



## SRMUN Charlotte 2016

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

March 31 - April 2, 2016

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Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2016 and the General Assembly Plenary (GA Plen). My name is Alexandra (Ali) Silver, and I will be serving as your Director for the GA Plen. This will be my fourth conference as a SRMUN staff member. Previously, I served as the Director for the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) at SRMUN Charlotte 2015, Assistant Director for the GA Fourth Committee at SRMUN Atlanta 2014, and Assistant Director for the World Health Organization (WHO) at SRMUN Atlanta 2013. I currently work as a teacher and a freelancer in television production; I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Communications with a minor in Political Science from Pace University-Westchester. Our committee's Assistant Director will be Brittany Pye. This will be Brittany's first time as a staff member, but she is not new to the SRMUN scene as she has previously been a delegate at our 2015 Charlotte conference in INTERPOL representing Italy. Brittany will be graduating in May 2016 from Wesleyan College where she will earn a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, Accounting and International Business. Brittany has accepted a job at a public accounting firm which she will begin upon graduation.

The GA Plen was founded in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations (UN) and serves as the principal representative, deliberative and policymaking organ of the UN. The GA Plen is composed of all 193 Member States that discuss unlimited areas of international issues and pass recommendations and resolutions.

By focusing on the mission of the GA Plen 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 during conference:

- I. Integrating Youth Employment into an Evolving Workforce
- II. The Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity

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 [www.srmun.org](http://www.srmun.org). **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, March 11, 2016 by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.**

Brittany and I are enthusiastic about serving as your dais for the GA Plen. 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 SRMUN Charlotte 2016 Director-General Maricruz Retana, Brittany or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

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## History for the General Assembly Plenary

The General Assembly (GA) was created by the United Nations (UN) Charter and is one of the six principle organs of the UN.<sup>1</sup> The GA serves as the central body of the UN as it 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.”<sup>2</sup> On 10 January 1946, the first session of the GA convened in Central Hall in Westminster, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and passed its first resolution, A/RES/1, on 24 January 1946 surrounding the peaceful use and elimination of atomic weaponry and other weapons of mass destruction.<sup>3</sup>

As per the Rules of Procedure adopted by the GA, the opening of each plenary session will be held on the Tuesday of the third week in September; session has customarily been suspended in mid-December but can reconvene at any point throughout the year the committee deems necessary.<sup>4</sup> Each session is held at the UN Headquarters in New York City, New York; however, relocation can be requested by any Member State of the UN and granted upon majority approval from Member States.<sup>5</sup> At the beginning of each plenary session, the GA elects a new President whose role lasts from the beginning to the end of that current session.<sup>6</sup> The President of the 69<sup>th</sup> session was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uganda, Sam K. Kutesa.<sup>7</sup>

The GA is the only UN body that has universal membership.<sup>8</sup> However, each Member State may have no more than five representatives during committee.<sup>9</sup> Currently, there are 193 Member States, and each Member State only receives one vote.<sup>10</sup> For matters that have been designated as “important—such as recommendations on peace and security, the election of the Security Council and Economic and Social Council members, and budgetary questions,” a two-third majority must be reached; all other matters require only a simple majority.<sup>11</sup> Recent sessions have seen a larger effort to reach a consensus rather than have a formal vote.<sup>12</sup> Every Member State has the right to vote unless they are in arrears of their financial debts to the UN for two or more years; the GA Plenary may decide to suspend this rule if they feel the Member State cannot control its financial conditions.<sup>13</sup> Observers, by definition, have no voting rights as they are “non-Member States, entities, and organizations” that can only participate in the GA.<sup>14</sup> There are currently two permanent observers in the GA Plenary, those being the Holy See and the State of Palestine.<sup>15</sup>

Due to its size of universal membership, the GA has been divided into smaller sections to concentrate on specific areas or topics. These subsidiary bodies are committees, commissions, boards, assemblies and councils, and

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<sup>1</sup> “*Charter of the United Nations, Chapter III: Organs.*” The United Nations.

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter> (accessed August 19, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> “*Charter of the United Nations, Chapter IV: The General Assembly.*” The United Nations.

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter> (accessed July 22, 2015).

<sup>3</sup> “History of the United Nations: 1941-1950.” The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/history> (accessed July 22, 2015).

<sup>4</sup> “Rules of Procedure, Sessions.” The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/ropga/sessions.shtml> (accessed July 22, 2015).

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> “*Charter of the United Nations, Chapter IV: The General Assembly.*” The United Nations.

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter> (accessed July 22, 2015).

<sup>7</sup> “The Role of the General Assembly.” The Council of Foreign Relations. <http://www.cfr.org/international-organizations-and-alliances/role-un-general-assembly/p13490> (accessed July 22, 2015).

<sup>8</sup> “*Charter of the United Nations, Chapter IV: The General Assembly.*” The United Nations.

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter> (accessed August 21, 2015).

<sup>9</sup> “*Charter of the United Nations, Chapter IV: The General Assembly.*” The United Nations.

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter> (accessed July 22, 2015).

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> “Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.” The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml> (accessed July 22, 2015).

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> “*Charter of the United Nations, Chapter IV: The General Assembly.*” The United Nations.

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter> (accessed July 22, 2015).

<sup>14</sup> “Observers.” The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/observers.shtml> (accessed July 22, 2015).

<sup>15</sup> “Non-Member States,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/members/nonmembers.shtml> (accessed July 22, 2015).

working groups.<sup>16</sup> Currently there are six main committees in the GA which are commonly called by their respective numbers: Disarmament and International Security (DISEC) or interchangeably called the GA First Committee; Economic and Financial (ECOFIN) or the GA Second Committee; Social, Cultural and Humanitarian (SOCHUM) or the GA Third Committee; Special Political and Decolonization (SPECPOL) or GA Fourth Committee; Administrative and Budgetary or the GA Fifth Committee; and Legal also called the GA Sixth Committee.<sup>17</sup> The main body as a whole is referred to as the GA Plenary. All Budgetary matters for the GA Plenary are dealt with through the GA Fifth Committee.<sup>18</sup> Within the Fifth Committee is a subsidiary organ called the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), whose duties include examining budget proposals and reports submitted to them by specialized agencies and the UN Secretary-General.<sup>19</sup> The GA adopts resolutions regarding the budget that may include recommendations concerning budgeting, evaluation cycle, monitoring, planning and programming.<sup>20</sup>

The GA is not limited to certain topics or areas that it may discuss and pass resolutions or recommendations on; it “provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter.”<sup>21</sup> These can include, at a minimum, any of the following: approval of UN budget and financial assessment of Member States; elect non-permanent members of the Security Council (SC) and others; make recommendations of international peace and security issues or conflicts; authorize studies; receive and deliberate upon special reports from the SC and other main and subsidiary UN bodies; authorize the membership of candidate states to the UN; work with the SC to appoint judges to the International Court of Justice (ICJ); and, create subsidiary organs to serve as a special function.<sup>22</sup>

Regular sessions usually begin with open debate, then topics are distributed to the specialized committee.<sup>23</sup> After being passed, resolutions, like other UN organs with the exception of the SC, are not legally binding upon Member States, but provide recommendations to the international community; resolutions can impact a State’s domestic or foreign policy and have a big impact on the community as a whole.<sup>24</sup> The most notable impacts of the GA include but are not limited to: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights A/RES/217(III), the Uniting for Peace Resolution A/RES/377(V), and the Millennium Declaration A/RES/55/2. A/RES/217(III) was passed in 1948 and was a “historic act that proclaimed the ‘inherent dignity’ and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family.”<sup>25</sup> A/RES/377(V) was enacted in 1950 and established the UN Peacekeeping Forces.<sup>26</sup> It gave the GA the right to call upon Member States to maintain international peace and security if the SC fails to do so; the first armed peacekeepers were deployed to the Suez Crisis in 1956.<sup>27</sup> Lastly, A/RES/55/2 was the enactment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in 2000. The MDGs were to be time-bound and measurable targets for combatting a multitude of issues at the time; although many of these issues have been improved, many of the goals were extended past the end date of 2015.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> “About the General Assembly.” The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/index.shtml> (accessed July 22, 2015).

<sup>17</sup> “Main Committees.” The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/maincommittees/index.shtml> (accessed July 22, 2015).

<sup>18</sup> “UN Documentation: Regular Budget,” United Nations Research Guides, <http://research.un.org/en/docs/budget/bodies> (accessed August 28, 2015).

<sup>19</sup> “About the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ),” The United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, <http://www.un.org/ga/acabq/about> (accessed August 28, 2015).

<sup>20</sup> “UN Documentation: Regular Budget,” United Nations Research Guides, <http://research.un.org/en/docs/budget/bodies> (accessed August 28, 2015).

<sup>21</sup> “Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.” The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml> (accessed July 22, 2015).

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> “Rules of Procedure, Plenary Meetings.” The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/ropga/plenary.shtml> (accessed July 22, 2015).

<sup>24</sup> “The Role of the General Assembly.” The Council of Foreign Relations. <http://www.cfr.org/international-organizations-and-alliances/role-un-general-assembly/p13490> (accessed July 22, 2015).

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

The GA will begin its 70<sup>th</sup> session on 15 September 2015.<sup>29</sup> A main goal of the upcoming session will be to pass the post-2015 development agenda.<sup>30</sup> According to A/RES/69/244, this agenda is an attempt to restructure and redefine a framework to succeed the Millennium Development Goals.<sup>31</sup>

All Member States are represented in the General Assembly Plenary.<sup>32</sup>

## I. Integrating Youth Employment into an Evolving Workforce

*“Failing to invest in our youth is a false economy.”  
-Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations (UN)<sup>33</sup>*

### Introduction

In his speech concerning the 2014 International Day of Democracy about Engaging Youth, former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said "Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace. If, however, they are left on society's margins, all of us will be impoverished."<sup>34</sup> Throughout the course of history and even in present day, news of student led, organized, or participation in demonstrations, lobbying, movements, or even riots occur with many of the major social and economic issues; youths as a whole tend to be at the forefront for political and social change.<sup>35</sup> They have great potential to make an impact. Today's youth can be an enormous asset to all Member States. Concerns about youth's participation in society and the economy can play a central role in any domestic or international policy. However, the subject of defining when youth begins and ends in relation to the workforce can be difficult. The UN defines youth to be any person that is between the ages of 15-24.<sup>36</sup> Although, different age or developmental groups can be used in some cases depending upon the context involved, ages 15-24 is the most commonly used range.<sup>37</sup>

One way that youth can be full and active members of society and the economy is to be fully, decently, and productively employed, especially as they navigate the transition into adulthood.<sup>38</sup> Having a large or majority of the youth population employed promotes "social integration, intergenerational dialogue, citizenship, and solidarity" as well as helping to alleviate poverty in society as a whole.<sup>39</sup> However, the economic and social costs of youth unemployment can be just as high, if not proportionately higher, as in adult unemployment.<sup>40</sup>

Once within the workforce, challenges arise in engaging and retaining younger employees. Generational differences arise as the younger Millennial (those born between 1980-2000) workforce counteracts with the older generations.<sup>41</sup> Different ideas about the how, why, and where the work should be done create tensions within the workforce.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>29</sup> "Schedule of the General Assembly Plenary and Related Meetings." The United Meetings. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/70/meetings/> (accessed July 22, 2015).

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> A/RES/69/244. *Organization of the United Nations Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. United Nations General Assembly. [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/244](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/244) (accessed August 28, 2015).

<sup>32</sup> SRMUN Charlotte – Nations, SRMUN, <http://www.srmun.org/charlotte/nations.php> (accessed November 21, 2015).

<sup>33</sup> "Failure to Invest in Young People 'a False Economy', Secretary-General tells UN General Assembly," The United Nations, 27 July 2011, <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/NewsandEvents/tabid/146/news/142/Default.aspx> (accessed October 2, 2015).

<sup>34</sup> Kofi Annan, "Engaging Youth," United Nations, <http://www.ipu.org/idd/2014-youth.htm> (accessed October 27, 2015).

<sup>35</sup> "What Youth?" Alliance of Civilizations Youth, <http://www.unaoc.org/what-we-do/grants-and-competitions/youth-solidarity-fund/> (accessed October 2, 2015).

<sup>36</sup> "Definition of Youth," United Nations Youth, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-definition.pdf> (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> "Youth Employment: Impact, Challenges and Opportunities for Social Development," Commission for Social Development, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/csocd45emergingissues.pdf> (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Jon Burgess, "Managing the New Workforce, Generation Y (Millennials)," RedFusion, <http://redfusionmedia.com/managing-generation-y-millennials/> accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>42</sup> "Millennials at Work: Reshaping the Workplace," Pricewaterhouse Cooper,

Problems are also created in that the workplace is evolving around the generations as more Millennials enter the workforce.<sup>43</sup> The increase in technology works in favor of the Millennials but can also exacerbate tensions between them and the older generations.<sup>44</sup>

These complications help expand upon high levels of youth unemployment. Economically, a society with higher levels of youth unemployment can face many more challenges as they try to recover and then grow the economy.<sup>45</sup> The importance of youth to be full members of society cannot go unnoticed.<sup>46</sup>

### ***Economic Impact of Youth Unemployment***

A person is considered to be unemployed when they currently do not hold a job but are actively searching for one.<sup>47</sup> If a person is not actively seeking employment, such as a person that chooses to not work for any reason, they cannot be considered unemployed.<sup>48</sup> After six months of unemployment, an individual is then considered long-term unemployed.<sup>49</sup> Member States, on a domestic and international level, are concerned with unemployment because it can be used as an indicator for a healthy economy but can also prevent future growth.<sup>50</sup>

With an individual, unemployment can be “financially and emotionally destructive.”<sup>51</sup> An unemployed individual can have higher rates of both mental and physical health problems, mortality rates, a shorter life expectancy, and experience family dynamic consequences.<sup>52</sup> These types of mental and physical health problems can cause an increase in alcohol and drug use as well as an increase in crime rate.<sup>53</sup> Within the community, it can also cause wide spread fear and anxiety that an individual will be the next to become unemployed.<sup>54</sup> Economically speaking, this can be seen as an opportunity lost with human capital.

Wasting resources, be it human, property, or any other kind, can inhibit economic growth within an economy. Simply put, if an individual is without a job, they decrease their spending which can help to slow the economy down.<sup>55</sup> An economy must have higher levels of consumer spending and consumption in order to keep the supply and demand cycle continuing. When revenues fall within a business, the business naturally looks to cut costs, which in most cases directly affects payroll; that puts more people out of work with less money to spend to increase business revenues.<sup>56</sup> As well as business, governing entities also collect fewer revenues which can in turn inhibit their ability to implement fiscal policies to restart the economy again.<sup>57</sup> This downward spiral can lead to increased distrust and disapproval of the government as well.<sup>58</sup> It is important to note that a healthy economy does not have

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<https://www.pwc.com/ml/en/services/consulting/documents/millennials-at-work.pdf> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> “Youth Employment: Impact, Challenges and Opportunities for Social Development,” Commission for Social Development, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/csocd45emergingissues.pdf> (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> “What is Unemployment?” About News, [http://useconomy.about.com/od/supply/f/unemploy\\_define.htm](http://useconomy.about.com/od/supply/f/unemploy_define.htm) (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> “Unemployment,” Economics Online, [http://www.economicsonline.co.uk/Global\\_economics/Unemployment.html](http://www.economicsonline.co.uk/Global_economics/Unemployment.html) (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>51</sup> “What is Unemployment?” About News, [http://useconomy.about.com/od/supply/f/unemploy\\_define.htm](http://useconomy.about.com/od/supply/f/unemploy_define.htm) (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>52</sup> “The Psychological Consequences of Unemployment” The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, <https://www.spsai.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewpage&pageid=1457> (accessed October 2, 2015).

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> “What is Unemployment?” About News, [http://useconomy.about.com/od/supply/f/unemploy\\_define.htm](http://useconomy.about.com/od/supply/f/unemploy_define.htm) (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> “Unemployment,” Economics Online, [http://www.economicsonline.co.uk/Global\\_economics/Unemployment.html](http://www.economicsonline.co.uk/Global_economics/Unemployment.html) (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.



zero percent unemployment; it is only theoretically possible.<sup>59</sup> Unemployment becomes a chief concern when it reaches above five to six percent total.<sup>60</sup>

The global unemployment rate is currently around six percent, approximately 201 million people (this figure is derived from the total available workforce, not total world population).<sup>61</sup> Although global unemployment for all age groups has been a growing concern for Member States, youth unemployment remains a more prominent concern as youth “represent around one fifth of the world’s population, but half of the total unemployed global workforce.”<sup>62</sup> The world labor force participation rate of youth aged 15-24 has dropped from 50.5 percent in 2006 to 47.3 percent in 2013.<sup>63</sup> This drop could be attributed to many causes, including but not limited to: youth not wanting to enter workforce with high unemployment, youth either choosing or not required to work at an early age, more focus and attention put on attaining higher levels of education, or any other obstacle to them gaining employment.<sup>64</sup>

### ***Obstacles to Youth Unemployment***

There are many reasons why youth globally have a much higher unemployment rate than the average worker; there are a few reasons that exist in all economies and Member States, but it can also vary according to each specific region and between developed and developing economies. One main reason is that youth are at the point in their lives where there is a school-to-work transition.<sup>65</sup> This transition can be difficult for youth trying to enter the workforce for the first time or for those trying to find “secure and satisfying employment” in their chosen career area.<sup>66</sup> Formal employment refers to employment where there is either a contract or salaried agreement between employer and employee.<sup>67</sup> Informal employment is where there is no contract binding the two individuals to a work agreement and the workers are waged.<sup>68</sup> However, it has been noted that ‘informal’ may not have the correct connotation needed as this type of employment can be highly regulated; this type of employment has also been referred to as the intermediary zone.<sup>69</sup>

Another obstacle to youth employment is a skills mismatch.<sup>70</sup> In many developing Member States, extreme poverty or even war can prohibit children from finishing school past a primary or secondary education level.<sup>71</sup> This can leave them with little to no marketable skills or access to use the skills they do have.<sup>72</sup> Education has been an important part of a Member State’s development, and has been a global focus; it has been a part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and has grown in importance for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>73 74</sup> The percentage of children enrolled in secondary education has grown from 57.7 percent in 2006 to 66 percent in 2013, but it is still very low.<sup>75</sup> By having better access to education, developing Member States can increase the

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<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> “Unemployment, total (% of total labor force),” The World Bank,

<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.TOTL.ZS/countries?display=graph> (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>62</sup> “Youth Employment: Impact, Challenges and Opportunities for Social Development,” Commission for Social Development, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/csocd45emergingissues.pdf> (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>63</sup> “Labor force participation rate for ages 15-24, total (%) (modeled ILO estimate),” The World Bank,

<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.ACTI.1524.ZS/countries/1W?display=graph> (accessed October 5, 2015).

<sup>64</sup> “Youth Employment,” United Nations, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/ch02.pdf> (accessed October 5, 2015).

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> “Is Education the Solution to Decent Work for Youth In Developing Economies?” International Labor Organization,

<http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Work4Youth-Publication.pdf> (accessed October 5, 2015).

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> “Goals, Targets, and Indicators,” The United Nations, <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/gti.htm#goal1> (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>74</sup> “Sustainable Development Goals,” Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform,

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics> (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>75</sup> “School enrollment, secondary (% net),” World Bank, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.SEC.NENR/countries/1W-4E-A9-A5?display=graph> (accessed October 5, 2015).

development and growth of their economies by producing a wealthier citizenry that is not reliant upon subsistence or small commercial agriculture.<sup>76</sup>

### *Current Situation*

In 2000, the Millennium Summit adopted the MDGs in an effort to increase holistic global development with a deadline year of 2015.<sup>77</sup> Goal 8 of the MDGs was to “Develop a Global Partnership for Development” with Target 16 of that Goal being to “develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth.”<sup>78</sup> With an expiring deadline, the Post-2015 Agenda was adopted in September 2015, creating the SDGs as a way to update, expand, and further continue the MDGs.<sup>79</sup> The issue of productive and decent work has continued to be a concern for all Member States, and was formulated into Goal 8 of the SDGs: “Promote Sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.”<sup>80</sup> As youth make up half of the unemployed workforce, the SDGs will be targeting youth unemployment specifically Targets 8.5 and 8.6.<sup>81</sup> Target 8.5 seeks to “achieve full and productive employment and decent work” for many different societal groups, including youth, by 2030.<sup>82</sup> However, Target 8.6 has an earlier goal of 2020 to “substantially reduce” the percentage of youth who are not currently employed or seeking training or education.<sup>83</sup>

To help combat untrained and unskilled workers from turning to begging or crime to make a living, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has created youth employment programs around the world to train youth in a trade and then to assist them in becoming employed.<sup>84</sup> The programs are located throughout the world in numerous Member States, but are very prevalent in Jamaica, Jordan, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone, to name a few.<sup>85</sup> Member States have also been successful in instituting public works projects along with policies encouraging youth to attain an education, learn a trade, or look for long term employment.<sup>86</sup>

As of 2014, the 10 Member States with the highest percentage of youth unemployment are as follows: Spain with 53.2 percent, Greece with 52.4 percent, South Africa with 51.3 percent, Italy with 42.7 percent, Portugal with 34.8 percent, Slovakia with 29.7 percent, Ireland with 26.9 percent, Costa Rica with 25.1 percent, Poland with 23.9 percent, and Belgium with 23.2 percent.<sup>87</sup> The recent world economic crisis and then the subsequent Eurozone crisis has affected the European Union (EU) heavily, as can be seen by eight of the top ten aforementioned belonging to the EU.<sup>88</sup> Although the worldwide unemployment rate has dropped, the rate for the EU is 11 percent, compared to less than six percent in the United States of America (USA) and four percent in Japan, Korea, and Norway.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> “Is Education the Solution to Decent Work for Youth In Developing Economies?” International Labor Organization, <http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Work4Youth-Publication.pdf> (accessed October 5, 2015).

<sup>77</sup> “About the Millennium Development Goals,” The United Nations, <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/> (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>78</sup> “Goals, Targets, and Indicators,” The United Nations, <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/gti.htm#goal1> (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>79</sup> “What are the Sustainable Development Goals?” Citiscope, <http://citiscope.org/habitatIII/explainer/2015/06/what-are-sustainable-development-goals> (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>80</sup> “Sustainable Development Goals,” Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics> (accessed October 1, 2015).

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> “Tackling Youth Unemployment,” Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on youth, <http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2013/08/tackling-youth-unemployment/> (accessed October 5, 2015).

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> “Youth Employment,” United Nations, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/ch02.pdf> (accessed October 5, 2015).

<sup>87</sup> Joe Myers, “Which countries have the highest rates of youth unemployment?” World Economic Forum, <https://agenda.weforum.org/2015/08/which-countries-have-the-highest-rates-of-youth-unemployment/> (accessed October 27, 2015).

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

<sup>89</sup> “OECD Employment Outlook 2015,” Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, [http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/employment/oecd-employment-outlook-2015\\_empl\\_outlook-2015-en#page3](http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/employment/oecd-employment-outlook-2015_empl_outlook-2015-en#page3) (accessed October 27, 2015).

A problem with the long-term levels of high unemployment is the risk of youth becoming caught below the poverty threshold or at the lower levels of the labor market.<sup>90</sup> To combat this, the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) suggests policies that support upward mobility within the labor market, create jobs that meet the demand for middle skilled workers, set a beneficial minimum wage, and to help train unskilled workers.<sup>91</sup> Although these policies are not meant to be implemented concretely within every Member State, they do provide a direction for Member States to start decreasing their unemployment.<sup>92</sup>

### ***Generational Differences***

Currently, there are four generations working within the workplace: Silent Generation, Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Millennials (interchangeably labelled as Generation Y).<sup>93</sup> The Silent Generation are people born between 1925 and 1942, the Baby Boomers from 1943-1964, Generation X from 1965-1979, and the Millennials from 1980-2000.<sup>94</sup> Having this many generations within the workplace can cause tensions in all levels of management. The generations have different priorities, work habits, attitudes, and mindsets concerning how and when work should be done.<sup>95</sup> However, the true main difference surrounding the generational differences within the workplace is the use, reliance, and knowledge of technology by Millennials.<sup>96</sup>

The two generations that are the closest alike in their attitudes and habits toward work are the Silent Generation and the Baby Boomers.<sup>97</sup> Both are nearing or past retirement age, and are in a much different life stage than those just entering the workforce.<sup>98</sup> These generations tend to identify themselves with their professions.<sup>99</sup> They also tend to enjoy and desire more job stability as far as work week, pay, and long term employment with one company.<sup>100</sup> Generation X tends to be more of the team players, problem solvers, and also more prone to be entrepreneurs.<sup>101</sup> Generation X falls in between Baby Boomers and the Millennials and is frequently caught in in the middle of workplace tensions.<sup>102</sup>

Millennials use of and incorporation of technology into all aspects of life set them apart from the other generations.<sup>103</sup> This has changed not only how they do work, but when and where.<sup>104</sup> The culture of technology, innovation, and creativity has made Millennials “uncomfortable” with a traditional nine to five office job.<sup>105</sup> The ingrained sense that things can be done faster, more efficiently, and easier with technology has transferred over to

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

<sup>92</sup> “OECD Employment Outlook 2015,” Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, [http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/employment/oecd-employment-outlook-2015\\_empl\\_outlook-2015-en#page3](http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/employment/oecd-employment-outlook-2015_empl_outlook-2015-en#page3) (accessed October 27, 2015).

<sup>93</sup> Jon Burgess, “Managing the New Workforce, Generation Y (Millennials),” RedFusion, <http://redfusionmedia.com/managing-generation-y-millennials/> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>94</sup> Rawn Shah, “Working with Five Generations in the Workplace,” Forbes, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/rawnshah/2011/04/20/working-with-five-generations-in-the-workplace/> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>95</sup> Jon Burgess, “Managing the New Workforce, Generation Y (Millennials),” RedFusion, <http://redfusionmedia.com/managing-generation-y-millennials/> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>96</sup> “Millennials at Work: Reshaping the Workplace,” Pricewaterhouse Cooper, <https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/managing-tomorrows-people/future-of-work/assets/reshaping-the-workplace.pdf> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>97</sup> Jon Burgess, “Managing the New Workforce, Generation Y (Millennials),” RedFusion, <http://redfusionmedia.com/managing-generation-y-millennials/> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

<sup>99</sup> Ruth Mayhew, “Examples of Cultural Differences in the Workplace,” Demand Media, <http://smallbusiness.chron.com/examples-cultural-differences-workplace-11494.html> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>100</sup> “Global Generations,” Ernst and Young, [http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/EY-global-generations-a-global-study-on-work-life-challenges-across-generations/\\$FILE/EY-global-generations-a-global-study-on-work-life-challenges-across-generations.pdf](http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/EY-global-generations-a-global-study-on-work-life-challenges-across-generations/$FILE/EY-global-generations-a-global-study-on-work-life-challenges-across-generations.pdf) (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>101</sup> “Winning the Generation Game,” The Economist, <http://www.economist.com/news/business/21586831-businesses-are-worrying-about-how-manage-different-age-groups-widely-different> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>102</sup> Ibid.

<sup>103</sup> “Millennials at Work: Reshaping the Workplace,” Pricewaterhouse Cooper, <https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/managing-tomorrows-people/future-of-work/assets/reshaping-the-workplace.pdf> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>104</sup> Ibid.

<sup>105</sup> Ibid.



the workplace.<sup>106</sup> This type of culture has also normalized the idea of options and instant feedback in Millennials, much more than in the older generations.<sup>107</sup> This need for a fluid communication structure comes from collaborating in real time online and in a team atmosphere, even though the team is not physically together.<sup>108</sup>

Millennials and young employees expect to advance in their career much faster than their older counterparts.<sup>109</sup> When Millennials are very vocal about their desire for a higher position, it can make the older generations, especially the Baby Boomers, unwilling to help the Millennials.<sup>110</sup> China has had the most Millennials move into management positions within the year at 90 percent of new managers being Millennials.<sup>111</sup> Member States that have a very high percentage of Millennial managers overall are India with 85 percent, Japan with 85 percent, Mexico with 69 percent, Brazil with 61 percent, and China with 58 percent.<sup>112</sup> Although when it comes to managing older generations, Millennials can be perceived as entitled, irresponsible, or immature which can cause tension within the workplace, as the older generations are less open to change and innovation.<sup>113</sup>

Millennials are also not known for staying with a company long-term.<sup>114</sup> While it may not be correct to say that Millennials do not possess loyalty for their employer, they are more likely to switch jobs from restlessness or for financial gain.<sup>115</sup> The monotonous day to day of their work life does not always keep up with the fast paced online world that is just as important to them.<sup>116</sup> A reason for them to leave for more money is the growing student debt crisis, especially within developed Member States.<sup>117</sup> Today, 25 percent of Millennials expect to have more than six employers in their lifetime and over half believing they will have two to five employers.<sup>118</sup>

### **Conclusion**

As the world continues into the next decade in pursuit of the SDGs, Member States will seek to drive development and growth simultaneously within their borders and around the world.<sup>119</sup> One way among many to do that is through creating decent work for all citizens, but especially for the youth.<sup>120</sup> It has been estimated that 600 million jobs must be created by 2030 in order to keep up with the growing world population.<sup>121</sup> Member States must be ready to implement new policies and practices that will help to create these jobs and therefore provide for their citizenry as their population continues to grow and their demographics shift.<sup>122</sup>

The amount of Member States with an ageing population is growing. Japan has 25.8 percent of its population over the age of 65, with Germany at 21.1 percent, France at 18.3 percent, Canada at 17.3 percent, and Poland at 15

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<sup>106</sup> Jon Burgess, “Managing the New Workforce, Generation Y (Millennials),” RedFusion, <http://redfusionmedia.com/managing-generation-y-millennials/> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> Michael Watkins and PJ Neal, “Millennial in Training,” Workforce, <http://www.workforce.com/articles/21004-millennial-in-training> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>109</sup> Jon Burgess, “Managing the New Workforce, Generation Y (Millennials),” RedFusion, <http://redfusionmedia.com/managing-generation-y-millennials/> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>110</sup> Global Generations,” Ernst and Young, [http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/EY-global-generations-a-global-study-on-work-life-challenges-across-generations/\\$FILE/EY-global-generations-a-global-study-on-work-life-challenges-across-generations.pdf](http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/EY-global-generations-a-global-study-on-work-life-challenges-across-generations/$FILE/EY-global-generations-a-global-study-on-work-life-challenges-across-generations.pdf) (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>111</sup> Ibid.

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

<sup>113</sup> Jon Burgess, “Managing the New Workforce, Generation Y (Millennials),” RedFusion, <http://redfusionmedia.com/managing-generation-y-millennials/> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>114</sup> Ibid.

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

<sup>116</sup> Ibid.

<sup>117</sup> Ibid.

<sup>118</sup> “Millennials at Work: Reshaping the Workplace,” Pricewaterhouse Cooper, <https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/managing-tomorrows-people/future-of-work/assets/reshaping-the-workplace.pdf> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>119</sup> “Post-2015 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals,” International Labor Organization, <http://www.ilo.org/newyork/issues-at-work/millennium-development-goals/lang--en/index.htm> (accessed Nov. 12, 2015).

<sup>120</sup> Ibid.

<sup>121</sup> Ibid.

<sup>122</sup> Ibid.

percent.<sup>123</sup> By 2050, Japan will have reached 40.1 percent of their population of the age of 65, Germany at 30.1 percent, France at 25.8 percent, Canada at 26.3 percent, and Poland at 31.7 percent.<sup>124</sup> As the older generations start to leave the workforce, the younger employees will need to be skilled, knowledgeable, and capable of taking their place.<sup>125</sup> Currently, the economic impact and influence of the world youth is not being fully realized.

Once the problem of gaining full and successful employment has been overcome, the challenges within the workplace must then be looked at. Generational differences within the workplace create tensions, especially between the technologically enabled Millennials and the more conservative Baby Boomers.<sup>126</sup> The standardized use of collaboration technology, such as video calls, emails, and virtual offices, has changed the way the workforce communicates. 41 percent of Millennials prefer to communicate electronically rather than face to face.<sup>127</sup> In addition, workers are more likely to work on virtual teams with others from around the globe through collaboration technology.<sup>128</sup> Furthermore, the advancement of personal technology into a mobile office has allowed more people to work from home or to have more flexible hours.<sup>129</sup> There is also an increase in the level of communication, knowledge sharing, and team building within the physical workplace.<sup>130</sup> The challenges faced both entering the workforce and within it are not problems that will be easily overcome nor quickly. The way forward must be one where all Member States cooperate to lift the whole of the world youth up.

### *Committee Directive*

Youth unemployment and participation within the workforce remains a prominent concern for Member States going forward. The rise and steady high of youth unemployment compared to total unemployment does not bode well for the future of the world economy. To tackle this broad issue, delegates should focus on what kinds of programs could be implemented internationally, regionally as well as nationally for developing and developed Member States alike. Committee Member States should come prepared with the knowledge of the state of their economy, labor market health, and an overview of how youth are faring in the labor market. Committee Member States should also focus on their regional economic and labor health as well. While there are many causes for youth underemployment and unemployment, the committee should not solely focus on mitigating the root causes but rather on changing the way in which youth are treated within the labor force.

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<sup>123</sup> Ben Casselman, "What baby Boomer's Retirement Means for the U.S. Economy," FiveThirtyEight Economics, May 7, 2014, <http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/what-baby-boomers-retirement-means-for-the-u-s-economy/> (accessed Nov. 9, 2015).

<sup>124</sup> Ibid.

<sup>125</sup> Michael Watkins and PJ Neal, "Millennial in Training," Workforce, <http://www.workforce.com/articles/21004-millennial-in-training> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>126</sup> Jon Burgess, "Managing the New Workforce, Generation Y (Millennials)," RedFusion, <http://redfusionmedia.com/managing-generation-y-millennials/> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>127</sup> Ibid.

<sup>128</sup> Natalie Burg, "How Technology Has Changed Workplace Communication," Forbes, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/unify/2013/12/10/how-technology-has-changed-workplace-communication/> (accessed October 26, 2015).

<sup>129</sup> Ibid.

<sup>130</sup> Elizabeth Dukes, "4 Ways Technology Has Changed the Modern Workplace," iOffice, <http://www.iofficecorp.com/blog/4-ways-technology-has-changed-the-modern-workplace> (accessed October 26, 2015).

## II. The Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity

*“By ending impunity, we deepen freedom of expression and bolster dialogue. We advance human rights and strengthen societies. No journalist anywhere should have to risk their life to report the news.”*  
-Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN)<sup>131</sup>

### Introduction

In 1789, the First Congress of the United States of America (USA) amended its Constitution thus creating the Bill of Rights, giving its citizens freedom of speech and of the press.<sup>132</sup> While this concept of basic human rights is relatable in a number of Member States, in some Member States journalists face many hardships. Impunity can be defined as “without punishment, without consequences...intimidation, threats, attacks and murders go unpunished.”<sup>133</sup> Due to increasing violations of journalists’ right to expression and opinion, the Human Rights Council (HRC) in 2009 adopted Resolution A/HRC/RES/12/16, titled “Freedom of opinion and expression”; the resolution took note of killings and attacks on journalists and other media workers.<sup>134</sup> In an attempt to address this pressing issue, international organizations and officials representing various international governments, the UN, and media freedom organizations met in Doha, Qatar from 22-23 January 2012 at the International Conference to Protect Journalists.<sup>135</sup> At this conference many recommendations were made to ensure the safety of journalists, including but not limited to the upgrading of current or developing new types of security measures, providing judicial assistance, negotiation, and medical care.<sup>136</sup>

### UN Actions

In the past decade, over 700 journalists have been murdered; the number of killings tallying over 1,000 since 1992.<sup>137 138</sup> According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), between the years 2006-2013, 593 killings of media workers were convicted, yet less than six percent of those cases were resolved.<sup>139</sup> Furthermore, these figures do not include the many more journalists undergoing impunity through fatal and non-fatal attacks such as sexual attacks, kidnapping, and torture.<sup>140</sup> Recognizing the gradual increase of killings, the International Programme for Development of Communications (IPDC) convened the First UN Inter-Agency meeting on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity held from 13-14 September 2011 in Paris, France.<sup>141</sup> Serving as an open meeting to all Member States and Observers to UNESCO, regional and international programs as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) were invited to participate in developing a UN action-based plan that will tackle these issues.<sup>142</sup> Thus was created the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, striving for a safe and free world for journalists and media professionals in conflict and non-conflict

<sup>131</sup> International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, 02 November 2014.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/journalists/2014/sgmessage.shtml> (Accessed October 5, 2015).

<sup>132</sup> The Charters of Freedom. Bill of Rights. [http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/bill\\_of\\_rights\\_transcript.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/bill_of_rights_transcript.html) (Accessed October 5, 2015).

<sup>133</sup> What Is Impunity? <http://daytoendimpunity.org/impunity/> (Accessed October 5, 2015).

<sup>134</sup> Human Rights Council, 12<sup>th</sup> session A/HRC/RES/12/16 “Freedom of opinion and expression”. <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/G09/166/89/PDF/G0916689.pdf?OpenElement> (Accessed October 5, 2015).

<sup>135</sup> Doha Centre for Media Freedom. Jan 2012: Recommendations to protect journalists in danger. <http://www.dc4mf.org/en/content/jan-2012-recommendations-protect-journalists-danger> (Accessed October 5, 2015).

<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

<sup>137</sup> International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, 02 November: Background. <http://www.un.org/en/events/journalists/background.shtml> (Accessed October 6, 2015).

<sup>138</sup> The Committee to Protect Journalists: Statistical Analysis. <https://cpj.org/killed/> (Accessed October 6, 2015).

<sup>139</sup> International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, 02 November: Background. <http://www.un.org/en/events/journalists/background.shtml> (Accessed October 6, 2015).

<sup>140</sup> Ibid.

<sup>141</sup> First UN Inter-Agency meeting on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/events/calendar-of-events/events-websites/inter-agency-meeting-on-the-safety-of-journalists-and-the-issue-of-impunity/> (Accessed November 7, 2015).

<sup>142</sup> Ibid.

areas.<sup>143</sup> The Plan calls for cooperation amongst media, NGOs, and other professionals to raise awareness of the issue, while also instituting an “inter-agency mechanism” that will manage issues of journalist’s safety and assist Member States to establish legislation in favor of freedom of the press.<sup>144</sup>

To further its work on this issue, the IPDC met from 22-23 March 2012 at their 28<sup>th</sup> Council Session.<sup>145</sup> In its Session the IPDC developed the “Decision on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity”, which called for collaboration between Member States and other relevant bodies to create a UNESCO Work Plan on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.<sup>146</sup> Furthermore, the Decision urged Member States to report to the Director-General of UNESCO all actions taken to end impunity and to send updates regarding any judicial matters.<sup>147</sup> In April 2013, the Plan was developed correlating to the UN Plan of Action while furthering strengthening democracy, development and peace.<sup>148</sup>

### *Current Situation*

On 18 December 2013, the General Assembly (GA) in its 68<sup>th</sup> session adopted Resolution A/RES/68/163, “The Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity” urging Member States to go above and beyond to prevent impunity, but at the same time being impartial during investigations into alleged violence.<sup>149</sup> Furthermore, this Resolution declared that the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November of every year would be the official International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI).<sup>150</sup> This date was selected in memoriam of two French journalists assassinated in Mali on 2 November 2013.<sup>151</sup> In an effort to build momentum for the IDEI of 2015, a Commemoration conference on the occasion of International Day against Impunity for Crimes against Journalists was held in collaboration with the Inter-American Court for Human Rights on 9-10 October 2015 in San José, Costa Rica.<sup>152</sup> This conference was formed to not only raise awareness for IDEI, but to also gather workers within the judicial systems (police, lawyers, judges, prosecutors, etc.) to discuss the issue of impunity.<sup>153</sup> On 2 November 2015, UNESCO co-hosted events around the globe including in London, New York City and Paris.<sup>154</sup> One event held in London was titled “Stop the killing of journalists! Prevention and justice to end impunity,” was a discussion amongst human rights activists, journalists, policymakers and international lawyers regarding situations of impunity.<sup>155</sup> Keeping in line with the UN Plan of Action, the attendees shared responses on status of investigations, evidence gathering for judicial cases, reinforcing international legal frameworks and the value of NGOs.<sup>156</sup> Another event held in New York City was

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<sup>143</sup> UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/freedom-of-expression/safety-of-journalists/un-plan-of-action/> (Accessed November 7, 2015).

<sup>144</sup> Ibid.

<sup>145</sup> International Programme for Development of Communications – 28<sup>th</sup> Session. “Decision on the Safety of Journalists and the “Issue of Impunity.”

[http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/IPDC/ipdc28\\_safety\\_decision\\_final.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/IPDC/ipdc28_safety_decision_final.pdf) (Accessed November 7, 2015).

<sup>146</sup> Ibid.

<sup>147</sup> Ibid.

<sup>148</sup> UNESCO Work Plan on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002223/222363E.pdf> (Accessed November 7, 2015).

<sup>149</sup> General Assembly – 68<sup>th</sup> session Resolution A/RES/68/163. “The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity.”

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/163](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/163) (Accessed October 6, 2015).

<sup>150</sup> Ibid.

<sup>151</sup> International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, 02 November, <http://www.un.org/en/events/journalists/> (Accessed October 6, 2015)

<sup>152</sup> Commemoration conference on the occasion of International Day against Impunity for Crimes against

Journalists. [http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/Events/IDEI\\_2014/Concept-Note\\_San-Jose\\_EN.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/Events/IDEI_2014/Concept-Note_San-Jose_EN.pdf) (Accessed November 7, 2015).

<sup>153</sup> Ibid.

<sup>154</sup> International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists: Stop the killing of journalists! Prevention and

Justice to end impunity. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/int-day-to-end-impunity/international-day-to-end-impunity-2015/stop-the-killing-of-journalists-prevention-and-justice-to-end-impunity/> (Accessed November 7, 2015).

<sup>155</sup> Ibid.

<sup>156</sup> Ibid.

“Ending impunity for crimes against journalists: putting resolutions into practice.”<sup>157</sup> In collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the UN and the Permanent Mission of Greece to the UN, UNESCO held a High-Level Panel discussion that focused on justice and impunity in relation to the safety of journalists.<sup>158</sup> This panel not only served to help launch a new report from UNESCO, *World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development: Special Digital Focus 2015* but to discuss combating impunity as well.<sup>159</sup> Drawing from documents such as UN Security Council (SC) Resolution S/RES/2222 which outlines the importance of “protection of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in situations of armed conflict,” and A/RES/68/163, the panel contributed knowledge for the UNGA’s 70<sup>th</sup> resolution on journalist safety and issue of impunity.<sup>160</sup> The resolution will relate these issues with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, which “recognizes the need for access to information, fundamental freedoms, reducing violence, and combating impunity,” while drawing attention to the latest figures on impunity and safety.<sup>161</sup>

### **Global Partnerships**

To further strengthen a global cooperation to combat impunity, UNESCO developed the Research Agenda on Safety of Journalists as a way to understand the issue of impunity and safety of journalists through academia.<sup>162</sup> The open-forum agenda is designed to discuss ten broad areas relating to the safety of journalists, such as research relating to digital, physical and psychological safety, and welcomes new input to keep developing and improving the document.<sup>163</sup> In order to enhance the agenda, UNESCO held its first two academic sessions as a part of global conferences. At the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) conference held from 12-16 July 2015 in Montreal, Canada, UNESCO held a workshop seminar where presenters discussed their informed papers on the safety of journalists and created a dialogue on related issues with panelists.<sup>164</sup> The second session took place during the Global Communication Association Conference held from 16-19 July 2015 in Berlin, Germany.<sup>165</sup> This session also featured informed papers regarding safety of journalists in many aspects such as working conditions, legal frameworks, human rights and much more.<sup>166</sup>

One global partnership of Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO) striving to assist threatened journalists is the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) and the Council of Europe (CoE), more specifically the council’s Committee on Experts on Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists (MSI-JO). Together, a rapid response project was developed called “Digital Platform for the Protection of Journalists.”<sup>167</sup> This platform enables partner agencies to post real-time alerts on a public Internet platform when either the work of or a journalist is in danger.<sup>168</sup> These alerts include physical threats to bloggers, journalists or writers and their sources, as well as threats by means of extremism, national security or abusive use of the law.<sup>169</sup> International organizations are joining the fight to end

<sup>157</sup> International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists: Ending impunity against journalists: putting Resolutions into practice. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/int-day-to-end-impunity/international-day-to-end-impunity-2015/ending-impunity-for-crimes-against-journalists-putting-resolutions-into-practice/> (Accessed November 7, 2015).

<sup>158</sup> Ibid.

<sup>159</sup> Ibid.

<sup>160</sup> Ibid.

<sup>161</sup> Ibid.

<sup>162</sup> UNESCO’s Research Agenda on Safety of Journalists. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/freedom-of-expression/safety-of-journalists/unescos-research-agenda-on-safety-of-journalists/> (Accessed December 30, 2015)

<sup>163</sup> Ibid.

<sup>164</sup> Special Academic Session on the Safety of Journalists, Montreal, Canada. <http://en.unesco.org/events/special-academic-session-safety-journalists-0> (Accessed December 30, 2015)

<sup>165</sup> Special Academic Session on the Safety of Journalists, Berlin, Germany. <http://en.unesco.org/events/special-academic-session-safety-journalists> (Accessed December 30, 2015)

<sup>166</sup> Ibid.

<sup>167</sup> Committee of Experts on Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists, 24 March 2015. [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/media/MSI-JO/MSI-JO%282015%2903eng\\_Meeting\\_Report\\_3rd\\_meeting\\_19-20march2015.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/media/MSI-JO/MSI-JO%282015%2903eng_Meeting_Report_3rd_meeting_19-20march2015.pdf) (Accessed December 30, 2015)

<sup>168</sup> “New Online Platform Launched to Protect Journalists.” European Federation of Journalists. <http://europeanjournalists.org/blog/2014/11/26/new-online-platform-launched-to-protect-journalists/> (Accessed December 30, 2015)

<sup>169</sup> Ibid.



impunity as well. The Committee to Protect Journalists is a nonprofit organization founded by American journalists in 1981 who found the need to fight for their colleagues reporting in dangerous environments, some of whom ended up in unsafe situations.<sup>170</sup> CPJ's mission is ensure the freedom of the news by taking action wherever journalists are threatened with imprisonment, harassment, and censorship.<sup>171</sup> Furthermore, the CPJ compiles documents and data on cases of impunity on media workers including those online, in print, radio, television, photography, bloggers, freelancers and citizen journalists.<sup>172</sup>

Another international organization is the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), compiled of 63 Member States working together to promote and defend free expression.<sup>173</sup> IFEX uses mobile technology and other forms of media to create advocacy groups, petitions, and special reports in order to raise awareness for free expression and bring change to the world.<sup>174</sup>

A third international nonprofit organization that plays a vital role in fighting for the safety of journalists is Reporters Without Borders. Consisting of correspondents in 150 Member States, Reporters Without Borders works with local governments to combat laws censoring and restricting free flow of information, assist victimized journalists and their families both financially and morally, and monitor worldwide attacks.<sup>175</sup> The organization has partnered with 18 local NGOs to create joint statements defending freedom of information and fighting censorship.<sup>176</sup> Furthermore, Reporters Without Borders holds consultant status with UNESCO and the UN, with 10 established global offices.<sup>177</sup>

### **Conclusion**

In an era where technology is at the tip of your fingertips, where a rise to political power causes war and death, and where religion is something fought for or used as a premise for a cause, be it good or bad, journalists face more dangers than ever before.<sup>178</sup> Hamid Mir, Pakistan's leading television news anchor known for his politics and outspoken opinion, is one of many reporters whose life has been at risk.<sup>179</sup> In 2001, Mir was the first journalist to have a sit-down interview with Osama bin Laden following the attacks in NYC on 11 September 2001.<sup>180</sup> In 2012, Mir covered the shooting of Malala Yousafzai, a young woman fighting for girl's right to education; the Pakistani Taliban threatened Mir's life for this coverage and placed a bomb under his car; it failed to go off.<sup>181</sup> Once again an attempt on Mir's life was taken in April 2009 when an unknown gunman followed his car on his way to work and shot Mir three times; although wounded Mir was in stable condition.<sup>182</sup> Mir became another journalist victimized by impunity as nobody was arrested for these crimes; however. arrest warrants were issued for Mir for his reporting.<sup>183</sup> American journalist/videographer James Foley became a victim of the dangers of conflict reporting. On 22 November 2012, Foley was captured in northern Syria; it was not until August 2014 when Foley resurfaced not as a

<sup>170</sup> The Committee to Protect Journalists: History. <https://cpj.org/about/history.php> (Accessed December 30, 2015)

<sup>171</sup> The Committee to Protect Journalists: Mission. <https://cpj.org/about/video.php> (Accessed December 30, 2015)

<sup>172</sup> The Committee to Protect Journalists: Research. <https://cpj.org/about/research.php> (Accessed December 30, 2015)

<sup>173</sup> IFEX: History. <https://www.ifex.org/history/> (Accessed December 30, 2015)

<sup>174</sup> IFEX: What We Do. [https://www.ifex.org/what\\_we\\_do/](https://www.ifex.org/what_we_do/) (Accessed December 30, 2015)

<sup>175</sup> Reporters Without Borders: Who We Are. <http://en.rsf.org/who-we-are-12-09-2012.32617.html> (Accessed December 30, 2015)

<sup>176</sup> Reporters Without Borders: Partner Organizations. <http://en.rsf.org/worldwide-presence-28-09-2011.41022.html> (Accessed December 30, 2015)

<sup>177</sup> Ibid.

<sup>178</sup> "Forward". The Committee to Protect Journalists. <https://cpj.org/2015/04/attacks-on-the-press-foreword.php> (Accessed December 29, 2015)

<sup>179</sup> "Gunmen Wound Pakistani TV Anchor in Weekend Shooting". National Public Radio. <http://www.npr.org/2014/04/21/305477477/gunmen-wound-pakistani-tv-anchor-in-weekend-shooting> (Accessed December 29, 2015)

<sup>180</sup> Ibid.

<sup>181</sup> "Hamid Mir wounded in Pakistan gun attack". British Broadcasting Corporation. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-27089646> (Accessed December 29, 2015)

<sup>182</sup> Ibid.

<sup>183</sup> "Forward". The Committee to Protect Journalists. <https://cpj.org/2015/04/attacks-on-the-press-foreword.php> (Accessed December 29, 2015)

free journalist, but as a prisoner of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).<sup>184</sup> A video of Foley was used for political purposes, calling for the United States of America to cease military operations in Iraq or the lives of other Americans would be taken; ISIS beheaded Foley moments later.<sup>185</sup> Journalists covering the story faced an unforeseen obstacle on reporting this story. News of Foley's death broke not by the media but in the form of social media via Twitter.<sup>186</sup> Journalists in this situation had to find a way of telling this story along with a video filmed by ISIS without promoting the group themselves.<sup>187</sup> An attack in which journalists suffered for exercising their freedom was on 7 January 2015 in Paris.<sup>188</sup> Two gunmen opened fire murdering eight at *Charlie Hebdo*, a satirical magazine whose portrayal of the Prophet Muhammad did not sit well with the gunmen.<sup>189</sup> Since 2014, six percent of killings are foreign correspondents while 94 percent are local journalists, 41 percent of deaths are of workers in print media, and a staggering 94 percent of journalists killed are male.<sup>190</sup> Currently in 2015, more than 400 media professionals have been victims of impunity (in work related cases), some victimized by imprisonment others in death.<sup>191</sup> Thus far 46 motives for killings have been confirmed.<sup>192</sup> As far as the General Assembly Plenary is concerned, these deaths of journalists are unjust and the issue is alarming as it continues to grow in today's world.

### ***Committee Directive***

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights gives freedom of expression and opinion as an inalienable human right; however, not all Member States believe in this right as laws are put into place censoring this freedom.<sup>193</sup> Upon entering committee, delegates should have knowledge of how their Member State feels about freedom of speech; if there is censorship what are the implications? Is your Member State a partner in an organization fighting for the safety of journalists and if so is there collaboration with other Member States? Delegates should also be aware of any cases of impunity within their Member State. Is the number increasing? Are these cases public knowledge? It is also important for delegates to have basic knowledge of any conflict within their Member States and if there is, how is it affecting journalists' safety?

<sup>184</sup> "ISIS beheads American Reporter". Cable News Network.

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/08/19/world/meast/isis-james-foley/> (Accessed December 29,2015)

<sup>185</sup> Ibid.

<sup>186</sup> "Broadcasting murder: Militants use Media for Deadly Purposes". The Committee to Protect Journalists.

<https://cpj.org/2015/04/attacks-on-the-press-broadcasting-murder-militants-use-media-for-deadly-purpose.php>

(Accessed December 29, 2015)

<sup>187</sup> Ibid.

<sup>188</sup> "Charlie Hebdo attack: Three days of Terror". British Broadcasting Corporation.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30708237> (Accessed December 29, 2015)

<sup>189</sup> Ibid.

<sup>190</sup> Ending Impunity for Crimes against Journalists 2015.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/int-day-to-end-impunity/international-day-to-end-impunity-2015> (Accessed November 7, 2015).

<sup>191</sup> Reporters Without Borders, 2015: Journalists Killed.

<http://en.rsf.org/press-freedom-barometer-journalists-killed.html?annee=2015> (Accessed November7, 2015).

<sup>192</sup> The Committee to Protect Journalists: Killed in 2015. <https://www.cpj.org/killed/2015/> (Accessed November 7, 2015).

<sup>193</sup> Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Article 19. <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/> (Accessed December 30, 2015)

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

### **I. Integrating Youth Employment into an Evolving Workforce**

United Nations World Youth Report

[http://www.unworldyouthreport.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=itemlist&layout=category&task=category&id=1&Itemid=67](http://www.unworldyouthreport.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=itemlist&layout=category&task=category&id=1&Itemid=67)

The United Nations World Youth Report released in 2011, 2013 and 2015 focus on youth transitioning into the workforce. This report looks at the long term implications of youth unemployment and underemployment on the global economy. The report is as well unique as the perspective derives from that of the youth themselves and identifies four areas of major concern: status of youth in the workforce, education as a foundation, the transition into the workforce, and the quality and conditions of their work.

Ernst and Young- “Global Generations: Global Study on Work Life Challenges Across Generations”

[http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/EY-global-generations-a-global-study-on-work-life-challenges-across-generations/\\$FILE/EY-global-generations-a-global-study-on-work-life-challenges-across-generations.pdf](http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/EY-global-generations-a-global-study-on-work-life-challenges-across-generations/$FILE/EY-global-generations-a-global-study-on-work-life-challenges-across-generations.pdf)

Ernst and Young started this global study of workplace trends and perspectives to better understand generational differences within the workplace. This study offers detailed findings on why Millennials, Generation X, and Baby Boomers choose a job, leave a job, how they perceive their job benefits, and what is most important to them within a job. This study offers a closer view of the generational differences and needs within the workplace across the globe.

World Bank

<http://data.worldbank.org/>

The World Bank is a cooperative made up of 188 Member States and works closely with the United Nations. They are to be used as a great Inter-governmental Organization (IGO) for delegates to utilize in their research as the World Bank’s major task is to compile data and statistics on a number of indicators by state, region, or globally. The World Bank Data set offers a comprehensive look at a state’s development, including employment and labor market statistics.

“Key Considerations in Youth Workforce Development”

[http://csis.org/files/publication/150129\\_Goldin\\_YouthWorkforce\\_Web.pdf](http://csis.org/files/publication/150129_Goldin_YouthWorkforce_Web.pdf)

The Center for Strategic and International Studies went in depth to discover the multifaceted challenges that youth face entering and succeeding within the workforce. The study focuses on the current supply and demand of the labor market and how they can meet at equilibrium. Key highlights of the study include suggestions of quality education, personal financing, and an integration of youth-specific skills in order to reach this equilibrium.

“Youth Unemployment Challenges and Solutions”

[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/Manpower\\_YouthEmploymentChallengeSolutions\\_2012.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/Manpower_YouthEmploymentChallengeSolutions_2012.pdf)

The Manpower Group conducted this study on the trends and solutions of youth unemployment. They approach the problem from a business perspective of how to create business-driven solutions to youth unemployment. The study offers suggestions on how to match the changing youth strengths with a more static workforce and business model.

## II. The Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity

UNESCO: Communication and Information – Partners in the field of Safety of Journalists

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/freedom-of-expression/safety-of-journalists/partnerships/>

UNESCO works with a number of inter-governmental organizations and international organizations to fight for the safety of journalists and combating impunity. This webpage not only names these organizations, but also breaks them down by continent and Member State. Links on this site will also lead you to other works of UNESCO on this issue.

The Committee to Protect Journalists

<https://cpj.org/>

The CPJ is a nonprofit organization providing global facts and information about victims of impunity and reports stories on journalists' safety. They have compiled a list of killings, exiles, those imprisoned and missing since 1992. A major statistic the CPJ offers is an impunity index calculating unsolved murders (five or more) within Member States in a one-year timespan.

World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development: Special Digital Focus 2015

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002349/234933e.pdf>

This UNESCO report has compiled data analyzing changes and trends in media reform. The publication offers insight to a new digital age, safety of journalists, gender statistics, and recent cases of acts against journalists. Specifically, chapter VI "Safety of Journalists" discusses impunity and information on killings by region.

Reporters Without Borders: Journalists Killed in 2015

<http://en.rsf.org/press-freedom-barometer-journalists-killed.html?annee=2015>

Along with the global work Reporters Without Borders does to fight for the safety of journalists, it has developed a Press Freedom Barometer. The barometer is a compilation of journalists killed and imprisoned, due to their activities in journalism, organized by year and Member State. The list goes into further detail giving the name of the journalist, date in which the incident happened, and for whom the journalist worked for.