SRMUN Charlotte 2017
Assessing the Challenges and Opportunities of Globalism in the 21st Century
March 30 - April 1, 2017
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Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2017 and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) Committee. My name is Maureen Johnston, and I will be serving as your Director for UN-HABITAT. This will be my first conference as a SRMUN staff member. I am a graduate from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke with a Bachelor's in Political Science, and I'm currently pursuing a Masters in International Relations. Our committee's Assistant Director will be Yanelle Cruz. This will also be Yanelle's first time on staff. She is currently pursuing a dual degree in International Affairs and Sociology.

UN-HABITAT is a programme that was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1978 to address issues of urban growth and sustainable development. UN-HABITAT deals with a variety of subjects related to urban growth, to include water management, housing and slum upgrading, urban planning, increasing urban mobility, the development of sound urban legislation, increasing reconstruction and resilience in regards to natural disasters, the avocation of human rights and gender equality, and energy sustainability. UN-HABITAT was mandated to "promote socially and environmental sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all" and has strived since its inception to provide achievable solutions urban challenges and develop a holistic approach to sustainable urban development.

By focusing on the mission of the UN-HABITAT and the SRMUN Charlotte 2017 theme of "*Assessing the Challenges and Opportunities of Globalism in the 21st Century,*" we have developed the following topics for the delegates to discuss come conference:

> I. Addressing Urban Water Distribution and Sanitation Systems
> II. Providing Access to Adequate and Sustainable Housing

This background guide provides as strong introduction to the history of UN-HABITAT and the topics, and should be used as the foundation for each delegate's independent research. While we have attempted to provide a current and holistic analysis of each topic, this background guide should not be used as a single source for research. Delegates are expected to further compile their own research, beyond what is provided in the background guide. The position papers of the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues, and delegates should prepare for in-depth discussion of these topics 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 10, 2017, by 11:59 p.m. EST via the SRMUN website.**

Yanelle and myself are eager to serve as your dais for UN-HABITAT. We wish you the best of luck in your preparation for the conferences and look forward to working with you in the future. Please feel free to contact Director-General Michael Oleaga, Yanelle, or myself in you have any questions or need any guidance while preparing for the conference.

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The History of the UN Human Settlements Program-Governing Council

The United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) has existed within the United Nations (UN) since 1978. UN-HABITAT was given the mandate to "promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all."[1] Since its inception, the agency has undergone substantial reorganization as a result of the adoption of UN General Assembly (GA) resolution A/RES/56/206, which established UN-HABITAT as a permanent agency, as opposed to simply a commission focused on sustainable urbanization.[2] Further documents outlining the agency's mandate include The Habitat Agenda, the founding document of UN-HABITAT, was adopted at the Habitat II conference of 1996, which lays out the goals and objectives of the agency.[3] The Habitat Agenda further advocates for governments and local authorities to take more responsibility, while working in conjunction with the private sector as a means to facilitate human settlement growth initiatives.[4] The agency has also backed for the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, which outlined international strategies to combat issues of urban growth, the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements, and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium (2001 Millennium Declaration).[5]

UN-HABITAT includes the 58-seat Governing Council that meets biannually to develop plans of action for the organization.[6] Seats on the Governing Council are distributed by region with African States receiving 16 seats, Western Europe receiving 13 seats, Latin America and Caribbean States receiving ten seats, Asia Pacific receiving 13 seats, and Eastern Europe receiving six seats.[7] Furthermore, the Governing Council oversees UN-HABITAT's programmes as well as its partnerships.[8] The Governing Council approves UN-HABITAT's programme budget and acts as the intergovernmental decision-making body of UN-HABITAT.[9] The Governing Council also reports to the UNGA, through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), on all of its activities and spending during every session.[10] Currently, the Governing Council has completed 25 sessions.[11]

UN-HABITAT is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, but is involved in regions all over the world. It has four regional offices: Regional Office for Africa (ROA) based in Kenya; Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) based in Egypt; Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) based in Japan; and Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) based in Brazil. UN-HABITAT is mostly funded by voluntary donors, who comprise of intergovernmental organizations and private sector donors.[12] The agency receives a limited budget from the UN system, equaling approximately five percent of the overall UN budget, thus the agency relies quite heavily on its multilateral pool of donors.[13]

The agency, however, does however face many challenges. The conditions of the world's urban poor persist in its deterioration among developing Member States, placing great strain on the organization's already limited budget and resources.[14] Furthermore, as an agency, UN-HABITAT's powers are quite limited. As established in its

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[1] "History, Mandate, & Role in the UN System," UN-HABITAT, http://unhabitat.org/about-us/history-mandate-role-in-the-un-system/, (accessed July 29 2016).

[2] A/RES/56/206. *Strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).* UN-HABITAT. http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/A-RES-56-206.pdf (accessed July 29 2016).

[3] "The Habitat Agenda Goals and Principles, Commitments and the Global Plan of Action," UN-HABITAT, 2003, http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/The-Habitat-Agenda-Goals-and-Principles-Commitments-and-the-Global-Plan-of-Action-2003.pdf (accessed July 29 2016).

[4] Ibid.

[5] "The Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements," UN-HABITAT, 1976, http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/The_Vancouver_Declaration_1976.pdf. (accessed July 29 2016).

[6] Ibid.

[7] Ibid.

[8] "Governing Council," UN-HABITAT, http://unhabitat.org/about-us/governing-council/ (accessed July 29 2016).

[9] Ibid.

[10] Ibid.

[11] "25th Session of the Governing Council," UN-HABITAT, http://unhabitat.org/events/gc25/ (accessed July 29 2016).

[12] "Our Donors," UN-HABITAT, 2012 http://unhabitat.org/about-us/our-donors/ (accessed July 29 2016).

[13] Ibid.

[14] "World Economic and Social Survey 2013: Sustainable Development Challenges," The United Nations, 2013, http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2843WESS2013.pdf (accessed July 29 2016).

mandate, UN-HABITAT can formulate projects and initiatives to assist Member States in shaping a better future for their citizens but it cannot force them to implement such programs. UN-HABITAT can only provide a framework and guidance but it is entirely up to governments to draft policies and implement changes.[15] These challenges however should not detract from the successes.

UN-HABITAT also continues to play a significant role in developing many areas around the world through partnership programs. In 2002, the agency initiated the "Cities Without Slums" Sub-regional Initiative for Eastern and Southern Africa program, which addresses the fact that between 40 and 60 percent of the urban population in these regions lack access to basic needs such as water, shelter, and sanitation.[16] In Asia, UN-HABITAT is actively involved in the "Water for Asian Cities Program," in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, the Dutch government, and governments of Member States in the region.[17] In Europe, UN-HABITAT is a key stakeholder in the "Sustainable Development of the Historical Cities of Pskov and Tobolsk and the Dissemination of the Russian Version of the Sustainable Cities Program (SCP), which focuses on promoting environmentally sustainable cities and environmental governance.[18] In partnering on these programs, UN-HABITAT engages its development partners in jointly addressing present and future predicaments and fulfills its role as set out in its mandate.

At the 24th seating of the Governing Council held in Nairobi, Kenya, in April 2013, UN-HABITAT approved the agency's budget and set goals for coming years.[19] Most notably, it approved a resolution to give full support for the preparations of Habitat III, which was held in 2016 in Quito, Ecuador, where a new global urban agenda was to be formulated.[20] More recently, at its 25th seating of the Governing Council held in April 2015, UN-HABITAT called for the use of urbanization as an opportunity to harness the economic potential of cities for growth and development. Further, there were calls for a three-pronged approach to achieve sustainable urbanization, encompassing robust urban design, firmly and fairly implemented urban regulations, and realistic, well-managed municipal funding.[21] The meeting also highlighted the importance of an empowered UN-HABITAT and focused on the current role of UN-HABITAT within the UN.[22] This role has UN-HABITAT stepping up its involvement in a range of broad programs it has initiated to streamline urban development, including the Urban Youth Fund (UYF), the World Urban Fund (WUF), and the Global Campaign for Sustainable Urbanization (Global Campaign).[23]

The following UN-HABITAT-Governing Council Member States will be offered at SRMUN Charlotte 2017:

ANGOLA, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, ARGENTINA, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BELARUS, BRAZIL, CHAD, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, FINLAND, FRANCE, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GHANA, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, IRAQ, JAPAN, KENYA, MADAGASCAR, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, MOROCCO, NIGERIA, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SLOVAKIA, SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SWEDEN, TURKMENISTAN, UGANDA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, and ZIMBABWE.

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[15] "The Urban Future," UN-HABITAT, http://mirror.unhabitat.org/documents/WUF6Report.pdf (accessed July 29, 2016).
[16] "Cities Alliance: Cities without slums," UN-HABITAT, http://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/programmes/detail04_06_en.html (accessed July 29 2016).
[17] "Information by Countries," UN-HABITAT, http://mirror.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=2 (accessed July 29, 2016).
[18] Ibid.
[19] "Twenty-Fourth Governing Council Draws to a Close," UN-HABITAT, April 19, 2013, http://mirror.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=744 (accessed July 29, 2016).
[20] Habitat III: https://www.habitat3.org/ (accessed July 29, 2016). CHANGE FIX CHANGE FIX CHANGE FIX
[21] "25th Session of UN-HABITAT's Governing Council Kicks Off," UN-HABITAT, April 17, 2016, http://unhabitat.org/25th-session-of-un-habitats-governing-council-kicks-off (accessed July 29, 2016).
[22] "Our Work," UN-HABITAT, http://mirror.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=316 (accessed July 29 2016).
[23] "25th Session of UN-HABITAT's Governing Council Kicks Off," UN-HABITAT, April 17, 2016, http://unhabitat.org/25th-session-of-un-habitats-governing-council-kicks-off (accessed July 29, 2016).

I: Addressing Urban Water Distribution and Sanitation Systems

Introduction

Understanding urban planning and the development of cities is a nearly impossible task without taking into consideration the dependence of cities on accessing and harnessing water. Having access to safe and clean sources of water is imperative to a healthy lifestyle. This topic guide will discuss the issue of water distribution and sanitation, analyze historical approaches to solving the dilemma globally, and outlining main objectives to addressing water distribution and sanitation in the present. By focusing more energies on solving dilemmas with water distribution and sanitation systems, the international community can potentially start providing access to the 2.6 billion people currently living without water resources.[24]

In addressing the challenges that the international community faces in regards to water, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated "…urbanization brings opportunities for more efficient water management and improved access to drinking water and sanitation. At the same time, problems are often magnified in cities and are currently outpacing our ability to devise solutions."[25] While the last two decades' access to an improved water supply has increased by 79 percent globally in the urban population, 11 percent of the world is still affected by its absence.[26][27] In particular, the number of people without access to water and sanitation facilities increases to over 40 percent when focus shifts to the populations of Sub-Saharan Africa.[28] Factors such as the planning and implementation of water and sanitation policies, the rapid growth of urban centers, and financial constraints also pose challenges to sustainable access to water supply.[29] These problems have only exacerbated global competition for fresh-water resources, as well as contamination of such resources.

In order to minimize the depletion of water resources while also increasing distribution and improvement to sanitation facilities, Member States must work in collaboration with each other and other institutions in order to foster long-term sustainability of an ever-increasing global population. In the past, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) has worked in conjunction with other UN bodies, the World Bank, and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to create Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs).[30] The purpose of these partnerships, and the goal of UN-HABITAT, is to create a future where high-quality sustainable management and implementation of responsible water usage is universal.[31]

History

Concerns over water, and improvements to water distribution and sanitation, have been the focus of UN-HABITAT and other international organizations for the last 40 years as global water use rapidly increased over the last century. The first international effort to combat this growing problem was in the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, from 1981-1990, through the UN General Assembly Resolution 34/191.[32] The UN fortified this

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[24] "Water and Sanitation," UN-HABITAT, http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/water-and-sanitation-2/ (accessed July 21, 2016).

[25] "Water and Cities: UN-Secretary General Said," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/water_cities.shtml (accessed July 18, 2016).

[26] "International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/water_cities.shtml (accessed July 18, 2016).

[27] "Water and Sanitation," UN-HABITAT, http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/water-and-sanitation-2/ (accessed July 18, 2016).

[28] Ibid.

[29] "Water Supply and Sanitation: Sector Results Profile," The World Bank, http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2013/04/4/water-sanitation-results-profile (accessed July 18, 2016).

[30] "WOPs in Practice," Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance, http://gwopa.org/en/water-operators-partnerships (accessed July 19, 2016).

[31] "GWOPA Strategy 2013-2017," Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance, http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/getElectronicVersion.aspx?nr=3481&alt=1 (accessed July 19, 2016).

[32] Moe, Christine and Eugene J. Gangrosa. "Achieving Water and Sanitation Services for Health in Developing Countries," Global Environmental Health: Research Gaps and Barriers for Providing Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Services: Workshop Summary. National Academies Press (US). Washington DC. 2009 http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK50770/ (accessed July 19, 2016).

commitment through Resolution 35/18, which called upon governments to strengthen water sanitation levels as well as implement plans to mobilize resources through intergovernmental and non-governmental organs.[33]

Following the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade was the International Decade for Action, also called "Water for Life" from 2005-2015.[34] The focus areas for the Water for Life Decade included decreasing water scarcity, while increasing sustainable development in regards to water, water energy, access to sanitation, and water cooperation. This era included the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), two of which focused on water and cities. The MDGs 7c and 7d called for reducing, by half, the global population without access to safe drinking water and sanitation and to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.[35] As of 2015, these MDGs were largely successful, as 91 percent of the global population were using an improved drinking water source, which was an increase from 76 percent in 1900.[36] Furthermore, 147 Member States have met the drinking water target set out by MDGs. In addition, 95 the sanitation target, and the proportion of the global urban population in developing regions living in slums fell for 94.9 percent in 2000 to 29.7 percent in 2014.[37]

Other improvements made to global water challenges included an increase in marine protected areas from 8.8 percent to 23.4 percent, a fall in the practice of open defecation by half since 1990, and use of surface water by the global population decreased from 346 million to 159 million.[38] Challenges, however, have arisen despite the great strides made by the international community. Over half of water resources on Earth are undrinkable, and currently 40 percent of the global population are affected by water scarcity.[39] Conflicts over water scarcity are expected rise, and another challenge the world faces is the continual acceleration of urbanization.

Current Situation

Today, there are over 663 million people in urban areas who still live without access to improved and safe drinking water.[40] In addition, 1.8 billion people use contaminated drinking water, nearly 1,000 children a day die from sanitation-related diarrheal diseases, 2.4 billion people are without basic sanitation services, and 80 percent of wastewater is discharged improperly causing pollution.[41] Further statistics to consider are: 80 percent of illnesses in developing Member States can be linked to poor water and sanitation uses, 70 percent of global water resources are used for agriculture and irrigation, and 37 percent of the global population living without access to safe water live in Sub-Saharan Africa.[42]

With the expiration of the MDGs, the UN adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where goal six is to "ensure access to water and sanitation for all."[43] SDG6's goals are to expand international cooperation in relation to developing water and sanitation related activities globally, improving water quality through pollution reduction, increasing water management policies and practices, and increasing water-use efficiency by 2030.[44] UN-HABITAT, through WOPs, has been able to build up knowledge management to utilize the most effective water-management and sanitation practices, building long-term partnerships to improve water operations, and to increase funding for

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[33] A/RES/35/18. *Proclamation of the International Drinking Water supply and Sanitation Decade*. United Nations General Assembly. http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/35/a35r18e.pdf (accessed July 20, 2016).

[34] "International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015," The United Nations, 2015, http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/water_cities.shtml. (accessed July 19, 2016).

[35] Ibid.

[36] "The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2015," The United Nations, http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf (accessed July 19, 2016).

[37] Ibid.

[38] Ibid.

[39] Ibid.

[40] "Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all," The United Nations, http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/ (accessed July 20, 2016).

[41] Ibid.

[42] "Statistics of the Water Crisis," The Water Project, 2011, https://thewaterproject.org/water-scarcity/water_stats (accessed July 20, 2016).

[43] "Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all," The United Nations, http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/ (accessed July 20, 2016).

[44] Ibid.

water projects.[45] UN-HABITAT also implemented high priority water and sanitation (WATSAN) programmes to help Member States attain targets set out by the SDGs. UN-HABITAT has also established a Water and Sanitation Trust Fund (WSTF), which supports over 27 Member States in water and sanitation projects.[46] All of these programs and partnerships increase awareness, support sanitation systems in need of rehabilitation after humanitarian emergencies, and improve water distribution and sanitation globally.[47]

Current WATSAN programmes include the Fairwater BluePumps Program, which filters water from wells in order to provide clean water to more than 500,000 people in rural Africa currently.[48] Other programmes, such as the Water and Sanitation Project (WSSP) for Belarus focus on providing water supply services to poor urban areas.[49] WSSP has been active since 30 September 2008, cost a total of USD 60 Million and has helped more than 7,000 people as of 20 April 2016.[50] With this project, however, target numbers have not be made, and its success rate has only been considered "moderate" as only 19 out of 28 subprojects have been completed.[51] UN-HABITAT has also worked in conjunction with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on their Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation (SWSS) programs, which aim to mobilize communities to build capacity to change water conditions on their own as well as transform water delivery services.[52] On average, USAID's total spending from 2003-2011 on water related programs was USD 452 Million, and over ten million people have now benefited from the projects with an improved water supply.[53]

UN-HABITAT's WSTF was established in 2002, as is set up as a Technical Cooperation Trust Fund.[54] The executive director of UN-HABITAT, along with an Advisory Board, meet annually and review program activities.[55] The primary purpose of WSTF is to create new investment ideas to expand water services coverage by increasing institutional capacity of Member States, improve monitoring mechanisms in first the MDGs and now the SDGs, and maximize the impact of WATSAN programmes.[56] Successful projects that WSTF contributed to include: The Kenyan projects of the Regional Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Programmes (LVWATSAN), Nepal's SP8 Strengthening Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Treasuring Health (SWASHTHA), and the Maji Data Project.[57] All of these projects were stated to have impacted the institutional capacity of the Member State involved, as well as provide pathways to future sustainability.[58] LWATSAN increased water supply for 22,400 people, and SWASHTHA improved sanitation and hygiene education for over 50,000 people.[59] The annual programme budget for WSTF is between USD 20 and 25 Million.[60]

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[45] "GWOPA Strategy 2013-2017," Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance, http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/getElectronicVersion.aspx?nr=3481&alt=1 (accessed July 20, 2016).
[46] "Water and Sanitation," UN-HABITAT, http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/water-and-sanitation-2/ (accessed July 21, 2016).
[47] Ibid.
[48] "Bottles and Pumps Solve Water Problems," Fairweather, http://www.fairwater.org/home/about-fairwater/ (accessed August 21, 2016).
[49] "Water Supply and Sanitation Project (P101190)," The World Bank, http://www.worldbank.org/projects/P101190/water-supply-sanitation-project?lang=en (accessed August 21, 2016).
[50] "The World Bank: Water Supply and Sanitation Project (P101190)," The World Bank, http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/328451468006244317/pdf/ISR-Disclosable-P101190-05-12-2016-1463045700763.pdf (accessed August 21, 2016).
[51] Ibid.
[52] "USAID Water and Development Strategy 2013-2018," USAID, https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/USAID_Water_Strategy_3.pdf (accessed August 20, 2016).
[53] Ibid.
[54] "UN-HABITAT Water and Sanitation Trust Fund Overview," UN-HABITAT, http://mirror.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=8711&catid=647&typeid=24&subMenuId=0 (accessed August 21, 2016).
[55] Ibid.
[56] "Main Report of the First Water and Sanitation Trust Fund Impact Study," UN-HABITAT, http://unhabitat.org/books/main-report-of-the-first-water-sanitation-trust-fund-impact-study-document-01/ (accessed August 21, 2016).
[57] Ibid.
[58] Ibid.
[59] Ibid.
[60] "UN-HABITAT Water and Sanitation Trust Fund Funding," UN-HABITAT, http://mirror.unhabitat.org/content.asp?typeid=19&catid=647&cid=8716 (accessed August 21, 2016).

Other international water initiatives that work cooperatively with the UN-HABITAT include: The Global Water and Sanitation Initiative (GWSI) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Water Project, the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund's (UNICEF) Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Initiative, the Water Research Commission, World Water Council World Water Forum, and the World Bank.[61] As of 2013, WASH has helped to provide access to safe drinking water to approximately 157 million people, promoted hygiene programs that reached 17 million people, and collaborated with partners such as the Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) to establish a sustainability framework and school awareness programs.[62] GWSI has launched 300 projects in 56 Member States as of 2013 to reduce the risk of water-related diseases by increasing sanitation coverage in developing regions urban and rural areas.[63] The Water Project, in comparison, has completed 49 projects in Sub-Saharan Africa in the last nine years through local community partnerships.[64] Shifts in focus to only Sub-Saharan Africa and Rural areas in recent years has halted initiatives in other world regions.

Water as a Source of Conflict

While water comprises 70 percent of the surface of the Earth, only about two and half percent is fresh water.[65] Less than one percent of that water is easily accessible, and, as the urban population grows more, more of that water has become compromised.[66] Furthermore, water is not distributed evenly through the different regions of the world. Between 1820 and 2007, there were over 450 agreements signed for improved cooperation on the management of transboundary and international waters and over 90 water agreements were constructed to help manage shared water resources.[67] Currently, there are conflicts over water development of the Hari Rud River between Iran and Afghanistan that have resulted in at least ten deaths; between Ethiopia and other Member States in Africa that depend on the Nile River as Ethiopia continues in its Grand Renaissance Dam Project; and between India and Pakistan over the Siachen Glacier in Kashmir, to name but a few.[68]

Afghanistan shares the waters of the Hari Rud with both Iran and Turkmenistan, and there are approximately 4.7 million Afghans and Iranians who depend on the Hari Rud for survival.[69] Afghanistan, as part of its energy initiatives, built and expanded the Salma Dam, now known as the Afghanistan-India Friendship Dam, to provide more electricity to Afghan homes.[70] This resulted, however, in the reduced water flow of the river to Iran and Turkmenistan, and conflict has ensued. Various small shootings have occurred across river boundaries, and it is suspected that Iran has built several canals to restore water flow to its people after entering Afghan territory.[71] Ethiopia has faced similar conflicts over its Grand Renaissance Dam Project with Egypt and Sudan especially. About 85 percent of the original flow of the Nile, the river in question over the dam project, originates in Ethiopia, and contributes water to nine countries and seven major cities.[72][73] Conflict arose in 2011 when Ethiopia announced

[61] "Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge," UN-HABITAT, http://unhabitat.org/books/world-water-day-2011-water-and-urbanization-water-for-cities-responding-to-the-urban-challenge/ (accessed July 21, 2016).

[62] "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Annual Report 2013," UNICEF, http://www.unicef.org/wash/files/WASH_Annual_Report_Final_7_2_Low_Res.pdf (accessed July 21 2016).

[63] "Our Initiatives Around the World," International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/health/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-promotion/our-initiatives-around-the-world/ (accessed July 21, 2016).

[64] "The Water Project Partnerships," The Water Project, https://thewaterproject.org/partnership (accessed July 21, 2016).

[65] "And not a drop to drink? The freshwater crisis," UNESCO, http://www.unesco.org/bpi/science/content/press/anglo/10.htm (accessed August 23, 2016).

[66] Ibid.

[67] "UN Water Statistics," UN Water, http://www.unwater.org/statistics/en/?page=2&ipp=10&no_cache=1 (accessed August 23, 2016).

[68] "Water Conflict Chronology," Pacific Institute, 2015, http://www2.worldwater.org/conflict/list/ (accessed August 23, 2016).

[69] "Afghanistan Risks Water Conflict with Iran," Sudha Ramachandran, 30 July 2016, The Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst, https://www.cacianalyst.org/publications/analytical-articles/item/13379-afghanistan-risks-water-conflict-with-iran.html (accessed September 3, 2016)

[70] Ibid

[71] Ibid

[72] "Disputes over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)," ECC Platform Library, https://library.ecc-platform.org/conflicts/eastern-nile-basin-dispute-over-millennium-dam-ethiopia (accessed September 4, 2016).

its plan to dam part of the Blue Nile as a form of economic development and hydropower production.[74] To decrease rising tensions, an International Panel of Experts (IPoE) was formed in 2014 to assess costs, benefits, and impacts of the dam followed by the signing of a framework agreement in 2015 between the countries on water agreements, dam operation procedures, and an open line of communication.[75] Specific technical agreements have still yet to be made, and the governments of both Ethiopia and Egypt have not received public support from their populations over the agreements.[76]

The conflict over the Siachen Glacier began in the late 1970s after the Pakistani began several mountaineering expeditions of the glacier and the Indian Army responded with expeditions of their own.[77] This quickly resulted in the deployment of military forces on both sides and military conflict until 2005, when peace was called for by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan.[78] It is estimated that over 1,300 Pakistani soldiers died in the conflict since 1999, as well as 2,000 Indians, and 4,000 more personnel deaths from frostbite, avalanches, and other causes.[79] Water has been used as a political tool in some areas, as a source of energy in others, and as an economic tool in certain societies. As the population continues to increase, water resources continue to become a more valuable commodity.

Conclusion

UN-HABITAT has committed itself since 2000 to upholding objectives to increase water sustainability. The agency believes in achieving a global community where "water should be sufficient, continuously available and safe to use, for both personal and domestic uses."[80] They also maintain that water and sanitation services should be accessible and affordable to all peoples without fear of discrimination of any kind.[81] From Asia to Africa to Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-HABITAT has supported the growth of water sustainability initiatives that prioritize development in areas of the urban poor. As UN-HABITAT advances with the SDGs, it encourages cooperation among Member States, NGOs, local governmental officials, and inter-governmental organizations to collaborate on improving frameworks, regulations, and sustainable water distribution and sanitation development.

Committee Directive

Following the initiatives made in the post-Water for Life decade, delegates should identify key areas for urban water distribution and sanitation systems improvements globally. What Member States are the most affected by sanitation concerns? How can densely populated urban areas improve sanitation systems and water distribution? If there are areas that are increasingly impacted by water scarcity, what initiatives can be taken to improve sustainable development and achieving SDG6? What successful policies and programs can Member States share to improve global water conditions? Delegates should remember that water could be a source of conflict as resource demand increases, and should be prepared to mitigate such conflicts for the overreaching goal of universal water distribution and sanitation. Delegates should come prepared with knowledge of UN-HABITAT partnerships with UNICEF, successful global water initiatives, and areas most impacted by urban water distribution shortages and sanitation system deficiencies.

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[73] "Nile Facts," Africa Facts, http://africa-facts.org/nile-river-facts (accessed September 4, 2016).

[74] "Disputes over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)," ECC Platform Library,
        https://library.ecc-platform.org/conflicts/eastern-nile-basin-dispute-over-millennium-dam-ethiopia (accessed September
        4, 2016).

[75] Ibid.

[76] Ibid.

[77] "All about the Siachen Glacier: the conflict, perspectives of India and Pakistan, geography, history and
        the possible resolutions," http://www.siachenglacier.com/ (accessed September 5, 2016).

[78] Ibid.

[79] Ibid.

[80] "Water and Sanitation Goals Set by the UN," UN-HABITAT, http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/water-and-sanitation-2
        (accessed July 21, 2016).

[81] Ibid.

II: Providing Access to Adequate and Sustainable Housing

Introduction

A holistic and comprehensive approach to adequate sustainable housing is one of UN-HABITAT's urban initiatives and has traditionally been one of the major commitments of the Habitat Agenda. The inability to address the lack of housing resulted in the creation of 55 million new slum settlements around the world since 2000.[82] The majority of the populations facing rapid urbanization are in the developing world, where resources to afford adequate sustainable housing are scarce. When constructing new homes, it is important to take into account the environmental impact new construction may have on certain regions of the world, and whether best practices are implemented in order to preserve the natural resources. Houses must be durable, environmentally friendly, and affordable.

Rapid urbanization imposes many challenges in the development of adequate housing across the international community. Estimates indicate by 2030, three billion people, or approximately 40 percent of the world's total population, will have a severe need for housing and basic infrastructure services.[83] In order to meet demands of rapid urban growth, around 96,150 housing units would need to be built every day from 2016 until 2030.[84] The increased demand, and lack of economic resources to meet those demands, in the developing world has created a housing deficit. The increased demand for housing has outstripped the ability of the international community to provide it in an efficient and sustainable manner. This lack of adequate global housing has forced people to seek alternative means for survival, such as living in the streets, slum settlements, refugee camps, and other substandard living arrangements around the world. As defined by the United Nations (UN), a slum must contain the following five characteristics: (1) inadequate access to safe water, (2) inadequate access to sanitation and infrastructure, (3) poor structural quality of housing, (4) overcrowding, and (5) insecure residential status.[85] All five characteristics severely impact an individual's well-being and why the emergence of slum settlements is a matter of global concern.

The right to adequate housing is an important component of an individual's basic human rights, and is also considered vital to achieving a certain standard of living according to Article 25.1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.[86] The right to adequate housing is defined as "the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions."[87] According to Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, without access to adequate shelter, an individual's life in regards to health, education, personal happiness and well-being can quickly deteriorate, and because of such impacts the issue of adequate housing is central to sustainable development.

History

Adequate housing was recognized as part of the right to a satisfactory global standard of living in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.[88] Since then, many international and domestic human rights entities and governments around the world, have recognized adequate housing as an important component to an individual's human rights, and began to research achievable solutions. During the 1996 UN Conference of Human Settlements (HABITAT II), the topic of adequate

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[82] "Housing & Slum Upgrading," UN-HABITAT, http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/housing-slum-upgrading/ (accessed on July 28, 2016).

[83] Ibid.

[84] Ibid.

[85] Ibid.

[86] Article 25.1. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. United Nations General Assembly. December 10, 1948. (accessed on July 28, 2016).

[87] Article 11. *International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.* United Nations Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights. December 16, 1966. (accessed on July 28, 2016).

[88] *International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.* United Nations Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights. December 16, 1966. (accessed on July 28, 2016).

housing was incorporated into the Habitat Agenda and stated as, "within the overall context of an enabling approach, Governments should take appropriate action in order to promote, protect and ensure the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing."[89] Member States in attendance collaborated in drafting the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements.[90] The Istanbul Declaration aimed to build a constitutional framework that acknowledged both human settlements development and human rights.[91] Additionally, the declaration emphasized combating the deteriorating conditions in developing Member States that led to inadequate and unsafe housing, and to analyze the unsustainable consumption and production patterns of industrialized and more developed Member States.[92]

In May 1997, the Commission on Human Settlements adopted resolution A/HRC/16/7 recognizing the "realization on human right to adequate housing."[93] As a recommendation, the resolution urged UN-HABITAT and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to strengthen their cooperation and consider a joint programme to address the issue of housing rights.[94] Thus, resolutions 2001/34 and 2001/28, established by the Human Rights Council (HRC) in April 2001, constitute the mandate for the establishment of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme (UNHRP). [95,96] UNHRP, established in April 2002, was the first joint programme of UN-HABITAT and OHCHR to help government, local authorities, civil society, and other institutions to implement a Habitat Agenda into Member States infrastructure to ensure the full realization of the right to adequate housing.[97]

Resolution 6/27, adopted on 14 December 2007 by the HRC on the topic of "Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living," reviewed and finalized the mandate of the Special Rapporteur appointed by OHCHR to focus on the issue of adequate housing. [98,99] Appointed for a period of three years, the Rapporteur's mandate focused on providing assistance to governments in securing housing rights by promoting cooperation and dialogue among UN organizations and bodies, non-governmental organizations, and other relevant international organizations.

Another major initiative set forth by UN-HABITAT was the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP), launched in 2008. PSUP is a joint initiative of the European Commission (EC), the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, and UN-HABITAT.[100] Its main purpose is to support local, central, and regional institutions working in slum settlement and improvement by encouraging good governance, pilot projects, and contributing to policy development. UN-HABITAT encourages that new policies related to housing, urbanization, and sustainability implemented by institutions and key stakeholders under the PSUP should include financial, institutional, legislative, and normative frameworks. PSUP supports institutions and national authorities through regional training and policy seminars to help Member States identify the best sources of funding for each initiative.

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[89] *Habitat Agenda*. UN-HABITAT. June 14, 1996. (accessed on July 28, 2016).

[90] *Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements*. UN-HABITAT. January 1996. (accessed on July 28, 2016).

[91] *International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights*. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights. December 16, 1966. (accessed on July 28, 2016).

[92] 165/14. *Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda.* UN-HABITAT. (accessed September 5, 2016).

[93] A/HRC/16/7. *The realization of the human right to adequate housing*. UN-HABITAT. (accessed July 28, 2016).

[94] "Housing & Slum Upgrading," UN-HABITAT, http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/housing-slum-upgrading/ (accessed on July 28, 2016).

[95] 2001/34. *Women's equal ownership of, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing.* United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (accessed July 28, 2016).

[96] 2001/28. *Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living*. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (accessed July 28, 2016).

[97] "United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)," United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, https://www.unngls.org/index.php/engage-with-the-un/un-civil-society-contact-points/144-united-nations-human-settlements-programme-un-habitat, (accessed July 28, 2016).

[98] 6/27. *Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living*. Human Rights Council. (accessed July 28, 2016).

[99] 2000/9. *Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights*. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights. (accessed July 28, 2016).

[100] "Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP)," UN-HABITAT, http://unhabitat.org/urban-initiatives/initiatives-programmes/participatory-slum-upgrading/ (accessed July 28, 2016).

Initially working with only 12 ACP states, PSUP has expanded to 38 ACP states and 160 cities to date.[101] It has provided the necessary tools to improve the lives of approximately two million slum dwellers in the developing world. PSUP operates under nine different principles that include, but are not limited to: (1) adopting a citywide participatory approach to slum upgrading, (2) ensuring no unlawful, forced evictions of slum dwellers, (3) allocating 10 percent funding to community-led development interventions, and (4) striving to implement the Programme based on the good urban governance principles of transparency, accountability, participation and decentralization.[102] PSUP's approach seeks to provide an inclusive environment where all participants are empowered to work towards a better future for all their cities. PSUP is implemented in three different phases in order to institutionalize participatory approach which are as follows, (1) Participatory Urban Profiling, (2) Participatory Action Planning and Programme, and (3) Participatory Pilot Project Implementation.[103]

Additionally, in 2008 UN-HABITAT established the Housing Profile Tool (HPT) to assist governments and other entities when developing policy and strategies.[104] Successfully implemented in ten Member States in Africa, Asia and Latin America since its creation, the HPT's main purpose is to enable governments and their partners to better understand the constraints hindering access to adequate housing.[105] HTP also seeks to improve the understanding of national and local institutions in regards to housing issues and compliance with international law and humanitarian law standards.

Current Situation

In September 2000, eight goals were identified at the Millennium Summit as the framework to address issues related to poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, gender equality, education, and sustainability. Titled as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), these goals promoted a new global partnership between Member States to advance in these issues with a deadline of 2015.[106] During the Rio+20 Conference in 2012, the process to begin developing new sustainable development goals as preceded by the MDGs began, and thus, in September 2015 the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were approved by the UN General Assembly (GA) with a new deadline of 2030.[107] With sustainability at the core of all 17 SDGs, this new set of goals aligns with the issue of affordable and sustainable housing and urban development. SDG Goals 9 and 11 in particular align with the issue of rapid urbanization of cities and sustainable infrastructure and industrialization. As outlined by Goal 11, half of humanity resides in cities today, with an expectation that this will increase and that urban expansion could rise to 95 percent, particularly in developing Member States.[108]

In 2015, 3.3 percent of the world's population lived outside their Member State of origin, which is why considering migration as part of a solution is very important.[109] In addition to migration, the current refugee crisis is a catalyst to the issue of rapid urbanization and the development of slum settlements. Almost half of these populations are women of reproductive age and young children, who are most vulnerable to suffering the consequences of rapid urbanization, which is why UN-HABITAT urge Member States to take stronger initiatives when it comes to these groups. Since 2002, UN-HABITAT has set forth initiatives to be more inclusive of women when it comes to adequate housing, and has since established in conjunction with OHCHR eight resolutions relating to (1) women's equal ownership and access to land, (2) women's rights to development, and (3) women's rights to land, property, and adequate housing.[110] Successful initiatives such as the Global Shelter Cluster, led by the United Nations

[101] Ibid.
[102] Ibid.
[103] Ibid.
[104] "Housing & Slum Upgrading," UN-HABITAT, http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/housing-slum-upgrading (accessed on July 28, 2016).
[105] Ibid.
[106] "About MDGs," UN Millennium Project, http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/ (accessed September 6, 2016).
[107] "From MDGs to SDGs," Sustainable Development Goals Fund, http://www.sdgfund.org/mdgs-sdgs (accessed September 6, 2016).
[108] "Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable," United Nations, http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cities/ (accessed September 7, 2016).
[109] "Migration," United Nations Population Fund, http://www.unfpa.org/migration (accessed September 6, 2016).
[110] "Women and Housing," OHCHR, http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/Pages/WomenAndHousing.aspx (accessed September 6, 2016).

Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), have been set in place in order to address the refugee crisis and their need for shelter.[111]

In resolution 66/207, the UNGA called for a Habitat III conference to re-evaluate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization and to implement a New Urban Agenda building on the Istanbul Habitat Agenda established in 1996.[112] Taking place in Quito, Ecuador, and as mandated by resolution 67/216, the objectives of Habitat III were to secure political commitment for sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty and identify and address new and emerging challenges.[113] When rethinking the New Urban Agenda, UN-HABITAT urged Member States to keep in mind that while cities occupy only two percent of land in the world, they compose 70 percent of global waste, economy, greenhouse gas emissions, and energy consumption.[114] On 10 September 2016, an agreed draft of the New Urban Agenda was officially accepted by UN-HABITAT for adoption in Quito.[115] Additionally, the Quito Implementation Plan Platform was established as a tool to monitor the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Habitat III outcomes. This tool encourages voluntary commitments made by key stakeholders to be concrete actions that can are measurable and achievable in order to continue promoting sustainable urban development.[116] As the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Leilani Farha, played an important role during Habitat III by outlining key issues that require a human rights perspective in their construction and implementation, and identifying relevant connections between the new SDGs and Habitat III.[117] Farha expressed her belief that homelessness is a crucial issue that requires an immediate action for its possible human rights violations, and called for a vibrant human rights framework to be adopted alongside the New Urban Agenda.[118]

Additionally, UN-HABITAT is currently working on implementing a Global Housing Strategy (GHS) through 2025 with the purpose of integrating housing policies aligning social, economic and environmental policies into broad urban planning governmental actions.[119] Created under the principle of inclusive cities as the foundation for urban sustainable development, the GHS aims to help Member States develop realistic strategies supporting the universal right to adequate housing.[120] UN-HABITAT defines inclusive cities as "mainstreaming human rights in urban development, including housing and slum upgrading, to ensure social integration and aiming for the elimination of the urban divide." With the GHS, UN-HABITAT seeks a paradigm shift in the thinking and practices of housing policy from the past that will contribute to the post-2015 sustainable development goals set forth by the UN significantly, thus revolutionizing the transformative power of urbanization. Some examples of the changes UN-HABITAT expects are as follows, but not limited to, a redefined role for Governments beyond enablement to reassuming a leadership role in encouraging pro-poor performance of the markets, the promotion of systemic reforms to enable wider access to adequate housing matching effective demands; strengthened linkages between housing and other parts of economic development, decentralization of housing production and empowerment of different actors of housing development; increased use of sustainable building and technologies towards more cost-effective solutions.[121]

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[111] "Operations," Global Shelter Cluster, http://www.sheltercluster.org/operations (accessed November 3, 2016).
[112] 66/207. *Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).* United Nations General Assembly. (accessed September 5, 2016).
[113] 67/216. *Strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).* United Nations General Assembly (accessed September 5, 2016).
[114] "The New Urban Agenda," HABITAT III, https://www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda (accessed September 6, 2016).
[115] "Habitat III: New Urban Agenda," HABITAT III, https://www.habitat3.org/file/535859/view/588897 (accessed November 2, 2016).
[116] "About the Quito Implementation Plan," HABITAT III, https://habitat3.org/qip-about (accessed November 2. 2016).
[117] "Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda from the perspective of the right to adequate housing," OHCHR, http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/Pages/HabitatIIIandtheNewUrbanAgenda.aspx (accessed September 6, 2016).
[118] "Habitat III: "It's not about conferences, but people," OHCHR, http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20725&LangID=E (accessed November 2, 2016).
[119] "Housing & Slum Upgrading," UN-HABITAT, http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/housing-slum-upgrading/ (accessed on July 28, 2016).
[120] "Global Housing Strategy: Re-positioning Housing at The Centre of the new Urban Agenda," UN-HABITAT, http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Global-Housing-Strategy-Re-positioning-Housing-at-The.pdf (accessed November 1, 2016).
[121] Ibid.

In addition to the GHS, UN-HABITAT developed the City Prosperity Initiative (CPI) tool in order to better define targets and goals that can support the creation of evidence-based policies.[122] Implemented in 300 cities and 12 Member States so far, the CPI offers cities the possibility to create indicators and baseline information to be used in policy recommendations that can then impact new policies related to the New Urban Agenda. Initial results of CPI implementation in Mexico, for example, already show the government that urban prosperity action plans to increase land efficiency and improve connectivity with public transport would be successful in the Member State.[123] Because of its potential for success, upon implementation of the New Urban Agenda and a successful Habitat III conference, UN-HABITAT promotes CPI as the potential global monitoring tool of the SDGs in cities around the world.

Conclusion

As we move forward, our main objectives revolve around mitigating the emergence of more slum settlements, as well as building upon successful global initiatives, and innovating sustainable housing development. As outlined by Goal 11 of the SDGs, rapid urbanization is not just an issue of housing but it is also exerting pressure on fresh water supplies, sewage, the living environment, and public health, which is why UN-HABITAT calls for a comprehensive approach to the issue of adequate and sustainable housing. This comprehensive approach must look at the issue of adequate housing as more than just infrastructure construction, but also as economic and social growth for the developing world. It is essential that all stakeholders involved in the housing sector recognize the multiple dimensions of the issue of adequate housing, which is much more than a mere financial asset, and recognize it as a human right. With the recent implementation of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda established during Habitat III, the issue of adequate housing is expected to undergo a paradigm shift that will analyze the issue from new perspectives to accommodate urbanization trends and the need for a sustainable world. While the costs of sustainable housing are currently high, it is a challenge to provide affordable and practical solutions and the consequences of current urbanization trends will potentially end up being higher than the costs of sustainable development.

Committee Directive

Delegates should consider affordability and sustainability as primary goals to achieving access to adequate housing. The Committee recommends that delegates approach this topic with holistic intentions, using current and past initiatives set forth by UN-HABITAT such as the PSUP, the Housing Profile Tool, and various PCEs as initial inspiration. Delegates will also find other initiatives such as the UN Environment Programme and the UN Population Fund to be helpful resources. Delegates should keep in mind that while the challenges of human settlements are a global issue, there are critical needs in each region of the world that require more specific solutions instead of generalized ones. When analyzing these needs, ask yourselves what resources each region lacks and which it can provide. Delegates may also want to consider the SDGs when implementing practical solutions, and use them as a guideline to achieve urban sustainable development. At the same time, delegates shall keep in mind the importance of human rights emphasized by both UN-HABITAT and OCHCR when it comes to addressing the issue of housing rights, and how this affects the most vulnerable populations of the world such as women and children.

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[122] "Measuring and Monitoring the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda," UN-HABITAT, http://nua.unhabitat.org/details1.asp?ProjectId=4&ln=1 (accessed November 4, 2016)
[123] "CPI Factsheet," UN-HABITAT, http://nua.unhabitat.org/uploads/CPI.pdf (accessed November 4, 2016).

Technical Appendix Guide

Topic I: Addressing Urban Water Distribution and Sanitation Systems

The United Nations World Water Development Report 2015. UNESCO.
http://www.unesco-ihe.org/sites/default/files/wwdr_2015.pdf

This is a multilateral report; it offers a broad update on the sustainable distribution of urban water worldwide. This is an important resource for delegates because it offers data and information aimed at policy- and decision-makers, inside and outside the water sector. As Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), eloquently said, "The sustainable use and management of water is vital for welfare of all humanity today, and it is essential for building the future we want for all." I would urge delegates to take a long look at this document, to gain invaluable statistics and material for positions papers and subsequent speeches at conference.

*"*The United Nations Interagency Mechanism on all Freshwater Related Issues, Including Sanitation," UNWATER,
http://www.unwater.org/topics/water-and-urbanization/en/

This is an excellent starting point for any research pertaining to sanitation and water distribution. The UN Water webpage offers a topic subsection which consists of Drafts currently being worked on by Member States, and a brief overview detailing the facts of, and issues facing water distribution.

Waters and Cities Facts and Figures. The United Nations.
http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/swm_cities_zaragoza_2010/pdf/facts_and_figures_long_final_eng.pdf

This is a very detailed factsheet that will help delegates put the crises of water distribution into perspective. Did you know that 27 percent of the urban dwellers in the developing world do not have access to piped water at home? Take a look at this factsheet to keep yourself informed on the problems facing the global community in terms of sanitation and water distribution.

"Water on an Urban Planet: Urbanization and the Reach of Urban Water Infrastructure." Global Environmental Change 27. McDonald, Robert I. et al. (2014): 96-105. Web.
http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959378014000880

This is a very informative journal about how urban demand has increased the demand for freshwater resources, and how urban infrastructures are currently overwhelmed when handling water management. It explores city use of water resources as well as the disproportionate use of water resources globally. This journal article also explores the economic and geographical stresses of water and its future implications.

Onda, K., et al. "Country clustering applied to the water and sanitation sector: a new tool with potential applications in research and policy." *International journal of hygiene and environmental health* 217.2-3 (2014): 379-385.
http://europepmc.org/articles/PMC3946906;jsessionid=jRgq3XODN6tFR5mh6iVU.8

This article focuses on exploring international water development and how water development relates to global health by clustering countries based on Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) programme indicators. It discusses research to improve water quality, possible policy changes to resource management, and progress in urban areas on the topic of water sanitation.

Topic II: Providing Access to Adequate and Sustainable Housing

The Geneva United Nations Charter on Sustainable Housing. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/Publications/UNECE_Charter_EN.pdf

This resource is essential for delegates to use in their research. It is THE Charter on Sustainable Housing, providing the challenges to sustainable housing, key goals for the United Nations, and measures being implemented. Delegates are highly urged to take a look.

The right to Adequate Housing. UN HABITAT in conjunction with the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights
http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FS21_rev_1_Housing_en.pdf

This joint OHCHR/UN-Habitat Fact Sheet is the second in a series of joint publications by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with other United Nations partners to focus on economic, social and cultural rights. This Fact Sheet starts by explaining what the right to adequate housing is, illustrates what it means for specific individuals and groups, and then elaborates upon States' related obligations. It concludes with an overview of national, regional and international accountability and monitoring mechanisms. Did you know that adequate housing was recognized as part of the right to an adequate standard of living in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights? These are the types of facts that delegates can draw from this resource.

"UN Expert on Right to Housing challenges governments to end homelessness," United Nations News Center,
http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52345#.V8LqDJgrJhE

This is a great article that highlights the work done by Leilani Farha, the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing. Farha commented about the lack of human rights in urban developing discussions. The article also notes her calls for governments to improve living conditions for all people and end homelessness.

Recommendations for the United Nations' Third Conference on Housing & Sustainable Urbanization. Habitat for Humanity International.
http://solidgroundcampaign.org/sites/default/files/hfhi_recommendations_for_habitat_iii.pdf

As Habitat III quickly approaches, various global advocacy campaigns have been initiated so as to provide the participants of Habitat III with much needed facts and measures to address adequate sustainable housing. One such campaign, Solid Ground was created precisely to address the fundamental issue of access to land for shelter. This document is critical to delegate's research process because it provides the recommendations Member States will be considering as they meet to face the challenges of this topic.

"Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld#

As Habitat III ends, the United Nations has published this document to address all issues of sustainable development, including addressing the growing need for adequate sustainable housing. This document is the framework for all current and future UN goals as they relate to sustainability. This document outlines the most up-to-date information and goals of Member States as they address concerns related to sustainability, and contains vital information for the delegate research process.