topics such as disability, social and geographic mobility, institutionalization, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other chronic illnesses. The article will be helpful as it compares Africa to developed nations and takes a critical look at possible solutions for the problems that Africa is facing.

The Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN). ASIA: Isolation, Poverty Loom for an Aging Population

<http://www.irinnews.org/report/94856/ASIA-Isolation-poverty-loom-for-an-aging-population>

This article examines the looming challenge of an ageing population in Asia and on this region. It discusses the impacts of income and health briefly. This article can serve as a jumping point for delegates to expand their research on these two topics in particular for the region.

Center for American Progress. Elderly Poverty: The Challenge Before Us

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/poverty/report/2008/07/30/4690/elderly-poverty-the-challenge-before-us/>

This article discusses the problems with how poverty rates are measured and argues that poverty among the elderly in some developed nations is actually at a much higher rate than estimated due to the fact that poverty measurements do not take certain costs into factor. It also addresses the difference in poverty rates among different ethnic groups in the United States. This resource will serve well as it offers discussion on issues that affect poverty including retirement, health care, energy, food insecurity, transportation and predatory lending.

Gender and Health Collaborative Curriculum Project. Introduction to Poverty and Aging

<http://www.genderandhealth.ca/en/modules/poverty/poverty-aging-epidemiology-01.jsp?r=>

This website actually provides a module that delegates can complete to gain a better understanding of the relationship between poverty and ageing in Canada. The website can also be used as an interactive example of the way technology and the internet can lead to educating people on issues central to poverty and ageing.