



SRMUN ATLANTA 2018

Our Responsibility: Facilitating Social Development through Global Engagement and Collaboration

November 15 - 17, 2018

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Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Atlanta 2018 and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). My name is Noah Vetter, and I have the pleasure of serving as your Director for the UNDP. This will be my fifth SRMUN Atlanta and my second as a SRMUN staff member. Previously, I served as an Assistant Director for the United Nations Commission on Trade and Development at SRMUN Atlanta 2017. In May 2018 I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a BSBA in International Business and a BA in International Studies. In the fall of 2018 I will be starting a MA in Poverty and Development at the University of Sussex. Our committee's Assistant Director will be Olivia Liska. This will be Olivia's first time as a SRMUN staff member, but she is by no means new to SRMUN having been a delegate at multiple conferences, including SRMUN Atlanta 2017 where she was a delegate in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Olivia is double majoring in Political Science and International Studies with a minor in Spanish at the College of Charleston.

As the main UN body responsible for development projects, the UNDP is leading the international effort to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The UNDP works to promote sustainable development, democratic institutions, and climate resilience. Current UNDP projects exist in 170 Member States, involving partnerships with other UN agencies, national and local governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. Its work is instrumental in promoting sustainable development that will allow for the alleviation of global suffering, create economic opportunities, and establish a better future for all members of the international community.

By focusing on the mission of the UNDP and the SRMUN Atlanta 2018 theme of "*Our Responsibility: Facilitating Social Development through Global Engagement and Collaboration*," we have developed the following topics for delegates to discuss at the conference:

- I. Enhancing Economic Development through Inclusive Business Models
- II. Encouraging Sustainable Urban Development through Technology Sharing

The background guide provides an introduction to the committee and the topics and should be utilized as a foundation for delegate's independent research. However, while we have attempted to provide a holistic analysis of the issues, the background guide should not be used as the single mode of analysis for the topics. Delegates are expected to go beyond the background guide and engage in intellectual inquiry of their own. The position papers for the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues and their externalities. Delegations are expected to submit a position paper and be prepared for a vigorous discussion at the conference. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, October 26, 2018 by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.**

Olivia and I are very excited to be serving as your dais for the UNDP. We wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and look forward to working with you in the near future. Please feel free to contact Deputy Director-General Jacob Howe, Olivia or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

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Committee History of the United Nations Development Programme

Officially created on 22 November 1965, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is an organization that seeks to address global economic and social development goals.¹ The UNDP became the United Nations' (UN) primary body that deals with issues of world development, after the merger of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the UN Special Fund.² This merger ensued as part of a broad UN-wide project to "streamline activities...simplify organizational procedures...and increasing effectiveness" across the body.³ Currently, the UNDP has personnel in nearly 170 Member States working to address issues of poverty and inequality.⁴ The Executive Board, made up of 36 Member States representing the five major regions of the world, serves to guide and supervise the UNDP, the UN Population Fund, and the UN Office for Project Services.⁵ Seats on the Executive Board are allocated as follows: eight seats for African Member States, seven seats for Member States in the Asia-Pacific region, four seats for Eastern-European Member States, five seats for Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 12 seats for Western Europe and other Member States.⁶ At the beginning of each yearly session, the Executive Board elects a Bureau made up of a President and four Vice-Presidents; the Member State holding the Presidency rotates each year by region, allowing for diverse representation.⁷ The agenda for each session is decided upon by the Executive Board, with special topics being added throughout the session at the Board's discretion.⁸

The Executive Board is also responsible for the distribution of UNDP funding.⁹ UNDP's budget for 2018 is USD \$4.737 billion, and it currently has 3,339 ongoing projects.¹⁰ Total funding contributions to the UNDP are derived from various sources; around 40 percent is from donor Member States, another 40 percent is from multilateral partners, and around 20 percent is from the governments of Member States where projects are being carried out.¹¹ These contributions are provided as either core resources or non-core resources. Core resources are the backbone to the UNDP's mission, and are vital in providing support in a manner that maintains UNDP's effectiveness, accountability, and transparency. The funding for core resources, or regular resources, comes primarily from Member States.¹² Non-core resources, or other resources, comprise 87 percent of the budget contributions to UNDP, and are channeled through cost sharing from "programme and donor country governments, funding windows, UN pooled funds, or vertical funds."¹³ International Financial Institutions (IFIs), such as the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and World Bank, among others, are

¹ "History of the UNDP," Borgen Magazine, June 1, 2013, <http://www.borgenmagazine.com/the-history-of-the-undp/>.

² United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 2029, *Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme*, A/RES/20/29, November 22, 1965, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/217/92/PDF/NR021792.pdf?OpenElement>.

³ United Nations, "Funds, Programmes, Specialized Agencies and Others," <http://www.un.org/en/sections/about-un/funds-programmes-specialized-agencies-and-others/index.html> (accessed March 24, 2018).

⁴ United Nations Development Programme, "Overview," <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/about-us.html> (accessed March 24, 2018).

⁵ United Nations Development Programme, "Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS," <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/executive-board/information-note-on-the-executive-board.html> (accessed March 24, 2018).

⁶ United Nations Development Programme, "Members of the Executive Board," http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/executive_board/membership.html (accessed September 1, 2017).

⁷ United Nations, "Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, of the United Nations Population Fund and of the United Nations Office for Project Services," (January 2011) http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Executive%20Board/Rules_of_Procedure_E.pdf.

⁸ United Nations, "Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, of the United Nations Population Fund and of the United Nations Office for Project Services."

⁹ United Nations, "Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, of the United Nations Population Fund and of the United Nations Office for Project Services."

¹⁰ United Nations Development Programme, "Our Projects," <https://open.undp.org/#2018> (accessed March 23, 2018).

¹¹ United Nations Development Programme, "Funding Compendium 2016," <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Partnerships/Funding%20Compendium%202016.pdf>.

¹² United Nations Development Programme, "Contributors, UNDP Regular Resources," <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/funding/core-donors.html> (accessed March 20, 2018).

¹³ United Nations Development Programme, "Funding Compendium 2016."

responsible for a significant allocation of "project-specific" funds.¹⁴ Partnerships with the private sector, global and location foundations, and civil society organizations are valuable assets to ensuring the success of UNDP projects. In addition, the UNDP has benefited from volunteer services by public figures in various fields of work, known as Goodwill Ambassadors and Advocates, helping to highlight important issues.¹⁵

The UNDP's mission is to eliminate poverty and reduce all forms of inequality.¹⁶ General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1 provided a specific framework, known as the 2030 Agenda, for tackling such issues as sustainable management of global resources, inter-cultural understanding, inclusive economic development and more.¹⁷ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development put forth a plan of action, expressed through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for eradicating poverty and ensuring prosperity while conserving environmental resources for future generations.¹⁸ As the UN's primary development agency, the UNDP is heavily involved in helping to implement the SDGs, but is more engaged in several specific goals.¹⁹

Sustainable Development Goal 17 focuses on bringing the global community together to address development challenges worldwide.²⁰ While this is primarily economically focused, this goal encourages private-public partnerships as a way to promote and achieve sustainable development across the globe. By finding common values and goals between public and private entities, the UNDP fosters development in critical economic sectors.²¹ UNDP submits an annual report to the Economic and Social Council, where recommendations are then passed on to the General Assembly, as well as progress reports about ongoing projects.²² UNDP also administers the UN Capital Development Fund, which supplements developing countries' economies by means of grants and loans. Overall, the current goal of the UNDP is to promote global economic, social, and environmental development using the framework of the 2030 Agenda.²³

Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities – is also important in combating extreme poverty and reducing inequalities.²⁴ Currently, more than half of the world's population lives in urban areas and this number only continues to grow. Extreme poverty is often concentrated in urban places, and governments are struggling to accommodate the rising populations in these areas. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way in which we build our urban spaces.²⁵ In all of its projects, UNDP focuses on achieving sustainable development through an approach that "tackles the connected issues of multidimensional poverty, inequality and exclusion, and sustainability, while enhancing knowledge, skills, and production technologies to enlarge peoples' choices, reduce risks, and sustain development gains."²⁶

¹⁴ United Nations Development Programme, "UNDP: Our Partners," <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/partners.html> (accessed March 20, 2018).

¹⁵ United Nations Development Programme, "UNDP: Our Partners."

¹⁶ United Nations Development Programme, "UNDP Strategic Plan: 2014-2017," http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/corporate/Changing_with_the_World_UNDP_Strategic_Plan_2014_17.html.

¹⁷ United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 70/1, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, A/RES/70/1, October 21, 2015, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=111&nr=8496&menu=35>.

¹⁸ United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 70/1, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

¹⁹ United Nations Development Programme Partnership with the Global Fund, "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," <http://www.undp-globalfund-capacitydevelopment.org/en/about-us/sustainable-development-goals/> (accessed March 23, 2018).

²⁰ United Nations Development Programme Partnership with the Global Fund, "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

²¹ United Nations, "Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development," <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships/> (accessed March 20, 2018).

²² United Nations Development Programme, "Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS."

²³ United Nations Development Programme, "Overview."

²⁴ United Nations Development Programme, "Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities," <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-11-sustainable-cities-and-communities.html> (accessed March 21, 2018).

²⁵ United Nations Development Programme, "Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities,"

²⁶ United Nations Development Programme, "Sustainable Development," <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development.html> (accessed March 21, 2018).

I: Enhancing Economic Development through Inclusive Business Models

Introduction

The private sector is a vital resource for reducing poverty and promoting economic development. Businesses create jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities, while using inclusive business models to foster community development that simultaneously benefit their core business interests.²⁷ Inclusive business practices are models that build bridges between businesses and the poor for mutual benefit; these practices also include the poor on both the demand and supply side.²⁸ These models give more choices and opportunities to the poor, while expanding the profits and viability of the private sector.²⁹ One of the largest issues concerning the longevity and sustainability of development and aid programs is the lack of local buy-in, which can be counteracted by inclusive business practices. By promoting inclusive business practices and the development of a strong local private sector, long-term, productive development can be sustained.³⁰ Inclusive business models are beneficial to the private sector; the poor provide a large, untapped market for many businesses and “a forum for innovations.”³¹ New solutions will be needed to effectively reach and succeed in markets for those who are at the Bottom of the [economic] Pyramid (BOP), which will stimulate new ideas and promote progress. Businesses that include the poor can also have higher rates of revenue in inclusive business practices than projects in developed markets; for example, “some micro-credit institutions have earned more than a 23% return on equity.”³² The private sector can also increase access to basic needs, and companies like Amanz’abantu in South Africa – which provides access to clean water in sanitation in rural South African populations – empower and enable the poor.³³

Public sector investment alone is also unable to fully address development needs; private sector investment is necessary in order to eradicate poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promoted by the UN.³⁴ SDG 17, “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development,” recognizes the importance of partnerships in development and that these partnerships can be achieved through incorporation of the private sector. Subgoal 17.16 emphasizes global partnerships for sustainable development and encourages multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to “share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources [and] to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.”³⁵ Multiple SDGs other than Goal 17 promote participation and the increased role of the private sector in development; these topics have become progressively more widespread in policies set by the UNDP and other development organizations.

Inclusive business practices can be implemented through a variety of methods to support the growth of the private sector and local economies. Local governments and communities can enhance participation with the private sector, thus supporting local economies and future private sector success.³⁶ One effective manner for creating economic growth and strengthening infrastructure is by using Private-Public Partnerships (PPPs). PPPs can allow governments

²⁷ Christina Gradl and Beth Jenkins, “Creating Value for All: Strategies for Doing Business with The Poor,” *United Nations Development Programme, New York (2008)*, p. 14
<http://www.rw.undp.org/content/rwanda/en/home/library/poverty/creating-value-for-all---strategies-for-doing-business-with-the-.html/>

²⁸ Gradl and Jenkins, p. 14

²⁹ Gradl and Jenkins, p. 4

³⁰ “Private Sector Development Strategy,” Asian Development Bank, accessed May 2, 2018,
<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/32021/private.pdf>

³¹ C.K. Prahalad, “The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid: Eradicating Poverty through Profits” Knowledge@Wharton, August 25, 2004, <http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article/the-fortune-at-the-bottom-of-the-pyramid-eradicating-poverty-through-profits/>

³² Gradl and Jenkins, p. 16

³³ Gradl and Jenkins, p. 17

³⁴ Lorenzo Pavone, et. al., “How the Private Sector can Advance Development,” *Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development*, <http://www.oecd.org/development/development-posts-private-sector.htm>

³⁵ “Sustainable Development Goal 17,” Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, accessed May 2, 2018
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg17>

³⁶ Jonathon Mitchell, “The role of the private sector in development,” Overseas Development Institute, last modified February 2011, <https://www.odi.org/comment/5396-role-private-sector-development>

to implement infrastructural projects with the expertise, training, and resources of the private sector. Infrastructural projects are some of the most common uses of PPPs;³⁷ however, there have been PPPs in other industries, such as technology. PPPs encourage private investment, encourage efficient completion of projects, and improve the quality and quantity of infrastructure.³⁸ A multilateral PPP approach involves partnerships with multinational corporations (MNCs) and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries to strengthen local entrepreneurship, develop a skilled labor force, and further encourage knowledge and technology transfers.³⁹ This has already been successful in cases like M-PESA, which will be expanded upon later. As the major development arm of the United Nations (UN), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) focuses on fostering these relationships in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

History

International development policy has been slow to recognize and value the importance of the private sector in economic development. During the 1960's and 1970's, the nationalization of industries was a policy tool utilized in many parts of the world by international organizations like the World Bank, but this changed in the late 1980's and 1990's.⁴⁰ The 1990's brought about an era of privatization and free markets throughout the world, which led to an increase in private investment flows and the growth of private sector involvement in the developing world.⁴¹ The growing participation of the private sector in development has its roots in infrastructure projects, which brought about the emphasis on Private-Public Partnerships (PPPs) and led to an overall increase in private sector involvement. The private sector gains more clients from PPPs and builds stronger working relationships with the government.⁴² PPPs have become a major focus in many areas of development and are frequently utilized all over the world.

The strongest growth in private sector development activity was between 1990 and 1997, when investment flows grew from USD 18 million to USD 128 million in private sector development infrastructure schemes alone.⁴³ This was due to increasing involvement of the private sector in infrastructure projects within developing countries. For example, Chile and Argentina took on water sector reforms to increase private sector participation. These reforms improved access to water, labor productivity, and overall economic well-being.⁴⁴ The participation of the private sector brought competition into the market, which led to an improvement in overall products and services.⁴⁵ However, privatization and other reforms of the 1990's were not always successful; as a belief still persists today that the private sector can be exploitative, anti-poor, and ripe for corruption.⁴⁶ These concerns, along with the fact that the private sector is not always more successful than its public counterpart, can be mitigated when the private sector acts in the public's best interest and in the presence of competition.⁴⁷ Actors in both the private and public sector can face inefficiency in providing services to people, but utilizing strategies like inclusive business models and increasing accountability can serve to promote success and improve the services received by citizens.⁴⁸

³⁷ Monika Sharma and Anita Bindal, "Public-Private Partnership," *International Journal of Research* 1, no. 7 (2014): p. 1 <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.673.1650&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

³⁸ "Benefits of PPPs," International Project Finance Association, May 2, 2018 <https://www.ipfa.org/industry-resources/benefits/>

³⁹ Philippe Adriaenssens, "How to involve the private sector in development cooperation," *Great Insights Magazine* 4, no. 5 (2015): <http://ecdpm.org/great-insights/private-sector-matters/involve-private-sector-development-cooperation/>

⁴⁰ Michael U. Klein and Rita Hadjimichael, *The Private Sector in Development: Entrepreneurship, Regulation, and Competitive Disciplines* (Washington, DC: World Bank). <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/15134> p. 9

⁴¹ Muhammad Yunnus, "Creating a World without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism," *Global Urban Development* 4, no. 2 (2008): p. 1 <http://www.globalurban.org/GUDMag08Vol4Iss2/Yunus.pdf>

⁴² Bridge Masters, "U.S. Infrastructure and the Benefits of Public Private Partnership," *Bridges and Utilities, Business Management*, Sep. 2, 2016, <https://bridgemastersinc.com/u-s-infrastructure-benefits-public-private-partnerships/>

⁴³ Michael U. Klein and Rita Hadjimichael, *The Private Sector in Development: Entrepreneurship, Regulation, and Competitive Disciplines* (Washington, DC: World Bank). <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/15134> p. 87

⁴⁴ Klein and Hadjimichael, p. 97

⁴⁵ Klein and Hadjimichael, p. 90

⁴⁶ Johnathon Mitchell, "The Role of the Private Sector in Development," last modified February 2, 2011, <https://www.odi.org/comment/5396-role-private-sector-development>

⁴⁷ John B. Goodman and Gary W. Loveman, "Does Privatizations Serve the Public Interest?" *Harvard Business Review*, November-December 1991, accessed June 22, 2018 <https://hbr.org/1991/11/does-privatization-serve-the-public-interest>

⁴⁸ Goodman and Loveman

Only within the past decade a pro-poor policy was emphasized for the private sector in the developing world.⁴⁹ The free-market reforms of the 1990's were successful in encouraging global trade, economic development, and technological advancement; however, many remained in poverty in the developing world and conditions did not improve in all areas.⁵⁰ The advent of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the early 2000's was a major step in addressing these issues and increasing awareness of the importance of the private sector in sustainable and inclusive development.⁵¹ Other organizations have taken initiative to combat poverty through inclusive models, such as the Grameen Bank founded in the 1970's to offer microloans to the poorest of the poor.⁵² Efforts to employ inclusive models and the private sector to create a sustained, growing economy have only been growing and taking on a larger role in development policy.

Actions Taken by the United Nations

The UN has taken several actions within the past decade to address the concerns generated by private sector development within Member States. The change from the MDGs to the SDGs has ushered in a greater emphasis on including the private sector and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in UN processes, while focusing on promoting sustainable and lasting economic development. Sustainable economic development “enhances equitable local income and employment growth without endangering local fiscal stability, degrading the natural environment, or contributing to global climate change. It challenges the model of growth based on pure consumption rather than human happiness, considers long-term goals as well as short-term needs, and is sensitive to local context and history.”⁵³ Several documents and initiatives have been proposed and implemented in the last several years that advance these agendas. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) created *The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*, which is a state-focused document that delineates the government's responsibility to ensure businesses are fulfilling human rights prerogatives. It also indicates that businesses have a responsibility to ensure their practices promote human rights.⁵⁴ *The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* are principles for Member States to follow in order to prevent corporations from taking advantage of their citizens; however, this must be done in a manner that does not stifle business activity or inhibit economic development.

Another major action taken by the UNDP is the creation of the Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM) strategy. This strategy aims to promote economic development and combat global poverty by implementing inclusive business practices. Five core strategies and five core constraints were identified to encourage successful responses. The five core strategies are: “Adapt products and processes, Invest in removing market constraints, Leverage the strengths of the poor, Combine resources and capabilities with others, and Engage in policy dialogue with government.” The five core constraints are: “Market information, Regulatory environment, Physical infrastructure, Knowledge and skills, and Access to financial services.”⁵⁵ GIM has been the major strategy promoted by the UNDP in promoting inclusive business models and tackling sustainable economic development. The GIM and its offshoots have created a foundation for inclusive business models that has allowed them to more fully become a part of UN and global strategy for development.

The Istanbul International Center for Private Sector Development (IICPSD) is one of six UNDP Global Policy Centers. IICPSD was established in 2011 in partnership with the Turkish government to support the private sector and foundations in development “through research, advocacy for inclusive business, facilitation of public-private

⁴⁹ Prahalad, “The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid: Eradicating Poverty through Profits.”

⁵⁰ Yunnus, p.2

⁵¹ “Background,” Millennium Development Goals, accessed May 2, 2018, <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/bkgd.shtml>

⁵² “History of Grameen Bank,” Grameen Research, Inc., accessed May 2, 2018, <http://grameenresearch.org/history-of-grameen-bank/>

⁵³ Alea Gage, et. al., “Sustainable Economic Development Policy Overview,” *The Sustainable Cities Conference Series: Urban Housing, Economy and Transit*, UC Berkley (2012), p. 1, <http://iurd.berkeley.edu/publications/policyoverviews/IURD-PO-01-2012.pdf>

⁵⁴ Alison Smale, “Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,” *United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner*. Geneva (2011), p. 1
http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf

⁵⁵ Gradl and Jenkins, p. 20

dialogue and brokering partnerships.”⁵⁶ It was created through the GIM strategy and aids in implementing GIM policy around the world. IICPSD leads UNDP efforts on promoting private sector development and emphasizes the critical importance of the private sector’s support for economic and development progress and the success of the SDGs. The center has four thematic areas of focus, which are: Inclusive Business, Private Sector Engagement in Skills Development, Impact Investing, and Resilience and Crisis Response.⁵⁷ IICPSD is one of the most active offices of the UNDP in promoting the role of the private sector in development while also acting as a centralized oversight body to several of the other previously platforms, like the GIM strategy and Business Call to Action.

Many facets of the SDGs promote inclusive business models and have stimulated the creation of platforms like the Business Call to Action (BCtA) and the Partnership for SDGs Platform. BCtA is headquartered at the UNDP and “aims to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by challenging companies to develop inclusive business models that engage people at the base of the economic pyramid.”⁵⁸ BCtA is one of the several platforms created for promoting GIM strategy. Another of these is the Partnership for SDGs Platform, which was initiated in 2016 and provides support for reporting on the status of partnerships and projects; the Platform also allows users to stay engaged in multi-stakeholder partnerships, network, and share information.⁵⁹ Platforms such as these actively engage the private sector while continuing to advance the SDGs. The GIM and its supporting services are several of the steps that the UN has taken to ensure economic development that encourages sustainability and social inclusion.

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development is another platform that actively promotes the participation of the private sector in development while opening dialogue for ways to achieve the SDGs and improve development practices, like the GIM strategy. It is a yearly conference that meets to discuss progress made toward the SDGs, provide open dialogue and information about the SDGs, improve cooperation and coordination within the UN and its partners, and implement follow-up and review of SDG policies.⁶⁰ The HLPF is also based on the principles of SDG 17, and encourages partnerships and the participation from private, public, and civil society organizations in all facets of achieving the SDGs.⁶¹ The HLPF is a real-time conference that promotes diplomacy and dialogue in order to more successfully implement policies that encourage development while meeting the SDGs. It is the only conference of its nature to do so, and its yearly meetings support continuous networking and advocacy that are pertinent to the application and enhancement of development projects. Many of the HLPF side-events open dialogue with the private sector in order to promote inclusive business practices and discuss manners in which they can be implemented.⁶²

Current Situation

As the private sector grows and investment expands in the developing world, ensuring that business practices are inclusive and sustainable is increasingly important. The developing world participates more and more each year in international trade, with “merchandise exports [increasing] from 31 percent to 43.8 percent between 2000 and 2014 and [the] share of world services exports grew from 24 percent to 30 percent over the same period.”⁶³ Encouraging

⁵⁶ “Istanbul International Center” United Nations Development Programme, accessed May 3, 2018,

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/partners/private_sector/iicpsd.html

⁵⁷ “Overview,” Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development, accessed May 3, 2018

<http://www.iicpsd.undp.org/content/istanbul/en/home/our-work/overview.html>

⁵⁸ “About BCtA,” *Business Call to Action*, last modified 2017, <https://www.businesscalltoaction.org/about-bcta>

⁵⁹ Juwang Zhu, “Partnerships for Sustainable Development Goals,” *Division for Sustainable Development*, New York (2016), p. 6 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2329Partnership%20Report%202016%20web.pdf>

⁶⁰ “High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development,” Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, accessed May 3, 2018, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

⁶¹ “Multi-stakeholder partnerships & voluntary commitments,” Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, accessed May 3, 2018, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdinaction>

⁶² “President’s Summary of 2017 High-level political forum on sustainable development,” Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, accessed August 15th 2018, https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16673HLPF_2017_Presidents_summary.pdf

⁶³ “Strategy Note: UNDP’s Private Sector and Foundations Strategy for the Sustainable Development Goals 2016-2020,” *United Nations Development Programme Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development*, Istanbul (2016), p. 5 <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/iicpsd/strategy-note---undp-s-private-sector-and-foundations-strategy-f.html>

private sector growth while simultaneously promoting inclusive business models has become an important policy principle in order to ensure the success of these industries and longevity of economic growth.

The idea of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has been developed to join businesses, sustainable development, and the developing world. CSR involves the private sector employing models that not only advance sustainable development, but also are responsive to and further the communities in which they work.⁶⁴ Businesses are able to do this while simultaneously increasing revenue; for example, they will have access to new markets in the developing world.⁶⁵ CSR has evolved from previous concerns and issues with the growth of the private sector in the developing world, along with the greater desire from customers for their businesses to partake in ethical practices while making a difference in the world. However, much of what has been done with CSR is driven by the developed world and employs top-down initiatives, rather than community-based initiatives.⁶⁶ Finding ways to ensure local buy-in while continuing to promote sustainable economic development is a major obstacle to moving forward.

An example of CSR at work is the Peruvian private investment promotion company, Pro Inversion. It includes clauses in its responsibilities and goals that mention taking “responsibilities with respect to the development of their social environment” and fostering “competitiveness and sustainable development in Peru to improve the welfare of the Peruvian people.”⁶⁷ Governments have also taken action of promoting CSR, which can be seen in the Vietnamese garment and footwear industries. The Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an award – Corporate Social Responsibility Award – for companies who developed and promoted good CSR practices in order to incentivize these practices.⁶⁸

Returning to GIM combines elements of CSR while including local communities. This can mean involving “low-income populations anywhere along a company’s value chain, including supply, production, distribution and marketing of goods and services.”⁶⁹ There have been several businesses that have implemented the GIM strategy successfully, such as M-PESA in Kenya and the Association of Private Water Operators (APWO) in Uganda.

M-PESA is the result of a partnership with Safaricom Kenya and Vodafone that provides individuals with the ability to transfer money electronically through their mobile phone’s SMS.⁷⁰ Safaricom is the largest Kenyan mobile network company and Vodafone is a British international telecommunications company. Since M-PESA’s conception, M-PESA has brought access to financial services to over half of the adult population of Kenya. As of 2014, M-PESA had 12.2 million active customers and reached even the poorest in the country. Fewer than 20% of the population living outside of Nairobi on less than \$1.25 per day used these electronic financial services in 2008, but by 2011 it had grown to 72%.⁷¹ M-PESA allows its users to cut costs on money transfers while building a strong customer base for Safaricom and Vodafone. One study has found that rural Kenyan households that used M-PESA had their incomes increase by 5-30%.⁷² Additionally, many see it as a more secure way to store and save money than the local banks.⁷³ M-PESA is one of the strongest examples of businesses using partnerships and inclusive business models to not only promote economic development in developing Member States, but also expand their own markets and revenues.

⁶⁴ “CSR and Developing Countries: What Scope for Government Action?” *Sustainable Development Knowledge Briefs* 1, no. 1 (2007), p. 1 <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/innovationbriefs/no1.pdf>

⁶⁵ “Implementing Inclusive Business Models: How Businesses Can Work with Low-Income Communities,” *Business Call to Action*, Geneva (2015), p. 1 <https://www.businesscalltoaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/BCtA-UNGC-IB-Primer-Web-Final.pdf>

⁶⁶ “CSR and Developing Countries: What Scope for Government Action?” p. 1

⁶⁷ “CSR and Developing Countries: What Scope for Government Action?” p. 3

⁶⁸ “CSR and Developing Countries: What Scope for Government Action?” p. 5

⁶⁹ “Implementing Inclusive Business Models: How Businesses Can Work with Low-Income Communities,” p. 1

⁷⁰ “Growing Inclusive Markets,” United Nations Development Programme, http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/partners/private_sector/GIM.html

⁷¹ Claudia McKay and Rafe Mazer, “10 Myths About M-PESA: 2014 Update,” CGAP, October 1, 2014, <http://www.cgap.org/blog/10-myths-about-m-pesa-2014-update>

⁷² T.S., “Why does Kenya lead the world in mobile money?” *The Economist*, March 2, 2015, accessed June 22, 2018, <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2015/03/02/why-does-kenya-lead-the-world-in-mobile-money>

⁷³ T.S., “Why does Kenya lead the world in mobile money?”

The Association of Private Water Operators in Uganda (APWO) is an example of a Public Private Partnership (PPP) between private water operators in Uganda and the Ugandan government. APWO works to bring together all private water operators in Uganda to provide better coordination and service alongside the services and assistance of the government.⁷⁴ The Ugandan Ministry of Water, Lands, and Environment appoints local councils, who are then in charge of creating management contracts with local private water operators. The 15 APWO water operators employ 800 people, maintain 18,944 connections, provide water for 490,000 people and generate an asset turnover in excess of USD 1.2 million. This was achieved from 2003 to 2008 and has only continued to expand.⁷⁵ APWO is a PPP that follows the GIM strategies while promoting economic development through its use of cooperation between the Ugandan government and private water companies to improve the quality of service and overall well-being of the communities.

Conclusion

There have been multiple actions taken by the UN to better ensure inclusive practices in development. Although many have been successful, there is still room for improvement, and continuing to encourage sustainable private sector participation will remain a challenge. Promoting inclusive business practices is important for the longevity of economic development across the world. There has been a strong foundation of this in the UN, but application and practice still need to be developed. Another remaining issue is encouraging local buy-in and community involvement in projects; initiating bottom-up approaches rather than top-down approaches is one way to address this.

Committee Directive

Issues such as the lack of local-buy in and promoting sustainable economic development continue to be important. Delegates should look at the efforts of the UN on inclusive business practices and consider why some of these have been discontinued and where projects failed. Several platforms and conferences have been mentioned, but there is still room for improvement. How can UNDP build upon existing platforms and policies? How can governments encourage policies like CSR and inclusivity without stifling economic growth and investment? What are ways that Member States can facilitate the growth of private sector involvement and local entrepreneurship? How can this further human development and what are ways to ensure that local populations are included among processes? What are some challenges that will have to be overcome? What incentives can be provided to companies to facilitate sustainable and responsible business practices and how can these be implemented?

⁷⁴ Winifred Karugu and Diane N. Kanyagia, "Association of Private Water Operators in Uganda: Affordable and Safe Water for the Urban Poor," GIM Case Study, A008, New York: United Nations Development Programme, 2008, p. 3
[http://www.africa-platform.org/sites/default/files/resources/uganda association of private water operatorsac 2008.pdf](http://www.africa-platform.org/sites/default/files/resources/uganda%20association%20of%20private%20water%20operatorsac%202008.pdf)

⁷⁵ Karugu and Kanyagia, p. 11

II: Encouraging Sustainable Urban Development through Technology Sharing

Introduction

Rapid urbanization has put stress on pre-existing urban infrastructure and, in many cases, outpaced the development of new infrastructure. The United Nations (UN) predicts that by 2050 more than 60 percent of the world's population will live in urban areas, with over half of that growth coming from nine Member States: India, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uganda, and Indonesia.⁷⁶ Growth in urban populations exerts pressure on public health, environmental sustainability, and economic development. Specific concerns include growth in urban slums, increasing air pollution, a lack of basic services, insufficient infrastructure, and unplanned urban sprawl.⁷⁷ These complex issues, caused by rapid urbanization, require multifaceted solutions that address housing, infrastructure, transportation, energy, employment, and the provision of social services like education and healthcare.⁷⁸

The UN directly recognizes the need to address rapid and unsustainable urbanization through Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities," which acknowledges the need to ensure sustainable urbanization through the use of technologies that can manage the issues caused by rapid urbanization.⁷⁹ In its seven targets, SDG 11 aims to address many of the aforementioned concerns including: providing housing and transportation, integrating sustainable urban planning, protecting natural and cultural heritage, reducing the impact of natural disasters, reducing environmental impacts, and incorporating public and green spaces.⁸⁰ SDG 11 is the most concerted effort yet to address these issues, and is under the direct supervision of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with support from a number of other UN agencies, including UN-Habitat, the World Bank, and the World Health Organization.

While many Member States are struggling with the issues of rapid urbanization, some are seeing more success than others in addressing the consequences. Member States seeing the most success are implementing innovative solutions that incorporate various forms of technology. At the level of individual cities, many are acting as testing grounds for various styles of urban planning and new technologies that help to combat the concerns of rapid urbanization. Through international cooperation and knowledge and technology sharing, as suggested by SDG 17, the Member States and individual cities that have been able to successfully address these concerns or who have learned from experience can help to advise and support others to ensure sustainable global urbanization.

History

Historically, cities have served as the focal points of human civilization. They have been centers of culture, learning, production, technological innovation, and opportunity. Cities bring together all levels of society and serve as melting pots for different cultures and traditions.⁸¹ Oftentimes, major cities define the states in which they are based and serve as exemplars of society as a whole. From ancient cities such as Rome or Baghdad to modern cities such as New York or Tokyo, cities capture the imagination and draw people to them.⁸² Just as today, historically people migrate from rural areas to cities in search of economic opportunities and the ideal of a better life.⁸³ Despite the historical importance of cities, until the 17th century urban populations remained a small percentage of the overall

⁷⁶ "2017 Revision of the World Population Prospects," Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/> (accessed May 15, 2018).

⁷⁷ "Sustainable Development Goal 11," United Nations Development Programme, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg11> (accessed May 15, 2018).

⁷⁸ "Sustainable Development Goal 11," United Nations Development Programme.

⁷⁹ "Sustainable Development Goal 11," United Nations Development Programme.

⁸⁰ "Sustainable Development Goal 11," United Nations Development Programme.

⁸¹ Peter Hall, *Cities in Civilization* (New York: Fromm International, 1998).

⁸² Paul Bairoch, *Cities and Economic Development: From the Dawn of History to the Present* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988).

⁸³ Meredith Reba, Femke Reitsma, & Karen C. Seto, "Spatializing 6,000 years of global urbanization from 3700 BC to AD 2000," *Scientific Data* 3, June 7, 2016, <https://www.nature.com/articles/sdata201634>.

global population with the majority of people living in small/rural agricultural communities.⁸⁴ Between the 17th and the 19th centuries, improvements in technology resulted in increased agricultural production that required less labor and supported more of the population spurring people to migrate to urban centers in search of economic opportunities. This population shift contributed to the industrial revolution and the growth of large cities like London, Paris, and New York.⁸⁵ Today, technology continues to increase agricultural output and reduce required labor resulting in a move away from rural areas in search of employment leading to an unprecedented and unsustainable rate of urbanization, especially in developing regions of the world.⁸⁶

While there are many positives to the concentration of human population in cities, historically cities and their populations were confronted with a number of problems. Overcrowding and overpopulation in the cities of medieval Europe led to unsanitary conditions that allowed for the spread of Bubonic Plague (the Black Death).⁸⁷ In the 18th and 19th centuries, overcrowding and a lack of urban planning during the Industrial Revolution in Western Europe and the United States resulted in pollution, disease, and unsanitary and unsafe housing developments.⁸⁸ Addressing these problems required collaboration between governments and communities to develop innovative solutions and policies that addressed both the direct and root causes of the problems.

Current Situation

In 2008, for the first time in human history, the percentage of the population living in urban areas surpassed the percentage living in rural areas.⁸⁹ As of 2018, 55 percent of the world's population lives in urban areas.⁹⁰ The world's most urbanized regions are North America (82 percent of the population living in urban areas), Latin America and the Caribbean (81 percent), Europe (74 percent), and Oceania (68 percent). Asia and Africa are the regions with the lowest percentage of urban populations with 50 percent and 43 percent respectively. However, the urban population in both regions is increasing rapidly, with an expected 90 percent of the urban growth by 2050 occurring in these two regions.⁹¹ Approximately half of the world's urban population lives in cities that have a population less than 500,000, of those one in eight live in one of the world's 33 megacities that have a population greater than 10 million.⁹² By 2050, the number of megacities is expected to increase to 43, with most of the new ones emerging in developing regions.⁹³ The world's largest city is Tokyo with a population of 37 million, followed by Delhi with 29 million, Shanghai with 26 million and Mexico City and São Paulo with 22 million each.⁹⁴

⁸⁴ Jules N. Pretty, "Farmers' extension practice and technology adaptation: Agricultural revolution in 17–19th century Britain," *Agriculture and Human Values* 8, no. 1-2 (December 1991): 132-148. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF01579666>.

⁸⁵ Jules N. Pretty, "Farmers' extension practice and technology adaptation: Agricultural revolution in 17–19th century Britain," *Agriculture and Human Values* 8, no. 1-2 (December 1991): 132-148. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF01579666>.

⁸⁶ William W. Cooper & Piyu Yue, "Rapid Urbanization and Its Problems," *Challenges of the Muslim World (International Symposia in Economic Theory and Econometrics, Volume 19)* (Emerald Publishing Group Limited, 2008): 161-171. <https://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/abs/10.1016/S1571-0386%2807%2900016-6>

⁸⁷ Raquel Reyes, et al. "Urbanization and Infectious Diseases: General Principles, Historical Perspectives, and Contemporary Challenges," in *Challenges in Infectious Diseases. Emerging Infectious Diseases of the 21st Century*, ed. Fong I. (New York: Springer, 2013): 123-146. https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-1-4614-4496-1_4.

⁸⁸ "The Industrial Revolution in the United States," Library of Congress, http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/industrial-revolution/pdf/teacher_guide.pdf.

⁸⁹ United Nation Economic and Social Council, *Commission on Science and Technology for Development Nineteenth session: Smart cities and infrastructure*, E/CN.16/2016/2, 2016.

⁹⁰ "2018 Revision of the World Urbanization Prospects," Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/> (accessed June 13, 2018).

⁹¹ "2018 Revision of the World Urbanization Prospects," Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

⁹² "2018 Revision of the World Urbanization Prospects," Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

⁹³ "2018 Revision of the World Urbanization Prospects," Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

⁹⁴ "2018 Revision of the World Urbanization Prospects," Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

Rapid urbanization is occurring because of two primary factors: higher than replacement birth rates among urban populations and migration from rural to urban areas.⁹⁵ In much of the world, birth rates continue to exceed death rates and people continue to reproduce at above replacement level (meaning more than two children per couple), resulting in continued population growth. While the birth rate and resultant population growth have decreased in high-income countries, many of the world's fastest growing cities are located in low to middle-income countries, which are continuing to experience high birth rates.⁹⁶ Worldwide, people are migrating from rural to urban areas in search of economic opportunities and a better quality of life.⁹⁷ The opportunities in terms of employment, income, and education are significantly greater in urban areas compared to rural areas. A study of data from the United States Department of Labor found that the concentration of job categories with the highest skill requirements (e.g., engineers, executives, scientists, and analysts) are significantly higher in urban areas and correlate with higher incomes. In contrast, rural areas have a higher concentration of machinists and makers, which are job categories that generally require less skill and education and provide lower incomes.⁹⁸ As a result, with additional education people are more likely to move to urban areas in search of better employment.⁹⁹ This is especially true in developing regions of the world. Given the economic status of the cities in which it is occurring, the rapid growth is unsustainable and these cities are not able to develop infrastructure, services, or policies to ensure stable and sustainable growth. As a result, the growth in urban populations is exerting increasing pressure on existing infrastructure, social services, environmental sustainability, and economic development. Specific concerns include a growth in urban slums, the need for management of more waste, a lack of public transportation, a lack of urban planning, environmental degradation, public health crises, and increased susceptibility to natural disasters.¹⁰⁰ These complex issues, caused by rapid urbanization, require multifaceted solutions that address housing, infrastructure, transportation, energy, employment, and the provision of social services like education and healthcare.¹⁰¹

One concern related to rapid urbanization is the rise of urban slum populations. UN-Habitat estimates that one in eight people worldwide live in slums.¹⁰² Although there was a general decline in global slum populations from 39 percent of the global population to 30 percent between 2000 and 2014, the total number of people living in slums continued to increase.¹⁰³ As low-income populations move from rural areas into more urban settings, they often cannot afford housing costs in more developed parts of the city, lack access to low-income housing, and, as a result, look to slums as the solution.¹⁰⁴ There are several characteristics that define urban slums, including a lack of basic services, substandard housing, overcrowding, unhealthy living conditions, insecure tenure, and social exclusion.¹⁰⁵ These characteristics lead to other related issues that impact urban slum dwellers. The health conditions in slums are often poor, due to the lack of sanitation and other basic services, resulting in high rates of communicable diseases and significantly reduced life expectancy.¹⁰⁶ There is also a lack of adequate access to education in slums. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) estimates that, in one out of every five countries, the youth population living in urban areas has less education than that living in rural areas; an important factor considering the ever-increasing urban youth population.¹⁰⁷ This has far-reaching consequences for individuals in terms of their earning potential and employability and for the economy as a whole as it reduces economic productivity.¹⁰⁸ Other issues for slums include a lack of skilled or high paying employment opportunities, a lack of mobility and connectivity, and a lack of public space.¹⁰⁹ In order to effectively address the issues of rapid

⁹⁵ Nana Araba Apt, "Rapid Urbanization and Living Arrangements of Older Persons in Africa," http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/bulletin42_43/apt.pdf.

⁹⁶ William W. Cooper & Piyu Yue, "Rapid Urbanization and Its Problems."

⁹⁷ Nana Araba Apt, "Rapid Urbanization and Living Arrangements of Older Persons in Africa."

⁹⁸ Richard Florida, "America's Urban-Rural Work Divide," CityLab, April 6, 2012, <https://www.citylab.com/life/2012/04/americas-urban-rural-work-divide/1651/>.

⁹⁹ Nana Araba Apt, "Rapid Urbanization and Living Arrangements of Older Persons in Africa."

¹⁰⁰ "Sustainable Development Goal 11," United Nations Development Programme.

¹⁰¹ "Sustainable Development Goal 11," United Nations Development Programme.

¹⁰² UN-Habitat, *Slum Almanac 2015-2016*, 2015, <https://unhabitat.org/slum-almanac-2015-2016/>.

¹⁰³ UN-Habitat, *Slum Almanac 2015-2016*.

¹⁰⁴ UN-Habitat, *Slum Almanac 2015-2016*.

¹⁰⁵ UN-Habitat, *The Challenge of Slums – Global Report on Human Settlements 2003*, 2003, <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/Challenge%20of%20Slums.pdf>.

¹⁰⁶ UN-Habitat, *Slum Almanac 2015-2016*.

¹⁰⁷ UN-Habitat, *Slum Almanac 2015-2016*.

¹⁰⁸ UN-Habitat, *Slum Almanac 2015-2016*.

¹⁰⁹ UN-Habitat, *Slum Almanac 2015-2016*.

urbanization and increase sustainability, cities will need to develop multifaceted solutions to improve the conditions of urban slums.

Another major issue caused by rapid urbanization is the need for the management of increased waste. The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) estimates between 1.7 and 1.9 billion tons of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) are generated worldwide each year.¹¹⁰ Currently, UN-Habitat estimates that MSW is growing at a rate of three-five percent per year and that urban populations are growing at a similar rate, meaning that approximately every 10 years the waste generation will double.¹¹¹ In many parts of the world, this waste is not well managed and cities are struggling to keep pace with the quantity of waste generated. It is estimated that more than 50 percent of the waste generated in low-income Member States is disposed of in uncontrolled landfills and a further 15 percent is disposed of through informal and unsafe recycling.¹¹² Improper disposal of MSW results in negative health, safety, and environmental consequences, including serving as a breeding ground for diseases and disease vectors such as rats, the release of increased amounts of methane and other natural gases that contribute to global climate change, as well as contributing to an increase in urban violence.¹¹³ Sanitary landfills, incineration plants, and recycling plants are the primary facilities responsible for disposing of MSW, but the large capital investment needed to build and operate such facilities has resulted in a general undersupply.¹¹⁴ In addition, there is often difficulty in finding a suitable location for the construction of these plants as many communities do not want them located near their homes or businesses, which results in additional costs for the transportation of MSW.¹¹⁵ To address these concerns, cities are being encouraged to develop Integrated Waste Management Plans and to implement the principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle to reduce waste generated and repurpose as much as possible.¹¹⁶ It is worth noting that, according to the UNEP, the types of solid waste that are generated in low and middle-income countries is very different from that which is generated in high-income countries. Generally, the waste generated in low and middle-income countries is comprised of more organic matter than in high-income countries, but over time as low and middle-income countries develop and industrialize there will likely be an increase in inorganic materials like plastics and metals, which will make it increasingly important that there are MSW facilities and programs in place.¹¹⁷

Urban planning is an important factor in ensuring the long-term sustainability of urbanization.¹¹⁸ It involves the locating of transportation infrastructure including roads, highways, sidewalks and public transportation; the distribution of public services like schools and hospitals; the allotment of public spaces for parks and green spaces; the layout of utilities like electricity and sewage systems; and many more systems that are vital to the development and success of a modern urban center.¹¹⁹ However, at the current rates of urban population increase, urban planners are finding it difficult to keep pace with the expansion of the city's footprint. Growing populations and the development of informal housing settlements, like urban slums, can make this especially difficult. As a result, cities are facing problems with infrastructure, transportation, the location of services, and even access to necessities like food and water.¹²⁰ Urban planning is failing to keep pace with urban development for several reasons, among those

¹¹⁰ United Nations Environment Programme, *Framework of Global Partnership on Waste Management – Note by the Secretariat*, October 14, 2010, http://www.unep.or.jp/ietc/SPC/news-nov10/3_FrameworkOfGPWM.pdf.

¹¹¹ UN-Habitat, *Solid Waste Management in the World's Cities: Pre-Publication Series*, 2009, <https://unhabitat.org/books/solid-waste-management-in-the-worlds-cities-water-and-sanitation-in-the-worlds-cities-2010-2/>.

¹¹² United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), *Shanghai Manual – A Guide for Sustainable Urban Development in the 21st Century – Chapter 5 - Solid Waste Management: Turning Waste into Resources*, 2012, http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_pdfs/shanghaimanual/Chapter%205%20-%20Waste_management.pdf

¹¹³ The World Bank, *Solid Waste Management*, March 27, 2018, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/brief/solid-waste-management>.

¹¹⁴ UNDESA, *Shanghai Manual – A Guide for Sustainable Urban Development in the 21st Century – Chapter 5 - Solid Waste Management: Turning Waste into Resources*

¹¹⁵ UNDESA, *Shanghai Manual – A Guide for Sustainable Urban Development in the 21st Century – Chapter 5 - Solid Waste Management: Turning Waste into Resources*

¹¹⁶ UNDESA, *Shanghai Manual – A Guide for Sustainable Urban Development in the 21st Century – Chapter 5 - Solid Waste Management: Turning Waste into Resources*

¹¹⁷ United Nations Environment Programme, *Principals of Municipal Solid Waste*, April 2001, http://www.unep.or.jp/ietc/Publications/spc/Solid_Waste_Management/Vol_1/5_6-Part1_Section-chapter1.pdf.

¹¹⁸ UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report 2016 - Chapter 7 - A City that Plans: Reinventing Urban Planning*, <http://wcr.unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Chapter7-WCR-2016.pdf>.

¹¹⁹ UN-Habitat, *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning*, https://unhabitat.org/?mbt_book=international-guidelines-on-urban-and-territorial-planning.

¹²⁰ UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report 2016 - Chapter 7 - A City that Plans: Reinventing Urban Planning*.

is the deficit of urban planners. In the United Kingdom, there are 38 accredited planners for every 100,000 people, but in Nigeria and India there are 1.44 and .23 respectively.¹²¹ This deficit can have long-term consequences for urban development. When a city fails to plan for its growth or grows faster than its plan, it may not factor in many necessary services required to maintain its population, which leads to problems such as food deserts, inadequate waste disposal, and lack of green space. While it is possible to institute planning after an area has begun to develop, it can be more difficult due to the placement of buildings and homes that impede the route of public transportation or prevent the construction of a neighborhood school.¹²² In developing an urban plan it is important to incorporate the interests of many groups and stakeholders. Yet many urban planning initiatives have failed groups like the urban poor, women, and youths, which has resulted in less effective deployment of services and infrastructure.¹²³

Actions Taken by the United Nations

The UN has recognized for many years the need to address unsustainable urbanization and to increase the international support and funding available for cities combating these problems.¹²⁴ Prior to SDG 11, Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11, called for “a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers” by 2020.¹²⁵ The UN has also hosted several policy conferences intended to address the issues of urbanization. Habitat I, the first UN conference to address issues surrounding urbanization, was held in Vancouver in 1976 and established UN-Habitat to be the UN body dedicated to addressing issues of urbanization.¹²⁶ Since then, the UN has hosted Habitat II (1996) and Habitat III (2016). The outcome document of Habitat III, the New Urban Agenda, reaffirmed the need for the international community to address urbanization and incorporate strategies for sustainable urbanization.¹²⁷ Specifically, the New Urban Agenda recognizes the need to “leverage innovations in technology” and promote “access to science, technology, and innovation and enhanced knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms” to promote sustainable urbanization.¹²⁸

To date, the most comprehensive attempt by the UN to address rapid urbanization is SDG 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities.” SDG 11 lays out seven targets: (1) ensure safe and affordable housing and upgrade slums; (2) provide affordable, accessible, and sustainable transportation, specifically public transportation; (3) integrate sustainable urban planning and development; (4) protect natural and cultural heritage; (5) reduce the impact of natural disasters; (6) reduce the environmental impact of cities; (7) and incorporate public and green spaces.¹²⁹ SDG 11 also lays out several goals, including to support least developed countries through financial and technical assistance in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials.¹³⁰ SDG 11 is an attempt by the UN to bring together the international community and the various UN agencies to address these issues.

Many of the current UN reports and recommendations related to sustainable urbanization recognize technology and innovation as key factors in addressing the many problems related to rapid urbanization and increasing the sustainability of urban development.¹³¹ Cities have effectively implemented new technologies and innovative policies that address the issues caused by rapid urbanization. The city of Curitiba, Brazil is an example of a city that has effectively used technology, innovation, and planning to address the concerns of urbanization, including the

¹²¹ UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report 2016 - Chapter 7 - A City that Plans: Reinventing Urban Planning*.

¹²² UN-Habitat, *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning*.

¹²³ UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report 2016 - Chapter 7 - A City that Plans: Reinventing Urban Planning*.

¹²⁴ “Sustainable cities and human settlements,” United Nations Development Programme, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainablecities> (accessed May 15, 2018).

¹²⁵ “Sustainable cities and human settlements,” United Nations Development Programme.

¹²⁶ “Sustainable cities and human settlements,” United Nations Development Programme.

¹²⁷ The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, *The New Urban Agenda*, October 20, 2016, <http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/>.

¹²⁸ The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, *The New Urban Agenda*.

¹²⁹ “Sustainable Development Goal 11,” United Nations Development Programme.

¹³⁰ “Sustainable Development Goal 11,” United Nations Development Programme.

¹³¹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), *Shanghai Manual – A Guide for Sustainable Urban Development in the 21st Century – Chapter 7: Embracing Scientific and Technological Change*, 2012, http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_pdfs/shanghaimanual/Chapter%207%20-%20Science%20&%20technology.pdf.

development of a mass transit system and a unique waste management system.¹³² Curitiba has been lauded for its accomplishments, including being called the “most innovative city in the world” by the Los Angeles.¹³³ In terms of its mass transit system, Curitiba has developed a rapid bus system that serves nearly 2 million riders per day or about 85% of the city’s population.¹³⁴ This drastically reduces the city’s carbon footprint from private vehicles as well as reducing overall traffic and congestion. In addition, with dedicated bus lanes the buses of Curitiba are able to avoid much of the traffic that impedes busses in other cities.¹³⁵ Curitiba has also implemented a rather unique system of waste management in which citizens are encouraged to recycle and dispose of their waste properly by being rewarded with tokens that can be used to purchase food from around the city.¹³⁶ While Curitiba is still suffering from some repercussions of urbanization it is an example of a city that has effectively implemented urban planning and has made an effort to be innovative in its development.¹³⁷

Conclusion

There are many issues related to rapid urbanization, but few Member States or cities have the ability to address those issues on their own. They are often complex and multifaceted issues that require large capital investments and the development of new policies and technologies. SDG 11 and other international agreements and projects are important steps in bringing together the international community to address these issues. However, as important as these agreements are they do little to facilitate the transfer of technologies and knowledge between Member States. As cities develop new technologies, policies, and effective strategies it will be important to ensure that they are shared with other members of the international community to allow more effective and quicker addressing of their own issues related to rapid urbanization.

Committee Directive

Delegates should consider the many causes of rapid urbanization as well as its many consequences and the ways in which technology sharing and innovation could serve to address them. How can Member States learn from each other’s successes and failures? What cities have been most successful and how could their successes be replicated? What strategies have failed, but could have been more successful with the utilization of new technologies or the provision of greater resources? What new/innovative strategies can be employed if cities collaborate and Member States share technologies? Consider the forums through which technology sharing will be most successful between Member States. Many cities and governments are hesitant to implement new and innovative strategies out of concern for monetary costs and inertia of residents, so how can the international community encourage innovation and the piloting of new ideas? How can the private sector, academia, and non-profit organizations be engaged in the innovation process and how can they serve to share technology globally? You are encouraged to bear all of these questions in mind while preparing for committee but remember that it is not necessarily the goal of this committee to address each of the issues caused by rapid urbanization, instead the goal is to find ways to share knowledge and technology between Member States to address the issues.

¹³² United Nations Development Program, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2014, http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Sustainable%20Development/Urbanization/UNDP_Urban-Strategy.pdf

¹³³ David Adler, “Story of cities #37: how radical ideas turned Curitiba into Brazil’s ‘green capital’,” *The Guardian*, May 6, 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/may/06/story-of-cities-37-mayor-jaime-lerner-curitiba-brazil-green-capital-global-icon>.

¹³⁴ David Adler, “Story of cities #37: how radical ideas turned Curitiba into Brazil’s ‘green capital’.”

¹³⁵ David Adler, “Story of cities #37: how radical ideas turned Curitiba into Brazil’s ‘green capital’.”

¹³⁶ Robin Wright, “The Most Innovative City in the World,” *Los Angeles Times*, June 3, 1996, http://articles.latimes.com/1996-06-03/news/mn-11410_1_world-city.

¹³⁷ David Adler, “Story of cities #37: how radical ideas turned Curitiba into Brazil’s ‘green capital’.”

Annotated Bibliography

I: Enhancing Economic Development through Inclusive Business Models

Christina Gradl and Beth Jenkins, "Creating Value for All: Strategies for Doing Business with The Poor," *United Nations Development Programme, New York (2008)*, p. 14

<http://www.rw.undp.org/content/rwanda/en/home/library/poverty/creating-value-for-all---strategies-for-doing-business-with-the-.html/>

Gradl and Jenkins (2008) offer a very informative overview of the Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM) Initiative and the UNDP's involvement with this. The article gives information on the background and purpose of the initiative, its purpose and focus, and GIM strategies. Throughout the article there are case study examples and on the final page several of the cases are related to the Millennium Development Goals. This is an extremely useful source for understanding the purpose and strategies of the GIM initiative. This will also be helpful for coming up with ideas and solutions in committee.

Michael U. Klein and Rita Hadjimichael, *The Private Sector in Development: Entrepreneurship, Regulation, and Competitive Disciplines* (Washington, DC: World Bank).

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/15134>

This book provides detailed information on private sector development and its change over time. The authors provide policy suggestions and suggest that the private sector is crucial to reducing global poverty. The book was sponsored by the World Bank in 2003, but gives detailed strategies for governments interacting with the private sector. Chapters 5 and 6 are most relevant to writing position papers, but chapters 1 and 4 also contain applicable information. This book focuses heavily on economics and provides several case studies.

"Strategy Note: UNDP's Private Sector and Foundations Strategy for the Sustainable Development Goals 2016-2020," *United Nations Development Programme Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development*, Istanbul (2016), p. 5 <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/iicpsd/strategy-note--undp-s-private-sector-and-foundations-strategy-f.html>

This document explains the importance of the private sector in development and how the UNDP plans to engage the private sector in development. It connects this with the Sustainable Development Goals and mentions several challenges facing the engagement of inclusive business models. The document also gives very detailed information on how UNDP wants to approach the private sector, which will be beneficial to think about for position papers and committee. These are outlined on pages 17 and 18.

"Growing Inclusive Markets," United Nations Development Programme,

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/partners/private_sector/GIM.html

This is the main page for the Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM) Initiative on the UNDP website. It provides a general overview of the initiative and what it offers to stakeholders. The webpage has several external links to GIM reports, case studies, and partner initiatives. This is a good source to get a general idea of what the initiative entails and pertinent further reading.

"Business Call to Action," *Business Call to Action*, last modified 2017, <https://www.businesscalltoaction.org/about-bcta>

This webpage is the Business Call to Action's (BCtA) main information page. It clearly defines what BCtA is and talks about Inclusive Business. It defines BCtA's goals and actions, and is a good starting point for research on what the UN has been doing for the GIM initiative. There are also many additional links that will provide more information and resources, including several case studies.

"Implementing Inclusive Business Models: How Businesses Can Work with Low-Income Communities," *Business Call to Action*, Geneva (2015), p. 1 <https://www.businesscalltoaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/BCtA-UNGC-IB-Primer-Web-Final.pdf>

This is a short, informative document about how businesses can engage with the poor. It gives common restraints that businesses face and solutions for them, with accompanying examples from companies who have succeeded in utilizing inclusive business models. The document also defines and talks about the Bottom of the Pyramid concept and gives links to further information.

II: Encouraging Sustainable Urban Development through Technology Sharing

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), *Shanghai Manual – A Guide for Sustainable Urban Development in the 21st Century*, 2012, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=633&menu=35>

The Shanghai Manual provides background on many of the concerns associated with rapid urbanization, including urban management (chapter 2), the urban economy (chapter 3), public transportation (chapter 4), waste management (chapter 5), smart cities (chapter 8), and fostering communities (chapter 9). The manual was designed to serve as a reference for city officials, urban planners, and other interested parties around the world. As such it provides detailed examples, suggestions, and practical solutions to address the issues of rapid urbanization. Reviewing the manual may provide delegates with more information as well as jumping off points for further research.

UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report 2016*, <http://wcr.unhabitat.org/main-report/>

The World Cities Report presents an analysis of twenty years of urban development demonstrating that the current urbanization model is unsustainable and that addressing unsustainable urbanization must be a key factor in ongoing development initiatives. In addition, it provides discussion and suggestions for how patterns of urbanization can be improved to address issues such as rising inequality, climate change, informality, insecurity, and unsustainable urban expansion. The report will provide delegates with further information and ideas for how cities can collaborate to achieve sustainable urban development.

UN-Habitat, *Outcome of the World Urban Forum 2018: The Kuala Lumpur Declaration*, February 13, 2018, <http://wuf9.org/kuala-lumpur-declaration/>.

In addition to the Habitat conferences, the UN hosts a World Urban Forum biannually to discuss the most pressing issues related to urbanization. The 2018 session was the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, hosted in Kuala Lumpur. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration recognized the need to employ all available resources to ensure "that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements to foster prosperity and quality of life for all." The declaration called upon the international community to strengthen the role of local governments and increase coordination across all levels of government, employ creative and innovative practices in addressing urbanization, and to deploy monitoring and reporting mechanisms to assess the impacts of current policies and solutions.

United Nations Development Program, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy*, 2014, http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Sustainable%20Development/Urbanization/UNDP_Urban-Strategy.pdf

This report highlights the current efforts by the UNDP to respond to rapid urbanization and its resultant issues. It also lays out a strategy for how the UNDP intends to work with Member States and individual cities to address issues and encourage long term patterns of urbanization and development. The report will provide delegates with important updates about the actions of the UNDP and its strategies for addressing rapid urbanization, which will be important to consider throughout the conference.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), *Good Practices of Accessible Urban Development*, 2015,

http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/desa/good_practices_in_accessible_urban_development_october2016.pdf

This report includes 24 different cases studies from around the world that highlight different aspects of sustainable urban planning, including inclusive public transportation (South Africa), retrofitting public spaces (Hong Kong), accessible communities for seniors and those with disabilities (Canada), and transforming unused land into inclusive public spaces (Mexico). These case studies can serve as examples of successes in urban development and should be considered for how their lessons can serve as models for other cities.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), *Transfer of Technology and Knowledge Sharing for Development - Science, technology and innovation issues for developing countries*, 2014,

http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/dtlstict2013d8_en.pdf

This report from the UNCTAD highlights the importance of international technology transfers and their role in promoting development. The report provides advice and recommendations for Member States on how to develop technology sharing agreements, how best to distribute acquired technology and information, and how to encourage a culture of innovation and technological development. This report can serve as an important resource for delegates seeking a better understanding of technology transfers and how Member States go about establishing and maintaining them.

Keith E. Maskus, *Encouraging International Technology Transfer*, May 2004,

<https://www.ictsd.org/sites/default/files/downloads/2010/01/encouraging-international-technology-transfer.pdf>.

International technology-oriented agreements (TOAs) are agreements between Member States to advance technology research, development, and deployment. International technology transfers (ITTs) are the most common form of TOAs and can be conducted in several ways, including trade, foreign direct investment (FDI), and licensing. There are several established TOAs aimed at addressing climate change and other global issues, but to date, there are no TOAs to address issues related to rapid urbanization. Expanding current TOAs and knowledge sharing agreements and developing new versions between peer cities, cities with similar characteristics, and cities who have successfully addressed issues related to rapid urbanization could serve as a way for cities to learn from each other. As cities act as testing grounds to experiment with new forms of technology and policy, the sharing of success and failures with the international community will be important to prevent repeated mistakes and implement best practices from around the world. This source provides a further explanation of TOAs and how the international community can go about implementing them.