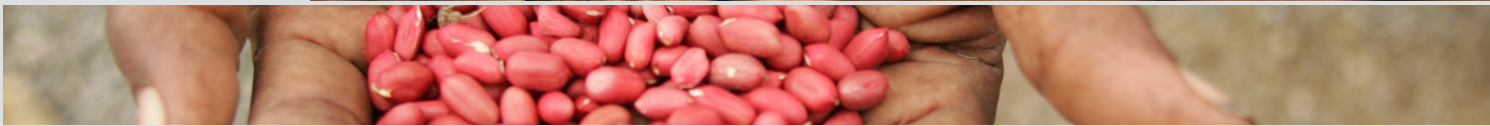


# Economic and Social Council



Model United Nations at Illinois XXII

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## Letter from the Director

Hello, and welcome to MUNIXXII!

My name is Nigel Howard and I am the director for this year's ECOSOC General Assembly committee. I am a fourth year studying Political Science & Communication. I joined MUNI as a Sophomore where I chaired the International Olympic Committee. Additionally, I compete for the Illinois MUN traveling team. When I am not tied up in a Political Science Advisory Board meeting, volunteering for the AODO and Counseling Center or Chairing the Illinois Student Senate Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee you may find me on the quad doing Jill Stein impersonations. While the gig is good it doesn't pay the bills, so following graduation I plan to go into public policy and law to promote sustainable practices of energy and land use. My plan is to do Peace Corps in Southeast Asia but with America's new stance on the environment I may be calling Chicago home sooner than expected.

I look forward to working for this year's ECOSOC simulation. This committee will challenge delegates on their ability to provide realistic solutions to the 2015 SDGs, confront differences between vulnerable groups affected by climate change and war, and address dynamic humanitarian concerns in relation to carrying capacity and resource scarcity. If you have any questions or concerns over the next few months or during the conference, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, your Chair Breanna Miller or your wonderful USG, Muhammad Yousuf. I look forward to getting to know each of you; don't be strangers.

Best Regards,

Nigel A. Howard  
Director, ECOSOC

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## Letter from the Chair

Hello All!

My name is Breanna Miller and this year I have the honor of being your chair. I am a junior at the University of Illinois studying Political Science with a concentration in Global Studies and Russian. Throughout my college career I have worked for an Illinois State Senator and I am currently working for a United States Congressman. After graduation, I hope to pursue a career in Washington D.C. and possibly attend law school. In my free time, I frequent my Netflix account, hang out with my sorority sisters, and enjoy cooking Gluten free food for all my friends. I have chaired both Crisis Committees and General Assemblies, but am excited for ECOSOC this year. Over seven years of Model United Nations I have found a passion for international law and policies of the United Nations. General Assemblies are by far my favorite and I hope that you will be as passionate about the topics as I am.

Get excited!

Breanna Miller  
Head Chair, ECOSOC

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## Topic A: Implementation of 2015's Sustainable Development Goals

### Statement of the Issue

Since its birth in 1945, the Economic, Social and Cultural Committee of the United Nations has been pivotal in addressing the international need for sustainable development. The assembly of the ECOSOC provides the space for discussion on the developmental needs of the world and uses its subsidiary bodies to achieve goals set up by the Committee<sup>1</sup>.

In recent decades, there has been growing concern around the vast disparities between developing and developed nations in regards to resource management. The ECOSOC has set an agenda to address these inequalities by the year 2030 with the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals. While diverse and overarching, the United Nations has set the agenda for the High-Level Political Forum in July 2017 to cover the first series of development goals. This Political Forum will set out to come to terms of solutions on the SDG's of Goal 1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 2: End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; and Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development<sup>2</sup>. As the High-Level Political Forum approaches the need for greater cooperation between state and non-state actors will be required. As a representative for the member states of the ECOSOC, it will be your responsibility to work together to devise solutions specific to the 2017 High-Level Political Forum.

### History

In the West, investment in scientific research as a means for measuring truth became mainstream during the Enlightenment and its aftermath around 1750 – 1900. This transformation was coupled by authors such as Turgot, Condorcet, Saint-Simon, Comte, Hegel, Marx, and Spencer who challenged the role of governing institutions and their structure. Among these writers “the term ‘sustainable development’ came into general use and a number of publications appeared which dealt with what we would today call sustainable development. In *Principles of Political Economy*, first published in 1848, John Stuart Mill included a short chapter on the ‘stationary state’, which implied a stationary condition of capital and population, but not of human improvement”<sup>3</sup>. Mill streamlined a

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/sustainable-development>

<sup>2</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1556>

<sup>3</sup> Jacobus A. Du Pisani Professor of History (2006) Sustainable development – historical roots of the concept, *Environmental Sciences*, 3:2, 83-96

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conversation about not only a state's introspection on self-sustenance but also to project development in developing nations.

It is well known how the western world involved themselves in “development” projects through the globe. The resource intensive, capitalist economies of Europe deprived many nations of their ability to develop their own economies leading to some of the pressures that launched the massive scale of World War One and Two. As the world struggled to get back on its feet after the wars, development projects started to trend among developed nations. These development projects were donor-driven, prescriptive, and based on one-way resource transfers that usually benefited the ‘helping’ nations. Aid based projects appeared to be slanted in structures oriented to dependency, autocratic survival, suppression of democracy, and traces of neo-colonial rule<sup>4</sup>. As nations continued to contribute aid that benefited their own geopolitical fronts, citizens began to call for apolitical aid.

In 2000 the United Nations set out to establish a global aid effort that the world has never experienced before. The Millennium Development Goals, MDGs, was a project that looked to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, and global partnership for development<sup>5</sup>. The UN established 8 goals, with 21 targets and 60 indicators to test and see if the projects were successful<sup>6</sup>. Although the intentions of the MDGs were noble “on average, countries have only bridged about 23 % of the gap towards the complete achievement of the MDGs, with the best-performing countries only bridging around 40 % of the gap”<sup>7</sup>. As a result, the development project has received harsh criticism from many states and their leaders. The value of the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals has received controversy about the implication of the project and the value that it will have on the international community.

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<sup>4</sup> Djankov, S., Montalvo, J. G., & Reynal-Querol, M. (2008). The curse of aid. *Journal Of Economic Growth*, 13(3), 169-194. doi:10.1007/s10887-008-9032-8

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/bkgd.shtml>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

<sup>7</sup> Permanyer, I. (2013). The measurement of success in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. *Journal Of Economic Inequality*, 11(3), 393-415. doi:10.1007/s10888-012-9228-1



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Current Situation

The theme will be "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". The set of goals to be reviewed in depth will be the following, including Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, that will be considered each year<sup>8</sup>

With more than 800 million people living on less than 1.25 USD a day, SDG Goal 1 looks to eliminate extreme poverty. The main concerns related to poverty is the inability to facilitate personal food, drinking water, and sanitation needs. Rapid economic growth in countries like China and India has lifted millions out of poverty, but progress has been uneven. Women are more likely to live in poverty than men due to unequal access to paid work, education and property. The ECOSOC is addressing this concern through UNDP in Myanmar: Water in Myanmar's Dry Zone and UNDP in Samoa: After a cyclone, a stronger home, and future. <sup>9</sup>



The number of undernourished people throughout the world has dropped almost by half as a result of rapid economic growth and increased agricultural productivity over the past two decades. The first time in history, the majority of developing countries can provide nutritional needs to communities that used to suffer from famine and hunger<sup>10</sup>. It is the goal of SDG goal 2 to fully eliminate the insecurity of

these regions that are at risk. Central and East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean have all made

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<sup>8</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1556>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-1-no-poverty.html>

<sup>10</sup> UNDP's Response to El Nino and La Nina: From recurring crisis to resilience



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huge progress in eradicating extreme hunger and currently the UNDP is in Azerbaijan working to restore and protect Azerbaijan's farmlands.<sup>11</sup>

More than 6 million children still die before their fifth birthday every year. 16,000 children die each day from preventable diseases such as measles and tuberculosis. The dangers that are placed on women during childbirth are still incredibly high where women die every day in or following childbirth. In many rural areas, only 56 percent of births are attended by skilled professionals. Now that AIDS is now the leading cause of death among teenagers in sub-Saharan Africa the need to develop systems that teach safer sex, family planning, and sexual health are needed. Currently, the UNDP in Tanzania is working on Keeping children worm-free in Tanzania.<sup>12</sup>

SDG goal 4 looks to achieve gender equality by affording women equal rights to economic resources such as land and property. There is a clear relation to a woman's access to sexual and reproductive health. More women are seated in public office than ever before, but there is still a need to strengthen policies and legislation for greater gender equality. The UNDP in Iraq is working with Yazidi women to find economic independence in Iraqi Kurdistan, the UNDP in Guatemala is working with women survivors raise their voices for justice and UNDP in Ghana and Indonesia are doing their best to removing the obstacles for women farmers.<sup>13</sup>

Technology presents unlimited options to find solutions for economic and environmental development. Development through building energy efficient industry not only allows developing communities to shy away from resource-dependent economies but also develops jobs. Promoting sustainable industries, and investing in scientific research and innovation, are all important ways to facilitate sustainable development. Currently SDG Goal 9 looks to address resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation through the UNDP in Afghanistan by building bridges in Afghanistan, the UNDP in Lao PDR by having community radio makes waves in attitudes towards sustainability, the UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina where flood warning systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina are saving lives as well as projects in Bhutan and Costa Rica<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-2-zero-hunger.html>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-3-good-health-and-well-being.html>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-5-gender-equality.html>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-9-industry-innovation-and-infrastructure.html>



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Lastly, in goal 14 the focus on conserving the use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development has become a growing concern around the threat of global warming. Oceans absorb about 30 percent of the carbon dioxide produced by humans, and we are seeing a 26 percent rise in ocean acidification since the beginning of the industrial revolution. The UNDP in Namibia is looking at protecting Benguela and the UNDP in India is working on unifying the people and the sea through a project called Finding a Sustainable Balance.<sup>15</sup>

The current projects set out by the UNDP overlap many concerns listed in the previous SDG's. It is important that new projects recommended by this body look to address the intersectionality of poverty, social inequality, cultural norms, and development.

The review could outline efforts made towards all stakeholders to inform them on and involve them in the Goals and targets, including national and local government, legislative bodies, the public, civil society and the private sector. The review might discuss how the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) are being integrated and how sustainable development policies are being designed and implemented to reflect such integration. The discussion could focus on trends, successes, challenges, emerging issues, and lessons learned, and describe what actions have been taken to address existing gaps and challenges. It could support the identification of gaps, solutions, best practices and areas requiring advice and support. The review could provide information on how the country has adapted its institutional framework in order to implement the 2030 Agenda. This could include information on how the views of different ministries, agencies, levels of government and non-governmental stakeholders are taken into account and on the institution in charge of coordination and integration.<sup>16</sup>

## Analysis

The ECOSOC has enlisted projects by the UNDP to address the current goals set out by the High-Level Political Forum. The projects listed above are just a sample of work being done throughout the world to address vulnerable communities. It will be the job of the resolutions for this topic to find similar projects taking place throughout the globe and aligning their work in accordance to ECOSOCs Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, resolutions should look to outline efforts made towards all stakeholders to inform them on and involve them in the Goals and targets, including national and local government, legislative bodies, the public, civil society and the private sector. Development of the stakeholder relationship should include the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) by integrating how sustainable

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<sup>15</sup><http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-14-life-below-water.html>

<sup>16</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/11819Voluntary\\_guidelines\\_VNRs.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/11819Voluntary_guidelines_VNRs.pdf)

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development policies are being designed and implemented. The ECOSOC's discussion on trends, successes, challenges, emerging issues, and lessons learned looks to describe the actions that have been taken to address existing gaps and challenges. Identification of gaps, solutions, best practices and areas requiring advice and support are necessary prerequisites to continued development of sustainable initiatives<sup>17</sup>.

## Possible Solutions

In the topic of Implementation of 2015's Sustainable Development Goals resolutions should include relevant regional bodies that already work to alleviate disparities. These bodies can range from current UNDP centers, national entities that work within the state, non-governmental organizations, and corporate partnerships that have previous experience with delivering, developing, or implementing the aid needed. Solutions should look to address the challenges outlined by the UNDP's SDG goals page; however, it is encouraged that you include recent events and areas that also fall under the goals presented.

Resolutions need not address every development goal brought into question at the 2017 High-Level political forum but the greater substance the resolution has the more likely it will be accepted, discussed, voted upon and adopted by the body. The resolution should look to provide information on how a country has adapted its institutional framework in order to implement the 2030 Agenda. This could include information on how the views of different ministries, agencies, levels of government and non-governmental stakeholders through coordination and integration of United Nations recommendations and campaigns. Resolutions should look to enrich and amplify current development projects rather than create new structures, bodies or organizations. Establishing initiatives under pre-established entities are smiled upon and projects that consolidate aid fronts are welcomed.

## Questions Resolutions Answer

1. What are the vulnerable communities that the development goals look to address? What do they look like? Where are they located? Why are they important?
2. Specifically, who benefits the greatest from these development projects?
3. Are the Sustainable Development Goals presented during the 2017 High-Level political forum currently being achieved by non-profits or nongovernmental organizations? If so what help could they bring in reaching your papers desired achievements?

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<sup>17</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/11819Voluntary\\_guidelines\\_VNRs.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/11819Voluntary_guidelines_VNRs.pdf)

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4. How can initiatives be created that streamline productivity? What organizations do they run through? What makes them unique but also relevant? How are they financed?

## Conclusion

2016 presented serious challenges to the future of development around the world. This 2017 High-Level political forum presents the struggle that occurs between the wants and desires of society and the limited resources--scarcity--of the environment around them. This foundational economic term, while clearly stating that the environment is at risk of exploitation, ignores external costs and focuses solely on producers and consumers<sup>18</sup>. As economies grow and developed nations continue to contribute to climate change, sustainable solutions must be presented and adopted by the world. This body has the power of providing sustainable techniques to vulnerable communities and encourage developed nation to change their practices. If concerns such as global poverty, hunger, and inequality are to be circumvented then adaptation and mitigation must begin now.

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/scarcity.asp?lgl=no-infinite>

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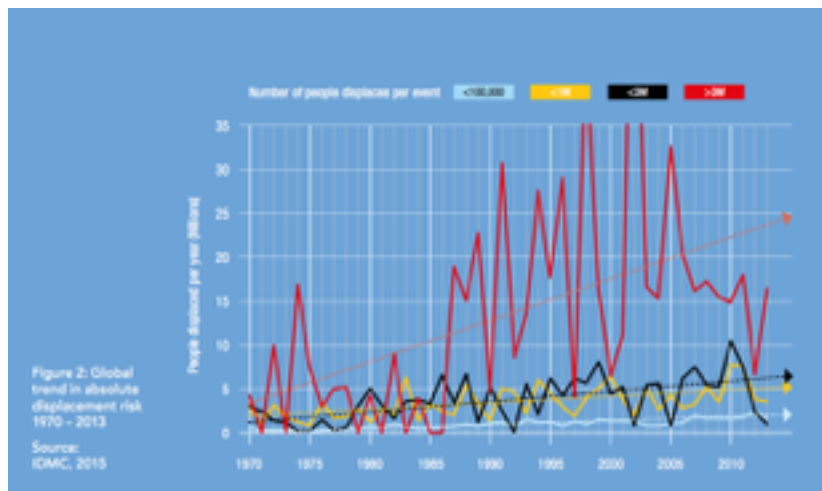
## Topic B: Refugee Diaspora

### Statement of the issue

At the end of 2015, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees reported that there was about 65.3 million displaced persons across the globe. That means one out of every 113 people on Earth is considered a refugee. Ban Ki Moon addressed the issue with his profound statement that “We are facing the biggest refugee and displacement crisis of our time. Above all, this is not just a crisis of numbers; it is also a crisis of solidarity”<sup>19</sup>. The ECOSOC has extended itself to help mitigate and alleviate the crisis of displaced persons by finding solutions to what causes displacement, developing programs to relocate asylum seekers, and prevent further displacement. During this committee session, delegates will be expected to draw on current and past international efforts to address the diaspora of displaced persons caused by persecution, war, famine, and natural disaster.

### History

Refugees first gained international recognition in 1923 when the mandate of the High Commission to cover Russian refugees expanded to support the mass exodus of Armenian refugees. Following the growth of refugee status and the influence of the International Labor Organization, the League of Nations, in 1930 developed the Nansen International Office for Refugees. When the League dissolved, Nansen took up its own office with the support of fourteen countries in the Refugee Convention of 1933<sup>20</sup>.



Following World War II, the United Nations Convention held a convention to address the Status of Refugees. This convention, ratified by all European states, defined a refugee as someone who “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/576408cd7>

<sup>20</sup> [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/1938/nansen-history.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1938/nansen-history.html)

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unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country”<sup>21</sup>. Since then the United Nations has worked to spearhead refugee efforts. They have enacted multiple programs to provide coordination of fronts to organize aid. Now, the United Nations has the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, UNHCR, established in the 1951 Refugee Convention. A clear outline of the legal rights and liberties of the refugee can be found in the convention and protocol relating to the status of refugees<sup>22</sup>. The UNHRC, a body under the purview of the ECOSOC, along with UNDP, UNFPA, and UN-HABITAT are working to address refugees by establishing protection, creating shelter, devising advocacy strategies, delivering healthcare for vulnerable displaced persons, and establishing planning and action programs for future events. The cooperation of these agencies works to address refugees as designated by the United Nations Status of a refugee and Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs. For both refugees and IDPs, there is a distinction of those displaced by war and violence and those displaced by environmental disasters.

Environmental migrants do not fit neatly into either category, leading some scholars like Alexander Betts to call for an expansion of the international legal definition of a refugee to take account of the realities of climate change and to include people fleeing natural as well as man-made disasters, trying simply to survive<sup>23</sup>. There has been little done to address the policy differences between refugees displaced by war and violence and those moved by environmental factors.

#### Current Situation

The number of displaced individuals continues to grow even in the face of efforts by the United Nations to find solutions to the relocations. In 2015 alone there were 19.2 million new cases of displaced people from natural disasters which are more than double the 8.6 million new cases that have arisen from conflict and violence. As reported by the Wilson Center, “Displacement will likely increase as repeated drought forces people off their farms; sea-level rise inundates coastal areas and low-lying islands, and tropical storms devastate communities. Most of those displaced will remain in their own country or flee to a neighboring state, but a share of them will attempt to migrate to Europe, North America, Australia, Japan, and other wealthy states”<sup>24</sup>. Natural disasters such as the droughts in Somalia in 2011 and 2012, the floods in Pakistan between 2010 and 2012, and the earthquake in Nepal in 2015, left huge numbers of without the basic necessities to live resulting in

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<sup>21</sup> <http://origins.osu.edu/article/refugees-or-immigrants-migration-crisis-europe-historical-perspective>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/3b66c2aa10.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> Alexander Betts, *Survival Migration: Failed Governance and the Crisis of Displacement* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2013). See also Susan F. Martin, *International Migration: Evolving Trends from the Early Twentieth Century to the Present* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 214-34.

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/environmental-refugees>

inevitable relocation. In the Central African Republic (CAR) there are around 450,000 refugees receiving shelter in the neighboring nations with still about 415,000 IDPs left in CAR. As the Central African Republic is one of the poorest nations in the world, refugees and IDPs have great difficulty finding basic necessities such as food, shelter, healthcare, clothing, and sanitation. The UNDP is partnering with the UNHCR to continue the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation of the response to the Crisis in the Central African Republic<sup>25</sup>.



In 2014 the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy, SAFE, the initiative was rolled out in Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Rwanda and continued in 2015 in Djibouti, Nepal, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda, with more countries to be added from 2016 – 2018. These operations have started pilot programs, including biogas, solar cookers, and ethanol stoves. Current partnerships will be strengthened,

and new ones, particularly with academic institutions and the private sector, will be forged<sup>26</sup>. Measures to better protect, assist, and find durable solutions for internally displaced persons in disaster contexts are also important elements of addressing displacement more generally.

## Analysis

Refugees have become a growing concern in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa in the past decade with greater visibility than ever before. Refugees have always existed and been the result of political changes but the current environmental changes are putting numerous communities at risk. Necessary steps must be taken to foresee growing problems in these region and provisions taken to alleviate current migrant struggles. There are more migrants in the world than those displaced in the Syrian Civil War and such people are of great concern to this committee and topic.

## Possible Solutions

Resolutions addressing the refugee diaspora should look to address currently displaced persons throughout the world. While the tragedy that is happening in Syria is ever-present in international news this committee encourages delegates to address displaced persons from other

<sup>25</sup> [http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional.php#\\_ga=1.65576814.1199271808.1484015961](http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional.php#_ga=1.65576814.1199271808.1484015961)

<sup>26</sup> UNHCR Global Strategy for Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE), 2014 – 2018

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regions. There is a great deal of attention that must be given to those in Central Africa, The Middle East, and Asia.

Resolutions should outline the specific communities that are being addressed, the organization or UN bodies that are being used to help these communities, and the goals or objectives of the initiative. The topic looks to address environmental migrants over displacement caused by war and violence although the latitude of debate will be extended to such topics.

#### Questions Resolutions Answer

1. What are the distinctions between refugees and IDPs displaced by war and violence and individuals forced to migrate from environmental factors?
2. How can the factors that cause the currently displaced persons be addressed and reduced?
3. Which current organizations are working with the UN to help displaced persons in the fields of relocation, health, safety, and international immunity?
4. What steps must be taken to prevent further endangerment of these vulnerable communities?

#### Conclusion

As 2017 develops, some huge events may take place that will through huge communities into turmoil. Europe is already splintering under the weight of refugees from the Syrian Civil War, an increase of African migrants as global climate change throws large areas of Sub-Saharan Africa into unlivable regions, island nations to be fully submerged, and coastal communities destroyed. It will be your responsibility in this committee to discuss, debate, and negotiate strategies for ensuring displaced persons safety in their transition.



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## Topic C: Accountability and Transparency for Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

### Statement of the issue

The United Nations has succeeded on many fronts due to its ability to partner with national, transnational, and non-governmental organizations. This ability to broadly interact with organizations comes from the transparent actions taken by such organizations. It is the duty of the United Nations to provide visibility on the projects taking place and that comes through mandating specific regulations of such organizations.

### History

Since its formation, the ECOSOC has relied heavily on the contributions made by external organizations. These organizations have ranged from member states, private corporations, public entities, non-profits and transnational agencies. The complex relationships developed by many of partners have been as basic as financial aid to as complex as international service agreements issuing long-standing projects. While the ECOSOC partners with a multitude of external bodies it also advises over many subsisting organs as shown in the graphic below<sup>27</sup>. Due to the vast system that the ECOSOC Assembly presides over policies must be addressed and renewed to affirm their function and relevance. This consideration of functionality and relevance comes from ECOSOC's Annual Political Forum.

The ECOSOC found it important to conduct a forum where member nations, UN collaborators, private and nonprofit organizations and international figures could come together to discuss the progress of development, the failures and the work that still needs to be done. Addressed in the UN Charter Chapter X, Article 71, the ECOSOC becomes the standing body that “make suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence” where all consultative relationships are upheld<sup>28</sup>. Furthermore, the use of Article 71 has been extended so that the ECOSOC oversees any relationship designated to external organizations from the UN. Management of multi-lateral partnerships through the ECOSOC increases the value of its reporting bodies and the need for clear documentation of projects conducted by its commissioners.

Prior to the Partnership Forum, ECOSOC had been instrumental in the creation of the ICT Task Force on Information and Communications Technology, which was one of the first major multi-stakeholder initiatives mandated by an intergovernmental body (ECOSOC resolution 2000/29). It

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<sup>27</sup> [http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/pdf/ecosoc\\_chart.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/pdf/ecosoc_chart.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> <http://legal.un.org/repertory/art71.shtml>

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was the first UN body with membership representing Governments (26 members), civil society organizations (4 members), the private sector (11 members) and organizations of the UN system (14 members) with equal decision-making power. Its objective was to provide leadership to the UN in helping formulate strategies to use ICTs for development and to digital divide. However, in 2008, the Partnerships Forum set the agenda on, “How corporate philanthropy can contribute to advancing the Millennium Development Goals, particularly for sustainable development”<sup>29</sup> that looked to address how dialogue among stakeholders from all sectors could drive global development in the perspective of prudence and sustainability. Since 2008, these talks have continued to expand the influence and cooperation of private industry in UN projects to a point where private stakeholders deal larger spheres of influence than public counterparts.

#### Relevant International Action

The great potential of partnerships, participants were reminded, lies in the different assets that each sector could bring. The UN has development expertise and a clear set of internationally agreed goals. The corporate philanthropy community could bring in significant resources, including product donations, distribution channels, micro-loans and expertise through pro bono activities. The challenges of cross-sectoral partnerships, including “cultural” differences, could be overcome through a shared commitment to success, clearly defined goals and ownership, and accountability from both partners.

#### Current Situation

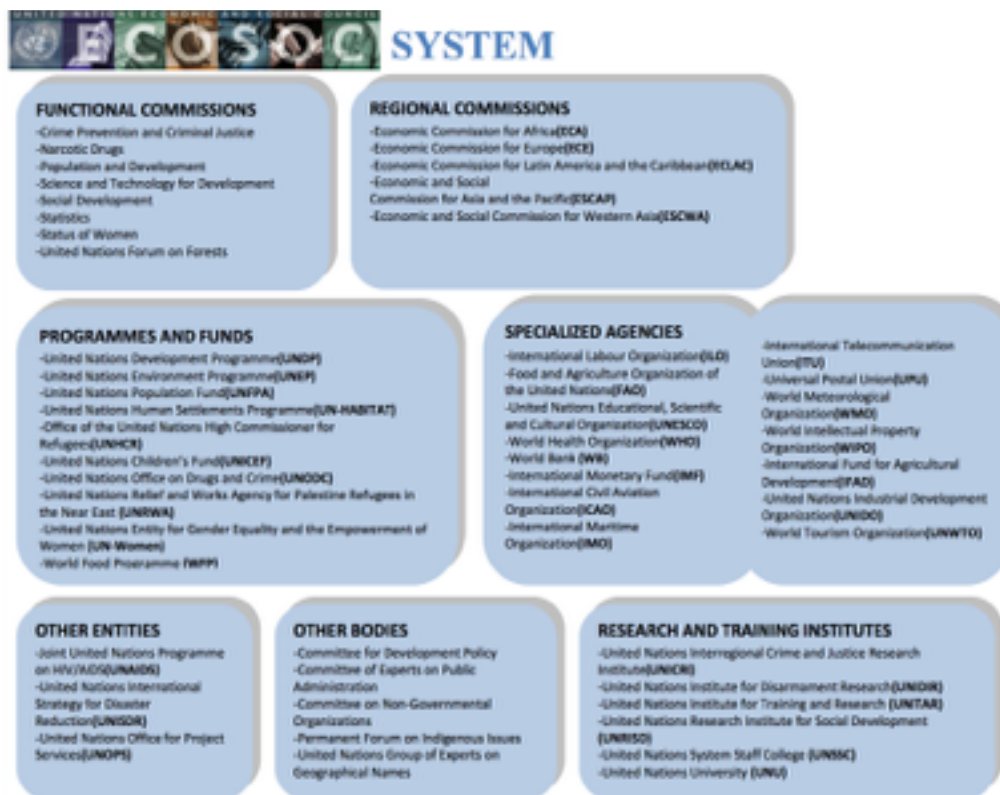
The United Nation's growing reliance on partnerships has put into questions their ideals of maintaining objective governance. Through diversifying the actors that play into decisions made in development projects the United Nations runs the risk of blatant character bias for the highest bidder of a campaign. As a result, the process in which partnerships are made must undergo greater scrutiny, deliberation and review before issuing deals and/or contracts<sup>30</sup>. It brings into question specifics on what should be done about these contracts.

The President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Oh Joon, emphasized that, “Development cooperation plays a more prominent role in translating these aspirations into reality, by better aligning the goals, resources, capacities, and incentives of governments,” noting that 2030 Agenda's goals can only be achieved by unlocking the potential of all stakeholders. The goals in the Post-2015 development agenda streamline and build on already

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<sup>29</sup><https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/special-event-%E2%80%99Chow-corporate-philanthropy-can-contribute-advancing-millennium-development>

<sup>30</sup><https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2016doc/partnership-forum-issue-note2.pdf>



existing and successful mechanisms and processes, have monitoring and review mechanisms and show they can achieve results. It was also important for partnerships to have greater system-wide accountability and shared responsibility amongst stakeholders.

The ECOSOC uses the Annual Political Forum and platforms like the Development Forum to discuss concerns such how corporations can be an interactive space to exchange ideas and early experience in aligning development cooperation and its institutions to the 2030 Agenda – including in the critical area of monitoring and review to strengthen quality, effectiveness and impact of sustainable development<sup>31</sup>. ECOSOC regularly hosts these forums, the High-level preparatory symposiums are held in the Republic of Korea (8-10 April 2015), Uganda (4-6 November 2015) and Belgium (6-8 April 2016), the 2015 Annual Partnerships Forum at the United Nations Headquarters, 28 May 10:00 am-6:00 pm, the Coordination and Management Meeting (CMM) among many others.

## Possible Solutions

The goal of these forums is to organize and consolidate the chaotic mess that is international politics. As delegates representing Nation States in this ECOSOC committee, it will be your responsibility to bring research on the current partnerships used by the ECOSOC. Background research on the current multi-stakeholder relations of the ECOSOC and its organ bodies will allow for deliberation on the what will be done in the following years. This topic looks to copy the reporting nature of the ECOSOC and forms resolutions that detail how current partnerships should

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/310191>

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be improved, which partnerships should be sustained and which terminated. While these forums also look to invest in new partnerships that sort of inspection will not be encouraged by the chairs and the flow of debate should focus on current UN operations.

#### Questions Resolutions Should Answer:

1. How can the UN system strengthen coherence and coordination of UN-led multi-stakeholder partnerships? What are the additional challenges involved in ensuring the transparency and accountability of cross-sectional, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and how can these be addressed?
2. How can multi-stakeholder partnerships involving the United Nations be more transparent and accountable?
3. How can the UN improve its due diligence, monitoring, and review of its partnerships that contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
4. What kind of reporting would be appropriate for different types of partnerships? How can the existing reporting requirements be aligned with UN partnership guidelines and principles?
5. What types of partnership models have been successful in establishing clear monitoring and review policies? What are some best practices that can be highlighted?
6. How could the role of Member States in reviewing and monitoring multi-stakeholder partnerships implementing the 2030 Agenda be enhanced to ensure the reputational integrity of the United Nations in such partnership initiatives? What could be the division of labor on the review of partnerships of the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the High-level Political Forum under the auspices ECOSOC and the General Assembly?

#### Conclusion

The role of this topic plays is addressing the actual bureaucratic fatigue that comes from international politics. The organization mechanisms that ensure the United Nations and the ECOSOC to function come from the debating of particular corporations, associations, and partnerships. The questions posed above will be the outlines you must follow in searching for solutions to coordinate operations for the 2030 Agenda. As member states, this allows for the opportunity for blocks, regional bodies, and least developed countries to have a say in the future operation of the United Nations.