

Southern Regional Model United Nations
*Ensuring Peace and Security in a Turbulent Global
Environment: Fostering Prosperity and Forward Movement*
April 10-12, 2014
Charlotte, NC
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Esteemed Delegates,

I welcome you to the Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) Charlotte 2014 Conference and the General Assembly (GA) Plenary. It is my honor and distinction to serve as your Director for this stimulating and exciting committee. This is my sixth year participating with the conference and third year on staff. In years prior, I served as the Chair for the World Health Organization (WHO) in Atlanta 2010, an Assistant Director (AD) twice, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in Atlanta 2011 and the General Assembly Plenary (GA Plen) in 2012, and served as a Director for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the Inaugural SRMUN Charlotte Conference that occurred last April 2013. Most recently I was the Director for the Organization of American States (OAS) in Atlanta 2013. I am a recent graduate of Pace University with my Master in Public Administration and hold a Bachelor in Business Administration in International Management with a concentration in Latin America and minors in Political Science, Spanish and Peace and Justice Studies. Serving, as my Assistant Director for this committee is Ms. Victoria Vaught. This will be Victoria's third conference with SRMUN as she previously was the AD for Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and AD for Organization of American States (OAS) in Atlanta. Victoria is a graduate of Kennesaw State University with a Masters of Public Administration and currently works full time in the field.

The GA Plenary is the central organ of the UN where all 193 Member States and its two observer states, Holy See and Palestine, gather to discuss the pressing problems of today's society such as that of admission of new members, budgetary matters, election of Security Council and Economic and Social Council members, alongside many other issues. The GA holds its General Debate every year in late September at the UN headquarters in New York City to discuss these issues. The resolutions negotiated at these annual meetings, although not binding, are recommendations that focus the world's attention on important issues and can sometimes lead to landmark documents or legally binding treaties and conventions such as that of the Millennium Declaration Goals.

Keeping in mind with the mandate and pillars of the GA Plenary, we have chosen the following topics to discuss at this year's conference;

- I. Protecting the Human Rights of Children in Areas of Armed Conflict and Extreme Poverty; and
- II. UN Peacekeeping: Adapting to New and Current Economic Challenges.

The following background guide serves as a base for your research; however, it should not be utilized as a delegation's entire means for the above topics. The background guides for each individual topic are prepared in depth solely to be used as a starting point for delegates and it is expected and encouraged that delegates research beyond the guide in preparation for their position paper as well as in preparation for the conference come April.

Each delegation is required to submit a position paper that will help serve as the foundation for its success in committee. The position papers to be submitted should be no longer than two pages in length (single-spaced) and should showcase your Member State's position, policies and recommendation on each of the two topics. More information regarding formatting and examples of previous position papers can be found on the SRMUN Website at <http://www.srmun.org>. **All Position papers MUST be submitted by 11:59 p.m., EST, on Friday, March 21, 2014, via the online submission system on the SRMUN website.**

Victoria and I send you the best regards in preparation for SRMUN Charlotte2014 and look forward to your position papers as well as the diligent work during committee. Please feel free to contact, Punit,Victoria or myself should you have any questions during your preparation.

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History of the General Assembly Plenary

Fifty Member States sent representatives to attend the United Nations (UN) Conference on International Organizations held in San Francisco, California in 1945.¹ The crowning moment of that conference resulted in the creation of the Charter of the UN.² The UN General Assembly (GA) Plenary was introduced on 26 June 1945 through the Charter of the UN that came into force on 24 October 1945.³ Chapter III, Article 7 of the UN Charter establishes the GA as one of the six principle organs of the UN.⁴

The GA serves as the “chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN.”⁵ It provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of international issues covered by the UN Charter.⁶ The GA also plays a momentous role in the global community in creating and compiling laws, as well as provides a medium for international, regional, and national discussions of the full spectrum of issues covered by the UN Charter.⁷ The GA’s regular sessions are held consistently between the months of September and December of each year; although an emergency session maybe called to order throughout the year if need be.⁸

The GA is comprised of all the Member States of the UN, for which there are currently a total of 193.⁹ All Member States are represented in the GA, and each is permitted one vote.¹⁰ There are two Non-Member States who have an “open invitation” to observe and participate in GA deliberations, the Holy See and the State of Palestine.¹¹¹²¹³ Neither Non-Member State may vote.¹⁴ With each Member State having only one vote, regardless of its size or stature, the GA establishes a sense of equality that fosters the spirit of diplomacy and unification to address the particular concerns germane to each Member State.¹⁵

¹ History of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/history/> (Accessed August 8, 2013).

² Charter History, History of the United Nations, United Nations http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/history/sanfrancisco_conference.shtml (Accessed August 10, 2013).

³ Introductory Note, Charter of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/intro.shtml> (August 18, 2013).

⁴ Chapter III: Organs, Charter of the United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter3.shtml> (Accessed August 18, 2013).

⁵ Functions and Powers of the General Assembly, General Assembly of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml> (Accessed August 12, 2013).

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ General Assembly of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/> (Accessed August 5, 2013).

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Non-member States, Permanent Observers, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/members/nonmembers.shtml> (Accessed August 7, 2013).

¹² “U.N. General Assembly Resolution A/58/314, Participation of the Holy See in the work of the United Nations,” 16 July 2004, The Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, <http://www.holyseemission.org/about/participation-of-the-holy-see-in-the-un.aspx>(Accessed September 1, 2013).

¹³ “General Assembly Overwhelmingly to Accord Palestine ‘Non-member Observer State’ Status in United Nations,” 29 November 2012, GA/11317, General Assembly, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/ga11317.doc.htm>(Accessed September 3, 2013).

¹⁴ Introductory Note, Charter of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/intro.shtml> (August 18, 2013).

¹⁵ Chapter IV: The General Assembly, Charter of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter4.shtml> (Accessed August 16, 2013).

The general scope of powers mandated in the UN Charter, grants the GA both enumerated and implied functional abilities.¹⁶ Chapter IV, Article 10 of the UN Charter states that, “the GA may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the present Charter.”¹⁷ It further states that the GA may also “make recommendations to the Members of the UN or to the Security Council (SC) or to both on any such question or matters.”¹⁸ With such broad authority to address myriad issues arising internationally, it is expected that there will be overlap between the GA and other organs of the UN. Only in matters of situations under consideration by the SC is the GA’s power limited, but “the GA may call the attention of the SC to situations which are likely to endanger international peace and security.”¹⁹ Maintaining world peace is a continuing theme within the GA.

Furthermore, the UN Charter establishes that the GA has such functions and powers including but not limited to:

- “Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States;
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General
- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament;
- Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields;
- Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among nations; [and,]
- Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs.”²⁰

Lastly, the Assembly when it maintains that the Security Council has failed to act on a threat, breach or act of aggression may act to restore and maintain peace and security.²¹ While the GA does discuss international issues and make recommendations, it also works hard to create attainable solutions and develop achievable plans of action to be carried out regarding said issues.

In that vein, the GA is also organized into six main committees and subsidiary organs.²² Due to the immense volume of topics proposed for consideration, it was necessary for the GA to group similar subject matters together as a more

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Functions and Powers of the General Assembly, General Assembly of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml> (Accessed August 12, 2013).

²¹ Ibid.

²² Subsidiary Organs of the General Assembly, General Assembly of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/subsidiary/> (Accessed August 26, 2013).

efficient way to address the multitude of questions listed on the agenda.²³ After general debate is closed, Member States in the six Main Committees assemble to create draft resolutions on their particular category to present to the GA Plenary (GA Plen). The six main committees are as follows: Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), also known as GA 1st, deals with international security, including disarmament and any type of global threat; the Economic and Financial Committee (ECOFIN), also known as GA 2nd, addresses economic issues such as poverty eradication and sustainable development; the Special, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM), also known as GA 3rd, focuses on human rights that affect people all over the world; the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), also known as GA 4th, considers a plethora of issues such as decolonization, peacekeeping, and atomic radiation, to name a few; the Administrative and Budgetary Committee, also known as GA 5th, manages the budget and administration of the UN; and the Legal Committee, also known as GA 6th, is the forum for “international legal matters.”²⁴²⁴²⁵²⁶²⁷²⁸²⁹

Subsidiary organs of the GA were also created to carry out the functions of the GA and are categorized as follows into these five divisions: Boards, Commissions, Committees, Counsels and Panels and Working Groups and others.³⁰ Notable GA subsidiary organs include but are not limited to the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters [established by GA Resolution 37/99 K], UN Peace- building Commission [established by GA resolution 60/180 and UN SC resolutions 1645(2005)], Committee on Relations with the Host Country [established by GA Resolution 2819 (XXVI)], and the Human Rights Council [established by GA resolution 60/251], to name just a few.³¹³²³³³⁴ An example of the incredible collaborative work completed within the GA can be found in the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Millennium Summit of the UN was held from 6 September 2000 until 8 September 2000 in New York.³⁵ The Summit was a monumental occasion as it was the “largest-ever gathering of world leaders” and produced the Millennium Declaration, A/RES/55/2, a historical UN GA document that “called for global policies and measures,

²³ Main Committee, United Nations General Assembly, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/ga/maincommittees.shtml> (Accessed August 19, 2013).

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Disarmament and International Security, First Committee, General Assembly of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/index.shtml> (Accessed August 21, 2013).

²⁶ Economic and Financial, Second Committee, General Assembly of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml> (Accessed August 23, 2013).

²⁷ Social, Humanitarian & Cultural, Third Committee, General Assembly of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/index.shtml> (Accessed August 25, 2013).

²⁸ Special Political and Decolonization, Fourth Committee, General Assembly of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/fourth/index.shtml> (Accessed August 25, 2013).

²⁹ Legal, Sixth Committee, General Assembly of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/> (Accessed August 25, 2013).

³⁰ Administrative and Budgetary, Fifth Committee, General Assembly of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/fifth/> (Accessed August 25, 2013).

³¹ Boards, Subsidiary Organs of the General Assembly, General Assembly of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/subsidiary/boards.shtml> (Accessed August 27, 2013).

³² Commissions, Subsidiary Organs of the General Assembly, General Assembly of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/subsidiary/commissions.shtml> (Accessed August 27, 2013).

³³ Committees, Subsidiary Organs of the General Assembly, General Assembly of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/subsidiary/committees.shtml> (Accessed August 27, 2013).

³⁴ Councils, Subsidiary Organs of the General Assembly, General Assembly of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/subsidiary/councils.shtml> (Accessed August 27, 2013).

³⁵ Millennium Summit of the United Nations, New York, 6-8 September 2000, Millennium Declaration, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/development/devagenda/millennium.shtml> (Accessed August 30, 2013).

corresponding to the needs of developing Member States and economies in transition.”³⁶ A year after the Summit, the MDGs were established in a “need to translate commitment into action” and they not only set definitive global goals for the Millennium but also established specific deadlines for those goals.³⁷ The Millennium Declaration and the MDG’s are a profound example of the cooperation of the global community and its trust in the UN’s all-important role in promoting a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.³⁸

All Member States are represented in the General Assembly Plenary.

Topic I: Protecting the Human Rights of Children in Areas of Armed Conflict and Extreme Poverty

“Safety and security don’t just happen: they are the result of collective consensus and public investment... We owe our children -- the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear—In order to ensure this, we must be tireless in our efforts not only to attain peace, justice and prosperity for countries, but also for communities and members of the same family. We must address the roots of violence. Only then will we transform the past century’s legacy from a crushing burden into a cautionary lesson.”
- Nelson Mandela³⁹

Introduction

Since it’s chartering in 1945, the United Nations (UN) has consistently reinforced that fundamental human rights be respected in order for civilization to prosper. “Dignity and worth of the human person” no matter their age, gender, or religion are highlighted as key points.⁴⁰ There are now approximately 300,000 children recruited around the world for active military combat.⁴¹ The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that more than half of the 43.7 million refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the world are children.^{42,43} According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), over 218 million children around the world are child laborers, with an estimated 126 million youth “engaged in hazardous work.”⁴⁴

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ The Millennium Declaration and the MDGs, United Nations Development Group, United Nations, <http://undg.org/index.cfm?P=70> (Accessed September 5, 2013).

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ “World Report on Violence and Health.” World Health Organization. http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/introduction.pdf (Accessed 18 December 2013).

⁴⁰ Pre-amble, Charter of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/preamble.shtml> (Accessed September 28, 2013).

⁴¹ Children of Conflict, Child Soldiers, BBC World Service, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/people/features/childrensrights/childrenofconflict/soldier.shtml>(Accessed October 10, 2013).

⁴² Children: Protection and Building Resilience, Who We Help, UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c1e8.html> (Accessed October 17, 2013).

⁴³ Global Trends 2010, UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency, Page 5 of 48, <http://www.unhcr.org/4dfa11499.html> (Accessed November 17, 2013).

⁴⁴ “Background information on child labour and ILO,” International Labour Organization, http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/Youthinaction/C182-Youth-orientated/C182Youth_Background/lang--en/index.htm (Accessed December 16, 2013).

UNICEF estimates the number of homeless children could be as high as 100 million worldwide.⁴⁵ As a result of this extreme poverty, around 1.2 million children find themselves victim of human trafficking each year.⁴⁶

The UN has taken progressive steps in definitively establishing basic universal human rights for children worldwide through the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.⁴⁷ In December 1959, the UN General Assembly adopted A/RES/1386-(XIV), putting children at the forefront of concerns for aid and protection under any circumstance that should arrive, such as a natural disaster or armed conflict in civilian heavy areas.⁴⁸ The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was adopted on November 20 1989, and in September of the next year it became legally binding international law, ratified by all Member States except for Somalia and the United States of America.⁴⁹⁵⁰ The CRC encompasses 54 articles that address four core principles of the rights of children: non-discrimination, devotion to the best interests of the child, the right to life, survival, and development, and respect for the views of the child.⁵¹ Optional protocols were added to the CRC to address the growing concern of the involvement of children in military conflicts, the sale of children, and overt sexualisation of children through prostitution and pornography.⁵² The CRC has been heralded as “the most comprehensive human rights treaty and legal instrument for the promotion and protection of children’s rights.”⁵³

Despite previous measures taken to define and protect their most basic rights, millions of children still live in peril, even with the DRC’s proclamation that “mankind owes to the child the best it has to give.”⁵⁴

History

The UN has worked tirelessly in efforts to protect its greatest prospects for the future – our children. From the earliest days of the UN, children were a priority to its Member States. The road to the formation of children’s rights began with a determined woman who had a passion to help children in need, EglantyneJebb.⁵⁵Jebb was instrumental in starting the process of defining the rights for minors.⁵⁶ In 1923, Jebb drafted a short document entitled the DRC

⁴⁵ Street Children, The State of the World’s Children 2006: Excluded and Invisible, UNICEF, <http://www.unicef.org/sowc06/profiles/street.php> (Accessed August 27, 2013).

⁴⁶ “Child Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse,” UNICEF, http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58005.html (Accessed September 15, 2013).

⁴⁷ Declaration of the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1386 (XIV) of 10 December 1959, http://www.unicef.org/barbados/spmapping/Legal/global/General/declaration_child1959.pdf(Accessed September 16, 2013).

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Convention on the Rights of the Child, United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>(Accessed October 2, 2013).

⁵⁰ Status of Ratification, Acceptance, Accession and Succession of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, United Nations Treaty Collection, http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?mtdsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&lang=en(Accessed October 2, 2013).

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Declaration of the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1386 (XIV) of 10 December 1959, http://www.unicef.org/barbados/spmapping/Legal/global/General/declaration_child1959.pdf(Accessed September 16, 2013).

⁵⁵ “EglantyneJebb, 1876-1928, Founder of Save the Children and champion of Children’s rights,” 19 August 2012, by her biographer Clare Mulley, HerStoria: History that puts woman in her place, <http://herstoria.com/?p=663> (Accessed September 12, 2013).

⁵⁶ Our History, Save the Children, <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/about-us/history> (Accessed October 8, 2013).

that encompassed the fundamental needs that should be afforded to every child.⁵⁷She submitted her document to the League of Nations (LON), predecessor to the UN. It was adopted on 26 September 1924, and was retitled the Geneva Declaration.⁵⁸ It was the first time in international history that specific children's rights were clarified.⁵⁹ The Geneva Declaration "established[d] children's rights [as a] means for material, moral and spiritual development; special help when hungry, sick, disabled or orphaned; first call on relief when in distress; freedom from economic exploitations; and an upbringing that instills a sense of social responsibility."⁶⁰ While the LON adopted the Geneva Declaration a second time in 1934, the signatories faced no legal repercussions for not upholding the standards set forth within the document.⁶¹Jebb's aspirations of solidifying the rights of children worldwide were realized as the historic declaration she authored, with only five points, would eventually segue into two landmark documents that would continue the movement forward in the promotion and protection of youth globally.^{62,63}

In 1946, the UN General Assembly (GA) sought to create an organization to "meet the food, clothing, and health needs of children" who were dealing with the consequences of World War II.⁶⁴ Their solution was to create the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), which would later be shortened to the United Nations Children's Fund.⁶⁵ Since its inception, UNICEF has attempted to help alleviate the effects of poverty on children by helping to provide food, healthcare for both the child and the mother during pregnancy, education through teacher training programs, and dispensing aid in the time of natural disasters.⁶⁶ UNICEF has launched many initiatives to help the effects of poverty that sometimes is associated with violence, but also to bring an end to children being affected by violence worldwide. These campaigns range from direct involvement by giving aid, to raising awareness on issues by popular methods, such as social media or making celebrities UNICEF Goodwill ambassadors, to draw attention to the issues currently faced by children across the globe.^{67,68} Their current initiative, #ENDviolence, is a "grassroots movement" that uses the popularity of social media to highlight violence against children, and how issues such as human trafficking of children, child labour, child abuse, and unsafe schools are often an invisible, but very real problem.⁶⁹

The UN established a basic standard of human rights with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948.⁷⁰ These are the inalienable rights granted at birth to each global citizen where they are to live with dignity and

⁵⁷ Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1924, Humanium: Help the Children, <http://www.humanium.org/en/childrens-rights-history/references-on-child-rights/geneva-declaration/> (Accessed September 27, 2013).

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ The State of the World's Children, Special Edition, Celebrating 20 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/sowc/pdfs/SOWC_Spec%20Ed_CRC_Main%20Report_EN_090409.pdf (Accessed October 5, 2013)

⁶¹ Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1924, Humanium: Help the Children, <http://www.humanium.org/en/childrens-rights-history/references-on-child-rights/geneva-declaration/> (Accessed September 27, 2013).

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Our History, Save the Children, <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/about-us/history> (Accessed October 8, 2013).

⁶⁴ "The Nobel Peace Prize 1965 – The United Nations Children's Fund," Nobel Prize, http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1965/unicef-history.html (Accessed December 18, 2013)

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ "What We Do," UNICEF, <http://www.unicef.org/whatwedo/> (Accessed December 20, 2013).

⁶⁸ "Goodwill Ambassadors and Advocates." UNICEF. http://www.unicef.org/people/people_ambassadors.html (Accessed December 20, 2013).

⁶⁹ "#ENDviolence against children: Facts." UNICEF. <http://www.unicef.org/endviolence/facts.html> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

⁷⁰ "The human rights framework," Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, http://www.unicef.org/crc/index_framework.html (Accessed December 18, 2013).

to develop as such. For example, the UDHR states that everyone has the right to not be enslaved or tortured, the right to seek asylum in other countries, and the right to consensual marriages.⁷¹ The UDHR, in addition to six separate treaties, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the CRC make up the international human rights framework.⁷² And while the UDHR's standard of basic rights does apply to children as well as adults, the international community realized that because of the "special needs for protection" of children, an additional framework within the UDHR would be required to meet those needs.⁷³ This need for additional framework regarding children led to a revisiting of the Geneva Declaration, which would become the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child, and the CRC.

The first of the benchmark documents that addresses human rights for children that evolved out of the Geneva Declaration was the UN DRC, which reaffirmed an obligation to give children the absolute best the world has to give.⁷⁴ This new declaration expanded the original principles covered in the Geneva Declaration, doubling the fundamental areas addressed by its predecessor.⁷⁵ It also lists principles that focus on the provision and protection of children, both "before and after birth," a protection that was missing in the original Geneva Declaration.⁷⁶ Other notable additions to the revised UN DRC include the right to have a name and nationality, to remain within a stable family environment, to receive a free elementary education, and to be given special treatment and the appropriate education for those who have a disability.⁷⁷ The 78 Member States that then made up the UN GA at the time unanimously adopted the UN DRC on 20 November 1959.⁷⁸ Unfortunately, this declaration did not ensure that Member States would remain committed to upholding the standards set forth by the document. A lack of consequences for not adhering to these standards of children's rights meant no incentives for Member States to avoid violations.⁷⁹ It would be another three decades before a legally binding international instrument would be created to seal the loopholes of unaccountability left within the UN DRC.

The UN declared 1979 to be the International Year of the Child, hoping to bring awareness to the issues of children.⁸⁰ Inspired by this theme, the government of Poland drafted a convention on child rights, which was then submitted to the then UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), and replaced in 2006 by the UN Human Rights Council.⁸¹ Due to the complexities of the children's issues the convention sought to resolve, a working committee

⁷¹ "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights." United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/> (Accessed December 20, 2013).

⁷² "The human rights framework," Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, http://www.unicef.org/crc/index_framework.html (Accessed December 18, 2013).

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child, Adopted 26 September 1924, League of Nations, UN-Documents.net, <http://www.un-documents.net/gdrc1924.htm> (Accessed October 15, 2013).

⁷⁵ Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1959, Humanium: Help the Children, <http://www.humanium.org/en/childrens-rights-history/references-on-child-rights/declaration-rights-child/> (Accessed September 29, 2013).

⁷⁶ Declaration of the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1386 (XIV) of 10 December 1959, http://www.unicef.org/barbados/spmapping/Legal/global/General/declaration_child1959.pdf (Accessed September 16, 2013).

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1959, Humanium: Help the Children, <http://www.humanium.org/en/childrens-rights-history/references-on-child-rights/declaration-rights-child/> (Accessed September 29, 2013).

⁷⁹ "Understanding the Convention on the Rights of the Child," Children's rights, World Vision, https://www.worldvision.org.nz/media/72250/children_s_rights.pdf (Accessed October 31, 2013).

⁸⁰ The State of the World's Children, Special Edition, Celebrating 20 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/sowc/pdfs/SOWC_Spec%20Ed_CRC_Main%20Report_EN_090409.pdf (Accessed October 5, 2013).

⁸¹ Ibid.

that was established to review and revise the UNDRC, becoming the CRC.⁸² The revision of the treaty would take over ten years to complete.⁸³ The CRC sought to protect children, while protecting the sovereignty of Member States by defining the duration of childhood established in Article 1 as a human under “the age of 18 years old unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.”⁸⁴ The 54 articles address four core principles of children’s human rights—non-discrimination, devotion to the best interests of the child, the right to life, survival and development, and respect for the views of the child.⁸⁵ Two optional protocols work to address growing concern of the involvement of children in military conflicts, the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography.⁸⁶ These optional protocols were designed to complement the initial treaty. The first, focusing on child soldiers, required Member States to make the age of 18 the minimum age one can be recruited for military forces, and to prevent children from “taking a direct part in hostilities” by any means necessary.⁸⁷ The second optional protocol dealt with “serious violations of children’s rights,” such as the sexualisation of children through prostitution and pornography, as well as the sale of children.⁸⁸ Public awareness, criminalization, and international cooperation were the pillars of this second protocol.⁸⁹

This delicate balance is important because unlike the Geneva Declaration and the UN DRC, the CRC and its optional protocols are international legal tools that hold ratifying Member States accountable to their commitment in upholding the rights of the children.⁹⁰ Ratifying Member States are mandated to report consistently to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, made up of 18 independent experts that not only monitor implementation of the CRC and its Optional Protocols, and in the near future, a third proposed optional protocol that allows for the submission of complaints of rights’ violations by individual children, and assists Member States in the interpretation and application of the treaty.^{91,92} The CRC constitutes a myriad of duties including outlining minimum standards of the treatment and care of children, and deeming children as those who hold rights.⁹³ Ratifying Member States must uphold and recognize the importance that family plays in the development of a child, address steps to secure the family unit, and define a time for children to grow, play, learn, and develop.⁹⁴

In 1996, a report which would be come to be known as the Machel Report, named for its author, the former Minister of Education of Mozambique, GracaMachel, on the impact of armed conflict on children, was given to the UN GA.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ A/RES/44/25, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989, United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx> (Accessed November 18, 2013).

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ “Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.” Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, http://www.unicef.org/crc/index_protocols.html (Accessed December 27, 2013).

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ The State of the World’s Children, Special Edition, Celebrating 20 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/sowc/pdfs/SOWC_Spec%20Ed_CRC_Main%20Report_EN_090409.pdf (Accessed October 5, 2013).

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² “Monitoring children’s rights.” Committee on the Rights of the Child, United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIntro.aspx> (Accessed November 29, 2013).

⁹³ The State of the World’s Children, Special Edition, Celebrating 20 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/sowc/pdfs/SOWC_Spec%20Ed_CRC_Main%20Report_EN_090409.pdf (Accessed October 5, 2013).

⁹⁴ Ibid.

It revealed “the devastating impact of war on girls and boys.”⁹⁵ As a result, the GA passed a resolution that mandated the appointment of a Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict by the Secretary-General.⁹⁶ This representative serves in the office of the Secretary-General for three years.⁹⁷ While the Special Representative does no work on the ground, it does work as an advocate for children in areas of armed conflict by promoting partnerships amongst other organizations that can have a direct effect on the lives of children and partake in humanitarian actions and protect children.⁹⁸

More recently, a convention was held in 2007, in which Member States adopted the Paris commitments, aptly named for the city in which the convention took place, to create further protections for children from becoming recruited by armed forces, governmental or militias.⁹⁹ From this also came a steering group, which helps provides funding and advocacy for the governments and NGOs who seek to protect children from these violations of the CRC.¹⁰⁰

Despite the legally binding framework in place with the CRC, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as UNICEF working to protect them, children are one of the most vulnerable, and most exploited and abused, demographic worldwide.¹⁰¹ This calls into question the effectiveness of the DRC, the CRC, and to what extent the standards laid out by those documents are being met and enforced. Violations of those standards, in theory, call for consequences, yet child soldiers, child prostitutes, and the abuse and exploitation of children still exist and are common in various areas, especially those in areas of armed conflict and extreme poverty.

Children in Areas of Armed Conflict

Child Soldiers

According to a report from UNICEF, an estimated 300,000 children are directly affected by armed conflict across the globe.¹⁰² Most commonly, children partake in armed conflict as child combatants, or child soldiers. UNICEF’s working definition of a child soldier is “any child – boy or girl – under 18 years of age, who is part of any kind of regular or irregular armed force or armed group in any capacity...the definition does not only refer to a child who is carrying, or has carried weapons.”¹⁰³ It is estimated that around 50 Member States are in violation of the optional protocol on child soldiers and recruit children, sometimes as young as seven, to become a part of their militaries.¹⁰⁴ Child soldiers are often put on the front lines of conflict, drawing enemy fire or to check for landmines with a supply of soldiers that are easier to replace than the well trained adults in those groups.¹⁰⁵

⁹⁵ “The Machel Reports.” Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. <http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/about-us/the-machel-reports/> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

⁹⁶ “About Us.” Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. <http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/about-us/> (Accessed December 18, 2013)

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ “Paris principles and Paris commitments.” Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse, UNICEF, http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58012.html (Accessed December 18, 2013).

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ “Protecting children from violence, exploitation and abuse,” Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse, UNICEF. http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_57972.html (Accessed December 20, 2013).

¹⁰² “Factsheet: Child Soldiers,” UNICEF. <http://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/childsoldiers.pdf> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ “Child Soldiers,” United Nations CyberSchoolBus, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/briefing/soldiers/index.htm> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

¹⁰⁵ “Child Soldiers: What’s Going On.” United Nations CyberSchoolbus, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/childsoldiers/whatsgoingon/> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

Frequently, those who recruit child soldiers are non-state actors.¹⁰⁶ These non-state actor groups, frequently difficult to work with, with very clear goals in mind, and, especially those groups that recruit children, are often violent. This also makes solving the issue of child soldiers very difficult. Non-state actors do not act under a government, and at times do not recognize the legitimacy of those governments, and therefore do not operate under the laws and treaties put forth by that government.¹⁰⁷ These non-state actors are also difficult to bring to justice to face consequences of their violations because they are not an international body, and therefore action by the international community is a violation of state sovereignty.¹⁰⁸ At least 24 Member States have recognized non-state groups as having children in their ranks.¹⁰⁹ The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka, and the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda receive the most attention for their recruiting of children, participating in actions against the government of their home Member State. Alarming, in four different Member States, Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, and Pakistan, children have been reported being used as the key point in suicide attacks.¹¹⁰

Despite every Member State, except for Somalia and the United States of America, ratifying and signing the CRC, nine different Member States were still recruiting and using children actively in combat in armed forces as of 2008.¹¹¹ With the definition of child soldiers expanded to include spies and messengers, 14 Member States currently use children as spies or as a part of auxiliary forces.¹¹²

Combatants are not the only way that children fall under UNICEF's definition of soldier. The definition encompasses anything that involves a child in groups that partake in armed conflict, such as "messengers, porters and cooks."¹¹³ Children are often also used as spies, as they move much more easily into "enemy" territory without raising suspicion. This alone is a violation of the Optional Protocol of the CRC, which stipulates that one must reach at least the age of 18 before becoming involved in armed forces of any kind.

While campaigns, such as Invisible Children, seek to raise awareness about children fighting in combat, another violation of the CRC just as grave, but less publicised is the role that girls often play in armed forces. Of the 300,000 child soldiers worldwide, nearly 120,000 of these are girls.¹¹⁴ Girls often take on a much different role in the world of child soldiers. More often than not, girls involved in child soldiery are sex slaves, and frequently become the wives of adult male soldiers.¹¹⁵

¹⁰⁶ "Ten facts about child soldiers that everyone should know." The Independent. <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/ten-facts-about-child-soldiers-that-everyone-should-know-8427617.html> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

¹⁰⁷ Pearlman, Wendy and Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham. "Nonstate Actors, Fragmentation, and Conflict Processes." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 25 December 2011, <http://jcr.sagepub.com/content/56/1/3.full.pdf+html> (Accessed December 20, 2013).

¹⁰⁸ "Human Rights and Conflicts." United Nations, <http://www.un.org/rights/HRToday/hrconfl.htm> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

¹⁰⁹ "Child Soldiers Global Report 2008." Human Rights Watch Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. 2008, http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/Child_Soldiers_Global_Report_Summary.pdf (Accessed December 18, 2013).

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ "Factsheet: Child Soldiers," UNICEF. <http://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/childsoldiers.pdf> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ "Ten facts about child soldiers that everyone should know." The Independent. <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/ten-facts-about-child-soldiers-that-everyone-should-know-8427617.html> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

Children are a target of armed forces for several different reasons. The first of these being they do not require the resources that adult soldiers do.¹¹⁶ Children do not require the payment that adult combatants may require, nor the amount of food required to sustain them.¹¹⁷ The nature of a child who is still mentally developing is also easily manipulated by groups who employ children as soldiers. Children “don’t have a high developed sense of danger, making it all too easy to send them into the line of fire.”¹¹⁸ Those brought into the ranks of soldier and into conflict often do not understand the graveness of the situation in which they find themselves.¹¹⁹ Children also are a “constant supply” for armed groups, who tend to operate in regions where children account for the largest demographic of the population.¹²⁰

Child soldiers are most frequently found in regions of armed conflict. These regions tend to still be underdeveloped, with little infrastructure and unstable governments.¹²¹ Militia groups tend to appeal to children to convince them to join their ranks, such as the promise of being taken care of with food and shelter and improving their own lives, as well as sending money back to their families to help improve the situation at home.¹²² Very often, this is not the case. Children frequently do not live very long in these situations, with their fatality rates being much higher than that of the adults with which they serve.¹²³ These children often are forced to turn against their families and the communities in which they grew up, and attacking their own homes.¹²⁴ Displaced children in conflict zones or areas with little education available are more likely to join armed groups, seeing becoming soldiers as a means of survival.¹²⁵ “Economic, cultural, and political pressures” are crucial in influencing the decision to join armed groups.¹²⁶ But children do not always willingly join the ranks of armed groups. Children are at times sold into these groups, kidnapped, or intimidated into enlisting in these groups.¹²⁷

The trauma does not stop when these children become adults or stop being child soldiers. Though those that survive may continue to take part in these armed groups, those individuals often suffer from psychological trauma and rejection from homes they once knew.¹²⁸ Children who were soldiers often struggle with mental health problems, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, but also nightmares and depression.¹²⁹ Because of the trauma, these children often feel strong feelings of shame isolation, and at home are seen as untrustworthy. These children often are more

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ “Child Soldiers: What’s Going On.” United Nations Cyberschoolbus, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/childsoldiers/whatsgoingon/> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

¹²⁰ “Ten facts about child soldiers that everyone should know.” The Independent. <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/ten-facts-about-child-soldiers-that-everyone-should-know-8427617.html> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² “Child Soldiers: What’s Going On.” United Nations Cyberschoolbus, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/childsoldiers/whatsgoingon/> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

¹²³ “Ten facts about child soldiers that everyone should know.” The Independent. <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/ten-facts-about-child-soldiers-that-everyone-should-know-8427617.html> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ “Factsheet: Child Soldiers,” UNICEF. <http://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/childsoldiers.pdf> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ “Child Soldiers: What’s Going On.” United Nations Cyberschoolbus, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/childsoldiers/whatsgoingon/> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

¹²⁹ Ibid.

susceptible to abusing substance addiction, as well as abusive relationships. Girls are more likely to struggle with mental repercussion of their experience as child soldiers, and those who “have returned to their communities having unwanted pregnancies during their times with rebel groups” find it that much harder to be reaccepted into their homes and communities.¹³⁰ This involvement tends to decimate their future, having no education and therefore no knowledge or skill to serve in a world outside that of armed conflict.¹³¹

Progress has been made in efforts to reduce the number of child soldiers. A great deal of awareness has been brought to the public through campaigns such as Invisible Children, Save the Children and UNICEF, who raise money to help rescue children from the ranks of soldiery. Efforts earlier in the decade reduced the number of conflicts in which children were involved down by ten from the original 27 conflicts, though this could be more a reduction in conflicts than child soldiers themselves.¹³² When the frameworks already in place are implemented on a smaller scale and focus on a specific problematic region, Human Rights Watch argues those efforts tend to be much more effective.¹³³ Focus has also taken on a regional aspect, with the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) both establishing frameworks to help combat child soldiery.¹³⁴ In Sub-Saharan African, the rescue of tens of thousands of child soldiers has occurred since 2004.¹³⁵ Minimum age requirements as set forth by the CRC have been made law in at least half of the Member States worldwide.¹³⁶ But UNICEF and Human Rights Watch would both argue that “real protection requires redoubling of effort.”¹³⁷ While efforts towards ending child soldiery have been made, Member States and non-state actors alike are still recruiting, and abusing, children by using them in armed conflict. This is a clear violation of the CRC, of which 191 Member States have ratified and it still remains a problem.

Child Refugees

With armed conflict often come refugees and displaced persons. Every day in 2012, an average of 23,000 people became refugees, forced to “leave their homes and seek protection elsewhere.”¹³⁸ Children make up over half of refugee populations in most situations.¹³⁹ Of these children, females account for 48 per cent of those refugees.¹⁴⁰ Refugee children are often effected physically and psychologically as a result of the “sudden and violent onset of emergencies,” the sharply reduced amount of resources, and the “disruption of families and community

¹³⁰ “Life after death: Helping former child soldiers become whole again.” Harvard School of Public Health. Fall 2011, <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/magazine/child-soldiers-betancourt/> (Accessed December 20, 2013)

¹³¹ “Child Soldiers: What’s Going On.” United Nations Cyberschoolbus, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/childsoldiers/whatsgoingon/> (Accessed December 18, 2013).

¹³² “Child Soldiers Global Report 2008.” Human Rights Watch Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. 2008, http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/Child_Soldiers_Global_Report_Summary.pdf (Accessed December 18, 2013).

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ Ibid.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ “Facts and Figures about Refugees.” UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency, <http://www.unhcr.org.uk/about-us/key-facts-and-figures.html> (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹³⁹ “Refugee Children: Guidelines on Protection and Care.” UNICEF. http://www.unicef.org/violencestudy/pdf/refugee_children_guidelines_on_protection_and_care.pdf (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁴⁰ “Facts and Figures about Refugees.” UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency, <http://www.unhcr.org.uk/about-us/key-facts-and-figures.html> (Accessed December 21, 2013).

structures.”¹⁴¹ Children on their own already have special needs, but child refugees are especially at risk.¹⁴² Their safety is in greater danger than that of an average child. Refugee children are, at times, separated from their families. Not only does this have an effect on these children psychologically, but children rely on their parents for their entire well-being, physically and socially as well as psychologically.¹⁴³ The disturbance in their lives often causes a delay in development due to the interruption in the development sequence.¹⁴⁴

The current civil war in Syria has created nearly 2.2 million refugees, and “children have been particularly affected.”¹⁴⁵ Most refugees of the conflict have been displaced into Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and Iraq.¹⁴⁶ Of these refugees, 70,000 have fled without patriarchs, and around 3,700 children are displaced without either parent and, for most, no idea as to the whereabouts of their parents.¹⁴⁷ These children are then forced to be labourers, with “children as young as seven working long hours for little pay” just to survive.¹⁴⁸ Being displaced often means a disruption in children’s education. “We are not being educated,” 14 year old refugee, Nadia, told CNN, “and without education there is nothing.”¹⁴⁹ As of 2013, over half of Syrian children were out of school, and “it is estimated that 200,000 school-aged Syrian refugee children could remain out of school at the end of the year.”¹⁵⁰

The Syrian refugee crisis highlights many of the effects that being displaced has on children. Not only are their lives disrupted, a trauma unto itself, but being forced into labour, not receiving an education, and, for children born to parents of refugees, not having a nationality.¹⁵¹ These are things that the DRC and the CRC fought to prevent. Yet, these violations of the declarations to protect children are a result of armed conflict, and not of a particular group or Member State’s voluntary violation. Though the UNHCR does what it can to create refugee camps and help children with the difficulties faced by refugees, it does not solve the initial problem that conflicts cause for children.¹⁵²

Children in Areas of Extreme Poverty

Child Labourers

Families in areas of extreme poverty often find themselves desperately looking for ways of combating and alleviating that poverty, and often this means children have to go to work. For one sixth of the world’s children, this means becoming child labourers.¹⁵³ 246 million children across the globe, with the largest concentrated area being 127.3 million children in the Asia and Pacific region, are considered child labourers.¹⁵⁴ India is recognised by the UN as the “world’s capitol of child’s labour” with 20 percent of its economy reliant on the labour of children, commonly

¹⁴¹ “Refugee Children: Guidelines on Protection and Care.” UNICEF. http://www.unicef.org/violencestudy/pdf/refugee_children_guidelines_on_protection_and_care.pdf (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁴² Ibid.

¹⁴³ Ibid.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

¹⁴⁵ Gumuchian, Marie-Louise. “Syria’s refugee children: Alone, ‘in crisis,’ UN report says.” CNN. 29 November 2013, <http://www.cnn.com/2013/11/29/world/meast/syria-children-refugees-report/> (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

¹⁵² Ibid.

¹⁵³ “Child Labour.” UNICEF New Zealand, <https://www.unicef.org.nz/schoolroom/child-labour> (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁵⁴ Ibid.

in the form of sweat shops.¹⁵⁵ And despite children going to work to help alleviate poverty, nearly 70 percent of these children end up not being paid.¹⁵⁶ Almost a third of children in sub-Saharan Africa are forced to be “economically active.”¹⁵⁷ The ILO defines child labour as “work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.”¹⁵⁸ The ILO would argue that only work that “is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children and interferes with their schooling” is child labour, while participation in work that does not meet any of the aforementioned qualifiers is not exploitative or negative.¹⁵⁹ According to the figures published by the World Bank, girls make up more of the child labour force than boys.¹⁶⁰ Girls often find themselves working more hours than their male counterparts, and are often paid much less than boys in the same type of work.¹⁶¹ 70 percent of child labourers work in the agricultural sector.¹⁶² This sector includes farming, and fishing and hunting.¹⁶³ Seven percent of children are involved in industrial labour, such as mining and construction, and approximately 25 percent work in services, such as retail, transport, and restaurants and hotels.¹⁶⁴ The worst forms of child labour often include children being forced into slavery or prostitution, used in pornographic productions, and drug trafficking.¹⁶⁵

The exploitation of children puts child labourers into horrible situations. 171 million of the children involved in child labour work in deplorable conditions, “including working in mines, working with chemicals and pesticides in agriculture or with dangerous machinery.”¹⁶⁶ Millions of girls labour domestically, as servants and also often as other forms of unpaid household help. These girls are “especially vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.”¹⁶⁷

20 percent of children suffer from illness or injury as a result of labour.¹⁶⁸ While some cease work as a result, most children continue working through injuries. This can cause permanent damage and often “jeopardize their development and future ability to study or work.”¹⁶⁹ UNICEF considers this, and child labour as a whole, as “the

¹⁵⁵ McDougall, Dan. “Indian ‘slave children found making low-cost clothes destined for Gap.” The Guardian, 27 October 2007, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2007/oct/28/ethicalbusiness.retail> (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁵⁶ “Facts and figures on child labour.” World Bank. <http://info.worldbank.org/etools/docs/library/237384/toolkitfr/pdf/facts.pdf> (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁵⁷ Factsheet: Child Labour.” UNICEF, http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/child_labour.pdf (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁵⁸ “What is child labour.” International Labour Organization. <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/index.htm> (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁵⁹ Ibid.

¹⁶⁰ “Facts and figures on child labour.” World Bank, <http://info.worldbank.org/etools/docs/library/237384/toolkitfr/pdf/facts.pdf> (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁶² Factsheet: Child Labour.” UNICEF, http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/child_labour.pdf (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁶³ “What is child labour.” International Labour Organization. <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/index.htm> (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁶⁴ Ibid.

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶⁶ Factsheet: Child Labour.” UNICEF. http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/child_labour.pdf (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

¹⁶⁸ “Facts and figures on child labour.” World Bank. <http://info.worldbank.org/etools/docs/library/237384/toolkitfr/pdf/facts.pdf> (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

world's systematic failure to protect" children, and despite their cooperation with organizations such as the ILO, child labour still persists in much of the world.

A group of child labour that garners less attention than children in mines or sweatshops are child migrant workers. The ILO estimates that there are around 900 million migrants worldwide, with "1 in 8 persons" being considered a migrant worker.¹⁷⁰ Of this large population of migrant workers that operate within Member States and internationally, youth from the ages of 12 to 24 make up almost a third of migrant labour in developing Member States.¹⁷¹ The number of migrant children is expected to grow in the near future, to accommodate shifts in demographics, economies, conflicts, governments, and climate change.¹⁷² Concurrent with child labourer numbers, most child migrants work in the agricultural sector.¹⁷³ Migrating can cause serious issues for children for several different reasons. Children face challenges when "migrat[ing] without proper documents and/or without their families."¹⁷⁴ These children often face social exclusion, and lack access to education and healthcare.¹⁷⁵ Children working as migrant labours often work in "poor and hazardous conditions."¹⁷⁶ These children also are at a higher risk for being exploited as child labourers.¹⁷⁷ Poor treatment, little pay, and higher death rates of child migrant workers than regular, local, child labourers is common.¹⁷⁸ Yet in debates on child labour, the protection of child migrant workers often goes ignored. The policies to protect these children just do not exist, disregarding the clause of the CRC that gives children protection against discrimination based on the demographics of themselves or their parents.¹⁷⁹

Homeless Children

According to UNICEF, homeless, or "street," children are a paradox.¹⁸⁰ On one hand, these children are "among the most physically visible of all children," because of their presence on streets in their day to day lives.¹⁸¹ But on the other hand, they are invisible, often "ignored, shunned and excluded."¹⁸² These children usually do not have access to healthcare, or to education. The number of children on the street worldwide is impossible to quantify, and estimates range anywhere from ten to one hundred million.¹⁸³ Whatever the number of street children that currently exist is, this number is expected to grow with the global population and urbanization rapidly increasing.¹⁸⁴ These

¹⁷⁰"Migration and child labour." International Labour Organization. http://www.ilo.org/ipec/areas/Migration_and_CL/lang-en/index.htm (Accessed December 22, 2013).

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

¹⁷² Ibid.

¹⁷³ Ibid.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ "Children and migration." UNICEF, http://www.gfmd.org/documents/brussels/gfmd_brussels07_contribution_unicef_children_and_migration_en.pdf (Accessed December 22, 2013).

¹⁷⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷⁷ "Migration and child labour." International Labour Organization. http://www.ilo.org/ipec/areas/Migration_and_CL/lang-en/index.htm (Accessed December 22, 2013).

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

¹⁷⁹ Ibid.

¹⁸⁰ Street Children, The State of the World's Children 2006: Excluded and Invisible, UNICEF, <http://www.unicef.org/sowc06/profiles/street.php> (Accessed August 27, 2013).

¹⁸¹ Ibid.

¹⁸² Ibid.

¹⁸³ Ibid.

¹⁸⁴ Ibid.

children are often not orphans, and frequently are runaways as a result of abusive situations at home.¹⁸⁵ Family breakdown or financial destitution, natural disasters, and drug and alcohol abuse are other reasons that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) lists as common reasons for children finding themselves on the street.¹⁸⁶ While boys are more frequent amongst street children, those on the street long-term tend to be girls.¹⁸⁷ Some children manage to find small jobs, “such as shoe-shining or market selling,” to survive, while others end up “scavenging, begging, [or] hawking in the slums.”¹⁸⁸

As often these children take to the streets to seek refuge from abusive situations, street children are frequently victims of “abuse, exploitation and vigilante or police violence.”¹⁸⁹ Street children often die on the street, “victims of gang rivalry and disease.”¹⁹⁰ Street children have an increased risk of violence worldwide.¹⁹¹ Boys are often outwardly violent, being the aggressors of violence, while girls are more likely to “internalize violence” through “ongoing abuse and victimization,” and are more likely than their male counterparts to be victims of sexual violence.¹⁹² This violence in which street children are the victims are often ignored by law enforcement, and sometimes police are the perpetrating party of this violence.¹⁹³ The life expectancy of street children is very low, and without education, those that make it to adulthood face a very difficult future.¹⁹⁴

Street children often are not beneficiaries of many of the rights of the CRC or the DRC. The right to be protected from violence, the right to education, and the right to development at its fullest are just a few examples of how children living on the streets are “far removed from the childhood envisioned in the CRC.”¹⁹⁵

Case Study: Child Soldiers in Uganda

In 1988 in northern Uganda, a rebel group began a campaign of violence across the country, hoping “to remove the government of Yoweri Museveni, the Ugandan president, and rule the country on the Biblical Ten Commandments.”¹⁹⁶ This group, led by Joseph Kony, would come to be known for its use of child soldiers.

¹⁸⁵ Ibid.

¹⁸⁶ “Street Children.” Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/fight-against-discrimination/education-of-children-in-need/street-children/> (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁸⁷ Street Children, The State of the World’s Children 2006: Excluded and Invisible, UNICEF, <http://www.unicef.org/sowc06/profiles/street.php> (Accessed August 27, 2013).

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

¹⁸⁹ “Street Children.” Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/fight-against-discrimination/education-of-children-in-need/street-children/> (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁹⁰ Street Children, The State of the World’s Children 2006: Excluded and Invisible, UNICEF, <http://www.unicef.org/sowc06/profiles/street.php> (Accessed August 27, 2013).

¹⁹¹ Thomas de Benitez, Sarah. “State of the World’s Street Children: Violence.” Consortium for Street Children. http://www.streetchildren.org.uk/uploads/publications/state_of_the_world_-_violence.pdf (Accessed December 21, 2013).

¹⁹² Ibid.

¹⁹³ Street Children, The State of the World’s Children 2006: Excluded and Invisible, UNICEF, <http://www.unicef.org/sowc06/profiles/street.php> (Accessed August 27, 2013).

¹⁹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁹⁶ “Profile: The Lord’s Resistance Army.” Al Jazeera. 15 March 2012. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2011/10/2011101418364196576.html> (Accessed December 23, 2013).

Though its numbers have decreased over time, since it began, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has abducted and forced into its ranks somewhere around 30,000 children.¹⁹⁷ For 18 years, the LRA committed atrocities across Uganda, raiding villages and attacking and killing civilians.¹⁹⁸ During its reign of terror, most of the atrocities committed by this rebel group were by children. The LRA, at its peak, was made up of 90 percent children.¹⁹⁹ Most of those in the ranks of the LRA were abducted, adults and children alike.²⁰⁰ These children acted as "soldiers, servants, or sex slaves" for the LRA in northern Uganda.²⁰¹ A fourth of those abducted were female, who often became wives to the upper brass of the LRA.²⁰² Not only is this a case of child soldiers, but because of violence of the LRA, 1.6 million people became refugees, forced to live in overcrowded camps. Half of those refugees were children.²⁰³

While non-state actors are tough to punish under the CRC, and the LRA is a non-state actor that has definitely violated the CRC, there is an international body that has sought to bring the leaders of the LRA to justice. The Rome Statute, established on 17 July 1998, created the International Criminal Court (ICC).²⁰⁴ Unlike the International Court of Justice (ICJ), to which Member States are subject, the ICC can prosecute individuals.²⁰⁵ In 2005, the ICC issued a warrant for the arrest of five of the LRA's commanders, including Joseph Kony. The five were charged with war crimes, such as murder and cruel treatment of civilians and rape and the recruitment of children, and crimes against humanity, such as enslavement and serious bodily injury.²⁰⁶ Between the four commanders still at large, one having died in 2006, the upper echelons of the LRA are "allegedly criminally responsible" for 82 different counts of violations of human rights.²⁰⁷

While the four members of the LRA charged by the ICC are still at large, the charges against them are pressed by an international body, meaning the violations of non-state actors do not always have to go unpunished. The Rome Statute allows for the trial and, if guilty, punishment, of individuals, including non-state actors, involved in human rights violations.

Conclusion

The CRC and the DRC were both written with the vision of protecting the world's children, as well as promoting the best development for them. Proclaiming "mankind owes the child the best it has to give," the spirit of the DRC

¹⁹⁷ Polly Curtis and Tom McCarthy. "Kony 2012: What's the real story?" 8 March 2012. <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/reality-check-with-polly-curtis/2012/mar/08/kony-2012-what-s-the-story> (Accessed December 23, 2013).

¹⁹⁸ "Uganda: Child Soldiers at the centre of mounting humanitarian crisis." United Nations. <http://www.un.org/events/tenstories/06/story.asp?storyID=100> (Accessed December 23, 2013).

¹⁹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰⁰ Yasmin Anwar. "Damning report on Uganda war crimes." UC Berkeley. 15 June 2007. http://berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2007/06/15_LRA.shtml (Accessed December 23, 2013).

²⁰¹ Ibid.

²⁰² Ibid.

²⁰³ "Uganda: Child Soldiers at the centre of mounting humanitarian crisis." United Nations. <http://www.un.org/events/tenstories/06/story.asp?storyID=100> (Accessed December 23, 2013).

²⁰⁴ "What is the Rome Statute?" International Criminal Court. http://www.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/icc/about%20the%20court/frequently%20asked%20questions/Pages/3.aspx (Accessed December 23, 2013).

²⁰⁵ "What is the International Criminal Court?" International Criminal Court. http://www.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/icc/about%20the%20court/frequently%20asked%20questions/Pages/1.aspx (Accessed December 23, 2013).

²⁰⁶ "Uganda." International Criminal Court. http://www.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/icc/situations%20and%20cases/situations/situation%20icc%200204/related%20cases/icc%200204%200105/Pages/uganda.aspx (Accessed December 23, 2013).

²⁰⁷ Ibid.

sought to protect children and make for those children the best available life and development possible.²⁰⁸ However, children in areas of armed conflict and extreme poverty seem to be missing key aspects of the rights with which they are supposed to have been born.

Many children find themselves without the basic necessities needed for survival and development. Children are the most vulnerable in areas of extreme poverty and armed conflict, finding themselves abused and exploited as a result of their situations. Children find themselves as soldiers, as labourers, as refugees, and on the streets. And while adults face many of the same issues in these areas, the special needs that come with being a child often make these situations harsher and with later consequences on the children forced into these situations. Development and education become impeded when other aspects of their life are more pressing, such as working in order to provide for their families or fleeing from a violent area.

The ideals encompassed in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set forth by the UN through A/RES/55/2 play much of the same key of those ideals in the human rights of children. The eradication of extreme poverty, the achievement of universal primary education, and the reduction of child mortality are all clear, concise goals that the UN set forth to meet by 2015.²⁰⁹ The human rights violations of children in areas of extreme poverty and armed conflict are the issues that are at the heart of the MDGs. Human dignity and sustainable development are overarching themes of the MDGs, and neither of these can be achieved as long as human rights violations, especially those against children, are occurring.²¹⁰ A sustainable future for the international community cannot occur without a sustainable future for the world's children.

Enforcement of the conditions in the CRC can be difficult. Non-state actors, natural disasters, and conflict that causes disruption and movement do not often operate under the laws of international bodies or of governments. Children face the unfortunate consequences of these things, but protection from them is difficult. The CRC was designed to hold Member States responsible for the rights children were given within their borders, but when the cause of those violations to those rights are not signatories, it becomes difficult to impose consequences for violations of children's rights.

The General Assembly is the largest body of the UN, and the most representative.²¹¹ Within it are Member States who find these problems within their borders to one degree or another, with situations unique to those Member States. These Member States have individual solutions and answers to the problems children face in areas of armed conflict and extreme poverty. Cultural and social differences may make finding a uniform solution to combating these problems, but in the words of former Goodwill Ambassador and current special envoy for the UNHCR and actress, Angelina Jolie, "the world must act to save a generation of traumatized, isolated, and suffering... children from catastrophe."²¹² The children in these areas face dire circumstances, and these children that fall further and further behind in a developing world.

Committee Directive

It is the directive of this committee to assess the current situations of children in areas armed conflict and extreme poverty, and the violation of their basic human rights in those arenas. The committee will need to examine the DRC and CRC and determine if these documents suffice as to international law on the rights of children. Further, the committee is charged with examining the violations of those human rights, and with how those violations are being dealt. How will the committee deal with violators that do not operate under Member States, such as non-state actors? How will the committee combat the recruitment of child soldiers? How will child labour be eradicated? Further, how will the worst cases of this such as child trafficking and prostitution, be dealt with? Should there be

²⁰⁸ Declaration of the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1386 (XIV) of 10 December 1959, http://www.unicef.org/barbados/spmapping/Legal/global/General/declaration_child1959.pdf (Accessed September 16, 2013).

²⁰⁹ "Eight Goals for 2015." United Nations Development Programme. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/> (Accessed December 21, 2013).

²¹⁰ Ibid.

²¹¹ "General Assembly of the United Nations." United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/> (Accessed December 21, 2013).

²¹² Gumuchian, Marie-Louise. "Syria's refugee children: Alone, 'in crisis,' UN report says." CNN. 29 November 2013. <http://www.cnn.com/2013/11/29/world/meast/syria-children-refugees-report/> (Accessed December 21, 2013).

separate legislation for those issues? How will child refugees have their basic needs met, ranging from survival to development and education? How can violence against and amongst street children be helped? And more importantly, how can those children be taken off the streets? Is the Rome Statute enough to bring non-state actors to justice for their violations of the human rights of children? Delegates should site specific declarations and statements outlined in this guide in order to find ways to combat the violations of human rights for children in these dire situations. Delegates should also review specific instances of these situations both in their own Member States and in others, in order to better assess the current situation in hopes of finding better solutions.

Topic II: UN Peacekeeping: Adapting to New and Current Economic Challenges

“On this International Day of UN Peacekeepers, let us pay tribute to the men and women from countries across the world who serve selflessly, tirelessly and fearlessly in UN peacekeeping operations. Let us remember the heroes who have laid down their lives in lands far from their own in the service of peace. And let us reaffirm our commitment to building a world free from the scourge of war.”²¹³

—*Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations*
29 May 2006

Introduction

Following the scourge of war that emanated from World Wars I and II, the United Nations (UN) was built and chartered in 1945 on the premise, above all of “unit[ing] our strength to maintain international peace and security.”²¹⁴To this end, peacekeeping has not only been at the forefront of the United Nations’ mission and mandate as set forth in the preamble of the UN Charter but it continues to be an issue of international importance as peace is imperative to ensure that global community coexist in a safe and secure world.²¹⁵ Indeed, by its very nature, peacekeeping occurs in the most fractious environments, physically as well as politically, around the world. Through these efforts, the global community “co-operate[s] in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character.”²¹⁶

The importance and protection of human rights highlighted in many distinct documents of the UN such as but not limited to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Declarations shows that human rights is one of the upmost important issues among the international community yet forces for combating injustice such as peacekeeping operations, do not receive the adequate support needed to function properly.²¹⁷ Suggested budgets approved through the General Assembly Fifth Committee and then put into action by Security Council resolutions, peacekeeping operations are unique in not only their individual mandates but also in their individual needs making countless challenges for peacekeeping operations in total.²¹⁸ Many of the different challenges seen by current peacekeeping operations lie within not enough field support, materials, and equipment among other things but a root problem of peacekeeping lies within a limited budget and arrears due based on the scale of assessments as set forth in A/RES/55/235.²¹⁹ Though each Member State of the UN is obliged to pay its portion of the scale of assessments

²¹³ SG/SM/10471, “Secretary-General, observing international day of United Nations peacekeepers, lauds growing confidence in organization’s ability to restore stability; He Pays Tribute to ‘Selfless, Tireless, Fearless’ Heroes, Fallen While Serving Cause of Peace in Lands Far From Their Own Homes,” 29 May 2006, United Nations, http://www.un.org/en/events/peacekeepersday/2006/SG_message06.pdf (Accessed August 5, 2013).

²¹⁴ “Preamble,” Charter of the United Nations, 26 June 1945, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/preamble.shtml> (Accessed August 1, 2013).

²¹⁵ *Ibid.*

²¹⁶ Chapter I Article 1, Charter of the United Nations, 26 June 1945, United Nations, <http://un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter1.shtml> (Accessed September 20, 2013).

²¹⁷ “United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines,” 2008, United Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations, http://pbpu.unlb.org/pbps/Library/Capstone_Doctrine_ENG.pdf (Accessed November 26, 2013).

²¹⁸ *Ibid.*

²¹⁹ A/RES/55/235, Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations, 30 January 2001, <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N00/573/25/PDF/N0057325.pdf?OpenElement> (Accessed November 11, 2013).

such is not the case. Although the current budget of 7.54 billion USD was approved for 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, there still remains to be outstanding contributions of 3.32 billion USD.²²⁰

As highlighted in *A New Partnership Agenda: Chartering a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping Operations*, “United Nations peacekeeping is now at a crossroads.²²¹ The scale and complexity of peacekeeping today are straining its personnel, administrative and support machinery.²²² New political, military and financial challenges threaten to erode the unity of vision and purpose of the global peacekeeping partnership.²²³ A renewed partnership and a shared agenda are essential to ensuring that UN peacekeeping can meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.”²²⁴ Considering that there are 15 on-going peacekeeping missions and one special political mission in operation today, it is inherently vital that the international community not only looks at how to solve the outlook on current peacekeeping missions but further try to be prepared for future peacekeeping missions to come.²²⁵

History

Following the creation of the UN, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948, which vows that as an international community, atrocities such as World War I and II would never happen again.²²⁶ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights opens with the preamble stating “Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world” showing that peace is mandatory in the establishment of a world where every person’s rights are granted, respected and acknowledged.²²⁷ To this end, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the first document of its kind to “respect the rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and those territories under their jurisdiction.”²²⁸

Occurring around the time of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the General Assembly adopted a plan for a two state solution partitioning Palestine and creating both an Arab and Jewish state, with Jerusalem to be placed under international status.²²⁹ The plan proposed however by the GA was not acceptable for the Palestinian Arabs and Arab States, shortly thereafter on 14 May 1948; the United Kingdom renounced its command over Palestine and proclaimed the state of Israel.²³⁰ The day following, hostilities opened against Israel and the SC through the adoption of resolution 50 (1948) called for the deployment of military observers to the Middle East through their first mission, later known as the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).²³¹ The UNTSO was

²²⁰ “Peacekeeping Fact Sheet,” United Nations Peacekeeping, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/factsheet.shtml> (Accessed December 1, 2013).

²²¹ “A New Partnership Agenda: Chartering a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping,” Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support, July 2009, United Nations, Pg. ii of 45, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/newhorizon.pdf> (Accessed July 31, 2013).

²²² Ibid.

²²³ Ibid.

²²⁴ Ibid.

²²⁵ Ibid.

²²⁶ “History,” The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/history.shtml> (Accessed November 29, 2013).

²²⁷ “Preamble,” The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/> (Accessed November 29, 2013).

²²⁸ Ibid.

²²⁹ “UNTSO Background,” UNTSO, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, United Nations Peacekeeping, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/untso/background.shtml> (Accessed September 16, 2013).

²³⁰ Ibid.

²³¹ Ibid.

established to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors.²³² Thereafter, following the years past 1948, the region has continued to have land disputes and has had several wars including that of 1956, 1967, and 1973, thus changing the functions of the UNTSO over the course of time but “in light of changing circumstances, they remained in the area, acting as go-betweens for the hostile parties and as the means by which isolated incidents could be contained and prevented from escalating into major conflicts.”²³³ Since then the UN has deployed 68 other peacekeeping operations, of which 55 of them have been established after 1988.²³⁴

Another document created on the cusp of a need for international peace and security was the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their three Additional Protocols, two from 1977 and the last from 2005.²³⁵ Initially created to protect combatants such as wounded and sick soldiers, the fourth Geneva Convention provides for the protection of civilians during wartime.²³⁶ Highlighting Article 3 of the fourth Geneva Convention which, states that “persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed ‘hors de combat’ by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction founded on race, colour [color], religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth, or any other similar criteria.”²³⁷ To this end, the Geneva conventions of 1949 and the additional protocols have been key documents in the field of peacekeeping as it allows for the protection of the most vulnerable populations during wartime and or armed conflict.²³⁸

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) of the UN traces its roots back to 1948 with the creations of the first UN peacekeeping operation, UNTSO.²³⁹ Previously under the guise of the UN Office of Special Political Affairs until 1992 when former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali created the organization, the DPKO provides political and executive direction to UN Peacekeeping operations globally and maintains a relationship with the SC, troop, financial contributors, and parties to the conflict in the implementation of SC mandates.²⁴⁰ The DPKO consists of four main offices including the Office of Operations, the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions, the Office of Military Affairs and the Policy Evaluation and Training Division.²⁴¹ Each of these offices is tasked with different roles such as but not limited to providing political and strategic policy, operational guidance and support to the various missions, strength the links and coordinate the DPKO’s activities in the areas of police, justice and corrections, mine action, and more.²⁴²

²³² “History of peacekeeping,” United Nations Peacekeeping, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/history.shtml> (Accessed July 31, 2013).

²³³ “UNTSO Background,” UNTSO, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, United Nations Peacekeeping, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/untso/background.shtml> (Accessed September 16, 2013).

²³⁴ “History of peacekeeping,” United Nations Peacekeeping, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/history.shtml> (Accessed July 31, 2013).

²³⁵ “The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols,” The International Committee of the Red Cross <http://www.icrc.org/eng/war-and-law/treaties-customary-law/geneva-conventions/overview-geneva-conventions.htm> (Accessed August 23, 2013).

²³⁶ Ibid.

²³⁷ “Article 3 of Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field. Geneva, 12 August 1949,” International Committee of the Red Cross <http://www.icrc.org/ihl.nsf/WebART/365-570006?OpenDocument> (Accessed November 17, 2013).

²³⁸ Ibid.

²³⁹ “Department of Peacekeeping Operations,” United Nations Peacekeeping, <https://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/about/dpko/> (Accessed December 19, 2013).

²⁴⁰ Ibid.

²⁴¹ Ibid.

²⁴² Ibid.

Similar to the DPKO, the Department of Field Support (DFS) also of the UN was created to help organize the various peacekeeping operations created through the 68 and continuing years of the UN.²⁴³ The DFS was created to support the areas of finance, logistics, information, communication, technology, human resources and general administration to help missions promote peace and security.²⁴⁴ Headed by Ms. Ameerah Haq of Bangladesh, the DFS is also broken down into various offices such as but not limited to the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General, Field Personnel Division, Field Budget and Finance division as well as the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi.²⁴⁵ Tasked with providing dedicated support to peacekeeping field missions and political field missions, the DFS is crucial for the effectiveness to a large degree of the logistical success of the peacekeeping missions.²⁴⁶ Such tasks of the DFS include providing rations to feed troops, air transport, well-trained staff, etc.²⁴⁷ All of these tasks entrusted on the DFS are crucial more than anything in today's limited budget and expanding mission base.

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations established by GA resolution 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965 was created to conduct comprehensive reviews of all issues relating to peacekeeping.²⁴⁸ The Special Committee is comprised of 147 Member States, mostly past or current contributors to peacekeeping operations, and falls under the guise of the GA Fourth Committee also known as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.²⁴⁹ Other observers of the Special Committee include the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the African Union (AU).²⁵⁰ The most recent report of the Special Committee was done on 11 September 2012, A/66/19, where such issues as safety and security and cooperation with regional arrangements were discussed.²⁵¹

Other highlights of Peacekeeping include the creation of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers observed every year on May 29th, the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to UN peacekeepers in 1988, and the "Year in Review" publication released every year detailing the successes and failures of current and past peacekeeping missions. Designated under A/RES/57/129 of 24 February 2003, the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is "observed annual to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in UN peacekeeping operations for their level of professionalism, dedication and courage, and to honor the memory those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace."²⁵² Awarded in Oslo on 29 September 1988, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the Peacekeeping Forces of the UN for "voluntarily take [taking] on a demanding and hazardous services in the cause of peace."²⁵³ Lastly, the Year in Review publications by UN Peacekeeping is the main publication that is utilized to read about the key events that shaped each year and grants insight in to the

²⁴³ "Department of Field Support," United Nations Peacekeeping, <https://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/about/dfs/> (Accessed October 5, 2013).

²⁴⁴ Ibid.

²⁴⁵ Ibid.

²⁴⁶ "Field Support," United Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/fieldsupport.shtml> (Accessed October 31, 2013).

²⁴⁷ Ibid.

²⁴⁸ Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, General Assembly and Peacekeeping, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/ctte/CTTEE.htm> (Accessed November 17, 2013).

²⁴⁹ Ibid.

²⁵⁰ Ibid.

²⁵¹ A/66/19, Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, 11 September 2013, General Assembly, United Nations, http://www.unric.org/it/images/Report_of_the_Special_Committee_on_Peacekeeping_Operations_-_Sept_2012.pdf (Accessed September 15, 2013).

²⁵² A/RES/57/129, International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, 24 February 2003, General Assembly, United Nations http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/57/129 (Accessed September 15, 2013).

²⁵³ "The Nobel Peace Prize 1988: United Nations Peacekeeping Forces," Nobel Prize, http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1988/press.html (Accessed October 18, 2013).

peacekeeping world.²⁵⁴ Key articles of the 2012 Year in Review include such as but not limited to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF): Challenged like never before, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA): Positioning itself for post 2014 and the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO): Challenges in pursuit of the peace process.²⁵⁵ Other publications also done by the United Nations Peacekeeping include UN Police which is produced twice a year, the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration publication of 2010, an annual look at the UN's work on developing and ameliorating corrections systems, a Justice Review also done annually and the 2012 Security Sector Reform publication.²⁵⁶

²⁵⁴ "Publications," United Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/publications.shtml> (Accessed August 18, 2013).

²⁵⁵ "2012: Year in Review," Publications, United Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/publications/yir/yir2012.pdf> (Accessed August 26, 2013).

²⁵⁶ "Publications," United Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/publications.shtml> (Accessed August 18, 2013).

UN Actions

The General Assembly (GA) of the UN has six subcommittees that each performs a variety of administrative functions. Of the six subcommittees it is the purview of the GA Fifth Committee, also known as the Administrative and Budgetary committee, to set the budget for Peacekeeping Operations each fiscal year running from July to June.²⁵⁷ The Peacekeeping Operations budget is financed through mandatory fees paid by all Member States as set forth in Chapter IV: The General Assembly, Article 17, sub-article 2 of the UN Charter which specifically states “The expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly.”²⁵⁸ The assessed fee is different for each Member State, and it is based on the scale of assessments as set forth in A/RES/55/235; Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of UN peacekeeping operations, used to issue the Regular Budget.²⁵⁹ The five permanent Member States of the Security Council (SC), China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, each pay a surcharge atop their fee assessment.²⁶⁰ As stated in clause 5 of A/RES/55/235 “Decides also that the permanent members of the Security Council should form a separate level and that, consistent with their special responsibilities for the maintenance of peace and security, they should be assessed at a higher rate than for the regular budget.”²⁶¹ Article 10 of A/RES/55/235 creates the ten levels of contribution and parameters for the rates of assessment based on average per capital gross national product of all Member States.²⁶² While the cost of peacekeeping continues to rise, however, it “is far cheaper than the alternative, which is war.”²⁶³ In a 2004 Parliamentary Hearing at the UN, it was disclosed that in the year 2003, Member States spent a total of 2.6 billion USD in the execution of UN peacekeeping while simultaneously expending 794 billion USD on ascertaining arms.²⁶⁴

Since 1948, the SC has authorized the launch of 68 peacekeeping operations.²⁶⁵ This has resulted in a necessary budgetary increase and the resulting debt.²⁶⁶ Though every Member State is required to pay dues for peacekeeping, as laid out in Article 17 of the UN Charter, many have been unable to do so resulting in an approximately 3.26 billion in current and back peacekeeping dues.²⁶⁷ Simultaneously, the top ten providers of assessed contributions were as follows:²⁶⁸

²⁵⁷ “Tables and Charts on UN Peacekeeping Operations Budget,” Global Policy Forum, <http://www.globalpolicy.org/un-finance/tables-and-charts-on-un-finance-the-un-peacekeeping-operations-budget.html> (Accessed August 6, 2013).

²⁵⁸ Chapter IV: The General Assembly, Article 17, sub-article 2, Charter of the United Nations, 26 June 1945, <https://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter4.shtml> (Accessed October 30, 2013)

²⁵⁹ A/RES/55/235, Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations, 30 January 2001, <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N00/573/25/PDF/N0057325.pdf?OpenElement> (Accessed November 11, 2013)

²⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁶¹ *Ibid.*

²⁶² *Ibid.*

²⁶³ “The Challenges of Peacekeeping in the 21st Century,” 2004 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, Inter-Parliamentary Union, New York 19-20 October 2004, <http://ipu.org/splz-e/unga04/peacekeeping.pdf> (Accessed August 6, 2013).

²⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁵ “Peacekeeping Fact Sheet,” United Nations Peacekeeping, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/factsheet.shtml> (Accessed December 1, 2013).

²⁶⁶ “Tables and Charts on UN Peacekeeping Operations Budget,” Global Policy Forum, <http://www.globalpolicy.org/un-finance/tables-and-charts-on-un-finance-the-un-peacekeeping-operations-budget.html> (Accessed August 6, 2013).

²⁶⁷ “Peacekeeping Fact Sheet,” United Nations Peacekeeping, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/factsheet.shtml> (Accessed December 1, 2013).

²⁶⁸ United Nations, General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/224/Add.1, 27 December 2013, Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 55/235 and 55/236 http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/224/Add.1 (Accessed September 27, 2013).

1. United States of America	28.38%
2. Japan	10.83%
3. France	7.22%
4. Germany	7.14%
5. United Kingdom	6.68%
6. China	6.64%
7. Italy	4.45%
8. Russian Federation	3.15%
9. Canada	2.98%
10. Spain	2.97%

However, with the additional requirements of the new and recently expanded missions, as well as the possibility of a new mission in Sudan, the amount of the budget for peacekeeping operations for the current fiscal budget for 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 was set at 7.54 billion USD.²⁶⁹

As set forth in A/RES/47/217 of 23 December 1992, establishment of a Peace-keeping [Peacekeeping] Reserve Fund, created under the authority of the Secretary-General a “Peace-keeping [Peacekeeping] Reserve Fund [will be utilized] as a cash flow mechanism to ensure the rapid response of the Organization to the needs of peace-keeping operations.”²⁷⁰ The fund was created for multiple reasons but most notably for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses relating to peacekeeping operations.²⁷¹ Coinciding with the Peace-keeping [Peacekeeping] Reserve Fund is the Global field support strategy report of the Secretary-General, A/64/633 of 26 January 2010.²⁷² The Global field support strategy brought together the international community to establish a five-year project to transform the delivery of support to UN field missions to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of services.²⁷³ The proposal more than anything is based on decades of experience.²⁷⁴ The four pillars mentioned in the report include a financial framework, modularization, service centres, [centers] and human resources framework.²⁷⁵ Calling upon Section I. The Need for Change, sub-heading Critical Support Challenges, sub-clause 2. Availability of sufficient financial resources for initial mission deployment states “Financial regulation 4.6 restricts the individual approval limit for commitment authority to \$50 million and the aggregate to the value of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund.²⁷⁶ The limit of \$50 million per individual commitment may no longer be relevant in the context of large missions, some of which may have annual budgets of close to \$1 billion or more.²⁷⁷ Because that amount includes the replenishment of strategic deployment stocks, there is very little flexibility to fund critical programmes [programs] while approval of the mission budget is pending.”²⁷⁸ This is to say that often times not only is the Peace-keeping Reserve Fund low on cash on hand when it comes to large missions but further that there is little money to help finance a new program. Part of this problem comes again from unpaid fees from the scales of assessments.

Referring back to A/66/19, Report from the Special Committee on Peacekeeping, clause 279 and 280 highlights their concern “that all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions” and

²⁶⁹ “Peacekeeping Fact Sheet,” United Nations Peacekeeping, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/factsheet.shtml> (Accessed December 1, 2013).

²⁷⁰ A/RES/47/217, Establishment of a Peace-keeping Fund, 23 December 1992, General Assembly, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/47/a47r217.htm> (Accessed December 20, 2013).

²⁷¹ *Ibid.*

²⁷² A/64/633, Global field support strategy, Report of the Secretary-General, General Assembly, United Nations http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/64/633&referer=http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/fieldsupport.shtml&Lang=E (Accessed November 29, 2013).

²⁷³ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

expresses “concern over the significant amounts of outstanding reimbursements that the UN currently owes...”²⁷⁹ Chapter VI, Article 19 of the UN Charter thus states “A Member of the UN which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years.²⁸⁰ The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a Member State to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member.”²⁸¹ To this extent, it was decided in A/68/504, Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the UN of 7 October 2013, that the delegations of “the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Somalia shall be permitted to vote in the General Assembly until the end of its sixty-eighth session.”²⁸² This continues to show that financial contributions through the scale of assessments is fundamental in peacekeeping operations but is further pivotal to voting within the GA and can result in suspension of that right amongst the international community. A/68/504 highlights A/RES/54/237 C of 17 January 2000, where Member States are not only urged to pay their assessments in full and on time but also reminds Member States that if they are unable to pay their contribution that an exception may be made considering economic stance as well as a request has to be submitted and reviewed by the President of the GA at least two weeks prior to the commencement of session beginning in late September.²⁸³

It is stressed time and time again that a major issue of UN Peacekeeping is its financial funding and obligations to existing and future missions. All Member States are legally obliged to pay their share of peacekeeping costs under the Scales of Assessments but regardless of the legal obligations Member States owed approximately 1.2 billion USD in current and back peacekeeping dues as of June 2004.²⁸⁴ Hence, not only is the issue of unpaid dues at hand but further the economic complications that these unpaid fees have on current and future missions are in question.

Current Situation

UN Secretary-General Ban KiMoon stated “UN peacekeeping mandates are more complex and multidimensional than ever before.²⁸⁵ We are also the only organization that can deploy comprehensive peace operations integrating military, police and civilian components.²⁸⁶ Peacekeeping has experienced serious setbacks, today we face mounting difficulties in getting enough troops, the right equipment and adequate logistical support.²⁸⁷ Supply has not kept pace with demand.²⁸⁸ The global economic crisis could further limit our ability to respond effectively.²⁸⁹ And a number of

²⁷⁹ A/66/19, Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, 11 September 2013, General Assembly, United Nations, http://www.unric.org/it/images/Report_of_the_Special_Committee_on_Peacekeeping_Operations_-_Sept_2012.pdf (Accessed September 15, 2013).

²⁸⁰ “Chapter IV, The General Assembly, Article 19”, The Charter of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter4.shtml> (Accessed September 18, 2013).

²⁸¹ Ibid.

²⁸² A/68/504, Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, 7 October 2013, General Assembly, United Nations, http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/504 (Accessed December 28, 2013).

²⁸³ A/RES/54/237 A-C, Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, 17 January 2000, General Assembly, United Nations, http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/54/237A-C (Accessed December 28, 2013).

²⁸⁴ “The challenges of Peacekeeping in the 21st Century,” 2004 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, Inter-Parliamentary Union, New York 19-20 October 2004, <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/unga04/peacekeeping.pdf> (Accessed August 6, 2013).

²⁸⁵ “Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s address on U.N. Peacekeeping,” Dublin Castle, Dublin, 7 July 2009, United Nations, https://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/articles/sg_article070709.htm (Accessed September 25, 2013).

²⁸⁶ Ibid.

²⁸⁷ Ibid.

²⁸⁸ Ibid.

²⁸⁹ Ibid.

missions struggle to operate amidst stalled peace processes and ongoing violence.²⁹⁰ These gaps and constraints should concern all of us.”²⁹¹ Changing physical, social, economic and political environments change the face of peacekeeping in everyday operations. Some of the key challenges of peacekeeping operations today lie in military, rule of law, gender and peacekeeping, field support, protection of civilians, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, children in conflict, human rights, and environment and sustainability.²⁹² Of the many different issues within peacekeeping operations the ones of most importance in today’s economic challenge deal with the military, field support and the expanding and creation of new missions.

UN military are essential to peacekeeping operations as they are the personnel on patrol who provide vital security and stability in peacekeeping missions worldwide.²⁹³ Further, UN military work alongside UN Police and civilian components to maintain close cooperation with other military entities in the designated area, work to promote stability and security and protect personnel and property.²⁹⁴ One of the most important tasks given to the military is the protection of civilians is often at the heart of the mandate.²⁹⁵ The UN military is comprised of military personnel working not only as part of the UN system but are first and foremost members of their own national armies.²⁹⁶ Collaboratively there is more than 97,000 UN uniformed personnel coming from over 110 Member States.²⁹⁷ Often military personnel are called upon to monitor a disputed border, monitor and observe peace processes in post-conflict areas, and assist in-country military personnel with training and support.²⁹⁸ Many of the problems associated with the UN military are in relation to not having a standing reserve as well as waiting to deploy military personnel on the basis of a SC resolution but most importantly in this context is not having the necessary personnel on hand at all times.²⁹⁹

The UN Office of Military Affairs often seeks highly qualified military officers from UN Member States for service in the multiple peacekeeping missions around the world.³⁰⁰ Most often the UN military, also referred to as Blue Helmets, are infantry soldiers but there is an increasing need for specialized personnel who are referred to as ‘enablers’.³⁰¹ These enablers are usually skilled soldiers including the likes of engineers who if needed can help in need with a post-earthquake reconstruction, for example.³⁰²

Today, peacekeeping operations are becoming more and more complex and thus are placing higher demands on the personnel needed to be deployed.³⁰³ This being said, a challenge set forth with UN military lies in the need for high levels of training before deployment as troops must be able to know what to do if they find themselves in an emergency such as an ambush.³⁰⁴ According to *A New Partnership Agenda: Chartering a New Horizon UN*

²⁹⁰ Ibid.

²⁹¹ Ibid.

²⁹² Issues, United Nations Peacekeeping, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/> (Accessed August 1, 2013).

²⁹³ Military, Peacekeeping Issues, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/military.shtml> (Accessed November 30, 2013).

²⁹⁴ Ibid.

²⁹⁵ Ibid.

²⁹⁶ Ibid.

²⁹⁷ Ibid.

²⁹⁸ Ibid.

²⁹⁹ Ibid.

³⁰⁰ Ibid.

³⁰¹ Ibid.

³⁰² Ibid.

³⁰³ Ibid.

³⁰⁴ Ibid.

peacekeeping, an internal document prepared as part of the “New Horizon” process of developing a forward agenda for UN peacekeeping, “ High turnover rates have been endemic in peacekeeping and recruitment, rotation and retention of uniformed and civilian personnel remain a constant challenge.”³⁰⁵ Part of the reason for this can be associated with how little UN peacekeepers are compensated.³⁰⁶ Peacekeeping soldiers are paid by their own Governments according to their own national rank and salary scale.³⁰⁷ Those Member States who contribute troops to the UN are reimbursed at a standard rate of 1,028 USD per soldier per month as approved by the GA.³⁰⁸ UN Police and other civilian personnel are paid from each individual peacekeeping operational budgets.³⁰⁹

Field support, generally associated with the UN military is responsible for the effectiveness of peacekeeping and political missions in the realms of logistical support for people, equipment, finance and resources.³¹⁰ Logistical support of peacekeeping missions include providing rations to feed troops, air transport to move people around in places where there is little to no infrastructure such as roads and providing well-trained staff with the full range of skills to deliver on multi-dimensional SC mandates.³¹¹ In most peacekeeping missions, the UN provides fuel, water, accommodations and rations for contingents, office and equipment, vehicles, utilities, communications and information technology for UN military, staff officers, civilian personnel and UN police as well as aviation, cargo and passenger movement and medical facilities for the whole of a mission.³¹² On the other hand, Member States who are troop and police contributing States provide major equipment and self-sustainment capabilities including vehicles and generators as well as catering, laundry, Internet, and organic medical and engineering.³¹³ That being noted, a majority of the field support services done on peacekeeping missions are on the hands of the UN. Highlighting the “New Horizon” plan already introduced, “The complex, fast-paced nature of UN peacekeeping today requires a new approach that emphasizes innovation, flexibility and accountability in support systems.³¹⁴ Development of a new field support strategy is already underway and will seek delivery and management improvements at global, regional and mission levels.³¹⁵ This strategy includes the shared use of assets and the creation of regional service centres [centers]; a better use of technology to support lighter, more agile deployment; and improved financial arrangements for greater operational flexibility.”³¹⁶ Once again the need for improved financial arrangements is necessary in all aspects of peacekeeping.

Lastly, already previously discussed the UN has completed 54 peacekeeping missions across the world but today remains a presence in 16 other locations.³¹⁷ Those peacekeeping missions and one special political mission include:

³⁰⁵ “A New Partnership Agenda: Chartering a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping,” Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support, July 2009, United Nations, Pg. 31 of 45, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/newhorizon.pdf> (Accessed July 31, 2013).

³⁰⁶ Financing peacekeeping, Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations Peacekeeping, <https://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/financing.shtml> (Accessed September 30, 2013).

³⁰⁷ Ibid.

³⁰⁸ Ibid.

³⁰⁹ Ibid.

³¹⁰ Field Support, Issues, United Nations Peacekeeping, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/fieldsupport.shtml> (Accessed August 21, 2013).

³¹¹ Ibid.

³¹² Ibid.

³¹³ Ibid.

³¹⁴ “A New Partnership Agenda: Chartering a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping,” Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support, July 2009, United Nations, Pg. vi of 45, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/newhorizon.pdf> (Accessed July 31, 2013).

³¹⁵ Ibid.

³¹⁶ Ibid.

³¹⁷ Current Peacekeeping Operations, Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations Peacekeeping, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/current.shtml> (Accessed August 25, 2013).

the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the African Union – United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), and the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).³¹⁸

As noted in the “New Horizon” plan, “Peacekeeping is not always the right answer...In establishing a new UN peacekeeping mission, it is important to consider the additional instruments that may be needed—UN and non-UN.”³¹⁹ This being considered, as of the “New Horizon” plan released in July 2009, it was reported that “the current UN peacekeeping budget is a function of both the number and size of missions and their remote locations.”³²⁰ Of the missions that were active in 2009, 63 percent of the budget for peacekeeping went to UNAMID, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC), the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT).³²¹ The remainder of the budget in 2009 was allocated between MINUSTAH, UNMIL, UNOCI, the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), UNIFIL, UNFICYP, MINURSO, UNDOF, UNTSO and UNMOGIP.³²² Further from the “New Horizon” plan, “Financial constraints have important implications for mission planning and deployment.³²³ The tighter financial environment may demand difficult decisions concerning the number and types of missions to be deployed and the capabilities each require.”³²⁴ It is extremely difficult to depict future needs of UN peacekeeping missions but it is clear that demand continues to grow and more and more the UN is faced with doing more with less especially in the arena of financing and budgeting itself.

Thus again, “timely payment of dues is crucial because shortfalls in the UN’s budget can cripple peacekeeping missions and delay humanitarian aid, with costs measured in lives and human suffering.”³²⁵ Further, “Taken together, the challenges described above have stretched UN peacekeeping to its limits. Yet demands could well continue to increase. Volatile commodity prices and financial markets, transnational organized crime and environmental changes may lead to political and security instability where societies lack the resources to cope with such shocks. Member States emerging from conflict are particularly vulnerable. The risk that these threats will be met with limited or partial responses is real. The global economic crisis is forcing many governments and organizations to scale back conflict management, humanitarian and development assistance. Military and police capabilities globally are in greater demand. Stretched bilateral and regional capacities increase the likelihood of UN peacekeeping being called upon to act as an instrument of last resort, yet with fewer resources and diminished support.”³²⁶

³¹⁸ Ibid.

³¹⁹ “A New Partnership Agenda: Chartering a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping,” Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support, July 2009, United Nations, Pg. 9 of 45, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/newhorizon.pdf> (Accessed July 31, 2013).

³²⁰ Ibid, Pg. 28 of 45.

³²¹ Ibid.

³²² Ibid.

³²³ Ibid.

³²⁴ Ibid.

³²⁵ “The UN Budget Process,” Our Key Issues: U.S. Funding to the UN, Better World Campaign <http://www.betterworldcampaign.org/issues/funding/the-un-budget-process.html> (Accessed October 8, 2013).

³²⁶ “A New Partnership Agenda: Chartering a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping,” Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support, July 2009, United Nations, Pg. 6 of 45, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/newhorizon.pdf> (Accessed July 31, 2013).

Case Study: The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)

Resulting from the genocide of 1994 in Rwanda and the establishment of a new government there, approximately 1.2 million Rwandese Hutus fled the area to the neighboring Kivu region of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, formerly known as Zaïre, which was primarily inhabited by ethnic Tutsis and others.³²⁷ A short 2 years following the inheritance of so many refugees, the Hutus and the Tutsis under the leadership of Laurent Désiré Kabila and President Mobutu SeseSeko engulfed in violence and rebellion erupted in the area.³²⁸ Kabila's forces primarily Hutus were aided by their home government of Rwanda and Uganda in the taking control of the capital city of Kinshasa in 1997 and renamed the country the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).³²⁹ Following thereafter, Kabila was designated as the President of the DRC and in the following year of 1998 a rebellion erupted again but against the new government of Kabila.³³⁰ Within weeks, the rebels had seized large areas of the country.³³¹ Member States such as Angola, Chad, Namibia and Zimbabwe pledged their support to President Kabila but the rebels maintained their grip on the eastern regions.³³² Rwanda and Uganda on the other hand supported the rebel movement, the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD).³³³ Within the same year, the SC called for a ceasefire in the area, withdrawal of foreign forces and urged Member States to not interfere in the internal affairs of the DRC.³³⁴

Formerly known as the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) was established through SC resolution 1279 after the signing of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement of July 1999 between the DRC and the five previously mentioned regional Member States of Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe.³³⁵ The mandate of MONUC initially was created to observe the ceasefire and disengagement of forces and maintain liaison with all parties to the Ceasefire Agreement.³³⁶ Later, through a series of resolutions the SC stretched the scope of MONUC to the supervision of the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement and assigned multiple related additional tasks.³³⁷ On 30 July 2006, the Member State saw its first free and fair election in 46 years with voters electing a 500-seat National Assembly and later in the run-off election done on 29 October 2006, President Joseph Kabila, son of Laurent Désiré Kabila, was declared the winner.³³⁸ The entire electoral process of the DRC was one of the most complex votes the UN ever helped organize.³³⁹ Following the elections, MONUC remained its presence on the ground and continued to implement multiple political, military, rule of law and capacity-building tasks such as trying to resolve ongoing conflicts in a number of DRC provinces.³⁴⁰

³²⁷ MONUSCO Background, MONUSCO: United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, United Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/monusco/background.shtml> (Accessed November 27, 2013).

³²⁸ Ibid.

³²⁹ Ibid.

³³⁰ Ibid.

³³¹ Ibid.

³³² Ibid.

³³³ Ibid.

³³⁴ Ibid.

³³⁵ Ibid.

³³⁶ Ibid.

³³⁷ Ibid.

³³⁸ Ibid.

³³⁹ Ibid.

³⁴⁰ Ibid.

Replaced on 1 July 2010 by SC resolution 1925, MONUC turned to be known as MINUSCO to reflect the new phase reached within the Member State.³⁴¹ The new mission of MONUSCO was granted the authority to use all necessary forces if needed to carry out its mandate which includes but does not limit the safety and security of civilians, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders under imminent threat of physical violence and to support the DRC in its stabilization and peace consolidation efforts.³⁴²

Regardless though of the many political successes seen in the region, the DRC continues to see cycles of violence in the eastern region of the State.³⁴³ Such violence includes conflict, chronic humanitarian crises and serious human rights violations including sexual and gender-based violence, other cycles of violence in the area include illegal exploitation of resources, pervasive impunity, and the weak capacity of the national army and police to effectively protect civilian and the national territory and ensure law and order.³⁴⁴ The continued violence which started again in April 2012 continued to be an obstacle for peacekeeping in the DRC and threatened the overall stability and development of the Great Lakes Region.³⁴⁵ Hence the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region was signed by representatives of 11 Member States within the region, the Chairs of the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Southern African Development Community and the UN Secretary-General on 24 February 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.³⁴⁶ Then adopted on 28 March 2013 by the SC, resolution 2098 extended the mandate of MONUSCO to 31 March 2014 and created a specialized ‘intervention brigade’ to strengthen the peacekeeping operation.³⁴⁷ Further, the SC resolution strongly condemned the actions of 23 March Movement (M23), the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) “and all other armed groups and their continuing violence and abuses of human rights.”³⁴⁸

With the expansion however of the mandate from MONUC to MONUSCO, the mission still remains to have some challenges in the region.³⁴⁹ As stated by Lieutenant General Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz, Force Commander of MONUSCO, “there is an increased need for peacekeepers to match that capability.”³⁵⁰ Further he states that the greater use of advanced military technology is essential for minimizing the vulnerabilities as it is for capitalizing on the opportunities as the area needs to be monitored vigilantly if UN peacekeeping is to avoid being outpaced and its effectiveness diluted.³⁵¹ Already due at the time to receive advanced military technology another concern of the Lieutenant was that additional skilled operators and analysts were/are needed in the region.³⁵²

As noted time and time again, Major General Leonard Ngondi, Force Commander of UNMIL stated “There is no ‘one size fits all’ solution, each mission being a unique case” and it “is becoming increasingly important as a tool to

³⁴¹ Ibid.

³⁴² Ibid.

³⁴³ Ibid.

³⁴⁴ Ibid.

³⁴⁵ Ibid.

³⁴⁶ S/2013/131, Letter dated 4 March 2013 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council; Annex: Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, 5 March 2013, Security Council, United Nations, http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2013/131 (Accessed December 24, 2013).

³⁴⁷ S/RES/2098 (2013), Security Council, United Nations, [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2098\(2013\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2098(2013)) (Accessed December 24, 2013).

³⁴⁸ Ibid.

³⁴⁹ Ibid.

³⁵⁰ “Security Council: force commanders of UN peacekeeping missions brief on main challenges,” 26 June 2013, UN News Centre, United Nations, http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45278#.UrlKT_RDuSp (Accessed November 29, 2013).

³⁵¹ Ibid.

³⁵² Ibid.

ensure optimal utilization of limited resources in an environment characterized by regional nature of conflicts and fiscal considerations.”³⁵³ According to A/C.5/67/19 of 18 July 2013, approved resources for peacekeeping operations for the period of 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, MONUSCO is the largest peacekeeping mission with a total requirement of 1,456,378,300 USD to fund itself in many of its fields such as but not limited to military and police personnel, ground transportation, medical, naval transportation, consultants, etc.³⁵⁴ Still this does not appear to be enough funding for all of the work that needs to be done in the area.

Conclusion

As highlighted from the New Horizon plan, “With over 116,000 deployed personnel across 15 missions, the scale of UN peacekeeping today is unprecedented.³⁵⁵ The diversity of mission mandates stretches the UN’s capacity to deliver on all tasks.³⁵⁶ Personnel, logistics, finance and administration systems are struggling to support operations in some of the world’s most inhospitable terrain.³⁵⁷ The necessary military capabilities are increasingly scarce in the face of rising global demand.³⁵⁸ New peacekeeping tasks require high numbers of police and civilian specialists, experts that are in limited supply both at home and abroad.³⁵⁹ The budget has soared to nearly \$7.8 billion [USD] a year at the same time as the global economic crisis has diminished overall available resources. And there is no sign that the need for peacekeeping will diminish.”³⁶⁰

All of that that being said, the international community has come together numerous times prior to establish landmark documents such as but not limited to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Declarations to showcase the importance of human rights and has further created bodies such as the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund but it still does not remain to be enough for current and future peacekeeping operation. There are a myriad of factors in which combine to ensure that peacekeeping forces remain operationally sound and ready, of the factors include rapid deployment of forces, the inclusion of gender-based perspectives but of most importance is financial stability. Of the current budget of 7.54 billion USD, total outstanding debts of Member States account for 3.32 billion USD.³⁶¹

Of the 16 missions, peacekeeping and a special political mission, the budget is already strained in regards to military, police, consultants, etc. but with outstanding debt it makes for a tighter budget.³⁶² As of 31 October 2013, two of the current peacekeeping missions namely the UNTSO and UNMOGIP were launched in the 1940s and are still active today, the UNFICYP has been active since 1964, the UNDOF and UNIFIL have been active since the 1970s, MINURSO and UNMIK have been active and since the 2000s nine other missions, UNAMA, UNMIL, UNOCI, MINUSTAH, UNAMID, MONUSCO, UNISFA, UNMISS and MINUSMA have been launched and still remain active in their prospective locations.³⁶³ The newest is MINUSMA which was launched on 25 April 2013 through SC resolution 2100, showing that even 68 years after the UN was established that a peacekeeping base is

³⁵³ Ibid.

³⁵⁴A/C.5/67/19, Approved resources for peacekeeping operations for the period of 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, 18 July 2013, General Assembly, United Nations, http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.5/67/19 (Accessed December 23, 2013).

³⁵⁵ “A New Partnership Agenda: Chartering a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping,” Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support, July 2009, United Nations, Pg. ii of 45, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/newhorizon.pdf> (Accessed July 31, 2013).

³⁵⁶ Ibid.

³⁵⁷ Ibid.

³⁵⁸ Ibid.

³⁵⁹ Ibid.

³⁶⁰ Ibid.

³⁶¹ “Background Note,” United Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/backgroundnote.pdf> (Accessed December 16, 2013).

³⁶² Ibid.

³⁶³ Ibid.

not only needed for the Member State and their citizens but further is a great indicator that peacekeeping operations will continue to expand, grow and create anew.³⁶⁴

Committee Directive

As delegates begin to explore this topic, research should be directed not only towards the current and future economic challenges of UN peacekeeping operations but also the history and its different aspects for the regions. Delegates can find these initiatives in a myriad of organizations such as those listed throughout the guide but as well are encouraged to look at other UN bodies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Examples of this may be the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), UN Women, and the United Nations Population Fund, all of which can be extremely helpful organizations in your research and will have countless information not only on UN peacekeeping but more so on how the economy and financing of the programs has impacted society internationally, regionally and even possibly nationally.

After the initial research is completed, delegates should then embark on solutions to the topic at hand. The following questions should be considered: On a national level, has your Member State signed or ratified any of the documents detailed in the herein, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the four Geneva Declarations and its three optional protocols? Does your Member State take part in any of the aforementioned bodies such as the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support, the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund or the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations? Consider as well the needs for peacekeeping on all levels, why is it important? Also, look at the region itself and consider what your perspective Member State has done in the region such as within the African Union or the European Union. Consider further, the implications that peacekeeping operations may have or still poses on your State today either economically, politically, socially, etc.

Each of these questions is pivotal to the committee and deserves equal attention and consideration while writing your State's position paper as well as writing draft resolution(s) to ultimately become a resolution during the duration of the conference.

Delegates should not delve deeply into such things as the stages of peacekeeping but rather the effect it has on the vulnerable population(s) at hand. Delegates should be focused on instrumental methods that have worked in the past or in current time and either reinforce, reinstate, or reform these initiatives rather than create a new program. A new program/ conference/ agreement shall only be used if said initiative is explicitly focused on new and innovative ways to reform and innovate current or previous practices.

Lastly, delegates should remind themselves as well that peacekeeping is a multifaceted international, regional and national issue so their research can be quite extensive but as well can make for an interesting and thought-provoking position paper. Please see the Technical Appendix Guide (TAG) for additional sources/ thoughts for possible solutions to the topic at hand.

³⁶⁴ S/RES/2100 (2013), 25 April 2013, Security Council, United Nations, http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/minusma/documents/mali%20_2100_E_.pdf (Accessed December 16, 2013).

Technical Appendix Guide

Topic I: Protecting the Human Rights of Children in Areas of Armed Conflict and Extreme Poverty

“Chapter IV: Human Rights.” United Nations Treaty Collection. 21 December 2013. https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?mtdsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&lang=en

This site provides by the United Nations not only gives the dates in which each Member State signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, but provides declarations and reservations made by Member States upon those dates. Delegates may use this as a starting point for the viewpoint and policy in which their Member State follows.

Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. “Child Soldiers Global Report 2008.” Human Rights Watch. http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/Child_Soldiers_Global_Report_Summary.pdf

This report published by Human Rights Watch gives facts and figures on child soldiery, as well as gives first-hand accounts of children who had been soldiers. It also tells how some Member States are taking action to prevent child soldiers, which may inspire delegates.

“End Poverty: Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015. United Nations. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

This is the main website for the UN’s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Though briefly mentioned in the main text, these eight goals are where the international community decided its priorities should lie. To meet three of these goals would directly influence the lives of children in areas of armed conflict and extreme poverty. Delegates may use this site to familiarize themselves with the MDGs, as well as to inspire further research as to how these goals, and more importantly the needs of the children in these areas can be met.

“Special Project on Street Children.” World Health Organization. http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/activities/street_children/en/

The World Health Organization’s Street Children Project is an example of what is already being done to help to alleviate the desperate situations faced by street children. The project focuses on educating those who deal with street children, complete with training modules and tips to deal with street children. Delegates may find this useful both for information on street children and their conditions, as well as coming up with solutions to deal with the situation of street children in their individual Member States.

U.N. General Assembly. Convention on the Rights of the Child. (A/RES/44/25). 12 December 1989. <http://www.hrweb.org/legal/child.html>

This is the complete text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As it is the largest framework for providing for action in protecting children, delegates may use this to not only research what is already in place, but also help guide gap analysis of delegates in hopes of finding what is existing and does not work to help find better solutions.

U.N. General Assembly. Declaration of the Rights of the Child. 10 December 1959. <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/resources/child.asp>

As mentioned in the previous entry, the entire text of the UNDRC is provided here. This references other frameworks that came before it, and is also the final word in seeking protection for children. Delegates may use this to strengthen arguments, or use their actions under the committee directives to strengthen already existing documents that seek to protect children.

U.N. General Assembly. Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children. (A/51/306). 26 August 1996. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/51/306

The Machel Report, which is the commonly used title of this document, is the initial report given to the United Nations General Assembly by Graca Machel on the “impact of armed conflict on children.” This report sparked action by the United Nations General Assembly. Delegates may use this information to highlight the effect on children in areas of armed conflict, but also be inspired to take further action to prevent and alleviate this effect on children in the future.

“World Report on Violence and Health.” Dahlberg, Linda L., Etienne G. Krug, Rafael Lozano, James A. Mercy, and Anthony B. Zwi., eds. World Health Organization. 2002. http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/introduction.pdf

This report published by the World Health Organization gives a detailed report on violence, this guide breaks down violence, and the effects it has on global health. Chapters two and three directly deal with violence against children and youth, and includes definitions, risk factors, consequences and prevention of this abuse. Further, it gives recommendations for solutions to these problems that delegates may find useful in directing action by the committee.

Topic II: UN Peacekeeping: Adapting to New and Current Economic Challenges

Dag Hammarskjöld and UN Peacekeeping, Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/dhanniversary.shtml>

Known as the second Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1953-1961, Dag Hammarskjöld played an important role in the development of United Nations Peacekeeping. During his time in office, Hammarskjöld’s primary focus for peacekeeping operations were towards maintaining ceasefires, stabilizing situations on the ground and provide support for political efforts to resolve conflict through peaceful processes. The link provided here not only gives insight to a few of the earliest armed peacekeeping operations under his time but further pays tribute to the great work he implemented and encouraged during his time as Secretary-General.

Global Contribution for global peace, Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/global_contribution.shtml

UN uniformed personnel, primarily made up of UN Military and UN Police, are contributed to UN peacekeeping from Member States both large and small, developed and developing. As of November 2013 there are a total of 98,270 troops provided for peacekeeping operations from over 110 Member States. The link provided above gives a closer look through the ‘Data Dashboard’ where it gives an average monthly reported uniformed personnel by a Member State basis. Other helpful for delegates in the ‘Data Dashboard’ will include “Stories of contribution” and “Average Monthly Total Contributions Over Time.”

Reform of peacekeeping, Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/reform.shtml>

Considering the background guide provided for this topic, we highlighted more than not the current challenges of peacekeeping operations and have continued to underline that the future is unclear for current peacekeeping operations and those to come. The link provided here shows the reforms that have already taken place within the UN peacekeeping system and thus can be a good indicator of what has worked and what can possibly be used as a guide on what works and what does not. This link can be instrumental in such parts of a position paper and working paper as a framework for a plan of action.

A/55/305- S/2000/809, Identical letters dated 21 August 2000 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council, Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, General Assembly and Security Council, United Nations http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/55/305

Commonly called the “Brahimi Report” after the chairman of the commission that produced the document, Lakhdar Brahimi, former Secretary-General Kofi Annan convened the Panel on 7 March 2000 to make a comprehensive review of the UN’s peace and security activities. The report called among many things for

renewed political commitment on the part of Member States, significant institutional change and increased financial support. The report concluded with the note that the key to success in UN peacekeeping is to be properly resourced and equipped, and operate under clear, credible and achievable mandates.

Principles of UN Peacekeeping, Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations
<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/principles.shtml>

Given the complexity and uncertainty that is inherent in peacekeeping operations, three principles, namely Consent of the parties, Impartiality, and Non-use of force except in self-defence [self-defense] and defence [defense] of the mandate, have been developed to guide peacekeepers in their mission and actions. First, the main parties must agree to allow peacekeepers to become involved. Consent is important for two reasons: it provides the necessary freedom of action to carry out a UN mandate and in the absence of consent, peacekeeping operations risk becoming an involved party within the conflict. Secondly, failure to uphold a rigorous application of impartiality would lead the mission to lose credibility as well as its legitimacy. This, in turn, may withdraw of consent, which would effectively end the mission. The final guiding principle is the non-use of unnecessary force. As peacekeepers are entering areas that are often wrought by long periods of violence, they are often permitted to use necessary force to defend themselves and their mandate.

Peace and Security, Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations
<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peace.shtml>

Peacekeeping discussed in much detail throughout the background is one of many ranges of activities carried out by the UN to maintain international peace and security globally. The link provided here for delegates gives more information in the realm of peace and security including conflict prevention and mediation, peacemaking, peace enforcement, and peacebuilding. This is a great resource for delegates in understanding the topic at hand in more depth and also can be helpful in the possibilities of solutions seen in plans of actions.

Peacebuilding & the United Nations, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, United Nations
<http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pbun.shtml>

Peacebuilding seeks to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict. This is crucial often times to peacekeeping as peacebuilding occurs by reinforcing the capabilities of governing systems at all levels. Peacebuilding is a long, complex process meant to address the root issues that affect the State and/or society's ability to effectively function. The link provided here gives other great resources for delegates including the 1992 report, An Agenda for Peace, the already mentioned Brahimi Report, as well as gives links toward the Peacebuilding Fund..

Final Report: Economic Impact of Peacekeeping, Peacekeeping Best Practices Section of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, March 2006
http://www.peacekeepingbestpractices.unlb.org/pbps/Library/EIP_FINAL_Report_March20_2006doc.pdf

The report here prepared as part of the Economic Impact of Peacekeeping Project commissioned by the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section (PBPS) of the UN DPKO, mirrors in part the increased understanding within the UN system and among international financial institutions of the links between political, security, economic and social sectors. Further the report gives the realization that achieving sustainable peace requires a combined multilateral approach across these domains. Lastly, the report can be essential for delegates on this topic as its purpose is to facilitate evidence-based decision-making for future mission planning, hiring, and procurement which aligns with the challenges presented throughout the guide.

The New Horizon Initiative: Progress Report No. 1, October 2010, and The New Horizon Initiative: Progress Report No.2, December 2011; United Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations
http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/newhorizon_update01.pdf
http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/newhorizon_update02.pdf

Both of the these documents linked here are resources that are helpful for delegates as these are both of the progress reports following the original "New Horizon" report of July 2009. These progress reports not only detail progress from the original report such as the sections of protection of civilians and effective peacekeeping but further the reports continue to expand on the challenges and possible solutions of

peacekeeping in today's society as well as for that of future missions. These reports are helpful for delegates as the original "New Horizon" report was discussed in the guide and the progress reports were not mentioned so this can give more of an updated viewpoint of UN peacekeeping for delegates.