Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to welcome you to the 2010 Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference (SRMUN) and to the General Assembly Plenary. My name is Cortney Moshier and I am from New York where I am in the final stage of a Masters Degree in Multicultural Education from the State University of New York at New Paltz. The best thing I ever did was join the Model UN team and start competing in conferences. The knowledge that I have obtained about the international community, the United Nations, and the way diplomacy works is priceless. We, students of Model UN, represent a very small group of people educated on international affairs. These tools enable us to change the world and enhance lives through security initiatives that we so desperately need. As a delegate I have been to many conferences, but this one was always my favorite. As your Director I can assure you that your experience at SRMUN is one that you will not soon forget. Joining me this year is Liz Kelly, a student at Winthrop University where she is studying Political Science with aspirations of completing a grad program in International Relations. We have both been working very hard to put together an amazing and challenging committee for you.

The General Assembly Plenary is one of the five principle organs of the United Nations. It is the only committee in which all Member States have equal representation. In response to current discussions taking place within the General Assembly and the theme for this year's SRMUN (The Global Paradigm: Enhancing Peace through Security Initiatives), the following topics will be discussed:

I: Implementing the Durban Declaration: Measuring Progress Toward Eliminating Racism and Intolerance.
II: Ensuring Global Food Security
III: Examining the Role of Women in the International Security System

The background guides that are available for the topics provide a primary foundation for your research. Additionally, there are helpful links provided in the technical appendices that give more detailed information on specific aspects of the topics that should be useful in preparing for the conference. In order to ensure a high quality simulation, thorough preparation for each topic is expected from every delegate, and detailed preparation will assist in facilitating meaningful discussion at the conference. The background guide and technical appendices are only an initial step in the research process and delegates must conduct independent research to fully prepare for the conference.

Additionally, each delegation is required to submit a position paper for consideration. It should be no longer than two pages in length, single-spaced, and demonstrate your country's position, policies and recommendations on each of the three topics. For more information regarding the position papers please visit the SRMUN website at http://www.srmun.org. Position papers must be submitted on-line via the SRMUN website and will be due by 11:59PM EST on October 22, 2010.

We sincerely look forward to working with each of you and wish you the best of luck with conference preparations.

Good Luck and Happy Researching!

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Committee History of the United Nations General Assembly Plenary

The United Nations General Assembly was established under Article VII of the United Nations Charter in 1945.[1] The General Assembly (GA) is at the center of deliberation and policymaking, and serves as a representative organ of the United Nations in which all 192 Member States are represented.[2] Standing as one of six main organs of the UN, the GA is divided into six committees: GA First: Disarmament and International Security Committee concentrating on disarmament and international security issues; GA Second: Economic and Financial Committee concerned with economic questions; GA Third: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee specifically dealing with social and humanitarian issues; GA Fourth: Special Political and Decolonization Committee which discusses a variety of political issues and decolonization; GA Fifth: Administrative and Budgetary Committee dealing with financial budget and administration of the UN; and GA Sixth: Legal Committee dealing with issues of international law.[3] Member States meet in the specified committees to discuss and draft resolutions to bring to the Plenary session in order to maximize work on individual topics and move forward on multiple issues at once.[4]

Following World War Two, destruction and disorder led world leaders to re-evaluate the needs of the international community and replace the League of Nations with the United Nations.[5] Although the League of Nations was created with intentions of promoting international peace and cooperation, it lacked cohesion and legitimacy. The lack of support from several major powers for the League proved that it was time for change.[6]

The GA provides the international community with a unique opportunity to discuss the multitude of issues outlined in the Charter. Most of the work done at the UN derives from the mandates produced in the GA.[7] Additionally, a platform to set standards and enforce the implications of international law is at the forefront of the possibilities for the GA.[8] According to the Charter, the GA has several functions and powers which include:

- Consideration and recommendation for maintaining international peace and security,
- Discuss issues relating to peace and security (not if being discussed in the Security Council),
- Make recommendations within the scope of the Charter of the UN,
- Initiation of studies that will promote international political cooperation, development and implementation of international law, human rights and freedoms; and the collaboration in economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational, and heath fields,
- Receive and consider reports from the Security Council and other organs,
- Approve the budget and decide allocation of funding, and
- Elect non-permanent members of the Security Council and appoint the Secretary-General.[9]

Although the General Assembly is only given the power to make recommendations that are non-binding, many landmark documents have come out of the GA and have made a tremendous impact on the international community.[10] One of the most important documents to ever come out of the GA was the

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[1] Charter of the United Nations. http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter3.shtml

[2] United Nations General Assembly. Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.
    http://www.un.org/ga/about/background.shtml

[3] United Nations General Assembly. Main Committees http://www.un.org/ga/maincommittees.shtml

[4] United Nations General Assembly. Main Committees http://www.un.org/ga/maincommittees.shtml

[5] The League of Nations Photo Archive. Introduction. http://www.indiana.edu/~league/intro.htm

[6] The United Nations: An Introduction for Students, United Nations Cyber Schoolbus.
    http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/unintro/unintro3.htm

[7] The United Nations. Main Bodies. http://www.un.org/en/mainbodies/

[8] United Nations General Assembly. Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.
    http://www.un.org/ga/about/background.shtml

[9] United Nations General Assembly. Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.
    http://www.un.org/ga/about/background.shtml

[10] United Nations General Assembly. Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.
    http://www.un.org/ga/about/background.shtml

Millennium Declaration, which established the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). On September 18, 2000, the 55th session of the GA voted on and passed A/Res/55/2, The Millennium Declaration.[11] This very important document provides an outline for the creation of the MDGs which set the stage for the international community to have eight target goals deemed the most important by Member States for the coming decades. Ranging from education and health care to environmental protections and preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, the MDGs provide evidence of an inherent agreement between Member States to reach benchmarks and platforms paramount for the improvement of the United Nations and the international community.[12]

Additionally, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drafted in 1948 to express the views of all Member States on human rights.[13] The GA called upon all Member States, "to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories."[14] This landmark document recognizes, "the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family."[15] This document provides a benchmark which all Member States must keep in mind and respect the rights and privileges granted within it in all aspects of daily living and when drafting resolutions.[16] One other resolution has profoundly impacted the international community. Resolution 377 or the "Uniting for Peace" Resolution states that if the Security Council fails to maintain international peace and security, the primary function of the Council, then the General Assembly will take on the matter and urge collective action of all Member States.[17] This resolution was enacted during the Suez crisis of 1956, which led to the establishment of the first United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF).[18] Several organizations within the UN have called for the resolution to be enacted in retaliation to the US-led war in Iraq in order to help provide guidance for the impasse in the Security Counsel, but the GA has not done so.[19]

The GA meets regularly from September to December and at other special sessions deemed necessary based on important developments and events occurring throughout the world.[20] Each Member State represented at the United Nations participates in the General Assembly and has one vote.[21] Most items are passed by a simple majority, except issues of special importance such as recommendations for peace and security measures and the election of Security Council members, which require a two-thirds majority.[22] In recent years, the GA has made a particular effort to reach consensus on issues to strengthen the support of GA decisions.[23]

All Member States are represented in the General Assembly Plenary.

[11] A/Res/55/2. General Assembly. 18 September 2000. United Nations Millennium Declaration.
    http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/55/2&Lang=E
[12] United Nations General Assembly. Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.
    http://www.un.org/ga/about/background.shtml
[13] The Role of the UN General Assembly. Council on Foreign Relations.
    http://www.cfr.org/publication/13490/role_of_the_un_general_assembly.html
[14] The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/
[15] The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/
[16] The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/
[17] The Role of the UN General Assembly. Council on Foreign Relations.
    http://www.cfr.org/publication/13490/role_of_the_un_general_assembly.html
[18] The Role of the UN General Assembly. Council on Foreign Relations.
    http://www.cfr.org/publication/13490/role_of_the_un_general_assembly.html
[19] The Role of the UN General Assembly. Council on Foreign Relations.
    http://www.cfr.org/publication/13490/role_of_the_un_general_assembly.html
[20] United Nations General Assembly. Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.
    http://www.un.org/ga/about/background.shtml
[21] United Nations General Assembly. Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.
    http://www.un.org/ga/about/background.shtml
[22] United Nations General Assembly. Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.
    http://www.un.org/ga/about/background.shtml
[23] United Nations General Assembly. Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.
    http://www.un.org/ga/about/background.shtml

Topic I: Implementing the Durban Declaration: Measuring Progress toward Eliminating Racism and Intolerance

"The World Conference has the potential to be among the most significant gatherings at the start of this century. It can be more: it can shape and embody the spirit of the new century, based on the shared conviction that we are members of one human family."
> -Secretary-General of the Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson[24]

Introduction

Since its inception in 1945, the United Nations (UN) has been committed to protecting the citizens of the international community from unwarranted pain and suffering. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, great strides have been taken by the international community to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance.[25] In 1997, the General Assembly decided in resolution 52/111 to hold a world conference in Durban, South Africa from August 31, to September 7, 2001, to discuss the injustices plaguing the world surrounding racism and intolerance.[26] Member States, representatives of NGOs, and businesses met to express their hope for a comprehensive plan of action to eliminate all forms of racism, discrimination, and intolerance. These protocols and definitions were established by the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in June of 1993.[27]

June 14-25, 1993, was the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Austria.[28] Representatives from 171 Member States adopted the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action by consensus, solidifying the international position and common ideals for strengthening human rights work around the globe.[29] The United Nations Secretary-General at the time, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, told Member States that they had, "renewed the international community's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights."[30]

Additionally, this meeting of international actors took ground-breaking steps to promote and protect the rights of women, children, and indigenous people by supporting three key programs and protocols: the Special Rapporteur's report on Violence against Women, ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the recommendation of an International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.[31] One of the recommendations with the most impact was the call for strengthening and working towards a better-monitored and fully-functioning United Nations system through the establishment of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, a post created 20 December 1993 by Resolution 48/141 in the General Assembly.[32]

Acknowledging the successes and shortcomings of the previous declaration, the international community chose to meet in Durban, South Africa with a renewed vigor to solve the injustices associated with intolerance. The site for the conference was carefully planned. Durban, South Africa was where Gandhi

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[24] "The World Conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance"
World Conference Against Racism. Press Kit. http://www.un.org/WCAR/e-kit/backgrounder1.htm

[25] Ibid.

[26] Ibid.

[27]International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination. General Assembly President. General Assembly 57th Session. Statements. http://www.un.org/ga/president/57/pages/speeches/statement210303-RacialDiscrimination.htm

[28]World Conference on Human Rights, 14-25 June 1993, Vienna, Austria. United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ABOUTUS/Pages/ViennaWC.aspx

[29] Ibid.

[30] Ibid.

[31] Ibid.

[32] Ibid.

began his movement of passive resistance against apartheid and colonialism.[33] South Africa was the birthplace of a model for a future of understanding and respect.[34] A meeting of world leaders to discuss the scourges of racism and discrimination had the potential to make great strives in the eradication of such ills in the world, and a mechanism to ensure that those promises made would be measured and monitored in the future.

Before the Conference

Leading up to the conference, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights acted as the preparatory committee, organizing meetings and seminars around the world that would create rules and an agenda, and would allow Member States a chance to advance their knowledge and better prepare for meaningful work at the conference.[35] The end results were five themes to be discussed further in South Africa:

- Theme 1: Sources, causes, forms and contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance;
- Theme 2: Victims of racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance;
- Theme 3: Measures of prevention, education and protection aimed at the eradication of racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance at the national, regional and international levels.
- Theme 4: Provision for effective remedies, recourses, redress, [compensatory] and other measures at the national, regional and international levels;
- Theme 5: Strategies to achieve full and effective equality, including international cooperation and enhancement of the United Nations and other international mechanisms in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia.[36]

All Member States agreed that this would be a landmark in the struggle to eradicate all forms of racism, but that it would require a strong mechanism to examine whether governments had delivered on all promised made at the conference.[37] The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance ended with the adoption of a Declaration and Program of Action that, "committed Member States to undertake a wide range of measures to combat racism and racial discrimination at the international, regional, and national levels."[38]

Declaration Program of Action

Under the Program of Action, there are over 200 recommendations directed at Member States, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the business sector for improvements in the way intolerance and discrimination are discussed.[39] Victims of racism and intolerance were named: Africans and people of African descent, Indigenous peoples, Migrants, Refugees, and Others (victims of trafficking, national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, women and girls, children, people with disabilities and people with HIV/AIDS.[40]

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[33]"Durban Conference against Racism From the Birthplace of Passive Resistance, A Call for Tolerance" UN Chronicle: Online Edition http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2001/issue4/0104p53.html

[34] Ibid.

[35]"The World Conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance" World Conference Against Racism. Press Kit. http://www.un.org/WCAR/e-kit/backgrounder1.htm

[36] Ibid.

[37] Ibid.

[38]"Durban Conference against Racism From the Birthplace of Passive Resistance, A Call for Tolerance" UN Chronicle: Online Edition http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2001/issue4/0104p53.html

[39] Summary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, 2002. Australian Human Rights Commission. http://www.hreoc.gov.au/racial_discrimination/conferences/Durban2009/NZ_summary.html

[40] Ibid.

Beyond naming the victims, the program also made several strong statements regarding some of the more deep-rooted instances of oppression, namely slavery and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. "An apology for slavery and 'a recognition' of the plight of Palestinians in Israel were both part of the final document."[41] Several delegations were very much against these statements and made their disagreement known by disassociation with the declaration and program of action.[42] Specifically, in the Middle East, there was a call for the "end of violence and the swift resumption of peace negotiations; respect for international human rights and humanitarian law; respect for the principle of self-determination; and the end of all suffering, thus allowing the Israelis and the Palestinians to resume the peace process and develop and prosper in security and freedom."[43] For slavery, the conference agreed on documenting a text that, "acknowledges and profoundly regrets the massive human suffering and the tragic plight of millions of men, women and children as a result of slavery, the slave trade, apartheid, colonialism and genocide."[44]

Although a solid framework and strong statements opposing intolerance in all its forms were drafted, there is a lot of work to be done. As the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Secretary-General of the Conference, Mary Robinson said, "The issues have been addressed, not answered. But we have a framework. We have made a start and that is what counts. The true measure of our work will be whether it makes a real difference in the victims of racism and discrimination."[45]

Review Conference

After five years had passed, Member States of the General Assembly requested that the United Nations Human Rights Counsel (UNHRC) prepare a preparatory committee to have a review conference.[46] The conference took place from April 20- April 24, 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland, the Durban Review Conference evaluated the progress of the goals established by the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerances.[47] With the dual purpose of evaluating the progress made already and perpetuating action and fulfillment of the goals from the conference, Member States and NGOs were able to track progress and plan for future success.[48]

Beyond assessing progress that has already been made, finding gaps in the programs and policies that have been implemented around the globe can only help all members of society. This review conference gives the international community a valuable tool: the forum to discuss best practices and failures, creating a dialogue that gives an opportunity to leave with concrete plans of action to implement change on the ground.[49] Additionally, the review conference confirms the reality that racism is still in existence in the world and that the Member States of the United Nations and civil society should take action to address these issues.[50]

Case Study: South Africa

Perhaps one of the greatest examples of racism and discrimination in the modern world has been the rise and fall of Apartheid in South Africa. The transgressions can be traced as far back as the 1600s with the

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[41]"Durban Conference against Racism From the Birthplace of Passive Resistance, A Call for Tolerance" UN Chronicle: Online Edition http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2001/issue4/0104p53.html

[42] Ibid.

[43] Ibid.

[44] Ibid.

[45] Ibid.

[46]Durban Review Conference- Geneva 2009. Basic Facts about the Durban Review Process. http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/pdf/InfoNote_04_BasicFacts_En.pdf

[47]Durban Review Conference-Geneva 2009. http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009

[48] Ibid.

[49]Durban Review Conference- Geneva 2009. Basic Facts about the Durban Review Process. http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/pdf/InfoNote_04_BasicFacts_En.pdf

[50] Ibid.

Dutch settlers arriving in South Africa, and later importing slaves from India, Malaysia and West Africa.[51] South Africa had been a British colony for over 100 hundred years and in 1908, a Constitutional Convention was held to establish independence from the British throne.[52]

Whites in South Africa were adamant on keeping the power in their hands, denying all others power that were living within the Member State.[53] The White population accounted for roughly 20% of inhabitants, the Black population accounted for 70% of inhabitants, and the remaining 10% were classified as Colored.[54] Colored was the term referring to those that possessed some sub-Saharan African ancestry, but not enough to consider them Black per law under Apartheid.[55] White farmers and business owners had been dependent on the labor of the Black and Colored population because they were cheap and crowded in the cities. By taking advantage of the hardships the Black and Colored populations had when dealing with upward mobility and job opportunities, the White farmers and business owners were taking any available work at little to no cost.

Movement into the city by the Black and Colored populations increased already tense race relations with the Nationalist Party, (an ultra conservative and predominantly white political party) after they won the 1948 election, and the integration of the Blacks and Colored populations were prevented and even reversed in many ways.[56] This political party was dead set on maintaining the separation of the races, and although both the Colored and Black population were able to work in factories and other business establishments, they were segregated within the cities, specifically in their housing.[57] Laws were created that restricted many aspects of Colored and Black's daily lives and prohibited them from owning land. Blacks had to carry passbooks, get permission to travel, and they were assigned specific areas of the cities where they were allowed.[58] Colored members of the population were not required to carry passbooks, but were still restricted in housing and job opportunities,[59]

The Black response to the policies enacted by the Nationalist Party was the creation of the African National Congress that worked to retaliate through passive resistance such as boycotts, strikes and civil disobedience.[60] Appointed leaders like Nelson Mandela were paramount to the struggle to end Apartheid. In 1956, the African National Congress issued a Freedom Charter which asserted that South Africa belonged to everyone that lived within its' borders regardless of color and called for universal suffrage and individual freedoms that could be compared to the U.S. Bill of Rights.[61] The government was not thrilled with the resistance to their laws and policies, and soon, violence erupted. In March 1962, government forces in Sharpeville, just south of Johannesburg, fired on a large crowd protesting mandatory passbook laws and other discriminations within South Africa. Racial discrimination became a main focus for the United Nations after the Sharpeville massacre, sensitizing the world to the depths of apartheid and discrimination. In 1963, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which led to the International Convention in 1965.[62] This action by the government led to the outlaw of the African National Congress and the Pan-Africanist Congress, forcing all meetings

[51]Apartheid Timeline. United Nations Cyber School Bus.
    http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/discrim/race_b_at_print.asp
[52] Ibid.
[53]South Africa and Apartheid. Macro History and World Report. Africa in the 1990s.
    http://www.fsmitha.com/h2/ch34-sa.htm
[54] Ibid.
[55] Ibid
[56] Ibid.
[57] Ibid.
[58] Ibid.
[59] Ibid
[60] Ibid.
[61] Ibid.
[62]Reddy, Enuga, S. "The Struggle Against Apartheid: Lessons for Today's World." UN Chronicle.
    http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/chronicle/cache/bypass/lang/en/home/archive/issues2007/thesolidarityof
    peoples/thestruggleagainstapartheid?pagination=true&ctnscroll_articleContainerList=1_2&ctnlistpagination_
    articleContainerList=true

and plans to go underground and remain secretive.[63] The African National Congress created a military wing in the organization called the Umkhonto, and after the discovery of this branch of the organization, Nelson Mandela was arrested in 1964 and sentenced to live in prison.[64]

In the 1960s, South Africa experienced strong economic growth and trade was flourishing with the West and Europe.[65] Resistance in South Africa was silenced up until the 1974 when Portugal withdrew all troops from Mozambique and Angola because they could not continue to fight liberation in their colonies, which encouraged the resistance movement. During that same time, South Africa's Nationalist Party passed laws that prohibited school instruction in any other language but Afrikaans and English.[66] Students in Soweto were vehemently against the law and the youth decided to protest. The crowd was large, with over a thousand coming to provide support, but police opened fire up and killed 23 people, mostly children. June 16, 1976 marked the beginning of the Soweto Uprising, and for three days, a war broke out, killing well over 100 people, many young students.[67]

Following the Soweto uprising, Prime Minister B.J. Vorster resigned in 1978.[68] A swift reelection process took place, and the former defense minister of the Nationalist Party, P.W. Botha, was elected Prime Minister.[69] The economy of South Africa was failing in 1978, and he was convinced that too much money was being used to segregate and recognized the need for the Black population in the work force.[70] His intent was to lead the state of South Africa to reform and create change and lead the movement away from Apartheid and separation by race.[71]

In the 1960s, the United Nations started a campaign against apartheid that encouraged Member States, NGOs, and individuals to isolate the state of South Africa. Writers, musicians, artists, and even athletes helped persuade trading partners to implement an arms embargo and give sanctions on goods going in and out of South Africa in their support of freedom in South Africa.[72] On November 6, 1962, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 1761, which condemned the apartheid polices of South Africa and called on all Member States to end economic and military relations with them. The resolution addressed specifically closing ports to ships sailing under the South African flag and not allowing planes to fly over their land. It also broke diplomatic ties with South Africa and the rest of the Member States in the United Nations by declaring they would not import South African goods or export to the state of South Africa.[73]

Recognizing the popularity of Nelson Mandela and the unrest that Apartheid was having on the population and around the world, a new constitution was created in 1983 that created nation-states as Black homelands and abolished the pass laws.[74] Although this was an incredibly important step in the fight against

[63] South Africa and Apartheid. Macro History and World Report. Africa in the 1990s.
    http://www.fsmitha.com/h2/ch34-sa.htm
[64] Ibid.
[65] Ibid.
[66] Ibid.
[67] Ibid.
[68] Encyclopedia of World Biography. P.W. Botha.
    http://www.notablebiographies.com/Be-Br/Botha-P-W.html
[69] South Africa and Apartheid. Macro History and World Report. Africa in the 1990s.
    http://www.fsmitha.com/h2/ch34-sa.htm
[70] South Africa and Apartheid. Macro History and World Report. Africa in the 1990s.
    http://www.fsmitha.com/h2/ch34-sa.htm
[71] Encyclopedia of World Biography. P.W. Botha.
    http://www.notablebiographies.com/Be-Br/Botha-P-W.html
[72]Reddy, Enuga, S. "The Struggle Against Apartheid: Lessons for Today's World." UN Chronicle.
    http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/chronicle/cache/bypass/lang/en/home/archive/issues2007/thesolidarityof
    peoples/thestruggleagainstapartheid?pagination=true&ctnscroll_articleContainerList=1_2&ctnlistpagination_
    articleContainerList=true
[73]Apartheid South Africa. History of South Africa.
    http://www.southafrica.to/history/Apartheid/apartheid.htm
[74] South Africa and Apartheid. Macro History and World Report. Africa in the 1990s.

Apartheid, Botha faced much opposition to the new laws. These movements were an attempt to quell the unrest of the United States and Europe, but they were gaining support for their fight, getting Member States around the world to withdraw from South Africa in trade and investments which led to the crippling of the South African economy.[75]

In 1989, Botha retired and was replaced by a member of the National Party, Frederik W. de Klerk, a politician known for his conservative views.[76] Despite his conservative views, he allowed the black population to have a voice in the politics of their state once again and in 1991 the laws of Apartheid were abolished.[77] Although he hesitated to make these political decisions, the need for South Africa to return to an active and recognized member of the international community. These decisions opened the door for the first democratic election that did not discriminate by race which was held on April 27, 1994, with the African National Congress receiving 63% of the votes and Nelson Mandela was declared South Africa's president.[78] Although many feared what was to come out of the election, and despite protest Mandela and the African National Congress were able to prove they could live up to their promises. The first decree that Mandela made in his presidency was the declaration that blacks and whites had to live together with one set of laws and rights for all.[79]

In 2004, a decade after the election of Nelson Mandela and the end of Apartheid in South Africa, the President of the General-Assembly, His Excellency Julian R. Hunte, applauded the commitment of the United Nations Member States to ending racial discrimination around the world. "South Africa's significant accomplishment is also an accomplishment for the United Nations. From the moment the organization received the danger signal that a founding member had taken a retrograde step to institutionalize racism and racial discrimination in defiance of the Charter, ending the abhorrent system of apartheid became a matter of priority for the Organization… the United Nations has the capacity to deal effectively with racism and racial discrimination, including extreme forms such as apartheid, and can do so, if the political will exists."[80]

Case Study: Israel/Palestine

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has plagued the United Nations since its creation and is one of the most complex situations that must be addressed. At the center of the conflict is the ownership of land, with each side claiming rights. Israelis believe that they are entitled to the land now known as Israel, and the Palestinians believe they are entitled to the land they call Palestine. Problem is that both sides are claiming the same land, by different names.[81] On the surface this could seem like a relatively simple problem, but add the extremely religious ties that both sides hold to this land, namely that their God gave them this land and giving it up would be a sin, and you have an extremely complex, seemingly impossible conflict to attempt solving.[82]

The division of the British mandate of Palestine and the creation of the state of Israel after World War II are at the center of the conflict in the Middle East region for the last fifty years.[83] The history of the Middle

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http://www.fsmitha.com/h2/ch34-sa.htm
[75] Ibid.
[76] Ibid.
[77] Ibid.
[78] Ibid.
[79] Ibid.
[80] General Assembly President, Marking Decade of South African Freedom, Says UN Gave International Direction to Anti-Apartheid Struggle. Press Release AFR/913. GA/SM/343.
http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2004/afr913.doc.htm
[81] The United Nations, Israel and Palestine. Steps Toward Peace in Israel and Palestine.
http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/israelpalestine/resources/6unitednations.pdf
[82] Ibid.
[83] Israel and Palestinian territories country profile. BBC News.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/803257.stm

East, specifically this region has created the conflict between Israel on one side and Palestinians (the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel's Arab neighbors) on the opposition.[84]

Negotiations for peace in the Middle East have been long and arduous with many attempts, but few successes in creating lasting peace. Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel were able to negotiate a promising agreement between Palestinians and Israelis at Oslo in 1993.[85] The Oslo Accords called for several things; a mutual recognition and a five-year period where Israel would remove the troops that were stationed in Palestinian areas.[86] Although it seemed like they were making progress towards a true and lasting peace, the Oslo process did not produce a definitive agreement for the peace and soon the successes were marred by opposition and disagreements from both sides.[87]

There have been many attempts at a settlement for peace in the Middle East, with one of the most prominent being the Roadmap in 2003.[88] The Roadmap was presented by The Quartet- made up of the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations.[89] In April 2003, they released a "Performance-based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Crisis" which outlines a three-stage program to lead to an independent Palestinian state and a final end to the crisis in the region by 2005.[90] Like at Oslo there was not a mechanism to enforce the process and because it depended only on each side abiding by the plan of action, it was unsuccessful.[91]

United Nations involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been limited, especially the Security Council, taking no action since 1967 when Resolution 242 passed and called for Israel to relinquish territories they had acquired from Syria and Egypt.[92] The General Assembly has taken the most active role in the conflict, reminding all Member States to respect human rights and work together to come up with a viable solution for peace.[93]

Conclusion

The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the Commission on Human Rights have discussed racial discrimination and intolerance for many years, and hundreds of resolutions have come out of these discussions.[94] Additionally, other organizations of the UN, like the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have also made great strives for the cause.[95] There has been tremendous progress made when it comes to racism and discrimination, and even though such effort has been exerted, there are still many victims of these crimes. Why? What was different in South Africa that we have not been able to replicate? What happens continuously in the Middle East that prevents peace and respect for all races and religions? What can be done to protect the citizens of the globe from racial discrimination and intolerance?

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[84] Ibid.
[85] The "Peace Process" Global Policy Forum.
    http://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council/index-of-countries-on-the-security-council- agenda/israel-palestine-and-the-occupied-territories/peace-process.html
[86] Ibid.
[87] Ibid.
[88] Ibid.
[89] "The Road Map" Global Policy Forum. http://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/189/38357.html
[90] Ibid.
[91] Ibid.
[92] UN Involvement. The Global Forum.
    http://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council/index-of-countries-on-the-security-council-agenda/israel-palestine-and-the-occupied-territories/un-involvement.html
[93] Ibid.
[94] Reddy, Enuga, S. "The Struggle Against Apartheid: Lessons for Today's World." UN Chronicle.
    http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/chronicle/cache/bypass/lang/en/home/archive/issues2007/thesolidarityofpeoples/thestruggleagainstapartheid?pagination=true&ctnscroll_articleContainerList=1_2&ctnlistpagination_articleContainerList=true
[95] Ibid.

Committee Directive

The examples of atrocities around the world that prove the dire need for the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action have been provided. It is now the task of the General Assembly Plenary to make great strives to do just that. We are not here to make light of the terrible instances of racism and intolerance throughout the world, but we must move forward. Let us not dwell on the past, but learn from it and make strives at lasting change that will protect all citizens of the globe. Instead of blaming Member States for tough times and concentrating on differences, find similarities and building blocks for peace and security for the entire population.

Topic II: Ensuring Global Food Security

"I emphasized that the world has more than enough food yet more than one billion people are hungry. That is unacceptable."
        -Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Remarks to the press at the Food Security Summit in Rome[96]

Introduction

International food security is a global issue that touches every region of the world.[97] This encompasses issues including, but not limited to, poverty, environmental damage, development, conflict, food shortages, and resource security.[98] The global economic crisis has caused food prices to rise, which has left the poor even more destitute. This sharp rise in food costs started in early 2008, when it was estimated that 854 million were undernourished.[99] Current estimates claim that 1 billion are undernourished.[100] Globally, one in every six persons is undernourished; this is an issue that reaches billions of people living in poverty. It especially affects those in less developed states. [101] The crisis has exposed underlying structural problem in food systems and infrastructure issues in states, including major distortions in food markets.[102]

Environmental changes have also left many areas in famine and drought, leaving women and children especially vulnerable.[103] A growing demand for bio-fuels has lead to devastating consequences. One particular consequence is cutting down rainforest in order to grow crops and make room for livestock.[104]

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[96] Secretary-General Remarks to the press at the World Food Summit. United Nations. 16 November 2009.
        http://www.un.org/issues/food/taskforce/pdf/rome%20press%20remarks_FINAL.pdf

[97] "Background Information - The Secretary General's High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis."
        Welcome to the United Nations: It's Your World. The United Nations.
        http://www.un.org/issues/food/taskforce/background.shtml.

[98] Food and Agriculture Organization. *An Introduction to the Basics of Food Security*. Food and Agriculture
Organization, 2008.
    Borger, Julian. "Feed the World? We Are Fighting a Losing Battle, UN Admits | Environment | The Guardian."
        Latest News, Comment and Reviews from the Guardian | Guardian.co.uk. The Guardian, 26 Feb. 2008.
        http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/feb/26/food.unitednations.
    Randerson, James. "Food Crisis Will Take Hold before Climate Change, Warns Chief Scientist | Environment | T
        Guardian." *Latest News, Comment and Reviews from the Guardian | Guardian.co.uk*. The Gaurdian, 07 Mar.
        2008. http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2008/mar/07/scienceofclimatechange.food.

[100] Ibid.

[101] Walt, Vivienne. "The World's Growing Food-Price Crisis - TIME." *TIME.com*. Time Magazine, 27 Feb. 2008.
        http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1717572,00.html.

[102] Ibid.

[103] Brown, Lester R. "World Facing Huge New Challenge on Food Front - Business-as-Usual Not a Viable Option |
        EPI." *Earth Policy Institute – Building a Sustainable Future | Home*. 16 Apr. 2008.
        http://www.earthpolicy.org/index.php?/plan_b_updates/2008/update72.

[104] Mason, Moya K. "Has Urbanization Caused a Loss to Agricultural Land? - Suburb, Housing, Farmland, Urban
        Sprawl, California, Ontario." *Moya K. Mason - Resume, MLIS, Freelance Researcher, Book Research
        Consultant, Fact Checker, Writer, Editor*. MKM Research, 2010.
        http://www.moyak.com/papers/urbanization-agriculture.html.

This has left a gap between the need for energy sources and the need to feed the global population.[105] It has also been predicted that reduced rainfall will put even more pressure on crop yields in the near future.[106] According to the FAO, 15.2 million people were considered malnourished between 2004 and 2006 in the developed world.[107] This contrasts sharply with the 857.7 million people considered malnourished in the developing world.[108] The United Nations, Human Security Report Project, International Food Treaty Campaign, International Food Security Network, USAID, International Food Policy Research Institute, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Food and Agriculture Organization, Canadian International Development Agency, and other agencies have proposed and developed programs. The programs are designed to alleviate issues relating to soil loss from the mobilization of topsoil by the forces of water and wind, which can lead to food insecurity.[109]

The Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, remarked in November 2009 that though there is enough food in the world, over 1 billion people still starve daily. He recognizes the huge challenge and the complexity of food insecurity but he gives hope with further stating the principles that will lead to an end to food insecurity which include reducing poverty and climate security.[110]

Past Issues

Global food prices sharply increased in 2008 due to a reduction in crop yields due to a growth in the demand to create biofuels. Other factors included increasing limited food availability, increased purchasing power of booming populations, and responses to the crisis such as hoarding.[111] The increased demand on food globally can be, in part, attributed to major population growth in less developed countries or countries with especially rapid population growth such as India and China. These two countries are growing less food and instead importing more food annually, which indicates that this trend will continue.[112] The weak infrastructure of many of the less developed countries cannot support the booming increase, which has lead to many of the issues in food security.

When food prices increased in 2008, riots broke out worldwide in states such as Burkina Faso, India, Cameroon, Mexico, Pakistan, Kenya, and Italy in protest. Burkina Faso, India, and Cameroon were hit especially hard with rioters burning government buildings and looting storefronts.[113] The increasing popularity of biofuels also added to the stress on food and prices.[114] Governments have also been responsible for some of the food price spikes. For example, "In a single day in February, global wheat prices jumped 25% after Kazakhstan's government announced plans to restrict exports of its giant wheat crop for fear that its own citizens might go hungry."[115] India and Egypt have also restricted exports because of the fear of major food shortages. The United States, though it has not restricted exports, gave generous subsidies to farmers for growing corn in order to make the biofuels.[116] With such an opportunity

[105] Watts, Jonathan. "Riots and Hunger Feared as Demand for Grain Sends Food Costs Soaring | World News | The Guardian." *Latest News, Comment and Reviews from the Guardian | Guardian.co.uk*. The Guardian, 04 Dec. 2007. http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2007/dec/04/china.business.

[106] Ibid.

[107] Food and Agricultural Organization. "1.02 billion people hungry." FAO. 19 June 2009. http://www.fao.org/news/story/0/item/20568/icode/en/

[108] Ibid.

[109] "Discussion Paper on International Food Security." USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) - Homepage. United States Government, 16 Oct. 1997. http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/summit/discpapr.html#Prioritizing.

[110] Ibid.

[111] Ibid.

[112] Ibid.

[113] Ibid.

[114] Watts, Jonathan. "Riots and Hunger Feared as Demand for Grain Sends Food Costs Soaring | World News | The Guardian." Latest News, Comment and Reviews from the Guardian | Guardian.co.uk. The Guardian, 04 Dec. 2007.

[115] Ibid.

[116] Ibid.

the farmers opted to grow cash crop instead of food. The amount of land used for biofuels is increasing each year.[117] This has lead to less land for growing crops necessary to feed the global population.

Environmental Damage

The death toll is rising daily due to lack of water and nutrition. Entire regions of the globe are suffering from failing crops and decaying livestock. These conditions have lead to a famine - particularly affecting East and West Africa. This food shortage has intensified the chronic poverty in the region that accounts for thirty to fifty percent of the population being malnourished. Climate change at its current rate will add to the symptoms of food insecurity.[118]

In Asia, increased production of palm oil and natural rubber now accounts for 75% of total production globally.[119] This has lead to an increase in land conversion in the region. Part of the conversion includes the burning of biomass which causes emissions of CO_2 and other gases such as methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), carbon monoxide (CO), and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x).[120] Additionally, non-agricultural lands such as pastures and wetlands are being converted for cash crops such as beans, coffee, natural rubber, palm oil, rice, sesame seed, soybean, and vegetables. Water sources, as well as land, could be affected. With the increase in production, Asian states have changed to different crop varieties and increased chemical inputs through fertilizers and pest control products such as nitrogen. If this chemical is not properly managed it could release emissions into the air and contaminate water sources. Between 1995 and 2005, nitrogen usage increased an average of 39.25% in Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and The Philippines.

The safety of Southeast Asia water resources is especially important as the region contains 13% of the world's freshwater.[121] Over the last ten years, the region has experienced increasing stress on water sources and decreasing water quality. This has already depleted aquifers, lowered the water table, and reduced inland lakes. The most common reasons for these depletions are agriculture production and industrial purposes.[122]

Agencies such as the World Health Organization, OXFAM, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations believe that by 2050, the rate of child malnutrition will be 20% higher due to climate change.[123] Additionally, at current population growth rates, the population will double in forty years.[124] These statistics reveal a greater challenge to the global population as land, water, and energy sources become scarcer. Climate change will adversely impact food availability by damaging the basic elements needed to grow food such as water, soil, and biodiversity. This will lead to less food not only for humans, but also for livestock and fisheries.[125]

Food accessibility will also be affected by climate change and environmental damages. As food becomes scarcer, the prices will rise according to the global economy. This would not only impact the wallets of

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[117] Ibid.

[118] IASC Task Force on Climate Change. Climate Change, Food Insecurity, and Hunger. Tech. WFP, FAP, IFRA, OXFAM, WVI, CARE, CARITAS, WHO, Save the Children, Oct. 2009. http://www.caritas.org/includes/pdf/CaritasBarcelonaCCStat.pdf

[119] Asian Development Bank. *Economics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia: a Regional Review.* [S.l.]: Asian Development Bank, 2009. Apr. 2009. http://www.adb.org/documents/books/economics-climate-change-sea/default.asp.

[120] Ibid.
[121] Ibid.
[122] Ibid.
[123] Ibid.

[124] IASC Task Force on Climate Change. *Climate Change, Food Insecurity, and Hunger.* Tech. WFP, FAP, IFRA, OXFAM, WVI, CARE, CARITAS, WHO, Save the Children, Oct. 2009. http://www.caritas.org/includes/pdf/CaritasBarcelonaCCStat.pdf.

[125] Ibid.

consumers, it would also impact emergency relief efforts and foreign aid. Over the next ten years, prices are predicted to remain 30%‑60% higher then they were in the previous decade.[126]

According to a report presented to the Food and Agriculture Organization, climate change can severely reverse the progress made in Africa toward reducing poverty and increasing food security. The higher temperature will lead to a less predictable crop reduction. African governments were urged by the report to, "prioritize and implement measures to develop agriculture and sustainable natural resource management."[127] Ultimately, local farming and foods play an important role in promoting the local foods and the agriculture knowledge.[128] Institutions must play a strong role in strategizing to adapt to the current crisis and build policies that will enable the world to stem the growing tide of hungry citizens.

The impact of climate change on corn, rice and soybean yield potential is predicted to be at 2.9 percent by 2050.[129] Recommended remedies include strong monetary support for research and development, technology transfer, and capacity building, such as the incentive provisions found in the Kyoto Protocol.[130] Additionally, Asia will lose four percent of high-quality forests by 2100 at the current rates. Thailand specifically is predicted to lose 60 percent of forests by 2100. Technological improvement such as resource management, changing planting dates, and technological intervention have been recommended as solutions, or, at the very least, a way to slow these seemingly inevitable trends.[131]

Poverty

"Undernourishment refers to the condition of people whose dietary energy consumption is continuously below a minimum dietary energy requirement for maintaining a healthy life and carrying out a light physical activity with an acceptable minimum body-weight for attained-height."[132] Nearly 200 million children in poor countries have stunted growth because of insufficient nutrition according to a report published by UNICEF. More than 90 percent of those children live in Africa and Asia, and more than a third of all deaths in that age group are linked to under-nutrition, according to UNICEF.[133] The FAO noted that with increases in carbon markets that African states could benefit by using international market instruments like Clean Development Mechanism.[134]

In Niger, nearly seven million people have been affected by food shortages and malnutrition.[135] Some of the methods being tested to prevent further damage to the children of Niger, where three million children are in need of immediate food assistance, include training census takers to get a more accurate account of where aid is needed, mobilizing communities to invest in and use technological improvements to increase the food supply, and raising awareness and screening for malnutrition.[136] As of April 2010, 800 children have been given the first of four supplementary food rations in this pilot program. The rations include eight kilograms of corn soy blend with sugar and nearly one kilogram of oil-enriched vitamin A. The UN World Food Programme (WFP) is providing 18 megatons of food to reach 500,000 children in this program. The

[126] Ibid.
[127] "FAO Media Centre: Climate Change Threat to Africa." *FAO: FAO Home*.
    http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/41937/icode/.
[128] Ibid.
[129] Ibid.
[130] UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. "Kyoto Protocol Overview." 2007.
    http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php
[131] Ibid.
[132] "ESS: Food Security Statistics." *FAO: FAO Number of Undernourished People*. The United Nations, 20 Nov. 2009.
    http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/food-security-statistics/en/.
[133] "200 Million of the World's Children Are Going Hungry, According to United Nations Report." *New York News,*
    Traffic, Sports, Weather, Photos, Entertainment, and Gossip - NY Daily News. New York Daily News, 12
    Nov. 2009. http://www.nydailynews.com/lifestyle/health/2009/11/12/2009-11-
    12_200_million_children_are_going_hungry_according_to_united_nations_report.html.
[134] Ibid.
[135] "UN Works to Stamp out Widespreadchild Malnutrition in Niger." *Un.org*. The United Nations, 28 Apr. 2010.
    http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34513&Cr=+niger+&Cr1.
[136] Ibid.

program recognizes that children are the first to suffer in climatic shocks, especially when they live in poverty before drastic climate shifts.[137]

According to the FAO, "The intensity of food deprivation indicates how much food-deprived people fall short of minimum food needs in terms of dietary energy."[138] It is measured as the difference between the minimum dietary energy and the average dietary energy intake of the undernourished population (food-deprived). A higher ranking indicates a greater food deficit and a greater susceptibility for health risks related to under-nutrition. The highest global rankings are Bermuda, Haiti, and Congo with scores of 920, 430, and 430 kilocalories per person per day, respectively.

China, India, and the United States are the top wheat producers as of 2007, according to the FAO.[139] The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has funded a learning platform in order to improve the lives of the rural poor in China and India using innovative systems in dry land agriculture.[140] Stephen McGurk, regional director of IDRC's South Asia and China office, says that the idea of the program is to bring the newest, most innovative ideas in dry land agriculture to decision makers. [141] These innovations could encourage more people throughout Southeast Asia to reinvest in farming and agriculture, which would ease the pressure of global food security by increasing food production within the countries with the two largest and fastest developing populations while decreasing the need for food imports.

Reduction of Arable Land

According to the CIA Factbook, arable land is "land with plants harvested regularly, including with fruits, nuts, or rubber. Does not include land with trees harvested for wood. Does not include forest, permanent meadows and pasture, land that is barren or covered with buildings or roads".[142] The first global study of soil degradation was carried out by the United Nations in between 1988 and 1991. This survey, the Global Survey of Human-Induced Soil Degradation (GLASOD), has shown significant problems in virtually all parts of the world.[143] There has been steady decline of topsoil in the 30 years from 1961 to 1991, amounting to a decrease of between 20% and 30%. Regional changes have accompanied this global change. North America, Central America, and the former USSR are three regions with high cropland areas per capita. However, all regions, including these, have shown decreases in topsoil. South America's croplands have declined at a rate that is slower than the global average, while African per capita croplands have declined at a greater than average rate.[144]

Erosion and desertification also significantly impact the loss of arable land. Erosion is defined as a region given to soil loss due to the mobilization of topsoil by the forces of wind and water. Desertification occurs when a non-desert area starts to exhibit the characteristics of a true desert.[145] Though erosion happens naturally, its rates are naturally very low. But with increased human activities such as farming, logging, building, over-grazing, off-road vehicles, and fires, this rate has dramatically increased. When lands lose their natural abilities to retain soil, such as tree or long grass removal, natural events such as rain can have detrimental effects on the land. The loss of topsoil by erosion is impossible to replace.[146] Desertification has occurred in the southern edge of the Sahara Desert for over 50 years. This has threatened nearly a third of Africa and continues to be a threat in areas like Somalia and Niger. Farming techniques such as crop rotation and minimum tilling techniques can be implemented to improve slightly degraded soil, but

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[137] Ibid.

[138] Ibid.

[139] "Top Production-wheat-2007." *FAOSTAT*. United Nations, 2007. http://faostat.fao.org/site/339/default.aspx.

[140] Padma. "India and China Promote Dry Land Farming." *Oneworld.net*. Oneworld South Asia, 07 Dec. 2009.
    http://southasia.oneworld.net/todaysheadlines/india-and-china-promote-dry-land-farming/?searchterm.

[141] Ibid

[142] CIA World Factbook.

[143] "Land Degradation." *The Global Change Program at the University of Michigan*. University of Michigan, 04 Jan. 2010.
    http://www.globalchange.umich.edu/globalchange2/current/lectures/land_deg/land_deg.html#croplands.

[144] Ibid.

[145] Ibid.

[146] Ibid.

moderately and severe damaged lands are much more difficult and expensive, and in some cases impossible, to restore.

The FAO released a statistical study of states' land degradation by severity. China and India have degraded 35 percent and 52 percent of their arable land, respectively. Tunisia surpasses the large states with 77 percent land degradation. In Botswana, only 12 percent of landed has been degraded but all of it is severe. In Togo, all 25 percent of degraded land is rated very severe. These statistics show the great damages that arable faces especially with growing populations.

Looking Forward to Progress

The FAO launched a flagship program in 1994 which was aimed at improving "food security within poor households through National Programmes for Food Security (NPFS) and Regional Programmes for Food Security (RPFS)."[147] The program is also aimed at decreasing rates of hunger and malnutrition. Initially, the program focused on helping countries promote and disseminate simple, low-cost technologies to improve the yields and income of poor farming households. The UN High Level Task Force on Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF) has brought together international agencies concerned with international humanitarian action, development, and trade. HLTF is prioritizing investments in food systems in order to support small-stakeholder production and markets. These small-stakeholders would then be backed by world trading systems that work to protect states in poverty. Experts and specialists come together to build a Framework of Action which includes development and emergency relief from member organizations. The G8 Water Action Plan is a program developed at the G8 Summit in Evian in 2003. This plan endorses good governance, utilizing all financial resources, and building infrastructure by empowering authorities and communities. The Action Plan was reviewed by experts at the 2009 G8 Summit in L'Aquila. Since 2003, bilateral disbursements into the water and sanitation sectors have tripled. The plan has also raised awareness of the issue of safe water and sanitation at the highest international political levels. This has led to planning and implementing state strategies along with regional cooperation, donor coordination, and better management of trans-boundary water sources.[148]

Conclusion

Global food insecurity is a crisis situation. One billion people are malnourished, and most of these people live on less than one US dollar per day. Progress is being made through international organizations such as the United Nations and the G8. Bilateral and multilateral efforts are being made, but many of these programs are simply in the beginning phases. Since 1950, the reduction through human activities of arable land around the world has led to stunted lands that were once vibrant and plentiful. The global poor are able to buy less and less food due to price spikes, which can be attributed factors such as energy over-consumption. The symptoms of food insecurity are harsh enough alone, but climate change acts as a multiplier. This multiplier will also get worse as the population grows at its current exponential rate. Ultimately, food insecurity is a political liability. The riots in 2008 indicate the global unrest that could manifest itself if action is not taken soon.

Committee Directive

This topic lends itself to many different directions. Delegates should be knowledgeable in the basics of food rations, emergency relief, bilateral and multilateral efforts, malnutrition, soil and land degradation, deforestation, and global food market prices. Delegates should be asking questions such as: How much food relief does my country give or receive? Why would citizens take to the streets over food prices? What factors are causing the environmental damages to arable land? Simply put, everyone must eat to live. This issue is one of the life and death of billions of people. Delegates should take a close look at what organizations their country is currently involved in and the effectiveness of the current programs.

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[147] "Special Programme for Food Security: About SPFS." *FAO: FAO Home*. The United Nations. http://www.fao.org/spfs/about_spfs/mission_spfs/en/.

[148] G8 Water Expert Group. *Progress Report on the Implementation of the G8 Water Action Plan*. Rep. 12 June 2009. http://www.g8italia2009.it/static/G8_Allegato/Water_Group,0.pdf.

Additionally, delegates should research current efforts by the United Nations and the international community to address these dire issues. Delegates are encouraged to build upon the efforts of existing programs and implement their own as necessary in order to help resolve the ever-growing threats to food security.

Topic III: Examining the Role of Women in the International Security System

"If there was ever a time when the wisdom, the sense of conscious and dignity, the resilience of strong women was needed at the highest levels of government, it is this one."
-Trustee of the Annenberg Trust at Sunnylands, Wallis Annenberg.[149]

Introduction

The United Nations has been committed to serving the international community since its inception in 1945, and gender equality has remained an important aspect of the agenda for the General Assembly. The Third Millennium Development Goals (MDG) is to promote gender equality and empower women, an area that has been neglected by the international community.[150] Not only have the goals not been reached, but the deadline of 2015 is rapidly approaching.

The Security Council has taken a great interest in the representation and well-being of women in the international community, and, on October 5, 2009, the Security Council urged all Member States and international organizations to take steps that will ensure women are participants in all stages of conflict resolution and peace-building.[151] Not only does Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon consider this a "top priority for the United Nations", but his statement also serves as a reminder of the under-representation of women at all stages of the peace process, something that was very clearly stated in Security Council Resolution 1325.[152]

Resolution 1325, adopted by the Security Council in 2000, "*Urges* Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict."[153] This resolution stresses the importance of gender equality and urges all members of the international community to implement changes to incorporate equality in all areas of life. Despite this call to action, only 16 Member States have adopted state Action Plans to implement Resolution 1325, and with the 10th anniversary rapidly approaching, Member States are asked to make strives towards implementation.[154]

With so many goals yet to be attained, the international community could only benefit from the help of the female population. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sent a message to the open session on Women, Peace, and Security that stated, "A growing body of evidence suggests that bringing women to the peace table improves the quality of agreements reached, and increases the chances of successful implementation."[155] He went on to say that, "Women are likely to put gender issues on the agenda, set different priorities and possibly bridge the political divide more effectively. Experience also suggests that women's contributions in post-conflict situations can make a critical difference to community survival and reconstruction."[156]

[149] International Women Leaders Global Security Summit. November 15-17, 2007. Jumeirah Essex House. New York City. http://www.womenandglobalsecurity.org
[150] End Poverty 2015: Millennium Development Goals. A Gateway to the UN System's Work on the MDGs. http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/gender.shtml
[151] Women must play full part in peace-building, Security Council declares. October 5, 2009. UN News Centre. http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32424&Cr=Gender&Cr1
[152] Ibid.
[153] Resolution 1324. Security Council. United Nations. S/RES/1325(2000). October 31, 2000. http://womenpeacesecurity.org/media/pdf-scr1325.pdf
[154]Women must play full part in peace-building, Security Council declares. October 5, 2009. UN News Centre. http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32424&Cr=Gender&Cr1
[155] Ibid
[156] Ibid

With so much evidence providing the need for female participation in international relations and peace-building experiences, the lack of productivity is disappointing. Discrimination and sexism are rampant in the United Nations system, with women lacking the opportunities to make a difference in the international community.[157]

Resolution 1325

October 31, 2000, marked one of the most historic days in United Nations history with the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security.[158] This document is considered groundbreaking because of the array of issues it deals with, ranging from conflict prevention to peace negotiations and to post-conflict reconstruction.[159] Prevention is a key component of the resolution with an aim to increase the availability of information that will impact any conflicts that affects women and their role in preventing conflicts or building peace.[160] Additionally, humanitarian assistance for women and girls affected by conflict are necessary to strengthen the approach to combating racism and intolerance.[161] Internally displaced women, refugees, women vulnerable to violence, disease, and no food are just some of the challenges that need to be addressed by the international community when dealing with peace and security of the female population.[162] Finally, forward thinking and peace-building for the future is a key component that sets this resolution apart from any other and offers an opportunity to change society through institutions and communities, both formal and informal.[163]

Before officially adopting the Resolution, Security Council members held an open thematic session, something that had never been done before, in order for all Member State governments to have the opportunity to speak about the issues coming before the Security Council.[164] During the thematic session, over 40 speakers addressed the council about the effects of conflict on women, peace and security.[165] One of the most memorable speakers during the session was former Secretary-General Kofi Annan who said, "For generations, women have served as peace educators, both in their families and in their societies. They have been instrumental in building bridges rather than walls."[166] He went on in his speech to talk to the council on the importance of protected women and young girls during conflict, but to also make sure they have a stake and a claim in the peace-building process.[167]

United Nations Development Fund for Women

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has been an integral supporting group during the negotiation and implementation of Resolution 1325. Before the thematic meeting with the Security Council, the government of Namibia asked UNIFEM to help prepare background information to present to the council on the effects that war has on the women and children of Africa.[168] Working closely with the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women (OSAGI), they were able to successfully encourage change by presenting the facts of the horrors that women and young

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[157]Women, Peace, and Security: UNIFEM Supporting Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325.
    United Nations Development Fund for Women, October 2004. http://womenwarpeace.org/webfm_send/809
[158]Insider: Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. LI Institute for Global Issues
    University of British Columbia. April 2004. http://womenwarpeace.org/webfm_send/24
[159]Women, Peace, and Security: UNIFEM Supporting Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325.
    United Nations Development Fund for Women, October 2004.
    http://womenwarpeace.org/webfm_send/809
[160] Ibid
[161] Ibid
[162] Ibid
[163] Ibid
[164] Insider: Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. LI Institute for Global Issues
    University of British Columbia. April 2004. http://womenwarpeace.org/webfm_send/24
[165]Ibid
[166]Ibid.
[167] Ibid
[168]Women, Peace, and Security: UNIFEM Supporting Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325.
    United Nations Development Fund for Women, October 2004. http://womenwarpeace.org/webfm_send/809

girls have faced when dealing with conflict.[169] UNIFEM has backed the message of Resolution 1325 since the beginning, and now works in over 30 countries to respond to armed conflict and the impact on the surrounding communities.[170] They follow a four-pronged strategy that is implemented as follows:

- "Increase the availability of targeted information on the impact of conflict on women and their role in preventing conflict and building peace;
- Strengthen approaches to humanitarian protection and assistance for women affected by conflict;
- Foster the contribution of women to conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building at national, regional and international levels; and
- Strengthen the focus on gender justice through administrative, constitutional, legislative, judicial and electoral reform in conflict-affected areas."[171]

By working closely with UN partners and women's organization, UNIFEM is one of the pioneer organizations committed to serving the international community and providing women a stake in conflict resolution.[172]

Beijing Platform for Action

In September 1995, Beijing, China hosted the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.[173] A Platform of Action was drafted at the Conference, which was a reaffirmation of the fact that the rights of women and girls are, "inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights."[174] Beyond the reaffirmation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the Platform for Action calls upon the governments to take action and address several areas of concern, with violence against women being a top priority.[175] The Program of Action states, "Violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development, and peace."[176]

In order for true change to occur, the "principles of shared power and responsibility should be established between women and men at home, in the workplace and in the wider national and international communities."[177] Many women's organizations that work closely with the commission on the Status of Women agree and stress the need for the Platform of Action, and for that Platform to be linked cohesively to the Millennium Development Goals.[178]

Internationally, legislation and programs of action have been introduced and voted upon by Member States in the General Assembly. By signing and ratifying these documents, Member States have pledged their support for the content in the documents and the need for the intended outcomes in the international

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[169]Ibid

[170]Ibid.

[171] Ibid

[172] Ibid

[173]The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. Division for the Advancement of Women. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Beijing, China: September 1995. Action for Equality, Development and Peace. http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/plat1.htm

[174] Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Advocates for Human Rights. Stop Violence Against Women: A Project of The Advocates for Human Rights. April 24, 2007. http://www.stopvaw.org/Beijing_Declaration_and_Platform_for_Action.html

[175] Ibid

[176] Ibid

[177]The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. Division for the Advancement of Women. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Beijing, China: September 1995. Action for Equality, Development and Peace. http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/plat1.htm

[178] Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Advocates for Human Rights. Stop Violence Against Women: A Project of The Advocates for Human Rights. April 24, 2007. http://www.stopvaw.org/Beijing_Declaration_and_Platform_for_Action.html

community. A real test is the measure of progress in an individual Member State, solidifying their commitment to promoting change, or neglecting to make strives in a difficult situation.

Saudi Arabia

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy and considers itself a "traditional society", said Saudi ambassador to America, Adel al-Jubeir.[179] Stating their commitment to realizing the MDGs, Saudi minister of economy and planning, Khaled al-Gosaibi, gave a speech about the UN goals, targets, and progress for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.[180] Specifically, MDG 3, the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women that includes gender equality in education, literacy, income distribution and political empowerment are at the forefront of their goals for the future.[181] Despite these goals, women in Saudi Arabia are legally prohibited from participating in decision-making bodies, and do not have the right to vote.[182] Despite efforts towards equality, women in Saudi Arabia are not able to participate in many areas of society and that includes the international security system.[183]

In recent years, Saudi Arabia has made some progress in the education and employment of women.[184] Saudi ambassador Jubeir states that, "Most students in Saudi schools are women" and, "when it comes to expanding opportunities for women in the workplace, or expanding opportunities for women in other areas, I believe Saudi Arabia is making progress."[185] Although progress is made is some areas, security and other male dominated aspects of society remain segregated, and most women that are employed work in gender-segregated facilities.[186] There have been several industrial projects and other important work related decisions and efforts made by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to increase women's roles and participation in the work force and education fields.[187] Although these seem like great strives, in 2002, less than 10% of Saudi women over the age of 15 were in the work force.[188] According to UNDP Human Development Reports in 2006, Saudi Arabia had a literacy rate of 69.3% for women and 87.1% for men.[189] Education in Saudi Arabia is free at all levels and female students have access to the same courses as males, but a lack of enrollment has lead to a staggering illiteracy rate.[190]

In 2000, Saudi Arabia ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), but with reservations that proclaim if there is a contradiction between the Convention and Islamic law, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not be obligated to follow the Convention.[191] Women have an increasingly difficult time expressing their dissatisfaction with the government and are not able to hold any leadership positions in the country, instead being encouraged to pray and stay at home where they are safer.[192] Additionally, no laws in Saudi Arabia protect women from

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[179]Avni, Benny. "Saudi Arabia Claims Progress on Gender Equality" The New York Sun. April 27, 2007
       http://www.nysun.com/foreign/saudi-arabia-claims-progress-on-gender-equality/53352
[180] Ibid
[181] Ibid
[182]Freedom House. Saudi Arabia http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=182
[183] Ibid
[184] Ibid
[185]Avni, Benny. "Saudi Arabia Claims Progress on Gender Equality" The New York Sun. April 27, 2007
       http://www.nysun.com/foreign/saudi-arabia-claims-progress-on-gender-equality/53352
[186] Freedom House. Saudi Arabia http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=182
[187] Ibid
[188] Ibid
[189]Avni, Benny. "Saudi Arabia Claims Progress on Gender Equality" The New York Sun. April 27, 2007
       http://www.nysun.com/foreign/saudi-arabia-claims-progress-on-gender-equality/53352
[190] Freedom House. Saudi Arabia http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=182
[191] Ibid
[192] Ibid

gender-based violence.[193] To date, no follow-up reports have been filed or any steps taken to ensure compliance with the universal standards of women's human rights.[194]

Tanzania

Tanzania is a country that is working very hard to overcome gender discrimination and is prepared to work hard to ensure that the MDGs are actualized in the state. Pivotal in their planning and budgeting of programs and policies are to strengthen the relationship between men and women and to create strong bonds of trust that will enhance development and productivity.[195] On July 24, 2009, President Kikwete was given a Millennium Development Goal 3 Champion Torch as part of the Global Call to Action Campaign created to put gender equality and empowerment of women at the forefront of international recognition.[196] Tanzania created a development vision for 2025 that aims to achieve a high quality of life for everyone living in the country through the rule of law and development of a strong economy which is unattainable without gender equality and the empowerment of women in all socio-economic and political relations.[197]

One of the most influential policies impacting the women of Tanzania has been in the economic well-being of the village women. Tanzanian women are being accepted more readily as debtors and microfinance has given investors more of an incentive to allow the women of the villages to create businesses and help raise the national GDP for the Republic of Tanzania.[198] To implement the Beijing platform, the government has been working on identifying women entrepreneurs for training and aims to train 20% of these women each year.[199] President Kikwete intends to empower rural women and create an environment that will allow for women's participation in economic life.[200]

Being a Member State in Africa, a concentration on economics is a key component to a lasting impact on the stability of Tanzania.[201] For this African Member State, allowing female participation in the economic well-being of society is in essence allowing participation in the security system of the state.[202] Beyond the border security, women are able to contribute to the overall sustainability of life and security of resources.[203]

Men are traditionally seen as the heads of the family and of the governmental and decision-making bodies within Tanzania, but they also recognize that women's advancement and achievement of equality are a matter of human rights and a condition to social justice.[204] Promotion of women participation in politics and decision making is one of four critical areas that Tanzania has chosen to address for gender empowerment and equality.[205]

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[193] Ibid

[194] Ibid

[195] Tanzania. Gender. http://www.tanzania.go.tz/gender.html

[196] Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete Commits to Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.
    Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.
    http://www.ambdaressalaam.um.dk/en/menu/AboutUs/News/TanzaniasPresidentJakayaKikweteCommitsTo
    GenderEqualityAndEmpowermentOfWomen.htm

[197] Tanzania. Gender. http://www.tanzania.go.tz/gender.html

[198] Ibid

[199] Ibid

[200] Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete Commits to Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.
    Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.
    http://www.ambdaressalaam.um.dk/en/menu/AboutUs/News/TanzaniasPresidentJakayaKikweteCommitsTo
    GenderEqualityAndEmpowermentOfWomen.htm

[201] United Nations Development Program. Tanzania. http://www.tz.undp.org/who_unifem.html

[202] Ibid

[203] Ibid

[204] Tanzania. Gender. http://www.tanzania.go.tz/gender.html

[205] Ibid

Education is undoubtedly one of the most important aspects of gender equality and the Republic of Tanzania has been committed to ensure the equality of access to education through the following:

- Increase female trainers in vocational and technical schools;
- Identify and remove gender stereotyping in textbooks and in other learning materials;
- Train instructors to be gender sensitive;
- Ask parents to encourage girls to join technical fields and institutions;
- Expose aspiring girls to successful professional women role models and;
- Reform curriculum to include a wider range of skills for girls.[206]

The realization of these key areas in education, the women of Tanzania are better prepared to take an active role in the security of their society.[207]

Denmark

Denmark was able to host a High-level MDG3 Conference on "Women's Empowerment and Employment" in Copenhagen on March 25, 2010.[208] This conference lasted one day with three panels of discussion on key issues that challenge women in employment, 1- promotion of favorable economic and legal framework, 2-crossing cultural and social barriers and 3- ensuring good health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights.[209] The intention of the conference was to present recommendations for the High-Level Plenary meeting in New York in September of 2010 and to make sure the focus was to stay on women and their economic empowerment.[210] Since 2008, Denmark has been committed to the empowerment of women and has proven that with the MDG3 Torch Campaign or the Global Call to Action and since its initiation over 140 torches have been given to governments, international organization, representatives of the private sector, civil society and individuals that have committed to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment.[211]

The Politiets Efterretningstjeneste (PET) is the national security and intelligence service of Denmark that prevents and investigates any operation or activity that poses a threat to the state.[212] In response to Resolution 1325, Denmark has a plan of action to implement all aspects of the intended areas to be addressed. In June 2005, Denmark adopted actions that were both political and operational that called for an engagement of foreign, defense and development cooperation in policies of implementation of Resolution 1325.[213]

Operationally, Denmark has committed to contributions from the national defense to NATO and UN peacekeeping operations.[214] Three specific areas were chosen to focus on in Denmark and they were as follows:

- Increase gender balance in the recruitment of staff members to the defense forces;
- Protection of women's and girls' rights in areas of conflict and;

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[206] Ibid

[207] United Nations Development Program. Tanzania. http://www.tz.undp.org/who_unifem.html

[208] Denmark to host high-level conference on MDG 3 in March. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark: MDG3 Global Call to Action. http://www.mdg3action.um.dk/en/servicemenu/News/DenmarkToHostHighlevelConferenceOnMDG3InMarch.htm

[209] Ibid

[210] Ibid

[211] Ibid

[212] Welcome to the Danish Security and Intelligence Service: The Roles and Tasks. Politiets Efterretningstjeneste. Danish Security and Intelligence Service. http://www.pet.dk/English.aspx

[213] Denmark's Action Plan on implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and the Ministry of Defense. September 2005. http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/wps/Denmarks_action_plan_on_1325_Eng_summary_Final.pdf

[214] Ibid

- Increase participation and representation on women in peace building and reconstruction processes where conflict has occurred.[215]

These concrete steps are proof that Denmark is working tirelessly on the quest for gender-equality in security.

Microfinance: Opportunity for gender empowerment

One of the most fruitful opportunities for female empowerment has been through micro-financing. The greatest example of the success of microcredit comes from the inception of the Grameen Bank in 1976 by Professor Muhammad Yunus, Head of the Rural Economics Program at the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh.[216] It began as an action research project that aimed to examine the potential for having a credit system that would target and serve the rural poor.[217] When it came out there were several objectives:

- "Extend banking facilities to poor men and women;
- Eliminate the exploitation of the poor by money lenders;
- Create opportunities for self-employment for the vast multitude of unemployed people in rural Bangladesh;
- Bring the disadvantaged, mostly the women from the poorest households, within the fold of an organizational format which they can understand and manage by themselves; and
- Reverse the age-old vicious circle of 'low income, low saving and low investment' into a virtuous circle of 'low income, injection of credit, investment, more income, more savings, more investment, more income'".[218]

Women in the villages surrounding Chittagong University were profoundly impacted by the success of the Grameen Bank because they were able to successfully contribute to the security and stability of their communities, cities, and country.[219] The economic security of the poor rural villages was a top priority and a tremendous opportunity for the female population to take an active role in the sustainable future of their livelihoods.[220]

Conclusion

Women in the international community have faced and will continue to face challenges when it comes to equality and empowerment. International organizations have created programs and Member States have drafted resolutions committed to empowering the female population of the world, but there are tremendous road-blocks in the way of actualizing these goals. Despite the hard work and dedication that has occurred throughout the world, women are still discriminated against.

The United Nations is aware of this fact and as recently as July 2010, the UN will create a new body on women and gender equality to be called, The UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.[221] United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says that this body, "will significantly boost UN efforts to promote gender equality, expand opportunity, and tackle discrimination around the globe."[222]

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[215] Ibid

[216] A Short History of the Grameen Bank. Banking for the Poor. Grameen Bank.
     http://www.grameen-info.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=19&Itemid=114

[217] Ibid

[218] Ibid

[219] Ibid.

[220] Ibid

[221] UN Creates new body on women, gender equality. Reuters.
     http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6614E220100702

[222] UN Creates new body on women, gender equality. Reuters.
     http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6614E220100702

Committee Directive

This topic presents a great challenge for the General Assembly, to examine the way that women are excluded from domestic and international security systems. While it is important to understand the hardships and challenges that females have faced in many areas throughout the world, we are not going to concentrate on the negative. The General Assembly offers a tremendous opportunity to work together and allow all Member States to be heard. It is the intent of this topic to address the many facets of security that females have had an impact, like economics/micro-financing. Remember that we don't simply want to hear statistics on gender empowerment, but instead plans of actions and intentions for the future and ways that the international community can move forward with the daunting task of MDG 3. Come prepared with new and innovative ways that will transform the way gender is perceived in the international security system. This is a challenge, but we know you can do it.

Technical Appendix Guide

Topic I: Implementing the Durban Declaration: Measuring Progress toward Eliminating Racism and Intolerance

Crisis Guide: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. Interactive Publication. The Council of
    Foreign Relations.
    http://www.cfr.org/publication/13850/crisis_guide.html?gclid=CM69mcWbnqIC
    FUJx5QodXgfyww

Undeniably, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most confusing and complicated issues the international community is facing today. Although we are not asking delegates to solve the problems in the Middle East or solve the crisis, this interactive resource is a great tool to get a little bit of perspective on the issue, and also makes it a little easier to comprehend. This site in general is very helpful for our committee and the Council of Foreign Relations website offers vital information for every Member State at the United Nations. Very easy to navigate and clearly labeled, delegates should utilize this resource.

"Fighting Everyday Racism" International Day for the Elimination of Racial
    Discrimination. March 21, 2006. http://www.unac.org/ready/en/research/UN-
    InternationalDayforEliminationofRacism.pdf

This website is a really comprehensive view of the commitment of the international community to eliminate racism and intolerance in all of its forms. This fact sheet offers background information leading to the creation of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, March 21. This is a good resource to reinforce ideas and implementations of action against racism and intolerance in documents like the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Following Up On Durban: OHCHR Must Step Carefully. Human Rights Features: Voice
    of the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Network. HRF/46/01. Embargoed for
    31 October 2001. http://hrdc.net/~hrdcnet/sahrdc/hrfeatures/HRF46.htm

This resource addresses the reality that the success of the World Conference Against Racism's final Declaration and Programme of Action can only be as successful as the follow-up programs and committed financial resources. Within the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), there has been the establishment of an Anti-Discrimination Unit taking the lead in implementing the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. This resource goes on to talk about the NGO involvement and the need to ensure that the Durban Declaration is finally completely actualized, with the primary goal of adoption of the Declaration.

Racism and Anti-Racist Resources and Organizations for Teachers and Students. United
Nations Cyberschoolbus. Essays, Panels, and Articles.
http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/racism2001/orglinks.asp

This is a unique section of the UN website, and offers a comprehensive look at resources dealing with racism and intolerance. Easily navigated and explicitly labeled, there is a wealth of information for the taking. This could be a very good place to start to get a strong feel for the background of racism and intolerance and the primary sources needed to truly understand the intentions of the United Nations and the international community. Books, articles, organizations and even teaching tools are laid out to ensure a complete understanding of how all people could combat racism.

"Doctrines of Dispossession"- Racism against Indigenous peoples. World Conference
Against Racism http://www.un.org/WCAR/e-kit/indigenous.htm

This is a unique resource that covers a topic that is not covered very much, racism against indigenous peoples. This is a comprehensive source because it describes what racism against indigenous peoples is, the history behind it, the intended corrections that have not worked, and forward thinking for changes in the future. There is a discussion on retribution and mention of the World Conference and the potential impact for all indigenous peoples. Although not a new topic or kind of racism, it is one that all delegations would benefit from being well-versed in.

United Nations and MTV join to help young adults fight against racism. World
Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and
Related Intolerance. Durban, South Africa. 31 Aug- 7 Sept 2001.
http://www.un.org/WCAR/21march/21marchevent.pdf

This is a short press release from 2001 that shows how MTV joined forces with the UN to help address racism with the youth. Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan met with young people because he felt that they represented the future of the fight and are a key age-group to have on board the cause to combat racism. There are so many instances around the world where non-profit organizations and in this case entertainment industries that are committed to combating racism and intolerance around the world. This source is to provide delegates a reminder that they can find instances like these in their research and provide valid/interesting points to bring to committee for debate. The opportunities are truly endless and this resource is a reminder of that.

Topic II: Ensuring Global Food Security

Asian Development Bank. *Economics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia: a Regional Review.* [S.l.]:
Asian Development Bank, 2009. Apr. 2009. http://www.adb.org/documents/books/economics-climate-change-sea/default.asp.

This report provides insight into the vunerablity of Asia to climate change. This also gives information about the economics of climate change within the region. The key message is economic adaptation and sustainable development within Asia in order to reduce green house emissions worldwide. The implications of the report include the improvement of the economies, creation of jobs, reduction of poverty, lower carbon emissions, and prepare for the worst effects of climate change.

Koc, Mustafa, Rod MacRae, Luc J.A. Mougeot, and Jennifer Welsh. "Introduction: Food Security Is a
Global Concern: International Development Research Centre." *International Development
Research Center*. http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-30581-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html.

This article gives a comprehensive yet concise overview of the topic of global food security. The authors evaluate the multiple components of food security, including causes and effects. This article is useful tool for understanding the fundamentals topic and putting together a well-versed position on the topic. The article gives information about each region of the world with special focus of least developed countries.

Mwaniki, Angela. *Achieving Food Security in Africa: Challenges and Issues*. Issue brief. The United
Nations. http://www.un.org/africa/osaa/reports/Achieving%20Food%20Security%20in%20Africa-Challenges%20and%20Issues.pdf.

This article evaluates root causes of food insecurity such as poverty and the underdevelopment of the agricultural sectors in Africa. The article gives a comprehensive overview of globalization and other challenges for African food security. The article also comprehensively covers indirect effects of food insecurity.

"News on HEALTH, POVERTY, FOOD SECURITY." *Welcome to the United Nations: It's Your World*.
The United Nations. http://www.un.org/apps/news/subject.asp?SubjectID=9.

The News Centre for the United Nations is a great resource to find up to date and valuable information about food security and its subsequent issues. These articles include information from all over the world and give a full and wide-ranging array of news about food security. This is a great starting point when researching for this topic in order to understand the broad scope of the topic.

Shapouri, Shahla, Stacey Rosen, Birgit Meade, and Fred Gale, comps. *Food Security Assessment, 2008-09*.
Rep. Economic Research Service, June 2009.
http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/GFA20/GFA20.pdf.

This report evaluates the economic downturn of 2008 and its effects on food security globally. The report also evaluates food security by region as well as globally. The Economic Research Service also evaluates effects of urbanization and likely impacts of the financial crisis. This report also detail the methodology of defining food security. This is a useful resource when evaluating current global economics and its effects on food security.

Skoet, Jakob, and Kostas Stamoulis, comps. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*. Rep. Food and
Agriculture Organization, 2006. ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/009/a0750e/a0750e00.pdf.

This report was published for the milestone of ten years after the World Food Summit in 1996. This report is technically detailed with statistics from regions all over the world. This article also details the commitments of the FAO in the fight for global food security. This report is extremely useful when putting together a country's position because of the statistical detail. I recommend this highly useful resource to every delegate when preparing for the conference.

The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). Rep. The World Bank, 22 Apr. 2010.
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/NEWS/Resources/GAFSPQuestionsAnswers_ext042210.pdf.

This brief article published by the World Bank is concise and thorough. This is a perfect resource for delegates who need further clarification about basic information on food security. This also introduces the private sector's role in the topic. This document answers many questions that would be pertinent to resolution writing such as: Why do we need it? What will it finance? What impact is it expected to have? How will it work?

"WHO | Health Impacts of the Global Food Security Crisis." *Health Impacts of the Global Food Security Crisis*. The United Nations. http://www.who.int/food_crisis/en/.

This brief article has concise and clear information about food security that delegates will find useful when determining what action to take to resolve these issues. The article also has an abundance of other resource citations that delegates may wish to study.

Topic III: Examining the Role of Women in the International Security System

Women in International Security. About Women in International Security. Georgetown University. The
        Center for Peace and Security Studies. http://wiis.georgetown.edu/about

This site is a tremendous resource for the topic on women in international security. This is the only global
network that actively seeks to advance women's leadership at all stages of their careers in the international
peace and security field.   It aims to bridge the divide and bring women and men that support them together
to ensure success in the international security field. Background information on the organization and a
wealth of resources and links to other sites are key components that will lead delegates to research for the
topic. Delegates should be aware of the organization and the work that they have completed and look for
innovative ways to continue the process.

New Report Reveals Lack of Women Leaders in UN Peacekeeping: Women in International Security
        (WIIS) Report Examines Leadership Positions in Peacekeeping Operations. Women in
        International Security Press Release, July 25, 2008.
        http://wiis.georgetown.edu/PeaceOps_PressRelease.pdf

In 60 years of peacekeeping missions, only seven women have ever held the top position. This was an
immediate press release and one of the inspiring factors for the topic. With so few women being leaders in
peacekeeping missions, yet the request for gender equality being MDG 3, this is an eye-opening statement
about the reality of the affairs at the United Nations and the lack of evidence to support that the change that
much happen is going to. This is a great resource to inspire delegates to find ways to ensure that women
will be included in all aspects of society, including international peacekeeping missions. There is a
tremendous opportunity to make change, delegates have to take the opportunity and make it happen.

2009 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Women's Control over Economic Resources
        and Access to Financial Resources, including Microfinance. Department of Economic and
        Social Affairs: Division for the Advancement of Women. United Nations 2009.
        http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/WorldSurvey2009.pdf

This is a comprehensive review by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs that offers a
tremendous look into the role of women in development. This is a great source to begin research on for this
topic and will provide a wealth of information for delegates. Women hold a real opportunity to have an
impact on the economic well-being the international community and this source spells out how, but
addressing what has happened, the strive for equality in gender, and the intended impact for the future.

International Women's Day 2010 http://www.internationalwomensday.com

International Women's Day is July 14, and this year there was a tremendous celebration of the
accomplishments of women around the world. It is really important for delegates to be aware of the
accomplishments that women have had around the world, but also to acknowledge the celebrations going
on all over the world on this day, and everyday surrounding women. This is a really great opportunity for
delegates to explore the history of the day and the reality of how much work still must be done to ensure
equality for all. This website is easy to navigate and is really comprehensive about most regions of the
globe and should be utilized for inspiration if possible.

Tracking the Millennium Development Goals. Countdown to 2015. Promote Gender Equality and
        Empower Women. http://www.mdgmonitor.org/goal3.cfm

This is a source that is easily navigated to track progress on the MDGs throughout the world. Offering
delegates a very precise resource that addresses each goal fully, but for the purpose of this guide, MDG 3
can be viewed. Statistics on progress and maps to track change have been provided that really help
visualize the process and inspire action to be completely successful. All committees could benefit from
looking at this resource, but especially the General Assembly, and for this topic.

Microfinance Program in Africa. The Hunger Project: Empowering Women and Men to End their Own Hunger. http://www.thp.org/what_we_do/key_initiatives/microfinance/overview

This is a site that addressed the impact that poor Member States can have on their own futures. Hunger is a huge problem in the international community today with so many lacking necessary food for sustainable living. The addition of Microfinance in a poor area offers hope and the potential to make change for oneself. This is an overview of a microfinance project in Africa by the Hunger Project that has been extremely successful and it would benefit all delegates to understand the principles behind microfinance and the potential for success all over the world. This topic is stressing the need for women to be at the forefront of security and microfinance offers them the ability to secure a future for their communities and families.