



SRMUN ATLANTA 2020
Understanding and Combating Global Multidimensional Poverty and Inequality
October 23-25, 2020
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Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to the Virtual SRMUN Atlanta 2020 and United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). My name is Joshua Perry, and I will be serving as your Director for ECOSOC. This will be my third conference as a SRMUN staff member. I am thrilled to be a part of SRMUN once again, and I am looking forward to our virtual committee in October. Previously, I served as the Assistant Director for Security Council (SC) at SRMUN Atlanta 2018 and as Assistant Director for Committee on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) at SRMUN Atlanta 2019. I am an alumni of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where I was a Political Science major, with a minor in History. I currently work as a Legal Assistant at a bankruptcy firm. Our committee's Assistant Director will be Kadijah Cormier. Kadijah is an International Global Studies/Diplomacy major, currently studying at the University of Central Florida. Aside from school, Kadijah currently works as a Front Desk Agent. This is going to be Kadijah's second time staffing SRMUN, serving previously as the Assistant Director of the General Assembly Plenary.

ECOSOC's mission is largely defined by the need to cultivate, innovate, and progress, whilst focusing on sustainable development in three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. ECOSOC aims to guide its Member States down the path of sustainable development via policy formulation and implementation, financial assistance with development-based projects, managing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as coordinating humanitarian action globally. Altogether, ECOSOC works to drive Member States towards economic and social development using sustainable and progressive solutions.

Focusing on the mission of the ECOSOC and the SRMUN Atlanta 2020 theme of "*Understanding and Combating Global Multidimensional Poverty and Inequality*," we have developed the following topics for the delegates to discuss come conference:

- I. Facilitating Economic and Social Protections for Vulnerable Populations
- II. Promoting Economic Growth in Post-Conflict Societies

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. However, the guide should only serve as a starting point for delegates, as it is a surface level analysis of each topic. Delegates are expected to go beyond the background guide and engage in deep research on the topics, as well as their Member States' position on said topics. The position papers for the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues as well as their implications on the international community as a whole. 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 2, 2020, by 11:59pm EST** via the SRMUN website in order to be eligible for Outstanding Position Paper Awards.

Kadijah and I are thrilled to serve as Assistant Director and Director of ECOSOC and are excited to see your discussions and solutions come conference time. We wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and cannot wait to convene at the Virtual SRMUN Atlanta 2020 in October. Please feel free to contact Director-General Ryan Baerwalde, Kadijah Cormier, or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the virtual conference.

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History of the Economic and Social Council

In 1945, the United Nations (UN) Charter designated the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to serve as one of the six main organs of the UN.¹ Since then, this body has coordinated the creation of UN economic, social, and environmental policy, and has guided the UN in the implementation of its development goals.² In recent years, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has reformed and strengthened ECOSOC to ensure more coherent implementation of the outcomes of UN summits and conferences relevant to economic, social, and environmental issues, three concepts central to sustainable development.³

ECOSOC serves as a forum for UN entities to collaborate and accomplish the organization's development goals, specifically those outlined in the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁴ ECOSOC played an especially important role in reviewing the outcome of the Millennium Development Goals, analyzing the transition to a new set of development goals, and assisting in the execution of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁵ The entities comprising the ECOSOC system include functional and regional commissions overseeing various development issues and geographical regions, a variety of UN programmes and funds, certain specialized UN agencies, expert committees, and research and training institutes, among other bodies.⁶ These subsidiary organizations meet through a series of annual, biannual, or more frequent meetings to discuss development-related issues.⁷ Every year, ECOSOC establishes a central theme around which it organizes its development efforts.⁸ The latest theme for July 2020-July 2021 has been "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development."⁹ This theme focuses largely on the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda, as well as reviewing the implementation of said goals to date.¹⁰

Member States in ECOSOC organize meetings through a number of different forums and segments that address a variety of aspects of sustainable development. The Integration Segment emphasizes the introduction of economic, social, and environmental factors within development initiatives.¹¹ The Humanitarian Affairs segment addresses concerns relating to human welfare within participating Member States, while the Operational Activities for Development Segment coordinates and guides the development efforts of various bodies across the UN.¹² The Youth and Partnership Forums ensure that young global citizens and interested private entities and foundations can contribute to international development work.¹³ ECOSOC also hosts Coordination and Management Meetings, which evaluate the reports submitted by ECOSOC's associated entities and address Member State and region-specific development issues.¹⁴ Perhaps most notably of all of these, ECOSOC's annual High-Level Segment provides guidance and recommendations to ECOSOC's overall development work.¹⁵ The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, established following the United Nations Conference on Sustainable

¹ "About Us," United Nations Economic and Social Council, <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/about-us> (accessed November 15, 2017).

² "Main Organs," United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/about-un/main-organs/> (accessed November 15, 2017).

³ "About Us," United Nations Economic and Social Council.

⁴ "About ECOSOC," United Nations Economic and Social Council, <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/> (accessed November 15, 2017); "About the Development Cooperation Forum," United Nations Economic and Social Council, <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/about-the-dcf> (accessed November 15, 2017).

⁵ "Promoting sustainable development," United Nations Economic and Social Council, <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/promotion-du-développement-durable> (accessed November 15, 2017).

⁶ "ECOSOC System," United Nations Economic and Social Council, http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/pdf/ecosoc_chart.pdf (accessed November 15, 2017).

⁷ "About ECOSOC," United Nations Economic and Social Council.

⁸ "About Us," United Nations Economic and Social Council.

⁹ "High-Level Political Forum 2020 Under The Auspices of ECOSOC." UCLG, May 2020. <https://www.uclg.org/en/media/events/high-level-political-forum-2020-under-auspices-ecosoc>. (accessed June 16, 2020).

¹⁰ "High-Level Political Forum," UCLG, 2020.

¹¹ "About ECOSOC," United Nations Economic and Social Council, <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/> (accessed November 15, 2017).

¹² "About ECOSOC," United Nations Economic and Social Council.

¹³ "About ECOSOC," United Nations Economic and Social Council.

¹⁴ "About ECOSOC," United Nations Economic and Social Council.

¹⁵ "About ECOSOC," United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Development (Rio+20) in 2012, is responsible for reviewing and continuing progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹⁶

The UNGA elects 54 Member States to serve on the ECOSOC for overlapping terms, each of which lasts three years.¹⁷ These seats are divided among several geographical regions, with 14 apportioned to African Member States, 11 to Asian Member States, six to Eastern European Member States, 10 to Latin American and Caribbean Member States, and 13 to Member States in Western Europe and other regions.¹⁸ ECOSOC makes decisions through a simple majority vote.¹⁹ Additionally, ECOSOC is governed by a bureau elected by ECOSOC's Member States every July.²⁰ The Bureau proposes an agenda and develops a work program for ECOSOC.²¹ The current President of ECOSOC is Munir Akram, elected on July 23, 2020, who is the ambassador and permanent representative to Pakistan for the United Nations.²² Finally, the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions allocates a budget biennially for ECOSOC based on specific funding requests submitted by ECOSOC to the UNGA.²³

The most significant work of ECOSOC, to date, has been its role in the implementation of the UN's goals for sustainable development, to include both the Millennium Development Goals and the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, as well as other development initiatives.²⁴ Recent resolutions passed by ECOSOC have addressed issues including implementation and follow-up to UN summits and conferences, human trafficking, counter- terrorism, prisoners' rights, coordinating the UN's emergency humanitarian assistance mechanisms, partnership for development, women's and gender issues, disease, and tax matters.²⁵

In June 2019, ECOSOC adopted E/RES/2019/6, addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage, and social protection policies.²⁶ Adopting E/RES/2019/6 reaffirmed many Member States' goals that empowered them socially and economically, such as supporting the African Union's Agenda of 2063 strategic framework that would ensure a positive transformation socioeconomically within 50 years.²⁷ By order of A/RES/68/1, the establishment of annual themes, from which ECOSOC bases its work, was authorized and reorganized ECOSOC's structure to ensure it can efficiently implement its mandate.²⁸ This is imperative, as this is allowing for evaluation on policies that have been implemented in various Member States as well as strengthening

¹⁶ "High-level Political Forum," Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf> (accessed November 15, 2017).

¹⁷ "Main Organs," United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/about-un/main-organs/> (accessed November 15, 2017).

¹⁸ "ECOSOC Members," United Nations Economic and Social Council, <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/members.shtml> (accessed November 15, 2017).

¹⁹ "Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)," International Drug Policy Consortium, <http://idpc.net/profile/economic-and-social-council-ecosoc> (accessed November 15, 2017).

²⁰ "Bureau," United Nations Economic and Social Council, <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/bureau> (accessed March 1, 2020).

²¹ "Bureau," United Nations Economic and Social Council,

"ECOSOC President 2019 Her Excellency Mona Juul | UN ECOSOC," United Nations, <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/president-ecosoc> (accessed March 9, 2020).

²² "ECOSOC President 2019 Her Excellency Mona Juul | UN ECOSOC," United Nations, <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/president-ecosoc> (accessed March 9, 2020).

²³ United Nations Economic and Social Council, Resolution 2019/6, *Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies*, E/RES/2019/26, June 14, 2019, https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2019/6

²⁴ "Further review of the implementation of Resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council," United Nations Economic and Social Council, <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/strengtheningofecosoc.shtml> (accessed November 15, 2017).

²⁵ "Resolutions," United Nations Economic and Social Council, <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/documents/resolutions> (accessed November 15, 2017).

²⁶ United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 1, *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council*, A/RES/68/1, September 20, 2013, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N13/439/51/PDF/N1343951.pdf>.

²⁷ United Nations Economic and Social Council, Resolution 2019/6, *Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies*, E/RES/2019/26, June 14, 2019, https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2019/6

²⁸ United Nations General Assembly, *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16*, 2013.

the goals ECOSOC aims towards such as the 2030 agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).²⁹ The resolution also reaffirms ECOSOC's role as a leader in international development efforts and emphasizes the importance of balancing the three elements of sustainable development.³⁰

The provisional agenda for 2020-2021 year encourages high-level policy dialogue on future trends and scenarios, as well as the long term impact of current trends on the realization of the 2030 SDGs agenda.³¹ In conjunction with ECOSOC's usual agenda topics, it will also concentrate on the implementation of and follow-up to major UN conferences and summits such as the International Conference on Financing for Development and the review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.³² ECOSOC engages a wide variety of stakeholders in its work: policymakers, parliamentarians, academics, major groups, foundations, business sector representatives, and NGOs.³³ The inclusiveness of this dialogue creates conditions which enable full and active participation of Member States and stakeholders in all aspects of the decision making process for economic, social, and environmental sectors of international development.³⁴ The broad scope of ECOSOC's work continues to reflect its status as a leader among the UN circuit.

²⁹ United Nations Economic and Social Council, Resolution 2019/6, *Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies*, E/RES/2019/26, June 14, 2019, https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2019/6

³⁰ United Nations General Assembly, *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16*, 2013.

³¹ "Resolutions," United Nations Economic and Social Council.

³² United Nations Economic and Social Council, Resolution 1, *Adoption of the Agenda and Other Organizational Matters*, E/RES/2018/1, July 21, 2017, <http://undocs.org/E/2018/1>.

³³ "About ECOSOC," United Nations Economic and Social Council, <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/> (accessed November 15, 2017).

³⁴ "About ECOSOC," United Nations Economic and Social Council (accessed November 15, 2017).

I. Facilitating Economic and Social Protections for Vulnerable Populations

*“Vulnerable people are not asking for more rights; they are just asking for the same rights that all of us enjoy.”
-Steve Kraus, Director UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Asia And The Pacific³⁵*

Introduction

Vulnerable populations (VPs), according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), are groups that are subject to inequality or exclusion based on cultural or religious background; this includes other minority groups, such as the disabled and the LGBTQ community.³⁶ VPs, in turn, encounter a tremendous amount of economic hardship, leading to issues such as malnutrition and homelessness.³⁷ The possibility of climbing the societal ladder has been hindered due to strains on critical necessities, such as adequate education systems, workplace protections, as well as healthcare.³⁸ Facilitating social and economic protection is crucial when identifying the disparity between VPs and other populations within Member States. Socio-economic protection is defined as “a system of formal and informal interventions that aim to reduce social and economic risks, vulnerabilities, and deprivations for all people and facilitate inclusive social development and equitable economic growth.”³⁹ The impact of socio-economic protections for VPs would allow these groups to not only feel cared for, but would also aid in inclusivity, permitting for a sustainable and efficient systemization of social protection measures.⁴⁰

History

Facilitating economic and social protections within Member States have always been an area of concern, especially for VPs.⁴¹ Since the 20th century, there have been strides towards socio-economic protection. By 1930, Denmark, Germany, Norway — to name a few — had devoted more than two percent of their respective gross national product (GNP) to implement injury protection, public pensions, and poor relief programmes.⁴² The concept of “basic needs,” such as housing and economic stability, inspired policies such as the socio-economic change in integrated rural developments, where typically rural areas were based on the shift of local, natural and human resources.⁴³ One of the aforementioned layers was a new interest in vulnerability and security.⁴⁴ This change widened the concept of poverty to a much broader idea: livelihood.⁴⁵ The idea soon evolved, and it became accepted that one needs to be at a certain quality of life in order to be considered socially or economically protected.⁴⁶

However, despite improvements over the past decades, it is estimated that 45 percent of the global population are covered by at least one social protection, while the remaining 55 percent of the population are not protected at all.⁴⁷

³⁵ “International Conference in Thailand Addresses Health of Vulnerable Populations.” UNAIDS. UNAIDS, February 3, 2017. https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2017/february/20170203_PMAC.

³⁶ “Vulnerable and Key Populations: United Nations Development Programme: Capacities, Focus, Legal.” UNDP | Capacities, Focus, Legal. Accessed April 24, 2020. <https://www.undp-capacitydevelopment-health.org/en/legal-and-policy/key-populations/>.

³⁷ “Vulnerable Groups.” 2012. WHO. August 24, 2012. https://www.who.int/environmental_health_emergencies/vulnerable_groups/en/.

³⁸ “Implementing Social Protection Strategies.” (OECD), 2019. https://www.oecd.org/dev/inclusivesocietiesanddevelopment/Lessons_learned_Implementing_social_protection_strategies.pdf.

³⁹ “Implementing Social Protection Strategies.” (OECD), 2019.

⁴⁰ “Implementing Social Protection Strategies.” (OECD), 2019.

⁴¹ “Implementing Social Protection Strategies.” (OECD), 2019.

⁴² “Implementing Social Protection Strategies.” (OECD), 2019.

⁴³ “Vulnerability and Poverty: What Are the Causes and How Are They Related?,” 2004. https://www.zef.de/fileadmin/downloads/forum/docprog/Termpapers/2004_3a_Philip_Rayan.pdf.

⁴⁴ “Vulnerability and Poverty: What Are the Causes and How Are They Related?,” 2004.

⁴⁵ “Vulnerability and Poverty: What Are the Causes and How Are They Related?,” 2004.

⁴⁶ “Vulnerability and Poverty: What Are the Causes and How Are They Related?,” 2004.

⁴⁷ “Implementing Social Protection Strategies.” (OECD), 2019. https://www.oecd.org/dev/inclusivesocietiesanddevelopment/Lessons_learned_Implementing_social_protection_strategies.pdf.

These protections include disability, employment injury, maternity and unemployment benefits.⁴⁸ Although each issue stands as its own, they are all applicable to VPs.

Current Situation

Globally, VPs have grown to nearly 100 million persons, and it is vital to acknowledge there have been efforts made to alleviate the issues they experience, such as increasing accessibility to healthcare, and the efforts to expand social assistance.⁴⁹ Unfortunately, most of these efforts have not been substantial enough to qualify as concrete change, for example, VPs are not financially stable enough to acquire healthcare, and, because of bias and inequality against VPs, these groups are usually denied social assistance.⁵⁰ As demonstrated, these policies lack consistency and efficacy, both socially and economically.⁵¹ In 2018, the Commission for Social Development (CSD) held a meeting titled, *More Protection and Focus on Helping Vulnerable Populations*, where ministers and representatives were concerned that “gaps and inequalities persisted, cautioned some, expressing concerns about uneven progress and exchanging stories of success and challenges.”⁵² During the session, the CSD expressed their grievances towards obstacles that have hindered their progress thus far, specifically in achieving the 2030 Agenda as it pertained to the application of the development goals to vulnerable groups.⁵³ A few of the aforementioned obstacles include, but are not limited to: volatile financial markets, climate change, corruption, and health related threats.⁵⁴

CSD’s collaborative discussion stresses how the commission has an essential role in identifying strategies that would help alleviate the pressures experienced by vulnerable populations. For example, Georgi Panayotov, of the European Union (EU) delegation noted, “The European Pillar of Social Rights had anchored a strong social dimension in the future of the EU. The pillar put forward common values, and set out 20 principles and rights-a few of them being; social protection, inclusion of people with disabilities, and access to essential services-in order to positively impact people’s lives and ensure that no one was left behind.”⁵⁵ In other words, just as the EU integrated SDGs into their political framework, other Member States could follow the EU’s example and implement SDGs into their political framework.⁵⁶ In order to properly aid vulnerable populations, it is imperative that the Member States develop an integrated socio-economic framework that coincides with achieving the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁵⁷

One major issue that makes socio-economic protections hard to obtain is poverty, which is one of the most significant issues faced by VPs.⁵⁸ Specifically, individuals who are a part of indigenous and ethnic minorities remain more likely to fall victim to poverty than any other ethnic majority in any given Member State.⁵⁹ For instance in China, a VP needs to make twice as much as they currently do on average to meet what the majority makes on average, in order to obtain a healthy standard life.⁶⁰ Based on data in 2015, 10 percent of the world’s population still lived in extreme poverty, and these individuals live on less than USD 1.90 per day.⁶¹ Current poverty rates may

⁴⁸ “Implementing Social Protection Strategies.” (OECD), 2019.

⁴⁹ “World Bank and WHO: Half the World Lacks Access to Essential Health Services, 100 Million Still Pushed into Extreme Poverty Because of Health Expenses,” (WHO, December 13, 2017), <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/13-12-2017-world-bank-and-who-half-the-world-lacks-access-to-essential-health-services-100-million-still-pushed-into-extreme-poverty-because-of-health-expenses>.

⁵⁰ “More Protection, Focus on Helping Vulnerable Groups” Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” 2018 UN. Accessed April 26, 2020. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/soc4856.doc.htm>.

⁵¹ “More Protection, Focus on Helping Vulnerable Groups” Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” 2018 UN.

⁵² “More Protection, Focus on Helping Vulnerable Groups” Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” 2018 UN.

⁵³ “More Protection, Focus on Helping Vulnerable Groups” Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” 2018 UN.

⁵⁴ “More Protection, Focus on Helping Vulnerable Groups” Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” 2018 UN.

⁵⁵ “More Protection, Focus on Helping Vulnerable Groups” Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” 2018 UN.

⁵⁶ “More Protection, Focus on Helping Vulnerable Groups” Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” 2018 UN.

⁵⁷ “More Protection, Focus on Helping Vulnerable Groups” Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” 2018 UN.

⁵⁸ “Implementing Social Protection Strategies.” (OECD), 2019.

⁵⁹ “Promoting Inclusion Through Social Protection” (PDF). Accessed April 27, 2020.

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/07/1-1.pdf>.

⁶⁰ “Promoting Inclusion Through Social Protection” (PDF).

⁶¹ “Poverty Overview.” World Bank. Accessed April 27, 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview>.

increase by nine percent due to global shocks, such as COVID-19, as there has been a disproportionate impact on key systems, such as education and healthcare.⁶²

There are crippling barriers to VPs that have halted their socio-economic growth either significantly or completely. These barriers include rapid population growth, corruption within Member States, limited access to political power and representation, and disintegration of social patterns.⁶³ UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Catalina Devandas Aguilar, noted, “Yes, persons with disabilities get services and benefits but often at the cost of their autonomy and independence. Such approach has without any doubt resulted in more poverty, segregation, stigmatization and exclusion.”⁶⁴ In other words, the process of implementing social protections relies on specific measures to be in place, and to be appropriately enforced, in order for said protections to reach the vulnerable population in question. According a report the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Promoting Inclusion Through Social Protection*, social protections must meet three basic conditions to be effective: Ensuring that all groups within VPs have access to universal coverage, improving the accessibility of programs and systems, and ensuring benefits are sufficient once implemented.⁶⁵

Actions Taken by the United Nations

Bearing in mind the SDGs, there have been several steps taken towards providing VPs with economic and social protections. Understanding that in ending poverty and inequality, as well as adopting inclusivity, CSD held its 53rd regular session in 2015, titled, “Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world.”⁶⁶ While in session, the committee discussed the importance of sustainable development remaining grounded in the vision and principles of the World Summit for Social Development, emphasizing the importance of sustainable development being people-oriented, inclusive as well as incorporating social, economic, and environmental aspects of development.⁶⁷ This push towards a people-oriented development is crucial to VPs, as this allows Member States to stand in solidarity alongside those whose voices been unheard and neglected.

In July 2019, ECOSOC held a meeting titled *Council Adopts Texts Advocating Greater Support for VPs*, focusing on communities in Haiti and Africa, as well as individuals living with HIV within those Member States.⁶⁸ As the management segment came to a close, the council adopted E/2019/80, that extended the mandate of the UN Ad Hoc Advisory Group Haiti through 2020.⁶⁹ Haiti has a long-standing, unstable history with food insecurity, with an estimated 2.6 million Haitians currently living in poverty.⁷⁰ Although Haiti is now receiving aid, specifically health-related aid for the cholera epidemic, and for strengthening stability and reconstruction, the Deputy Special Representative Security General of Haiti, Mamadou Diallo, warns that the Member State still lacks funding in humanitarian and development needs.⁷¹ The lack of funding represents how VPs are not only in need of social assistance, but political and economic assistance to ensure reinforcement and security. Immediately following the discussion, the ECOSOC then adopted a draft titled *African Countries Emerging from Conflict*, which aided in

⁶² “Poverty Overview.” World Bank.

⁶³ “Vulnerability and Poverty: What Are the Causes and How Are They Related?,” 2004.

https://www.zef.de/fileadmin/downloads/forum/docprog/Termpapers/2004_3a_Philip_Rayan.pdf.

⁶⁴ “Social Protection Systems Should Be More Inclusive of Persons with Disabilities – UN Rights Expert | UN News.” UN. Accessed April 26, 2020. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2015/10/514022-social-protection-systems-should-be-more-inclusive-persons-disabilities-un>.

⁶⁵ “Promoting Inclusion Through Social Protection” (PDF).

⁶⁶ UNCSD, Agenda Summary, *Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world*, E/CN.5/2015/9, 2015, February 4-13, 2015, https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2015/26

⁶⁷ UNCSD, Agenda Summary, *Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world*, E/CN.5/2015/9, 2015, February 4-13, 2015,

⁶⁸ “ECOSOC, Concluding Management Segment, Adopts Texts Advocating Greater Support for Vulnerable Populations | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” n.d. UN.

⁶⁹ “ECOSOC, Concluding Management Segment, Adopts Texts Advocating Greater Support for Vulnerable Populations | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” n.d. UN.

⁷⁰ “ECOSOC, Concluding Management Segment, Adopts Texts Advocating Greater Support for Vulnerable Populations | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” n.d. UN.

⁷¹ “ECOSOC, Concluding Management Segment, Adopts Texts Advocating Greater Support for Vulnerable Populations | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” n.d. UN.

assisting bringing refugees back to Burundi, funded by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Development Bank.⁷²

Lastly, the South Sudan's Resident Representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) explained their growing humanitarian situation, which shed light upon the 7.2 million individuals who are in need of food security.⁷³ There were also growing concerns with the preparation for a potential spread of the Ebola virus from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where both state's populations have a very high chance of contracting the virus.⁷⁴ Soon after, the UN assisted by leading a partnership for Resilience and Recovery programme that incorporates local and international non-governmental organizations, alongside other parties, to help communities cope with shocks they face, thus approving resolution draft by the order of E/2019/L.28, titled *African countries emerging from conflict*.⁷⁵

Case Study

Venezuelan Crisis

Years before its current crisis, Venezuela possessed the world's largest crude oil reserves, was considered a relatively stable democracy, and one of Latin America's fastest-rising economies.⁷⁶ Shortly following the beginning of Nicolás Maduro's presidency in 2013, the Member State's government fell into a pattern of mismanagement and corruption.⁷⁷ Oil production declined dramatically causing Venezuela's gross domestic product (GDP) to drop 10-to-15 percent, and without foreign exchange the government began printing money, causing inflation, making basic products unaffordable for the average Venezuelan.⁷⁸ As this cycle continued, a humanitarian crisis emerged; food and medication scarcity grew, and the crimes and lawlessness of government officials fueled the flames.⁷⁹ Since the crisis began in 2014, an estimated four million Venezuelans are now refugees, fleeing the Bolivarian Republic and solidifying their role as a VP in an attempt to escape from insecurities and threats, including lack of food, medicine, and essential services.⁸⁰

As stable life in Venezuela had become difficult to obtain, according to the Venezuelan Health Observatory (OVS), food production decreased by 60 percent between 2014 to 2018, and later reporting that 84 percent of basic food items were not available in supermarkets.⁸¹ The Venezuelan crisis not only put a strain on the population to find food, but further contributed to widespread malnutrition and increased risk of chronic diseases, specifically in children.⁸² A study conducted in 2018 by Caritas, a nongovernmental organization, found that 65 percent of children who resided in poor neighborhoods were malnourished or at risk of becoming so, and another 13 percent suffered

⁷² "ECOSOC, Concluding Management Segment, Adopts Texts Advocating Greater Support for Vulnerable Populations | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." n.d. UN.

⁷³ "ECOSOC, Concluding Management Segment, Adopts Texts Advocating Greater Support for Vulnerable Populations | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." n.d. UN.

⁷⁴ "ECOSOC, Concluding Management Segment, Adopts Texts Advocating Greater Support for Vulnerable Populations | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." n.d. UN.

⁷⁵ "ECOSOC, Concluding Management Segment, Adopts Texts Advocating Greater Support for Vulnerable Populations | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." n.d. UN. Accessed April 28, 2020. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ecosoc7011.doc.htm>.

⁷⁶ Kiger, P. How Venezuela Fell From the Richest Country in South America into Crisis. Retrieved July 14, 2020, from <https://www.history.com/news/venezuela-chavez-maduro-crisis>

⁷⁷ Escobari, M. Made by Maduro: The Humanitarian Crisis in Venezuela and US Policy Responses. Retrieved July 14, 2020, from <https://www.brookings.edu/testimonies/made-by-maduro-the-humanitarian-crisis-in-venezuela-and-us-policy-responses/>

⁷⁸ Escobari, M. Made by Maduro: The Humanitarian Crisis in Venezuela and US Policy Responses.

⁷⁹ Escobari, M. Made by Maduro: The Humanitarian Crisis in Venezuela and US Policy Responses.

⁸⁰ UN. "Venezuela Situation." UNHCR. Accessed April 28, 2020. https://www.unhcr.org/venezuela-emergency.html?gclid=Cj0KCQjwy6T1BRDXARIsAlqCTXohsId2ks4FzgfiDIU2fE_CtCw1AU2jiKnDz-EcOeckJEGAp8JSJkaAr-VEALw_wcB.

⁸¹ "Understanding the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis." Wilson Center, September 13, 2019. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/understanding-the-venezuelan-refugee-crisis>.

⁸² "Understanding the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis." Wilson Center, September 13, 2019.

from acute malnutrition, causing issues such as stunted growth, eye problems, and diabetes.⁸³ Pregnant women are also one of the most affected groups, with 21 percent of them suffering from severe acute malnutrition, and not having enough nutrients during the early stages of pregnancy, leading to growth retardation in children.⁸⁴ This can lead to an increased risk of developing of chronic diseases, such as nervous system damage and even early death.⁸⁵

Medicine imports decreased 70 percent between 2012 to 2016, causing previously controlled and eliminated diseases such as measles, malaria, and HIV to reemerge.⁸⁶ According to Human Rights Watch, Venezuela is most likely the only Member State in the world where large number of individuals are forced to abandon treatment because medications are not available.⁸⁷ Unfortunately for many, the responsibility of getting supplies such as medication, equipment, and clean water falls on the patients and, because the products are most likely expensive and difficult to obtain, many patients die from preventable causes.⁸⁸ Euligio Baez, a Venezuelan refugee noted, “When my nine-month-old daughter died because the lack of medicines, doctors or treatment, I decided to take my family out of Venezuela before another one of my children died.”⁸⁹ Mr. Baez’s memory is just one of many testimonies highlighting the firsthand experience of how horrific the crisis has become, unfortunately a life or death situation many VPs face.

By June 2018, the number of refugees seeking legal citizenship in other Latin American Member States had increased by 8,000 percent since 2014, where the greatest increase in refugees occurred in the Americas.⁹⁰ Having to seek refuge in a neighboring Member State is only one part of a VP’s concern, as they are still in need of much more assistance; economically, politically, and socially. Although many are seeking refuge in nearby Member States, hundreds lack accessibility to basic human rights, and in turn some are forced into sexual exploitation, violence, discrimination and xenophobia.⁹¹ As exemplified by the Refugees International *Searching for Safety* report, Trinidad and Tobago has received nearly 40,000 Venezuelan refugees, but due to failed domestic legislation, Venezuelan refugees, specifically women and girls between the ages of 15 to 21, are vulnerable to trafficking.⁹² It is crucial to identify the obstacles, such as homelessness and the lack of accessibility to basic rights that Venezuelan refugees could possibly avoid, when neighboring Member States implement economic and social protections.

In response, agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), have worked closely within the crisis, providing aid alongside Member States, such as Brazil and Colombia, who often serve as hosts to displaced Venezuelans.⁹³ UNHCR has helped alleviate the crisis by protecting Venezuelan refugees from any exploitations they may encounter, providing support and legal direction upon arrival, as well as cash assistance to Venezuelans in need.⁹⁴ In the *Searching For Safety* report, recommendations are offered for host Member States of Venezuelan refugees.⁹⁵ A key recommendation is implementing policies that would allow practical alternatives to enter a host Member State, such as filling out an application and creating a system that allows Venezuelans the ability to register and obtain legal status, therefore granting them the ability to work.⁹⁶ Most importantly, for women and children who are most susceptible to becoming trafficking victims, another key recommendation is Member

⁸³ “Understanding the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis.” Wilson Center, September 13, 2019.

⁸⁴ “Understanding the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis.” Wilson Center, September 13, 2019.

⁸⁵ “Understanding the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis.” Wilson Center, September 13, 2019.

⁸⁶ “Understanding the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis.” Wilson Center, September 13, 2019.

⁸⁷ “Understanding the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis.” Wilson Center, September 13, 2019.

⁸⁸ “Understanding the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis.” Wilson Center, September 13, 2019.

⁸⁹ UN. “Death Threats and Disease Drive More Venezuelans to Flee.” UNHCR, May 21, 2019.

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2019/5/5cd92d344/death-threats-disease-drive-venezuelans-flee.html>.

⁹⁰ UN. “Venezuela Situation.” UNHCR.

⁹¹ UN. “Venezuela Situation.” UNHCR.

⁹² “Searching for Safety” (PDF). Accessed June 8, 2020.

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Venezuela%2BTrafficking%2BReport%2B-%2BAugust%2B2019%2B-%2BFINAL%20%281%29.pdf>

⁹³ UN. “Venezuela Situation.” UNHCR.

⁹⁴ UN. “Venezuela Situation.” UNHCR. Accessed April 28, 2020. https://www.unhcr.org/venezuela-emergency.html?gclid=Cj0KCQjwy6T1BRDXARIsAlqCTXohs1de2ks4FzgfiDIU2fe_CtCwlAU2jiKnDz-EcOockJEGAp8JSJkaAr-VEALw_wcB.

⁹⁵ “Searching for Safety” (PDF).

⁹⁶ “Searching for Safety” (PDF).

States to create education sessions with victims that inform refugees of their basic rights, thus providing the refugees with knowledge of their legal protections and allowing the victims to feel secure.⁹⁷

Conclusion

Work put forth by the UN, ECOSOC, UNDP, UNHCR, and other organizations in attempt to provide socio-economic protections to VPs has shed light on their dire situations and ensured that these individuals are not left behind. However, there are still VPs in Member States such as Colombia, where Venezuelans are not being given basic human rights.⁹⁸ Member States and governmental organizations must focus on eliminating poverty and inequality, but most importantly incorporate inclusivity in any solutions to successfully aid VPs.⁹⁹ Obstacles such as rapid population growth, corruption within Member States, limited access to political power and representation make it difficult for VPs to feel as though they are cared for. It is imperative that the global community strives for socio-economic protections for VPs, as this can lead to improvements in health and education.¹⁰⁰ Furthering opportunities that allow access to resources that vulnerable groups are typically refused, such as employment, food security, and maternal and child health, especially for VPs in developing Member States.¹⁰¹ On the contrary, as the international community begins to recognize the changes that need to be made for VPs, there is a level of accountability on a global scale that becomes undeniable. In sum, despite the combined efforts of the international community, there is much more that needs to be done for VPs.

Committee Directive

Facilitating economic and social protections for VPs will require delegates to analyze the balance that is needed to form policies and programs that efficiently and effectively aid groups that are prone to vulnerability. Keeping in mind the conference theme, “Understanding and Combating Global Multidimensional Poverty and Inequality,” delegates should consider issues regarding how these vulnerable groups are developed within Member States to prevent future vulnerabilities. What are some long-term impacts of aiding VPs? What actions need to be taken to ensure VPs receive basic human rights, such as healthcare? For those Member States that are developing, what kind of collaborative action could be taken to assist those Member States? What role does ECOSOC play in assisting Member States with facilitating socio-economic protections? Delegates should explore these and other questions to properly address the issue with the appropriate level of urgency.

⁹⁷ “Searching for Safety” (PDF).

⁹⁸ “Understanding the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis.” Wilson Center, September 13, 2019.
<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/understanding-the-venezuelan-refugee-crisis>.

⁹⁹ UNCSD, Agenda Summary, *Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world*, E/CN.5/2015/9, 2015, February 4-13, 2015, https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2015/26

¹⁰⁰ “Promoting Inclusion Through Social Protection” (PDF). Accessed April 27, 2020.
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/07/1-1.pdf>.

¹⁰¹ “Promoting Inclusion Through Social Protection” (PDF). Accessed April 27, 2020.

II. Promoting Economic Growth in Post-Conflict Societies

“An environment of peace and security is essential for regional cooperation to progress and achieve economic development and prosperity of our people.”

- Sushma Swaraj, Former Minister of External Affairs of India¹⁰²

Introduction

Following violent conflict, Member States are in desperate need of stabilization to pull them further away from the conflict and into a prosperous future. This stabilization may come in many forms, such as the buttressing of the Member States’ government, fortification of their military, or reconstruction of their civil society.¹⁰³ Additionally, a Member States’ economy must be re-built from prolonged violent conflict.¹⁰⁴ Violent conflict imposes immense political and social costs on a Member State, which in turn lead to economic ruin.¹⁰⁵ Loss of human capital, destruction of infrastructure, and political instability make both domestic and foreign investment more difficult, placing a large strain on the Member States’ economy during an already challenging time during reconstruction.¹⁰⁶ More directly, military spending increases during violent conflict, and revenue is lost as part of the tax base is destroyed by said conflict, resulting in an increased fiscal deficit and public debt.¹⁰⁷

Defining what a “post-conflict” Member State can be difficult due to the lack of an identifiable “before” and “after” in conflicts.¹⁰⁸ In many cases, a Member State can slide back into conflict after a short period of time, or smaller acts of violence can occur even after a peace agreement in met.¹⁰⁹ A report from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) suggests characterizing post-conflict Member States using “peacebuilding milestones,” and Member States somewhere along that continuum are considered “post-conflict,” despite sometimes moving regressively on the continuum.¹¹⁰ The first milestone that helps establish a Member State as “post-conflict” is the “ceasing of hostilities and violence,” as it is the best way to define when a state has moved past active conflict and into a stage where reconstruction is possible.¹¹¹ Some of the other milestones include, but are not limited to: signing of peace agreements, demobilization and reintegration of military, and return of refugees and internally displaced persons.¹¹² In other words, a post-conflict Member State can come in numerous forms and may display features of a Member State still in conflict, making corrective economic policy complicated.

¹⁰² “Peace, Security In South Asia Essential For Progress: Sushma Swaraj,” NDTV, September 28, 2018, <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/peace-security-in-south-asia-essential-for-progress-sushma-swaraj-at-saarc-meet-1923515>

¹⁰³ “Conflict Prevention and Peace Building - MDG Fund.” SDG Fund, 2013. http://www.mdgfund.org/sites/all/themes/custom/undp_2/docs/thematic_studies/English/full/CPPB_Thematic_Study.pdf

¹⁰⁴ “Conflict Prevention and Peace Building,” 2013.

¹⁰⁵ “Sub-Saharan Africa: Recovery Amid Elevated Uncertainty.” *Regional Economic Outlook* (April 2019), <https://doi.org/10.5089/9781484396865.086>.

¹⁰⁶ “Sub-Saharan Africa,” *Regional Economic Outlook*, 2019.

¹⁰⁷ “Sub-Saharan Africa,” *Regional Economic Outlook*, 2019.

¹⁰⁸ The United Nations Development Programme, *CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY REPORT 2008* (New York: United Nations, 2008), <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/crisis%20prevention/undp-cpr-post-conflict-economic-recovery-enable-local-ingenuity-report-2008.pdf>.

¹⁰⁹ The United Nations Development Programme, *CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY REPORT*, 2008.

¹¹⁰ The United Nations Development Programme, *CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY REPORT*, 2008.

¹¹¹ The United Nations Development Programme, *CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY REPORT*, 2008.

¹¹² The United Nations Development Programme, *CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY REPORT*, 2008.

The effect of a conflict is largely impacted by two key factors; the duration of the conflict, and the intensity of fighting within the conflict.¹¹³ According to the International Growth Centre, there is a direct link between the aforementioned key factors and a severe drop off in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per-capita.¹¹⁴ For example, over a four year period of violent conflict, GDP per-capita drops on average of 18 percent.¹¹⁵ The legacy of conflict cannot be understated, as well. The same study by the International Growth Centre found that, on average, six years after a violent conflict the Member State's GDP per-capita is still roughly 15 percent smaller than it would have been sans conflict.¹¹⁶ Considering this information, solutions to revive an economy post-conflict must be aggressive, and sustainable.

History

The Cold War era ignited many violent conflicts globally, and from that a “dismal track record” of post-conflict reconstruction led by numerous actors, such as the United States (US) and the United Nations (UN).¹¹⁷ A World Politics Review report suggests that half of the post-Cold War efforts to reconstruct Member States' civil society and governments have failed, as these states lapsed back into conflict.¹¹⁸ World Politics Review found that these Member States contained large internally displaced populations (IDPs), became incubators for criminal activity, and experienced trafficking of drugs, arms, and humans at high rates.¹¹⁹ For instance, following violent conflict, most Member States see an increase in homicide rates on average of 25 percent.¹²⁰ Additionally, a large majority of said Member States' economies became aid-dependent, due to aid packages designed to promote immediate consumption rather than investment, meaning once considerable aid ends self-reliance remains impossible.¹²¹

In the wake of these violent conflicts following the end of the Cold War, the World Bank established the Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction Unit (CPR) in 1997.¹²² The CPR's primary task is to issue policy-focused research in the form of “dissemination notes” and “working papers,” sharing the best practices for ending conflict and reconstruction afterwards.¹²³ Part of the CPR's work includes designing of Transitional Support Strategies (TSSs), created for the purpose of informing the Bank's role in economic reconstruction in post-conflict Member States.¹²⁴ Soon after, however, change came to the World Bank's post-conflict reconstruction policy. In 2001, after the 9/11 terror attacks, a shift occurred, which was characterized by the World Bank's movement away from pure humanitarian financial support to a focus on policy change and investment in low income and post-conflict Member

¹¹³ “Preventing Violent Conflict Should Be a Key Priority for Development and Growth Policy,” International Growth Centre, <https://www.theigc.org/reader/the-cost-of-violence-estimating-the-economic-impact-of-conflict/preventing-violent-conflict-should-be-a-key-priority-for-development-and-growth-policy/> (accessed May 2, 2020).

¹¹⁴ “Preventing Violent Conflict,” International Growth Centre, 2020.

¹¹⁵ “Preventing Violent Conflict,” International Growth Centre, 2020.

¹¹⁶ “Preventing Violent Conflict,” International Growth Centre, 2020.

¹¹⁷ Graciana del Castillo, “Rebuilding From War: Economic Reconstruction in Post-Conflict States.” *World Politics Review*, (May 31, 2011). <https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/9011/rebuilding-from-war-economic-reconstruction-in-post-conflict-states>.

¹¹⁸ Graciana del Castillo, “Rebuilding From War,” 2011.

¹¹⁹ Graciana del Castillo, “Rebuilding From War,” 2011.

¹²⁰ James Cockayne and Daniel Pfister, *Peace Operations and Organised Crime*, (Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Geneva, 2008), https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/geneva_paper_2.pdf.

¹²¹ Graciana del Castillo, “Rebuilding From War,” 2011.

¹²² Princeton University, *Post-Conflict Economic Reconstruction* | *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Self-Determination* (The Trustees of Princeton University, 2020), <https://pesd.princeton.edu/node/586>.

¹²³ “Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction (English),” World Bank, December 1, 2003, <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/581611468762879585/conflict-prevention-and-reconstruction>, (accessed July 14, 2020).

¹²⁴ James K. Boyce, *The International Financial Institutions: Postconflict Reconstruction and Peacebuilding Capacities*, (University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 2004), http://www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/Boyce_-_IFIs_peacebuilding_-_June_20_1_...pdf

States, such as Afghanistan.¹²⁵ The new policy included the rebuilding of civil society, and encouraging government-private sector coordination to boost stable investment.¹²⁶

Following the 9/11 terror attacks, the international community engaged in nation-building, or as the Asian Development Bank coined it, “nation rebuilding.”¹²⁷ Afghanistan serves as an example. Beginning in 2001 with the Bonn Agreement, a lengthy transition towards a constitutionally bound central government began, and we see the emergence of a two-pronged to economic reconstruction of the Member State.¹²⁸ The approach laid out through the Bonn Agreement is characterized the rebuilding of critical infrastructure (in order to promote domestic and international investment), as well as shifting Soviet-style public planning to “market-led development.”¹²⁹ The Bonn Agreement also obliged the government of Afghanistan to create the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) in 2002, which was tasked with rebuilding elements of the civil service.¹³⁰ For example, the commission would coordinate public administration reform, recruiting government sector senior staff, as well as overseeing lower-level positions in the civil service, all of which is necessary to ensure long-term economic stability.¹³¹ However, the Asian Development Bank noted that the approach laid out by the Bonn Agreement is in need of review, considering poor communication, a still decentralized government, illicit industry, and sporadic violence in the Member State hamper consider economic growth to this day.¹³²

Actions Taken by the United Nations

The UN has engaged in peacebuilding efforts since its inception in 1945, as per the UN Charter.¹³³ In July 1946, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the “Temporary Sub-Commission on the Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas” was established to recover Europe’s tattered economy from the Second World War.¹³⁴ During the same year, the General Assembly unanimously recommended establishing the Economic Commission of Europe in order to “give effective aid to countries devastated by war,” transitioning the body to the permanent Economic Commission of Europe in December 1946.¹³⁵ Eventually, between 1947 to 1973, the Economic Commission of the Far East, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic Commission for Africa, and last the Economic Commission for West Asia were established.¹³⁶ All of these commissions aimed at addressing the economic challenges facing specific regions in, and recently out, of conflict.¹³⁷ While each commission has a long list of accomplishments, a landmark undertaking by the Economic Commission of the Far East (later transitioned into Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)) was integral following the 2004 Indonesian earthquake and tsunami.¹³⁸ As part of their multilayered approach to the crisis, ESCAP coordinated economic and social rebuilding following the incident, created a trust fund to alleviate

¹²⁵ Boyce, *The International Financial Institutions*, 2004.

¹²⁶ Boyce, *The International Financial Institutions*, 2004.

¹²⁷ Asian Development Bank, *Post-Conflict Reconstruction: the Afghan Economy* (Manila: Asian Development Bank, 2017), <https://www.adb.org/publications/post-conflict-reconstruction-afghan-economy>.

¹²⁸ Asian Development Bank, *Post-Conflict Reconstruction*, 2017.

¹²⁹ Asian Development Bank, *Post-Conflict Reconstruction*, 2017.

¹³⁰ Asian Development Bank, *Post-Conflict Reconstruction*, 2017.

¹³¹ Asian Development Bank, *Post-Conflict Reconstruction*, 2017.

¹³² Asian Development Bank, *Post-Conflict Reconstruction*, 2017.

¹³³ “The Charter of the United Nations,” The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/> (accessed on April 20, 2020).

¹³⁴ History, The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, <https://www.unece.org/oes/history/history.html>, (accessed April 28, 2020).

¹³⁵ History, The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, 2020.

¹³⁶ History, The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, 2020.

¹³⁷ History, The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, 2020.

¹³⁸ ESCAP History, ESCAP, <https://www.unescap.org/about/history>, (accessed July 10th, 2020).

economic strain, as well as creating a multi-hazard scheme to ensure preparedness for future disasters within the region.¹³⁹

In 2002, the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Groups were formed for the purpose of assisting post-conflict Member States with the peacebuilding process, specifically creating long-term programs for states faced with large amounts of violent conflict.¹⁴⁰ Some examples of Ad Hoc Groups that spawned from this programme include the Guinea-Bissau (2002) and Burundi (2003) advisory groups, aimed to provide long-term plans to rebuild each Member State.¹⁴¹ Using the Burundi group as an example of how ECOSOC worked hands-on with individual Member States, a 2004 report from the group found that a multipronged approach was needed to address the “considerable economic needs” of the Member State following violent conflict.¹⁴² The group suggested engaging in poverty alleviation, focusing on sustainable development of the economy, and re-enforcing international economic partnerships.¹⁴³ Following years of progress and economic growth, in which the GDP growth rate went from a 1.5 percent shrinkage in 2002 to 5.4 percent growth in 2006, the Ad Hoc Advisory Group was terminated in 2006 after acknowledging the need for further cooperation, mediation, and dialogue between political entities within Burundi.^{144, 145}

ECOSOC later passed Resolution 2004/32 in which the committee turned their sites to the African continent and issues post-conflict Member States within were facing, including economic stagnation.¹⁴⁶ The committee reaffirmed the UN Millennium Declaration which focuses on eradicating poverty and sustainable development.¹⁴⁷ Specifically, the resolution called for the removal of barriers to economic growth, including widespread criminality, drug trafficking, organized crime, and corruption, all of which are ever-present in post-conflict Member States due to a lack of government efficacy.¹⁴⁸ The resolution also recommended utilizing multilateral development assistance to spark economic growth through continent-wide organizations like the “New Partnership for African Development.”¹⁴⁹

The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was established in 2005 with the purpose of creating and reviewing strategies for sustainable development, as well as connecting relevant parties in the peacebuilding process.¹⁵⁰ Through its mandate, the PBC works with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies to assist post-conflict Member States in rebuilding society, specifically economic vitality.¹⁵¹ The main foci of their approach is to initiate economic growth through emphasis on sustainable development, partnerships with entities outside of the UN apparatus, as well as through promoting economic progression through the restoration of civil society.¹⁵²

In 2009, the UN updated their policy for post-conflict economic reconstruction, issuing a report that presented a three-pronged approach to creating employment and using sustainable development to revive an economy whilst

¹³⁹ ESCAP History, ESCAP, 2020.

¹⁴⁰ Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery, The United Nations Economic and Social Council, <https://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/peacebuilding.shtml>, (accessed May 1, 2020).

¹⁴¹ Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery, The United Nations Economic and Social Council, 2020.

¹⁴² Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on African Countries emerging from conflict, The United Nations Economic and Social Council, https://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/adhocmech/cronology_burundi.shtml (accessed May 1, 2020).

¹⁴³ Ad Hoc Advisory Groups, Economic and Social Council, 2020.

¹⁴⁴ “Burundi GDP Annual Growth Rate 1961-2019 Data: 2020-2022 Forecast: Historical,” Burundi GDP Annual Growth Rate | 1961-2019 Data | 2020-2022 Forecast | Historical, <https://tradingeconomics.com/burundi/gdp-growth-annual>, (accessed July 10, 2020).

¹⁴⁵ Economic and Social Council, Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi, 2006.

¹⁴⁶ Economic and Social Council, Resolution 32, Implementation of technical assistance projects in Africa by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, A/RES/2004/32, August 13, 2004, https://www.unodc.org/art/en/ecosoc_resolution.html.

¹⁴⁷ Economic and Social Council, Implementation of technical assistance, 2004.

¹⁴⁸ Economic and Social Council, Implementation of technical assistance, 2004.

¹⁴⁹ Economic and Social Council, Implementation of technical assistance, 2004.

¹⁵⁰ <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/>

¹⁵¹ Security Council, Resolution 2282, S/RES/2282, April 27, 2016, [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2282\(2016\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2282(2016)).

¹⁵² Security Council, Resolution 2282, 2016.

reintegrating members of society.¹⁵³ The policy considered each prong a “track,” and each track focused on a different aspect of employment in post-conflict Member States: Track A stabilizing income generation and emergency employment, Track B ensuring local economic recovery, and Track C creating decent work through sustainable employment.¹⁵⁴ One of the largest focuses within this policy was to utilize emergency employment by the government as a means to provide security and target residual violence occurring within the Member State.¹⁵⁵ As part of the UN policy, sustainable employment techniques, such as hiring at the local level, and creating employment opportunities that build institutional capacity and encourage social dialogue.¹⁵⁶

Challenges with Aid

The University of Massachusetts’ study, titled, “Post-conflict Reconstruction and Peacebuilding Capacities,” an over-reliance on humanitarian aid leads Member States to become dependent on outside financial support, as this form of aid treats the symptom and not the root of the issue.¹⁵⁷ One of the largest hurdles keeping post-conflict Member States aid dependent is an inability for the state to use their natural resources for internal usage and trade.¹⁵⁸ Often, following conflict, the infrastructure needed to harness resources, as well as the ability for a Member State to transport said resources use, is damaged.¹⁵⁹ In other cases, corporations participating in resource extraction and profiteering leave the host Member State unable to utilize the resources for their own sustainable development post-conflict.¹⁶⁰

Additionally, the effects of aid on a Member State are heterogeneous, or uneven, in nature.¹⁶¹ Research published by the Keil Institute for the World Economy suggests that humanitarian aid following a conflict is often directed towards social and economic infrastructure, the areas most impacted by violent conflict.¹⁶² Unfortunately, the findings suggest that while social infrastructure often experienced considerable progress, such as an improvement in educational outcomes and governmental function, the effects of said aid on economic infrastructure is underwhelming.¹⁶³ The results of this study suggest that financial aid to post-conflict Member States is best spent when directed to social infrastructure, as economic infrastructure like transportation, communication, and the financial sector, do not experience substantial growth following said aid due to a general lack of stability.¹⁶⁴

Considering the delivery of aid, the payout can be given directly to a Member States’ government, and aside from specific guidelines and agreements within the aid packages, the government can use the aid as it sees fit to ensure economic recovery.¹⁶⁵ Susan Rose-Ackerman reaffirms that Member States recently out of conflict usually suffer

¹⁵³ The United Nations, *United Nations Policy for Post-Conflict Employment and Reintegration* (Geneva, United Nations, 2009), <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5227107a4.pdf>.

¹⁵⁴ The United Nations, Policy for Post-Conflict Employment, 2009.

¹⁵⁵ The United Nations, Policy for Post-Conflict Employment, 2009.

¹⁵⁶ The United Nations, Policy for Post-Conflict Employment, 2009.

¹⁵⁷ Boyce, *The International Financial Institutions*, 2004.

¹⁵⁸ Ndikumana, Léonce. “The Role of Foreign Aid in Post-Conflict Countries.” *Building Sustainable Peace*, 2016, 141–59. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780198757276.003.0009>.

¹⁵⁹ Ndikumana, “The Role of Foreign Aid,” 2016.

¹⁶⁰ Ndikumana, “The Role of Foreign Aid,” 2016.

¹⁶¹ Donaubauer, Julian, Dierk Herzer, and Peter Nunnenkamp. “The Effectiveness of Aid under Post-Conflict Conditions: A Sector-Specific Analysis.” *The Journal of Development Studies* 55, no. 4 (2017): 720–36. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2017.1400013>.

¹⁶² Donaubauer, et al, “The Effectiveness of Aid under Post-Conflict Conditions,” 2017.

¹⁶³ Donaubauer, et al, “The Effectiveness of Aid under Post-Conflict Conditions,” 2017.

¹⁶⁴ Donaubauer, et al, “The Effectiveness of Aid under Post-Conflict Conditions,” 2017.

¹⁶⁵ Davis, Paul K. *Dilemmas of Intervention: Social Science for Stabilization and Reconstruction*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND, National Defense Research Institute, 2011.

from a weak central government with minimal accountability and prevalent corruption.¹⁶⁶ For example, practices like bribery are commonplace, and there is little in the way of rules to ensure aid money, as well as other sources of income for the state, are not being misused.¹⁶⁷ In other cases, aid can be administered to specific actors, such as non-governmental organizations working within the Member State, or perhaps corporations operating within the state which contribute greatly to said state's economy.¹⁶⁸ While this method prevents the chance for corrupt governments to misuse aid, it also denies a Member States' government to capacity-build and to restore legitimacy, both of which are crucial for post-conflict Member States attempting to avoid relapsing into conflict.¹⁶⁹

Case Study

Iraq

After an extended conflict and 13 months of formal occupation by a coalition of Member States led by the US, a provisional government was established in Iraq.¹⁷⁰ As part of the reconstruction process between Iraq and the remainder of the international community, major benchmarks were established to help achieve a full recovery.¹⁷¹ Economic and financial reconstruction concentrated on full disbursement of donor pledges made at the 2003 Madrid Conference to initiate immediate reconstruction, ensuring competitive bidding relating to infrastructure revitalization to US and Iraqi contractors, achieving self-sufficiency in oil production, and financial support for key enterprises within the western Asia republic.¹⁷²

Regarding the immediate needs of Iraq though disbursement of pledges, initial pledges topped USD 13.5 Billion, including USD 543.6 Million from the US, alone, in its first phase.¹⁷³ However, it was assessed in 2003 that the USD 2.2 Billion provided by Iraq's oil production from 1996 to 2003 barely provided a "starvation ration" for the Member State, and this was all prior to additional infrastructure damage by conflict.¹⁷⁴ Referring solely to food needs, an additional USD 1.8 Billion was estimated to meet needs, most coming through disbursement through the World Food Programme.¹⁷⁵ Timely and proper disbursement of Madrid Conference pledges have been mixed, depending on the Member State.¹⁷⁶ For example, by 2006, Japan had disbursed the entirety of its USD 1.5 Billion pledge, while the non-US donors had disbursed USD 3.3 Billion of their USD 13.5 Billion total in pledges.¹⁷⁷

To date Iraq continues to struggle economically, as well as politically, despite the aforementioned assistance of the international community.¹⁷⁸ In 2019, Kuwait and the US led the UN Security Council's first trip to the Member State

¹⁶⁶ Rose-Ackerman, Susan, "Corruption and Government," *International Peacekeeping*, 2008, 15:3, 328-343, DOI: [10.1080/13533310802058802](https://doi.org/10.1080/13533310802058802).

¹⁶⁷ Rose-Ackerman, "Corruption and Government," 2008.

¹⁶⁸ Davis, *Dilemmas of Intervention*, 2011.

¹⁶⁹ Davis, *Dilemmas of Intervention*, 2011.

¹⁷⁰ Open Society Institute, *Iraq in Transition: Post-Conflict Challenges and Opportunities* (New York, Open Societies Institute, 2004), <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/publications/iraq-transition-post-conflict-challenges-and-opportunities>.

¹⁷¹ Open Society Institute, *Iraq in Transition*, 2004.

¹⁷² Open Society Institute, *Iraq in Transition*, 2004.

¹⁷³ "Hearts and Minds: Aid and Reconstruction in Iraq - Iraq." ReliefWeb, (Accessed June 3, 2020), <https://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/hearts-and-minds-aid-and-reconstruction-iraq>.

¹⁷⁴ "Hearts and Minds," Relief Web, 2020.

¹⁷⁵ "Hearts and Minds," Relief Web, 2020.

¹⁷⁶ Christoff, Joseph A. Rebuilding Iraq: stabilization, reconstruction, and financing challenges: testimony before the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, Rebuilding Iraq: stabilization, reconstruction, and financing challenges: testimony before the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate § (2006).

¹⁷⁷ Christoff, Rebuilding Iraq, 2006.

¹⁷⁸ "Security Council, after First Ever Visit to Iraq, Says Economic Reform Vital for Post-Conflict Recovery, Warning Fight Against Terrorism 'Not Over' | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." United Nations. United Nations. Accessed June 2, 2020. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13880.doc.htm>.

since the conflict in 2003, and the findings revealed that Iraq is still in need of economic integration with regional states, and it lacks upward investment into national industries and corporations.¹⁷⁹ The lack of investment is largely due to security issues, as well as political instability in liberated regions, considering widespread terrorism plagues much of the Iraqi territory.¹⁸⁰ Another issue is the lack of economic infrastructure in Iraq following the conflict.¹⁸¹ In particular, the oil industry's infrastructure is a major factor behind the economic hardships being faced after the conflict.¹⁸² According to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the oil industry is in need of modernization and investment.¹⁸³ In 2009, the US Energy Information Administration set a six million barrel per-day goal for Iraq for 2017.¹⁸⁴ As of 2019, despite an impressive increase, Iraq is only producing 4.88 million barrels a day, falling short of the aforementioned 2017 goal.¹⁸⁵ Using 2010 metrics, an estimate of USD 100 Billion would be needed long-term to rebuild and modernize Iraq's oil industry, as well as an additional USD 1 Billion per-year to just maintain current production levels.¹⁸⁶ Iraq is still in need of extensive work to continue its transition from post-conflict Member State to a completely recovered Member State, and, we previously mentioned, a large portion of this change will should be based in sustainable economic growth.

Conclusion

There will always be conflict in one form or another, and where there is conflict you will find both social and economic ramifications. Loss of human capital, destroyed infrastructure, the lack of a stable economy for investment, as well as huge expenditures associated with conflict are just some of the numerous struggles faced by a post-conflict Member State.¹⁸⁷ Through regional commissions, numerous UN resolutions, as well as independent groups and projects, we see that the international community has taken action to assist post-conflict Member States.¹⁸⁸ ¹⁸⁹ The UN has also issued policy recommendations that act as guidelines for future conflicts, such as the 2009 United Nations Policy for Post-Conflict Employment and Reintegration, reshaping the fashion in which post-conflict economic reconstruction assists an individual's transition back to the workforce.¹⁹⁰ The aforementioned policies, at times, struggled with the responsible application of aid, sometimes making Members States aid-dependent and/or distributing aid to the incorrect parties.¹⁹¹ All of this considered, the act of rebuilding a Member States' economy can be laborious, delicate, and a long term commitment.¹⁹² The international community's attempt to rebuild Iraq's economy serves as an example of the dedication, financially and temporally, post-conflict reconstruction for a Member State requires.¹⁹³ With all this taken into consideration, the promotion of economic growth in post-conflict Member States is both a necessary and rigorous project.

Committee Directive

¹⁷⁹ "Security Council, after First Ever Visit to Iraq," United Nations, 2020.

¹⁸⁰ "Security Council, after First Ever Visit to Iraq," United Nations, 2020.

¹⁸¹ Anthony H. Cordesman. "Economic Challenges in Post-Conflict Iraq," (Washington D.C., Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2010), https://csis-website-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/legacy_files/files/publication/100317_IraqEconomicFactors.pdf.

¹⁸² Cordesman, Economic Challenges in Post-Conflict Iraq," 2010.

¹⁸³ Cordesman, Economic Challenges in Post-Conflict Iraq," 2010.

¹⁸⁴ Cordesman, Economic Challenges in Post-Conflict Iraq," 2010.

¹⁸⁵ Turak, Natasha. "Iraq Is Pumping Record Oil, Creating a 'Fully-Blown Migraine' for OPEC's Cutting Plans." CNBC, September 6, 2019. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/09/06/iraq-is-pumping-record-oil-disrupting-opecs-production-cutting-plans.html>.

¹⁸⁶ Cordesman, Economic Challenges in Post-Conflict Iraq," 2010.

¹⁸⁷ "Sub-Saharan Africa," Regional Economic Outlook, 2019.

¹⁸⁸ History, The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, 2020.

¹⁸⁹ Economic and Social Council, Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi, 2006.

¹⁹⁰ The United Nations, Policy for Post-Conflict Employment, 2009.

¹⁹¹ Rose-Ackerman, "Corruption and Government," 2008.

¹⁹² Cordesman, Economic Challenges in Post-Conflict Iraq," 2010.

¹⁹³ Cordesman, Economic Challenges in Post-Conflict Iraq," 2010.

Solutions for post-conflict Member States need to focus on the unique qualities inherent within said conflicts, as there is no one-fit-all solution. Nonetheless, there is still a place for overarching policies, frameworks, and initiatives. Delegates must consider post-conflict economic growth at a domestic and international level in order to create a resolution which fully addresses the topic. The delegate must also ask themselves if the aid-projects of the past lived up to their promises, such as the international effort to rebuild Iraq post-war, or were these attempts deficient in some manner? Are the already existing regional commissions and UN bodies enough to handle the economic reconstruction of post-conflict Member States, given the changing nature of conflict in the 21st century? When it comes to direct financial support of post-conflict Member States, how much is too much, and where should the money be invested in order to achieve true growth and change? Delegates must ponder these questions when debating and creating solutions while at conference in order to ensure economic growth tactics becomes easier tools to use in order to lift post-conflict Member States to greater heights.

Annotated Bibliography

Topic I: Facilitating Economic and Social Protections for Vulnerable Populations

“The real cost of LGBT discrimination,” World Economic Forum, 2016.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/the-real-cost-of-lgbt-discrimination/>

This article details how discrimination against the LGBT+ community negatively affects the ability of said group to achieve economic efficacy, and how this disadvantage serves as a setback for a Member State’s overall economic power. A study done by the World Bank showed that India is losing up to USD 32 Billion per year because of the exclusion of the LGBT+ community members from their economy. The article states that Member States should put policies in place to protect LGBT+ members from discrimination not only because it is the right move to do, also because it is a lucrative move towards economic growth. An example of these protections are anti-discrimination policies, which protect LGBT+ workers on the job, such as termination based on sexual orientation. This example exemplifies socio-economic protection for a vulnerable population, such as the LGBT+ community, and how the policy yields economic and social benefits for said community, as well as for and the Member State as a whole.

“Immigrants' contribution to developing countries' economies: Overview and policy recommendations.”

OECD/ILO, 2018. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/how-immigrants-contribute-to-developing-countries-economies/immigrants-contribution-to-developing-countries-economies-overview-and-policy-recommendations_9789264288737-4-en

In this report, the OECD investigates vulnerable peoples around the world. In particular, the OECD inspects a large group that helps economies in several ways: migrants. The article explains how immigrants and migrants often contribute to the economies of host Member States in a multitude of ways. These ways include as workers, students, entrepreneurs, consumers, and taxpayers. However, the organization states that many host Member States often allow discrimination against migrants, which in turns hurts the Member State’s economy, as well as the economic viability of said community. The article recommends that Member States protect migrant rights, as well as focus on the integration of migrants into the economy, in order to enjoy the full economic benefits that migrants offer. A policy example proposed by the study would be the investment into public education and job training for migrant population, so they can fully integrate into the host economy for betterment of their community and the Member State as a whole.

“The Limits of Liberal Humanitarianism in Europe: The ‘Responsibility to Protect’ and Forced Migration,” European Review of International Studies, 2017.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/26593794?Search=yes&resultItemClick=true&searchText=economic&searchText=policies&searchText=to&searchText=protect&searchText=vulnerable&searchText=populations.>

This paper explores Europe’s response to the refugee crisis of 2014/15 and how European Member States’ commitments the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) were tested in regard to policy changes. The European Review of International Studies reports that Europe failed to live up to its commitments promised when it initially agreed to the R2P. The study states that exclusion was the most prevalent reaction of European Member States to this crisis, and that Member States did not prioritize the protection of refugee rights, or ensuring they were not discriminated against. The rise of many right-wing parties in Member States, such as France, Germany and Sweden, show that Europe’s reaction to the refugee crisis in 2015 centered around “protecting” themselves. This reaction juxtaposed the Review’s recommended course of action, specifically living up to the promises of the R2P, that many of the aforementioned Member States signed. A takeaway from this piece is that some Member States, in times of crisis, do not live up to promises outlined in the R2P, such as the protection of migrants from forced expulsion from host Member States.

“More Inclusive Policies Needed to Protect Elderly, Youth from Conflict, Natural Disasters, Poverty, Speakers Tell Social Development Commission,” Royal United Service Institute for Defense and Security Studies (RUSI), 2016.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/soc4861.doc.htm>

This report details a discussion between nongovernmental organization (NGO) leadership, in which participating parties advocate in favor of more inclusion for vulnerable communities, such as the elderly, and specifically their treatment during times of crisis. An example of this support would be for vulnerable populations during and following a pandemic. Specifically, the report recommends adherence to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which aims to deliver the social impact on vulnerable people following a major crisis, such as a pandemic. Another focus group within this discussion was children in poverty, and how there is a need for more policies to protect this population in order for them to reach their full potential as functioning adults. Yet another point of contention within the report was the need to help low-scale farmers within Member States, so that communities that rely on them don't collapse in the face of economic, social, or political hardship. Most of the NGOs at the meeting say that most Member States fail in multiple areas, for example: providing early education to children in poverty, to create opportunity and/or a safety net for said vulnerable populations in the wake of natural disaster.

"Accessibility of Social protection Services to Vulnerable Groups in the OIC Member States," Turkish Ministry of Economic Development, 2016. <http://www.comcec.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Presentation-2-5.pdf>

This presentation discusses programs that can be put into place in order to help vulnerable communities. The Turkish Ministry of Economic Development demonstrates how different Member States have implemented social protections for their vulnerable populations, and how, in most cases, those communities have seen improvement of life. An example utilized within the presentation are the reforms that occurred in the Republic of Korea during the 1990s, that increased the coverage and the equity of social protections within the Member State. Case-in-point, healthcare policy, social security reform, and expanded pensions for vulnerable populations led to an improvement in life for said communities within the Member State. The presentation also details various programs within other Member States as examples, such as: providing lower income children lunch at schools, or universal social protection schemes and discusses how these programs not only helped the vulnerable peoples but bolstered the economic and social viability of each Member State as well.

Topic II: Promoting Economic Growth in Post-Conflict Societies

"Growth, aid and policies in countries recovering from war," Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2012. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/conflict-fragility-resilience/docs/WP1%20Growth%20Aid%20and%20Policies.pdf>

This report discusses how economic aid to areas that have recently experienced conflict can dramatically boost post-war economic growth. The paper suggests that 40 percent of post-war Member States revert back to civil war within the decade. This phenomenon is referred to as the "conflict trap," and is explained by weak government following conflict, economic fragility, and widespread poverty among the affected population. That's why the OECD recommends that policies should be put in place afterward in order to prevent war. Some of these suggestions include but are not limited to: reorganization of the public sector, policy for inclusion of former combatants and other maligned parties, and the proper management of foreign aid. The article recommends the aforementioned policies because the largest reason investment does not happen in post-conflict Member States afterwards is because of fear of relapse into conflict. As an added effect, if foreign investment is achieved, likelihood of future conflict decreases even further. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development also suggests taxing natural resources in order to get public services back to a regular level, as the taxation of readily available resources leads to public funding for additional post-conflict reconstruction. Therefore, instead of relapsing back into conflict, a Member State can rebuild and economically recover.

"Economic Reconstruction and Reforms in Post-Conflict Countries," City University of New York, 2015. <https://soc.kuleuven.be/crpd/files/working-papers/working-paper-del-castillo.pdf>.

This study is a look at how individual governments and the international community have responded economically to Member States experiencing violent conflict. According to this study, the international community interacts with these Member States as if it had a peace-time economy. This is why, according to the author, many Member States in the post-Cold War era have not been able to recover following violent

conflict. For example, the United Nations, World Bank, and numerous other intergovernmental entities, mismanaged their approach to reconstruct Afghanistan following the cold war, which “haunted” reconstruction for decades to come. The author argues that post-conflict Member States need to have an intermediate phase between war-time economy to a peace-time economy, which largely considered a time of reconstruction. Not having a well-defined period of reconstruction, in the long term, sets up the likelihood for more conflict, considering an unviable economy and wounded society does not a stable Member State make. The author uses Rwanda as an example of a recovered economy, asserting that with international aid, internal efforts for unification, and support for the agricultural sector that Rwanda (though not wealthy) was able to become more independent from the aid as years passed.

“Reconstruction, development and sustainable peace: a unified programme for post-conflict countries,” United Nations Department of Economic & Social Affairs, 2005. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/CDP-bp-2005-8.pdf>

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs discusses the steps a Member State should take in order to rebuild after a conflict, as well as methods to create economic growth domestically. The study states in order to do this decision-makers in a Member State have two critical choices to make. First, the Member State has to adopt goals that are consistent with the objective of improving economic welfare in general. Some of these goals include decreasing unemployment rates, eliminating poverty among vulnerable populations, and reversing economic stagnation through domestic and foreign investment. Secondly, but equally important, leaders need to employ a system of ownership and allocation of resources that are the most likely to achieve their main objective, based on the Member State’s problems and the social preferences of the population. Another area the report addresses is external assistance post-conflict Member States. The article states that the most successful cases of foreign assistance happen when the recipients’ needs coincide with the donors’ interests. An example of this was the American interest in reconstructing Japan economically following the second World War. However, the piece asserts, if these interests and needs do not coincide then benefits favor the donor, not to the recipient. This is very important when addressing foreign aid in post-conflict areas.

“Accelerating economic growth in post-conflict Sri Lanka,” The OPEC Fund For International Development, 2014. <https://opecfund.org/news-stories/accelerating-economic-growth-in-post-conflict-sri-lanka>

The OPEC Fund for International Development describes how Sri Lanka achieved strong economic growth following conflict within the Member State ended. In Sri Lanka, following their civil war, GDP growth averaged 7.6 percent in the period 2010–2012, as well as halving the amount of people living under the poverty line between 2007 to 2010. This post-conflict growth has also led to a higher income per capita, with the Member State aiming to achieve the per-capita income of USD 4,000 by 2016. The state aimed to achieve this growth through bolstering the Member States’ educational capability, encouraging commerce, and expanding their maritime industry. The study also states how the economy was boosted by an increase in connectivity due to improved infrastructure like roads, telephone lines, and electricity. With the conflict over, the tourism industry has also grown during this time, which Sri Lanka has used to help other sectors of its economy. Just from 2012 to 2014, thanks to the aforementioned improvements, Sri Lanka’s tourism industry more than doubled from one million annual visitors to 2.5 million annual visitors, respectively. For these reasons, the piece states that Sri Lanka is a good example to follow for post-conflict Member States.