

The Premier Model United Nations Conference in the Pacific Northwest



Background Guide for the
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
(HRC)

Northwest Model United Nations | November 21-23, 2014 | Seattle, Washington, USA

August 1, 2014

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Human Rights Council of **Northwest Model United Nations – Seattle (NWMUN-Seattle) 2014!** The committee staff of the Human Rights Council, consisting of Director Cynthia Park, Assistant Director Pat Mehigan, and Special Adviser Alischa Heinisch, is looking forward to working with you at the conference!

We are all very excited to work with you in November and appreciate the work you have put into the research and preparations you are undertaking for this conference.

To assist you in your preparations for this conference, we are pleased to present you with the background guide for the Human Rights Council, written by Cynthia Park and Alischa Heinisch. The topics for this year are:

- I. Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan
- II. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the Right to Development

Every participating delegation is *required* to submit a position paper prior to attending the conference. NWMUN will accept position papers until **Saturday, November 1, 2014 at 11:59pm. Please submit all position papers to hrc.seattle@nwmun.org AND positionpapers@nwmun.org.**

For instructions and position paper requirements, please refer to the following pages. Delegates' adherence to the guidelines is crucial, because it not only ensures only a well-prepared committee, but also is crucial component of the evaluation process.

We encourage you to consult further resources in addition to the background guide as you learn more about both the Member State you will be representing and the topics we will be addressing. Please do not hesitate to direct any questions or concerns toward your Director or the Director-General. We look forward to meeting you at the conference in November!

Sincerely,

Cynthia Park
Director,
Human Rights Council
hrc.seattle@nwmun.org

Pat Mehigan
Assistant Director,
Human Rights Council
hrc.seattle@nwmun.org

Galen Stocking
Director-General
NWMUN-Seattle 2014
dg@nwmun.org

Position Paper Guidelines

Your position paper should consist of a well-developed introduction and a summary of the position of your country on each of the topics to be discussed in your committee. It is important to remember that while you will have lots of information on your country's actions on a local or national level, you must discuss your country's position on an international level, particularly including suggestions for policies and future action that could be taken by the committee. Examples of high quality position papers are available on the NWMUN website under "Delegate Preparation."

Formatting

Position papers should be formatted using the following specifications:

1. Times New Roman
2. Size 10 – 12 font
3. Single spaced
4. 2 pages in length

Please Note: Anything over two pages will not be read.

Submission Process

NWMUN-Seattle will accept position papers until **Sunday, November 1, 2014 at 11:59 pm Pacific Time.**

1. Please **send each position paper in a separate e-mail to the committee** with the subject line: COUNTRY – COMMITTEE
 - a. Example: BELARUS – HRC
 - b. Example: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO – GA
2. Please **CC all position paper submissions** to positionpapers@nwmun.org.

General Assembly Plenary:	ga.seattle@nwmun.org
World Health Organization:	who.seattle@nwmun.org
Human Rights Council:	hrc.seattle@nwmun.org
Security Council:	sc.seattle@nwmun.org
Reformed Security Council:	rsc.seattle@nwmun.org
World Summit on the Information Society:	wsis.seattle@nwmun.org

Please Note: Delegates who have not submitted a position paper by the specified deadline will not be given consideration for awards.

Content Requirements

Position papers should include, and will be graded, on the following items:

1. **Formatting** and presentation;
2. **Spelling and grammar that is reflective of the level of education** being pursued by attendees to the conference.
3. The content should include:
 - a. **Background information on the topic**, why your country thinks it is important, relevant national commitments and action on the issue. Remember to focus on national policies which influence your country's action on this topic within the UN and internationally.
 - b. **International commitments and your country's support of specific resolutions**, initiatives, conventions or treaties. Describe what actions have been taken by your country to address prior international agreements made by your country.
 - c. **Specific and concrete proposals** for next steps on the topic, priority issues, and how your country can move forward on addressing the topic. This is the most important section of the position paper, and should be the longest paragraph.

Research Tips

1. Look for statements made by your country – you will often find the exact position of your country within a speech that they have been made.
2. Look for the voting record of your country, which indicates its support or lack of support for particular resolutions on the topics when they were previously discussed.
3. Look for recommendations made in Secretary-General reports or within resolutions that have been adopted in order to identify the ways in which you can move forward or take action on the topic.

Key Resources

1. **UN Website “On the Record”**: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/unms/>
This website provides direct access to official documents reflecting the views of United Nations Member States.
2. **UN Website “Global Issues”**: <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/>
This website offers an overview of some of the global issues we will be discussing at NWMUN, and links to other resources where you can get additional information.
3. **UN Human Rights Council Website**:
<http://www.ohchr.org/HRC/Pages/redirect.aspx>
This is the official website of the Human Rights Council. Included in this website is information on the Council's role in the broader UN, its powers and functions, and its subsidiary bodies. Delegates can also use it to find past documentation about the Council as well as documents created by the Council, including agendas, resolutions and other information.

Sample Format & Content of Position Papers

Delegation from

(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12) ***(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12)***

[Member State]

(Bold, Times New Roman, Size 10-12)

Delegation from

(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12)

[Member State]

(Bold, Times New Roman, Size 10-12)

Position Paper for [Committee Name]

(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12, Centered)

Introductory sentence providing an overview of the topics and, if appropriate, your delegation's relationship with the committee. (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

I. Topic One Title

(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12, Centered)

Paragraph #1: Background information on the topic, why your country thinks it is important, relevant national commitments and action on the issue. Remember to focus on national policies which influence your country's action on this topic within the UN and internationally.

(Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

Paragraph #2: International commitments and your country's support of specific resolutions, initiatives, conventions or treaties. Describe what actions have been taken by your country to address prior international agreements made by your country (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

Paragraph #3: Specific and concrete proposals for next steps on the topic, priority issues, and how your country can move forward on addressing the topic. This is the most important section of the position paper, and should be the longest paragraph. (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

II. Topic Two Title

(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12, Centered)

Paragraph #1: Background information on the topic, why your country thinks it is important, relevant national commitments and action on the issue. Remember to focus on national policies which influence your country's action on this topic within the UN and internationally.

(Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

Paragraph #2: International commitments and your country's support of specific resolutions, initiatives, conventions or treaties. Describe what actions have been taken by your country to address prior international agreements made by your country (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

Paragraph #3: Specific and concrete proposals for next steps on the topic, priority issues, and how your country can move forward on addressing the topic. This is the most important section of the position paper, and should be the longest paragraph. (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

(Repeat the topic header and content for other topics if your committee has more than two.)

Example Position Paper

Delegation from
Canada

Represented by
University of Southern Washington

Position Paper for the Economic and Social Council Plenary

The topics before the Economic and Social Council are: 1) Promoting Economic and Social Gender Equality as a Means to Achieve Sustainable Peace, 2) Implementing International Agreements to Ensure Global Public Health, and 3) Promoting Sustainable Cities. Canada is committed to strengthening the role of ECOSOC on the issues before it, and looks forward to promoting enhanced cooperation amongst Member States in order to reach consensus and take concrete action.

I. Promoting Economic and Social Gender Equality as a Means to Achieve Sustainable Peace

In conflict and post-conflict societies, economic and social rights are often given lower priority than political and civil rights. In these cases, women are not treated equally, and are often the victims of gender discrimination, which manifests itself in violations of human rights such as rape, violence and displacement. The prevalence of these crimes is exacerbated by a lack of protection for women, who often do not possess the right to own land, have no means to receive adequate health care and have no access to justice.

Canada has long been a champion of women's economic, social, and cultural rights. As an original signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Canada has a formal commitment to gender equality and, more specifically, supports the explicit and systematic integration of a gender perspective into all peace-building and foreign aid initiatives. Canada continues to press for specific initiatives with concrete and measurable outcomes when addressing gender inequality. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has developed its own Framework for Addressing Gender Equality Results. This framework has been an important advance in assessing the effectiveness of its initiatives and has consistently provided CIDA with useful and relevant data. Canada recognizes the advancements made in Security Council resolution 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) to strengthen the original principals of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). However, Canada firmly believes that ensuring the implementation of SCR 1325 (2000) at the national level is vital. That is why Canada suggests that the CEDAW committee issue recommendations to both the Security Council and ECOSOC on positive models for National Action Plans (NAP) for incorporating SCR 1325 (2000), a set of progress and impact indicators through which its implementation can be monitored, and benchmarks designed towards strengthening the principals of SCR 1325 (2000).

Canada recommends that the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), along with the ECOSOC Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) reach out to local NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) to coordinate the monitoring of, and reporting on, the progress of these NAPs. CSW will then report its findings to ECOSOC, the Security Council, and the Secretary General. Canada urges for the adoption of benchmarks requiring 30% of UN-mandated peacekeeping forces and negotiating delegations be women. Canada also believes that while peacekeeping troops are vital to facilitating the cessation of hostilities, a separate unit with a specialized mandate is necessary to deal with the psychological and health issues of women that continue in post-conflict situations long after the

violence is over. The specialized mandate will also lay the groundwork for legal procedures that may need to be taken to ensure just peace. Canada calls for the creation of this specially trained unit to be deployed in post-conflict situations, with a specific mandate to address sexual and gender based violence, help to eliminate impunity, and offer same-sex interviewers for rehabilitation purposes. The newly created unit will facilitate reconciliation and violence prevention.

II. Implementing International Agreements to Ensure Global Public Health

Effectively addressing global public health lies at the center of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Through agreements such as the Paris Declaration on AID Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA), and global health initiatives such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI), and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, the international community has made significant progress in addressing the world's health concerns. Canada is focused on creating frameworks and resolutions that foster greater coordination, eliminate corruption and overlap, improve AID consistency, encourage the untying of AID, emphasize a focus on national health systems, and hold all the countries involved accountable for producing tangible and measurable results.

Canada has been a leader in the use of innovative funding mechanisms, such as the Advance Market Commitment (AMC), which provides incentives for pharmaceutical companies to accelerate the development of vaccines and sell them at prices that poor countries can afford. This project, which is being implemented in coordination with the World Bank and GAVI, is expected to save an estimated 7.7 million lives by 2030. Canada will continue to urge its fellow member states to become more involved in the creation and implementation of such innovative funding mechanisms.

Especially now, due to the downturn in the global economy, where the world's poor are disproportionately suffering, there is a greater need for all donor countries to fulfill their Official Development Aid (ODA) commitments. Canada was the first country to fulfill its G8 commitment to double ODA in Africa by 2008, and throughout the world by 2010. This has been accomplished through both the African Health Systems Initiative (AHSI) and the Catalytic Initiative to Save a Million Lives. Canada has not only committed USD 450 million to these initiatives, but with them has demonstrated its focus on both strengthening, and developing local ownership, of national health systems. Canada urges the implementation of year-by-year funding targets to ensure that ODA commitments for health initiatives are kept. Currently The Measles Initiative is facing a funding gap of \$59 million for 2010, and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria is also facing a funding crisis of \$5 billion for this year. These gaps in funding could cause millions their lives. Canada strongly urges its fellow member states to fulfill their commitments to these funds.

Canada is also a strong proponent of the International Health Partnership & Related Initiatives (IHP+). The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), through the IHP+ framework, is the chair of the Mozambique National AIDS Council (CNCS) and has made long-term financial commitments to IHP+. Canada believes that IHP+ will not only prove to be extremely effective in addressing the issues of AID effectiveness, redundancy, and accountability, but will also go a long way towards creating a united front dedicated to improving global public health. Canada urges for the creation of new commitments that compel 15 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries to join in either bilateral or compact agreements through IHP+ by 2020.

The Human Rights Council at NWMUN - Seattle 2014

NWMUN - Seattle works each year to create as accurate a simulation as is possible for our delegates. Therefore, we have developed some additional ways for delegates to interact within the simulation, including enabling delegates to take action other than passing resolutions on an issue. This section aims to provide additional, specific information for the Human Rights Council at NWMUN - Seattle 2014.

Briefings

While discussing a topic, HRC delegates are able to receive briefings from representatives of relevant member states or UN subject matter experts. The specific thematic experts available will be announced on the NWMUN - Seattle website, as well as the beginning of the conference.

Mandate

The mandate of the Human Rights Council is:

The Human Rights Council shall be responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner; Decides also that the Council should address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon. It should also promote the effective coordination and the mainstreaming of human rights within the United Nations system; Decides further that the work of the Council shall be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation, with a view to enhancing the promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

Functions & Powers

- Promote human rights education and learning as well as advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building, to be provided in consultation with and with the consent of Member States concerned;
- Serve as a forum for dialogue on thematic issues on all human rights;
- Make recommendations to the General Assembly for the further development of international law in the field of human rights;
- Promote the full implementation of human rights obligations undertaken by States and follow-up to the goals and commitments related to the promotion and protection of human rights emanating from United Nations conferences and summits;
- Contribute, through dialogue and cooperation, towards the prevention of human rights violations and respond promptly to human rights emergencies;
- Work in close cooperation in the field of human rights with Governments, regional organizations, national human rights institutions and civil society;
- Make recommendations with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Submit an annual report to the General Assembly;

Outcome Documents

When taking action on a topic, the Human Rights Council can adopt **resolutions**. Human Rights Council resolutions are not binding, but rather recommendations to the General Assembly on issues relating to international human rights matters.

Rules of Procedure

The Human Rights Council will use the standard NWMUN rules of procedure, available on our website as well as in printed form at the conference.

Members of the Human Rights Council at NWMUN - Seattle 2014:

Algeria	Argentina	Austria	Benin	Botswana
Brazil	Burkina Faso	Chile	China	Congo
Costa Rica	Cote d'Ivoire	Cuba	Czech Republic	Estonia
Ethiopia	France	Gabon	Germany	India
Indonesia	Ireland	Italy	Japan	Kazakhstan
Kenya	Kuwait	Macedonia	Maldives	Mexico
Montenegro	Morocco	Namibia	Pakistan	Peru
Philippines	Republic of Korea	Romania	Russian Federation	Saudi Arabia
Sierra Leone	South Africa	United Arab Emirates	United Kingdom	United States of America
Venezuela	Viet Nam			

Human Rights Council Committee Overview

Introduction

The concept of human rights pre-dates the establishment of the United Nations (UN), but the horrors of the Second World War compelled the founders of the UN to place human rights at the forefront of the international community's work.¹ Human rights, as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are based on the inherent dignity of every person.² This universal dignity is the foundation for the basic concepts of freedom, equality, and universality that underlie all human rights.³ Human rights range from civil and political rights such as freedom of speech or assembly to social and cultural rights like the ability to practice one's language or cultural traditions.⁴ Rights are interdependent and indivisible, which means that improvements in one area of human rights ripple across all human rights.⁵ Furthermore, it means that there is no hierarchy between rights; all rights are equally important.⁶ It is the duty and obligation of States to respect those rights, protect them from abuse, and fulfill their citizens' basic rights where that requires the provision of state resources.⁷

Over the course of its history, the United Nations has monitored human rights through several distinct bodies, but the primary vehicles have been the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), which operated from 1946 until it was dissolved in 2006; and the Human Rights Council (HRC), which replaced the UNCHR.⁸ The UNCHR was dissolved due to criticism that the body had become overly politicized and allowed states with records of human rights violations to gain membership, after which their human rights abuses were ignored.⁹ This became especially apparent when Libya and Sudan, both of whom had been repeatedly charged with gross human rights violations, were elected to the Commission in 2003 and 2004, respectively.¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 60/251, which created the Council, addressed these issues by reducing membership; eliminating regional slates, which had previously been the main method through which human rights violators were elected, in favor of a regional secret ballot; and provided a mechanism for removal of a Member State from the Council.¹¹ It meets semi-annually and in special sessions to review human rights issues, develop and codify new international norms, and make recommendations to UN Member States.¹² In addition to working with Member States, the Council also actively solicits contributions from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on human rights issues.¹³

Mandate, Structure, Powers, and Functions

The Human Rights Council is the main United Nations body responsible for monitoring human rights violations and promoting and protecting human rights internationally.¹⁴ Under General Assembly resolution 60/251, the HRC

¹ Langlois, A.J., "Normative and Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights," In Goodhart, M., *Human Rights: Politics and Practice*, 2009, p. 15.

² United Nations General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/217-A(III))*, 1948.
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>

³ Icelandic Human Rights Centre, *Definitions and Classifications*, n.d. <http://www.humanrights.is/the-human-rights-project/humanrightscasesandmaterials/humanrightsconceptsideasandfora/theconceptsofhumanrightsanintroduction/definitionsandclassifications>

⁴ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *What are Human Rights?*, 2014.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Pages/WhatareHumanRights.aspx>

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Frequently Asked Questions on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Development Cooperation*, 2006. <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FAQen.pdf>

⁷ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *International Human Rights Law*, 2014.
<http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/internationallaw.aspx>

⁸ Silva, M., *The United Nations Human Rights Council: Six Years On*, n.d.
http://www.surjournal.org/eng/conteudos/getArtigo18.php?artigo=18.artigo_06.htm

⁹ Spohr, M. United Nations Human Rights Council: Between Institution-Building Phase and Review of Status, 2010.
http://www.mpil.de/files/pdf3/mpunyb_05_spohr_14.pdf

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ United Nations General Assembly, *Human Rights Council (A/RES/60/251)*, 2006.
http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/251

¹² United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *United Nations Human Rights Council Sessions*, n.d.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Sessions.aspx>

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Welcome to the Human Rights Council*, n.d.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/AboutCouncil.aspx>

is mandated to promote education about human rights, share information with Member States for capacity building, act as a forum on human rights, issue recommendations to the General Assembly on human rights issues, monitor human rights internationally and within UN Member States with the goal of preventing human rights abuses, and respond to human rights violations in emergency situations.¹⁵ Additionally, the HRC coordinates human rights activity throughout the UN system and attempts to “mainstream” human rights in all related UN activity, meaning that it helps ensure that human rights are considered in all work of the United Nations.¹⁶ Through this work, the HRC is “guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, [and] constructive international dialogue and cooperation.”¹⁷

The HRC has several subsidiary organs to aid its examination of human rights issues. Perhaps most importantly, the Advisory Committee is composed of human rights experts who offer expertise on human rights issues that the Council requests, and who conduct research on human rights issues.¹⁸ The Advisory Committee has addressed a range of thematic issues within human rights, including the right to food, human rights in post-conflict areas, and human rights of persons with disabilities.¹⁹ Whereas the Advisory Committee helps the Council take positive steps toward addressing thematic issues, the Working Group on Communications and the Working Group on Situations provide a mechanism for complaints regarding human rights violations to the Council.²⁰ This procedure gives the Council the ability to allow independent actors to submit anonymous complaints.²¹ The Council investigates human rights violations through the Special Procedures regime, which are independent human rights experts that the Council has given the mandate of investigating a state’s human rights practices or thematic issues; these experts then offer advisory opinions to the Council.²² There are currently 14 active State and 37 active thematic mandates.²³ Additionally, the Universal Periodic Review Working Group aids the Council in its function of reviewing actions taken by each and every Member State to improve human rights within their state on a regular basis.²⁴

Membership and Procedure

The HRC’s 47 Member States are elected by a majority vote of the General Assembly through secret ballot.²⁵ In order to ensure the Council is representative of the international community, resolution 60/251 allocated membership by regional group, with 13 seats from Africa, 13 from Asia, six from Eastern Europe, 8 from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 7 from Western Europe and other states.²⁶ States are elected to the Council for up to two three-year terms, after which they are ineligible for membership for at least one term.²⁷ During this election, GA Member States are to keep in mind the role candidate States have played in human rights.²⁸

¹⁵ United Nations General Assembly, *Human Rights Council* (A/RES/60/251), 2006.

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/251

¹⁶ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *High-level Panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming, 4 March 2014*, 2014.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Migration/Pages/HRCHighLevelDiscussion4March2014.aspx>

¹⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *Human Rights Council* (A/RES/60/251), 2006.

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/251

¹⁸ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *About the Advisory Committee*, 2014.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/AboutAC.aspx>

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Complaints Procedure*, 2014.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/ComplaintProcedure/Pages/HRCComplaintProcedureIndex.aspx>

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council*, 2013.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx>

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Universal Periodic Review*, 2014.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRmain.aspx>

²⁵ United Nations General Assembly, *Human Rights Council* (A/RES/60/251), 2006.

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/251

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ *Ibid.*

The Human Rights Council holds at least three regular sessions each year, usually in March, June, and September.²⁹ The Council may also hold emergency sessions when needed, such as when gross human rights violations or a crisis develops outside a regular session period; these are called after a request by at least one third of Member States.³⁰ Since 2006, the HRC has held 27 regular sessions and 21 emergency sessions.³¹ The most recent session, held on 23 July 2014, dealt with the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.³²

Current Work and Upcoming Agenda Items

In its most recent emergency session, the Council condemned the violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories that has occurred since the outbreak of hostilities on 13 June 2014, and created a commission to investigate accusations of human rights violations during this conflict.³³ During its most recent regular session, the Council addressed a variety of issues, including a review of human rights country reports under the purview of the Universal Periodic Review, the rights of indigenous peoples, the right to privacy, the right to civil society, the elimination of child and forced marriage, the promotion of national human rights institutions, and many others.³⁴

The adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000 showed the commitment of the international community to improving the living conditions of all humans; intrinsic to this was the linkage between human rights and development.³⁵ Nonetheless, the MDGs, which expire in 2015, did not fully realize the imperative of human rights and the ways in which the inclusion of human rights in development policy can speed development.³⁶ The international community has since recognized this and included human rights in all major activity related to the creation of a new set of development goals, known as the Post-2015 Development Agenda.³⁷ As the Agenda is further developed and articulated, the Council will likely continue to play a key role in the drafting of a new set of development goals.³⁸

Conclusion

Born out of the controversy surrounding the UNCHR, the HRC was designed to address the problems in the Commission and be adaptive to the human rights needs of the international community. It remains the pre-eminent human rights body within the international system, addressing all aspects of human rights, coordinating human rights promotion and protection, aiding UN Member States' efforts to address human rights concerns, and providing a roadmap for promoting human rights in future UN activity. Its continuing work is a testament to the importance the international community places on human rights.

²⁹ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *HRC Sessions*, 2014.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Sessions.aspx>

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *21st Special Session*, 2014.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SpecialSessions/Session21/Pages/21stSpecialSession.aspx>

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *List of reports of the 27th session of the HRC*, 2014.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session27/Pages/ListReports.aspx>

³⁵ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Human Rights and Post-2015 Development Agenda*, n.d.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/MDG/Pages/Intro.aspx>

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Ibid.*

I. Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem, and in the Occupied Syrian Golan

Introduction

At the end of World War I, the League of Nations authorized the United Kingdom to administer the former Ottoman territories, which included Palestine.³⁹ By 1922, the UK's administration imparted the British Mandate, which incorporated the Balfour Declaration.⁴⁰ The Balfour Declaration proposed "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people"; thus, from 1922-1947 Palestine experienced extensive Jewish immigration, particularly from Eastern Europe.⁴¹ The Balfour Declaration, however, provided that "it be clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious' rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine."⁴² Prior to the Balfour Declaration, issued by British Foreign Minister Arthur Balfour, two other British commitments were made. In 1916, the secret Sykes-Picot agreement with France divided the region into British and French-ruled areas as well as spheres of influence. Also in 1916, the British pledged to Arab leaders, most notably Husayn bin Ali, Sharif of Mecca, Arab control and rule over Ottoman-controlled Arab lands; combined with the Balfour Declaration, the Husayn-McMahon Correspondence promised the same land to two populations.⁴³ The number of Jewish immigrants continued to grow as Nazi persecution in Europe escalated, and in 1937 Arab resistance to immigration, settlement, terrorism and continued British rule led to a rebellion and violence; with the creation of the United Nations, the UK ended the mandate, transferring control of the region to the nascent UN in 1947.⁴⁴

In November 1947, the General Assembly (GA) adopted resolution 181 (II) in consideration of "the future government of Palestine."⁴⁵ The resolution proposed the termination of the British Mandate; partition of Palestinian territory into two independent states, one Arab and the other Jewish; resolutions for citizenship, particularly within Jerusalem; protection of holy places, and an Economic Union of Palestine.⁴⁶ Moreover, GA resolution 181 (II) requested that the Security Council (SC) monitor the implementation of the proposals given in the resolution, provide assistance when needed, and continue to consider the situation in Palestine.⁴⁷ Therefore, upon adoption, the resolution went immediately to the SC and since February 1948, the SC has called for a special Palestine Commission to submit monthly progress reports and special reports on the question of Palestine.⁴⁸ Arab-Israeli relations and tensions fluctuated through the decades, leading to outbreaks of wars in 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973 between Israel and surrounding Arab states, and several incidents of fighting since then between Israel and Palestinians.⁴⁹

While armed conflict remained at the forefront of any discussion of the Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian situations, by the 1990s and early 2000s, attention was also given to the economic and social repercussions of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories on the Palestinian people, particularly with the construction by Israel of a wall, commonly known as the Separation Barrier, that significantly crosses into the Occupied Palestinian Territory.⁵⁰ Israeli claims to Palestinian and other Arab territories at the end of the Six-Day War in 1967,

³⁹ UN Information System on the Question of Palestine, *History of the Question of Palestine*, 2014.

<http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/his.htm?OpenForm>

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² UN Information System on the Question of Palestine, *Balfour Declaration*, 1917.

<http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/E210CA73E38D9E1D052565FA00705C61>

⁴³ BBC News, *Shifting Sands*, n.d. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/middle_east/03/v3_ip_timeline/html/1917.stm

⁴⁴ UN Information System on the Question of Palestine, *History of the Question of Palestine*, 2014.

<http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/his.htm?OpenForm>

⁴⁵ UN Security Council Special Repertoire, Studies by Agenda: Middle East, 2013.

http://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/studies/middle_east.shtml

⁴⁶ UN General Assembly, *Resolution 181*, 1947.

<http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/0/7f0af2bd897689b785256c330061d253?OpenDocument>

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ UN Security Council, *The Palestine Question*, 1947, p. 325. https://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/46-51/Chapter%208/46-51_08-15-The%20Palestine%20Question.pdf

⁴⁹ UN Truce Supervision Organization, *UNTSO Background*, 2014.

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/untso/background.shtml>

⁵⁰ International Court of Justice, *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, 2004.

<http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/131/1671.pdf>

considered to be military occupation rather than ownership under international law, led to the development of an intensive and accelerated settlement plan.⁵¹

In 1995, amidst peace negotiations between Israeli officials and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Israeli settlers began occupying empty homes in the Barkan settlement, near Nablus, and in the Kiryat Arba settlement in Hebron.⁵² Not too long after the initial occupation of the Barkan and Kiryat Arba settlements, Israeli settlers, encouraged by the Israeli government, began a campaign of increased settlement to try and make impossible government implementation of their commitments under the 1994 Oslo Accords. As such, settlers seized fifteen settlement locations on the West Bank hills.⁵³ The seizure and development of these areas took on various forms, such as the construction of bypass roads and security fences separating the occupied territories and Israel, which was later justified by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin as a means of providing security measures for the Israeli communities.⁵⁴ The continued development of bypasses and construction of roads required continued confiscation of Palestinian lands throughout the West Bank.⁵⁵ In 1995, despite ongoing peace negotiations, expropriation of land continued throughout the year, with the Israeli electricity rights law and the Ministry of Finance's decreeing that Palestinian land be used for Jewish housing projects.⁵⁶

Despite objections by the international community and recognition by the UN that Israeli settlements were a violation of international law, settlements continue to expand.⁵⁷ In 2005, the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People reported that Israel's continued settlement activities were in violation of international law and the construction of the Separation Barrier was detrimental to the humanitarian situation within the region, which further jeopardized efforts towards peace.⁵⁸ Furthermore, the report stated that the additional construction projects, such as a ring of construction around Ma'ale Adumim just east of Jerusalem, would not only isolate occupied East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, but also would require further concession and *de facto* annexation of Palestinian land—further complicating the situation within the region.⁵⁹

On 26 November 2013, the GA adopted resolution 68/12, which declared 2014 to be the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.⁶⁰ As a result, the global community has gathered throughout the year to discuss the current political situation between Israel and Palestine, as well as the varying effects of Israeli settlements and overall policies on the occupied Palestinian territories.⁶¹ As a part of the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, on 12-13 May 2014, Turkey hosted the International Meeting on the Question of Jerusalem.⁶² At the meeting, Ms. Wendy Pullan of the University of Cambridge presented a report entitled, "The Urban Question: Israeli settlement and expropriation of Palestinian land in Jerusalem since 1967."⁶³ The report covers in detail the status of Jerusalem, particularly in terms of Israeli settlements and expropriation of

⁵¹ UN Economic and Social Council, *Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan*, 1996. <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/51/plenary/a51-135.htm>

⁵² UN Economic and Social Council, *Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan*, 1996. <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/51/plenary/a51-135.htm>

⁵³ *Ibid.*

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

⁵⁷ International Court of Justice, *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, 2004. <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/131/1671.pdf>

⁵⁸ UN General Assembly, *Observer of Palestine Says Israeli Government Continued With Illegal Settlement Activities, Wall Construction in Violation of International Law*, 2005. <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/gapal985.doc.htm>

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰ UN Events, *International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People*, 2013. <http://www.un.org/en/events/palestinianday/>

⁶¹ UN Information System on the Question of Palestine, *International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People*, 2014. <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/com.htm?OpenForm>

⁶² UN Information System on the Question of Palestine, *International Meeting on the Question of Jerusalem*, 2014. <http://unispal.un.org/databases/dprtest/ngoweb.nsf/fd4d9c895f860397852578690071506e/8cda78ab0a8f099e85257cc100712a11?OpenDocument>

⁶³ The International Meeting on the Question of Jerusalem, *The Current Situation in Jerusalem*, 2014. <http://www.un.org/depts/dpa/qpal/docs/2014Ankara/P2%20Wendy%20Pullan%20English.pdf>

land.⁶⁴ Pullan affirms that Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem have been built in locations close to Palestinian communities and prevent the horizontal growth of these communities, forcing vertical growth and crowding.⁶⁵ Additionally, Pullan discusses the expropriation of Palestinian land, further exacerbating the plight of the Palestinians.⁶⁶ The meeting was intended to build greater awareness of the legal and religious situation of Jerusalem.⁶⁷ Additional meetings, such as the United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People and the Special Meeting to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, have been held in the month of July 2014.⁶⁸

Key Issues

Continued Violence and Destruction

Israeli settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory have led to a cycle of violence, with clashes between settlers, demonstrators, and Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and police.⁶⁹ During the 7178th meeting of the UN Security Council (SC) on 20 May 2014, Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, reported that “settler attacks resulted in four Palestinians injured, including a child and in damage to Palestinian property.”⁷⁰ Likewise, Palestinian attacks on settlers, resulted in injuries, including to a child, and damages to six vehicles.⁷¹

Furthermore, the report stated that “demolitions continued during the reporting period, with 26 structures demolished, including 10 residences, displacing 48 Palestinians, including 30 children.”⁷² Such incidences of violence are common, as demonstrations reoccur in response to the continued settlements. The 2013 annual report by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict reported the significant increase of child casualties and injuries in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel.⁷³ The rise in child casualties and injuries were linked to anti-settlement demonstrations and subsequent clashes with Israeli forces.⁷⁴

On 23 April 2014, the Palestinian Fatah party, which leads the Palestinian Authority and governs the West Bank, and Hamas, a Palestinian faction which controls Gaza since internecine Palestinian clashes in 2006, announced a reconciliation deal that would allow Fatah to gain a presence in Gaza and Hamas in the West Bank.⁷⁵ In May 2014, during annual Palestinian commemorations of the *Nakba* or “catastrophe,” the Palestinian term for the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, Israeli independence, and mass expulsion and displacement of Palestinians, Israeli soldiers shot and killed 2 unarmed Palestinian demonstrators in a military-controlled area near an Israeli prison in the West Bank.⁷⁶ On 12 June 2014, three teenage Israeli settlers went missing in the Gush Etzion region just south of Bethlehem in the West Bank, resulting in the deployment of Israeli troops within the region, nightly home searches, and the daily

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

⁶⁸ UN Information System on the Question of Palestine, *International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, 2014*. <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/com.htm?OpenForm>

⁶⁹ UN Security Council, *The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, 2014*. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/PV.7178

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

⁷¹ *Ibid.*

⁷² *Ibid.*

⁷³ Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, *Children and armed conflict: Report of the Secretary General, 2013*. <http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/annual-report-of-the-secretary-general-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

⁷⁵ BBC News, *Hamas and Fatah unveil Palestinian reconciliation deal, 23 April 2014*. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-27128902>

⁷⁶ Al-Haq, *Evidence of Willful Killing at Nakba Day Protest, 24 May 2014*. <http://www.alhaq.org/documentation/weekly-focuses/806-evidence-of-wilful-killing-at-al-nakba-day-protest>

arrest of dozens of Palestinians.⁷⁷ Within two weeks, media reports estimated that hundreds had been arrested, with an estimated 1,400 homes searched.⁷⁸ The Israeli government has accused the militant wing of Hamas, which since the April announcement of Palestinian recognition had increased its presence in the West Bank, of conducting the kidnapping; however, definitive evidence has not been found or provided.⁷⁹

After eighteen days of searching for the three kidnapped settlers, on 30 June 2014 their bodies were discovered in the West Bank.⁸⁰ Though Hamas denies affiliation with the kidnapping and murders of the three Israeli teenagers, upon the discovery of the bodies, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asserted, "Hamas is responsible, and Hamas will pay."⁸¹ Both Israeli military and settlers responded with violence in the West Bank, with attempted kidnappings of civilians resulting in one Palestinian boy kidnapped and burned to death, and at least 37 Palestinians shot at with rubber bullets by police or the IDF.⁸²

By early morning the next day, on 1 July 2014, Israel had launched several airstrikes in Gaza, which led to Hamas launching rockets into Israel in response.⁸³ In response, Hamas launched rockets into Israel.⁸⁴ The UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) declared a state of emergency in all 5 areas of the Gaza Strip on 7 July 2014.⁸⁵ Since then, the crisis has continued to escalate and as of 21 July 2014, 479 Palestinians and 27 Israelis have been killed, 100,000 displaced in 69 UNRWA schools, and 25% of all Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities have no electricity.⁸⁶ In response to the Israeli actions in Gaza, protests in the West Bank accelerated against Gaza specifically and Israeli occupation and settlement more generally beginning in July 2014.⁸⁷ These resulted in Israeli killings of protesters, and also accelerated settler violence in the West Bank.

Movement and Access

Israeli settlements of occupied territories have included road closures and barrier constructions. By August of 2006, the number of physical obstacles placed by the Israeli government had increased to 471 in the West Bank alone; such physical obstacles limited or altogether inhibited the movement of Palestinians within the West Bank.⁸⁸ Despite the Agreement on Movement and Access on 15 November 2005 between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, Palestinian residents in the Gaza Strip continued to face difficulties in reaching the West Bank and other locations due to Israel continuing to close crossings or erect barriers.⁸⁹

The limitations of movement on Palestinians have affected not only individual Palestinians from travel, but also the movement of goods and trade.⁹⁰ One year after the signing of the Agreement, the UN Office for the Coordination of

⁷⁷ Al Jazeera, *Israel re-arrests dozens freed in Shalit deal*, 24 June 2014.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/06/israel-re-arrests-dozens-freed-shalit-deal-201462415751734806.html>

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

⁸⁰ New York Times, *Israel's Search for 3 Teenagers Ends in Grief*, 30 June 2014.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/01/world/middleeast/Israel-missing-teenagers.html?_r=0

⁸¹ New York Times, *Israel's Search for 3 Teenagers Ends in Grief*, 30 June 2014.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/01/world/middleeast/Israel-missing-teenagers.html?_r=0

⁸² Al Jazeera America, *Palestinian teen killed in suspected revenge attack by hard-line Israelis*, 2 July 2014.

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/7/2/palestinian-teenabductedmurderednearjerusalembyisraelsettlers.html>

⁸³ Washington Post, *Israel army says three kidnapped teenagers found dead*, 30 June 2014.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/three-kidnapped-israeli-teenagers-found-dead-reports-say/2014/06/30/4e6a271a-007a-11e4-8572-4b1b969b6322_story.html

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ UN Relief and Works Agency, *Gaza Situation Report 14*, 22 July 2014. <http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/emergency-reports/gaza-situation-report-14>

⁸⁶ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: Occupied Palestinian Territory, *Occupied Palestinian Territory: Gaza Emergency Situation Report*, http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_sitreps_22_07_2014.pdf

⁸⁷ Al Jazeera, *West Bank protests over Gaza turn deadly*, 25 July 2014.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/07/israel-kills-palestinian-west-bank-clashes-2014724213831750431.html>

⁸⁸ UN Security Council, *Special Coordinator for Middle East Peace Briefs Security Council Urges Continued Support for Palestinian Authority*, 2006. <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/sc8652.doc.htm>

⁸⁹ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *The Agreement on Movement and Access*, 2006.

http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/AMA_One_Year_On_Nov06_final.pdf

⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

Humanitarian Affairs noted, “the flow of commercial trade [remained] negligible—only 4% of Palestinian goods had been exported.”⁹¹ While the Agreement was intended “to facilitate the movement of goods and people within the Palestinian Territories and open an international crossing on the Gaza-Egypt border that will put the Palestinians in control of the entry and exit of people, and thereby promote peaceful economic development and improve the humanitarian situation on the ground,” such results have not been achieved.⁹² The prevention of Palestinian merchants from transporting a sufficient quantity of goods out of Gaza continues to drastically impact the economy of Palestinian merchants and farmers.⁹³

Furthermore, Israeli settlements and policies, which provide preferential treatment for Israeli settlers, have made it difficult for Palestinians to access water resources.⁹⁴ The shortage of water has undermined the living conditions of the Palestinian people.⁹⁵ In 1992, a UN report documented the “effects Israeli annexation, land and settlement policies have [had] on the Palestinian water economy in terms of the unilateral integration of the water infrastructures of Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory.”⁹⁶ Eighty-six percent of the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea have been annexed and put under *de facto* jurisdiction of regional Israeli settlement councils.⁹⁷ Due to Israeli controls over the water economy within Occupied Palestinian Territory, all development activities requiring water and access to drinking water have been detrimentally affected.⁹⁸ For example, consumption of water has been kept at approximately the same levels as from 1967 despite dramatic population growth; drought conditions continue to worsen; and water quality has deteriorated below both international and even Israeli standards in many Palestinian communities.⁹⁹ Access to water resources continues to be a problem; in 2013, the Secretary-General of the UN “noted that ‘Palestinians have virtually no control over the water resources in the West Bank.’”¹⁰⁰

UN System Involvement

Various organs of the UN regularly discuss the situation in Israel and Palestine, in order to address the situation under the three pillars of the UN: peace and security, development and human rights.¹⁰¹ The GA, SC, HRC, and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) regularly adopt resolutions on the Question of Palestine, and their subsidiary bodies often organize reports to be presented and acted upon by these primary UN organs.¹⁰² The UN system’s involvement regarding the Question of Palestine is divided into six categories: Maintaining Peace and Security; Safeguarding Human Rights; Providing Assistance, Promoting Development, Building Institutions; Upholding International Law; Conducting Research; and Informing the Public.

Maintaining Peace and Security

Since the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, the Security Council often addresses Israel and Palestine within the topic of “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.”¹⁰³ The SC has adopted resolutions such as resolution 50 (1948), which established the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO); UNTSO continues to observe the agreed armistice within the region.¹⁰⁴ Additional UN responses include resolution 242 (1967) and

⁹¹ *Ibid.*

⁹² *Ibid.*

⁹³ *Ibid.*

⁹⁴ UN Information System on the Question of Palestine, *Key Issues: Water*, 2014.

<http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/iss.htm?OpenForm>

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

⁹⁶ UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, *Water Resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, 1992. <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/296EE705038AC9FC852561170067E05F>

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁰ UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*, 2013.

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session19/FFM/FFMSettlements.pdf>

¹⁰¹ Charter of the United Nations, *Chapter I: Purposes and Principles*, 1945.

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/intro.shtml>

¹⁰² UN Information Systems on the Question of Palestine, *UN System at a Glance*, 2014.

<http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/sys.htm?OpenForm>

¹⁰³ SC Special Repertoire, *Studies by Agenda: Middle East*, 2013. https://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/studies/middle_east.shtml

¹⁰⁴ United Nations Security Council, resolution 50 (1948), 1948. <http://daccess-dds->

<ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/047/75/IMG/NR004775.pdf?OpenElement>

resolution 338 (1973), which formulated the frameworks for negotiations amongst relevant parties and tended to the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people by calling upon Israel to withdraw armed forces, resolve the situation of Palestinian refugees, and to comply with all Member State responsibilities according to the Charter.¹⁰⁵

Safeguarding Human Rights and Providing Assistance, Promoting Development, Building Institutions

The UN also operates under the guidelines of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).¹⁰⁶ Prior to the creation of the Human Rights Council (HRC), its predecessor the UN Commission on Human Rights produced reports and resolutions on the human rights situation of the occupied Palestinian territory.¹⁰⁷ Since its inception in 2006, the HRC has monitored the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory through the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in the occupied Palestinian territory (OHCHR oPt).¹⁰⁸ The OHCHR oPt is the only internationally mandated entity designed to monitor and provide reports to the public on the human rights situation in the region.¹⁰⁹ Additionally, the OHCHR oPt is the official UN voice on the human rights affairs of the region.¹¹⁰

Under the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OCHA oPt) is mandated to monitor the human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.¹¹¹ OCHA oPt, however, is not mandated to monitor human rights conditions or violations in the territory of the State of Israel.¹¹² The HRC on 22 March 2012 adopted resolution 19/17 to also assist in monitoring the situation; guided by the principles of the Charter and the UDHR, it called for an independent fact-finding mission into the Israeli occupation and settlement of Occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Occupied Syrian Golan.¹¹³

In 2013, the HRC produced two reports and an addendum on the situation, including the report of the independent fact finding mission, pursuant to resolution 19/17.¹¹⁴ Part IV of the report outlines the “Implications of Israeli Settlements on the rights of Palestinians” and provides a detailed account of how Israeli settlement has played a detrimental role in impeding upon the Palestinians’ right to self-determination through the use of violence, discrimination, and intimidation by settlers.¹¹⁵ The report also explains how greater Israeli settlements have been correlated with the rise of restrictions, such as the non-issuance of building permits, imposed by the Israeli government on Palestinians.¹¹⁶

Since 1949, the UN has also conducted assistance through the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). In 1949, the GA adopted resolution 302 (IV), founding UNRWA and mandating it to provide assistance, protection, and advocacy for Palestinian refugees.¹¹⁷ UNRWA’s mandate has been repeatedly renewed; most recently, the mandate has been renewed until 30 June 2017.¹¹⁸ UNRWA services all eligible refugees amongst the 5 million registered

¹⁰⁵ United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, *Question of Palestine and the Security Council*, 2013. <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/sc.htm>

¹⁰⁶ United Nations, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

¹⁰⁷ Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Commission on Human Rights*, 2006. <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/index.htm>

¹⁰⁸ UN Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, *OHCHR in Occupied Palestinian Territory*, 2014. <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/index.htm>

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹¹ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: Occupied Palestinian Territory, *About Us*, 2014. <http://www.ochaopt.org/content.aspx?id=1010055>

¹¹² *Ibid.*

¹¹³ UN Information System on the Question of Palestine, *Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan*, 2012. <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/04FF85F46E9EFD8B85257A00004C5AD2>

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁵ UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *25 Session of the Human Rights Council: Reports*, 2013. <http://www.ohchr.org/en/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session25/Pages/ListReports.aspx>

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁷ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, *About: Frequently Asked Questions*, 2013. <http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=87>

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*

Palestinians in five different locations: Jordan, Lebanon, Gaza Strip, Syrian Arab Republic, and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.¹¹⁹

As Israel continues settlement of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, as well as the occupation of Gaza, the number of Palestinians becoming displaced continues to rise, putting greater strains on the efforts of UNRWA and the overall humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people. Pursuant to GA resolution 3376 (1975), the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) was established in order to work towards the achievement of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.¹²⁰ The CEIRPP, comprised of twenty Member States, was designed to formulate recommendations for the implementation of the Palestinian people's ability to exercise the rights outlined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the GA resolution 3236 (XXIX), such as the right to self-determination and the right "to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced and uprooted," and calls for the return of such land.¹²¹

International Framework

The Fourth Geneva Convention, on the protection of civilian persons in time of war, was adopted on 12 August 1949.¹²² The Fourth Convention discusses in particular the seizure and occupation of land.¹²³ The Convention provides the principles and responsibilities of the occupying power, including the protection of the rights of the persons occupied, who "shall not be deprived, in any case or in any manner whatsoever, of the benefits of the present Convention."¹²⁴ However, the Occupying Power may not under the provisions of the Convention relocate protected persons outside the bounds of the occupied territory unless impossible to avoid such displacement.¹²⁵ Perhaps most relevantly to the issue of settlements, the Convention provides that "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies," which as applied to Israel would render all settlement activity a violation of the Convention.¹²⁶

As a result of several negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the Oslo I Accords or the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements was signed on 13 September 1993 in Washington, D.C.¹²⁷ The Declaration provided that the PLO be recognized as the legitimate governing body of Palestine.¹²⁸ In 1995 Israel and the PLO signed a follow-up agreement known as the Oslo II Accords or the Taba Agreement, which "called for Israeli withdrawals from various Palestinian areas and expanded Palestinian rule."¹²⁹ The Oslo II Accords divided the West Bank and Gaza into three areas and assured the safe passage of Palestinians traveling between the West Bank and Gaza, with the caveat that Israel was allowed to close entry into Israel if necessary for security reasons.¹³⁰

¹¹⁹ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, *Who We Are*, 2014.

<http://www.unrwa.org/who-we-are?tid=93>

¹²⁰ United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, *UNISPAL Documents Collection*, 2013.

<http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/udc.htm>

¹²¹ UN General Assembly, *Resolution 3236 (XXIX): Question of Palestine*, 1974.

<http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/025974039ACFB171852560DE00548BBE;>

UN General Assembly, *Resolution 3376 (XXX)*, 1975.

<http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/B5B4720B8192FDE3852560DE004F3C47>

¹²² International Committee of the Red Cross, *Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War*, 1949. <http://www.icrc.org/ihl/INTRO/380>

¹²³ Geneva Conventions, *Conventions (IV) relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war*, 1949.

<http://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/7c4d08d9b287a42141256739003e636b/6756482d86146898c125641e004aa3c5?OpenDocument>

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*

¹²⁷ UN Information System on the Question of Palestine, *Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements*, 1993. <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/71DC8C9D96D2F0FF85256117007CB6CA>

¹²⁸ Council on Foreign Relations, *Oslo I Accords (Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements)*, 1993. <http://www.cfr.org/israel/oslo-accords-declaration-principles-interim-self-government-arrangements/p9674>

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*

The Israel-Palestine Peace Process has further included the Geneva Accord and the Road Map for Peace, which both advocate a two-state solution to the conflict.¹³¹ The Geneva Accord aimed to provide open dialogue and compromises for pragmatic solutions to the situation.¹³² The 2003 Accord confirmed the framework that was initiated in Madrid during the 1991 Middle East peace process talks and the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements and subsequent agreements.¹³³ Currently, the Geneva Accords serve as a foundation for the Geneva Initiative for a plausible Israeli-Palestinian agreement.¹³⁴

The Road Map to Peace initiative was also launched in the early 2000s.¹³⁵ The Road Map to Peace framework established a series of benchmarks to be achieved over a period of three years for the creation of a Palestinian state to coexist in peace with Israel.¹³⁶ Though Israel and the PA had in large part accepted the agreement, a permanent two-state solution has not been reached; delays in reaching the solution have been attributed in part to continued settlements by Israel.¹³⁷ Nevertheless, the Road Map continues to guide Israeli-Palestinian negotiations until the present.¹³⁸

Conclusion

Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan have been met with opposition and recognition as a violation of international law. . Through continued settlements, arrests, and violence, Israeli authorities and security forces have been in grave violation of the rights of the Palestinian and Syrian populations. Through violence, oppression, and obstruction of natural resources, Israeli settlement significantly disrupts the Palestinian and other present populations' right to self-determination and development. Israeli settlements deny the human right to stable tenure, movement, access to natural resources, and development to the Palestinian people. The complexities in the political relations between Israel and Palestine have impeded the overall peace process and the realization of Palestinian and Syrian human rights in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and occupied Syrian Golan.

¹³¹ Geneva Accords, *An Israeli-Palestinian Initiative to End the Conflict*, 2013, <http://www.geneva-accord.org/>

¹³² *Ibid.*

¹³³ Geneva Accord, *The Geneva Accord: A Model Israeli-Palestinian Peace Agreement (Draft)*, 2003. <http://www.geneva-accord.org/mainmenu/english>

¹³⁴ Geneva Accord, *An Israeli-Palestinian Initiative to End Conflict*, 2014. <http://www.geneva-accord.org/>

¹³⁵ Council on Foreign Relations, *Middle East: The Road Map to Peace*, 2014. <http://www.cfr.org/middle-east-andnorth-africa/middle-east-road-map-peace/p7738#p0>

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*

¹³⁷ *Ibid.*

¹³⁸ UN News Centre, *A Performance-Based Road Map to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, 2002. <http://www.un.org/news/dh/mideast/roadmap122002.pdf>

II. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the Right to Development

Introduction

The “right to development” is a fundamental human right that articulates on a fundamental level, that all people have the right to sustainable and peaceful development, but more broadly encompasses the balance between economic, social and sustainable development, including sovereignty over natural resources; self-determination; popular participation in government; equal opportunity; and the creation of favorable conditions for the realization of other fundamental rights.¹³⁹ The “right to development,” is operationalized within international development efforts through a concept and approach to development referred to as the “human rights based approach” (HRBA).¹⁴⁰ HRBA encompasses not only the economic growth and progress of a society, but of the persons involved in that society, and the protection of social, civil and political rights within any development scheme.¹⁴¹

A human rights based approach to development, shifts the conceptualization of “development” from a purely economic and infrastructural standpoint, to one which takes on a people-centric approach, ensuring that human rights are “not a static concept but are in a constant process of development and change, as they are responding to shifting and emerging threats against the individual and society.”¹⁴² Moreover, under a HRBA approach to development, the interdependency between human rights and development is realized, as human rights issues can both cause and be a consequence of development.¹⁴³ This approach to development also grounds State behavior toward development in the duties a State holds toward its citizens that are inherent in human rights regimes, and places corresponding accountability on States – meaning that countries are responsible for ensuring human rights are central to development efforts.¹⁴⁴ Furthermore, it empowers and encourages marginalized and other groups to participate in development decisions and capacity building.¹⁴⁵ In short, the right to development places links development in a broader human rights regime that prioritizes it and ensures that it is given more attention.¹⁴⁶

International Framework

The right to development within the context of the international system is rooted in the Declaration on the Right to Development (A/RES/41/128), adopted in 1986 by the General Assembly (GA), which declared the right to development as an inalienable human right.¹⁴⁷ Building on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948, the Declaration on the Right to Development established the general framework on the right to development, and emphasized the role of development as fundamental to the full realization of social, cultural, political freedoms.¹⁴⁸ Development as a right has since been reaffirmed across the UN Platform, including in the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights; the 2000 UN Millennium Declaration, specifically Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 8; and the 2005 World Summit outcome.¹⁴⁹ In 2006, with the establishment of the Human Rights Council (HRC) through General Assembly resolution 60/251, the right to development was re-entrenched in the global human rights agenda as a part of the HRC mandate.¹⁵⁰

¹³⁹ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Development-Right to Development*, n.d.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/Backgroundtrtd.aspx>

¹⁴⁰ United Nations Development Program, *Primer on Rights-Based Local Development Planning*, 2009, p. 9
http://hrbaportal.org/wp-content/files/Primer_RMAP_FINAL-2.pdf

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁴² United Nations Development Program, *Primer on Rights-Based Local Development Planning*, 2009, p. 9
http://hrbaportal.org/wp-content/files/Primer_RMAP_FINAL-2.pdf

¹⁴³ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Frequently Asked Questions on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Development Cooperation*, 2006, p. 8. <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FAQen.pdf>

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 23.

¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

¹⁴⁶ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Development-Right to Development*, n.d.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/Backgroundtrtd.aspx>

¹⁴⁷ General Assembly, *Declaration on the Right to Development (A/RES/41/128)*, 1986.
http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Development/RTD_booklet_en.pdf

¹⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁹ Pillay, *Introduction statement by the High Commissioner*, 2011.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/IntroductionStatement.aspx>

¹⁵⁰ United Nations General Assembly, *Human Rights Council*, 2006.
http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/251

Noting the need for a holistic approach, the 2002 Monterrey Consensus recognized development as a component of the “interweaving” of domestic economies and the global economic system.¹⁵¹ The Consensus further noted that peace and development are mutually inclusive issues, meaning that the right to development is ingrained within the right to peace and security, and emphasizing that successful development requires a stable and secure environment.¹⁵² Chief amongst the development policies put forth in the Consensus was the need for international financing for development in emerging economies, balancing both domestic resources and foreign investment in the development scheme, while ensuring that all development is supported by local, national and regional good governance and institutional stability.¹⁵³

The adoption of the *Istanbul Program of Action (IPoA) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the decade 2010-2020* highlighted a renewed focus on states that are lowest on the socio-economic development ladder and were furthest from meeting the Millennium Development Goals.¹⁵⁴ The IPoA reaffirmed the Monterrey Consensus’ recognition of the need for peace and security as a precursor to development, and further noted the need to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to the potential for economic shocks during crisis situations, which may deter from development objectives.¹⁵⁵ The IPoA also highlighted the role that partnerships play in ensuring progress towards meeting international development objectives.¹⁵⁶ Additionally, the public-private partnership dynamic intrinsic to IPoA is crucial for to international development financing and foreign direct investment while allowing for the establishment of legal and labour frameworks, and the development of technical and entrepreneurial capacities in the promotion of productive and sustainable economies.¹⁵⁷

In the post-2015 development agenda, the right to development has emerged as a dominant issue, but debate around it has centered primarily within the lens of sustainable development and the human rights based development approach.¹⁵⁸ The outcome document of the Rio+20 conference, *The Future We Want*, emphasized the international community’s commitment on the right to development, particularly the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to food, the promotion of the rule of law and the empowerment of women and gender equality.¹⁵⁹ Furthermore, the document highlighted the importance of participation in civil society and political decision-making as a fundamental component of sustained and inclusive development, and emphasized that women must have equal access to participation in government.¹⁶⁰ Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights noted in a 2013 address to the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) several concerns that would hinder progress towards development, including the rollback of social protections since the 2008 financial crisis, the resurgence of inequality and the lack of stability in the current global economic model.¹⁶¹

The Role of the International System

Within the international framework, the UN system itself has played a key role in the promotion, implementation and follow up to the right to development, and work on development has been mainstreamed across numerous UN agencies and subsidiary organizations.¹⁶²

¹⁵¹ International Conference on the Financing for Development, *Monterrey Consensus*, 2002, p. 6.
<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/monterrey/MonterreyConsensus.pdf>

¹⁵² *Ibid.*

¹⁵³ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁴ Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, *Program of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020*, 2011, p 6-9. <http://unohrrls.org/UserFiles/File/IPoA.pdf>

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁷ United Nations, *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries*, 2011.
http://unohrrls.org/UserFiles/File/A-CONF_219-7%20report%20of%20the%20conference.pdf

¹⁵⁸ United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, *The Future We Want*, 2012.
http://www.unctd2012.org/content/documents/774futurewewant_english.pdf

¹⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁶¹ Pillay, *Keynote Remarks delivered to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, 6th Session*, 2013.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14148&LangID=E>

¹⁶² United Nations, *Development*, n.d. <http://www.un.org/en/development/>

Human Rights Council

In 1998 the Commission on Human Rights, a precursor to the Human Rights Council established, in conjunction with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development.¹⁶³ The working group was mandated to monitor and review the progress on the right to development as established in the Declaration; to review reports submitted by Member States, UN agencies and related civil society organizations; and to advise the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on ways to strengthen and promote development as a right.¹⁶⁴ The most recent sessions of the working group have aligned their focus with the post-2015 development agenda in emphasizing a HRBA to development, including emphasizing the importance of structural changes to the governance process within Member States to encourage development.¹⁶⁵ Between 2004 and 2010 the working group was supplemented by the High Level Task Force on the implementation of the right to development, which focused broadly on the challenges of implementing the MDGs, specifically creating and evaluating criteria for MDG 8 which focuses on global partnerships for development.¹⁶⁶ In 2010 the Task Force released a report which contained a revised set of criteria and sub-criteria for the right to development which aimed at providing concrete indicators for development policy makers at the national, regional and international levels.¹⁶⁷ The criteria are grounded in three “cores” or pillars of the right to development: (1) comprehensive human-centered development, (2) an enabling environment, and (3) social justice and equity; and focuses on the ability of states to be accountable for standards of development and effective policy decisions.¹⁶⁸

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, OHCHR released a report entitled *Realizing the Right to Development*, covering the landscape of development since the 1986 Declaration and presenting an analysis for development in future generations.¹⁶⁹ OHCHR emphasizes that a human-rights based approach to development may effectively counter some of the repercussions of globalization that detract from effective development, such as the potential for growth in income disparity between states and the rapid pace of change in national economic structures that leave local economies in flux.¹⁷⁰

A HRBA to development aims to protect those most vulnerable to shocks by integrating two cores of the normative human rights framework: non-discrimination and equality, and the “non-retrogression” of rights.¹⁷¹ Embedding policies of non-discrimination and equality ensure that within the context of development, no group or groups of individuals face systematic exclusion from development and activities, and further ensures sustainable and inclusive economic growth, a pillar of the post-2015 agenda.¹⁷² Non-retrogression of rights safeguards against the decline of the enjoyment of any entrenched human right.¹⁷³ Each of these principles illustrates how an HRBA can work to maximize the benefits of development and preserve development as a right within a given system.¹⁷⁴

Post-2015 development agenda

The current and anticipated effects of climate change on earth’s natural environment have been deemed as one of the most pressing human security and development concerns in the post-2015 development landscape as denoted in

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁴ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *The Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development*, n.d. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/WGRightToDevelopment.aspx>

¹⁶⁵ Working Group on the Right to Development, *Presentation of Conference room papers containing submissions received by the Chairperson-Rapporteur*, 2014. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/15thSession.aspx>

¹⁶⁶ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *High Level Task Force on the implementation of the right to development*, n.d. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/HighLevelTaskForce.aspx>

¹⁶⁷ Human Rights Council, *Addendum: Right to development criteria and sub-criteria*, 2010. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/2/Add.2

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁹ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Realizing a Vision for Transformative Development*, 2011. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/RealizingaVisionforTransformativeDevelopment.aspx>

¹⁷⁰ Osmani, Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, *Realizing the Right to Development, Chapter 8- The HRBA to development in the era of globalization*, 2011. <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Development/RTDBook/PartIIChapter8.pdf>

¹⁷¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁷² *Ibid.*

¹⁷³ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

the fifth Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report.¹⁷⁵ This reality has pushed sustainable development to the forefront of the objectives for the post-2015 framework, and has reinforced the need for a HRBA to development.¹⁷⁶ One of the primary concerns in the right to development within this context is the potential disruption to development and settlement as groups are forcibly displaced by climate change effects, and the lack of clarity surrounding what rights they may have in light of such displacement within a new territory.¹⁷⁷ Sustainable development, that is development which meets the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, is the primary method by which the international system has aimed to mitigate the effects of climate change within the development schematic.¹⁷⁸ In a 2012 letter written in advance of the Rio+20 conference, High Commissioner Navi Pillay called upon States to ensure the continuing coherence between human rights and sustainable development, and emphasized the role of accountability and participation within a green economy, the protection of access to food, water and sanitation, and the role of human impact assessments on proposed development activities.¹⁷⁹ The key to the success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be to close the gap between development and human rights, as existed in the implementation of the MDGs, mainstream the rights of vulnerable populations, and put in place a robust accountability mechanism within the sustainable framework.¹⁸⁰

Development Cooperation Forum

The implementation of development objectives requires multiple support systems and policy coherence in order to be effective. In 2005, following the World Summit, ECOSOC was directed in GA resolution 61/16 to convene a biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) with the mandate of reviewing trends in international cooperation and identifying gaps in development policy, promoting coherence amongst development partners and strengthening the normative and operational link in the work of the UN.¹⁸¹ In July 2014 the DCF held its fourth conference and focused on four key objectives for development in the post-2015 agenda: assessment of global partnerships (as a follow up to MDG 8), examination of the post-2015 implications, the strengthening of accountability measures for development activities, the advancement of policy dialogue through South-South cooperation.¹⁸² One of the gaps noted in the Report of the Secretary-General in advance of the 2014 conference was the effectiveness of the current structure of official development assistance (ODA) in support of the right to development.¹⁸³ The report notes that while in real terms, ODA increased by 6.1 per cent as compared to 2012 levels, there is a risk that ODA will be redirected from the development agenda and poverty eradication toward activities like infectious disease control, crime control and the overall financing of regional public goods.¹⁸⁴ Furthermore, the report notes that problems still exist in the delivery of ODA, particularly with respect to the lack of local political and institutional structures of governments receiving assistance, as well as the numerous conditions attached to the delivery of ODA by developed states.¹⁸⁵ This gap highlights some of the issues raised in the 2005 *Paris Declaration*, which identified significant issues in coordination of aid delivery between recipient and donor countries, and noted the need for better policy alignment by donor countries with local governance systems, and local development priorities.¹⁸⁶ Despite these commitments, challenges still remain in linking the gaps in financing for development and assistance delivery, with the necessity of incorporating a HRBA to ensure the

¹⁷⁵ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Summary for Policy Makers in Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaption, and Vulnerability*, 2014, p. 20. http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WG2AR5_SPM_FINAL.pdf

¹⁷⁶ Orellana, Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, *Realizing the Right to Development, Chapter 23- Climate change, sustainable development and the clean development mechanism*, 2011. <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Development/RTDBook/PartIIIChapter23.pdf>

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁹ Pillay, *Open Letter from the High Commissioner for Human Rights*, 2012.

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Development/OpenLetterHC.pdf>

¹⁸⁰ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Human Rights and the post-2015 development agenda*, 2013, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/MDG/Pages/News.aspx>

¹⁸¹ Economic and Social Council, *Mandate of the DCF*, n.d. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/mandate.shtml>

¹⁸² Economic and Social Council, 2014 Development Cooperation Forum, 2014.

http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf14/2014_dcf_one-pager.pdf

¹⁸³ Economic and Social Council, *Trends and progress in international development, Report of the Secretary General*, 2014.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2014/77

¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ Second High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action*, 2005. <http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/34428351.pdf>

protection of human rights in interactions between donor and recipient states.¹⁸⁷ For example, all related parties must ensure that economic growth as a result of ODA does not erode principles of equality and non-discrimination.¹⁸⁸

Empowerment of women and mainstreaming of gender equality

The need to mainstream gender equality and women's rights in the post-2015 agenda is one of the cornerstones of the human rights development agenda. The *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* affirmed the importance of the role of women in economic decision making and civil society organizations and noted that this is fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace.¹⁸⁹ In its 52nd session, the Commission on the Status of Women highlighted the need for political will at the highest national level to establish gender equality policies, and to systematically ensure the inclusion of women in development priorities.¹⁹⁰ Access to resources, financing, and technical and vocational training for women are key to ensuring that economic growth is sustainable and inclusive, and guaranteeing that the right of development includes participation by all members within a state.¹⁹¹

Both these rights and the gaps in realizing them are broadly reaffirmed in the Declaration on the Right to Development, which protects the "well-being of the entire population" and encourages popular participation by all citizens in the economic system, but does not specifically mention the role of women.¹⁹² Accordingly, gaps in the cohesion between gender equality and the right to development can be noted most directly in the work, or lack thereof, of the Working Group on the Right to Development.¹⁹³ The Group's program of work has been found to lack focus on the role of women in development and the need for the elimination of discrimination against women as a precursor to productive and sustainable development.¹⁹⁴ This gap was highlighted again in the work of the High Level Task force for the implementation on the right to development, which made no specific mention of the role of women, gender equality or gender empowerment in defining its criteria for development success.¹⁹⁵ In its position paper on the post-2015 agenda, UN-Women firmly notes that development goals must include the expansion of women's choices and access to economic tools and resources, including land, credit, natural resources and education.¹⁹⁶

Case Study: Bosnia and Herzegovina- Strengthening Local Development Planning

A 2005 study found that nearly 50 percent of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) municipalities lacked a set of development strategies and policy implementation objectives, and further that despite overall economic growth, there was a continued rise in the economic disparity between groups within the country, leading to increased marginalization of the most vulnerable segments of the population.¹⁹⁷ Many of the issues within the development process stemmed from the lingering transition to a market economy, as well as attempts to achieve peace and

¹⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁹ The Fourth Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

¹⁹⁰ Commission on the Status of Women, *Capacity-building for mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation, and evaluation of national economic policies and programmes and budgets*, 2008.

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw52/panels/summaries/CapacityBuilding%20GenderMainstreaming%20Panel%2029%20FEB.pdf>

¹⁹¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁹² Banda, Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, *Realizing the Right to Development, Chapter 11- Women, human rights and development*, 2011. <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Development/RTDBook/PartIChapter11.pdf>

¹⁹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁶ UN-Women, *A Transformative standalone goal on achieving gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment*, 2014.

http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/10/UNWomen_pos_t2015_positionpaper_English_final_web%20pdf.pdf

¹⁹⁷ United Nations Development Program, *Mainstreaming Human Rights in Development Policies and Programming: UNDP Experiences*, 2012. <http://hrbportal.org/wp-content/files/Mainstreaming-HR-in-Development-Policies.pdf>

reconciliation.¹⁹⁸ Furthermore, the gap between national governance and local governance revealed a lack of appropriate accountability for development and limited scrutiny of the decision making process.¹⁹⁹

The UN Development Program (UNDP), along with local actors, noted that a rights-based approach to development strategies would help narrow the gap between the most marginalized segments of society, including rural and disabled populations, while improving overall policy planning and local infrastructure.²⁰⁰ Specifically, the UNDP used a Rights-Based Municipal Assessment Project (RMAP), which ensured that HRBA principles like inclusive participation, accountability and non-discrimination were present in local development projects, embedding social protections within policy development.²⁰¹ One of the core focuses of the RMAP in BiH was to ensure that planning and development strategies were linked to local partners, business and citizens, creating the capacity for the long term viability of development.²⁰² This process required recognizing that development strategies needed to extend beyond entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises to incorporate a wider set of the population, follow principles of social inclusion and non-discrimination, and compel local authorities to create a broader set of development objectives and opportunities.²⁰³

Conclusion

The development agenda continues to evolve as the concept of development adapts to modern challenges and obstacles. The right to development, and the HRBA to development attempts to reconcile the gap between the economic and productive components of development with the acute needs and social protections of the individual.²⁰⁴ Human-centric development re-focuses policies and structures to ensure that people are at the center of development infrastructure, and ensures that individuals are granted the right to the participatory and decision making process, to ensure the long term viability of development solutions.²⁰⁵ Further, a human centric approach ensures that the social, civil and security precursors are in place to best support development strategies.²⁰⁶ The post-2015 agenda must address the gaps that were left by the Millennium agenda, and ensure that human rights are mainstreamed directly into the group of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As the post-2015 agenda is constructed, several questions arise to best ensure that development effectively incorporates human rights: how can the OHCHR work closely with UN agencies to better cultivate human rights within development strategies? What technical and economic empowerment tools will best be suited to integrate women's rights into development policies? How can the HRC ensure that the HRBA limits the shocks and disruptions to development in unstable environments?

¹⁹⁸ United Nations Development Program, *Primer on Rights-Based Local Development Planning*, 2009, p. 24
http://hrbaportal.org/wp-content/files/Primer_RMAP_FINAL-2.pdf

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁰ United Nations Development Program, *Mainstreaming Human Rights in Development Policies and Programming: UNDP Experiences*, 2012. <http://hrbaportal.org/wp-content/files/Mainstreaming-HR-in-Development-Policies.pdf>

²⁰¹ United Nations Development Program, *Primer on Rights-Based Local Development Planning*, 2009, p. 26-27
http://hrbaportal.org/wp-content/files/Primer_RMAP_FINAL-2.pdf

²⁰² *Ibid.*

²⁰³ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

Bibliography

Committee Overview:

- Icelandic Human Rights Centre. (n.d.). Definitions and Classifications. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: <http://www.humanrights.is/the-human-rights-project/humanrightscasesandmaterials/humanrightskonceptsideasandfora/theconceptsofhumanrightsanintroduction/definitionsandclassifications>
- Langlois, A.J. (2009). "Normative and Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights." In Goodhart, M., ed. Human Rights: Politics and Practice. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 11-24.
- Silva, M. (n.d.). "The United Nations Human Rights Council: Six Years On." Sur: International Journal on Human Rights 18. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: http://www.surjournal.org/eng/conteudos/getArtigo18.php?artigo=18.artigo_06.htm
- Spohr, M. (2010). "United Nations Human Rights Council: Between Institution-Building Phase and Review of Status." In von Bogdandy, A., and Wolfrum, R., eds. Max Planck Yearbook of United Nations Law 14. Pp. 169-218. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: http://www.mpil.de/files/pdf3/mpunyb_05_spohr_14.pdf
- United Nations General Assembly. (1948). Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/217-A(III)). Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>
- United Nations General Assembly. (2006). Human Rights Council (A/RES/60/251). Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/251
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (n.d.). HRC Sessions. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Sessions.aspx>
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (n.d.). Human Rights and Post-2015 Development Agenda. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/MDG/Pages/Intro.aspx>
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (n.d.). List of reports of the 27th session of the HRC. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session27/Pages/ListReports.aspx>
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (n.d.). United Nations Human Rights Council NGO Participation. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NGOParticipation.aspx>
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (n.d.). United Nations Human Rights Council Sessions. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Sessions.aspx>
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (n.d.). Welcome to the Human Rights Council. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/AboutCouncil.aspx>
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2006). Frequently Asked Questions on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Development Cooperation. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FAQen.pdf>
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2013). Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx>

- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2014). 21st Special Session. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from:
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SpecialSessions/Session21/Pages/21stSpecialSession.aspx>
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2014). About the Advisory Committee. Retrieved 29 July from:
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/AboutAC.aspx>
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2014). Complaints Procedure. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from:
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/ComplaintProcedure/Pages/HRCComplaintProcedureIndex.aspx>
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2014). High-level Panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming, 4 March 2014. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from:
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Migration/Pages/HRCHighLevelDiscussion4March2014.aspx>
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2014). International Human Rights Law. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/internationallaw.aspx>
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2014). Universal Periodic Review. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRmain.aspx>
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2014). What are Human Rights?. Retrieved 29 July 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Pages/WhatareHumanRights.aspx>

Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem, and in the Occupied Syrian Golan:

- Carristrom, G. (2014). "Israel re-arrests dozens freed in Shalit deal". *Al Jazeera*. Retrieved on 24 June 2014, from:
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/06/israel-re-arrests-dozens-freed-shalit-deal-201462415751734806.html>
- Charter of the United Nations. (1945). *Chapter I: Purposes and Principles*. Retrieved on 10 June 2014, from:
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/intro.shtml>
- Council on Foreign Relations. (1993). *Oslo I Accords (Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements)*. Retrieved on 10 June 2014, from: <http://www.cfr.org/israel/oslo-accords-declaration-principles-interim-self-government-arrangements/p9674>
- Council on Foreign Relations. (2014). *Middle East: The Road Map to Peace*. Retrieved on 10 June 2014, from:
<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east-and-north-africa/middle-east-road-map-peace/p7738#p0>
- Economic and Social Council. (1996). *Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan*. Retrieved on 05 June 2014, from:
<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/51/plenary/a51-135.htm>
- Eglash, R. and Branigin, W. (2014). "Israel army says three kidnapped teenagers found dead". *Washington Post*. Retrieved on 30 June 2014, from: http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/three-kidnapped-israeli-teenagers-found-dead-reports-say/2014/06/30/4e6a271a-007a-11e4-8572-4b1b969b6322_story.html
- Geneva Accords. (2003). *An Israeli-Palestinian Initiative to End the Conflict*. Retrieved on 10 June 2014, from:
<http://www.geneva-accord.org/>

- Geneva Accord. (2003) *The Geneva Accord: A Model Israeli-Palestinian Peace Agreement* (Draft). Retrieved on 10 June 2014, from: <http://www.geneva-accord.org/mainmenu/english>
- Geneva Conventions. (1949). *Conventions (IV) relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war*. Retrieved on 08 July 2014, from: <http://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/7c4d08d9b287a42141256739003e636b/6756482d86146898c125641e004aa3c5?OpenDocument>
- International Committee of the Red Cross. (1949). *Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War*. Retrieved on 08 July 2014, from: <http://www.icrc.org/ihl/INTRO/380>
- International Court of Justice. (2004). *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*. Retrieved on 01 June 2014, from: <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/131/1671.pdf>
- Lewis, R. (2014). "Palestinian teen killed in suspected revenge attack by hard-line Israelis". *Al Jazeera America*. Retrieved on 2 July 2014, from: <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/7/2/palestinian-teenabductedmurderednearjerusalembyisraelisettlers.html>
- Marcus, J. (2014). "Gaza Crisis: UN calls for ceasefires as deaths pass 500". *BBC World News*. Retrieved on 21 July 2014, from: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28397215>
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2006). *Commission on Human Rights*. Retrieved on 01 July 2014, from: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/index.htm>
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2014). *OHCHR in Occupied Palestinian Territory*. Retrieved on 10 June 2014, from: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/index.htm>
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2013). *25 Session of the Human Rights Council: Reports*. Retrieved on 10 June 2014, from: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session25/Pages/ListReports.aspx>
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2014). *Human Rights Council to hold Special Session on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory on 21 July*. Retrieved on 21 July 2014, from: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14889&LangID=E>
- Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict. (2013). *Children and armed conflict: Report of the Secretary General*. Retrieved on 01 June 2014, from: <http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/annual-report-of-the-secretary-general-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>
- Rudoren, J. and Kershner, I. (2014). "Israel's Search for 3 Teenagers Ends in Grief". *New York Times*. Retrieved on 30 June 2014, from: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/01/world/middleeast/Israel-missing-teenagers.html?_r=0
- SC Special Repertoire. (2013). *Studies by Agenda: Middle East*. Retrieved on 01 July 2014, from: https://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/studies/middle_east.shtml
- The International Meeting on the Question of Jerusalem. (2014). *The Current Situation in Jerusalem*. Retrieved on 08 June 2014, from: <http://www.un.org/depts/dpa/qpal/docs/2014Ankara/P2%20Wendy%20Pullan%20English.pdf>
- United Nations. (1948). *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Retrieved on 20 June 2014, from: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

- UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. (1992). *Water Resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory*. Retrieved on 05 July 2014, from: <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/296EE705038AC9FC852561170067E05F>
- UN Events. (2013). *International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People*. Retrieved on 05 June 2014, from: <http://www.un.org/en/events/palestinianday/>
- UN General Assembly. (2005). *Observer of Palestine Says Israeli Government Continued With Illegal Settlement Activities, Wall Construction in Violation of International Law*, Retrieved on 05 June 2014, from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/gapal985.doc.htm>
- UN General Assembly. (1947). *Resolution 181*. Retrieved on 01 June 2014, from: <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/0/7f0af2bd897689b785256c330061d253?OpenDocument>
- UN General Assembly. (1974). *Resolution 3236 (XXIX): Question of Palestine*. Retrieved on 10 June 2014, from: <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/025974039ACFB171852560DE00548BBE>
- UN General Assembly. (1975). *Resolution 3376 (XXX)*. Retrieved on 01 June 2014, from: <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/B5B4720B8192FDE3852560DE004F3C47>
- UN Human Rights Council. (2013). *Report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*. Retrieved on 05 July 2014, from: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session19/FFM/FFMSettlements.pdf>
- UN Information System on the Question of Palestine. (2012). *Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan*. Retrieved on 10 June 2014, from: <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/04FF85F46E9EFD8B85257A00004C5AD2>
- UN Information System on the Question of Palestine. (2014). *Key Issues: Water*. Retrieved on 05 July 2014, from: <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/iss.htm?OpenForm>
- UN Information System on the Question of Palestine. (2013). *Question of Palestine and the Security Council*. Retrieved on 01 July 2014, from: <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/sc.htm>
- UN Information Systems on the Question of Palestine. (2014). *UN System at a Glance*. Retrieved on 10 June 2014, from: <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/sys.htm?OpenForm>
- UN Information System on the Question of Palestine. (2014). *History of the Question of Palestine*. Retrieved on 01 June 2014, from: <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/his.htm?OpenForm>
- UN Information System on the Question of Palestine. (1917). *Balfour Declaration*. Retrieved on 01 June 2014, from: <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/E210CA73E38D9E1D052565FA00705C61>
- UN Information System on the Question of Palestine. (2014). *International Meeting on the Question of Jerusalem*. Retrieved on 08 June 2014, from: <http://unispal.un.org/databases/dprtest/ngoweb.nsf/fd4d9c895f860397852578690071506e/8cda78ab0a8f099e85257cc100712a11?OpenDocument>
- UN Information System on the Question of Palestine. (2014). *International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People*. Retrieved on 08 June 2014, from: <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/com.htm?OpenForm>
- UN Information System on the Question of Palestine. (2013). *UNISPAL Documents Collection*. Retrieved on 10 June 2014, from: <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/udc.htm>

- UN Information System on the Question of Palestine. (1993). *Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements*. Retrieved on 10 June 2014, from: <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/71DC8C9D96D2F0FF85256117007CB6CA>
- UN News Centre. (2002). *A Performance-Based Road Map to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. Retrieved on 20 June 2014, from: <http://www.un.org/news/dh/mideast/roadmap122002.pdf>
- UN News Centre. (2014). *Security Council holds emergency meeting on Gaza; Ban meets with Abbas in Qatar*. Retrieved on 20 July 2014, from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48310#.U89dZ41dXI0>
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2006). *The Agreement on Movement and Access*. Retrieved on 05 July 2014, from: http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/AMA_One_Year_On_Nov06_final.pdf
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: Occupied Palestinian Territory. (2014). *About Us*. Retrieved on 10 June 2014, from: <http://www.ochaopt.org/content.aspx?id=1010055>
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: Occupied Palestinian Territory. (2014). *Occupied Palestinian Territory: Gaza Emergency Situation Report*. Retrieved on 21 July 2014, from: http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_sitrep_22_07_2014.pdf
- UN Relief and Works Agency (2014). *Gaza Situation Report 14*. Retrieved on 22 July 2014, from: <http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/emergency-reports/gaza-situation-report-14>
- UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. (2013). *About: Frequently Asked Questions*. Retrieved on 10 June 2014, from: <http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=87>
- UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. (2014). *Who We Are*. Retrieved on 10 June 2014, from: <http://www.unrwa.org/who-we-are?tid=93>
- UN Security Council Special Repertoire. (2013). *Studies by Agenda: Middle East*. Retrieved on 01 June 2014, from: https://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/studies/middle_east.shtml
- UN Security Council. (1947). *The Palestine Question*. Retrieved on 01 June 2014, from: https://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/46-51/Chapter%208/46-51_08-15-The%20Palestine%20question.pdf
- UN Security Council. (2014). *The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question*. Retrieved on 08 June 2014, from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/PV.7178
- UN Security Council. (2006). *Special Coordinator for Middle East Peace Briefs Security Council Urges Continued Support for Palestinian Authority*. Retrieved on 01 July 2014, from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/sc8652.doc.htm>
- UN Security Council. (1948). *Resolution 50 (1948)*. Retrieved on 01 July 2014, from: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/047/75/IMG/NR004775.pdf?OpenElement>
- UN Truce Supervision Organization. (2014). *UNTSO Background*. Retrieved on 01 June 2014, from: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/untso/background.shtml>

Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the Right to Development

- Banda, Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights. (2011). *Realizing the Right to Development, Chapter 11- Women, human rights and development*. Retrieved 27 July 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Development/RTDBook/PartIIChapter11.pdf>
- Commission on the Status of Women. (2008). *Capacity-building for mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation, and evaluation of national economic policies and programmes and budgets*. Retrieved 27 July 2014, from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw52/panels/summaries/CapacityBuilding%20GenderMainstreaming%20Panel%2029%20FEB.pdf>
- Economic and Social Council. (2014). *2014 Development Cooperation Forum*. Retrieved 28 July 2014, from: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf14/2014_dcf_one-pager.pdf
- Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). *Mandate of the DCF*. Retrieved 28 July 2014, from: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/mandate.shtml>
- Economic and Social Council. (2014). *Trends and progress in international development, Report of the Secretary General*. Retrieved 28 July 2014, from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2014/77
- Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. (2011). *Program of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020*. Retrieved from 27 July 2014, from: <http://unohrrls.org/UserFiles/File/IPoA.pdf>
- General Assembly. (1986). *Declaration on the Right to Development (A/RES/41/128)*. Retrieved 26 July 2014, from: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Development/RTD_booklet_en.pdf
- Human Rights Council. (2010). *Addendum: Right to development criteria and sub-criteria*. Retrieved 27 July 2014, from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/2/Add.2
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2014). *Summary for Policy Makers in Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaption, and Vulnerability*. Retrieved 27 July 2014 from: http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WG2AR5_SPM_FINAL.pdf
- International Conference on the Financing for Development. (2002). *Monterrey Consensus*. Retrieved 27 July 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/monterrey/MonterreyConsensus.pdf>
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (n.d.). *Development-Right to Development*. Retrieved 26 July 2014, from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/Backgroundrted.aspx>
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (n.d.). *High Level Task Force on the implementation of the right to development*. Retrieved 27 July 2014, from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/HighLevelTaskForce.aspx>
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (n.d.). *The Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development*. Retrieved 26 July 2014, from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/WGRightToDevelopment.aspx>
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2013). *Human Rights and the post-2015 development agenda*, Retrieved 27 July 2014, from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/MDG/Pages/News.aspx>
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2011). *Realizing a Vision for Transformative Development*. Retrieved 26 July 2014, from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/RealizingaVisionforTransformativeDevelopment.aspx>

- Orellana, Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights. (2011). *Realizing the Right to Development, Chapter 23- Climate change, sustainable development and the clean development mechanism*. Retrieved 27 July 2014, from: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Development/RTDBook/PartIIIChapter23.pdf>
- Osmani, Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights. (2011). *Realizing the Right to Development, Chapter 8- The HRBA to development in the era of globalization*. Retrieved from 27 July 2014, from: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Development/RTDBook/PartIIChapter8.pdf>
- Pillay, N. (2011). *Introduction statement by the High Commissioner*. Retrieved 26 July 2014, from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/IntroductionStatement.aspx>
- Pillay, N. (2013). *Keynote Remarks delivered to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, 6th Session*. Retrieved 27 July 2014, from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14148&LangID=E>
- Pillay, N. (2012). *Open Letter from the High Commissioner for Human Rights*. Retrieved 28 July 2014, from: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Development/OpenLetterHC.pdf>
- Second High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. (2005). *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action*. Retrieved 28 July 2014 from: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/34428351.pdf>
- The Fourth Conference on Women. (1995). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. Retrieved 27 July 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>
- United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. (2012). *The Future We Want*. Retrieved 26 July 2014. http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/774futurewewant_english.pdf
- United Nations Development Program. (2012). *Mainstreaming Human Rights in Development Policies and Programming: UNDP Experiences*. Retrieved 28 July 2014, from: <http://hrbaportal.org/wp-content/files/Mainstreaming-HR-in-Development-Policies.pdf>
- United Nations Development Program. (2009). *Primer on Rights-Based Local Development Planning*. Retrieved 29 July 2014, from: http://hrbaportal.org/wp-content/files/Primer_RMAP_FINAL-2.pdf
- United Nations. (2011). *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries*. Retrieved 27 July 2014, from: http://unohrlls.org/UserFiles/File/A-CONF_219-7%20report%20of%20the%20conference.pdf
- United Nations. (n.d.). *Development*. Retrieved 26 July 2014, from: <http://www.un.org/en/development/>
- UN-Women. (2014). *A Transformative standalone goal on achieving gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment*. Retrieved 28 July 2014 from: http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/10/UN_Women_post2015_positionpaper_English_final_web%20pdf.pdf
- Working Group on the Right to Development. (2014). *Presentation of Conference room papers containing submissions received by the Chairperson-Rapporteur*. Retrieved 27 July 2014, from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/15thSession.aspx>



www.nwmun.org