

SRMUN Atlanta 2015
*Unifying Our Global Community through
Humanitarian Collaboration*
November 19-21, 2015
Atlanta, GA
cpd_atlanta@srmun.org



Esteemed Delegates,

Greetings delegates of SRMUN Atlanta 2015. My name is Keith Brannum, and I am the Director for the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). I am a graduate student with a background in national security administration and foreign policy and have had the privilege of previously serving on SRMUN staff in several capacities. Timothy Walsh is joining SRMUN staff as the Assistant Director for CPD. This dais has worked hard and will continue to do so in the hope of making the CPD committee experience a memorable one for all participating delegates.

The CPD's mission is to study, review, and implement programs designed to execute the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) *Programme of Action*. The Commission works with the Economic and Social Council and other UN bodies to ensure Member States are responding adequately to changing population trends and challenges, from overpopulation and resource management to special issues affecting identified groups, such as workers, women, and children. Considering the impact that populations and population trends can have in situations where humanitarian efforts may be needed, this committee is positioned to tackle humanitarian challenges from a unique perspective. The topics for this committee are listed as follows:

- I. Strengthening and Expanding Cooperation on International Migration
- II. Addressing the Rise of Megacities

Each delegation must utilize their research to write a position paper covering both topics. Please limit the position paper to no more than two pages in length, and it must be single spaced, in times new roman font. The position paper is a delegation's opportunity to present their Member State's policies, programs, positions, and recommendations for change. For more detailed information about formatting and information on how to write position papers, delegates can visit the SRMUN website. **All position papers MUST be submitted by 11:59pm EST on 30 October 2015 via the online submission system on the SRMUN website, which can be found at <http://www.srmun.org>.**

This background guide serves as an original source of information regarding the topics you will be debating in the committee. Delegates should research and evaluate a variety of studies, casework, and program literature related to the topics from the background guide and other legitimate sources to create a rich portfolio on each topic. While the guide has resources you can use, delegates are also encouraged to see what their own Member States have done to address challenges related to the Commission's work, and integrate them into their discussion framework.

Best of luck in your research and writing, and we are looking forward to meeting you at SRMUN Atlanta 2015. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Timothy, myself, or the Director-General Joel Fitzgerald.

Keith Brannum
Director
cpd_atlanta@srmun.org

Timothy Walsh
Assistant Director
cpd_atlanta@srmun.org

Joel Fitzgerald
Director-General
dg_atlanta@srmun.org

The History of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development

A Population Commission was founded on 3 October 1946 by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) under Resolution E/49/128.¹ The commission met biennially until it started meeting annually in December of 1994, at which time the body was renamed as the United Nations "Commission on Population and Development" (CPD).² The CPD is a branch of the Population Division within The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).³ The Population Division functions as the secretariat for the CPD.⁴ The Commission was initially established for the sole purpose of integrating international action and monitoring the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development's (ICPD) Programme of Action but has evolved, and now it studies, reports and evaluates progress on the following action areas under its current mandate: population issues and trends, integrating population and development strategies, population and related development programs, assisting developing Member States experiencing economic transitions, and providing advice regarding population development assistance.⁵ Additionally, the Commission provides recommendations to ECOSOC Member States on actions necessary or important for furthering key development priorities related to population development, such as sustainability, education, and healthcare.⁶ The CPD is mandated to follow-up on the progress of the ICPD Programme of Action, and therefore, its work has been mainly influenced by this key document and meets once a year to discuss relevant topics to the Programme of Action.⁷ During its annual sessions, the CPD reports on the current progress made on the implementation of the Programme of Action, and offers suggestions on new initiatives and areas that need further improvement. Additionally, the Commission oversees changes in population and its impact on certain demographic segments, and addresses specific themes such as international migration and family planning.⁸

Over time, the Commission's mandate has evolved to fit changing international needs. In 1999, five years after the initiation of the Programme of Action, the General Assembly adopted in their twenty-first special session of the United Nations General Assembly, the ICPD + 5 Key Actions Document.⁹ This Document included an assessment of the progress made since 1994. In 2014, 20 years after the ICPD Conference in Cairo, the *ICPD beyond 2014 Global Report* was adopted by a special session of the UN General Assembly.¹⁰ Using the collected data since 1994, the program's original framework was reaffirmed and expanded. This updated report focuses on the challenges that growing inequality poses worldwide, especially for youth and women.¹¹ The groundwork for this report was done during the 47th Session of the CPD titled "Assessment of the Status of Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development."¹²

Reports such as *Adolescent Fertility since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo* demonstrate the work of the Commission in its efforts to meet the needs of the growing adolescent youth population, which has manifested various challenges and opportunities in international policymaking.¹² These types of reports help guide the actions taken to address such issues. Furthermore, the CPD has been proactive in cooperating with other UN bodies on issues related to the environment and climate change. Like all other UN

¹ "Commission on Population and Development," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/index.shtml> (accessed May 24, 2015).

² Ibid.

³ "Secretariat," United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/about-un/secretariat/index.html> (accessed June 10, 2015)

⁴ "Branches and Sections," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/about/branch/index.shtml> (accessed June 11, 2015).

⁵ "Commission on Population and Development," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/index.shtml> (accessed May 24, 2015).

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ "ICPD +5: Gains for Women Despite Opposition," Center for Reproductive Rights, October, 1999, http://www.reproductiverights.org/sites/default/files/documents/pub_bp_ICPD+5.pdf (accessed June 10, 2015)

¹⁰ "ICPD Beyond 2014," International Conference on Population and Development, <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/> (accessed May 24, 2015).

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² "Commission on Population and Development," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/index.shtml> (accessed May 24, 2015).

bodies, the Commission is working towards the full fruition of the goals set out through the Rio+20 Convention held 20-22 of June 2012. The Rio+20 initiatives are a broad set of goals established to help guide the global community towards further progression of sustainable development practices.¹³ The CPD's work includes the production of vital data such as the *Population and Development Database 2014* that pulls together government information from over 230 Member States, and the *International Migration Policies: Government Views and Priorities*, which highlights current trends in migration.¹⁴ The CPD's work is also reflected in The General Assembly through the adoption of resolutions such as the *Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development*.¹⁵ This Resolution draws on the work of the CPD in the area of migration. The CPD's work is becoming more and more important as the global population continues to grow, creating new opportunities and challenges for global leadership. The research that the commission provides for the United Nations, Governments, and NGO's allows for more educated actions and policy making that will impact development.

The 47 current Member States of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development include:

ARGENTINA, ALGERIA, BANGLADESH, BELGIUM, BENIN, BRAZIL, CHAD, CHINA, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, GABON, GEORGIA, GERMANY, IRAN, JAPAN, LIBERIA, MADAGASCAR, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, MONGOLIA, NETHERLANDS, NIGERIA, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PERU, PORTUGAL, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SERBIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, TURKMENISTAN, UGANDA, URUGUAY, THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ZAMBIA

¹³ "Sustainable Development," United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/rio20> (accessed June 11, 2015).

¹⁴ "Population Division Publications," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/index.shtml> (accessed June 11, 2015).

¹⁵ A/RES/68/4. *The Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development*. October 1, 2013.

I: Strengthening and Expanding Cooperation on International Migration

“International migration is a global phenomenon that is growing in scope, complexity and impact. Migration is both a cause and effect of broader development processes and an intrinsic feature of our ever globalizing world. While no substitute for development, migration can be a positive force for development when supported by the right set of policies. The rise in global mobility, the growing complexity of migratory patterns and its impact on countries, migrants, families and communities has all contributed to international migration becoming a priority for the international community,”¹⁶ - United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division

Introduction

In general, international migration refers to the movement of individuals from one territory to another between Member States. Different types of migration exist, perhaps reflective of the myriad reasons migration occurs. Migration patterns that have been defined by the UN include: temporary labor migration, highly skilled and business migration, irregular migration, forced migration, family reunification migration, and return migration.¹⁷ Temporary labor migrants do not permanently settle in host Member States and usually migrate for reasons associated with employment opportunities. Highly skilled and business migrants are individuals who hold valuable skills and work within international organizations, corporations, or are seeking employment within international labor markets, and many Member States create programs designed to attract highly skilled and business migrants.¹⁸ Irregular migrants are individuals who migrate without the necessary documents or without following legal protocol; often when seeking work opportunities.¹⁹ Forced migration can occur for various reasons, and this category of migrants includes refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced persons.²⁰ Family reunification migration occurs when family members join another family member in the new territory, and return migration occurs when individuals travel back to where they are considered citizens.²¹ The number of individuals migrating across international borders has largely increased over the last two decades: according to a report completed by the UN Department Of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), between the years of 1990 and 2013, international migration increased by 50 percent.²² By 2013, the population of migrants was 232 million with the 10 largest host Member States being The United States, The Russian Federation, Germany, Saudi Arabia, The United Arab Emirates, The United Kingdom, France, Canada, Australia, and Spain with 51 percent of migrants.²³

The results of migration can be extremely beneficial for all Member States that are party to the migration, but can also have detrimental effects. These benefits are primarily financial do to the fact that many migrants leave their

¹⁶ “International Migration,” United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/international-migration/index.shtml (accessed June 9, 2015).

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² "International Migration Report 2013," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, December 2013, http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/migration/migrationreport2013/Full_Document_fi nal.pdf (accessed June 10, 2015).

²³ Ibid.

place of origin seeking out greater economic opportunity. As a result, migrants who receive work abroad have improved economic situations. This can be supportive both for the economies of the Member State of origin and for the host Member State, as a migrant who works within a host Member State provides a source of labor that may be in demand, therefore filling a labor gap. There is also a reverse reward as simultaneously the economy of their original Member State is boosted as a result of the migrant sending money to family members, which is referred to as a remittance. Remittances are huge economic drivers in some developing Member States and give the families of migrants' greater social and economic stability.²⁴ For example, a family where a member has migrated and acquired work may now be able to send a child to school, whereas in the past that could have been much more difficult, if not impossible. According to the Migration Policy Institute, in some cases remittances can be as much as 20 percent of a State's total Gross Domestic Product (GDP).²⁵ In contrast to these positive factors there are some negatives. Migrants are at a higher risk of exploitation than patriots. A perfect example of this comes from the 2014 Sochi winter Olympics and the preparation that preceded the event. Temporary labor migrants were used by both government and private employers to help construct the new facilities for the event.²⁶ Human Rights Watch conducted interviews with international labor migrants who reported some of the abuses and human rights violations that were committed by employers, which included confiscating important documents from migrants to insure that the employee could not leave or seek work somewhere else. Migrants who were interviewed reported that the employer would withhold wages for actions that were deemed wrong by the employer such as taking a day off from work. The mandated and expected work hours were clear violations of human rights: according to the report, migrant workers who were interviewed expected to work 12 hour days with one day off every two weeks.²⁷

Root Causes: Factors Leading to Migration

Myriad factors influence a person's decision to migrate, including economic reasons such as poverty and economic hardships, and socio-political and environmental reasons such as political instability, environmental disasters, and armed conflict. These are both reasons for leaving a Member State, and reasons for migrating to a new host Member State. Factors that influence someone to leave a Member State are generally referred to as "push factors", while factors that influence migration by drawing migrants to a particular host Member State are commonly referred to as "pull factors", and it is important to note the distinction between the two types.²⁸ Some examples of pull factors include a demand for service jobs (and other jobs that typically are considered low-skill jobs), higher incomes, and easier access to credit, insurance, and social welfare benefits.²⁹ Environmental factors including climate change and natural hazards certainly play a role, as they can contribute to food and water shortages or insecurity, pushing people to migrate to an area where those resources are in less demand. Environmental factors can also be pull factors, considering that people tend to migrate towards attractive areas such as mountains, sea side locations, and areas with warmer climates.³⁰

Looking at the big picture, it is also important to identify trends in the international community that have led to increased migration, which include: globalization and technological advancement, the liberalization of labor markets, increased frequency of internal armed conflict and general oppression by Member State governments (particularly of marginalized or vulnerable populations), and an increasing frequency and severity of disasters.

²⁴ "Global Remittances Guide," Migration Policy Institute, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/global-remittances-guide> (accessed June 9, 2015).

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ "Race to the Bottom, Exploitation of Migrant Workers Ahead of Russia's 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi," Human Rights Watch, February 2013, http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/russia0213_ForUpload.pdf (accessed June 10, 2015).

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ "Migration Push/Pull Factors," Lane Tech, May 10, 2015, http://lewishistoricalsociety.com/wiki2011/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=28 (accessed July 15, 2015).

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

Globalization has been catapulted forward thanks largely in part to technological advancement, particularly in the areas of transportation and communication.³¹ Shorter travel times and increased access to easy, affordable communication that does not require travel have both mitigated some very large burdens associated with migration, making it easier overall. Globalization has led to increased integration of the world's economies, allowing for easier transfer of funds across borders. The ability of migrants to send remittances to their Member State of origin has therefore become much easier, and according to the Population Division of DESA's *International Migration 2006* report, remittances in the year 2004 totaled 20 percent of the GDP in Member States, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haiti, Jordan, Lesotho, the Republic of Moldova, and Tonga.³² Globalization has also led to an increase in the wealth disparities between developing and developed Member States, another factor that influences migration.³³

The liberalization of labor markets has contributed to increased migration due to an increase in the number of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), and the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). These agreements tend to benefit corporations but seem to not benefit local communities and economies. For example, when NAFTA became effective, more than 1.3 million farmers in Mexico went out of business, which is attributed to the fact that because of NAFTA, agricultural businesses in the USA were able to sell corn and other agricultural products that are mass-produced and therefore sell these at lower prices in Mexico than farmers within Mexico could.³⁴ This encouraged an increase in undocumented immigration from Mexico to the United States, and in fact, data shows a 60 percent increase in the number of undocumented immigrants since the passage of NAFTA.³⁵

Conflict and disaster also play a large role in migration. A paradigm shift from inter-State to intra-State conflict has occurred since the end of the cold war.³⁶ Internal conflicts have therefore contributed to an increasing number of refugees and asylum-seekers. Climate change is expected to cause increased food and water insecurity, and lead to a higher number of disasters, as well as an increase in the severity of disaster on a global level.³⁷ The international community has recently begun to emphasize and focus on Disaster Risk Reduction in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change and other factors on disasters, and continues to focus in this area.

Examples of Beneficial and Successful Migration

Migration tends to have a negative connotation, but it is important to note that migration can also positively impact a Member State, as was the case in Australia during and after World War II. By the end of World War II, hundreds of thousands of individuals were displaced due to the fighting.³⁸ At the same time, Australia experienced a population crisis: Australia's population was not growing, and Australian officials predicted that a decline in population growth

³¹ "An Age of Migration: Globalization and the Root Causes of Migration," OneAmerica, <https://www.weareoneamerica.org/root-causes-migration-fact-sheet> (accessed July 15, 2015).

³² "International Migration 2006," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, March 2006, http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/2006Migration_Chart/Migration2006.pdf (accessed July 15, 2015).

³³ "An Age of Migration: Globalization and the Root Causes of Migration," OneAmerica, <https://www.weareoneamerica.org/root-causes-migration-fact-sheet> (accessed July 15, 2015).

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ "Failed Trade Policy & Immigration: Cause & Effect," Public Citizen, <http://www.citizen.org/documents/ImmigrationFactSheetFinal011309.pdf> (accessed July 15, 2015).

³⁶ "An Age of Migration: Globalization and the Root Causes of Migration," OneAmerica, <https://www.weareoneamerica.org/root-causes-migration-fact-sheet> (accessed July 15, 2015).

³⁷ "Factors Influencing Migration and Population Movements - Part 1," Future Directions International, October 24, 2014, <http://www.futuredirections.org.au/publications/indian-ocean/2001-factors-influencing-migration-and-population-movements.html> (accessed July 15, 2015).

³⁸ Bernard Wasserstein, "European Refugee Movements After World War Two," BBC, February 17, 2011, http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/refugees_01.shtml (accessed May 11, 2015).

could potentially negatively impact the Member State's future labor force and overall economic development.³⁹ To address the problem, the Australian government enacted a very ambitious immigration policy in an effort to increase the population and its potential labor force, resulting in the immigration of over two million individuals between 1945 and 1965.⁴⁰ The program was made possible through the cooperation of international organizations and Member States involved.⁴¹ The Australian government worked closely with organizations such as the International Refugee Organization (IRO) to help facilitate the resettlement of refugees from Eastern Europe after the war. These types of programs have been repeated over time within the country. For example, the Australia government assisted in the resettlement of Indochinese persons after the Vietnam War.⁴² According to the Australian Government's Department of Immigration and Border Protection, the benefits of the Member State's immigration policies have been experienced both on the demand side of the economy and on the supply side. On the demand side, the benefits originate from the money that migrants spend and the expansion of businesses, and can also be seen in other areas of the economy.⁴³ On the supply side the effects can be seen with the contributions that migrants have made to technology, businesses that migrants have started, and as a result of the collective knowledge of the immigrants.⁴⁴

Located in Kenya is the world's largest refugee complex known as The Dadaab.⁴⁵ It is estimated that over 589 thousand forced migrants are currently within various camps within Kenya with many of them originating from Somalia.⁴⁶ Somalian immigrants left for multiple reasons, including violence and famine, which resulted in very unstable institutions within Somalia.⁴⁷ Since the late 1970s Somalia has experienced many violent conflicts that have displaced millions. Kenya is a signatory to the 1951 Convention on The Rights of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol; therefore, Kenya is inclined to assist individuals who fall under the definition of a refugee set by the 1951 convention.⁴⁸

The Role of the United Nations and International Community

The UN's increasing commitment to address international migration can be traced back to 1974 at the third United Nations Population Conference in Bucharest, where Member States committed to the *World Population Plan of Action* (WPPA), acknowledging both the positive and negative repercussions stemming from population growth worldwide with an emphasis on the negative effects. One of the main objectives included the facilitation and protection of voluntary migration between Member States as well as the prevention of forced migration.⁴⁹ Ten years later, the world community congregated again in Mexico for the UN International Conference on Population.⁵⁰ The conference expanded the WPPA by drawing from data gathered since the conference in Bucharest.⁵¹ The

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ "Fact Sheet 4 – More than 65 Years of Post-war Migration" Australia's Department of Immigration and Border Protection www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/04fifty.htm (accessed May 10, 2015)

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ "Dadaab - World's Biggest Refugee Camp 20 Years Old," UNHCR, February 21, 2012, <http://www.unhcr.org/4f439dbb9.html> (accessed June 17, 2015).

⁴⁶ "2015 UNHCR Country Operations Profile - Kenya," UNHCR, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e483a16.html> (accessed June 17, 2015).

⁴⁷ Sally Healy and Mark Bradbury, "Endless War: A Brief History of the Somali Conflict," Conciliation Resources, 2010, <http://www.c-r.org/accord-article/endless-war-brief-history-somali-conflict> (accessed June 17, 2015).

⁴⁸ "Refugees and Stateless Persons," United Nations Treaty Collection, https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetailsII.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=V-2&chapter=5&Temp=mtdsg2&lang=en (accessed June 17, 2015).

⁴⁹ "World Population Plan of Action," United Nation Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, <http://www.un.org/popin/icpd/conference/bkg/wppa.html> (accessed May 4, 2015).

⁵⁰ "Outcomes on Population," the United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/development/devagenda/population.shtml> (accessed May 4, 2015).

⁵¹ Ibid.

establishment of the ICPD Program of Action (PoA), overseen by the CPD, was a major landmark for the UN's participation in the issue of migration.⁵² In dealing with international migration, the PoA links migration to development and institutes a set of policies concerning documented and undocumented migrants as well as refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons.⁵³

More recently, in 2003, the Global Commission on International Migration was established by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan which consisted of 19 commissioners that were appointed to create what became the *Global Report on International Migration Issues* within the following two years; the report primarily called for international frameworks and awareness of existing regional differences worldwide, as well as the interplay of issues resulting from international migration, such as human rights concerns, employment and rights of migrant workers, irregular migration, and education and health concerns.⁵⁴ In order to adequately deal with these aforementioned issues, Kofi Annan initiated the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006.⁵⁵ This dialogue led to the establishment of two important UN entities: the appointment of Peter Sutherland as the United Nations Special Representative of the SG for International Migration, and the creation of the “voluntary, State-led and non-binding Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).”⁵⁶ Additionally, Kofi Annan established an inter-agency group, the Global Migration Group (GMG), which facilitates cooperation between UN agencies and committees that deal with issues related to migration.⁵⁷ Since then, a second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development took place in 2013.⁵⁸ In his Report *A/68/190*, SG Ban- Ki Moon announced an “eight-point agenda of action.”⁵⁹ These points address the problem of the integration of migrants, widespread exploitation of migrants, and irregular migration. In the same year, the CPD dedicated its 46th session to international migration, with the title “New Trends in Migration: Demographic Aspects.”⁶⁰ The session produced a resolution with the same title, reinforcing the protection of human rights and the distinct responsibilities of Member States in this regard.⁶¹ In order to adequately respond to the issues associated with monetary remittances, the World Bank Group and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) founded the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) in 2013.⁶² Dr. Martin Dahinden, Director-General of SDC describes the KNOMAD objectives as follows:

⁵² "Commission on Population and Development," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/index.shtml> (accessed May 13, 2015).

⁵³ Bela Hovy, "International Migration and the United Nations Development Agenda: From ICPD 1994 to HLD 2006," UN Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, October 12, 2012, http://www.un.org/esa/population/migration/hlmimd2013/DESA_From%20Cairo%20to%20HLD_Oct%202012_clean.pdf (accessed May 4, 2015).

⁵⁴ Kathleen Newland, "Migration's Unrealized Potential: The Report of the Global Commission on International Migration," Migration Policy Institute, November 1, 2005, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/migrations-unrealized-potential-report-global-commission-international-migration> (accessed May 4, 2015).

⁵⁵ *A/61/515. Summary of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development*. United Nations General Assembly. October 2016.

⁵⁶ "United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General," UN Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/partners/srsg.shtml> (accessed May 4, 2015).

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ "High-level Meetings of the 68th Session of the General Assembly," General Assembly of the United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/migration/about.shtml> (accessed May 4, 2015).

⁵⁹ "Making Migration Work: An Eight-point Agenda for Action," United Nations, October 2013, http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/migration/pdf/migration_8points_en.pdf (accessed May 4, 2015).

⁶⁰ "Forty-sixth Session," UN Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, April 2013, <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/sessions/2013/index.shtml> (accessed May 4, 2015).

⁶¹ *E/CN.9/2013/L.4. Special theme for the Commission on Population and Development in 2015*. United Nations Economic and Social Council. April 2013.

⁶² "World Bank, Swiss Development and Cooperative Agency Endorse New Initiative on Migration," The World Bank, September 11, 2013 <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2013/09/11/world-bank-swiss-development-cooperation-agency-endorse-new-initiative-migration> (accessed May 4, 2015).

“KNOMAD’s focus on migration and development meets a critical demand for a sound knowledge base in a thematic field that is still relatively new to us. Many crucial questions, however, remain unanswered and the complexity of the phenomenon only exacerbates the challenge of dealing with migration in a way that is beneficial to all stakeholders.”⁶³

Recent actions such as the Thirteen Coordination Meeting on International Migration led by the Population Division of the DESA focus on the integration of international migration into the post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda.⁶⁴ The close cooperation between the CPD and other UN agencies on international migration continues. The large number of active UN entities includes among many others the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The UNHCR adopted the “Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration: A 10-Point Plan of Action” in 2007 which primarily deals with the improvement of “cooperation among key partners” which include concerned entities such as Governments, international organizations and NGOs.⁶⁵ In 2011, the UNHCR published the follow-up document called “Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration: A 10-Point Plan in Action” which consists of practical solutions for the implementation of the plan.⁶⁶ Moreover, UNHCR focuses strongly on strengthening cooperation on a local and regional level. For example, the UNHCR established a Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) in the Asia-Pacific area.⁶⁷ One of its closest partners in the RCF is the International Organization for Migration (IOM) which further highlights UNHCR’s emphasis on cooperation between UN- and non-UN entities.⁶⁸ Apart from UNHCR’s work, the ILO has dedicated itself to ameliorate labor conditions for migrants across the world. One of its major focuses lies on advising Governments on how to develop their labor regulations and policies.⁶⁹

Conclusion

It is of growing importance that in an ever more globalized world, the potential of International Migration be fully realized through international cooperation both for Member States and for migrants. Globalization, advanced by technological improvements in communication and transportation, has greatly influenced migration by allowing for an environment where distance between Member States seem like less significant of an obstacle than in the past due to decreased travel time, as well as the ability to communicate without traveling back and forth. At the same time that communication and transportation advances have occurred, the world's economies have become increasingly more integrated, which has resulted in more convenient ways for migrants to send funds, or remittances, to their families. Research shows that the wealth inequality between developing and developed Member States has increased with increasing globalization, which is another contributing factor to increasing numbers of international migrants.

The positive qualities of migration, if supported by good policies and cooperation, can contribute to broader initiatives associated with social mobility and quality of life for those involved. This has been exemplified through

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ “Thirteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration New York,” United Nations Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, February 2015
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/coordination/13/index.shtml> (accessed June 17, 2015).

⁶⁵ “Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration: A 10-Point Plan of Action,” United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2006, <http://www.unhcr.org/4d52864b9.html> (accessed June 17, 2015).

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ “International Migration and Development: Contributions and Recommendations of the International System,” United Nations, 2013, http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/CEB_GMG_web.pdf (accessed June 15, 2015).

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

policies such as those put in place by the Australian Government in the past to help grow the total population. Individuals migrating for financial opportunity include temporary labor migrants, highly skilled and business migrants, and irregular migrants. Forced migration is one example of an exception to migration for economic reasons. Migrants seeking economic opportunity have the option to make choices concerning their condition and though they may experience outside pressure to migrate, they are not necessarily forced to migrate. Forced migration includes refugees, asylum seekers, and environmental migrants. Remittances are a positive result of migration, and help drive economic development in Member States of origin. Migrants are at a greater risk of exploitation and have been taken advantage of in the past, such as were exemplified during the construction of infrastructure for the 2014 winter Olympics in Russia. Migration, if supported by the right policies, can help drive broader initiatives associated with social mobility and economic development, contributing to positive growth and development and better quality of life for migrants in a way that is beneficial to all stake-holders involved in the process.

Committee Directive

Looking at successful examples of multilateral cooperation between national Governments and non-State actors who are key stakeholders (trade unions, civil society groups, employers, private recruitment agencies, etc), how can we ensure that these examples of cooperation are built upon to protect of the rights of migrants and guarantee migrants' participation in the economic and social life of their host Member States? What policies have proven effective in creating the most beneficial environment for all stakeholders, for example, by facilitating transfer of remittances, guaranteeing access to health and education, and ensuring access to critical social services? What, if anything, can Member States do to support their migrant nationals working abroad to ensure that they become positive assets for their national economies, as well as assets for development in their communities?

What are best practices and tangible results realized by bilateral, regional, and global cooperation mechanisms specifically pertaining to migration and development issues? Is it possible to replicate these in other regions? How can the international community best support these efforts? In terms of bilateral agreements for migration, what are some lessons learned? Are there methods or policies that have been shown to be more effective in facilitating positive migration? In protecting migrants' rights? Have bilateral agreements and migration policies, in general, had a positive influence on the migration? If not, what can be done to ensure that migration has positive outcomes for all stakeholders? Delegates should research thoroughly to find good examples of how migration and development cooperation efforts to determine what factors and policies have effective in supporting national Governments with integrating migration into development planning or projects, and think about how these measure can be amplified.

II: Addressing the Rise of Megacities

Introduction

In its 2007 Report, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) predicted that for the first time in human history, more than half of the global population will be living in cities. Today, the globe is seeing a new kind of urbanization and the rise of the “mega-city,” a sprawling metropolis whose population exceeds that of a small country, the equivalent of approximately 10 million inhabitants.⁷⁰ In 1970, there were two cities that fit the criteria of mega-city, New York City and Tokyo, but today, according to Nick Martindale of *Economia*, there are 29 cities around the world classified as megacities. The vast majority of megacities are located in developing Member States, where by 2030, it is expected that 80 percent of urban dwellers will reside.⁷¹ Such a demographic shift is accompanied with a changing role that cities will play in the 21st century where globalization and international commerce play a greater role than in the previous industrial revolution.

⁷⁰ Nick Martindale, “The Rise of Megacities,” *Economia*, December 4, 2014, <http://economia.icaew.com/business/december-2014/megacities-and-their-weakness> (accessed May 18, 2015).

⁷¹ Ibid.

This new wave of urban development is characterized by a new wave of migration created by global forces such as globalization, climate change, and renewed opportunities. Furthermore, manufacturing-based economies are giving way to service and knowledge-based economies, especially financial services, forcing firms to locate in areas of high population density, highly educated workforces, and areas of relatively competitive income levels in order to attract talent.⁷² Yet, many of these new urban centers will struggle to compete with established urban centers such as New York or London, largely due to several factors, including: the high concentration of low-income populations, the lack of infrastructure necessary to sustain growth over the long-term, and basic services such as access to affordable healthcare, utilities, and unemployment services.⁷³ This emerging issue has required a national and international response by both cities and Member States, but will need a larger investment of resources and strategies to mitigate harmful consequences of mega-cities.⁷⁴ Mega-cities with populations of 10 million or greater include Tokyo, Mumbai (Bombay), Mexico City, Sao Paulo, New York-Newark, Delhi, Shanghai, Kolkata (Calcutta), Dhaka, Jakarta, Lagos, Karachi, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Manila, Beijing, Rio de Janeiro, Osaka-Kobe, Istanbul, Moscow, and Guangzhou.⁷⁵

History

Urban centers today play a strong role in creating GDP growth for national and regional economies, encouraging trade, generating jobs and employment opportunities, organizing resources for national growth, and producing more goods and services.⁷⁶ Urbanization has been the result of massive displacement, immediate or over time, of people and their movement towards a city center. The reasons for this movement include economic opportunity in the city, desire for security not guaranteed by living off the land, political instability, and social change, which can all contribute to city growth. The first wave of migrations to urban centers started in 1750, followed by the industrial revolution in Great Britain in the late 1790s and the United States in early 1800s. The rate of urban growth, while still strong in the developed world, has tapered off as the Second Wave began, which is largely taking place in the developing world, especially in Africa.⁷⁷

Since 1980, the highest growth in population has taken place in the developing world, mainly focused in Africa and Asia, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean. Internally, the largest driver of urbanization is the result of internal migrations to larger urban centers. Mortality rates worldwide have declined, causing the median age in every Member State, except for India and China, to drop from 30 to 24.⁷⁸ Furthermore, according to the UNFPA, most people are migrating to urban centers, driven by promises of jobs, better quality of life, and, in some cases, seeking refuge from violence and insecurity.⁷⁹ The inflow of refugees, both economic and war-time, has also caused urban centers to swell at paces unseen since the Second World War.⁸⁰ In this second wave, globalization is a critical

⁷² "Urban Land: Space and the City," *The Economist* (April 4, 2015), <http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21647614-poor-land-use-worlds-greatest-cities-carries-huge-cost-space-and-city> (accessed June 14, 2015).

⁷³ A/42/427. *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development*. United Nations Secretary-General. August 4, 1987.

⁷⁴ Camaren Peter and Mark Swilling, "Sustainable, Resource Efficient Cities - Making it Happen!," United Nations Environment Programme, 2012, http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/PDFs/SustainableResourceEfficientCities.pdf (accessed May 18, 2015).

⁷⁵ "World Urbanization Prospects: The 2005 Revision," United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2006, http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WUP2005/2005WUP_FS7.pdf (accessed June 15, 2015).

⁷⁶ Camaren Peter and Mark Swilling, "Sustainable, Resource Efficient Cities - Making it Happen!," United Nations Environment Programme, 2012, http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/PDFs/SustainableResourceEfficientCities.pdf (accessed May 18, 2015).

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

⁷⁸ Joseph Chaime, "Mega-Cities, Mortality and Migration," Inter Press Service, February 25, 2015, <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/02/analysis-mega-cities-mortality-and-migration-a-snapshot-of-post-u-n-world-population/> (accessed May 18, 2015).

⁷⁹ "State of World Population 2007: Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth Report," UNFPA, 2007, <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/02/analysis-mega-cities-mortality-and-migration-a-snapshot-of-post-u-n-world-population/> (accessed May 18, 2015).

⁸⁰ Joseph Chaime, "Mega-Cities, Mortality and Migration," Inter Press Service, February 25, 2015, <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/02/analysis-mega-cities-mortality-and-migration-a-snapshot-of-post-u-n-world-population/> (accessed May 18, 2015).

difference compared to the first wave, because the advances in information technologies, modern medicine, and the lowering of trade barriers allows corporations and workers to take advantage of resources more easily, regardless of location.⁸¹ While cities are the main beneficiaries, they do not produce enough jobs to attract larger investments necessary to tap major global markets, nor do jobs spread evenly across all groups, excluding minorities and women largely.⁸²

This migrant wave is different from previous ones in North America and Europe in that the scale of growth is larger and more fast-paced, taking place over decades rather than centuries.⁸³ Two factors are aggravating the current strains on urban centers: international restrictions on international migrations, and advances in public health services and modern medicine.⁸⁴ In 1950, there were 309 million urbanites worldwide. It is expected that there will be 3.9 billion persons living in cities by 2030.⁸⁵ Finally, the distribution across local and regional centers has been uneven, especially between the Global East and the Global West, where projections in city size, based on population, indicate that more people will live in small cities, defined as having a population of less than 100,000, than in mega-cities. But many of these small and intermediate cities have emerged in the shadow of the mega-cities, or merged to create supra-regional cities like in the Rhine-Ruhr region of Germany or the New England region of the United States of America.⁸⁶

Current Situation: The Changing Role of Cities

When comparing urban growth and conditions between the developed and developing world, studies have examined population growth between the western world and the BRICS bloc (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China, and South Africa). Growth rates in the BRICS bloc have decreased as much as 50 percent, while urban growth has increased and rural populations have decreased.⁸⁷ Some of this growth has been recent due to the trend of migration towards metropolitan areas. In China, the first wave of urban migration did not begin until Deng Xiaoping's modernization reforms that set-up economic development zones in cities. Chinese farmers and rural dwellers took advantage of the urban boon, leading to a 56 percent rise among urban populations, from 32,000 to 13 million, in the city of Shenzhen alone.⁸⁸ In Latin America, latent urbanization trends show major Member States such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Venezuela having urban populations making up at least 80 percent of their national populace. By 2030, 90 percent of all Argentinians will live in Buenos Aires and other urban centers across the country.⁸⁹

Infrastructure is the key to controlled urbanization, which accompanies deliberate and thoughtful urban planning. However, such efforts have not been utilized effectively in many emerging mega-cities.⁹⁰ Through lack of basic definitions and implementation of property and title rights' regimes in developing Member States, lack of road investment, and the rapid influx of migrants, cities have grown without a comprehensive response to critical issues like land use and sustainable development practices.⁹¹ Cities therefore lack the ability to regulate growth that is environmentally sustainable, control air and water pollution, and preserve green spaces.⁹² Finally, because cities are faced with these demographic changes and choices of how to allocate resources found in scarcity, they are dependent on national and provincial governments to help supplement development funding.⁹³

⁸¹ "State of World Population 2007: Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth Report," UNFPA, 2007, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/695_filename_sowp2007_eng.pdf (accessed May 18, 2015) p. 8.

⁸² Ibid, p. 8.

⁸³ Ibid, p. 3.

⁸⁴ Ibid, p. 3.

⁸⁵ Ibid, p. 4.

⁸⁶ Ibid, p. 13.

⁸⁷ "State of World Population 2007: Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth Report," UNFPA, 2007, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/695_filename_sowp2007_eng.pdf (accessed May 18, 2015) p. 10.

⁸⁸ Ibid, p. 10.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid, p. 14.

⁹¹ George Bugliarello, "Urbanization & Engineering : Megacities and the Developing World," Academy of Engineering, 1999, <https://www.nae.edu/Publications/Bridge/UrbanizationEngineering/MegacitiesandtheDevelopingWorld.aspx> (accessed June 14, 2015).

⁹² Ibid, p. 22.

⁹³ Ibid, p. 22.

Urban Sprawl: Levels of Urbanization

Urbanization and the emergence of cities leads to urban sprawl, a condition where surrounding territories and green spaces (or undeveloped land) become developed and part of the greater metropolitan areas.⁹⁴ Identified as one of the major challenges of urbanization by the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP), urban sprawl is caused by population growth, rising incomes, single use zoning, government regulations prompting low density land use, individual preferences for low density development, desire for large spaces, land competition, and urbanization.⁹⁵ Other groups and publishers have adopted similar definitions of sprawl, either by adjusting focus, or adapting a different viewpoint on its causes. In a 2014 article published by the *Economist*, sprawl is driven by regulations on land use, what can be built, and how high, and the cultural and economic values placed on land. These real estate restrictions and parameters inflate supply and demand around urban centers, and affect the level of sprawl around the center.⁹⁶

There are two types of urban sprawl, according to the UNFPA: *Suburbanization* and *Peri-Urbanization*. In *suburbanization*, land development takes place at a uniform pace, which is intensely driven by lifestyle choices and deliberate use of land immediately around the city through strong zoning regimes established by the municipal governments.⁹⁷ Different Member States have witnessed suburbanization, though with distinct differences in the outward span of the sprawl relative to the city center. Latin American Member States were confronted by upward development of cities rather than outward, giving rise in several cases to the *favela*, as wealthier residents expelled the poorer populations to the periphery.⁹⁸ North American and European Member States hold the most traditional understanding of sprawl through encouraging a desire to move beyond the city center back to more rural living, facilitated by access to cheap automobiles and by highway building projects.⁹⁹ In the United States for example, the notion that an individual or family could own a house in the suburb and have a green lawn without large buildings surrounding them, became pronounced in the 1950s and is sustained in cultural ethos to the present day.¹⁰⁰ Europe lately has been affected by suburbanization, as France, between 1964 and 1999, saw urban populations increase by five times.¹⁰¹ The Mediterranean communities, where the small town, compact cities model prevailed for much of the 20th century, has also been challenged by lifestyle driven sprawl.¹⁰² As technology continues to improve transportation, Member States will need to become proactive about addressing development in terms of distance from the city center.¹⁰³

Cities have also been challenged by the second form of urban sprawl known as *peri-urbanization*. *Peri-Urbanization* is a condition where growths in cities are strongest on the peripheral borders of the city, usually where small towns exist around the mega-city in the greater metropolitan areas.¹⁰⁴ This growth is driven by two trends: land speculation by real estate holders, and economic development driven by globalization.¹⁰⁵ In the first case, land holders take advantage of high demand by migrants for living space, but refuse to sell or rent the property, due to the lack of administrative and property rights that exist around cities. Since migrants have to seek land further from the cities, the speculators force growth farther away from the center, artificially creating sprawl.¹⁰⁶ Second, firms that seek to relocate to these cities cannot build large capital intensive facilities in the city centers, so they take advantage of cheaper land to build plants around the periphery of the cities. Migrants take residence upon the lands around the

⁹⁴ Guneet Kaar, "Urban Sprawl: An Issue of Growing Concern," 44th ISOCARP Congress, 2008, www.isocarp.net/Data/case_studies/1360.pdf (accessed June 14, 2015), p. 1.

⁹⁵ Ibid, p. 2-4.

⁹⁶ "Urban Land: Space and the City," *The Economist* (April 4, 2015), <http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21647614-poor-land-use-worlds-greatest-cities-carries-huge-cost-space-and-city> (accessed June 14, 2015).

⁹⁷ "State of World Population 2007: Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth Report," UNFPA, 2007, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/695_filename_sowp2007_eng.pdf (accessed May 18, 2015).

⁹⁸ Ibid, p. 48.

⁹⁹ Ibid, p. 47.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid, p. 49.

¹⁰¹ Ibid, p. 47.

¹⁰² Ibid, p. 47.

¹⁰³ Ibid, p. 47.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid, p. 48-49.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid, p. 48-49.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid, p. 48-49.

factories, where the firms create company towns to house them.¹⁰⁷ *Peri-Urbanization* is a strong feature of urban growth in East Asia, where a combination of export-driven growth, lack of property rights, and imperfect land markets has created small and intermediate cities around the larger mega-cities on the coast.¹⁰⁸ Like other cities, these in east Asia often cannot restrict the growth along their bordering jurisdictions, since they do not have administrative or legal authority to control land, and often suffer from environmental degradation in the form of water and air pollution as a result.¹⁰⁹

Sustainability and Climate Change

This newest cycle of urbanization can also be described as a new process of industrialization, where economic growth is no longer localized in any particular region, but connected with regional and national networks.¹¹⁰ Resource restraints are one of the central features of this new urban growth. Growth, according to the United Nations Human Resettlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), is not just measured in the total population or the rate of population growth, but also in consumption rates of resources, including land, food, water, electricity, and nonrenewable resources.¹¹¹ Rising incomes have contributed to expanding consumption and ecological footprints, since higher disposable incomes contribute to increased consumption. Cities consume up to 80 percent of global materials, including natural energy resources, while producing 75 percent of the ecological footprint globally.¹¹²

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicated challenges exist, related directly to cities as a result of the variable climatic effects of anthropogenic climate change.¹¹³ Rising energy demands coupled with inability to increase supply will mean higher electricity costs, resulting in lower availability in electricity and fewer resources to invest in energy generation capacity.¹¹⁴ Furthermore, coastal cities, such as Der es Saleem and Los Angeles will become increasingly vulnerable to such threats as rising sea levels, changing wind patterns, water table changes, and intense storm activity from hurricanes and cyclones. Non-traditional threats, such as increased soil erosion and salinity, will threaten agricultural production, leading to fewer jobs and increased migration to cities and slums.¹¹⁵

Development practices and organization of urban centers impact the ecological footprint and the microclimates of cities across the world.¹¹⁶ According to the International County/City Management Association, many developing states have looked to American models for city management, even while American cities have been slow to adopt sustainability practices.¹¹⁷ Cities like New Delhi and Johannesburg suffer from air pollution because both have not invested in public transit to offset growing motorization, a characteristic of outward urbanization at the heart of the American model. City planners in the US have adopted sustainable practices which are being implemented slowly through new zoning codes and building practices; however, these practices are often not being imitated abroad in cities with large slums, including Rio de Janeiro.¹¹⁸

¹⁰⁷ Ibid, p. 49.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid, p. 49.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid, p. 49.

¹¹⁰ Camaren Peter and Mark Swilling, "Sustainable, Resource Efficient Cities - Making it Happen!," United Nations Environment Programme, 2012, http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/PDFs/SustainableResourceEfficientCities.pdf (accessed May 18, 2015).

¹¹¹ Ibid, p. 10.

¹¹² Ibid, p. 12.

¹¹³ Camaren Peter and Mark Swilling, "Sustainable, Resource Efficient Cities - Making it Happen!," United Nations Environment Programme, 2012, http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/PDFs/SustainableResourceEfficientCities.pdf (accessed May 18, 2015), p. 12.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ Ibid, p. 12-13.

¹¹⁶ "State of World Population 2007: Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth Report," UNFPA, 2007, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/695_filename_sowp2007_eng.pdf (accessed May 18, 2015), p. 43.

¹¹⁷ Rafal Hejne, "Megacities: Lessons in Sustainability," ICMA International, March 23, 2012, http://icma.org/en/international/resources/insights/Article/101939/Megacities_Lessons_in_Sustainability (accessed June 17, 2015).

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

Demographic Inequality

Cities have been considered throughout history as a place of opportunity for poor people to find access to jobs, services, and community that can support a new and improved lifestyle. For those who cannot obtain a piece of land with adequate access to sewage, electricity, water, and basic healthcare services, cities offer these services more readily and more accessibly.¹¹⁹ According to the UNFPA, the population of urban poor will make up the majority of urban dwellers in the near future, a problem that is not being considered by governments or most urban planners.¹²⁰ Today's mega-cities are called "Cities of Disappointment," because their growth is a reaction to migration policies and lack economic logic to justify their growth. According to the Center for Demographics and Population at Chapman University, the new urban centers' economic divide has led to large slums where the bulk of the population live, without access to job markets, basic infrastructure access to electricity and running water, and other goods and services that are widely available in developed states. Where industrial growth in manufacturing attracted businesses, producing cheap jobs for a large variety of workers, mega-cities outside of the industrialized world and the Far East have struggled to provide a base manufacturing industry from which to build the service and financial markets common in centers like New York and the Rhine-Ruhr. These cities become beacons for hopeful rural migrants, and create concentrations of poor who cannot find jobs to support themselves beyond a subsistence lifestyle.¹²¹ Yet, even Member States like the United States and France, with sprawling suburban areas, have been forced to reconsider basic needs of residents, and how to improve existing services to face new global challenges.¹²²

The condition known as "urban divide" describes the inequality among city dwellers, which goes beyond real incomes, but also includes access to shelter, healthcare, sanitation, and other vital services.¹²³ According to UN-HABITAT, a slum is defined as:

*"a group of individuals living under the same roof in an urban area who lack one or more of the following: 1) Durable housing of a permanent nature that protects against extreme climate conditions, 2) Sufficient living space which means not more than three people sharing the same room, 3) Easy access to safe water in sufficient amounts at an affordable price, 4) Access to adequate sanitation in the form of a private or public toilet shared by a reasonable number of people, 5) Security of tenure that prevents forced evictions."*¹²⁴

The availability of clean water and a system to deliver water safely is both a challenge in the industrialized and developing world. By 2030, it is predicted that Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) will face the most severe water shortage in history.¹²⁵ Demographic inequalities have been identified by the UN as a major human rights and growth security challenge of the 21st century, especially among traditionally excluded groups like the urban poor, women, minorities, and children. Women are a particularly vulnerable group that has been identified by the UN as being a target of workplace discrimination and lacking in opportunities for social mobility and advancement.¹²⁶

¹¹⁹ "State of World Population 2007: Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth Report," UNFPA, 2007, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/695_filename_sowp2007_eng.pdf (accessed May 18, 2015).

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Joel Kotkin, "The Problem of Mega Cities," Chapman University, 2014, <http://www.chapman.edu/wilkinson/files/MegaCitiesUPDATED%20VERSION.pdf> (accessed June 17, 2015).

¹²² Ibid, p. 16.

¹²³ Camaren Peter and Mark Swilling, "Sustainable, Resource Efficient Cities - Making it Happen!," United Nations Environment Programme, 2012, http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/PDFs/SustainableResourceEfficientCities.pdf (accessed May 18, 2015), p. 13-14.

¹²⁴ UN-HABITAT, "State of the World's Cities 2006/7," UN-HABITAT, <http://unhabitat.org/?wpdmact=process&did=OTAYLmhvdGxpbnms=> (accessed June 17, 2015).

¹²⁵ Camaren Peter and Mark Swilling, "Sustainable, Resource Efficient Cities - Making it Happen!," United Nations Environment Programme, 2012, http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/PDFs/SustainableResourceEfficientCities.pdf (accessed May 18, 2015), p. 17

¹²⁶ Ibid, p. 19.

Actions Taken by the United Nations and the International Community

In 1975, the UN responded for the first time to the growing challenge of urbanization by creating the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlement Foundation (UNHHSF). In accordance with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) its task was to help Governments, in particular those of developing countries, in coping with the effects of urbanization.¹²⁷ The UNHHSF is now managed by the UN-Habitat. Two Conferences, Habitat I (1976) and Habitat II (1996) were solely dedicated to handling the increasing number of issues resulting from urbanization. Both conferences led to the establishment of the UN-Habitat in 2002. The UN-Habitat has since worked towards achieving its mandate to deal with all Human Settlement Developments. The successive Habitat III Conference will be held in 2016, addressing emerging effects of urbanization by taking the Post-2015 Development Agenda into consideration. Actions taken by the UN-Habitat deal with several effects created by urbanization: for instance the conference “Sustainable Water Management in Cities: Engaging stakeholders for effective change and action” took place in Spain in 2010 and focused on the impact urbanization has on cities’ water management.¹²⁸ The Committee also supports initiatives such as “The Cities Without Slums Action Plan”, launched by Nelson Mandela in 1999.¹²⁹

The CPD has been assisting the UN-Habitat on population matters since its creation. Concerning the issue of urbanization, the Population Division releases the *World Urbanization Prospects*; the last report called “World Urbanization Prospects, the 2014 revision” being published last year.¹³⁰ Furthermore, urbanization represents a major theme of the CPD’s agenda. Therefore, the CPD has dedicated several of their annual meetings such as their 41st meeting to the topic of urbanization.¹³¹ Just recently, the Secretary-General released his report on “integration of population issues into sustainable development, including into the post-2015 development agenda” (E/CN.9/2015/3). One of the topics he addressed was urbanization, in particular its link to sustainable development.¹³²

The UNFPA is another UN agency that deals with urbanization. It has released studies and recommendations for addressing the challenges of large urban centers. In addition, the UNFPA has identified that large urban centers have the benefit of bringing economic opportunities to residents, while also encouraging international trade and development. However, they also address concerns about resource usage, domestic insecurity, and the economic losses of stagnate urbanization.¹³³ Moreover, initiatives and projects between the UN and research centers worldwide have been launched. One of those is the Millennium Cities Initiative; a partnership between the UN Millennium Development Project leaders and the Earth Institute of Columbia University. This initiative seeks to analyze best practices for sustainable growth in cities, and address poverty among immigrants.¹³⁴

Existing non UN-organizations such as the C40 Group and the International County/City Managers Association (ICMA) support the UN in their work on urbanization as well. Every organization however has its focus on a different effect of urbanization. The C40 Group, for instance, is an organization of cities that work together to adopt climate and environment-friendly policies, both in the developed and developing world.¹³⁵ The ICMA group trains

¹²⁷ "History, Mandate & Role in the UN System," UN-HABITAT, www.unhabitat.org/history-mandate-role-in-the-un-system/ (accessed May 23, 2015).

¹²⁸ “Sustainable Water Management in Cities: Engaging Stakeholders for Effective Change and Action,” United Nations, 2010, www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/swm_cities_zaragoza_2010/pdf/final_report_swm_cities.pdf (accessed June 17, 2015).

¹²⁹ “Cities Without Slums Action Plan,” Cities Alliance, www.citiesalliance.org/cws-action-plan (accessed June 17, 2015).

¹³⁰ “Resolution and Decisions of the Commission on Population and Development,” UN Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/resolutions/index.shtml (accessed May 23, 2015).

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² E/CN.9/2015/3 *Integrating population issues into sustainable development including in the post-2015 development agenda*. United Nations Economic and Social Council. February 5, 2015.

¹³³ “Population Facts,” United Nations Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, August 2014, http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2014-2.pdf (accessed June 17, 2015).

¹³⁴ “Millennium City Initiative,” Columbia University Earth Institute, <http://mci.ei.columbia.edu/about/> (accessed May 15, 2015).

¹³⁵ “C40 Report on Sustainability Progress for Cities,” C40 Cities Group, 2014, http://c40-production-images.s3.amazonaws.com/researches/images/35_USGBC_C40_WGBC_City_Market_Brief_Compndium.original.pdf?1427985432 (accessed June 17, 2015).

and connects public managers of local and municipal Governments across the world and has attempted to prepare municipal planners for a more urbanized world.¹³⁶

Conclusion

Mega-cities, together with a powerful force of globalization and global migrations, have created new opportunities for people everywhere to gain access to critical resources and share in the social mobility made possible by industrialization. Yet, at the same time, Member States as a whole struggle with sustaining such growth and reconciling their emergence with both national goals and economic investments that place increasing burdens on national resource pools. Furthermore, the inequality of access to vital services and resources, combined with traditional attitudes of discrimination towards social groups like women, holds many of these urban centers back, hindering their participation in the globalized market. Finally, these challenges have to be addressed in the context of sustainable solutions through new possibilities in urban planning and economic investments. If mega-cities, alongside the increasing number of small and intermediate cities that connect to them, are to become a permanent fixture of our global community, then efforts should be made to greater integrate and account for their impact on global policymaking now rather than later.

Committee Directive

The committee has a broad mandate under the governing mandates of the Economic and Social Council of the UN to address these challenges. The Dias looks favorably upon solutions that seek to address the balance of growth and sustainability in both old and emerging mega-cities. This challenge broadly affects Member States both in the industrialized and developing world, requiring a comprehensive response to shared and unique problems. The committee should evaluate and define the role of cities in the 21st century, and decide whether or not they have changed since the first wave of industrialization. Next, the committee will need to evaluate the complex relationships of inequality, resource scarcity, and sustainability in maintaining the current rate urbanization. How will the needs of discriminated minorities in these cities be addressed, using existing UN programs? How can the UN better coordinate with cities and outside organizations to manage resources more effectively? What methods and solutions will be most effective for controlling urban sprawl? In relation to Climate Change, how can Member States promote sustainable development to reduce the short- and long-term damage to the environment? Finally, the committee will need to address which existing programs and partners, if any, have a role designated by the committee to address and carry out their Member States' wishes.

¹³⁶ Rafal Hejne, "Megacities: Lessons in Sustainability," ICMA International, March 23, 2012, http://icma.org/en/international/resources/insights/Article/101939/Megacities_Lessons_in_Sustainability (accessed June 17, 2015).

Technical Appendix Guide (TAG)

Topic I: Strengthening and Expanding Cooperation on International Migration

Ruben Andersson, *Illegality, Inc.: Clandestine Migration and the Business of Bordering Europe* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2014).

For delegates who are looking for a book that can shed light on the problems of migration, this is the perfect example. Andersson discusses the economics behind migration between Africa and Europe, as well as discussing migrant rights. This book provides a unique perspective in that it focuses on the industry built around the movement of these migrants.

"International Migration 2013 Wall Chart," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/migration/migration-wallchart-2013.shtml>.

The wall chart provides the most up to date data that the United Nations has published in regard to international migration and development, including information about the number of migrants, number of refugees, Member State ratification status of relevant UN instruments, remittances, and other metrics. There is also a link on this website to a file containing visual media such as maps and charts for certain relevant migration metrics.

A/69/207. *International migration and development: Report of the Secretary-General*. United Nations General Assembly. July 30, 2014. http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/migration/A-69-207_en.pdf.

This report summarizes the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that took place in New York on 3 and 4 October 2013. In the report, the main programs and actions taken by the Global Migration Group (GMG) in the implementation of the eight-point agenda for action set forth by the Secretary-General. The report also outlines follow up recommendations for ongoing discussion. It specifically addresses the role of civil society and the role of international cooperation, among other topics.

Ronald Skeldon, "Global Migration: Demographic Aspects and Its Relevance for Development (Technical Paper No. 2013/6)," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2013, http://www.un.org/esa/population/migration/documents/EGM.Skeldon_17.12.2013.pdf

This technical paper focuses less on the big-picture issues, and instead, provides scientific analysis, research, and promotes a deeper, more technical, understanding of population issues. It argues that successful policies will be made by understanding, planning for, and embracing the current and expected future shifts in migration and populations, instead of trying to control or reverse them.

A/63/265. *International migration and development: Report of the Secretary-General*. United Nations General Assembly. August 11, 2008. <http://daccess-ods.un.org/TMP/4481867.25378037.html>.

The Secretary-General's report provides a summary of the programs and actions of relevant stakeholders dealing with migration. It includes analysis of the effectiveness of the cooperation mechanisms in place in the international community at the time, and outlines some of the key issues.

E/CN.9/2006/3. *World population monitoring, focusing on international migration and development: Report of the Secretary-General*. United Nations Economic and Social Council, Commission on Population and Development. January 25, 2006. <http://daccess-ods.un.org/TMP/9929767.84706116.html>.

This report addressed migration by discussing the interplay between population growth, fertility, health, and international migration. It also discusses economic aspects of migration. Included in this report, delegates will find an overview of national, regional, and international policies addressing migration.

Topic II: Addressing the Rise of Megacities

Gerd A. Folberth, et al, "Megacities and Climate Change - A Brief Overview," *Environmental Pollution* (2015), <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749114003844>

This article addresses the impact that megacities have on climate and the composition of the atmosphere. It addresses climate change concerns on both a regional and global level. Delegates can obtain a relatively basic overview of the environmental impacts and issues associated with megacities in this brief, yet comprehensive article.

Fouad Bendimerad, et al, "Urban and Megacities Disaster Risk Reduction: Manual of Sound Practices," Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative, 2007, http://www.preventionweb.net/files/11052_3cd2007MOSPTR0702.pdf.

This report addresses Megacities from the disaster risk perspective. It outlines what is considered best practice, which it refers to as "sound practices". The manual also provides a summary of the different projects and actions of EMI and its partners in the context of disaster risk reduction. Section three of the manual provides case studies and sound practices specific to 10 different megacities.

Archana Patankar, et al, "Mumbai City Report," International Workshop on Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Urban Development Planning for Asian Coastal Cities, August 2010, http://startcc.iwlearn.org/doc/Doc_eng_16.pdf

With Mumbai being one the largest megacities in terms of population, it makes sense for delegates to use this city as a case study. This report analyzes the climate risks, and the socio-economic and physical vulnerabilities of the city. It also identifies knowledge gaps that should be addressed moving forward.

Margaret Shaw and Vivien Carli, "Practical Approaches to Urban Crime Prevention," United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2011,

http://www.unrol.org/files/Practical_Approaches_to_Urban_Crime_Prevention.pdf .

This document compiled by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime highlights the issues megacities encounter regarding crime, and offers tangible examples of how crime can successfully be prevented in megacities when urban planners, governments, police forces, and civil society all work together.

"Global Environmental Health: Research Gaps and Barriers for Providing Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Services: Workshop Summary," Institute of Medicine (US),

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK50761/?report=reader>

Delegates can obtain an understanding of the environmental health (especially water security) concerns by reviewing this workshop publication. It outlines some of the challenges and need for improvement within this topic. It focuses on water stressed regions, which tend to be located near megacities, providing specific data to back up the assertions made.

Susan Hassler, "Engineering the Megacity," *IEEE Spectrum*, May 31, 2007,

<http://spectrum.ieee.org/telecom/security/engineering-the-megacity>.

Delegates should use this article as a starting point in researching the influence and applications of technology for addressing the unique challenges faced by mega-cities. It specifically looks at five mega-cities (Shanghai, Sao Paulo, Mumbai, Tokyo, and New York) and the innovative solutions that these cities have engineered in order to address problems such as transportation, energy, natural disaster, crime, and pollution.