



SRMUN Charlotte 2016

The United Nations at 70: Addressing the Changing Landscape of Peace Security & Stability

March 31 - April 2, 2016

csd_charlotte@srmun.org

Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2016 and the Commission for Social Development (CSocD). My name is Allie Molinari, and I will be serving as your Director for the CSocD. This will be my fourth conference as a SRMUN staff member. Previously, I served as the Director for the World Health Organization for SRMUN Atlanta 2015. I hold a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and a Bachelors of Arts in Theatre Technical/Design from Winthrop University. Our committee's Assistant Director will be Adam Manno. This will be Adam's first time as a staff member but he is not new to the SRMUN scene as he has previously been a delegate at our 2014 Atlanta conference in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Adam is currently studying journalism and political science at the University of Central Florida.

The CSocD focuses mainly on social issues, both in general and ones specifically not covered by other intergovernmental agencies. The United Nations Social and Economic Council (ECOSOC) established CSocD on 21 June 1946, and it is currently comprised of 46 Member States.

By focusing on the mission of the CSocD and the SRMUN Charlotte 2016 theme of "*The United Nations at 70: Addressing the Changing Landscape of Peace, Security and Stability*," we have developed the following topics for the delegates to discuss come conference:

- I. The Impact of the Financial Crisis on Social Protection
- II. Advancing the Human Rights for Persons with Disabilities

The background guide provides a strong introduction to the committee and the topics and should be utilized as a foundation for the delegate's independent research. While we have attempted to provide a holistic analysis of the issues, the background guide should not be used as the single mode of analysis for the topics. Delegates are expected to go beyond the background guide and engage in intellectual inquiry of their own. The position papers for the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues and their externalities. Delegations are expected to submit a position paper and be prepared for a vigorous discussion at the conference. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, March 11, 2016 by 11:59 p.m. EST via the SRMUN website.**

Adam and myself are enthusiastic about serving as your dais for the CSocD. We wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and look forward to working with you in the near future. Please feel free to contact Deputy Director-General Michael Oleaga, Adam, or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

Allie Molinari
Director
csd_charlotte@srmun.org

Adam Manno
Assistant Director
csd_charlotte@srmun.org

Michael Oleaga
Deputy Director-General
ddg_charlotte@srmun.org

History of the United Nations Commission for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) was created on 21 June 1946 by the United Nations Social and Economic Council (ECOSOC).¹ The CSocD was originally called the Social Commission, but its name was changed in 1966 to the Commission for Social Development in order to simplify its role as an advisory body of ECOSOC. Initially, the CSocD focused on general social policies that were not already covered by other inter-governmental agencies.² The CSocD is a deliberative and legislative subsidiary body of ECOSOC.³ One of its key functions is to recommend action-oriented outcomes to ECOSOC for its approval; in other words, the work of the CSocD should result in draft resolutions for review and then adoption by ECOSOC.⁴

During the 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark (Social Summit), the CSocD became a key United Nations (UN) organization focusing on social issues.⁵ The CSocD was placed in charge of the implementation and follow up of the agreements made in the Copenhagen Declaration and Program of Action (Copenhagen Declaration).⁶ The Copenhagen Declaration was important to the continued development of the CSocD because of its focus of having people at the center of development policy.⁷ The Social Summit adopted 10 commitments, which all fell under the three main focus points of the Social Summit: poverty reduction, employment growth, and strengthened social integration.⁸ A key aspect of these commitments was that they were not just targeted at economic growth but at a significant increase in the growth of human well-being.⁹ The five chapters of the Program of Action, created at the Social Summit, articulated a detailed strategy for implementing those commitments.¹⁰

Due to the Copenhagen Declaration, the CSocD has taken on a significant role in helping the progress of social development at the international level.¹¹ After CSocD's 44th Session (CSocD44) in 2006, the role of CSocD in the progress of international social developments were reevaluated, and the success of the eradication of poverty by the UN as a whole.¹² The CSocD44 resulted in a consensus, among Member States, to promote social integration and eradicate poverty.¹³ At the 44th Session, there was a collective determination that social, economic, and environmental goals would receive the same, if not more, attention as compared to other challenges facing human development.¹⁴ Since CSocD44, key themes of social development issues were added to further accomplish outcomes within the Copenhagen Declaration.¹⁵

The Bureau of the Commission is the governing body of the CSocD and is comprised of a chair and four vice-chairs.¹⁶ Members of the Bureau are elected by the CSocD at the first meeting of a regular session, which is held

¹ "Commission for Social Development," The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division.html> (accessed September 19, 2015).

² Ibid.

³ "What is the Commission for Social Development and what should it achieve?" The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ngo/docs/2010/directory/csocd-history.pdf> (accessed December 10, 2015) p. 1.

⁴ Ibid. p. 4.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ "The United Nations Development Agenda: Development for All." The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/esa/devagenda/UNDA1.pdf> (accessed December 10, 2015), p. 5.

⁹ Ibid. p. 6.

¹⁰ Ibid. p. 5.

¹¹ Ibid. p. 7.

¹² "44th Session of the Commission for Social Development," The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/2006-5.html> (accessed December 12, 2015).

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ "Commission for Social Development (CSocD)," The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division.html> (accessed December 12, 2015).

¹⁶ Ibid.

immediately after the end of a regular session for the sole purpose of electing a new Bureau.¹⁷ In order to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the CSocD, officers elected to the Bureau serve for a term of two years, in parallel with the review and policy cycle.¹⁸

The CSocD originally had 18 Member States, referred to as founding members.¹⁹ However, in 1996 following the Copenhagen Summit, the CSocD's mandate was once again reviewed and its membership was eventually expanded from 46 members.²⁰ Members are elected by ECOSOC, and membership is based on an equal geographic distribution, where members serve four-year terms. Until 2012, terms began on 1 January and ended on 31 December.²¹ Since its establishment in 1946 and until 1995, the CSocD met biannually, but following the 1996 review, the CSocD currently meets annually in February in New York.²²

The current Member States of CSocD that will be represented at SRMUN Charlotte 2016 are:

ARGENTINA, BANGLADESH, BELARUS, BRAZIL, BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, CHILE, CHINA, CUBA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, FRANCE, GERMANY, JAPAN, KUWAIT, LIBERIA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MAURITANIA, MEXICO, MONGOLIO, NEPAL, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN, PERU, POLAND, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SPAIN, SUDAN, TURKMENISTAN, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VIET NAM, and ZIMBABWE.²³

¹⁷ "Improvement of the work of the Commission for Social Development." The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2002/decision%202002-210.pdf> (accessed December 12, 2015).

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ "What is the Commission for Social Development and what should it achieve?" The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ngo/docs/2010/directory/csocd-history.pdf> (accessed December 12, 2015) p. 1.

²⁰ Ibid. p. 2.

²¹ "In Resumed Organizational Session, Economic and Social Council Solidifies Plans for Forthcoming Substantive Session, Fills Vacancies in Subsidiary Bodies." United Nations. <http://www.un.org/press/en/2010/ecosoc6419.doc.htm> (accessed December 12, 2015).

²² Ibid.

²³ SRMUN Charlotte – Nations, <http://www.srmun.org/charlotte/nations.php> (accessed November 16, 2015).

I. The Impact of the Financial Crisis on Social Protection

“Together, we must galvanize action. Together, we must support the economic rights, the social rights, the human rights of all the world’s people.”

-Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon²⁴

Introduction

Social protection is universally understood as policies and programs that are concerned with preventing, managing, and overcoming situations that adversely affect a person’s well being.²⁵ Social protection programs comprise of both social assistance programs and social insurance programs.²⁶ Social assistance programs include cash transfers, targeted food assistance, and subsidies, whereas social insurance programs include unemployment insurance, old-age pensions, and disability pensions.²⁷ Social protection has been a challenge for many governments around the world.²⁸ Social protection has constantly breached the divide of the economic and social spheres of society, where it has had profound impacts on socioeconomic equality and builds valuable human capital.²⁹

During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the worst global economic crisis since the Great Depression occurred.³⁰ The 2008 financial crisis proved to be one of the most significant influences to the current state of the economies in both developed and developing Member States.³¹ The financial crisis resulted in a sharp decrease of global growth and trade, as well as a major change to developing Member States’ access to financial assistance.³² The food and fuel crises that had preempted the 2008 financial crisis were also exacerbated and began to put further financial strains on funds for social programs.³³ While many Member States’ economies have shown improvement since 2008, its effects are still felt globally and continue to effect the creation and maintenance of social programs at a global level.³⁴ Global economic growth is only projected at 2.8 percent for the 2015 fiscal year, which is down 0.2 percent from the initial three percent prediction made a few years ago.³⁵

In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis the United Nations (UN) held the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development (Economic Crisis Summit), from 24 to 26 June 2009, in order to discuss the financial crisis.³⁶ World leaders came together to discuss the immediate and long-term responses to the

²⁴ “Opening of the Conference,” The United Nations. http://www.un.org/ga/econcrisissummit/statements/sg_opening_en.pdf (accessed December 15, 2015).

²⁵ “Combating Poverty and Inequality: Structural Change, Social Policy and Politics.” United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. [http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=92B1D5057F43149CC125779600434441&parentdoctype=documentauxiliarypage&netipath=80256B3C005BCCF9/\(httpAuxPages\)/92B1D5057F43149CC125779600434441/\\$file/PovRep%20\(small\).pdf](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=92B1D5057F43149CC125779600434441&parentdoctype=documentauxiliarypage&netipath=80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpAuxPages)/92B1D5057F43149CC125779600434441/$file/PovRep%20(small).pdf) (accessed October 25, 2015), p. 135.

²⁶ “Social Protection & Labor: Overview,” The World Bank, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialprotectionlabor/overview#1> (accessed October 25, 2015).

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ “Social Protection,” The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/socialperspectiveondevelopment/issues/social-protection.html> (accessed October 25, 2015).

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ ST/ESA/334. *The Global Social Crisis: Report on the World Social Situation 2011*. 2011.

³¹ “Financial Crisis.” The World Bank. <http://www.worldbank.org/financialcrisis/bankinitiatives.htm> (accessed November 26, 2015).

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ “Global Economic Prospects: The Global Economy in Transition.” The World Bank. <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/pubdocs/publicdoc/2015/9/961521443473555360/Global-Economic-Prospects-June-2015-Global-economy-in-transition.pdf> (accessed November 26, 2015). p. 3-4.

³⁶ “Introduction,” United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development. <http://www.un.org/ga/econcrisissummit/> (accessed December 15, 2015).

financial crisis and to initiate a dialogue regarding international financial architecture.³⁷ The Economic Crisis Summit carries the full authority of the General Assembly (GA) and it created a complementary process for existing international economic cooperation and financial regulations.³⁸

The CSocD has always been conscious of the economic state of the world and its impact on social protection.³⁹ Prior to the 2008 financial crisis, the CSocD held multiple sessions whose themes dealt with the global economy and social protection.⁴⁰ In 2006, the CSocD's 44th Session (CSocD44) took place, with the priority theme: "Review of the first United Nations Decade on the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)."⁴¹ In keeping with the theme of CSocD44, the CSocD focused on evaluating UN programs and plans of action in regards to poverty eradication.⁴² The 49th Session of the CSocD (CSocD49) also made poverty eradication its theme and the 53rd Commission for Social Development (CSocD53) made social development a key aspect for the meeting.⁴³

Social Protection

During the late 19th century in Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK), the foundation for the concept of social protection was being created.⁴⁴ It is important to note, that the modern concept of organized social protection was not truly seen until the 19th century in Germany under the government of Chancellor Otto von Bismarck.⁴⁵ The German social insurance system was created from 1883 to 1889, and developed in three key stages: sickness insurance, employment injury insurance, and invalidity and old-age insurance.⁴⁶ The first stage of the German social insurance system was the Health Insurance of Workers Law of 1883, which directly addressed the provision of protection in the instance of temporary loss of income as a result of illness.⁴⁷ The second stage of the German social insurance program began with the passage of the Accident Insurance Law of 1884, which focused on helping German workers who had experienced workplace injury and was officially oversaw by trade associations of employers.⁴⁸ The third stage began with the passage of the Old Age and Invalidity Insurance Law of 1889.⁴⁹

The strides made in Germany during the late 19th century were extremely important to the development of social protection policies and legislation in the rest of the world.⁵⁰ With this first foundation made, social protection policies began to spread to other parts of the world. By the 1930s, social protection legislation was adopted in multiple Latin American Member States and the United States of America (USA).⁵¹ After World War II, social protection policies began to be widely adopted by Asian and African Member States.⁵²

³⁷ "Background," United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development. <http://www.un.org/ga/econcrisissummit/background.shtml> (accessed December 15, 2015).

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ "Commission for Social Development," The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division.html> (accessed November 27, 2015).

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ "44th Session of the Commission for Social Development," The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/2006-5.html> (accessed December 15, 2015).

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Rocio Glas. "Historical Background of Social Insurance." International Labour Organization. <http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowTheme.action?th.themeId=2625> (accessed October 25, 2015).

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ "Social Insurance and Welfare Programs: Historical Development." Country Studies. <http://countrystudies.us/germany/112.htm> (accessed November 21, 2015).

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Rocio Glas. "Historical Background of Social Insurance." International Labour Organization. <http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowTheme.action?th.themeId=2625> (accessed December 15, 2015).

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

The social protection policies that were being introduced and adopted around the globe centered on combatting social tensions, violent conflicts, and uncontrolled migration that often resulted from periods of economic crisis.⁵³ Social protection provides a solution for complete loss or significant reduction of productive capacity, discrimination, and various other unexpected circumstances that can have a negative impact on an individual and their family.⁵⁴ In the last century, social protection has been identified as a basic human right and is designated as such by multiple international bodies and organizations.⁵⁵

Actions Taken by the United Nations

The UN declared social protection a basic human right in both Article 22 and Article 25 of the *Declaration of Human Rights*.⁵⁶ In 1966, social protection was again declared a basic human right in the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, which further stressed the growing commitment that the UN was making towards social protections during the 20th century.⁵⁷ During the 2008 financial crisis, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a specialized agency that was conceived by and has multiple agreements with the UN, even spoke of the importance of social protections in helping to combat the various economic crises that were occurring in 2008.⁵⁸ Dominique Strauss-Kahn, then-Managing Director of the IMF, gave this advice in his address regarding the food, fuel, and financial crises that were occurring at the time, “One thing that is important is to target subsidies and support... But a shift toward subsidies for goods particularly consumed by the poor, or, when feasible, better-targeted social safety net programs is needed to protect the poor...”⁵⁹ Even during one of the most turbulent times in economic and financial history, important international organizations were still highlighting the importance of social protection.

As mentioned previously, CSocD44 made its priority theme, “Review of the first United Nations Decade on the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006).”⁶⁰ During CSocD44, the CSocD thoughtfully reviewed the effectiveness of all related UN plans of action and programs regarding poverty eradication and made the discussion of employment, poverty eradication, and social integration its theme for the next year.⁶¹ The CSocD’s 45th and 46th Sessions (CSocD45 and CSocD46) had the priority theme of, “Promoting Full Employment and Decent Work for All.”⁶² CSocD46 further upheld the youth in development programs that were highlighted as a key factor to social progression and one of the panel discussions created a resolution that highlighted the importance of employment and non-discrimination in the global community.⁶³

During the 48th Session of CSocD (CSocD48), history was made when the CSocD adopted the draft resolution “Promoting Social Integration” and presented it to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for review and

⁵³ Krzysztof Hagemejer. “The Need for Social Protection.” International Labour Organization. October 10, 2015. <http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowTheme.action?id=2565> (accessed December 15, 2015).

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Krzysztof Hagemejer and Emmanuelle St-Pierre Guilbault. “The Right to Social Protection.” International Labour Organization. October 6, 2015. <http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowTheme.do?tid=2566> (accessed December 15, 2015).

⁵⁶ *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. United Nations General Assembly. December 10, 1948.

⁵⁷ Krzysztof Hagemejer and Emmanuelle St-Pierre Guilbault. “The Right to Social Protection.” International Labour Organization. October 6, 2015. <http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowTheme.do?tid=2566> (accessed December 16, 2015).

⁵⁸ Dominique Strauss-Kahn. “Remarks by Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.” International Monetary Fund. October 6, 2008. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/speeches/2008/100608.htm> (accessed December 16, 2015).

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ “44th Session of the Commission for Social Development,” United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csod-social-policy-and-development-division/2006-5.html> (accessed December 16, 2015).

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² “46th Session of the Commission for Social Development,” United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csod-social-policy-and-development-division/2008-2.html> (accessed December 16, 2015).

⁶³ Ibid.

adoption, which occurred on 22 July 2010.⁶⁴ CSocD48 also included multiple in-depth analysis and discussions of the 2008 financial and economic crisis and what the social protection policy responses had been and what social consequences were arising due to the crisis.⁶⁵ CSocD49 revisited “Poverty Eradication” as its priority theme.⁶⁶ The theme was chosen in response to the outcome of the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which was held the previous year, and the outcome was an agreement of world leaders to implement an action agenda that would improve the international fight against poverty and hunger.⁶⁷ CSocD49 was seen as an opportunity for the CSocD to reevaluate the MDGs’ implementation, while keeping in mind the successes and failures that had already occurred.⁶⁸ The result of the CSocD’s 49th Session was the creation of the International Labour Organization (ILO-UN) and UN’s Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I).⁶⁹ The SPF-I was designed to guarantee food security, health services, and old-age pensions.⁷⁰ It recognized social security as a human right and determined that four out of five people worldwide did not benefit from a level of social protection consistent with what the UN defines as the human right to social security.⁷¹ The SPF-I attempts to counteract this global issue by laying the groundwork for and providing technical, hands-on assistance to Member States who are willing to implement the SPF-I.⁷² The SPF-I is able to accomplish this by overseeing monetary transfers that are specifically designated to support health services and other forms of social protection.⁷³

Current Situation

Social protections have been encountering challenges for many governments around the world. As seen with previous financial crises, social protection programs can help to preserve and revive economic activities within Member States during financial crisis.⁷⁴ In the wake of the financial crisis, government expenditure as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product declined for social protection at the global level.⁷⁵ In developed Member States, social protection programs serve as an “automatic stabilizer” for the Member State’s economy, and the expenditure on these social protection programs tend to rise.⁷⁶ In order for the projected stabilizing effect to occur, expenditure by a government must increase.⁷⁷ In most developed Member States, however, expenditure on social protection programs decreased, thus removing the “automatic stabilizer” from the economy.⁷⁸

In developing Member States, social protection programs do not experience the expected expansion effect that may occur in developed Member States.⁷⁹ There is some initial expansion seen and then as developed Member States cut funding to aide programs, many developing Member States are forced to begin allocating resources elsewhere

⁶⁴ “48th Session of the Commission for Social Development,” United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd-2010.html> (accessed December 16, 2015).

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ “49th Session of the Commission for Social Development,” United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd-2011.html> (accessed October 26, 2015).

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ “UN Pushes for Social Schemes to Protect Poor At Mere Fraction of National Wealth.” UN News Centre. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37532&Cr=labour&Cr1=#.VkRJRJeJnZI> (accessed October 27, 2015).

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ “ILO-UN Social Protection Floor Initiative,” International Labor Organization, http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/press-and-media-centre/insight/WCMS_141818/lang--en/index.htm (accessed October 31, 2015).

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ “The Global Social Crisis: Report on the World Social Situation 2011,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/rwss/docs/2011/rwss2011.pdf> (accessed December 15, 2015). p. 3.

⁷⁵ Ibid. 82.

⁷⁶ Ibid. 83.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

within the economy.⁸⁰ Social protection programs within developing Member States are already adversely impacted by inadequate funding, under-developed programs, and budgetary stringency.⁸¹ During times of extreme financial crisis, budgetary stringency normally increases in developing Member States, thus causing adverse effects on social protection programs.⁸² This type of situation is most often seen in Sub-Saharan Member States.⁸³ Even though expenditure allocated to social protection decreased at a global level, there was an expansion of social protection programs in multiple developed and developing Member States.⁸⁴ One of the most important CSocD goals, and other UN organizations, is to continue this trend of expansion and hopefully circumvent the economic downsizing and cutting of social protection programs that is often seen after this type of expansion.⁸⁵

Since CSocD's 51st Session (CSocD51), there has been a relative halt to the progression of discussion of and resolutions regarding social protection.⁸⁶ More detailed discussion and resolutions regarding youth in action, development in Africa, and disability rights took the main focus at CSocD51 and subsequent sessions.⁸⁷ Starting with the 53rd Session of CSocD (CSocD53), with the theme, "Rethinking and Strengthening Social Development in the Contemporary World," CSocD53 focused on reviewing current UN plans of action and programs pertaining to the topic as a whole and set the topic to be the same for the 54th Session of the CSocD (CSocD54).⁸⁸ CSocD54 plans to go into further detail in the review of UN plans of action and programs pertaining to the topic.⁸⁹ CSocD54 will also be the first session of the CSocD to discuss the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁹⁰ With the discussion of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, CSocD54 hopes to make important steps towards even more impactful resolutions regarding social protection.⁹¹

Conclusion

Social protection is an extremely important aspect of maintaining the well being of the world's citizens. It is through social protection that individuals across the socio-economic spectrum can attain quality of life. Social protections have often been created and influenced by fluctuations in the economy and financial sectors of individual Member States and the international community. The 2008 financial crisis has placed a new focus and dependency on social protection at the international level. Although trends show that there has been an expansion in social protection programs in most areas of the world, there has been little done to counteract the predicted decrease of social protection programs that has been shown to occur in the wake of financial crises. The UN and the CSocD have continually promoted and supported social protection. However, there has been little done by way of multiple resolutions and concrete discussion in regards to social protection in the context of the 2008 financial crisis.

Committee Directive

Member States should determine the impact the 2008 financial crisis has had on social protection programs, and if effects are still impacting populations. Delegates should reevaluate the current social and economic studies that have been released by the UN and other organizations. Should economic and social studies and reports pertaining to social protection policies and legislation be conducted more frequently? What can be learned from the studies and reports that have already been released? Based on the current standing of social protection programs around the

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Ibid. 85-89.

⁸⁵ Ibid. 1-10.

⁸⁶ "51st Session of the Commission for Social Development," The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/51st-session-of-the-commission-for-social-development.html> (accessed December 17, 2015).

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ E/CN.5/2015/L.1, *Provisional Agenda*, Commission for Social Development, February 10, 2015.

⁹⁰ E/CN.5/2016/4, *Emerging Issues: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Commission for Social Development. November 23, 2015.

⁹¹ Ibid.

world, is there anything that can be done to help improve the situation in developing Member States and developed Member States? Member States should analyze and make recommendations for areas of social protection that can be targeted at both international and national levels.

II. Advancing the Human Rights for Persons with Disabilities

“Together, we are here to break barriers and open doors. We are here to forge the way forward and build a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond.”
-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon⁹²

Introduction

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) defines persons with disabilities as “...those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”⁹³ This definition was one of the first times that a formal definition of persons with disabilities was not immediately making them a homogenous group, but rather recognizing the differences among them, as individuals. Persons with disabilities make up roughly 15 percent, nearly one billion individuals, of the global population and 80 percent of these individuals live in developing Member States.⁹⁴ Persons with disabilities, in both developed and developing Member States, are more likely to live in poverty than their non-disabled peers.⁹⁵ This makes the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and development planning even more important as global social and economic development could not occur while such a large number of the international population remain marginalized from society and live in poverty.⁹⁶ If persons with disabilities are not legitimately included in the development planning process, then there is the risk that they will become even more marginalized within society and fall further into poverty.⁹⁷

The Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) is the main legislative body over which issues pertaining to persons with disabilities are handled.⁹⁸ The mission of the SCRPD is to promote the rights and advancement of persons with disabilities in the world.⁹⁹ Over the last two decades, the CSocD has continued to participate in a more involved role in regards to persons with disabilities and the human rights of said individuals. Some organizations within the UN have yet to truly discuss persons with disabilities, whereas the CSocD has been actively discussing, monitoring, and attempting to improve rights for persons with disabilities since 1997.¹⁰⁰ It is important to note that the movement for advancing human rights for persons with disabilities is a movement that began much later than other human rights movements.¹⁰¹ This slow progression was due to the compartmentalized and extremely limited way that the UN addressed human rights issues concerning persons with

⁹² Ban Ki-Moon. “Statement at the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Disability and Development.” September 23, 2015. UN News Centre.
http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/sgspeeches/statments_full.asp?statID=1978#.VltZNIrWkUs (accessed December 17, 2015).

⁹³ A/RES/61/106. *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol*. United Nations General Assembly. December 13, 2006.

⁹⁴ “Including the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in United Nations Programming at Country Level.” The United Nations.
http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/iasg/undg_guidance_note.pdf (accessed December 19, 2015). p. 11.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ “About Us,” The United Nations,
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/about-us.html> (accessed December 19, 2015).

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ “Commission for Social Development,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=38> (accessed December 19, 2015).

¹⁰¹ “History of United Nations and Persons with Disabilities-Introduction.” The United Nations,
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/history-of-united-nations-and-persons-with-disabilities-introduction.html> (accessed December 19, 2015).

disabilities.¹⁰² Only specific areas related to the rights of persons with disabilities were focused on and for almost three decades the UN's main focus was almost exclusively on persons with physical disabilities.¹⁰³

Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations

Human rights have been a central tenant of the UN. Documents such as the UN Charter and the Declaration of Human Rights both illustrate how important human rights and the protection of those rights are to the UN as a whole.¹⁰⁴ The main focus of the UN in regards to persons with disabilities was that of prevention and rehabilitation of physical disabilities.¹⁰⁵ The UN also maintained an official welfare perspective on persons with disabilities.¹⁰⁶ From 26 February to 3 March 1950, the UN held a conference in Geneva to organize specialized agencies for the purpose of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.¹⁰⁷ Although an agreement was created that established some international consistency in areas such as education and job placement, there was still only a central focus on physical disabilities.¹⁰⁸

By the 1960s, the welfare perspective that the UN had maintained in regards to persons with disabilities had evolved into a perspective of social welfare.¹⁰⁹ On 11 December 1969, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development was adopted; this resolution stressed the protection of the general rights of persons with disabilities and rights in regards to access to welfare.¹¹⁰ On 20 December 1971, the Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons was passed.¹¹¹ The passage of this particular declaration was the first time in UN history that persons with intellectual disabilities were stated to have the same basic human rights as others.¹¹² On 9 December 1975, the General Assembly (GA) adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons.¹¹³ This particular declaration gave persons with disabilities access to both national and international protection of their basic human rights.¹¹⁴ On 16 December 1976, the GA declared the year 1981 to be the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP), and articulated that IYDP would be focused on persons with disabilities and the interaction and integration with and into society.¹¹⁵

¹⁰² "Including the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in United Nations Programming at Country Level." United Nations Development Group. http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/iasg/undg_guidance_note.pdf (accessed December 19, 2015). p. 13.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ "History of United Nations and Persons with Disabilities-Introduction," The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/history-of-united-nations-and-persons-with-disabilities-introduction.html> (accessed December 19, 2015).

¹⁰⁵ "The early years: 1945-1955," The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/history-of-united-nations-and-persons-with-disabilities-the-early-years-1945-1955.html> (accessed December 19, 2015).

¹⁰⁶ "History of United Nations and Persons with Disabilities-Introduction," The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/history-of-united-nations-and-persons-with-disabilities-introduction.html> (accessed December 19, 2015).

¹⁰⁷ "The early years: 1945-1955," The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/history-of-united-nations-and-persons-with-disabilities-the-early-years-1945-1955.html> (accessed December 19, 2015).

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ "The Social Welfare Perspective: 1955-1970." Division for Social Policy and Development Disability. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/history-of-united-nations-and-persons-with-disabilities-the-social-welfare-perspective-1955-1970.html> (accessed December 19, 2015).

¹¹⁰ A/RES/2452 (XXIV). *Declaration on Social Progress and Development*. December 11, 1969.

¹¹¹ "A human rights approach: the 1970s." Division for Social Policy and Development. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/history-of-united-nations-and-persons-with-disabilities-a-human-rights-approach-the-1970s.html> (accessed December 19, 2015).

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ A/RES/3447 (XXX). *Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons*. The United Nations General Assembly. December 9, 1975.

¹¹⁵ "A human rights approach: the 1970s," The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/history-of-united-nations-and-persons-with-disabilities-a-human-rights-approach-the-1970s.html> (accessed December 19, 2015).

The World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (the Programme) was adopted on 3 December 1982.¹¹⁶ The implementation of the Programme centered on long-term integration into various facets of society that included: socio-economic development and legislation that targeted discrimination.¹¹⁷ The Programme also completely updated disability policy by creating three distinct areas of policy: prevention, rehabilitation, and equalization of opportunities.¹¹⁸

On 13 December 2006, the CRPD was adopted by the GA.¹¹⁹ This was one of the most historic documents passed in UN history as it had the highest ever number of signatories to a UN Convention on its opening day and by being one of the most comprehensive documents ever created in regards to the rights of persons with disabilities.¹²⁰ The CRPD had eight guiding principles around which its content centered, some of these guiding principles included: full and effective participation and inclusion in society, equality of opportunity, and accessibility.¹²¹ The CRPD was the first UN document to declare persons with disabilities as individuals who are capable of claiming their basic human rights, being active members of societies, and having the right to make informed decisions regarding their own individual lives.¹²²

As previously mentioned, the CSocD began to become involved with the rights of persons with disabilities in the late 1990s.¹²³ The 35th Session of CSocD (CSocD35) discussed the priority theme, “Productive Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods.”¹²⁴ It was under this theme that the CSocD began to first discuss and influence human rights of persons with disabilities.¹²⁵ During the 44th Session of the CSocD (CSocD44), the CSocD recommended that ECOSOC review and adopt what would become E/RES/2006/16, which was a comprehensive resolution that dealt with the promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.¹²⁶

Current Situation

During the 52nd Session of the CSocD (CSocD52), passed and then recommended what would become E/RES/2014/6.¹²⁷ E/RES/2014/6 dealt with the further promotion of basic rights of persons with disabilities and the

¹¹⁶ “The World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons,” The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/history-of-united-nations-and-persons-with-disabilities-the-world-programme-of-action-concerning-disabled-persons.html> (accessed December 20, 2015).

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ A/RES/37/52. *World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons*. General Assembly. December 3, 1975.

¹¹⁹ “Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD),” The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html> (accessed December 20, 2015).

¹²⁰ “The first millennium decade,” The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/about-us/history-of-united-nations-and-persons-with-disabilities-the-first-millennium-decade.html> (accessed December 20, 2015).

¹²¹ “Guiding Principles of the Convention,” The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/guiding-principles-of-the-convention.html> (accessed December 20, 2015).

¹²² “Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD),” The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html> (accessed December 20, 2015).

¹²³ “Commission for Social Development,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=38> (accessed December 20, 2015).

¹²⁴ “35th Session of the Commission for Social Development,” The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csod-social-policy-and-development-division/more-years/1997-3.html> (accessed December 20, 2015).

¹²⁵ E/CN.5/1997/11. *Commission for Social Development: Report on the thirty-fifth session*. Economic and Social Council. March 6, 1997.

¹²⁶ “44th Session of the Commission for Social Development,” The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csod-social-policy-and-development-division/2006-5.html> (accessed December 20, 2015).

¹²⁷ “52nd Session of the Commission for Social Development,” The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csod-social-policy-and-development-division/52nd-session-of-the-commission-for-social-development.html> (accessed December 21, 2015).

continuance of mainstreaming disability.¹²⁸ E/RES/2014/6 recommended reevaluation of both national international programs associated with the rights of persons with disabilities and called for more resources to be provided to UN organizations that deal directly with persons with disabilities.¹²⁹ The 53rd Session of the CSocD (CSocD53) revisited resolution E/RES/2014/6 and made some minor updates to the actual content of the resolution.¹³⁰ The revised resolution was adopted by ECOSOC and became E/RES/2015/4.¹³¹ The CSocD is not planning on discussing persons with disabilities at the 54th Session of the CSocD.¹³² Although many Member States ratified the CRPD, yet there are still some Member States that just recently ratified the CRPD within the last year, which indicates a continued slow growth of the movement of human rights for people with disabilities.¹³³

Conclusion

The human rights movement for people with disabilities is a relatively recent social movement, which had a very slow start in its initial push for equality. By making up a substantial portion of the global populations, especially in developing Member States, the improvement of rights, social participation, and economic participation by persons with disabilities is key to the success of both national and international development goals. Although the UN has a long history of promoting the rights of persons with disabilities; it was not until 2006 with the passage of the CRPD, that truly comprehensive human rights legislation was passed by the UN in helping persons with disabilities assert their given rights as global citizens. The CSocD has made several thoughtful and effective resolutions and reviews of the current status of persons with disabilities. However, no new updates or discussions are planned to occur regarding persons with disabilities for the next two years.

Committee Directive

Delegates should focus their dialogue on the integration of persons with disabilities into national societies, with a special focus on education and healthcare. What are ways that current resolutions and conventions can be implemented so that the maximum level of protection of civil and human rights of Persons with Disabilities is guaranteed? Do the rights of persons with disabilities need to be discussed every session of CSocD? Or is it acceptable to only revisit the issue every few years? What additional steps are required to successfully integrate persons with disabilities as successful members of society?

¹²⁸ E/RES/2014/6. *Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the post-2015 development agenda*. The Economic and Social Council. June 12, 2014.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ “53rd Session of the Commission for Social Development,” The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocc-social-policy-and-development-division/53rd-session-of-the-commission-for-social-development-csocc53-2.html> (accessed December 21, 2015).

¹³¹ “CSocD53 Resolutions and Decisions,” The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocc-social-policy-and-development-division/53rd-session-of-the-commission-for-social-development-csocc53-2/csocc53-resolutions.html> (accessed December 21, 2015).

¹³² “54th Session of the Commission for Social Development,” The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocc-social-policy-and-development-division/54th-session-of-the-commission-for-social-development-csocc54.html> (accessed December 21, 2015).

¹³³ “CRPD Latest Developments,” The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/latest-developments.html> (accessed December 21, 2015).

Technical Appendix Guide

I. The Impact of the Financial Crisis on Social Protection

Guollen, M.F. (2015), “The Global Economic & Financial Crisis: A Timeline,” The Lauder Institute, http://lauder.wharton.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Chronology_Economic_Financial_Crisis.pdf.

This timeline was created by the head of the Lauder Institute of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and is one of the more comprehensive timelines regarding the 2008 financial crisis. The timeline provides the major global events surrounding the 2008 financial crisis and covers the span of several years. The timeline not only provides the event but also a detailed description of what exactly occurred regarding said event. This timeline is one of the few that provides a global context and perspective to the 2008 financial crisis.

“Human Development Reports,” The United Nations Development Programme, <http://hdr.undp.org/en>.

This United Nations Development Programme (UNFP) database provides the current and all past Human Development Reports (HDR) and also provides the Human Development Index (HDI). The HDR is one of, if not the most, comprehensive resources regarding human development. Data is compiled in a large database and can be broken down by Member State, and then further broken down along economic and gender-based lines. Using the information, the progression and regression of a Member State can be tracked and compared to others in the same region and to other Member States in general. This has allowed for a scale to be created that measures human development and allows for it to be tracked over the course of time. The HDR also provides individual Member State profiles and reports in addition to the comprehensive HDR.

“Research,” International Monetary Fund, <http://www.imf.org/external/research/index.aspx>.

This International Monetary Fund (IMF) webpage serves as the starting point for accessing various reports, reviews, and bulletins regarding global economic information. This particular source provides a variety of knowledge for delegates regarding the global economy. From this website, regional economic reports can be accessed, as well as Group of 20 surveillance notes. This website provides information to delegates that starts at the general level and narrows greatly to specific issues. Some general information provided through this webpage includes: the Global Financial Stability Report and the IMF Fiscal Monitor. Some specific information provided through this webpage includes the most recent IMF Working Papers.

“Social Protection & Human Rights: Framework,” Social Protection and Human Rights, <http://socialprotection-humanrights.org/framework/>.

This organization provides vast amount information regarding social protection. It also provides resources and guidance in researching social protection with the contest of other issues. It is the result of the collaboration between several UN organizations and has detailed information on the majority of UN organizations that specialize in social issues. The organization also provides other resources for UN documents and further research.

“Social Protection,” The United Nations Children’s Fund, http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_socialprotection.html

This United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) article gives a brief insight into the effects that particular social protection policies have on different organizations within the UN. The article puts social protection within the framework of child-sensitive legislation and highlights the importance of more specified legislation that prevents marginalization of children. This provides delegates with some insight into integrated social protection systems and the importance of them at the global level.

II. Advancing the Human Rights for Persons with Disabilities

“Disability and Health,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/people.html>

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides basic information on the definition of persons with disabilities. It provides information regarding education, health, safety, and transitional periods. It also provides links to more articles and studies regarding information for peoples with disabilities. It also provides informational breakdowns along gender and age lines.

“Disability Rights,” Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/topic/disability-rights>

Human Rights Watch (HRW) is a nonprofit human rights organization that publishes more than 100 reports every year on human rights conditions and covers everything from local to international issues. The HRW makes it a point to investigate reports of human rights abuses and compiles finding into formal reports. The disability rights section of the HRW offers numerous reports on issues facing persons with disabilities in various areas of the world. It also provides comprehensive information about common issues found amongst persons with disabilities.

“Issues,” United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner,
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/Home.aspx>

The website of the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner provides a strong foundation of information regarding human rights both in general and in more specialized categories. There is a section on human rights in regards to persons with disabilities and there are also resources that provide primary copies of UN documents. There is also access to speeches and reports conducted by this organization and others that can prove to be helpful for delegates.

Lang, R. (2006) “Human Rights and Disability-New and Dynamic Perspective with the United Nations Convention on Disability”, *Asia Pacific Disability Rehabilitation Journal*, 17.1: 3-11
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lc-ccr/lccstaff/raymond-lang/unconven-lang.pdf>

This article gives details of regional blocs opinions and voting trends in regards to the issue of human rights of persons with disabilities. It was written just before the CRPD was passed by the GA and gives a realistic insight into predictions of ratification and overall possible effectiveness of the then proposed legislation. It also gives a simple timeline of issues that were discussed prior to the CRPD within the UN and GA, respectively.

“United Nations Enable Newsletter,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=312>

The UN database provides every issue on the Enable Newsletter in multiple languages. The Enable Newsletter is prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD). The Enable Newsletter provides insight and information into the main issues that are being discussed at the UN in regards to persons with disabilities. It also provides updates on past issues and proposes issues that may arise or be of central importance in the future.