



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 General Assembly (GA) Plenary. I'm Ryan Baerwalde, the Director-General (DG) for SRMUN Atlanta. This is my seventh time on SRMUN staff, having previously served as Deputy Director-General, Assistant Deputy Director-General of Crises, and Director and Assistant Director for various committees across SRMUN Atlanta and SRMUN Charlotte. At the virtual SRMUN Atlanta conference, you will meet your committee Director. In the meantime, it's an honor to introduce your Assistant Directors, Meera Patel and Ella Schalski. Meera graduated in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Law. This will be her second conference serving as Assistant Director. Ella is completing her Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature with a minor in linguistics and German Language and Literature. This will be her first time serving on SRMUN staff.

As evidenced in the name, the GA Plenary is a body in the UN which includes all 193 Member States. They meet every year and make recommendations to all Member States on a wide variety of matters. For example, in their last session, Member States focused on reducing poverty and providing equal education opportunities for all. The committee also serves numerous administrative functions for the UN itself, including approving the annual budget. Needless to say, the GA Plenary must successfully address multiple topics during its sessions in order to further the success of the United Nations.

By focusing on the mission of the GA Plenary 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. Addressing Gender Inequality and its Role in Perpetuating Global Poverty
- II. Improving Access to Electricity in Developing Member States

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.

We are enthusiastic about SRMUN first virtual GA Plenary, and 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 me if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

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History of the General Assembly Plenary

In 1945, following the conclusion of the Second World War, the United Nations (UN) was created to maintain international peace and security, foster diplomatic relations, achieve international cooperation, promote human rights, and harmonize the actions of Member States to accomplish the aforementioned goals.¹ Article 7 of the UN Charter (1945) establishes six principal organs: the General Assembly (GA), the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat.² Of these, only the GA has universal membership, rendering it a unique forum for discussion within the UN system.³ As the normative center of the UN, the GA is a generator of ideas, a place of international debate, and a hub for new concepts and practices in the political, economic, humanitarian, social, and legal spheres.⁴

All 193 UN Member States are represented in the GA, with each Member State receiving one vote.⁵ The GA may also grant Observer status to intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and non-Member States or entities, allowing them to participate in sessions but not grant them voting rights.⁶ The GA is encouraged to make its decisions via consensus, and the majority are, however this is not mandated.⁷ When a vote is held, regular decisions require a simple majority of Member States present and voting while important decisions, such as electing Member States to the Security Council, admission and expulsion of Member States, and international security issues, require a two-thirds majority of Member States present and voting.⁸

The GA has six Main Committees that are topically organized around the body's main fields of responsibility: the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee); the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee); the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee); the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee); the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee); and the Legal Committee (Sixth Committee).⁹ These committees discuss agenda items assigned to them, adopt draft resolutions, and submit a report on their work to the GA Plenary.¹⁰ The GA Plenary then considers these reports and "proceeds without debate to the adoption of the recommended resolutions and decisions. If adopted by consensus in the committee, the Plenary also decides by consensus; likewise, if adopted by a vote in the committee, the Plenary votes on the resolution or decision in question."¹¹ The Plenary may also decide to address issues without prior reference to another committee.¹²

As the major organ within the UN system, the GA does not report to any other organ. It receives substantive and organizational support from two important entities: The General Committee and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM).¹³ The General Committee is comprised of the President of the General Assembly (PGA), the 21 Vice-Presidents of the GA, and the Chairpersons of the Main Committees.¹⁴ All position-holders are elected during each session and are on a nonrenewable basis.¹⁵ The General Committee's main duty, aside from making recommendations to organizational issues, is to allocate agenda items to the GA Plenary and the Main Committees from a preliminary list received from the UN Secretariat.¹⁶ The DGACM acts as the intersection between the GA and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and provides valuable technical

¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 1.

² *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 7.

³ UN General Assembly, *General Assembly of the United Nations*.

⁴ Thakur, *The United Nations, Peace and Security*, 2006, pp. 91, 162; UN General Assembly, *Functions and powers of the General Assembly*.

⁵ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 18.

⁶ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 30.

⁷ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2017-2018*, 2017, p. 12.

⁸ New Zealand, *United Nations*, p. 12.

⁹ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 18.

¹⁰ New Zealand, *United Nations*, p. 23.

¹¹ Smith, *Politics and Process at the United Nations: The Global Dance*, 2006, p. 161; Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 62.

¹² New Zealand, *United Nations*, p. 23.

¹³ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook*, p. 17.

¹⁴ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook*, p. 18.

¹⁵ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook*, p. 18.

¹⁶ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook*, p. 17.

secretariat support, mainly through its GA and ECOSOC Affairs Division.¹⁷ Within the UN Secretariat, other departments and offices offer both substantive and technical support to each of the six Main Committees.¹⁸

The mandate of the GA is defined in Chapter IV (Articles 10-22) of the Charter of the UN.¹⁹ As stipulated by Article 10, the GA is broadly tasked with discussing “any questions or any matters within the scope of the [Charter] or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the [Charter]” and may make relevant recommendations to Member States or to the Security Council.²⁰ The primary functions and powers of the GA include initiating studies and making recommendations to promote international cooperation in various areas including politics, economics, education, and fundamental human rights and freedoms.²¹ The GA also makes recommendations “for the peaceful adjustment of any situation, regardless of origin, which it deems likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations among nations.”²² In addition, the GA is required to receive and approve regular reports from the Security Council and subsidiary organs.²³ These organs, which may be created by the GA, are capable of introducing resolutions that can lead to the creation and funding of agencies, meetings, ad hoc committees, or working groups that will consider a particular question with the purpose of reporting to the GA.²⁴ The GA also serves to elect the UN Secretary-General based on recommendations from the Security Council.²⁵

While the GA may address matters of international peace and security, any matters requiring action must also be referred to the Security Council. Further, the GA may not make recommendations related to any dispute or situation in respect of which the Security Council is exercising its functions.²⁶ The only exception is if the Security Council fails to reach a decision on an issue due to a lack of consensus among its permanent members, at which point the GA may convene an emergency special session within 24 hours to address the issue in question.²⁷

The GA considers and approves the UN’s budget and apportions expenses to be borne by individual Member States yearly.²⁸ Additionally, the GA Plenary meeting determines the total contributions from each Member State yearly and uses those contributions as the basis of the UN yearly operating budget.²⁹ For the 2019 fiscal year, the UN calculated the net contributions from all Member States to total USD 2,849,023,329.³⁰ The GA budget is used to cover a range of areas, such as human rights, humanitarian projects, and development, but does not cover peacekeeping operations.³¹

The GA’s regular session begins each year on Tuesday of the third week of September.³² The General Debate usually begins with speeches by each Member States’ head of government or a representative.³³ Besides the normal yearly session, the GA may also hold special sessions or emergency special sessions.³⁴ Special sessions are summoned by the Secretary-General at the request of the Security Council, with the last one convening in 2016 which addressed the world drug problem.³⁵ Emergency special sessions are enacted by a vote of nine members of

¹⁷ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook*, p. 18.

¹⁸ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook*, p. 17.

¹⁹ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook*, p. 24.

²⁰ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook*, p. 63-68.

²¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, Art. 10.

²² *Charter of the United Nations*, Arts. 14.

²³ *Charter of the United Nations*, Arts. 15.

²⁴ Weis, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, 2004, p. 161.

²⁵ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2017-2018*, 2017, p. 12

²⁶ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Ch. IV.

²⁷ *Charter of the United Nations*, Art. 10.

²⁸ UN General Assembly, *Programme planning (A/RES/71/6)*, 2016, para. 4

²⁹ “Assessment of Member States’ contributions to the United Nations regular budget for the year 2019,” United Nations, <https://undocs.org/en/ST/ADM/SER.B/992> (accessed February 27, 2019)

³⁰ “Assessment of Member States’ contributions to the United Nations regular budget for the year 2019,” United Nations, <https://undocs.org/en/ST/ADM/SER.B/992> (accessed February 27, 2019)

³¹ “UN Budget for 2018-2019,” United Nations, https://unicwash.org/budget_2018-19/ (accessed March 3, 2019)

³² *Basic Facts about the United Nations: 42nd Edition*, New York: United Nations Department of Public Information, 2017.

³³ *Basic Facts about the United Nations: 42nd Edition*, New York: United Nations Department of Public Information, 2017.

³⁴ *Basic Facts about the United Nations: 42nd Edition*, New York: United Nations Department of Public Information, 2017.

³⁵ “Special Sessions,” General Assembly of the United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/sessions/special.shtml> (accessed March 3, 2019)

the Security Council when there is “a threat to the peace, breaches of the peace, or act of aggression [...]”³⁶ On June 13, 2018, the GA convened an emergency special session and adopted a resolution “deploring the use of excessive, disproportionate and indiscriminate force by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.”³⁷ In A/RES/71/6 of October 27, 2016, the GA decided on eight priorities of the UN for the 2018-2019 period. The aforementioned priorities include the promotion of economic growth and sustainable development, the maintenance of international security, the development of Africa, the promotion of human rights, the coordination of humanitarian assistance, the promotion of international law, disarmament, and combating international terrorism.³⁸ In recent years, resolutions adopted by the GA Plenary, without reference to a Main Committee, have addressed diverse topics such as the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Review, improving global road safety, and the role of diamonds in fueling conflict.³⁹

More recently, the 74th of the UNGA began on 17 September 2019. The President of the GA for the 74th session, Tijjani Muhammad-Bande of Nigeria, identified his vision for the GA as “[reducing] the trust deficit between nations, as we all share the same aspirations, and we have no choice but to work together.”⁴⁰ The high-level general debate commenced on 24 September and focused on “Galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion.”⁴¹ While looking ahead to the historic 75th session, and simultaneously dealing with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the members of the GA elected Turkish ambassador Volkan Bazkir as the next President of the GA.⁴²

³⁶ “Emergency Special Sessions,” General Assembly of the United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/sessions/emergency.shtml> (accessed March 3, 2019)

³⁷ UN DPI, *General Assembly Adopts Resolution on Protecting Palestinian Civilians Following Rejection of United States Amendment to Condemn Hamas Rocket Fire*, 2018.

³⁸ UN General Assembly, *Programme planning (A/RES/71/6)*, 2016, para. 4

³⁹ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) (A/RES/72/306)*, 2018; UN General Assembly, *The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Review (A/RES/72/284)*, 2018; UN General Assembly, *Improving global road safety (A/RES/72/271)*, 2018; UN General Assembly, *The role of diamonds in fueling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts (A/RES/72/267)*, 2018.

⁴⁰ “President of the 74th Session,” General Assembly of the United Nations, <https://www.un.org/pga/74/> (accessed March 16, 2020)

⁴¹ “General Debate of the 74th Session: 24 – 30 September 2019,” General Assembly of the United Nations, <https://gadebate.un.org/generaldebate74/en/> (accessed March 16, 2020)

⁴² “Turkish diplomat elected President of historic 75th UN General Assembly,” UN News, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/06/1066562> (accessed August 23, 2020)

I: Addressing Gender Inequality and its Role in Perpetuating Global Poverty

“There are more than 500 million adolescent girls living in the developing world today. Every one of them can potentially help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty, with ripple effects multiplying across her society.”
– Anthony Lake, former Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)⁴³

Introduction

Women and girls make up half of the world’s population and represent half its potential, yet women are disproportionately affected by poverty.^{44,45} With women earning 24 percent less than men globally, Oxfam predicts at this rate it will take 170 years to close the gender wage gap.⁴⁶ Other contributory factors include unpaid care work, longer workdays, and a lack of job opportunities in the formal economy.⁴⁷ Under such circumstances, it comes as no surprise that women are four percent more likely than men to live in extreme poverty.⁴⁸ Furthermore, the risk of living in extreme poverty rises to 25 percent for women between the ages of 25 to 34 years old.⁴⁹

The United Nations (UN) has made significant efforts to achieve gender equality and dismantle gender’s role in perpetuating global poverty. The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 include Goal 1: No Poverty and Goal 5: Gender Equality.⁵⁰ The UN’s commitment to achieving gender equality and recognition of its role in global poverty are echoed through UN Women’s investment in women’s economic empowerment, which helps women obtain “higher incomes, better access to and control over resources, and greater security, including protection from violence.”⁵¹ The progress made towards addressing gender inequality and its role in perpetuating global poverty is promising, yet with the 2030 deadline looming, the international community must not lose its momentum.

History

From its outset, the UN has supported the rights of women. During the UN’s inaugural year, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established the Commission on the Status of Women, creating a separate policy-making body focused on achieving gender equality and advancing the rights of women.⁵² In the 1970s, the UN General Assembly (GA), recognizing the traction made by the international feminist movement, declared 1975 as International Women’s Year and hosted the first World Conference on Women in Mexico City.⁵³ The conference concluded with declaring 1976 to 1985 as the UN Decade for Women.⁵⁴

Five years after the initial World Conference on Women and halfway through the UN Decade for Women, a second conference was held in Copenhagen.⁵⁵ The conference’s Programme of Action highlighted factors resulting from gender inequality on an international stage: the national measures in place that prevent women from owning and controlling property, receiving an inheritance, and gaining child custody.⁵⁶ The final 1995 World Conference on

⁴³ Madeline Branch, “8 Quotes on Empowering Girls,” United Nations Foundation, October 9, 2015, <https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/8-quotes-on-empowering-girls/>.

⁴⁴ “Gender Equality,” United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/gender-equality/> (accessed April 22, 2020).

⁴⁵ “Why the majority of the world’s poor are women,” Oxfam International, <https://www.oxfam.org/en/why-majority-worlds-poor-are-women> (accessed April 22, 2020).

⁴⁶ “Why the majority of the world’s poor are women,” Oxfam International.

⁴⁷ “Why the majority of the world’s poor are women,” Oxfam International.

⁴⁸ United Nations Women, *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2019*, September 25, 2019, pg 2.

⁴⁹ United Nations Women, *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals*, pg 2.

⁵⁰ “Sustainable Development Goals,” United Nations, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300> (accessed April 22, 2020).

⁵¹ “Economic Empowerment,” United Nations Women, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment> (accessed July 5, 2020).

⁵² “Gender Equality,” United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/gender-equality/> (accessed April 22, 2020).

⁵³ “Gender Equality,” United Nations.

⁵⁴ “Gender Equality,” United Nations.

⁵⁵ “Gender Equality,” United Nations.

⁵⁶ “Gender Equality,” United Nations.

Women took place in Beijing and “marks a significant turning point for the global agenda for gender inequality.”⁵⁷ The resulting Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was unanimously adopted by 189 Member States and is considered the “key global policy document on gender equality.”⁵⁸ The document outlined 12 critical areas of concern that need to be addressed in order to achieve gender equality, the first of which is “women and poverty.”⁵⁹ This section highlights the multi-underlying causes of poverty disproportionately affecting women – structural challenges, globalization of the world’s economy, deepening interdependence between Member States, and displacement of people due to conflicts and environmental degradation – and addresses economic and social factors responsible for the feminization of poverty in developing Member States.⁶⁰ In regards to the “feminization of poverty,” the Beijing Declaration noted it has “become a significant problem in the countries with economies in transition as a short-term consequence of the process of political, economic, and social transformation.”⁶¹ Rigid gender roles limit women’s access to power, education, training, and productive resources and further contribute to the feminization of poverty.⁶² Gender division of labor and responsibilities for household welfare leaves women disproportionately burdened with any overall household poverty as they attempt to juggle household consumption and production under increasing conditions of scarcity.⁶³

It may come as no surprise that “poverty can force women into situations in which they are vulnerable to sexual exploitation.”⁶⁴ Concluding with “actions to be taken,” the “women and poverty” section of the Declaration calls on governments, intergovernmental organizations, research institutions, and the private sector to achieve each of the four strategic objectives:

“Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty; revise laws and administrative practices to ensure women’s equal rights and access to economic resources; provide women with access to savings and credit mechanisms and institutions; and develop gender-based methodologies and conduct research to address the feminization of poverty.”⁶⁵

Since 1995, there have been quinquennial follow-ups to the Beijing conference, with the last follow-up expected to take place in March 2020 but being suspended until further notice due to COVID-19 concerns.⁶⁶

Current Situation

Today, economic inequality among Member States is generally declining, yet disparities within developing and middle-income Member States are still large and increasing.⁶⁷ Within Member States, the wage gap between the top and bottom earners has increased.⁶⁸ According to the World Bank, almost half of the world’s population lives on less than USD 5.50, while income and wealth are becoming more concentrated at the top with the “share of income

⁵⁷ “World Conferences on Women,” United Nations Women, March 2020, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/intergovernmental-support/world-conferences-on-women#copenhagen>.

⁵⁸ “World Conferences on Women,” United Nations Women.

⁵⁹ United Nations Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome*, 2014.

⁶⁰ United Nations Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome*, 2014.

⁶¹ United Nations Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome*, 2014.

⁶² United Nations Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome*, 2014.

⁶³ United Nations Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome*, 2014.

⁶⁴ United Nations Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome*, 2014.

⁶⁵ United Nations Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome*, 2014.

⁶⁶ “CSW64 / Beijing+25 (2020),” United Nations Women, March 2020, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw64-2020>.

⁶⁷ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Social Report 2020: Inequality in a Rapidly Changing World* (New York and Geneva: United Nations, 2020), <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/01/World-Social-Report-2020-FullReport.pdf>.

⁶⁸ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Social Report 2020: Inequality in a Rapidly Changing World* (New York and Geneva: United Nations, 2020), <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/01/World-Social-Report-2020-FullReport.pdf>.

going to the richest one percent of the global population.”^{69,70} Particularly in the United States of America (US), “compensation of the chief executive officers (CEOs) – including salary and bonuses – of the top 350 companies [...] was 224 times higher than the average employee’s pay.”⁷¹ While the wage gap in the US continues to rise, income inequality, particularly in the form of a reduced wage gap, are declining in Latin American Member States.⁷² According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, this can be attributed to “the spread of secondary education, a drive towards reducing informal employment, higher minimum salaries, a decline in returns to labour market experience, and increases in social spending.”⁷³ Despite this decline in income inequality, “gaps between women and men on Political Empowerment and Economic Participation and Opportunity are far from being bridged.”⁷⁴

While progress has been made in closing gender gaps, no Member State has fully achieved gender equality.⁷⁵ Today, significant inequalities, such as poverty, continue to persist for women, while structural barriers, such as a lack of access to land, capital, and financial resources, as well as different forms of discrimination, like patriarchal stereotyping, severely limit opportunities for advancement.⁷⁶ Data from the Global Monitoring Database (GMD) shows that, for every 100 men in the same age group, 122 single mothers and women are at risk of living in poverty during their reproductive years which typically coincides with rising unpaid childcare responsibilities and demands.⁷⁷ As a result, women are forced to leave the labor market and limited in their ability to overcome poverty and access quality education.^{78 79}

According to The World’s Women 2015, enrollment in primary education among girls increased from 77 to 90 percent between 1990 and 2012.⁸⁰ Yet, women continue to face obstacles in employment, wages, and quality of work, and are more vulnerable to income poverty than men.⁸¹ According to the World Bank, data shows that women are less likely to participate “in the labor market, a lower probability of being formal workers, and lower hourly wage remuneration.”⁸² Additionally, women are three times more likely to work in the informal sector or informal employment, such as through domestic or unpaid care work, than men which leaves them excluded from benefits such as health insurance, minimum wage protections, and pensions.⁸³ According to the International Labour Office,

⁶⁹ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Social Report 2020: Inequality in a Rapidly Changing World (New York and Geneva: United Nations, 2020), <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/01/World-Social-Report-2020-FullReport.pdf>.

⁷⁰ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank, Piecing Together the Poverty Puzzle (Washington DC: World Bank Group, 2018), <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/30418/9781464813306.pdf>.

⁷¹ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, The World’s Women 2015: Trends and Statistics, United Nations.

⁷² The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, The World’s Women 2015: Trends and Statistics, United Nations.

⁷³ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, The World’s Women 2015: Trends and Statistics, United Nations.

⁷⁴ World Economic Forum, Insight Report: The Global Gender Gap Report 2018 (Geneva: World Economic Forum, 2018), http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2018.pdf.

⁷⁵ “International Women’s Day: progress on gender equality remains slow,” United Nations News, March 5, 2020, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1058811>.

⁷⁶ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, The World’s Women 2015: Trends and Statistics (New York and Geneva: United Nations, 2015), https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/downloads/WorldsWomen2015_report.pdf.

⁷⁷ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, World Bank Group.

⁷⁸ “UN Women and the World Bank unveil new data analysis on women and poverty,” United Nations Women, November 5, 2017, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/11/news-un-women-and-the-world-bank-unveil-new-data-analysis-on-women-and-poverty>.

⁷⁹ Annie Kelly and Tina Johnson, ed., *Women’s Rights in Review 25 Years After Beijing* (New York: Research and Data Section, UN Women, 2020).

⁸⁰ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, The World’s Women 2015: Trends and Statistics (New York and Geneva: United Nations, 2015), https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/downloads/WorldsWomen2015_report.pdf.

⁸¹ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, The World’s Women 2015: Trends and Statistics, United Nations.

⁸² Ana Maria Munoz Boudet, Paola Buitrago, Benedicte Leroy de la Briere, David Newhouse, Eliana Rubiano, Matulevich, Kinnon Scott, and Pablo Suarez-Becerra, “Gender Differences in Poverty and Household Composition through the Life-cycle,” World Bank Group, Poverty and Equity Global Practice & Gender Global Theme, (March 2018), <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/135731520343670750/pdf/WPS8360.pdf>.

⁸³ United Nations Economic and Social Council, Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, E/2007/66, 2017.

only ten percent of domestic workers are protected by labor laws and wage protections compared to other professions.⁸⁴

Due to extreme poverty as a result of having to work in the informal sector or informal employment and the lack of legally protected benefits, many women are forced to enter into the global care chain.⁸⁵ The global care chain is driven “by a woman in a rich country entering paid employment and finding herself unable to fulfil her ‘domestic duties’ of child care and house cleaning without working a double day.”⁸⁶ As a result, to elevate and fulfil their own childcare and domestic responsibilities, wealthier women purchase other, often impoverished, women’s domestic labor.⁸⁷ When an impoverished woman is sourced from abroad and has to migrate, she often finds herself unable to complete her own domestic duties, which, in turn, forces older daughters to become substitute for their mothers by providing unpaid domestic work to their younger siblings.⁸⁸

Women play a significant role in maintaining and sustaining global development across Member States, yet programs meant to increase their participation in the workforce, alleviate poverty, or promote gender equality are consistently underfunded.⁸⁹ Around 19 percent of Member States have a system that tracks budget allocation for gender equality programs.⁹⁰ Among these programs, there are conditional cash transfer (CCT) programs, which tend to lack “gender-responsiveness and do not necessarily take into account recipients’ needs and obligations.”⁹¹ For example, CCT programs often require unpaid work in exchange for benefits and, as a result, reinforce the connection between gender and unpaid work.⁹² Additionally, some policies and programs can suffer due to fragmented and unpredictable resources.⁹³

Case Study

South Africa

Over the last 20 years and in collaboration with UN Women, South Africa has made strides and reforms towards economic gender equality.⁹⁴ In particular, South Africa has implemented social protections that support families and help to advance financial gender equality.⁹⁵ In 1928, South Africa implemented the Old Age Grant (OAG) which is

⁸⁴ The International Labour Organization, *Domestic Workers Across the World: Global and Regional Statistics and the Extent of Legal Protection* (Geneva: International Labour Office, 2013), https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_173363.pdf.

⁸⁵ Nicola Yeates, “Global Care Chains: A Critical Introduction,” *Global Migration Perspectives*, no. 44, (September 2005): 2-3. <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/435f85a84.pdf>.

⁸⁶ Nicola Yeates, “Global Care Chains: A Critical Introduction,” *Global Migration Perspectives*, no. 44, (September 2005): 2-3. <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/435f85a84.pdf>.

⁸⁷ Nicola Yeates, “Global Care Chains: A Critical Introduction,” *Global Migration Perspectives*, no. 44, (September 2005): 2-3. <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/435f85a84.pdf>.

⁸⁸ Nicola Yeates, “Global Care Chains: A Critical Introduction,” *Global Migration Perspectives*, no. 44, (September 2005): 2-3. <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/435f85a84.pdf>.

⁸⁹ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Review of the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the sixteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women*, E/CN.6/2019/4, 2018.

⁹⁰ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2019* (New York and Geneva: United Nations, 2019), <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/gender-snapshot.pdf>.

⁹¹ The International Labour Organization, *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work* (Geneva: International Labour Office, 2018), https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_633135.pdf.

⁹² The International Labour Organization, *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work* (Geneva: International Labour Office, 2018), https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_633135.pdf.

⁹³ United Nations Women, *Regular Resources Report – Data and Case Studies from 2018* (New York and Geneva: United Nations, 2020), <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/regular-resources-report-data-and-case-studies-from-2018-en.pdf?la=en&vs=1032>.

⁹⁴ United Nations Women, *Progress of the World’s Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World* (New York and Geneva: United Nations, 2019), <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/progress-of-the-worlds-women-2019-2020-en.pdf?la=en&vs=3512>.

⁹⁵ United Nations Women, *Progress of the World’s Women 2019-2020*.

an income-based grant for both men and women when they turn 60 years old.⁹⁶ According to UN Women, in addition to the improvements of its recipients' health and self-esteem, "studies find that the grant supports older women's caring roles."⁹⁷ In the likelihood grandparents have to take care of their grandchildren, the OAG allows for mothers, who would have otherwise had to succumb to unpaid care and domestic work inside of their household, to work outside of their homes.⁹⁸

In some Member States, single mothers are excluded from state welfare support; however, over the years, South Africa has designed a thorough welfare system which supports both single mothers and their children.⁹⁹ In 1997, an important innovation by the Lund Committee rejected the requirement for women who qualified for welfare support to verify that they also applied for private child support.¹⁰⁰ South Africa has also supported mothers who pursue informal wage work, such as domestic work, agricultural work, or self-employment, by extending maternity benefits.¹⁰¹ In turn, this allows for women in economically vulnerable situations to safely recover their health after childbirth without the risk of losing their income.¹⁰²

Among other programs to combat against poverty and gender inequality, the South African Child Support Grant (CSG) was introduced in 1998 and included cash transfers to primary caregivers of children under 18, proving to be more inclusive to women and children suffering from extreme poverty than policies that came before.¹⁰³ Leila Petal, et. al. found that women who receive the CSG not only have an increase in their individual income but are also likely to be financially independent.¹⁰⁴ Women's participation within the South African economy proves to be essential for the ideals of equity and prosperity. The status of women within South Africa and within the South African economy has improved and continues to demonstrate that progress in gender equality is a central commitment within this democracy.¹⁰⁵

Actions Taken by the United Nations

Despite the challenges faced by the UN when addressing gender inequality and its role in perpetual poverty, considerable momentum has been attained over its 75-year history. At its 20th meeting on July 9, 1997, ECOSOC held a panel discussion on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programs in the UN system.¹⁰⁶ Since then, ECOSOC has published annual resolutions titled, "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system," and the supplementary, "Report[s] of the Secretary General," that detail the "progress made in the implementation of the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women."¹⁰⁷ In 2018, all seven of the reports the UN Secretary-General submitted to ECOSOC included a gender perspective.¹⁰⁸ Yet, only one of seven reports included future recommendations.¹⁰⁹

In 1999, the UN Secretariat expanded on ECOSOC's initiative of "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system" through its publication of Administrative Instruction on "Special

⁹⁶ United Nations Women, Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020.

⁹⁷ United Nations Women, Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World (New York and Geneva: United Nations, 2019), <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/progress-of-the-worlds-women-2019-2020-en.pdf?la=en&vs=3512>.

⁹⁸ United Nations Women, Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020.

⁹⁹ United Nations Women, Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020.

¹⁰⁰ United Nations Women, Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020.

¹⁰¹ United Nations Women, Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020.

¹⁰² United Nations Women, Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020.

¹⁰³ United Nations Women, Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020.

¹⁰⁴ Leila Petal, et. al, "Child Support Grants in South Africa: A Pathway to Women's Empowerment and Child Well-being?" *Journal of Social Policy* 44, no. 2 (April 2015): 377-397. doi: [10.1017/S0047279414000919](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047279414000919).

¹⁰⁵ United Nations Women, Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020.

¹⁰⁶ Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Economic and Social Council for 1997*, September 18, 1997.

¹⁰⁷ Economic and Social Council, *Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations systems-Report of the Secretary-General*, April 5, 2019.

¹⁰⁸ "Economic and Social Council," United Nations Women, 2018, <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/how%20we%20work/intergovsupport/ecosoc/ecosoc2019-infographic-gender-perspective-in-2018-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5814>.

¹⁰⁹ "Economic and Social Council," United Nations Women.

Measures for the Achievement of Gender Equality.”¹¹⁰ The document focused on the advancement of gender equality measures within UN systems: “The goal as set by the General Assembly is to achieve a 50/50 gender distribution by 2000 in all posts in the Professional category and above, overall and at each level, including posts at the D-1 level and above” and was enforced on October 1, 1999.¹¹¹ Then-Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon made strides of his own through his Annual Report to the GA in 2012. His report focused on achieving “gender balance in recruitment and promotion” and rectifying “past and current forms and effects of discrimination against women.”¹¹²

The GA also demonstrated its commitment to gender mainstreaming through its initial adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years ago and subsequent annual follow-ups. In July 2020, during a multi-stakeholder hearing on accelerating gender equality and empowerment of all girls and women, the UN acknowledged the Beijing Declaration “remains the most comprehensive and transformative global agenda for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.”¹¹³ In 2019, world leaders launched the Decade of Action and Delivery for the implementation of SDGs, “mobilizing stakeholders to tackle both emerging and existing gaps in the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.”¹¹⁴ In recent months, however, the COVID-19 pandemic has invoked fear of a reversal of progress in gender equality and women empowerment, effecting every sphere including health, the economy, security, and social protection.

Conclusion

With women and girls making up half of the world’s population and accounting for half its potential, it is imperative the international community recognize gender equality is necessary for achieving a more equitable and sustainable future.¹¹⁵ While no Member State has achieved economic gender equality yet, Member States, such as South Africa, continue to make strides with the implementation of various programs which push for the success of impoverished women and children.¹¹⁶ The UN’s commitment to achieving gender equality can be seen by UN Women’s investment in women’s empowerment, specifically economic empowerment.¹¹⁷ This progress made towards addressing economic gender inequality is encouraging, yet the world has a long way to go until it can be fully accomplished.

Committee Directive

In addressing this issue, delegates should be mindful of how the causes of gender inequality and poverty intersect with one another in their respective Member State by considering culture and the workforce. Delegates should be familiar with their own Member States’ statistics on poverty and gender inequality. Are there areas within your Member that needs improvement? What efforts and programs have been discussed or established to curb gender inequality and poverty levels. Are there bilateral or multilateral efforts that could work for other Member States? Delegates should address the underlying causes of gender inequality and how they play a role in perpetuating global

¹¹⁰ United Nations Secretariat, *Administrative Instruction-Special measures for the achievement of gender equality*, ST/AI/1999/9, September 21, 1999.

¹¹¹ United Nations Secretariat, *Administrative Instruction*.

¹¹² United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 191, *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly*, S/65/191, March 3, 2011, <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/65/191>.

¹¹³ “Accelerating the Realization of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls,” General Assembly of the United Nations, 2020, <https://www.un.org/pga/74/event/accelerating-the-realization-of-gender-equality-and-the-empowerment-of-all-women-and-girls/>.

¹¹⁴ “(Part 1) Multi-Stakeholder Hearing - Accelerating the Realization of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls,” United Nations, July 21, 2020, <http://webtv.un.org/search/part-1-multi-stakeholder-hearing-accelerating-the-realization-of-gender-equality-and-the-empowerment-of-all-women-and-girls/6173853399001>

¹¹⁵ “Gender Equality,” United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/gender-equality/> (accessed April 22, 2020).

¹¹⁶ “Why the majority of the world’s poor are women,” Oxfam International, <https://www.oxfam.org/en/why-majority-worlds-poor-are-women> (accessed April 22, 2020).

¹¹⁷ United Nations Women, *Progress of the World’s Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World* (New York and Geneva: United Nations, 2019), <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/progress-of-the-worlds-women-2019-2020-en.pdf?la=en&vs=3512>.

¹¹⁸ “Economic Empowerment,” United Nations Women, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment> (accessed July 5, 2020).

poverty. How does gender inequality relate to global poverty? How does gender inequality in the context of global poverty affect sustainable development and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

II: Improving Access to Electricity in Developing Member States

*“Without electricity, you cannot do anything in this world.” - Ban Ki-moon, former UN Secretary-General*¹¹⁸

Introduction

The 21st century brought about the dawn of the Digital Age, a time in human history when technology, innovation, and scientific advancement have been exponentially increased by inventions such as the computer, internet, and other information technologies.¹¹⁹ Humanity could not have progressed from the Stone Age to today without a crucial discovery: electricity.¹²⁰ The ability to bring artificial light into the world, or send data along miles of wiring, has changed every facet of human existence.¹²¹ This form of energy has been integrated into aspect of people’s day-to-day lives.¹²² Everything from house appliances, cell phones, cars, airplanes, businesses, medical centers, and so much more cannot function without electricity.¹²³

Electricity is so crucial that the United Nations (UN) dedicated one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to it.¹²⁴ SDG 7 is “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.”¹²⁵ SDG 9 is also related to electricity since it calls to “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.”¹²⁶ Safe and efficient production and distribution of electricity requires significant infrastructure to be built and maintained. More importantly, having reliable electricity allows Member States to prosper and grow which is beneficial to the entire global community.¹²⁷

Despite the rapid and widespread growth of electricity, there are still over a billion people on Earth with little or no access to it.¹²⁸ As a consequence, citizens in these Member States lag in many areas of development, including education, transportation, and sanitation.¹²⁹ For example, students’ study time is restricted without access to light after sunset.¹³⁰ Families spend more on lighting devices, like lamps and torches, than they would if they had access to an electrical grid.¹³¹ Hospitals and medical centers also save money on energy costs using electricity for storage, administrative tasks, and lighting as opposed to diesel generators.¹³² These deficits and burdens lead to perpetual cycles of poverty. Numerous Member States in the Global South require an influx of energy infrastructure and technology in order to break these cycles and offer people the chance to improve their way of life.¹³³ Improving access to electricity in Developing Member States (DMS) will allow the UN to move one step closer to accomplishing SDG 7, as well as lift millions of people out of poverty.¹³⁴

¹¹⁸ “Press Conference by Secretary-General to Present Report of His Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change,” United Nations: Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, April 28, 2010, https://www.un.org/press/en/2010/100428_Energy.doc.htm.

¹¹⁹ “What is the Digital Age,” IGI Global, <https://www.igi-global.com/dictionary/resource-sharing/7562> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹²⁰ “What is the Digital Age,” IGI Global.

¹²¹ “What is the Digital Age,” IGI Global.

¹²² “Importance of Electricity in Our Daily Life,” Space Coast Daily, January 15, 2020, <https://spacecoastdaily.com/2020/01/importance-of-electricity-in-our-daily-life/>.

¹²³ “Importance of Electricity in Our Daily Life,” Space Coast Daily..

¹²⁴ “Sustainable Development Goals,” Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹²⁵ “Sustainable Development Goal 7,” Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg7> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹²⁶ “Sustainable Development Goal 9,” Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg9> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹²⁷ “Importance of Electricity in Our Daily Life,” Space Coast Daily.

¹²⁸ “Min-E Access: Minimum Electricity Access,” Sustainable Development Goals Partnerships Platform, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=93> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹²⁹ “Min-E Access,” Sustainable Development Goals Partnerships Platform.

¹³⁰ Jorg Peters, “How electricity changes lives: a Rwandan case study,” The Conversation, February 26, 2018, <https://theconversation.com/how-electricity-changes-lives-a-rwandan-case-study-91018>.

¹³¹ Jorg Peters, “How electricity changes lives.”

¹³² Jorg Peters, “How electricity changes lives.”

¹³³ “Min-E Access,” Sustainable Development Goals Partnerships Platform.

¹³⁴ “Min-E Access,” Sustainable Development Goals Partnerships Platform.

History

When Thomas Edison received his patent in 1879 for his first lightbulb, electric light was already being commercially produced in the United States (US).¹³⁵ But Edison was still able to capitalize on his (for the times) long-lasting bulbs and open his own power plant in 1882.¹³⁶ From here, electrical production spread rapidly. In the 1890s, a facility in Germany created three-phase alternative current which would go on to become the most-used current.¹³⁷ France created the first gas turbine in 1903.¹³⁸ Tesla's transformers allowed current to be carried over long distances, leading to the creation of direct current (DC).¹³⁹ The first operational nuclear power plant opened in Russia in 1954. While most electric production was accomplished through hydroelectric dams during the 20th century, nuclear power and fossil fuels soon replaced water as the main source of power generation in the world.¹⁴⁰ Countless other discoveries occurred in the 20th century, all of which provided the tools and technologies available today.

Before nuclear power plants were being built, the UN took a leadership role in energy production. In 1949, A/RES/299(IV) urged Member States to pursue nuclear energy in a safe, non-weaponized fashion.¹⁴¹ The UN's General Assembly (GA) would spend the next three decades working in conjunction with the International Atomic Energy Agency to promote and ensure nuclear power became a peaceful source for electrical production.¹⁴² In 1982, the GA took an active role in assisting DMS with A/RES/37/251.¹⁴³ Building upon the goals and programs set forth in A/RES/35/56 and A/RES/112(V), and as part of the Third United Nations Development Decade, the GA called upon the Secretary-General to create a report on the current status of Member States' energy production and advancement to send to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) the following year.¹⁴⁴ A/RES/7/251 also called upon the Global North to increase the sharing and development of energy technologies with the Global South.¹⁴⁵ The theme of A/RES/37/251, "Development of the energy resources of developing countries," continued to be addressed by the GA through the Fourth United Nations Development Decade until 1990, when A/RES/45/209 requested a final report from the Secretary-General to be sent the following year to both the GA and ECOSOC.¹⁴⁶

Jumping into the 21st century, a new theme, "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy," came about with A/RES/56/200 in 2002.¹⁴⁷ While not solely focused on DMS, the GA recognized that advancements in renewable energy had to be shared with both the Global North and Global South in order to promote equal benefits for all Member States.¹⁴⁸ This theme, and a broader theme of "Sustainable development," continued the UN's work of bringing reliable electricity to everyone until they were replaced by the SDGs in 2015.¹⁴⁹ Around the same time, the World Bank began tracking people's access to electricity, with the first data available showing 73 percent of the

¹³⁵ "The History of Electricity – A Timeline," The Historical Archive, February 13, 2007, <https://www.thehistoricalarchive.com/happenings/57/the-history-of-electricity-a-timeline/>.

¹³⁶ "The History of Electricity," The Historical Archive.

¹³⁷ "HISTORY OF ELECTRICITY," Iberdrola, <https://www.iberdrola.com/environment/history-electricity> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹³⁸ "The History of Electricity," The Historical Archive.

¹³⁹ "The History of Electricity," The Historical Archive.

¹⁴⁰ "HISTORY OF ELECTRICITY," Iberdrola.

¹⁴¹ United Nations General Assembly, *International Control of Atomic Energy*, A/RES/299(IV), November 23, 1949, <http://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/quick/regular/4>.

¹⁴² "General Assembly Resolutions," United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/sections/documents/general-assembly-resolutions/index.html> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹⁴³ United Nations General Assembly, *Development of the energy resources of developing countries*, A/RES/37/251, December 21, 1982, <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/37/251>.

¹⁴⁴ United Nations General Assembly, A/RES/37/251.

¹⁴⁵ United Nations General Assembly, A/RES/37/251.

¹⁴⁶ United Nations General Assembly, *Development of the energy resources of developing countries*, A/RES/45/209, December 21, 1990, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/105693?ln=en>.

¹⁴⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy*, A/RES/64/206, March 11, 2010, <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/64/206>.

¹⁴⁸ United Nations General Assembly, A/RES/64/206.

¹⁴⁹ "Sustainable Development Goals," Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs> (accessed April 29, 2020).

world's population was electrified in 1998.¹⁵⁰ Since then, there has been a consistent rise in electrical production, except between 2010-2011 when electrification dropped from 83 percent to 82 percent.¹⁵¹ The World Bank also tracks individual Member States' progress towards electrification, as well as the sources the electricity is coming from.¹⁵² Electricity generated from coal, gas, and oil was lowest in 1986 (51 percent of global production), and peaked in 2007 (67 percent of global production).¹⁵³ Since 2007, these sources have been on a steady decline, while renewable sources have been on the rise.¹⁵⁴ This increase in the use of renewable energy can be attributed to several factors that have also led to increases in electrification across developing Member States, such as national legislation targeting access to electricity, proliferation of needed technology, and local initiatives to create sustainable solutions.¹⁵⁵

Current Situation

One crucial element needed to discuss expanding electrical capabilities is to understand the current production, trade, and consumption levels around the globe. In 2019, Member States generated over 25,000 terawatt hours (TWh) of electricity.¹⁵⁶ Based on data from Enerdata's Global Energy Statistical Yearbook for 2019, China led production with 7,482 TWh, followed by the US with 4,385 TWh, and India came third with 1,614 TWh.¹⁵⁷ The lowest producers were Portugal with 53 TWh, New Zealand with 45 TWh, and Nigeria with 32 TWh.¹⁵⁸ In terms of trade, the US and Italy both had net exports of 38 TWh, followed by Brazil with 34 TWh.¹⁵⁹ Lastly, there was a global four percent growth in electrical consumption in 2018 but it slightly slowed down by 0.7 percent in 2019 due to a slowdown in economic growth and milder temperatures in several larger Member States. China led electricity consumption with 6,510 TWh, while the US used 3,865 TWh, and India consumed 1,230 TWh during 2019.¹⁶⁰ Lowest consumers included Portugal with 48 TWh, New Zealand with 40 TWh, and Nigeria with 25 TWh.¹⁶¹ Overall, 90 percent of the population had access to electricity as of 2018.¹⁶² These statistics should serve as a frame of reference when analyzing individual Member States' electrical capabilities, needs and disparities between consumption and production.

It is also important to note how much of the world's electrical production has already switched to renewable resources. Latest available data shows Norway leading the charge with 97.9 percent, followed by New Zealand at 83.1 percent, and Brazil at 82.5 percent.¹⁶³ At the other end of the spectrum, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have no electrical production by renewable resources, and the United Arab Emirates has 0.44 percent.¹⁶⁴ Globally, seven percent of energy is generated from renewable resources (hydroelectric dams excluded).¹⁶⁵ Overall, green energy production has been growing over the last two decades, and this has been aided by decreasing upstart and maintenance costs.¹⁶⁶ While the ultimate, distant goal is to generate all global power through renewable resources,

¹⁵⁰ "Access to electricity (% of population)," The World Bank, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.ACCS.ZS> (accessed June 8, 2020).

¹⁵¹ "Access to electricity," The World Bank.

¹⁵² "Access to electricity," The World Bank.

¹⁵³ "Access to electricity," The World Bank.

¹⁵⁴ "Access to electricity," The World Bank.

¹⁵⁵ "10 Years of Renewable Energy Progress," Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, 2014. https://www.ren21.net/Portals/0/documents/activities/Topical%20Reports/REN21_10yr.pdf (accessed August 21, 2020)

¹⁵⁶ "Electricity production," Enerdata: Global Energy Statistical Yearbook 2019, <https://yearbook.enerdata.net/electricity/world-electricity-production-statistics.html> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹⁵⁷ "Electricity production," Enerdata.

¹⁵⁸ "Electricity production," Enerdata: Global Energy Statistical Yearbook 2019, <https://yearbook.enerdata.net/electricity/world-electricity-production-statistics.html> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹⁵⁹ "Electricity production," Enerdata.

¹⁶⁰ "Electricity production," Enerdata.

¹⁶¹ "Electricity production," Enerdata.

¹⁶² "Access to electricity," The World Bank.

¹⁶³ "Share of renewables in electricity production," Enerdata: Global Energy Statistical Yearbook 2019, <https://yearbook.enerdata.net/renewables/renewable-in-electricity-production-share.html> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹⁶⁴ "Share of renewables in electricity production," Enerdata.

¹⁶⁵ "Access to electricity," The World Bank.

¹⁶⁶ "Share of renewables in electricity production," Enerdata.

there are people who need electricity now and do not have the luxury of waiting for renewable means to permeate the entire world market.¹⁶⁷

Several companies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are working on their own to bring electricity to those currently without it. SELCO, based in India, has distributed over a million solar systems since 1995.¹⁶⁸ Another company, Bright Green Energy Foundation, is working to create solar energy options in Bangladesh.¹⁶⁹ Engineers Without Borders (EWB) provides volunteer physical and technical assistance in building and maintaining infrastructure, including those needed for electrical production and distribution.¹⁷⁰ Their last impact report, drafted in 2016, monitored nine energy projects and found over half of them were both highly functional and sustainable by the community.¹⁷¹ As can be seen, important work is already underway to bring power to DMS, but there is much still to be done in order to accomplish the UN's aggressive energy goals.

Case Study

Kingdom of Lesotho

In 2001, Lesotho only had one percent of its population electrified.¹⁷² Citizens were highly dependent on wood and kerosene for all cooking and lighting needs.¹⁷³ However, the energy sector grew, and by 2015 almost a third of people had access to electricity.¹⁷⁴ With the adoption of SDGs that same year, Lesotho fully embraced the UN's mandate and started working towards achieving them. In 2017, a new policy was put into place to help address the Member State's energy needs while respecting climate change and environmental sustainability.¹⁷⁵ Furthermore, Lesotho has embraced SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) and is working with Member States and NGOs to help achieve their energy needs.¹⁷⁶

Since 2015, Lesotho has improved its electrification to 47 percent as of 2018.¹⁷⁷ An important driving factor behind this increase is the government of Lesotho's National Strategic Development Plan (NDSP).¹⁷⁸ The NDSP specifically called attention to the potential for growth and sustainable energy production in Lesotho, and regards the energy sector as a source of economic growth and climate change mitigation.¹⁷⁹ The NDSP presented three goals to help guide future policies and programs:

1. Increase clean energy production capacity to attain self-sufficiency, export and have a greener economy.
2. Expand electricity access to centres of economic activity, other sectors and households.
3. Increase energy conservation, safety and access to alternative (non-electricity) energy products and efficient technologies.¹⁸⁰

¹⁶⁷ Dr. David Jhirad, "Renewable Energy in Developing Countries: Priorities and Prospects," *The Energy Journal* 8, (1987): 105, accessed June 1, 2020, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/23296868?seq=1>.

¹⁶⁸ "40 Companies & Organizations Bringing Solar Power to the Developing World," Renewable Energy World.

¹⁶⁹ "40 Companies & Organizations Bringing Solar Power to the Developing World," Renewable Energy World.

¹⁷⁰ "Impact," Engineers Without Borders USA, <https://www.ewb-usa.org/our-work/impact/> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹⁷¹ Tiffany Martindale, "2016 ICP Monitoring Report," EWB-USA Impact Analysis, May 2017, <https://www.ewb-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016-ICP-Monitoring-Report-1.pdf>.

¹⁷² "Access to electricity (% of population)," The World Bank, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.ACCS.ZS> (accessed June 8, 2020).

¹⁷³ "The Kingdom of Lesotho Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the Agenda 2030 Report 2019," UN Sustainable Development, <https://lesotho.un.org/en/36193-kingdom-lesotho-voluntary-national-review-implementation-2030-agenda-report-2019> (accessed June 8, 2020).

¹⁷⁴ "Access to electricity," The World Bank.

¹⁷⁵ "The Kingdom of Lesotho Voluntary National Review 2019," UN Sustainable Development.

¹⁷⁶ "The Kingdom of Lesotho Voluntary National Review 2019," UN Sustainable Development.

¹⁷⁷ "Access to electricity," The World Bank.

¹⁷⁸ "Lesotho Energy Situation," Energypedia, energypedia.info/wiki/Lesotho_Energy_Situation, (accessed August 21, 2020)

¹⁷⁹ "Lesotho Energy Situation," Energypedia.

¹⁸⁰ "Lesotho Energy Situation," Energypedia.

To help achieve these goals, the Lesotho Energy Policy 2015-2025 was created and focuses on key principles such as energy sector integration, environmental sustainability, involving stakeholders, and gender equity.¹⁸¹ Some of the “sub-goals” set forth in this policy include establishing institutional and regulatory framework, ensuring market efficacy and transparency, promotion of bioenergy and other renewable resources, and ensuring access and security of energy and petroleum products.¹⁸²

Despite Lesotho making strides in the area of electricity access, most of this progress has been made in urban areas, with rural residents still in dire need of electricity.¹⁸³ Noting this discrepancy, the World Bank created the Lesotho Renewable Energy and Energy Access Project (LREEAP) via the international Development Association in January 2020.¹⁸⁴ The LREEAP will provide a USD 40 Million credit, a USD 4.9 Million grant, and a USD 8 Million loan to help Lesotho bolster its current electrical grid, expand electrification to rural areas, and pursue renewable energy generation.¹⁸⁵ Technical assistance will also be provided in order to ensure the government is able to carry out the project with long-term success.¹⁸⁶ Achievement of SDGs 7 and 9 are strong motivators behind this project for both the World Bank and Lesotho.¹⁸⁷ This partnership between the World Bank and Lesotho, as well as Lesotho’s other partnerships, exemplifies the spirit of cooperation the UN fosters. With this new funding and assistance from the Global North, Lesotho is well on the way towards achieving total electrification for all of its citizens.

Actions Taken by the United Nations

One year before the SDGs were drafted, the UN began the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, an initiative with three goals: “ensuring universal access to modern energy services, doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency and sharing renewable energy globally.”¹⁸⁸ To begin, a forum was held in New York City to bring together “leaders from Government, the private sector, civil society and international organizations” so that ideas and current progress could be shared at an international level.¹⁸⁹ Furthermore, this forum served as a kick start to the discussions which eventually helped draft the SDGs in 2015.¹⁹⁰ At the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All’s halfway check-in during 2019, the SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group reported that progress had been made, but that the progress was not holistic and needed further and more far-reaching dispersion in order to reach the 2024 and 2030 goals set by the UN.¹⁹¹

As mentioned previously, bringing accessible electricity to everyone is the goal of SDG 7.¹⁹² Since the SDGs’ adoption five years ago, the UN has worked tirelessly to bring this particular objective to fruition. Multiple agencies help create the Energy Progress Report which monitors progress towards accomplishing SDG 7.¹⁹³ As of 2017, 89 percent of the global population has been electrified.¹⁹⁴ Member States are divided into seven regions: Oceania, Western Asia and Northern Africa, Eastern and Southeastern Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern

¹⁸¹ “Lesotho Energy Situation,” Energypedia.

¹⁸² “Lesotho Energy Situation,” Energypedia. energypedia.info/wiki/Lesotho_Energy_Situation. (accessed August 21, 2020)

¹⁸³ “Access to electricity,” The World Bank.

¹⁸⁴ “New World Bank Funding to Boost Lesotho’s Efforts to Improve Electricity Access to Thousands of Basotho,” The World Bank, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/01/30/new-world-bank-funding-to-boost-lesothos-efforts-to-improve-electricity-access-to-thousands-of-basotho> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹⁸⁵ “Lesotho Renewable Energy and Energy Access Project,” The World Bank, <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/808341580698850813/pdf/Lesotho-Renewable-Energy-and-Energy-Access-Project.pdf> (accessed June 8, 2020).

¹⁸⁶ “Lesotho Renewable Energy and Energy Access Project,” The World Bank.

¹⁸⁷ “New World Bank Funding to Boost Lesotho’s Efforts to Improve Electricity Access,” The World Bank.

¹⁸⁸ UN News Centre, “UN Launches Decade-long Sustainable Energy for All Initiative,” Our World: United Nations University, April 10, 2014, <https://ourworld.unu.edu/en/un-launches-decade-long-sustainable-energy-for-all-initiative>.

¹⁸⁹ UN News Centre, “UN Launches Decade-long Sustainable Energy for All Initiative,” Our World: United Nations University, April 10, 2014, <https://ourworld.unu.edu/en/un-launches-decade-long-sustainable-energy-for-all-initiative>.

¹⁹⁰ UN News Centre, “UN Launches Decade-long Sustainable Energy for All Initiative.”

¹⁹¹ “Global progress on affordable and clean energy must be accelerated in order to close energy gap, new report says,” United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/sustainable/decade-of-sustainable-energy.html> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹⁹² “Sustainable Development Goal 7,” Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg7> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹⁹³ “Results,” Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report, <https://trackingsdg7.esmap.org/results> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹⁹⁴ “Results,” Tracking SDG 7.

America and Europe, and Sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁹⁵ Northern America and Europe have 100 percent electrification while Sub-Saharan Africa has 44 percent electrification.¹⁹⁶ More specifically, Sub-Saharan Africa has 79 percent urban electrification and 22 percent rural electrification.¹⁹⁷ With ten years left for the SDGs, complete electrification is definitely possible, but not without much more hard work and cooperation.

The World Bank has already turned its attention towards Africa with much needed funding coming from both the International Development Association (IDA) and the Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program.¹⁹⁸ As previously mentioned in the case study, over USD 50 Million in funding was made available in 2020 for infrastructure and resources needed to electrify rural Lesotho.¹⁹⁹ Additionally, the Lesotho Renewable Energy and Energy Access Project is helping to spur economic activity with the new electrical capabilities and get young people active in the workforce.²⁰⁰ Even before this new initiative, the IDA was already assisting over 70 DMS with low or no interest loans to allow rural, poor communities to quickly gain access to 21st century capabilities.²⁰¹

Conclusion

Electricity is crucial to each Member State's political, economic, and social development during the 21st century.²⁰² Without it, people are forced to be self-reliant on dangerous, more expensive forms of energy for their daily needs.²⁰³ On top of the obvious utility of electricity access, it has become increasingly clear that this issue can also impact other problems faced around the world, such as poverty, hunger, education, and gender inequality. Because of its necessity, the UN has made energy access for all a top priority over the last several decades, and the GA continues to work towards achieving SDGs 7 and 9. The Global North has achieved high levels of electrification, and is moving steadily towards switching to renewable energy.²⁰⁴ However, the UN and Global North must work together to bring the Global South up to the same levels of electrification so that all people can enjoy the habits and technologies available in the Digital Age.²⁰⁵ As highlighted with Lesotho, such partnerships are possible and have the potential to bring about tremendous change and progress. Much work has been done, but the UN and the GA have far more work ahead during this next decade.

Committee Directive

As evidenced above, there has been considerable time, energy, and resources already dedicated towards this issue by the UN. While this provides a wealth of information and background for delegates to draw from, it also creates a challenge of creating new, unique ideas to address this global need. When drafting position papers, delegates should consider the following questions: Given current energy trading, what opportunities for partnerships are there between neighboring/regional Member States? How can current efforts related to SDGs 7 and 9 be improved or expanded? How can existing infrastructure be improved or expanded? Understanding people's need for electricity, and the challenges behind bringing and maintaining electrification to an area, will help delegates draft comprehensive draft resolutions while in committee. Lastly, delegates are highly encouraged to review the numerous resolutions mentioned in this background guide that the General Assembly has passed related to energy and this topic.

¹⁹⁵ "Results," Tracking SDG 7.

¹⁹⁶ "Results," Tracking SDG 7.

¹⁹⁷ "Results," Tracking SDG 7.

¹⁹⁸ "New World Bank Funding to Boost Lesotho's Efforts to Improve Electricity Access to Thousands of Basotho," The World Bank, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/01/30/new-world-bank-funding-to-boost-lesothos-efforts-to-improve-electricity-access-to-thousands-of-basotho> (accessed April 29, 2020).

¹⁹⁹ "New World Bank Funding to Boost Lesotho's Efforts," The World Bank.

²⁰⁰ "New World Bank Funding to Boost Lesotho's Efforts," The World Bank.

²⁰¹ "New World Bank Funding to Boost Lesotho's Efforts," The World Bank.

²⁰² "Importance of Electricity in Our Daily Life," Space Coast Daily, January 15, 2020, <https://spacecoastdaily.com/2020/01/importance-of-electricity-in-our-daily-life/>.

²⁰³ Jorg Peters, "How electricity changes lives: a Rwandan case study," The Conversation, February 26, 2018, <https://theconversation.com/how-electricity-changes-lives-a-rwandan-case-study-91018>.

²⁰⁴ "Access to electricity (% of population)," The World Bank, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.ACCS.ZS> (accessed June 8, 2020).

²⁰⁵ "What is the Digital Age," IGI Global, <https://www.igi-global.com/dictionary/resource-sharing/7562> (accessed April 29, 2020).

Annotated Bibliography

Topic I: Addressing Gender Inequality and its Role in Perpetuating Global Poverty

“Women’s Rights in Review 25 Years After Beijing.” UN Women, 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/03/womens-rights-in-review>

UN Women details the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the effect that this initiative has had in conjunction with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The document examines data collected over the last 25 years on the progress of women’s rights globally, total laws being made to ensure women’s rights, and the number of women in education, and other areas as well. This report outlines specific difficulties and issues to be addressed throughout the world, comparing successes in specific Member States with problems arising or that are still present in other Member States. This source will be useful for delegates in identifying specific issues to address and finding effective solutions that can be implemented globally.

De Hanau, Jerome, and Nikica Mojsoska-Blazevski. “Investing in Free Public Healthcare in the Republic of North Macedonia: Analysis of Costs, Short-Term Employment Effects and Fiscal Revenue.” UN Women, 2019. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/01/discussion-paper-investing-in-free-universal-childcare-in-the-republic-of-north-macedonia>

This study provides data regarding increased female involvement in the labor force, including increased accessibility to formal childcare, resulting in mothers being able to contribute more to the economy with less of a burden of in-home childcare and education. North Macedonia is a good example for global implementation of this initiative as it has relatively cheap, but unused and unequal access to formal education, making this study effective to model a global initiative for free healthcare.

“UN Women and the World Bank Unveil New Data Analysis on Women and Poverty.” UN Women, 2017. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/11/news-un-women-and-the-world-bank-unveil-new-data-analysis-on-women-and-poverty>

The article analyzes data about global female poverty released by UN Women and World Bank to extrapolate causes for women being more disposed to poverty. The article specifically targets data that suggests households with children and single-parent households are at a far higher risk of poverty than others, leading the authors to suggest that this particular demographic should be of highest concern when combatting female poverty.

Abe, Aya K. “Poverty and social exclusion of women in Japan.” *Japanese Journal of Social Security Policy* 9, no. 1 (2012): 61-82. http://www.ipss.go.jp/webj-ad/WebJournal.files/SocialSecurity/2011/spring/WebJournal_DR%20Abe.pdf

Aya Abe notes various societal trends resulting from higher female-to-male poverty in Japan. Namely, social exclusion as a result of poverty is studied and can be useful for Delegates to determine particular issues that need to be addressed in developed Member States. It gives detailed data and graphics that analyze the social impacts of poverty such as women being socially excluded in their neighborhoods or unequal distribution of public housing and social security to single parent households. This data could be particularly useful in illuminating the social aspect of female poverty in the world.

Manaf, Normaliza Abdul, and Kamarulazizi Ibrahim. “Poverty reduction for sustainable development: Malaysia’s evidence-based solutions.” *Global Journal of Social Sciences Studies* 3, no. 1 (2017): 29-42. [http://www.onlinesciencepublishing.com/assets/journal/JOU0015/ART00166/1493188842_GJSSS-2017-3\(1\)-29-42.pdf](http://www.onlinesciencepublishing.com/assets/journal/JOU0015/ART00166/1493188842_GJSSS-2017-3(1)-29-42.pdf)

Though the paper does not only focus on poverty and instead delves into its connection with sustainable development, it goes in depth into the various policies implemented by the Malaysian national government to reduce poverty. Included in the discussion is the new forms of poverty appearing in the world such as

female-led households and how Malaysia combatted these specific and new issues, as well as some of the successes Malaysia had in increasing female involvement in the economy.

Topic II: Improving Access to Electricity in Developing Member States

Van Ruijven, Bas J., Jules Schers, and Detlef P. van Vuuren. "Model-based scenarios for rural electrification in developing countries." *Energy* 38, no. 1 (2012): 386-397. <https://dspace.library.uu.nl/handle/1874/386168>

Bas Van Ruijven et. al discuss various solutions to increasing electrification in rural Latin America, Africa, and Asia on top of their “business-as-usual” investments in infrastructure and grid work. The paper discusses the differences in costs to each of the regions and specifically that Latin America and Africa have higher possibilities to implement small/off grid electricity systems than Asia as a whole. This paper will be useful in identifying the challenges facing each respective region of the world as well as the current situations in terms of solutions there, giving Delegates very helpful information and models for what solutions could be implemented to further increase electrification in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

“More People Have Access to Electricity, but World Is Falling Short of Sustainable Energy Goals.” International Renewable Energy Agency, 2019. <https://www.irena.org/newsroom/pressreleases/2019/May/More-People-Have-Access-to-Electricity-Than-Ever-Before>

International Renewable Energy Agency confirms that global access to electricity is rising with south Asia being the highest benefactors of this change, and South Africa still having the least overall access globally. The article also notes that significant efforts are being made to increase access to renewable energy as well, proposing that renewable energy should be of top priority regarding access to electricity. The piece notes successes and points to improve regarding the UNs SDGs and so would be useful to Delegates in identifying points they wish to focus on in their positions. Not only would it be helpful to identify points to improve globally, but the report details significant efforts made to increase electrification which serves to aid the Delegate in identifying effective solutions to the complex issue at hand.

Odarno, Lily, Anjana Agarwal, Amala Devi and Hisako Takahashi. “Strategies for Expanding Universal Access to Electricity Services for Development.” World Resources Institute, 2017. <https://www.wri.org/publication/strategies-access-electricity>

The authors seek to create a new global initiative to increase electricity access via local means, both by average community members and local governments, and by encouraging local and national governments to take extra measures to ensure not only increased electricity access, but also affordable access. The aim of this study is to take a ground approach to electrification, working from communities in need initially and gradually increasing government assistance. This paper will be helpful to delegates in creating solutions to electrification in areas which have less governmental presence, and which will need to rely on grassroots solutions, often off-grid. In that vein, the paper also makes suggestions for methods to increase “good governance” in electrification as they propose that increased government assistance is crucial to the effort.

“Access to Energy is at the Heart of Development.” World Bank, 2018. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2018/04/18/access-energy-sustainable-development-goal-7>

World Bank notes many of the same issues and accomplishments mentioned in the landmark studies published by the World Bank and other organizations, but also expounds on successful case studies of electrifying developing States. Bangladesh had successful private off-grid programs leading to significant increases in access, and Ghana and Vietnam increased their grid access tremendously. World Bank conducts surveys of efforts to electrify developing communities to better understand efficient technological expansion. The article will be useful for delegates identifying positive examples of overall electrification as well as “last mile” projects which the World Bank has overseen: electrification of homes, businesses, and public facilities.

Carr, Geoff. "Rural Electrification and Security: Two Case Studies." The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, 2014.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5585Rural%20Electrification%20and%20Security.pdf>

Geoff Carr wrote the article in conjunction with the UN SDGs Initiative, and specifically focuses on efforts to electrify rural areas in Brazil and India. Both States sought to extend their grids to less densely populated regions. The study notes that this method of electrification raises overall prices and placed private corporations at risk, but that 10 million new connections were made in Brazil between 2003 and 2010. India has had mixed results due to lapses in rule of law and overall a much larger population. This paper will be useful for delegates in analyzing methods used in developing Member States with differing situations regarding electrification, as well as the benefits and losses that resulted; this information will be useful not only in determining successful attempts at electrification, as well as the negative effects of those to weight the issues for regions of interest.