



Dear Delegates,

It is my distinct honor to welcome you to the General Assembly Plenary of the First Annual Southern Regional Model United Nations in Charlotte! My name is Brian Ruscher and along with my Assistant Director, Monique Atherley, we hope that you will find this Background Guide informative and useful in your preparations. Over the summer we have worked diligently with the Director General Cortney Moshier to ensure the highest quality Model United Nations Background Guide for your SRMUN Experience.

As you will read this Background Guide you will notice that the General Assembly Plenary is of the highest importance in the international development context, serving many mandates through its extensive agenda and the UN Charter. The agenda before the delegates has been put together by conference leadership by encompassing past, present, and future issues the international community has and will continue to address. For SRMUN Charlotte, these topics are:

- 1) Establishing a Development Framework for Beyond 2015
- 2) Addressing Crisis Prevention and Disaster Risk Reduction: Ensuring the Ability to Operate Effectively in Times of Economic Turbulence

With this agenda in mind, it is vital to understand the importance of the General Assembly Plenary and the mandate of the body. The General Assembly deals directly with thematic, programmatic, and systematic changes in the UN system, however its focus has been on how international development occurs as opposed to the specific programs working. The leadership of this committee highly recommends that you begin your research with the sources found in this background guide and at the GA Plenary's website, expanding your research into other areas as your respective Member State sees fit. With the MDG Development Era coming to an end, the international community is poised with a number of valuable questions in how to create a new development framework for the international community to work under. As the deadline approaches, Member States look to best practices, strategies, and failures as the way forward for those who are most affected by the externalities of extreme poverty. Delegates, please take note of the importance of this topic, and address it to the best extent possible with strategies that reflects the international community's desires as laid out in the topic.

As the reflective ending of an era development comes the immediate resurgence of disaster risk management in order to preserve the continuity of local, national, and regional institutions. In recent years, both developing and developed Member States alike have encountered grave effects from weather-related hazards and disaster. In order to protect the advancements made in fifteen years of intentional development and sustainable initiatives, delegates must consider the importance of preparedness and its potential impacts on the global community. A committee goal should be to destigmatize crisis management and disaster preparedness in reference to fiscal boundaries or constraints; and call of the standardization of response plans and funding mechanisms for before and after hazardous events.

Every delegation must submit a position paper addressing each of the topics listed above and only those listed above. These papers should adhere to SRMUN's guidelines on position paper format and style, found on the conference website. The position paper objective is to convince and persuade delegations in the Plenary that your recommendations on each topic are the prime courses of action to address the agenda, and to give the committee's leadership an idea of what you expect to do in at the conference. A proper position paper should also provide insight into your countries position, history, and statement of goals for the topic. If you have questions about the details of the position papers, please visit the SRMUN website ( [www.srmun.org](http://www.srmun.org) ) or email the committee leadership at the address listed below. **Please note that all position papers MUST be submitted via the website by 11:59 PM EST on Friday, March 29, 2013.**

Best of luck in your preparation and welcome to the General Assembly Plenary!

Brian Ruscher  
Director  
[gaplen\\_charlotte@srmun.org](mailto:gaplen_charlotte@srmun.org)

Monique Atherley  
Assistant Director  
[gaplen\\_charlotte@srmun.org](mailto:gaplen_charlotte@srmun.org)

Cortney Moshier  
Director General  
[dg\\_charlotte@srmun.org](mailto:dg_charlotte@srmun.org)

## Committee History of the General Assembly Plenary

The General Assembly Plenary (GA) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.<sup>1</sup> Established in 1945, the United Nations (UN) is designed to focus on international peace building and humanitarian assistance.<sup>2</sup> The GA serves as “the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations”<sup>3</sup>. The five other organs of the UN are the Security Council (SC), Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, International Court of Justice, and Secretariat.<sup>4</sup> The First GA Session convened in Westminster, London, where 51 Member States were represented in 1946.<sup>5</sup> In that same year, the GA passed a resolution addressing atomic energy and the elimination of atomic and other weapons of mass destruction.<sup>6</sup>

As the main representative organ, the GA discusses “any questions or any matters within the scope of the present UN Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the present UN Charter, and make recommendations to the Members of the UN or to the SC”.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, the General Assembly is responsible for making recommendations on general principles related to maintaining international peace, security, and cooperation according to the UN Charter.<sup>8</sup> The GA is responsible for electing non-permanent members to the SC and other councils and organs, and elects a Secretary General by a recommendation of the Security Council.<sup>9</sup> The GA also takes up issues of international peace and security except when the situation is currently being discussed by the SC.<sup>10</sup> The GA has held 10 emergency sessions to address crucial peacekeeping concerns since its creation in the 1940s.<sup>11</sup> Among its numerous duties, the GA discusses the peaceful settlement of any situation that damages ongoing international affairs between one or many Member States.<sup>12</sup> The General Assembly has proven itself to be a noteworthy stakeholder in the development of international standards, best practices, and regulations.<sup>13</sup>

The GA is run by an elected President for each one-year session and uses its own set of rules of procedure.<sup>14</sup> The GA has six committees which report to it: the GA 1<sup>st</sup>, Disarmament and International Security (GA 1<sup>st</sup>); the GA 2<sup>nd</sup>, Economic and Financial issues (GA 2<sup>nd</sup>); The GA 3<sup>rd</sup>, Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (GA 3<sup>rd</sup>); the GA 4<sup>th</sup>, Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA 4<sup>th</sup>); The GA 5<sup>th</sup>, Administrative and Budgetary (GA 5<sup>th</sup>); and the GA 6<sup>th</sup>, Legal Committee (GA 6<sup>th</sup>).<sup>15</sup> The Main GA Committees are required to submit a report on the agenda allocated to them from the Plenary Committee and include a final version of all draft resolutions and decisions recommended to them by the GA.<sup>16</sup> Additionally, there are also a number of programs, funds, subsidiary organs, and other UN entities that report to the GA. This includes the UN Peacebuilding Commission, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).<sup>17</sup> Some of the GA’s subsidiary bodies are required to submit annual or biannual reports on their activities; these reports become supplemental information to official GA Records.<sup>18</sup> The GA does not make any decision without a report of a committee on an item, unless otherwise indicated.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations (UN). UN Charter – Chapter III. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter3.shtml>

<sup>2</sup> UN. UN at Glance. <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/index.shtml>

<sup>3</sup> UN. Functions and Powers of the General Assembly (GA). <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtm>

<sup>4</sup> UN. UN Charter – Chapter III. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter3.shtml>

<sup>5</sup> UN. History of the UN 1941-1950. <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/history/1941-1950.shtml>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> UN. UN Charter – Chapter IV. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter4.shtml>

<sup>8</sup> UN. Functions and Powers of the GA. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtm>

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> UN. Dag Hammarskjöld Library UN-I-QUE. Emergency Special Sessions Designated by the GA. <http://lib-unique.un.org/lib/unique.nsf/Link/R03055>

<sup>12</sup> UN. Functions and Powers of the GA. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtm>

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> UN. About the GA. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/index.shtml>

<sup>15</sup> UN. Main Committees. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/maincommittees/index.shtml>

<sup>16</sup> UN. Dag Hammarskjöld Library. GA. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/gasess.htm>

<sup>17</sup> UN. Structure and Organization. <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/structure/>

<sup>18</sup> UN. Dag Hammarskjöld Library. GA. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/gasess.htm>

<sup>19</sup> UN. Rules of Procedure. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/ropga/plenary.shtml>

One of the General Assembly's focuses has always been humanitarian initiatives. Notably, landmark legislation passed and ratified by many Member States through this forum include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (1948)), "Uniting for Peace" Resolution (A/RES/377 1950), and the Millennium Declaration (2000) which established the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).<sup>20</sup> The GA regular session occurs annually from September to December, and reconvenes when needed to exhaust agenda items.<sup>21</sup> The GA consist of 193 Member States, with a number of international organizations and observers as a part of the Plenary's discussions,<sup>22</sup> however, only Member States have a vote in substantial matters.<sup>23</sup> When discussing important matters, such as "recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security, the election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council, and the election of the members of the Economic and Social Council", a two-thirds majority vote is used for determinations.<sup>24</sup>

The General Assembly has done significant work in setting the international standard for creating sustainable frameworks of development and crisis prevention efforts. On developing frameworks for international development, the General Assembly is responsible for the Millennium Declaration, which created the MDGs and the context for which international development over the past thirteen years.<sup>25</sup> While the General Assembly does not implement specific programs that are working towards the attainment of the MDGs, the plenary body does set up the framework for which the international community operates and request agencies to fulfill specific task.

Furthermore, the General Assembly has been at the forefront of disaster response and has passed a multitude of resolutions regarding disaster preparedness. They have ranged in support of strengthening or establishing adequate response mechanisms on the local and regional levels, developing an international awareness, and rebuilding affected areas. In particular, A/RES/66/199 calls for a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and A/RES/54/219 created the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and a trust fund for disaster reduction from voluntary contributions (developed in 2000).<sup>26</sup>

All Member States are represented in the General Assembly Plenary.

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<sup>20</sup> Council on Foreign Relations. The Role of the UN GA. <http://www.cfr.org/un/role-un-general-assembly/p13490#p6>

<sup>21</sup> UN. Functions and Powers of the GA. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml>

<sup>22</sup> UN. Observers. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/observers.shtml>

<sup>23</sup> UN. UN Charter – Chapter IV. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter4.shtml>

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> "UN Millennium Declaration". A/Res/55/2. UN GA. 18 September 2000. <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> United Nations developed the Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). . Factsheet on the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). [http://www.unisdr.org/2012/docs/whoweare/UNISDR\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/2012/docs/whoweare/UNISDR_Factsheet.pdf)

## Topic I - Establishing a Development Framework for Beyond 2015

*Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.*<sup>27</sup>

### **Introduction – The Millennium Development Goals**

In 2000, Member States introduced a highly ambitious set of goals entitled the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) through the *Millennium Declaration*, a culmination of work by world leaders through previous summits and conferences that established a framework and deadline to reduce extreme poverty and its complexities by 2015.<sup>28</sup> The fundamental values enshrined within these goals were freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, and shared responsibility.<sup>29</sup> In line with the Goals laid out in the Preamble, and Article One and Two of the *UN Charter*, the *Millennium Declaration* and other vital international treatise are essential to “develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace”.<sup>30</sup> These eight goals are: ending extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender inequality; reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; combating Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), Malaria and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and, developing a global partnership for development.<sup>31</sup> These eight goals have been heavily invested in and are seen as the mantel of what development should be occurring across the world; yet, even with the abundant technical, humanitarian, social, and monetary assistance the international community has put forth over the past thirteen years, there are still significant gaps to fill if the MDGs are to be accomplished by the 2015 deadline. The UN publishes an annual MDG Progress Chart, with the most recent chart illustrating progress on a number of fronts, but there are still substantial equality and development issues facing the international community as many geographic regions are not on track to accomplish a number of MDG targets.<sup>32</sup>

The General Assembly (GA) Agenda deals with a number of issues related to the attainment of the MDGs.<sup>33</sup> For example, sustainability and environmental protection is directly related to MDG 7 and is discussed in over nine different GA Agenda Items.<sup>34</sup> Furthermore, MDG 8, related to the establishment of partnerships for development may be associated with international trade and development, or promotion of a new global human order.<sup>35</sup> While the GA does not implement the technical or systematic aspects of a program, it does direct ad hoc working groups, commissions, and other agencies to establish policies and programs that allow organizations to carry work related to the MDGs. For example, the Plenary Committee could refer disarmament related work to the First Committee, or Social, Cultural and Humanitarian work to the Third Committee, or Economic and Social Council. The GA is responsible for requesting “periodic assessment(s) of progress towards the MDGs” and as a result of this, organizations ranging from the International Labor Organization to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) have published annual reports on MDG progress, with more reports focusing on a post 2015 framework as the MDG deadline approaches.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights”. UN. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

<sup>28</sup> “UN Millennium Declaration”. A/Res/55/2. UN GA. 18 September 2000.  
<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>

<sup>29</sup> Ibid

<sup>30</sup> “Charter of the UN”. UN GA. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>

<sup>31</sup> “Background”. UN. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/bkgd.shtml>

<sup>32</sup> “2012 MDG Progress Chart”. UN. [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/2012\\_Progress\\_E.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/2012_Progress_E.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> “Program of work and Agenda of the 67th Session”. UN GA. Pp 1-2.  
<http://www.un.org/en/ga/67/agenda/index.shtml>

<sup>34</sup> Ibid p. 2

<sup>35</sup> Ibid p. 2

<sup>36</sup> “The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2012.” UN GA. 2012.

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2012/English2012.pdf>

The 2012 MDG Report has noted significant progress towards meeting targets laid out within the goals. However, there are a number of systematic, complex, and interconnected issues inhibiting development in some areas.<sup>37</sup> While poverty has fallen, more have access to improved water sources and housing, education increased, and infectious diseases have decline, the international community has still hit a development barrier in some areas.<sup>38</sup> First, the global financial collapse that began to take effect in 2008 and has been a financial depression for many years since has stymied development areas in some sectors. Crises have been seen in various sectors around the world in hunger, drought, famine, financial collapse, and other that have had adverse effects on Member States ability to advance international development efforts, or for a home government to allocate the necessary resources to a certain area.

Major issues identified outside of historical crises have been identified as the need to deal with vulnerable employment, maternal mortality, water, living space and water issues, and other key areas. Vulnerable employment is defined as the share of unpaid family workers and own account works in total employment, and it accounts for 58 percent of all employment in developing regions in 2011.<sup>39</sup> Women and Youth are more than likely to find themselves in this sector and not be entitled to the same benefits that the non-vulnerable sector would. Nevertheless, this statistic could fail to capture family workers on farms in rural areas, where the cultural tradition for centuries could have been to work the land and maintain it as a source of income for the entire lineage. Maternal mortality has also seen marginal increases and contraception use has slowed to pre-MDG era rates.<sup>40</sup> Hunger has also seen little improvements, as the Food and Agriculture Organization has noted high rates of hunger in several regions, with at least one-third of children in Asia being overweight in 2010.<sup>41</sup> Access to improved water sources in rural areas remains substantially higher at 15% when compared to urban areas, with an even more disturbing reality that half of the population in developing areas around the world lack access to improved sanitation facilities.<sup>42</sup>

### ***MDG Issues from the Outset***

From the outset, the MDGs were criticized as being too far reaching in terms of set targets and the possibility of accomplishment by 2015. Nevertheless, the progress targets currently not being met are not due to a lack of financial budgets or commitment from governments or activists, but because of the expectations set forth by the original goals. Even before the financial crisis had occurred it was understood that for both Developed and Developing Member States, they were expected to achieve development at higher rates than historically have been achieved.<sup>43</sup> Bearing this in mind, and with the progress made to date, the forecasting built off of the current status reports are that certain targets will not be met in certain areas of the world because of the original high forecasts.

Another issue associated with the expectations of the international community, is that economically, communities will not be able to utilize aid in a way similar to economic growth. Economic growth occurs in many instances because a company wishes to invest further in a localities economic base, which typically already has an infrastructure, access to workers, and other necessary components.<sup>44</sup> Growth due to foreign aid does not work the same way as economic investments, as the turnaround is typically much slower, and in some instances heavily monitored and can have a higher administrative and liability cost.<sup>45</sup> Scholars point to these differences and compare this type of growth to realities in places like China and Africa, with China having already built necessary infrastructure to handle 7% economic growth in a given time frame while African Member States could not sustain this growth rate.<sup>46</sup> With economic and issues laid out from the outset, future uncertainties about the market rebounding and possibilities of growth, and other MDGs face, there is considerable doubt of attaining them by 2015.

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<sup>37</sup> Ibid. p. 4

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid p. 2

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

The MDGs have also been criticized for not focusing on the proper strategic means to attaining goals and economist have presented means of the areas that will work as early as 2005.<sup>47,48</sup> Activist working on the ground in many developing areas criticize the *Millennium Declaration* due to a lack of collaboration in building the goals from the ground up.<sup>49</sup> The goals put forth by the UN are seen by some as “naïve and gullible attitude about poverty”, especially in terms of understanding, solving, and sustaining solutions to the ends laid out in the Millennium Development Goals. Activist note how creative thinking on sanitary drinking supplies and education can easily be attained by constructing buildings with simple architecture that incorporate rainwater harvesting, or investing community infrastructure that inhibits or stops all together the spread of communicable diseases.<sup>50</sup> Other criticisms include working around cultural and religious standards by having school sessions at night to reduce the 60% of children in developing areas that do not attend primary schools.<sup>51</sup> Finally, activists note that World Health Organization being in every village is economically and organizationally unfeasible and suggests that training community midwives on more modern practices is a simple solution to achieving higher maternal and children’s health.<sup>52</sup> Other activists have noted that the barriers to financial gains in some developing areas and those imposed by developed Member States add further complexity to the issues faced by developing areas.<sup>53</sup>

### ***Beyond 2015***

Even though the MDGs are not on track to be accomplished in full, there is little reason to believe that the international community is going to default on their commitment to developing areas. The UN’s credibility will suffer when it comes to achieving great plans due to the high likelihood that all goals will not be achieved on the previously agreed deadlines. Nevertheless, the global community is still committed to a number of agreements where timelines agreed upon during the drafting of these documents have not occurred, namely the Alma Ata Declaration on Health for All by 2000.<sup>54</sup> There remain implications for how the UN as a whole responds to the outcome of the MDGs success or failure and a number of questions for what a development framework beyond 2015 will actually look like. Even with the criticisms, the UN is by without question the organization with the best capability of establishing a development framework to follow up the MDG Era.<sup>55</sup>

Both the UN and Civil Society have been attempting to frame a post 2015 development framework for the international community to operate but under different auspices. The UN has completed significant work in high level consortiums and bodies of the UN, both working to give a vision for beyond 2015. One of the significant documents published by the UN is the annual report of the Secretary General. The most recent one is entitled *Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015*.<sup>56</sup> This report highlights major pitfalls and areas of improvement for the MDGs and calls for further advances in a number of areas, namely; hunger, women’s rights, equality in development, education, and many others.<sup>57</sup> Needless to say, the Secretary General has acknowledged that development has not been equal across all Member States, with some receiving easier access to

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<sup>47</sup> Bunker, Roy. “Why the millennium goals won't work”. The NY Times Online. 14 September 2005.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/13/opinion/13iht-edbunker.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/13/opinion/13iht-edbunker.html?_r=0)

<sup>48</sup> Sachs, Jeffrey. “The MDG decade: looking back and conditional optimism for 2015”. The Lancet. 18 September 2010. [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)61440-7/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)61440-7/fulltext)

<sup>49</sup> Ibid (Bunker).

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> De Schutter, Oliver. “Millennium development goals need more emphasis on human rights”. The Guardian. 21 September 2010. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/sep/21/millennium-development-goals-olivier-de-schutter>

<sup>54</sup> Sachs, Jeffrey. “The MDG decade: looking back and conditional optimism for 2015”. The Lancet. 18 September 2010. [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)61440-7/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)61440-7/fulltext)

<sup>55</sup> “The Post-2015 Agenda: Looking beyond the Millennium Development Goals”. UN Women. 2011.

<http://www.unwomen.org/focus-areas/post-2015/civil-society-engagement/>

<sup>56</sup> A/RES/257. UN. UN GA. Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam\\_undf/sgreport.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/sgreport.pdf)

<sup>57</sup> Ibid p. 5

aid, and populations such as women, the disabled, elderly and children being marginalized. The report also comes to the conclusion that greater partnerships for development and access to capital and jobs would propel MDG success and establish a greater development framework in the post MDG Era. The Secretary General reports that economic growth must be equitable, inclusive, and more widespread than ever before to create a true framework for development in many developing areas.<sup>58</sup> This type of economic development promotes jobs in the small and medium scale enterprises throughout the developing world and decreasing youth unemployment through practical opportunities to learn skills that are vital in modern economies such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics.<sup>59</sup> Finally, the Secretary General has reported on the necessity to increase the support for the UN Office for Development Assistance in developing a more “open, rules-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system”, and encourage debt management and forgiveness.<sup>60</sup>

The UN has published a number of working papers and “think pieces” by individuals, organizations, and governments on how to build a post 2015 development framework.<sup>61</sup> A critical paper published by the UN for 2015 Goal setting is by Fukuda-Parr on the how and if there should be goals set for Beyond 2015.<sup>62</sup> Fukuda-Parr recognizes the MDGs and their transformation of the development framework from 2000 and within the international community, in that “The MDGs have become the standard reference point around which international debates on development revolve.”<sup>63</sup> Nevertheless, like many authors before, the paper recognizes that development work has not been equitable, nor have the goals had a realistic expectation of being accomplished from the get go.<sup>64</sup> In her conclusions, Fukuda-Parr argues that there is a clear need to establish goals beyond the 2015 framework that focus on human rights and its interconnections with the necessities for development to advance those rights. In that, she argues basic human rights are not being upheld in the current framework due to lack of access to equitable resources in economic and social terms. Another tenet of her work is that sustainability has not been emphasized to the largest extent it should be, with environmental degradation and lack of comprehensive policies and programmatic infrastructure to support current initiatives.<sup>65</sup>

There has also been a significant push for a post 2015 development framework by NGOs, Civil Society, as well as private entities through the Beyond 2015 Campaign. This organization is comprised of over 500 major social justice, development, and environmental organizations from around the world to bring together the global “North and South” from developing and developed areas.<sup>66</sup> The Beyond 2015 Campaign’s vision for a post 2015 development framework aims to create “a world free of the structural causes of poverty and injustice” and to create a “world which provides the legal, political, social and economic conditions for citizen action.”<sup>67</sup> To accomplish this vision, the Beyond 2015 Campaign has created four “Must Haves” to ensure that their vision is accomplished, leadership, legitimacy, substance and accountability, with each of these having specific objectives to attain.<sup>68</sup> For example, legitimacy focuses on encouraging a proper roadmap for accomplishing future goals, while accountability sets up a framework for making actors provide oversight to funding and activities within respective Member States.<sup>69</sup> Finally, the campaign provides a number of different resources, such as relevant research and different means to communicate with governments on a post 2015 framework through their website, encouraging their vision for a development framework and provide “political, economic and social resources at the issues which matter most to people living in acute poverty and ensure not just absolute improvement in measurable indicators of poverty, but also improvements in the equality of relative progress within those indicators.”<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Ibid p. 6

<sup>59</sup> Ibid p. 10

<sup>60</sup> Ibid. p. 11

<sup>61</sup> “Beyond 2015”. UN. 2012. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/beyond2015.shtml>

<sup>62</sup> Fukuda-Parr, Sakido. “Should global goal setting continue, and how, in the post-2015 era?”. UN. DESA Working Paper No 117. July 2012. [http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2012/wp117\\_2012.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2012/wp117_2012.pdf)

<sup>63</sup> Ibid. p. 2

<sup>64</sup> Ibid. pp. 12-13.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid. pp. 21-22.

<sup>66</sup> “Who we Are”. Beyond 2015. 2011. <http://www.beyond2015.org/who-we-are>

<sup>67</sup> “Vision”. Beyond 2015. 2011. <http://www.beyond2015.org/document/vision>

<sup>68</sup> “Must Haves”. Beyond 2015. 2011. <http://www.beyond2015.org/must-haves>

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

### ***Case Study: Environmental Protection, Sustainability, and Resilience***

Environmental protection and Sustainability are often associated with one another and are the Focus of MDG 7. The four targets associated with MDG 7 are:

- a) Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources;
- b) Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss;
- c) Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation; and
- d) By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.<sup>71</sup>

While this one goal is focused on environmental sustainability and environmental health improvements for populations, the broad reach of this goal has been highlighted as one of the necessary changes that must occur in a 2015 development framework. Unfortunately, MDG 7.b was not met by the 2010 timeline, and environmental degradation and biodiversity loss is likely to continue through the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.<sup>72</sup> Furthermore, access to basic sanitation is not likely to be achieved at the current rate of improvements.<sup>73</sup> Still, both slum dwellers living conditions and global access to potable drinking water have both met their targets and may even double the targeted expected rate.<sup>74</sup>

Environmental degradation and suitable housing is a difficult task to accomplish and will be one of the primary tenets of the post 2015 development framework. The difficulty in creating sustainable environments lies in the problems focused on energy industries, growing populations, a lack of policies that direct growth in a sustainable manner, and a host of other issues.<sup>75</sup> Sustainable development aims to ameliorate issues related to development and environmental degradation, and is defined by the Brundtland Commission as “development which meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”<sup>76</sup> This definition has been boiled down to a number of catch phrases including “reduce, reuse, recycle”, and reflects a societies desire to become more efficient and optimize field of energy production and community use of resources as opposed to achieving development that will not affect future generations ability to use the resources currently available.<sup>77</sup> Continued abuse of our ecosystems and environment will lead to deteriorated economies, human health, and an inability of the environment to provide ecosystem services to humans. Ecosystem services are essential functions that humans take advantage of in the world, namely water carrying of sewage in urban systems, air filtering of carbon dioxide and other particulate matter to provide oxygen.

Many environmentalists are becoming more discouraged because of the current definition of sustainability and its inability to respond to losses in ecosystem services and environmental degradation.<sup>78</sup> Meanwhile, environmental health issues for humans in the form of deteriorated water and air quality, heavy metal intrusion into soils and water, and social justice issues are coming to fruition in these same losses in ecosystem services and environmental degradation. Walker and Salt provide a framework to deal with these issues by bringing environmental resilience to light.<sup>79</sup> In general, resilience frameworks create thresholds for certain systems in various environment that, if crossed, the system will not be able to return to normal operation due to either continued abuse, or a shock in the system. Resilience can also be applied to social structures and organizations but is primarily used in an

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<sup>71</sup> “Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability”. UN. 2012. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/environ.shtml>

<sup>72</sup> *Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability: Fact Sheet*. UN High-Level Plenary Meeting of the GA. [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG\\_FS\\_7\\_EN.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG_FS_7_EN.pdf)

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

<sup>75</sup> Walker, Brian; and Salt, David. *Resilience Thinking: Sustaining Ecosystems and People in a Changing World*. Washington. Island Press. 2006. Pp. 1-2.

<sup>76</sup> Sustainable Development: Concept and Action. UN Economic Commission for Europe. No date. [http://www.unece.org/oes/nutshell/2004-2005/focus\\_sustainable\\_development.html](http://www.unece.org/oes/nutshell/2004-2005/focus_sustainable_development.html)

<sup>77</sup> Walker, Brian; and Salt, David. *Resilience Thinking: Sustaining Ecosystems and People in a Changing World*. Washington. Island Press. 2006. Pp. 6-7.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid. pp. 1-72

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

environmental context. Resilience allows a system to respond to certain shocks in a system and in an environmental perspective, this would mean a fishery is able to adapt to a dam being built that could restrict reproductive functions. In essence, this fishery should be able to sustain itself, as well as its functions provided to natural and human populations that it once served before an alteration before its natural environment.<sup>80</sup> In creating a resilience framework for an eco or human system, an investigation must be completed that creates a threshold of no return, where the system will be damaged beyond repair, as well as an adaptive cycle analysis that studies what the system must do to sustain itself after shocks over different time spans. Resilience thinking can be applied to many different geographic scales, such as small farm belts, cities, regions, or even the world. Nevertheless, this type of analysis requires significant investments in the study and maintenance of an area and is highly contentious because environmental functions such as clean air and water typically are not valued the same as ordinary human products similar to cars, housing, or infrastructure.<sup>81</sup> Nevertheless, using resilience in development strategies is a fundamental component of the sustainability paradigm and greater attention must be given to it in the international arena.

### ***Conclusion***

The MDG Deadline is fast approaching and a framework for development beyond 2015 is only in its nascent stage. The international community has failed to come to a conclusion on the development of a framework, or even set the stage for the 2015 framework. Yet, while critics were active in promoting why the MDGs are the incorrect way to promote development in needed areas, the discourse created by the criticisms of the goals allow for best practices and a way forward in 2015. There are a number of organizations, civil society, and other groups that aim to provide a framework for development beyond 2015, yet the UN has not taken up a conference, major report, or other initiative for development beyond the MDG Era. Needless to say, there is significant room for development and implementation of a framework by the General Assembly similar to the Millennium Declaration of 2000.

### ***Committee Directive***

This topic presents a difficult task for the General Assembly, as there is largely a need to set up a development framework for the MDG Era. Needless to say, creating these frameworks are not necessarily new to the UN as it has been at the forefront of development work since its foundation. Creating a post 2015 framework will be similar to establishing the Millennium Declaration. In that, it should look upon best practices and principles established throughout its findings and previous projects where lessons learned can provide a vision for beyond 2015. Delegates of the General Assembly Plenary are expected to have a grasp on MDG accomplishments, best practices and systematic changes and focus on overall development policy more so than projects. Setting up a framework for how the International Community will continue as a whole will be more vital than implementing single projects in various regions. However, there will be room for specific target areas if the delegations choose to do so.

Delegates must take grasp of the depth of the issues at hand. A major pitfall in the UN system is about to occur with a number of MDGs failing to be attained. The UN as a whole must come together to draft a follow up framework for a short, medium, and long-term strategy for the integrity of the UN and continue the progress made on the MDGs which the General Assembly is the perfect forum to accomplish this end. Delegates must begin to question in their preparations on whether to take broad goals into consideration, or if specific targets with set timelines are the correct route to take on this issue. Furthermore, delegates must question whether or not there needs to be revisions to legal documents regarding the framework, structure, and other discourse related to human rights and the UN Structure as a number of documents cited in this pre-conference work argue that the system itself is beginning to fail. Finally, the committee must take into consideration the usage of long term thinking in systems management, whether it be ecological, social, economic, human, or otherwise noted above, the need for lasting and rapid implementation of solutions to complex problems that are interconnected in nature, such as poverty and education, must be addressed holistically by the body.

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<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

## Topic II. Addressing Crisis Prevention and Disaster Risk Reduction: Ensuring the Ability to Operate Effectively in Times of Economic Turbulence

*“There is no evidence that to be prepared you need a lot of money. Some of the poorest countries in the world that are used to living with disasters have really made enormous progress”.*

Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction<sup>82</sup>

### **Introduction**

In a global community that is fighting the battle of accommodation due to the population growing at an astounding rate, a disastrous event may ruin what little land space a Member State has left. Many nations have been susceptible to natural hazards because of their mere geographical location. However, the frequency and the magnitude in which disasters now affect various localities are becoming historic. Together with increasing climate concerns, crisis prevention and disaster preparedness catapulted to the front of the international agenda. As more information is becoming available, there are updates to the terminology used to regard disasters and natural occurrences to ensure an appropriate response to the instance. For example, cyclones, floods, droughts and earthquakes are “hazards” as they are natural, unpredictable, but inevitable.<sup>83</sup> These hazards can cause wide-scale damage to communities and economies if there is no preparation in place.<sup>84</sup> On the other hand, a disaster is defined as “a hazard that results in devastation leaving communities or even whole nations unable to cope unaided; they are neither inevitable nor natural”.<sup>85</sup> With potential impact that ranges according to the occurrence, intentional planning and disaster preparedness is vital to mitigating hazards from becoming full-blown disasters. With preparedness viewed as the “capacity to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from, the impacts of likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions”<sup>86</sup>, disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management play a major role in state continuity and sustainability.

According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is the focus of lessening disaster risks through systematic efforts.<sup>87</sup> This approach includes analyzing factors of disasters and exposure to hazards, defenselessness of populations, and active preparedness.<sup>88</sup> To be equipped to respond to potential disasters, the United Nations developed the UNISDR in 1999 through Resolution A/RES/54/219 to serve as the secretariat in charge of the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).<sup>89</sup> In 2001, A/RES/56/195 increased the mandate of UNISDR to assist with mainstreaming and coordinating disaster risk reduction through synergy among the activities executed by the United Nations system, as well as regional organizations, and in humanitarian fields.<sup>90</sup> Furthermore, UNISDR is responsible for supporting the implementation of both the *Hyogo Declaration* and *Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* (2005), adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan.<sup>91</sup> These documents outline “a comprehensive approach to reduce disaster risks” and project an outcome of “substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries”.<sup>92</sup> In particular, the UNISDR aides in preparing the Global

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<sup>82</sup> UN News Centre. Interview with Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/newsmakers.asp?NewsID=72>

<sup>83</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union. Disaster Risk Reduction: An Instrument for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

<http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/drr-e.pdf>

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Terminology. <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology>

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

<sup>89</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Our Mandate. <http://www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/mandate>

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

<sup>92</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Terminology. <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology>

Assessment Reports for Disaster Risk Reduction on a periodic basis, and supervising the HFA implementation through the HFA Monitor Tool.<sup>93</sup>

As the issue of hazards and disasters continue to become more complex due to climate change and resulting yields on sustainability, there are a number of UN entities and partners also working diligently in capacity building and preparedness. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) works from a scientific and technical background to assist with early warning of weather or climate hazards through observation, detection, and prediction.<sup>94</sup> The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) focuses on post-crisis gains and returning to normalcy through enforcing governance and rule of law, supporting initiatives to rebuild infrastructure, and addressing causes of violence.<sup>95</sup> Furthermore, the World Food Programme (WFP) is working to highlight the importance of food security, especially in crisis. Finally, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) works to establish local institutions for Disaster Risk Management in order to answer questions of what services already exist, what contributions sectors have, what can be improved upon, and what best practices can be implemented to fill gaps.<sup>96</sup>

### **Background**

A continent can have multiple Member States that are affected by drought, flooding and rains, cyclones, or any combination of potentially disastrous hazards; creating an interesting route for response from local, national, and regional governmental entities. Therefore, the effects of disaster vary as each Member State is in a unique position for response. Member States are facing greater risk due to “extreme weather events and other natural hazards, as well as poverty, increasing urbanization, and the impact of climate change.”<sup>97</sup> As there are many factors added to disaster risk, it adds further stress on achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). According to the General Assembly, in 2010 “a total of 950 disasters caused by natural hazards were recorded, 90 percent of which were weather-related events, such as storms and floods; making 2010 the year with the second highest number of disasters since 1980.”<sup>98</sup> These events resulted in over 208 million people affected and over 296,000 lives lost.<sup>99</sup> Financially, there was a loss amounting around \$130 billion, with \$37 billion insured.<sup>100</sup> In order to bring awareness of DRR, A/RES/42/169 (1987) declared the 1990s the International Decade of Disaster Reduction.<sup>101</sup> Furthermore, A/RES/44/236 and A/RES/64/200 established International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction, with the purpose highlight action taken to reduce risk to disasters.<sup>102</sup> Additionally, the need for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in order to be successful at DRR has been highlighted. DRM is a methodical process to decrease or mitigate the effects of hazards through preparedness activities and measures.<sup>103</sup> The DRM includes use of various capacities, skills, and actors to provide education, training, and structure of response.<sup>104</sup> As a subset of risk management, DRM includes assessment, analysis, and evaluation to develop acceptable response mechanisms.<sup>105</sup>

Within the HFA, the listed priorities are vital principles for sustainability and disaster resilience. These priority actions include making DRR a national and local priority, using early warning and monitoring, sharing best practices, addressing and lessening underlying risk factors, and strengthening response across the board.<sup>106</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Our Mandate. <http://www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/mandate>

<sup>94</sup> World Meteorological Organization. WMO Disaster Risk Reduction Program. <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/>

<sup>95</sup> United Nations Development Program. Crisis Prevention & Recovery. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/overview.html>

<sup>96</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Institutions for Disaster Risk Management. <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/current-focus/institutions-for-disaster-risk-management/en/>

<sup>97</sup> United Nations. General Assembly Informal Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/initiatives/drr.shtml>

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid.

<sup>100</sup> United Nations. General Assembly Informal Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/initiatives/drr.shtml>

<sup>101</sup> United Nations General Assembly. A/RES/42/169: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/42/a42r169.htm>

<sup>102</sup> Ibid.

<sup>103</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Terminology. <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology>

<sup>104</sup> Ibid.

<sup>105</sup> Ibid.

<sup>106</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/hfa>

Additionally as per A/RES/61/198, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) serviced through the UNISDR, includes reviewing disaster preparation and follow up.<sup>107</sup> The GPDRR is a conference purposed to offer a forum for discussion and information exchange across sectors and stakeholders in order to better DRR efforts and executions.<sup>108</sup> The GPDRR, held on a biennial basis, also focuses on sharing strategies and intelligence on the implementation of the HFA.<sup>109</sup> Prior to the GPDRR, “an Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Disaster Reduction served as the main forum within the United Nations, met regularly to discuss the issue of disaster reduction, and in particular for defining strategies for international cooperation at all levels”.<sup>110</sup> On the State level, Member States are highly encouraged to develop platforms and response plans that reflect their specific needs. National Platforms are meant to “mainstream DRR policies, planning, and programs; as well as coordinate the implementation of the HFA”.<sup>111</sup> These Platforms supported by the UNISDR, whom also provides basic guidelines for what should be in these documents, assists with gathering resources, and sustaining dialogue between States and stakeholders.<sup>112</sup>

### ***Vulnerability versus Resilience: Developing a Structure***

Since 2000, the ISDR has recorded \$1.3 Trillion in damage, 2.7 billion persons affected, and 1.1 million killed due to a number of key disaster events worldwide.<sup>113</sup> Some of these key events include the Drought in China in 2002, Tsunami in the Indian Ocean in 2004, Hurricane Katrina in the United States in 2005, and Earthquake in Haiti in 2010.<sup>114</sup> In 2011, the General Assembly held an Informal Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction with the goal to identify how to reduce “risk and exposure to disasters through effective investment policies and practices and sustainable urban management with special focus on rapidly expanding urban areas where risk, population and economic assets are concentrated.”<sup>115</sup> Identifying risk includes defining who is at risk. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) defines vulnerability as “the diminished capacity of an individual or group to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a natural or man-made hazard; often associated with isolation and defenselessness in the face of risk, shock or stress.”<sup>116</sup> Additionally, vulnerability increases with lack of resources and poverty as there are delays in recovery response.<sup>117</sup> Potentially, groups such as internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrants, the disabled, the elderly, women, young children, and those without families or support systems are viewed as vulnerable.<sup>118</sup>

As climate change and global warming are becoming a daily reality that provides an extreme variety of weather events or hazards,<sup>119</sup> climate needs to be monitored every closely. According to UNDP, “Exposure to climate-related hazards, coupled with conditions of vulnerability and insufficient capacity to reduce or respond to damaging consequences, results in disasters and losses.”<sup>120</sup> Fluctuations in rainfall have yielded a spectrum from flooding to

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<sup>107</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Factsheet on the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). [http://www.unisdr.org/2012/docs/whoware/UNISDR\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/2012/docs/whoware/UNISDR_Factsheet.pdf)

<sup>108</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/global-platform>

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.

<sup>110</sup> Ibid.

<sup>111</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). National Platforms. <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/national-platforms>

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

<sup>113</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). The Economic and Human Impact of Disasters in the last 12 years (chart). [http://www.preventionweb.net/files/25833\\_20120318disaster20002011v2.pdf](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/25833_20120318disaster20002011v2.pdf)

<sup>114</sup> Ibid.

<sup>115</sup> United Nations. General Assembly Informal Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/initiatives/drr.shtml>

<sup>116</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). What is vulnerability? <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/about-disasters/what-is-a-disaster/what-is-vulnerability/>

<sup>117</sup> UN-HABITAT. Vulnerability Reduction and Disaster Mitigation. <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?typeid=19&catid=286&cid=866&activeid=867>

<sup>118</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). What is vulnerability? <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/about-disasters/what-is-a-disaster/what-is-vulnerability/>

<sup>119</sup> United Nations Development Program. Climate Risk Management. <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/crisis%20prevention/disaster/3Disaster%20Risk%20Reduction%20-%20Climate%20Risk%20Management.pdf>

<sup>120</sup> Ibid.

drought, heavy rain to heat waves.<sup>121</sup> The UNDP Climate Risk Management (CRM) system considers climate activated risks and projections; as well as development sectors that are greatly affected by climate like food security, environment, and health.<sup>122</sup> The CRM includes “climate analysis, risk and impact identification, and decision analysis and support.”<sup>123</sup>

As “most of the 3.3 million deaths from disasters in the last 40 years have been in poorer nations,”<sup>124</sup> the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) from the UNDP is focusing on developing resilience in order to revitalize livelihoods after disaster strikes. By allowing citizens to participate in productive activities and in rehabilitating destroyed infrastructure, it offers them an active place in the rebuilding efforts of their locale and themselves.<sup>125</sup> The BCPR has “a ‘three track’ approach which includes stabilizing livelihoods, local level economic recovery and reintegration, and long-term recovery and growth.”<sup>126</sup> Additionally, two spectrums of employment are offered – emergency employment and public works schemes or vocational training and small enterprise development help for long term rebuilding.<sup>127</sup>

Resilient communities have a number of human and social gains, such as retention and salvaging of property and tangible/intangible assets, little business disruption, capacity building for local citizens, further capital investment in infrastructure, and the capability to implement poverty reduction initiatives.<sup>128</sup> Resilient communities also have a strong support system of partnership between local institutions, private/public, and national/international organizations, all playing a role in DRR execution.<sup>129</sup> Additionally, it is vital for resilient communities to remain aware of impending or changing hazards or vulnerabilities and their effects.<sup>130</sup> For instance, being aware of infrastructure and safety needs of facilities and addressing them accordingly;<sup>131</sup> as well as providing options for relief support of residents of all socio-economic backgrounds.<sup>132</sup> Resilience is not only a concept for constructed items; planning must be made to protect ecosystems and not add to disaster situations through surges and other hazards.<sup>133</sup> For example in regards to actively protecting urban areas, the World Bank’s Urban Risk Assessment (URA) provides a common cost effective approach identifying where and how many people are vulnerable to natural hazards, as well as anticipating detrimental effects to the population if susceptible infrastructure were damaged.<sup>134</sup> URA links required investments and complexity in phases so that local leaders can select and implement a plan based on the cities resources.<sup>135</sup>

### ***Examples of Response Mechanisms***

Moving to a global society that is becoming well aware of importance of preparedness for the impacts of hazards and potential disasters, there is a wide spread development of a number of strategies and response mechanisms. In particular, Early Warning Systems (EWS) have been instrumental with dictating the appropriate responses to

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<sup>121</sup>United States Environmental Protection Agency. Climate Change Basics. <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/basics/>

<sup>122</sup> United Nations Development Program. Climate Risk Management. <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/crisis%20prevention/disaster/3Disaster%20Risk%20Reduction%20-%20Climate%20Risk%20Management.pdf>

<sup>123</sup> Ibid.

<sup>124</sup> United Nations. Disaster-Resilient Societies. <http://www.un.org/en/sustainablefuture/disasters.shtml>

<sup>125</sup> United Nations Development Program. Livelihoods and Economic Recovery. <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/fast-facts/english/FF-BCPR-Livelihoods-2012.pdf>

<sup>126</sup> Ibid.

<sup>127</sup> Ibid.

<sup>128</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). How to Make Cities More Resilient: A Handbook for Mayors and Local Government Leaders. <http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/assets/documents/HowtoFinanceResilientCities.pdf>

<sup>129</sup> Ibid.

<sup>130</sup> Ibid.

<sup>131</sup> Ibid.

<sup>132</sup> Ibid.

<sup>133</sup> Ibid.

<sup>134</sup> World Bank. Urban Risk Assessments: Towards a Common Approach. <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTURBANDEVELOPMENT/0,,contentMDK:22548440~menuPK:8076545~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:337178,00.html>

<sup>135</sup> Ibid.

incoming hazards. A EWS is a method used to disseminate information and instruction in a timely fashion.<sup>136</sup> A properly structured EWS includes “detection, monitoring and forecasting of hazards; analysis of anticipated risks; disseminating timely warning; and activating prepared contingency plans to respond.”<sup>137</sup> Additionally, a sound EWS will identify critical stakeholders and their roles and/or responses during the crisis and rebuilding efforts.<sup>138</sup> There are different types of systems, developed to ensure effective warning and response. Some focus heavily on local capacity building and participation, others focus heavily on steps that tie in detection down to local response.<sup>139</sup> A EWS can be used to take action against floods, droughts, storms, bushfires, and other hazards.<sup>140</sup> With the impact of climate change on the environment, many areas are looking to the use of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) to respond to hazards that may cause additional occurrences.<sup>141</sup> However, it is somewhat difficult to complete a risk assessment for a potential multi-hazard occurrence due to having various means to assess individual hazards; but it is vital to look at all potential hazardous aspects.<sup>142</sup> The use of a MHEWS in Japan has been cited as a best practice of implementation.<sup>143</sup> According to the WMO, the use of monitoring and predicting with EWS has greatly decreased the loss of life from disasters or hazards on a global scale over the last five decades.<sup>144</sup>

On the other hand, the United Nations has branched out to space-based technology to further DRM efforts. The United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), instituted by the General Assembly in 2006, is a “platform which facilitates the use of space-based technologies for disaster management and emergency response”.<sup>145</sup> Developed through the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), UN-SPIDER seeks to provide access instrumental space-based information for comprehensive disaster management.<sup>146</sup> UN-SPIDER strategically uses satellites for speedy communication, observation, and positioning in risk assessment and disaster response.<sup>147</sup> UN-SPIDER also builds capacity through its Knowledge Portal, used for sharing information and support, as well as it and its e-SPIDER curricula and learning system.<sup>148</sup> Recently, UN-SPIDER hosted a conference on “Space-based Technologies for Disaster Risk Management - Best Practices for Risk Reduction and Rapid Response mapping”, where the use of space technology for assessment in the midst of disasters related to climate change was discussed.<sup>149</sup>

### ***Funding Disaster Relief***

Although DRR has obvious long-term benefits for infrastructure and continuity, many local governments may not deem it a viable financial reality. With less than 0.7 percent of total relief aid going to DRR<sup>150</sup>, developing a strategic plan will offer a framework to identify, gather, and maximize the use of resources (locally, nationally, or donated) to ensure consistent financial backing.<sup>151</sup> Financing should include contribution from local government,

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<sup>136</sup> World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS). [http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/projects/Thematic/MHEWS/MHEWS\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/projects/Thematic/MHEWS/MHEWS_en.html)

<sup>137</sup> Ibid.

<sup>138</sup> Ibid.

<sup>139</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Terminology. <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology>

<sup>140</sup> Ibid.

<sup>141</sup> World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS). [http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/projects/Thematic/MHEWS/MHEWS\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/projects/Thematic/MHEWS/MHEWS_en.html)

<sup>142</sup> UN-HABITAT. Tips: Stages of a Disaster Risk Assessment Process. <http://www.disasterassessment.org/section.asp?id=21>

<sup>143</sup> World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS). [http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/projects/Thematic/MHEWS/MHEWS\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/projects/Thematic/MHEWS/MHEWS_en.html)

<sup>144</sup> Ibid.

<sup>145</sup> United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). UN-SPIDER Leaflets (English). [http://www.un-spider.org/sites/default/files/UN-SPIDER%20Leaflet\\_EN\\_2011.pdf](http://www.un-spider.org/sites/default/files/UN-SPIDER%20Leaflet_EN_2011.pdf)

<sup>146</sup> Ibid.

<sup>147</sup> Ibid.

<sup>148</sup> Ibid.

<sup>149</sup> UN-SPIDER. "Risk Assessment in the Context of Global Climate Change" - United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management." <http://www.un-spider.org/risk-assessment-climate-change>

<sup>150</sup> United Nations. Disaster-Resilient Societies. <http://www.un.org/en/sustainablefuture/disasters.shtml>

<sup>151</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). How to Make Cities More Resilient: A Handbook for Mayors and Local Government Leaders. <http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/assets/documents/HowtoFinanceResilientCities.pdf>

for example using revenue allotted in the annual budget such as collected taxes, fines, and bonds.<sup>152</sup> Additionally, financing DRR is a joint venture between all stakeholders in the community – public/private sector and various institutions (e.g. community organizations, schools, research organizations, businesses).<sup>153</sup> Furthermore, financial plans need to keep in mind potential access to funding from outside organizations post-disaster, particularly if there had been any climate adaptation efforts made.<sup>154</sup>

Well-planned and calculated DRM includes the pinpointing and gathering of available outside resources. As DRR and DRM are global responsibilities, there are various international funds and partnerships to draw from to assist with funding gaps. Specifically, The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), established in 2006, is “a partnership of forty-one countries and eight international organizations committed to helping developing countries reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and adapt to climate change.”<sup>155</sup> GFDRR aims to encourage implementation of the HFA on the national level, and conventionalize DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA).<sup>156</sup> GFDRR has three tracks or business lines with DRR at number two; track one is global and regional partnerships and track three is sustainable recovery.<sup>157</sup> Furthermore, there are six underlying initiatives to the tracks, two dealing with the economics, financing, and insurance of DRR.<sup>158</sup> GFDRR focuses on incorporating DRR and DRM into county development and poverty reduction approaches, and has done so by means of technical assistance programs.<sup>159</sup> Also, the GFDRR recognizes the vulnerability of twenty priority countries that they have developed comprehensive plans in support of their DRM; seventeen of the priority States are Less Developed Countries (LDCs) and five Small Island Developing States (SIDS).<sup>160</sup> The financial structure is two-pronged – core funds supplied through a multi-donor trust fund (MDTF) and built into country DRR policy and non-core funds for earmarked countries via single donor trusts.<sup>161</sup> The GFDRR also seeks to build capacity and financial resilience through its Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) Program.<sup>162</sup> The DRFI join forces with developing countries to “mitigate the financial impacts of natural disasters on individuals, small- and medium-enterprises, agricultural sector participants, and governments.”<sup>163</sup> Some DRFI activities consist of launching natural disaster micro-insurance programs and serving as a mediator between local leaders and international markets.<sup>164</sup>

### ***Case Study: Lessons Learned, Lessons Implemented, Lessons Re-Taught: Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Sandy (United States)***

As one of the most developed nations in the world, the United States of America has experienced some very pressing disasters in the last thirty years. Since 1980, the U.S. has endured 144 separate weather or climate disasters that have neared \$1 billion in damages.<sup>165</sup> The United States has a population of over three hundred million and is the third densest population in the global community.<sup>166</sup> Having a GDP of 15.1 Trillion Dollars (USD), the U.S. has served as a beneficiary to many relief efforts in both developed and developing nations.<sup>167</sup> Located in the middle of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, twenty-three of the twenty-five most densely populated U.S. counties lie on a coastline.<sup>168</sup> Twelve percent of the United States population (over thirty-seven million) lives in highly hurricane

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<sup>152</sup> Ibid.

<sup>153</sup> Ibid.

<sup>154</sup> Ibid.

<sup>155</sup> Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). About GFDRR. <https://www.gfdr.org/node/1>

<sup>156</sup> Ibid.

<sup>157</sup> Ibid.

<sup>158</sup> Ibid.

<sup>159</sup> Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction – Track II. <https://www.gfdr.org/node/3>

<sup>160</sup> Ibid.

<sup>161</sup> Ibid.

<sup>162</sup> Ibid.

<sup>163</sup> Ibid.

<sup>164</sup> Ibid.

<sup>165</sup> National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Billion-Dollar Weather/Climate Disasters. <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>

<sup>166</sup> Find The Data. United States. <http://country-facts.findthedata.org/l/1/United-States>

<sup>167</sup> Find The Data. United States. <http://cia-world-fact-book.findthedata.org/d/d/2012>

<sup>168</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. Coastal Areas Impacts & Adaptation. <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/coasts.html>

prone areas off the Atlantic Ocean (particularly North Carolina to Texas), which is an increase of 166% during the timeframe of 1960 to 2011.<sup>169</sup>

In 2002, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) moved to the newly developed Department of Homeland Security in order to better equip the nation with overall disaster response through the standardization of processes.<sup>170</sup> At that time, a comprehensive response plan for disasters was re-developed, yielding the National Incident Management System (NIMS).<sup>171</sup> NIMS is a “comprehensive, nationwide systematic approach to incident management that provides Essential principles and Standardized resource management procedures” to be used for response.<sup>172</sup> The NIMS also gave way to the Incident Command System (ICS), used for “unified command and the efficient coordination of multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional efforts.”<sup>173</sup> In 2004, the National Response Plan (NRP) was adopted as an all-hazards plan instituting a single framework for incidents across any level of government and a variety of activities (e.g. preparedness, response) in the nation.<sup>174</sup> The NRP has specific triggers that call it into activation with subsequent corresponding actions.<sup>175</sup>

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina was spotted and monitored as it increased from tropical depression to Category 5 hurricane over the course of five days.<sup>176</sup> Now ranked the most detrimental disaster to hit the country, Katrina affected fifteen coastline counties, cost roughly \$145 billion in damages, caused massive loss of life, and triggered considerable migration from the areas hit.<sup>177</sup> Louisiana was one of the largest affected states, and as a whole the state has collided with fifty-seven hurricanes between 1851 and 2011, twenty of them being Category 3 and above.<sup>178</sup> State officials identified that difficulties in reaction stemmed from not having a response to “widespread or simultaneous catastrophes.”<sup>179</sup> As Louisiana has the largest affected city, New Orleans, there was a lot of media coverage to the area as smaller areas were flattened and almost ignored.<sup>180</sup> In response to heavy criticism in regards to Federal and Local response, rescue and recovery efforts, and disparities or potential bias with the populations that were helped, an intensive review of the disaster, preparation, response, and what can done better was released.<sup>181</sup> Furthermore, this drove momentum to amend the NRP, and consequently the evolution of the NRP to the National Response Framework (NRF).<sup>182</sup> In the 2008 NRF, the key concepts include “engaged partnerships, tiered response, scalable, flexible and adaptable operational capabilities, unity of effort through unified command, and readiness to act.”<sup>183</sup>

In the least frequently hit Northeast, Hurricane Irene touched down on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011<sup>184</sup>, which due to its vast flooding is the most significant hurricane to strike the northeastern U.S. since Hurricane Bob (1991).<sup>185</sup> Hurricane

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<sup>169</sup> National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Facts for Features:2012 Hurricane Season Begins. [http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts\\_for\\_features\\_special\\_editions/cb12-ff13.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb12-ff13.html)

<sup>170</sup> United States Department of Homeland Security. The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned. <http://library.stmarytx.edu/acadlib/edocs/katrinawh.pdf>

<sup>171</sup> US Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergence Management Agency. National Incident Management System (NIMS)Fact Sheet. <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/NIMSFactSheet.pdf>

<sup>172</sup> Ibid.

<sup>173</sup> United States Department of Homeland Security. The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned. <http://library.stmarytx.edu/acadlib/edocs/katrinawh.pdf>

<sup>174</sup> Ibid.

<sup>175</sup> Ibid.

<sup>176</sup> National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).. Hurricane Katrina, A Climatological Perspective. <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/reports/tech-report-200501z.pdf>

<sup>177</sup> National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). U.S. Hurricane Top Ten Lists. <http://stateofthecoast.noaa.gov/insurance/hurricanetopten.html>

<sup>178</sup> Ibid.

<sup>179</sup> United States Department of Homeland Security. The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned. <http://library.stmarytx.edu/acadlib/edocs/katrinawh.pdf>

<sup>180</sup> Ibid.

<sup>181</sup> Ibid.

<sup>182</sup> Ibid.

<sup>183</sup> Ibid.

<sup>184</sup> National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Facts for Features:2012 Hurricane Season Begins. [http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts\\_for\\_features\\_special\\_editions/cb12-ff13.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb12-ff13.html)

<sup>185</sup> National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The 2011 North Atlantic Hurricane Season. A Climate Perspective. [http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert\\_assessment/hurrsummary\\_2011.pdf](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/hurrsummary_2011.pdf)

Irene was a Category 1 hurricane with flooding and high winds, effected nine states, caused five million residents to lose electricity, and summed up \$10 billion in damage related costs.<sup>186 187</sup> Due to some areas on the East Coast being glanced over by Irene in 2011, when Hurricane Sandy approached the next year many residents in the New York and New Jersey underprepared although warned otherwise. Touching ground on October 29, 2012, Hurricane Sandy spent thirty-two hours on land and greatly affected three Northeast states.<sup>188</sup> Only 850 thousand were evacuated prior to the storm, as opposed to the million evacuated for Katrina. Majority of the areas hit included densely populated city areas such as Atlantic City and the five boroughs of New York City (of which the borough of Manhattan serves as a global financial hub); over seventeen million were affected compared to fifteen million in 2005.<sup>189</sup> Although significantly less loss of life than Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy left over 100 lives lost and an initial \$60 billion in damages and counting. Additionally, preliminary \$1.13 billion was issued by FEMA for disaster relief and it took almost two months to approve another \$9.7 billion in aid, whereas with Hurricane Katrina it took ten days to approve extra aid.<sup>190 191</sup> Interestingly, with this being one of many flood related incidences in recent years, many impacted residents began having issues getting funding to rebuild with insurance claims classifications and required flood insurance through FEMA.<sup>192</sup>

Since Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit (1992), the United States has totaled 560 Billion Dollars (USD) in disaster damage (prior to Hurricane Sandy).<sup>193</sup> Hurricane Katrina holding the title of the most costly hurricane at \$145 billion in damage, it is anticipated that Hurricane Sandy surpassed that; but costs and damages are still being determined.<sup>194</sup> The FEMA has significantly improved its response as to never experience another “Katrina”, a name now forever in the country’s history. However, in review of pre-hazard evacuation protocol and efforts, the role of local government, and the timely approval and distribution of funding, disaster response remains to be reviewed.

### **Conclusion**

With sixty-four percent of the world’s population (4.4 billion) affected by disaster; disaster preparedness is a worthwhile and valid investment to make to ensure the furthering of our global population.<sup>195</sup> Preparedness displays that Member States are intentional and actively engaged with their development and sustaining a successful global community. Disaster Risk Reduction is not an individual or regional effort. It requires the entire global community to increase transparency with sharing information, best practices, and failures in order to build a strong repository and support system to draw from. Although the handicap varies by Member State, as a community a cognizant effort needs to be made to identify what is brought to the table, what variables need to be considered, how to prepare, how to respond; and most importantly how to rebuild.

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<sup>186</sup> National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Billion-Dollar Weather/Climate Disasters.

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>

<sup>187</sup> National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center. State of the Climate Global Hazards August 2011. <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/hazards/2011/8#tropical>

<sup>188</sup> Huffington Post Hurricane Sandy vs. Katrina Infographic Examines Destruction From Both Storms.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/04/hurricane-sandy-vs-katrina-infographic\\_n\\_2072432.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/04/hurricane-sandy-vs-katrina-infographic_n_2072432.html)

<sup>189</sup> Ibid.

<sup>190</sup> US Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergence Management Agency. Hurricane Sandy.

<http://www.fema.gov/sandy>

<sup>191</sup> New York Daily News. Republican Congressman Pete King Accuses GOP Leaders of 'Sticking a Knife in the Back' of Hurricane Sandy Victims by Delaying Disaster Aid Vote. <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/rep-peter-king-gop-sandy-aid-snub-knife-back-article-1.1231448#ixzz2H9Z9xa1p>

<sup>192</sup> CNNMoney. Sandy victim faces insurance nightmare.

<http://money.cnn.com/2012/11/12/pf/insurance/sandy-flood-insurance/index.html>

<sup>193</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Impacts of Disasters since the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit (Chart). [http://www.unisdr.org/files/27162\\_infographic.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/files/27162_infographic.pdf)

<sup>194</sup> National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NO AA). . U.S. Hurricane Top Ten Lists.

<http://stateofthecoast.noaa.gov/insurance/hurricanetopten.html>

<sup>195</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Impacts of Disasters since the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit (Chart). [http://www.unisdr.org/files/27162\\_infographic.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/files/27162_infographic.pdf)

## *Committee Directive*

Living in a time of unstable and uncertain weather and hazards due to changing environmental factors, having great understanding of impact and staying ahead of any issues is key. With that in mind, delegates need to determine if their Member State is vulnerable or resilient. What is your Member State doing to participate in preparedness efforts on a local, national, and regional level? Is there any participation, input, or donation on the international level? What capacity and participation is being built on a local level? What best practices can be shared? How has interdependence supported vulnerable areas? What other factors should be considered when thinking of risk reduction and management? What should the end goal of DRR and DRM be for the global community?

## **Technical Appendix Guide (TAG)**

### **Topic I: Establishing a Development Framework for Beyond 2015**

“The Universal Declaration of Human Rights”. UN. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a standard piece of international law that countries are made to abide by as Member States of the UN. Articles related to this document provide the necessary legal grounds to establish a development framework that goes beyond the reach of the MDG Era and has been seen in other UN initiatives such as the Responsibility to Protect. The Declaration of Human Rights, while an aged document is still cited in many UN resolutions as the ultimate reference point for which Member States abide by in many cases of development and the rights guaranteed to persons.

Walker, Brian; and Salt, David. *Resilience Thinking: Sustaining Ecosystems and People in a Changing World*. Washington. Island Press. 2006. Pp. 1-2.

Walker and Salt provide an overview of the current environmental paradigm that has been operational for many generations. Their work also provides a number of best practices for delegates to study on how to best implement a resilience framework into an international context. They provide various scales of projects to provide a comprehensive understanding of how to best implement a resilience framework into the international context, which may be useful in committee.

*Realizing the Future We Want for all: Report to the Secretary General*. UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. UN. New York. June 2012

The UN System Task Team was appointed in September of 2011 to prepare the UN for a System Wide follow up to the MDG Development Framework. Along with a summary of major points, this report highlights some of the struggles faced from the outset of the MDGs, provides justifications for post 2015 development, and discusses the way forward while providing a roadmap and to the end of the 2015 deadline.

Nayyar, Deepak. “The MDGs after 2015: Some reflections on the possibilities.” UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. April 2012.

Nayyar provides a significant review of the MDG framework coming to fruition and where possibilities lay in the international system. This paper provides a highly useful framework for how the Millennium Declaration came to be a framework for development and could be used to support arguments for developing your Member States Vision for a post 2015 development framework. Furthermore, Nayyar provides an overview of the expected outcomes for a 2015 framework.

Sen, Amartya K. 1999. "Development as Freedom". Knopf Inc. New York, NY.

Amartya Sen is a Noble Peace Laureate whose work is ground breaking and has shaken development circles worldwide. His work has inspired the shift from traditional development, which entailed development funding through projects typically were limited by the state who donated the money to developing policies which allowed for the development of freedoms and true development for populations. Sen is acclaimed by many IGOs and having knowledge of his work will lead you to be a vital source of information in the work of the committee.

A/RES/55/2. "UN Millennium Declaration". UN General Assembly. 18 September 2000.

The Millennium Declaration was an agreement established by the UN to allow the world to come together on a specific set of goals for all involved. The outcome was the MDGs, with specific targets and indicators allowing for developed Members States to work with under developed and least developed Member States. This document allows for a complete understanding of what the Declarations intentions are, which are vital to having a progressive discussion on the MDG achievement. Furthermore, this document could be used as a template for any post 2015 framework.

A/CONF.216/16. "Report of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development". UN. 20-22 June 2012. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

This report by the UN Conference on sustainable development was cited by many documents listed throughout the background guide as the final conference before the development of a post 2015 development framework. This report, while limited to environmental issues cites many different areas related to the MDGs and serve as a starting point for environmental issues in a post deadline framework. While this report focuses on the environment, delegates are encouraged to find similar reports on main MDG issues from other dates to analyze for a post 2015 framework.

## **Topic II. Addressing Crisis Prevention and Disaster Risk Reduction: Ensuring the Ability to Operate Effectively in Times of Economic Turbulence**

Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) <http://www.cadri.net/>

This website has all the information on CADRI, which is the successor to the Disaster Management Training Program (DMTP) that ran between 1991 and 2006. This organization aims to make DRR and local and national priority, and to have organization come through on DRR initiatives. It also highlights the organization's core partners, missions, objective, and approach to disaster response.

FAO Regional Emergency Office for Southern Africa (REOSA). Food Security in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/tc/tce/pdf/DRR\\_Newsletter\\_vol\\_1\\_issue\\_5\\_March\\_2011.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/tc/tce/pdf/DRR_Newsletter_vol_1_issue_5_March_2011.pdf)

This document by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) looks at food security in the scope of different hazards or disasters. From an African office, it discusses some continent specific concerns and developments. This document will be beneficial when looking to highlight some of the efforts and strides developing nations have taken despite economic realities.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Characteristics of a Safe and Resilient Community: Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) Study

[http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/96986/Final\\_Characteristics\\_Report.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/96986/Final_Characteristics_Report.pdf)

This document by the Red Cross discusses what a "safe and resilient" community consists of. This document is helpful as it looks from the lens of some disaster-struck areas and a large humanitarian contributor to provide quantitative information as to how to build capacity on a local level.

The Journal of Risk Analysis and Crisis Response (JRACR). <http://www.atlantis-press.com/publications/jracr/>

This journal is a collection of publications and research papers regarding crisis response and risk analysis. Published on yearly basis, four issues with eight papers are issued during the year. This resource will be helpful in getting insights to recent developments and research done as well as progresses or failures in disaster reduction.

Trenberth, Kevin (2012). Framing the Way to Relate Climate Extremes to Climate Change

*Climatic Change: An Interdisciplinary, International Journal Devoted to the Description, Causes and Implications of Climatic Change*. <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-012-0441-5/fulltext.html>

This article from the National Center for Atmospheric Research looks at the changing climate and hazardous yields. The article also look at recent hazardous events and the role that changing environment had on them. This resource is beneficial as it gives background on the impact of climate extremes and global warming in hazards.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Countries & National Platforms

<http://www.unisdr.org/partners/countries>

This resource is a list of the recognized Member States and the National Platforms for preparedness that seventy-seven have developed. This will be beneficial in identifying which States have plans and which do not, and what those who do not have listed Platforms have documented as being in place.

United Nations Development Program. Crisis Prevention and Recovery Thematic Trust Fund.

[http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/crisis\\_preventionandrecoverythematictrustfund/](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/crisis_preventionandrecoverythematictrustfund/)

This article discusses the UNDP administered Crisis Prevention and Recovery Thematic Trust Fund (CPR TTF). This article reviews the CPR TTF's history in regards to donors and allocations, as well as current management and recent reports. Additionally, this article is beneficial as it provides information on another means of disaster funding.

WFP Policy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management: Building Food Security and Resilience

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp247914.pdf>

This document from the World Food Programs gives policy framework to assist with food-insecure and vulnerable populations across the global community. Additionally, it will look at the role of the WFP and related organizations for food security-related in disaster risk reduction and management. This resource will be helpful when determining what is needed as resilience efforts, particularly in rebuilding and restoration plans.