



SRMUN ATLANTA 2019
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Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Atlanta 2019 and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) - Executive Board. My name is Melissa Nelson, and I will be serving as your Director for the UNFPA – Executive Board. This will be my fourth conference as a SRMUN staff member. Previously, I served as the Director for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – Executive Committee (UNHCR ExCom) in SRMUN Atlanta 2018. As an undergraduate student, I went to multiple Model United Nations conferences for four years, including SRMUN Charlotte. I am a recent graduate of the University of Leicester with an MA in Human Rights and Global Ethics. I also hold a Bachelor of Science in Political Science with a minor in International Relations. Our committee's Assistant Director will be Jehojada Merilan. This will be Jehojada's second time as a staff member, after previously serving as an Assistant Director for the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) at SRMUN Atlanta 2018. He was also a delegate for numerous SRMUN Atlanta and SRMUN Charlotte conferences. Jehojada currently attends the University of Central Florida, where's he's majoring in International and Global Studies and a minor in Intelligence and National Security.

The UNFPA serves as the UN's sexual and reproductive health agency. According to the UNFPA, its mission is to “deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.” The UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/48/162 established the UNFPA Executive Board, which comprises of 36 Member States who serve on a rotating basis, and ensures support and supervision of the UNFPA's aforementioned mission.

By focusing on the mission of the UNFPA – Executive Board, we have established the following topics for the delegates to discuss and work together on developing meaningful and sustaining solutions:

- I. Restoring Sexual and Reproductive Health in Post-Conflict Regions
- II. Addressing Population Dynamics in the Context of Global Climate Change

The background guide provides a strong introduction to the committee and the topics and should be utilized as a foundation for the delegate's independent research. While we have attempted to provide a holistic analysis of the issues, the background guide should not be used as the single mode of research 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. Delegates should visit srmun.org for more detailed information about guidelines, formatting, and the position papers. ***All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, November 1, 2019 by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.***

Jehojada and I are enthusiastic about serving as your dais for the UNFPA – Executive Board. 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 Victoria Suri-Beltran, Jehojada, or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

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Committee History of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – Executive Board

With the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) A/RES/2211 (XXI), the United Nations (UN) Trust Fund for Population Activities was created in July 1967.¹ The Trust Fund's creation, supported from a recommendation by the then-UN Secretary-General, was administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).² At the time, the UN pursued more information about population growth, changes, and implications on economic and social development. In December 1971, the UNGA recognized the Trust Fund's progress, in addressing both rapid population growth and under-population, and the need for the fund's expansion.³ During the same year, with A/RES/2815 (XXVI), the UN Trust Fund for Population Activities was renamed to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).⁴ The UNFPA's mission was to promote the awareness of economic and social problems affecting populations, boost aid for developing Member States, and collaborate and implement projects from the UN and its fellow organizations.⁵ Five years since its establishment, the UNFPA coordinated nearly 600 population-based programs across 76 developing Member States with slightly over USD 80 Million budget.⁶

In December 1987, the UNFPA's name was once again revised to the United Nations Population Fund, although the acronym remained as "UNFPA."⁷ The UNFPA continued its distinctive function within the UN system, by primarily addressing population and development issues, while also emphasizing reproductive health and gender equality.⁸ The UNFPA also worked to provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health, promote reproductive rights, reduce maternal mortality, and fast-track progress on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁹

The UNFPA's Executive Board, established with A/RES/48/162 in December 1993, consists of 36 Member States, serving on a rotating basis.^{10,11} The Executive Board formally succeeded the UNDP Governing Council in 1994, which had served as the UNFPA's governing body between 1973 and 1993.¹² The Executive Board does not exclusively provide intergovernmental support and supervision for the UNFPA's activities but also to the UNDP and the United Nations Office for Projects Services (UNOPS).¹³ The UNFPA Executive Board ensures the UNFPA, UNDP, and UNOPS continue to achieve programme goals, ranging from reproductive health and education, safe birth delivery, and that "every young person's potential is fulfilled across its Member States."¹⁴ The UNFPA's budget, as of 2018, totaled USD 1,068 Million based on Member States' contributions.¹⁵

The UNFPA's mission was bolstered as a result of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, where the Program of Action (PoA) was created. The PoA has since served as a steering document

¹ United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 2211 (XXI), *Population Growth and Economic Development*, [https://undocs.org/a/res/2211\(XXI\)](https://undocs.org/a/res/2211(XXI)), A/RES/2211 (XXI), December 17, 1966.

² United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 2211 (XXI), *Population Growth and Economic Development*.

³ United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 2815 (XXVI), United Nations Fund for Population Activities, [https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/2815\(XXVI\)](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/2815(XXVI)), A/RES/2815(XXVI), December 14, 1971.

⁴ Salas, Rafael, "The United Nations Fund for Population Activities," National Center for Biotechnology Information, US National Library of Medicine, 1973, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/4596079>

⁵ Salas, Rafael, "The United Nations Fund for Population Activities," National Center for Biotechnology Information, US National Library of Medicine.

⁶ Salas, Rafael, "The United Nations Fund for Population Activities," *International Journal of Health Services*, October 1, 1973, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.2190/6CFA-N9FR-L6MD-K5LR>

⁷ "UN Population Fund (UNFPA)," United Nations, <https://research.un.org/en/docs/unsystem/unfpa>.

⁸ "UNFPA in the UN System," United Nations Population Fund, <https://www.unfpa.org/unfpa-un-system> (accessed May 1, 2019).

⁹ "UNFPA in the UN System." United Nations Population Fund.

¹⁰ United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 48/162, *Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields*, <https://undocs.org/a/res/48/162>, A/RES/48/162, January 14, 1994.

¹¹ "Executive Board," UNFPA, <https://www.unfpa.org/executive-board> (accessed February 25, 2019).

¹² "Executive Board," UNFPA.

¹³ "Executive Board," UNFPA.

¹⁴ "Executive Board," UNFPA.

¹⁵ "Funds and Funding," UNFPA, <https://www.unfpa.org/funds-and-funding> (accessed February 25, 2019).

for the UNFPA.¹⁶ The PoA is a very ambitious initiative that contains more than 200 recommendations within five 20-year goals in the areas of health, development, and social welfare.¹⁷ A notable aspect from the PoA is the recommendation to provide comprehensive reproductive health care; this includes family planning, safe pregnancy and delivery services; legal abortion; prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and its information, and counseling about sexuality.¹⁸

In 2007, the UNFPA reorganized its operations to have more on-the-field missions, while an efficient and strategic partner.¹⁹ By 2015, the SDGs has been influential in guiding the UNFPA. On September 25, 2015, the 193 UN Member States unanimously adopted the SDGs, a set of 17 goals aiming to transform the world by 2030.²⁰ These goals included targets that aligned with the UNFPA's mission, including the eradication of poverty, abuse and discrimination, environmental destruction, and preventable deaths.²¹ The UNFPA is working with governments, partners, and other UN agencies to directly tackle many of the SDGs, notably, Goal 3 on health, Goal 4 on education, and Goal 5 on gender equality.²²

Currently, the UNFPA supports reproductive health care for women and youth across 150 Member States, or the equivalent of 80 percent of the global population.²³ The UNFPA's services provide aid to pregnant women, generally to people facing life-threatening complications each month and thousands of health workers are trained to supervise and help ensure at least 90 percent of all childbirths. In addition to providing aid to pregnant women, the UNFPA does significant work to mitigate and assist teen pregnancies. Assistance is achievable by providing reliable access to modern contraceptives, in what would otherwise lead to unplanned pregnancies and could lead to complications -- which is the leading cause of death for girls between 15 and 19 years old.²⁴ The UNFPA also works diligently to prevent all forms of gender-based violence, including instances of child marriage and genital cutting, which affects one in every three women.²⁵ Through their specific support in areas of reproductive health and family planning, the UNFPA works with governments and the private sector in order to address the unique challenges that require compromise amongst many actors.²⁶

¹⁶ "What Was Cairo? The Promise and Reality of ICPD," Population Reference Bureau.

¹⁷ "What Was Cairo? The Promise and Reality of ICPD," Population Reference Bureau.

¹⁸ "What Was Cairo? The Promise and Reality of ICPD," Population Reference Bureau.

¹⁹ Zusy, Caitlin, "History of the UNFPA," The Borgen Project.

²⁰ "UNFPA & the Sustainable Development Goals." 2019. United Nations Population Fund. <https://www.unfpa.org/sdg>. (accessed May 1, 2019).

²¹ "UNFPA & the Sustainable Development Goals." 2019. United Nations Population Fund (accessed May 1, 2019).

²² "UNFPA & the Sustainable Development Goals." 2019. United Nations Population Fund (accessed May 1, 2019).

²³ "How We Work," United Nations Population Fund, July 10, 2018, <https://www.unfpa.org/how-we-work>

²⁴ "How We Work," United Nations Population Fund.

²⁵ "About Us," United Nations Population Fund. January 2018, <https://www.unfpa.org/about-us> (accessed February 25, 2019).

²⁶ "About Us," United Nations Population Fund.

I. Restoring Sexual and Reproductive Health in Post-Conflict Regions

Introduction

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), through its own programmes and collaborations with other partners, has worked to ensure every individual has the right to make their own independent choice about sexual and reproductive health.²⁷ In fact, the UNFPA stated “good sexual and reproductive health” is a state of “complete physical, mental and social well-being in all matters relating to the reproductive system.”²⁸ To ensure people have safe sexual and reproductive health, these individuals must have access to accurate information. Obtaining such access should include the affordable and effective contraception methods, importantly, “of their choice.”²⁹ When the time comes to have children, the UNFPA stands firm that women must have the means to safe pregnancy and delivery.³⁰ These actions, however, are nearly impossible as a result of conflict within Member States.

Violence against women has been recognized as a universal problem.³¹ Particularly during a humanitarian crisis, whether a result of conflict or natural disasters, women's health might encounter higher risks of distress.³² In such events of conflict, women and girls have been subject to intimidation, sexual abuse, rape, forced into unwanted pregnancies, and even killed.³³ According to a UNFPA report, such acts towards female populations are meant to “degrade, humiliate, terrorize and shame” victims.³⁴ Due to various crises, access to contraceptives may be limited, services to safe abortion become minimal or nonexistent, and sexually transmitted infections rise.³⁵

Research has indicated an increase in domestic violence, involuntary prostitution, and sex trafficking among women in post-conflict areas.³⁶ The gender-based violence (GBV), which have been used as a tool of war, is one of the most widespread human rights violations facing the international community.³⁷ GBV may occur regardless of an individual's economic, social, or national boundaries, and one in three women will encounter either physical or sexual abuse in their lifetime.³⁸ In post-conflict environments, the UNFPA has been in the forefront in restoring health practices for women and they are participating in peace and post-conflict reconstruction processes.

Actions Taken by the UNFPA

History

The UNFPA's training of personnel, deployment of hygiene and family-planning supplies, and support to vulnerable populations in both emergency and reconstruction phases have been staples for the UN agency.³⁹ The UNFPA's

²⁷ "Sexual & reproductive health," The United Nations Population Fund, <https://www.unfpa.org/sexual-reproductive-health#> (accessed September 5, 2019).

²⁸ "Sexual & reproductive health," The United Nations Population Fund.

²⁹ "Sexual & reproductive health," The United Nations Population Fund.

³⁰ "Sexual & reproductive health," The United Nations Population Fund.

³¹ The United Nations Population Fund, *The Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls: A UNFPA Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in Areas of Conflict and Reconstruction*, November 2002, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/impact_conflict_women.pdf

³² The United Nations Population Fund, *Global Review of Challenges and Good Practices in Support of Women in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*, June 2007, <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/tunisia.pdf>

³³ The United Nations Population Fund, *The Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls: A UNFPA Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in Areas of Conflict and Reconstruction*, November 2002, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/impact_conflict_women.pdf

³⁴ *The Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls: A UNFPA Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in Areas of Conflict and Reconstruction*.

³⁵ "Unfinished Business: The pursuit of rights and choices For All," UNFPA, <https://www.unfpa.org/swop-2019> (accessed September 5, 2019).

³⁶ Manjoo, Rashida, and Calleigh McRaith. "Gender-Based Violence and Justice in Conflict and Post-Conflict Areas." Cornell Law School. <https://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/research/ILJ/upload/Manjoo-McRaith-final.pdf>. (accessed June 6, 2019).

³⁷ "Gender-Based Violence," The UNFPA, <https://www.unfpa.org/gender-based-violence#> (accessed September 5, 2019).

³⁸ "Gender-Based Violence," The UNFPA.

³⁹ The UNFPA. *Reproductive Health for Communities in Crisis: UNFPA Emergency Response*. 2001.

progress in restoring sexual and reproductive health has steadily developed over the last few decades, and includes networking with partners to access and address the reproductive and sexual health situation.⁴⁰ According to then-UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya A. Obaid, in 2001, the UNFPA has made significant strides in promoting reproductive health awareness, improving the agency's offices across Member States, and developing technical standards in emergency areas.⁴¹ Obaid credited the UNFPA's improved ability to work and respond to these issues from activities that occurred during the 1990s.⁴²

As recognized in the UNFPA's inter-agency Field Manual in 1999, *Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations*, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Health Organization (WHO), "[r]eproductive health is a right" and such right also applies to refugees and populations living in "refugee-like conditions."⁴³ In order to fulfil this right, the UNFPA understands that people living in conflict areas must feel comfortable to share and trust their private concerns related to reproductive health information and services.⁴⁴ The inter-agency Field Manual, referencing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in September 1994, noted reproductive health's wide range of services covers:

*"family-planning counselling, information, education, communication and services; education and services for prenatal care, safe delivery and post-natal care, and infant and women's health care; prevention and appropriate treatment of infertility; prevention of abortion and the management of the consequences of abortion; treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; breast cancer and cancers of the reproductive system, and other reproductive health conditions; and active discouragement of harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation."*⁴⁵

The 1999 inter-agency Field Manual stems from the Inter-agency Symposium on Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations held in Geneva, Switzerland in June 1995, where UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and more than 50 Member State governments worked to strengthen reproductive health services to refugees. The symposium, which was co-sponsored by the UNFPA, assured further collaboration with the UNHCR about reproductive health, and this included field testing across 17 Member States by the time the 1999 inter-agency Field Manual second edition was published. To further fulfill its mission and the goals of the symposium, the UNFPA assembled a kit specifically for reproductive health services in emergency situations.

Originally titled as "The Reproductive Health Kit for Emergency Situations," the UNFPA's kit is known as the "Reproductive Health Kits for Crisis Situations," as of 2003, and range from contraception, sexually transmitted infections (STI) treatment, blood transfusion, clinical delivery assistance, miscarriage and abortion complications management, and more.^{46, 47} The inspiration of the kits came from the Bosnian crisis where thousands of women were sexually abused, and Marie Stopes International developed the reproductive health kits in 1992 to help address the urgent need for medical equipment.⁴⁸ With the assistance of WHO's Regional Office for Europe, these kits were reviewed and updated through the Bosnian War.⁴⁹ By 1997, Albania encountered a health crisis that saw maternity

<https://www.unfpa.org/publications/reproductive-health-communities-crisis>

⁴⁰ The UNFPA. *Reproductive Health for Communities in Crisis: UNFPA Emergency Response*. 2001

⁴¹ The UNFPA. *Reproductive Health for Communities in Crisis: UNFPA Emergency Response*. 2001

⁴² The UNFPA. *Reproductive Health for Communities in Crisis: UNFPA Emergency Response*. 2001

⁴³ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations*. 1999.

<https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/publications/operations/3bc6ed6fa/reproductive-health-refugee-situations-inter-agency-field-manual-unhcrwhounfpa.html>

⁴⁴ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations*.

⁴⁵ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations*.

⁴⁶ The UNHCR. *Inter-Agency Global Evaluation of Reproductive Health Services for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons*. November 2004. <https://www.unhcr.org/41c846f44.pdf>.

⁴⁷ The UNFPA. *Emergency Reproductive Health Kits*. 2011.

<https://www.unfpa.org/resources/emergency-reproductive-health-kits>.

⁴⁸ The UNFPA. *Emergency Reproductive Health Kits*. 2011.

⁴⁹ The UNFPA. *Emergency Reproductive Health Kits*.

hospitals request basic surgical equipment for women's reproductive needs. The UNFPA's representative for Albania helped design a referral and surgical obstetrics kits.⁵⁰ The kits continued to develop and adapt to address local crises in Africa and included more international agencies' involvement such as the UNHCR, WHO, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the UNFPA.⁵¹ Based on the aforementioned occasions where the kits were assembled and utilized, the UNFPA produced kits specifically for humanitarian organization and to amplify reproductive health services in emergency and refugee situations.⁵²

To further encourage policymakers and humanitarian groups to become more aware in addressing reproductive health during, and after, crises, the UNFPA also coordinates Minimum Initial Service Package, or MISP, which serves as actions required to meet reproductive health needs at the very onset of a humanitarian crisis.⁵³ Unlike the kits, the MISP is a series of activities for appropriately trained staff to implement.⁵⁴ The MISP are considered as the starting point to help guarantee efficient reproductive health in worst-case scenarios.⁵⁵

The UNFPA's 2011 report *Emergency Health Kits* does admit that some of their kits' medicines and medical devices may not be appropriate for all Member States and cultures, although this was expected when assembling a standardized kit for reproductive health services.⁵⁶ The kits are should not be considered as the definitive solution to addressing sexual and reproductive health services. Local areas must regularly assess and order additional health supplies and services through regular channels, such as the Member States' national procurement system, NGOs, the UNFPA, or other agencies.⁵⁷

Current Situation

In October 31, 2000, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted S/RES/1325, a resolution the UNFPA lobbied for its passage.^{58, 59} This UNSC resolution has been considered as a landmark in recognizing women and girls need to be protected in both conflict and post-conflict.⁶⁰ According to the UNFPA, S/RES/1325 provided "women with a legitimate basis to demand action from their governments and the international community" and the world recognized sexual violence "is no longer an acceptable and unpreventable consequence of conflict."⁶¹ With the resolution's passage, Member States must recognize women have a significant presence in the prevention and solution of conflicts.⁶² In the decade since S/RES/1325's adoption, the UNFPA highlighted that women are now an integral asset to UN peacekeeping missions, gender issues have been given priority, and more activities related to women's issues at the UN.⁶³ The UNFPA has engaged with Member States such as Liberia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, and Uganda, to develop Actions Plans to implement S/RES/1325.⁶⁴ The UNFPA has also partnered with other UN agencies in ensuring accountability in implementing S/RES/1325.⁶⁵

⁵⁰ The UNFPA. *Emergency Reproductive Health Kits*.

⁵¹ The UNFPA. *Emergency Reproductive Health Kits*.

⁵² The UNFPA. *Emergency Reproductive Health Kits*.

⁵³ "What is the Minimum Initial Service Package?," The UNFPA, April 2015, <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/what-minimum-initial-service-package>.

⁵⁴ "What is the Minimum Initial Service Package?" The UNFPA.

⁵⁵ "What is the Minimum Initial Service Package?" The UNFPA.

⁵⁶ The UNFPA. *Emergency Reproductive Health Kits*.

⁵⁷ The UNFPA. *Emergency Reproductive Health Kits*.

⁵⁸ United Nations Security Council, Resolution 1325 (2000), *Women and peace and security*, S/RES/1325 (2000), October 31, 2000, <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/1325>

⁵⁹ The UNFPA. *Reassessing Institutional Support for Security Council Resolution 1325: Defining the UNFPA Role and Strengthening Support for Women Affected by Conflict*. 2006. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/resolution_1325.pdf

⁶⁰ "Building Peace and Human Security," The UNFPA, October 20, 2010, <https://www.unfpa.org/press/building-peace-and-human-security#> (accessed September 5, 2019).

⁶¹ "Building Peace and Human Security," The UNFPA.

⁶² "Building Peace and Human Security," The UNFPA.

⁶³ "Building Peace and Human Security," The UNFPA.

⁶⁴ "Building Peace and Human Security," The UNFPA.

⁶⁵ "Building Peace and Human Security," The UNFPA.

The UNFPA revealed that its humanitarian activities have grown “exponentially” in the last decade.⁶⁶ In the 2018 report *Delivering Supplies When Crisis Strikes: Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings*, the UNFPA's work to provide sexual and reproductive health services reached 10.8 million people, while 3.9 million people had GBV services, and 1.5 million young people were met with adolescent sexual and reproductive health services during 2017.⁶⁷ Although the UNFPA has engaged with fellow UN agencies, inter-agency working groups, NGOs, and partners spanning the global, regional, and local communities, funding gaps have hindered the UNFPA's humanitarian responses. For 2017, the UNFPA received USD 215 Million, or 51 percent of the required USD 424 Million in humanitarian aid funds.⁶⁸

While training personnel for post-conflict events has been recognized by the UNFPA as a critical asset for a region or community's recovery, there have been shortages in qualified people in public health sectors. In a partnership with both the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and European Commission (EC), where the UNFPA provided strategic and programmatic support to 17 national governments including Angola, Ethiopia, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau, Somalia, and Sudan, the training for health officials was a hurdle across all 17 Member States.⁶⁹ With the EC's USD 18 Million fund, the 17 Member States in conflict and post-conflict situations, however, were still able to access sexual and reproductive health services such as contraceptives, education, and purchase other health commodities.⁷⁰

Ensuring safe sexual and reproductive health services has commonly been a topic affecting women and girls, but the UNFPA did explore its impact on men and boys. In a 2012 report with MenEngage Alliance, the UNFPA noted men and boys are often witnesses to sexual violence or directly assaulted in an attempt to “emasculate” men, less likely to report abuse due to various stigmas such as same-sex contact between men, and men encounter emotional distress with the inability to provide for their families as a result of post-conflict settings.⁷¹ The UNFPA, and its partners, does want men to play a positive role for fellow male survivors of sexual violence. Similar to cases for women, the UNFPA has advocated for perpetrators to be held responsible for crimes, and urged men serving most governments to use their social status for improved budgets for health care and social services.⁷²

Some men who have encountered sexual violence, particularly as ex-combatants of conflict, have projected their traumas and frustrations onto their wives and families during post-conflict periods.⁷³ The UNFPA noted that this example has been common in their reports from women.⁷⁴ As the UNFPA has encountered budget shortfalls, post-conflict communities also long encountered financial and technical challenges during reconstruction, and this affects vital sectors in development programs.⁷⁵ According to the UNFPA, it is necessary and “an integral approach” to implement projects that include women and men, in addition to health and reproductive services education, health-care trainers, and STI information.⁷⁶ The UNFPA does call on donors to include financial assistance to NGOs, particularly organizations with partnerships with local governments.⁷⁷

⁶⁶ The UNFPA. *Delivering Supplies When Crisis Strikes: Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings*. 2018.

https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA_PUB_2018_EN_Delivering_Supplies_When_Crisis_Strikes.pdf

⁶⁷ The UNFPA. *Delivering Supplies When Crisis Strikes: Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings*.

⁶⁸ The UNFPA. *Delivering Supplies When Crisis Strikes: Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings*.

⁶⁹ The UNFPA. *Ensuring Access to Reproductive Health Supplies*. 2009.

<https://www.unfpa.org/publications/ensuring-access-reproductive-health-supplies>

⁷⁰ The UNFPA. *Ensuring Access to Reproductive Health Supplies*.

⁷¹ The UNFPA. *Sexual Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict: Engaging Men and Boys*. 2012.

<https://menengage.unfpa.org/en/resources/sexual-violence-conflict-and-post-conflict-engaging-men-and-boys>

⁷² The UNFPA. *Sexual Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict: Engaging Men and Boys*.

⁷³ The UNFPA. *The Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls: A UNFPA Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in Areas of Conflict and Reconstruction*. 2002. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/impact_conflict_women.pdf

⁷⁴ The UNFPA. *The Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls: A UNFPA Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in Areas of Conflict and Reconstruction*.

⁷⁵ The UNFPA. *The Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls: A UNFPA Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in Areas of Conflict and Reconstruction*.

⁷⁶ The UNFPA. *The Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls: A UNFPA Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in Areas of Conflict and Reconstruction*.

⁷⁷ The UNFPA. *The Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls: A UNFPA Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in Areas of Conflict and Reconstruction*.

The UNFPA has been working on applying the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) A/RES/70/1 to its mission. The UNGA resolution from October 2015, commonly known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), has 17 goals with 169 targets, including commitments from the expired Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning information and education.⁷⁸ The UNFPA has also placed efforts to achieve SDG3 of ensuring good health and well-being and SDG5 of gender equality.⁷⁹

In the UNFPA's Humanitarian Action 2019 Overview, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem revealed a "staggering" 136 million required aid, and the figure includes 36 million women of reproductive age and five million were pregnant.⁸⁰ In regards to outlooks through 2019, Kanem expects approximately 35 million women, girls, and young people will have access to life-saving sexual and reproductive health services.⁸¹ The MISP and Emergency Reproductive Health Kits have remained as a staple for the UNFPA through the last year, with an estimated 12,000 kits with more than 1,700 tons of life-saving medicine and supplies sent to 50 Member States.⁸² To further advance sexual and reproductive health services, and the right to do so, the UNFPA's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 aims to execute a cohesive and effective response to humanitarian emergencies and post-conflict stages.⁸³

Conclusion

For decades, the UNFPA has been tasked with responsibilities regarding conflict prevention, peacebuilding, preventing GBV, providing humanitarian responses, and post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation.⁸⁴ The UNFPA, as the leading UN agency on sexual and reproductive health, the agency – which commemorates its 50th year in 2019, responds to nearly 60 humanitarian emergencies and remain in communities during post-conflict.⁸⁵ According to the UNFPA's inter-agency report with the UNHCR and WHO, the best method to ensure reproductive health services is to include the communities most affected by conflict. The largest population in need of sexual and reproductive health services are women and girls. The UNFPA has seen women engage themselves during post-conflict crises, in part of UN programs and resolutions and inclusive local governments. S/RES/1325 bolstered Member States and the UNFPA's mission to help guarantee best practices and programs for vulnerable populations seeking safe sexual and reproductive health services in post-conflict. The UNFPA's mission has encountered barriers in fulfilling its mission due to failure to identify GBV during early stages of humanitarian intervention, lack of financial and technical resources, inadequate monitoring of GBV, and not including victims in designing GBV initiatives.⁸⁶ While strategic plans, from within the UNFPA and from the UN partnerships, are in place, it will take adequate funding and collaboration from Member States and NGOs to ensure health services are restored during post-conflict.

Committee Directive

Responding to conflict-related sexual violence may require a comprehensive and multisectoral approach involving the coordinated provision of health care, protection, shelter and rehabilitation services, psychosocial support, and access to justice for survivors. As the UNFPA Sierra Leone's Assistant Representative Mariama Aminatta Diarra presented, post-conflict data from NGOs revealed women have countered hurdles such as medical examination fees, distrust with the judicial system, and local legislation provided inadequate protections.⁸⁷ In forming an effective

⁷⁸ United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 70/1, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, October 21, 2015, A/RES/70/1, https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

⁷⁹ "Sexual & reproductive health," The United Nations Population Fund.

⁸⁰ The UNFPA. *Humanitarian Action 2019 Overview*. January 2019. <https://www.unfpa.org/humanitarian-action-2019-overview>

⁸¹ The UNFPA. *Humanitarian Action 2019 Overview*.

⁸² The UNFPA. *Humanitarian Action 2019 Overview*.

⁸³ The UNFPA. *Humanitarian Action 2019 Overview*.

⁸⁴ The UNFPA. *Reassessing Institutional Support for Security Council Resolution 1325: Defining the UNFPA Role and Strengthening Support for Women Affected by Conflict*.

⁸⁵ The UNFPA. *Humanitarian Action 2019 Overview*.

⁸⁶ The UNFPA. *Reassessing Institutional Support for Security Council Resolution 1325: Defining the UNFPA Role and Strengthening Support for Women Affected by Conflict*.

⁸⁷ The UNFPA. *Reassessing Institutional Support for Security Council Resolution 1325: Defining the UNFPA Role and*

response to these issues, several questions arise. How should Member States, relevant agencies, and humanitarian organizations work together to allocate adequate resources to gather reliable data on sexual and reproductive health services? It is important to consider the existing policies and activities in your Member State. Have your Member State's policies and programs been effective? What could fellow Member States learn? How can Member States, especially those affected by conflict or currently in post-conflict, prioritize sexual and reproductive health services such as maternal health care, contraception, safe abortion care, post-abortion services, and remedies for violations. Given the varied levels of access to resources and differences in norms, cultures, and laws, how should Member States be held accountable for all of their legal obligations, especially for those that fall under international standards?

II. Addressing Population Dynamics in the Context of Global Climate Change

Introduction

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has been explicit that climate change "is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity today."⁸⁸ The United Nations (UN) identified climate change has been exacerbated by more than a century's worth of deforestation, industrialization, large-scale agriculture, and greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere, in addition to growing populations and standards of living.⁸⁹ The average surface temperature of the Earth has increased by nearly 0.7 degrees Celsius since the start of the 20th century.⁹⁰ Human and animal populations are vulnerable to higher concentrations of carbon dioxide and other GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of the aforementioned temperature increase.⁹¹ According to a UNFPA report on population and sustainable development in 2014, more than 17,000 species of animals and plants are at risk of extinction.⁹² It is also believed that human populations' environmental footprint is already one in a half times larger than what the planet is able to supply with natural resources.⁹³ By 2050 the entire world's population is expected to nearly double.⁹⁴ If the global population continues to grow as projected, communities would need the resources of nearly three Earths by 2050.⁹⁵ The effects of climate change are most felt in the world's developing Member States where the population is most vulnerable to environmental risks.⁹⁶ According to the UNFPA, human populations in developing Member States have contributed the least to GHG emissions due to their smaller economies and lack of urbanization.⁹⁷

According to the UN Systems Task Team, a "population dynamic" can be thought of as changes in population growth rates, age structures and distributions of people."⁹⁸ The growth rate, age structures, and distribution of people can be influenced by climate change. Specifically, it has been shown there are persistent inequalities for different population groups, specifically women and those populations in rapid urbanized areas. Rapid urbanization is linked to environmental concerns, and many cities located in coastal areas or on riverbanks may also be vulnerable to natural disasters such as storms, cyclones, and floods.⁹⁹ Additionally, inadequate urban infrastructure such as unreliable power systems and poor public transit leaves cities more vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters.

History

⁸⁸ "Climate change," The United Nations Population Fund, <https://www.unfpa.org/climate-change> (accessed June 2, 2019).

⁸⁹ "Climate Change," The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/> (accessed September 5, 2019).

⁹⁰ "Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics," United Nations Population Fund, 2013, <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/population-and-sustainable-development-post-2015-agenda> (accessed June 20, 2019).

⁹¹ "Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics," United Nations Population Fund.

⁹² "Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics," United Nations Population Fund.

⁹³ "Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics," United Nations Population Fund.

⁹⁴ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, *Initiatives in the area of human settlements and adaptation*, FCCC/SBSTA/2017/INF.3, April 25, 2017, <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/docs/2017/sbsta/eng/inf03.pdf> (accessed July 26, 2019).

⁹⁵ "Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics," United Nations Population Fund.

⁹⁶ "Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics," United Nations Population Fund.

⁹⁷ "Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics," United Nations Population Fund.

⁹⁸ "Population Dynamics," 2012, UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Un Development Agenda, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=843&menu=35> (accessed August 10, 2019).

⁹⁹ Rapid Urbanization: opportunities and challenges to improve the well-being of societies," United Nations Human Development Report, September 6, 2017, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/rapid-urbanisation-opportunities-and-challenges-improve-well-being-societies> (accessed June 20, 2019).

Consideration of the interrelationship between population dynamics and the environment began with the founding of the UN.¹⁰⁰ Those interrelationships were the focus of the first session of the United Nations Population Commission held in 1947.¹⁰¹ The session focused on whether there were enough natural resources required of the large population growth that was to be expected in the upcoming years and how Member States' economies would develop through those resources.¹⁰² Thus, the first studies of the relationship between population and the environment related more to developed Member States and tended to focus on how socio-economic development shaped demographic trends.

Statistics have revealed that population growth parallels the increase in economic growth, energy consumption, and GHG emissions.¹⁰³ The Sustainable Urbanization Strategy outlines the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) response to the rapid urbanization. This strategy from UNDP is targeted to local and national governments who are responsible for urban development.¹⁰⁴ The 2000 IPCC Special Report on Emission Scenarios (SRES) identifies population growth, economic growth, technology change, and changes in patterns of energy and land use as the major driving forces of the increase in GHG emissions.¹⁰⁵ These are all components of urban areas that governments have voices in. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), urbanization, can be defined as "a complex socio-economic process that transforms the built environment, converting previous areas that were rural into urban settlements, while also shifting the spatial distribution of a population from rural to urban."¹⁰⁶ This shift contributes to the structure of how those in rural or urban areas live, such as their occupations, lifestyles, behavior, cultures.¹⁰⁷ Therefore, urbanization can be thought of as closely related to the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental.¹⁰⁸ Well-managed urbanization informed by an understanding of population trends over the long run, can help maximize the benefits of accumulation while minimizing environmental degradation and other potential adverse impacts of a growing number of city dwellers, especially those in low-income Member States, where most rapid urbanization is expected by 2050.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, developed the idea of "sustainable development."¹⁰⁹ The report of the *World Commission on Environment and Development* defined this as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."¹¹⁰ Additionally it was stated that poverty, environmental degradation, and population growth were inextricably related and that none of those problems could be effectively addressed separately.¹¹¹ The report also stated that in certain parts of the world, population growth had exceeded the available natural resources that Member State had and continued to jeopardize the continuous development for that Member

¹⁰⁰ Hania Zlotnik, "Does Population Matter for Climate Change," Population Dynamics and Climate Change, 2009, <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/population-dynamics-and-climate-change> (accessed June 2, 2019).

¹⁰¹ Hania Zlotnik, "Does Population Matter for Climate Change," Population Dynamics and Climate Change.

¹⁰² Hania Zlotnik, "Does Population Matter for Climate Change," Population Dynamics and Climate Change.

¹⁰³ Leiwen Jiang and Karen Hardee, "How Do Recent Population Trends Matter to Climate Change?" April 2009, Population Action International, http://pai.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/population_trends_climate_change_FINAL.pdf, (accessed June 8, 2019).

¹⁰⁴ "Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Cities in the Developing World," United Nations Development Programme, 2016, <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/sustainable-urbanization-strategy.html> (accessed July 26, 2019).

¹⁰⁵ Leiwen Jiang and Karen Hardee, "How Do Recent Population Trends Matter to Climate Change?" April 2009, Population Action International, http://pai.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/population_trends_climate_change_FINAL.pdf, (accessed June 8, 2019).

¹⁰⁶ World Urbanization Prospects 2018," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ST/ESA/SER.A/421, 2019, <https://population.un.org/wup/Publications/> (accessed July 27, 2019).

¹⁰⁷ "World Urbanization Prospects 2018," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

¹⁰⁸ "World Urbanization Prospects 2018," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ST/ESA/SER.A/421, 2019, <https://population.un.org/wup/Publications/> (accessed July 27, 2019).

¹⁰⁹ Hania Zlotnik, "Does Population Matter for Climate Change," Population Dynamics and Climate Change, 2009, <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/population-dynamics-and-climate-change> (accessed June 2, 2019).

¹¹⁰ Hania Zlotnik, "Does Population Matter for Climate Change," Population Dynamics and Climate Change.

¹¹¹ Hania Zlotnik, "Does Population Matter for Climate Change," Population Dynamics and Climate Change.

State.¹¹² In response to the conclusions of the World Commission, the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* acknowledged population policies as an essential element of sustainable development.¹¹³ In 2000, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted A/RES/55/2, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which committed signing Member States to combat global issues.¹¹⁴ The Millennium Declaration, commonly known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) contained a section focusing on the protection of “our common environment” but the issues highlighted in it did not include population growth.¹¹⁵

Actions Taken by the United Nations & UNFPA

The UNFPA's mission of providing safe sexual and reproductive health, education, and violence protection has expanded to vulnerable populations of climate change, which may increase the frequency and impact of natural disasters.¹¹⁶ Urbanization has also seen complex effects due to climate change. The international community is witnessing urbanization at an alarming rate but adequate policies can make such cities sustainable.¹¹⁷ According to the UNFPA, cities with energy-efficient policies and programs are vital for current and future residents, and these policies may play a vital role in combatting climate change.¹¹⁸

At the UN Climate Summit in September 2014, Member States discussed the vulnerable populations affected by climate-related events. Member States had to identify where their most vulnerable populations reside and how climate change has affected these communities. The UNFPA, in collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development and Wolfram Research, created a tool for policymakers, experts, and anyone else to monitor where such vulnerable populations reside and what categorized these groups as “vulnerable.”¹¹⁹ The tool, known as the Demographic Exploration for Climate Adaptation (DECA) compiled population data and geographic information about the vulnerable areas to climate's impact.^{120,121} DECA's population data includes information of people's age, gender, location, and availability of services. Member States including Indonesia, Jamaica, Maldives, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago have stated to utilizing DECA for their planning and policy development.¹²²

The UNFPA partnered with the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) for the development of an Internet-based resource kit to educate and curb the effects of climate change.¹²³ The Climate Change Connections toolkit provided women with the gender, population, policy, best practices, and advocacy data.¹²⁴ The goal of the program was to help incorporate women in climate change discussions and engage women into policy and projects.¹²⁵

There have been crucial documents that have contributed to the climate change conversation: the Stockholm Declaration, the Rio Declaration, and the Paris Agreement. Between both the Rio and Stockholm Declarations, the most important and significant passages familiar in both declarations relate to the prevention of environmental harm.¹²⁶ In the second half of both declarations, Stockholm Principle 21, and Rio Principle 2, the declarations

¹¹² Hania Zlotnik, “Does Population Matter for Climate Change,” Population Dynamics and Climate Change.

¹¹³ Hania Zlotnik, “Does Population Matter for Climate Change,” Population Dynamics and Climate Change.

¹¹⁴ “Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)” World Health Organization https://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/about/en/ (accessed August 25, 2019).

¹¹⁵ “Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)” World Health Organization.

¹¹⁶ “Climate change,” The UNFPA.

¹¹⁷ “Climate change,” The UNFPA.

¹¹⁸ “Climate change,” The UNFPA.

¹¹⁹ “UNFPA programme to help turn climate information into action,” The UNFPA, September 24, 2014, <https://www.unfpa.org/news/unfpa-programme-help-turn-climate-information-action> (accessed September 5, 2019).

¹²⁰ “Climate change,” The UNFPA.

¹²¹ “Demographic Explorer for Climate Adaptation (DECA),” Pop Climate, <http://www.popclimate.net/DECA> (accessed September 5, 2019).

¹²² “UNFPA programme to help turn climate information into action,” The UNFPA.

¹²³ “Make the Connections: Women, Population, Climate Change,” The UNFPA, October 14, 2009, <https://www.unfpa.org/news/make-connections-women-population-climate-change> (accessed September 5, 2019).

¹²⁴ “Make the Connections: Women, Population, Climate Change,” The UNFPA.

¹²⁵ “Make the Connections: Women, Population, Climate Change,” The UNFPA.

¹²⁶ Günther Handl, “Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Declaration), 1972 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992,” United Nations Audiovisual Library of International

declare that a Member State's responsibility to ensure that activities within its control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or areas beyond national jurisdiction.¹²⁷

The 21st session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held in Paris, France in December 2015, was the largest UN Conference ever seen.¹²⁸ There were over 37,878 people participating, counting 200,000 government/party representatives, 8,000 international non-governmental organizations (INGO's) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) observers, and 3,000 media representatives.¹²⁹ The Paris Climate Change Agreement is a universal and legally-binding agreement that aims to keep the increase in the global average temperature to below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, which limits the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.¹³⁰ After two weeks of intensive discussion and negotiations on December 12, 2015, the new Climate Change Agreement Decision -- FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev -- was approved by Member States.¹³¹ The Paris Agreement entered force on November 4, 2016.¹³² To date, 185 of the 197 signing parties, which represents 88 percent of the global GHG emissions, have ratified the Paris Agreement.¹³³ With nearly all Member States agreeing, the Paris Agreement highlights the urgency of addressing climate change in the interest of present, and future generations.¹³⁴

To address population dynamics in the 21st century, UN Secretary-General António Guterres assembled world leaders of governments, the private sector and civil society together in September 2019 at the Climate Action Summit.¹³⁵ The aim of this summit was to support the multilateral process to increase and accelerate the motivation to tackle climate change.¹³⁶ The Summit focused on key areas that would make the most difference including heavy industry, nature-based solutions, cities, energy, resilience, and climate finance.¹³⁷ World leaders will report on what they are doing and suggest potential proposals for the 2020 UN climate conference.¹³⁸ Secretary-General Guterres strives for "concrete, realistic plans to enhance their nationally determined contributions by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent over the next decade, and to net zero emissions by 2050."¹³⁹ Climate change is disrupting national economies but there is a growing recognition that affordable, scalable solutions are available now that will enable us all to move towards to cleaner, more resilient economies.

Law, <http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/dunche/dunche.html> <http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/dunche/dunche.html> (accessed April 15, 2019).

¹²⁷ Günther Handl, "Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Declaration), 1972 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992," United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law.

¹²⁸ "Sustainable Urbanization in the Paris Agreement: Comparative Review of Nationally Determined Contributions for Urban Content," United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2017, https://urban-leds.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/resources/guidance_and_tools/Integrated_climate_action/Sustainable%20Urbanization%20in%20the%20Paris%20Agreement%20-%20Comparative%20Review%20of%20NDC%20-%20July%202018.pdf (accessed July 20, 2019).

¹²⁹ "Sustainable Urbanization in the Paris Agreement: Comparative Review of Nationally Determined Contributions for Urban Content," United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

¹³⁰ "Sustainable Urbanization in the Paris Agreement: Comparative Review of Nationally Determined Contributions for Urban Content," United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

¹³¹ "The Paris Agreement," United Nations Climate Change, 2016, <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement> (accessed July 26, 2019).

¹³² "Sustainable Urbanization in the Paris Agreement: Comparative Review of Nationally Determined Contributions for Urban Content," 2017, https://urban-leds.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/resources/guidance_and_tools/Integrated_climate_action/Sustainable%20Urbanization%20in%20the%20Paris%20Agreement%20-%20Comparative%20Review%20of%20NDC%20-%20July%202018.pdf (accessed July 20, 2019).

¹³³ "The Paris Agreement," United Nations Climate Change.

¹³⁴ "The Paris Agreement," United Nations Climate Change.

¹³⁵ "UN Climate Action Summit," United Nations, 2019, <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/un-climate-summit-2019.shtml> (accessed August 10, 2019).

¹³⁶ "Climate Change," United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/> (accessed July 27, 2019).

¹³⁷ "Climate Change," United Nations.

¹³⁸ "Climate Change," United Nations.

¹³⁹ "UN Climate Action Summit," United Nations, 2019, <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/un-climate-summit-2019.shtml> (accessed August 10, 2019).

Current Situation

More than half of the world's population live in urban areas.¹⁴⁰ Between now and 2030, the world's rural population is expected to remain largely static, while the urban population is projected to grow by 1.5 billion people.¹⁴¹ By 2030, 60 percent of the global population will live in cities of developing Member States, mainly in Africa and Asia.¹⁴² Over the first half of this century, urbanization level of Asia is expected to increase from about 37 to 64 percent, while Africa is expected to grow from 36 percent to 58 percent.¹⁴³ This shift in population size affects consumption, production, employment, income distribution, poverty, and social protection programs.¹⁴⁴ This shift not only puts pressure on populations themselves, but it also puts increasing pressure on the planet's limited resources and challenges environmental sustainability.¹⁴⁵ Efforts in reducing poverty, raising living standards, and promoting well-being to a growing world population places pressure on all-natural resources; land, forests, water, and the atmosphere.¹⁴⁶ Along with this increase in population, the effects of climate change are likely to increase, due to the amount of GHG emissions being used by human populations.¹⁴⁷ The dominant view in scientific circles is that the negative impacts of climate change over the course of the century will be large but unevenly distributed both spatially and socially.

Cities cover only a small portion of the world, but their physical and ecological footprints are much larger. Cities produce more than 70 percent of the world's GHG emissions and use 80 percent of the world's energy.¹⁴⁸ The International Energy Agency (IEA) projects that urban energy-related GHG emissions will rise from around 67 percent today to 74 percent by 2030.¹⁴⁹ The contributor to this climate change is likely to be concentrated in wealthier, more urbanized and industrialized areas of the world. The worst impacts are expected to be in relatively poor Member States, including those in Africa and Asia which are experiencing rapid urban growth.¹⁵⁰ Unfortunately, unplanned or inadequately managed urban expansion, in combination with unsustainable production and consumption patterns and a lack of capacity of public institutions to manage urbanization, can impair sustainability due to urban sprawl, pollution and environmental degradation.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁰ "Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Cities in the Developing World," United Nations Development Programme, 2016, <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/sustainable-urbanization-strategy.html> (accessed July 26, 2019).

¹⁴¹ "Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Cities in the Developing World," United Nations Development Programme.

¹⁴² "Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Cities in the Developing World," United Nations Development Programme.

¹⁴³ Martine, George and Daniel Schensul, "Fair and Effective Responses to Urbanization and Climate Change: Tapping Synergies and Avoiding Exclusionary Policies," The Demography of Adaptation to Climate Change, 2013, <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/demography-adaptation-climate-change> (accessed July 20, 2019).

¹⁴⁴ "Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics," United Nations Population Fund, 2013, <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/population-and-sustainable-development-post-2015-agenda> (accessed June 20, 2019).

¹⁴⁵ "Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics," United Nations Population Fund.

¹⁴⁶ "Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics," United Nations Population Fund.

¹⁴⁷ Stephen Leahy, "Cities Emit 60% More Carbon Than Thought" National Geographic, 2018 <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2018/03/city-consumption-greenhouse-gases-carbon-c40-spd/> (accessed August 25, 2019).

¹⁴⁸ "Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Cities in the Developing World," United Nations Development Programme, 2016, <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/sustainable-urbanization-strategy.html> (accessed July 26, 2019).

¹⁴⁹ "Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Cities in the Developing World," United Nations Development Programme.

¹⁵⁰ Martine, George and Daniel Schensul, "Fair and Effective Responses to Urbanization and Climate Change: Tapping Synergies and Avoiding Exclusionary Policies," The Demography of Adaptation to Climate Change, 2013, <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/demography-adaptation-climate-change> (accessed July 20, 2019).

¹⁵¹ "World Urbanization Prospects 2018: Highlights," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2018, <https://population.un.org/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2018-Highlights.pdf> (accessed August 10, 2019).

A key issue of city GHG emissions that is often overlooked are those that relate to consumption. A study conducted by C40 cities found that while cities like Sydney, London, and New York have largely moved away from the industrial sector, their emissions resulting from consumption has skyrocketed.¹⁵² These consumption emissions come from electronic use, food, clothing, transportation, and construction.¹⁵³ Switching to renewable energy will not be enough to decrease the GHG emissions of these large cities, their consumption habits will have to change drastically.¹⁵⁴ Some cities are urging their citizens to reduce their consumption by avoiding air travel, removing carbon emission heavy meat from their diets, and by requiring construction companies to quote their estimated emissions when bidding for projects.¹⁵⁵

Conclusion

Climate change contributes to the magnitude and frequency of natural disasters, droughts, and changes in precipitations.¹⁵⁶ These effects have negative consequences on food security, poverty reduction, and job opportunities. Member States are also encountering high rates of deforestation, land degradation, and water shortages due to climate change.¹⁵⁷ Developing Member States are contributing the least to carbon emissions, yet they have, and will continue, to feel the impacts of climate change the most. Member States must recognize and be willing to find solutions to climate change that will benefit not only themselves but benefit those Member States that feel the effects of climate change. The developing Member States, particularly with poorer population, rely on natural resources but such resources are at risk. With the human population expected to double by 2050, Member States need to quickly find solutions to ensure natural resources and food supply will be able to support that kind of drastic population growth. Both production and consumption habits of the more developed Member States will have to decrease significantly for the Earth to be able to support the growing human population.

Committee Directive

Prior to entering the UNFPA committee room, delegates should be familiar with their Member State's policies regarding climate change and population dynamics to weather changes. What are the climate change effects affecting, or potentially affecting, your Member State's population? What bilateral or multilateral policies has your Member State signed to address climate change that may benefit fellow UNFPA Member States and the agency itself. What existing UNFPA programmes could better improve and how? What can be considered as substitutions for GHG emissions for developed Member States. What products from your Member States exists that can take the place of products that give off such strong GHG emissions into the environment? Delegates must keep in mind that disagreements can occur due to the unequal damage climate change has caused towards developing Member States versus developed Member States.

¹⁵² Stephen Leahy, "Cities Emit 60% More Carbon Than Thought" National Geographic.

¹⁵³ Stephen Leahy, "Cities Emit 60% More Carbon Than Thought" National Geographic.

¹⁵⁴ Stephen Leahy, "Cities Emit 60% More Carbon Than Thought" National Geographic.

¹⁵⁵ Stephen Leahy, "Cities Emit 60% More Carbon Than Thought" National Geographic.

¹⁵⁶ The UNFPA, *Population Matters for Sustainable Development*, 2012,

https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA%20Population%20matters%20for%20sustainable%20development_1.pdf

¹⁵⁷ The UNFPA, *Population Matters for Sustainable Development*.

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I: Restoring Sexual and Reproductive Health in Post-Conflict Regions

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https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pubpdf/UNFPA_HumanitAction_2019_PDF_Online_Version_16_Jan_2019.pdf. (accessed June 25, 2019).

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Humanitarian Action Overview for 2019 highlights the various crises, across the international community, affecting women, girls, and young people. The UNFPA report recognizes its 2018 achievements and its priorities in humanitarian work. This publication has a compilation of data on regional and Member State-specific causes of conflict and sexual violence, which is used to determine the amount of aid that will be necessary to respond to each crisis effectively. Readers will be able to form a better understanding of the various issues affecting conflicted and post-conflict regions such as gender-based sexual violence and the lack of life-saving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.

"Ensuring Sexual and Reproductive Rights of Women Affected by Conflict." Center for Reproductive Rights. July 25, 2017.

https://www.reproductiverights.org/sites/crr.civicactions.net/files/documents/ga_bp_conflictnrcrisis_2017_07_25.pdf (accessed June 25, 2019).

The Center for Reproductive Rights report analyzed the existing legal standards and principles relevant to protecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls. It covers various issues about sexual and reproductive health, such as barriers to aid, abortion, contraception, maternal health, and maternal mortality. The report's intention was for it to be used as a resource for advocates, aid workers, humanitarian groups, policy-makers, service providers, and other key stakeholders. It is an excellent resource for readers to become familiarized with current initiatives and human rights policies to assist in building reliable resolutions.

Ward, Jeanne. "Violence against Women in Conflict, Post-conflict, and Emergency Settings." UN Women. December 2013. <http://www.endvawnow.org/uploads/modules/pdf/1405612658.pdf> (accessed June 25, 2019).

This UN Women document provides a historical timeline of violence against women, and the various monumental international initiatives that took place to respond to this issue over the years between 1985 and 2013. It includes a description of each action ranging from UN mandates, conventions, and resolutions. In addition, the document highlighted issues by offering normative recommendations for future legal frameworks and mandates. It provides a basic overview of approaches to prevention and response and outlines international, national, and local mechanisms for coordinating such plans.

Girard, Ollivier. "UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2018 - 2021." United Nations Population Fund. 2018.

https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/18-044_UNFPA-SP2018-EN_2018-03-12-1244_0.pdf. (accessed June 25, 2019).

The UNFPA Strategic Plan is the first of three strategic plans from the sexual and reproductive health agency. The plan describes the overall goals of the UNFPA and the results that may contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and, in particular, to good health and well-being, the advancement of gender equality, and the empowerment of women and adolescent girls, with a focus on eradicating poverty. The strategies are evidence-based and take into account the lessons learned from previous plan cycles. This resource will help readers to better understand UNFPA and its aims to provide adequate SRH services where it is most needed.

"Adolescents and Youth Dashboard." United Nations Population Fund. 2019.

<https://www.unfpa.org/data/dashboard/adolescent-youth> (accessed June 25, 2019).

The Adolescents and Youth Dashboard is a resource for those who wish to gather Member State-specific data compiled by the UNFPA. The dashboard consists of various data from organization expenditure and the provision of SRH services to Maternal-newborn health to life-expectancy. It is divided up into individual Member State dashboards and which examines various sexual and reproductive health indicators such as maternal and newborn health, fertility, education and prevalence of harmful practices. This data will assist with gathering information on specific Member States, regions, and territories. It also outlines the global impact that the UNFPA has had on Member States.

II: Addressing Population Dynamics in the Context of Global Climate Change

“Population Dynamics and Climate Change,” United Nations Population Fund, 2009, <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/population-dynamics-and-climate-change>. (accessed June 20, 2019).

The UNFPA co-wrote this book with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) as an attempt to increase understanding of the relationship between population dynamics and climate change. The book may serve as substantive guide to the current population growth and size and emissions, population vulnerability and adaptation, migration, and urbanization. This data is helpful to demonstrate how all Member States can begin to address climate change within their borders.

“On Vulnerability to Climate Change: Daniel Schensul in conversation with *The Straddler*,” 2015, <http://www.thestraddler.com/201513/piece6.php> (accessed April 20, 2019).

On May 8, 2014, *The Straddler* interviewed Dan Schensul, a technical specialist at the UNFPA. The reporter asks Schensul what must be done, in his opinion and through his experience, to tackle climate change. The article includes how climate change affects people’s livelihood, particularly those who live in more developed Member States. Schensul states that developed Member States are more resilient to climate change due to their ability to obtain better resources, technology and infrastructure. However, Schensul also states that populations in these developed Member States are not put in positions or environments that make them vulnerable. There is a certain level of resilience that comes from the status quo of living in a society for human populations. Within that idea of status quo also comes the question of how does inequality result from societies, cities, and what happens to those who are vulnerable to climate change, due to their inequalities; due to their inability to obtain the status quo.

Handl, Günther, “Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Declaration), 1972 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992,” United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, <http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/dunche/dunche.html> (accessed April 15, 2019).

This report from the UN Audiovisual Library of the International Law includes two significant conferences, at which climate change was a topic of discussion. Günther Handl, professor at Tulane University Law School, discusses two declarations that were written at these conferences, the Stockholm and Rio Declarations. Professor Handl discusses each declaration and how they are being used in the 21st century. In short, the Stockholm Declaration represented a stance from Member States on the global human impact on the environment. The Rio Declaration stated that the international community has a task and began creating expectations that Member States must follow regarding the environment.

“Women Central to Efforts to Deal With Climate Change, Says New UNFPA Report,” The United Nations Population Fund, November 18, 2009, <https://www.unfpa.org/press/women-central-efforts-deal-climate-change-says-new-unfpa-report> (accessed April 5, 2019).

This UNFPA report brought to light that populations residing in low-lying coastal areas are vulnerable to climate change. The report, titled *The State of World Population 2009*, called upon governments to plan and to strengthen risk reduction, preparedness, and management of disasters and address the potential displacement of people. Research, cited in the report, revealed that women are more likely than men to die in natural disasters. This gap is most evident when incomes and status are introduced into the study. The *State of World Population 2009* argues that the international community’s fight to tackle climate change is most likely to be successful if all human population are involved, particularly female populations.

“World Urbanization Prospects 2018: Highlights,” United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2018, <https://population.un.org/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2018-Highlights.pdf> (accessed August 10, 2019).

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) is a critical department for the discussion of global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Population Division of the UN DESA provided Member States with population data and analysis of population trends and development outcomes for all Member States and areas of the world. This report reviewed urbanized Member States and their cities, in an effort to study the rise in the population numbers, land area, and the number urban residents compared to rural residents. The purpose of studying this is to understand population trends over long-term, which can help minimize environmental dilapidation and other potential hostile impacts of a growing number of city occupants.