Chapter Five
The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Members of the Economic and Social Council:		
Albania	El Salvador	Mexico
Angola	France	Netherlands
Austria	Germany	New Zealand
Barbados	Greece	Pakistan
Belarus	Guinea	Palao
Benin	Guinea-Bissau	Paraguay
Bolivia	Guyana	Philippines
Brazil	Haiti	Portugal
Canada	Iceland	Romania
Cape Verde	India	Russian Federation
Chad	Indonesia	Saudi Arabia
China	Iraq	Somalia
Costa Rica	Japan	South Africa
Cuba	Kazakhstan	Sri Lanka
Czech Republic	Lithuania	Sudan
Democratic	Luxembourg	Thailand
Republic of the	Madagascar	United Kingdom
Congo	Malawi	United States of
Denmark	Mauritania	America

The Purview of the Simulation: The Economic and Social Council is the principal UN organ responsible for coordinating economic, social and related works of 14 specialized agencies, 10 functional commissions and five regional commissions. ECOSOC accepts reports and recommendations from other UN bodies, including the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Along with its coordinating role, ECOSOC gathers information and advises Member States on economic, social, humanitarian and human rights programs. ECOSOC also coordinates and collaborates with autonomous specialized agencies that work closely with the United Nations. These include multilateral financial and trade institutions, such as the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

Website: www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/

Economic and Environmental Questions: Science and Technology for Development

Since its inception at the dawn of the nuclear age, the United Nations has been concerned with the effect of scientific and technological advances on world peace and social development. The science and technology gap often highlights disparities between the developed, developing and least developed countries (LDCs). Gaining the technological means to protect their environments is often of low priority to LDCs focused on the subsistence of their citizens; the cost and speed at which new technologies emerge makes education of and access to these technologies by its citizens prohibitive. The challenge to the international community is two fold in this arena: sustainable development and the equitable spread of knowledge.

Focusing on the developing world, the first international agenda in this area was formulated in 1963 at the UN Conference on the Application of Science and Technology for the Benefit of the Less Developed Countries. Sixteen years later, at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the General Assembly (GA) reaffirmed the 1979 Vienna Programme of Action by establishing an Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development. The Committee was charged with advancing guidelines and priorities, creating monitoring systems, and promoting general implementation of the Vienna Programme. On the tenth anniversary of the 1979 Conference, the GA noted its disappointment with the slow implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and transformed the Intergovernmental Committee into a functional ECOSOC Commission.

The UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), as part of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), researches and collects data, provides technical assistance to developing nations, and advises the GA and ECOSOC in order to formulate policy to aid in development. In addition, this aid focuses on sustainable growth in developing regions. While the technology gap has consistently grown for the past 40 years, CSTD has worked to provide more technologies to more Member States to improve their development capabilities.

In September 2000, world leaders set the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with an intention to measure and improve economic and social problems throughout the globe. That same year, a meeting of a high-level panel of experts on information and communication technologies (ICTs) reported that these technologies can greatly enhance a developing nation's ability to achieve those goals; however the rising technology gap between developed and developing nations significantly reduces the feasibility of using ICTs to achieve that goal.

Since then, many UN Member States have been working through CSTD to help developing nations speed up their development process. Unfortunately, most Member States are unwilling to openly share ICTs that could greatly benefit developing nations because of these technologies' benefits as exports. The role of the CSTD is to provide a forum for these nations to discuss science and technology for development, while recognizing economic costs for both the developers and the LDCs, and ensuring the integrity of copyright laws.

Earlier this year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released their fourth report, stating that, globally, climate change is happening, it is very likely anthropogenic, and that measures need to be taken to reduce emissions, particularly carbon, methane, and nitrogen dioxide. With that in mind, technologies used to develop economies need to be more efficient and less harmful to the environment. If development is unsustainable it will only complicate reducing global emissions, worsening the harmful effects of climate change, while ultimately harming the natural resources

within the developing world. Coordinating the efforts of the CSTD with that of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) may be the most effective approach to achieving more sustainable results.

In April 2007, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs released the report "Industrial Development for the 21st Century: Sustainable Development Perspectives." The report does note that there is a rising technology gap between the developed and the developing nations. However, it does come to the conclusion that industrial development has consistently been the best route to creating a higher standard of living for developing nations and this development can be accomplished in a more environmentally friendly manner than has been done in the past. Taken all together, this indicated that bridging the technology gap between the developing and developed world is key to encouraging sustainable development.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- What measures can the United Nations take to encourage greater information technology sharing between Member States?
- How can the United Nations support faster development in developing nations, while promoting sustainable growth?
- Which technologies provide the best mechanisms for developing nations to integrate into the digital market?
- Currently, most nations are not on par to meet their MDGs by 2015. What steps can be taken to increase the likelihood of accomplishing these goals?

Bibliography:

"Despite Slow Progress on World Development Goals, Still Reason for Optimism: UN Advisor," *UN News Centre*. 20 Dec. 2006, www.un.org/news.

Gouri, Gangadhar S., "Looking Back, Emerging Technologies in Global Economic Relations," *UN Chronicle,* Issue 3, 2002.

"New UN Report Shows Industrial Development as Engine of Economic Growth," *UN News Centre,* 30 April 2007, www.un.org/news.

Rice, Mitchell F., "Information and Communication Technologies and the Global Digital Divide." *Comparative Technology Transfer and Society*, April 2003.

Talwar, Namrita, "Strong Science and Technology Capacity a Necessity, not a Luxury," *UN Chronicle*, Issue 2, 2004.

"UN Calls on Rich, Poor to Bridge Digital Gap," *UN Wire,* 19 June 2002.

"UN Commission Hears Calls for Major Policy Push to Promote Energy Efficiency," *UN News Centre*, 30 April 2007, www.un.org/news.

"UN Sustainable Development Meeting in Search for Balanced Solutions on Energy." *UN News Centre*, 27 April 2007, www.un.org/news.

UN Documents:

A/61/3
A/RES/60/205
A/RES/59/227
A/RES/59/220
A/RES/58/200
E/2006/31
E/2006/L.3
E/2003/L.30
ECOSOC 2005/52
ECOSOC 2004/68
ECOSOC/6239
ECOSOC/6218
GA/EF/2978 - "Industrial Development for the 21st Century: Sustainable Development Perspectives," *UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs,* 2007.
E/CN.16/2007/CRP.1 - "Promoting the Building of a People-Centered, Development-Oriented and Inclusive Information Society, with a View Enhancing Digital Opportunities for All People," *The Panel of CSTD*, 6 November 2006.

Additional Web Resources:

stdev.unctad.org/ - UNCTAD Science and Technology for Development www.unctad.org/cstd - CSTD

www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm - United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Responses to Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence against women has existed in many forms throughout history and affects millions of women each year. Domestic violence, femicide, female genital mutilation, rape, and forced pregnancy are examples of violence directed specifically at women across international, cultural and economic divides. Historically, women have rarely been granted equal status and protection as men; violence against women is a manifestation of the historic trend of subordination by and discrimination against women by men. In many States, violence against women has been ignored or marginalized, and in some instances, legitimized by custom, religion, or law.

The international focus on violence against women as a special subset of human rights violations came about only in recent years. The United Nations' 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women was the first such instrument to exclusively and explicitly address the issue. The Declaration defined violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts…." The Declaration identified three areas in which violence commonly occurs: the family, the general community, and the State. It furthermore found violence against women to constitute an obstacle to the achievement of development and peace, as it has lasting social and economic repercussions. The Commission on Human Rights reiterated these sentiments in resolution CHR 1994/45 by appointing a Special Rapporteur on violence against women.

Addressing the issue of violence against women requires a multi-faceted approach in which the criminal justice system plays a crucial role. A/Res/52/86, Annex, delineates changes and improvements to be made in the arenas of criminal law and procedure, police work, sentencing and correction, and victim support and assistance, among others. It is only by reforming and evaluating practices in all aspects of violence against women that an attitudinal and societal change will occur, at which time prevention can be pursued.

One of the primary challenges in the efforts combating violence against women has been the lack of research and data at the national, regional and international levels. To that end, the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women collaborated with the

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in producing the report "Good Practices in Combating and Eliminating Violence against Women." The May 2005 report found that the problem had become more visible and pervasive over the past two decades and remained largely unaddressed in policy and practice. Furthermore, work on prevention has almost always been limited to local short-term measures. Interventions that are shown to be successful in one setting or culture may not be effective in another community; however there exist basic aspects of legislation and responses that can be applied across contexts. Good practices which were commended included delegitimizing male control over female sexuality through laws specifically criminalizing marital rape; providing a specific legal status for immigrants who are victims of domestic violence; establishing a civil right to compensation from the perpetrator or State; and enabling reporting of complaints through women police stations and cells.

The "Good Practices" report recommended a mainstreaming of the gender approach; not to create a "gender-blind" criminal justice system, but to integrate and educate on the special needs and considerations in violence against women. Guaranteeing that victims are extended their full rights and dignity while ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice is the responsibility of an informed and gender-sensitive judicial system. Historically, many of the processes involved in filing a domestic violence or rape complaint were not only degrading, but also a deterrent to the report and pursuit of such crimes. The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women offers education for judicial officers on the use of international human rights law to promote a jurisprudence of gender equality and consideration for victims.

One of the many significant challenges still facing the international community is the lack of reliable documentation or data on violence against women. Without evidence as to the linkages between violence against women and other social, economic and cultural phenomena, it is difficult to draft or implement a successful Plan of Action at the national level. The effort to prevent and reduce the global incidence of violence against women will require transnational cooperation and a concerted effort to affirm the rights and equality of women, through legislation, perpetrator rehabilitation, victim empowerment, and education of the judicial actors as well as society at large.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:
- What steps can be taken to incorporate a gender-sensitive approach to violence against women in a criminal justice system?
- Are women adequately represented in crisis services and prevention dialogue?
- What cultural or traditional considerations constitute obstacles to criminalizing violence against women in all its forms?
- To what extent have measures toward the elimination and prevention of violence against women been integrated into justice systems at the national level?
- To what extent should the international community be involved in such human rights violations?

Bibliography:

Aromaa, Kauko and Viljanen, Terhi, Eds., *International Key Issues in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,* 2006, www.heuni.fi/38366.htm.
"Community-Based Interventions Can Halt Violence against Women, UN Study Says," *UN News Centre*, 2007, www.un.org/news.
Herbert, Bob, "Punished for Being Female," *New York Times*, 2 Nov. 2006.
Koss, MP. "Blame, Shame, and Community: Justice Responses to Violence against Women," *American Psychologist*, 2000.
Kuriansky, Joan A., Ed, *Assessing Justice System Response to Violence Against Women: A Tool for Law Enforcement, Prosecution and the Courts to Use in Developing Effective Responses*, February 1998, www.vaw.umn.edu.
Morgaine, Karen. "Domestic Violence and Human Rights: Local Challenges to a Universal Framework," *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, March 2007.
"Tackling Violence against Women and Children," *Lancet*, 21 Oct 2006, www.thelancet.com.
"Reviewing Beijing Documents on Women's Rights, UN Commission Calls for More Action," *UN News Centre*, 2005, www.un.org/news.
"UN Marks International Women's Day with Spotlight on Curbing Gender-Based Violence," *UN News Centre*, 2007, www.un.org/news.

UN Documents:

A/RES/61/143
A/RES/60/136
A/RES/58/185
A/Res/52/86
A/Res/48/104 and Annex
A/Res/44/25
A/Res/39/46
A/Res/34/180
CHR 1994/45
CHR 1993/46
DPI/1772/HR
E/CN.4/2005/72
E/CN.4/2004/66
E/CN.4/2003/75
ECOSOC 2006/29
S/RES/1325 (2000)
"Good Practices in Combating and Eliminating Violence against Women," *United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women in collaboration with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,* Vienna, Austria, 17 to 20 May 2005.

Additional Web Resources:

www.amnesty.org/actforwomen - Stop Violence Against Woman Campaign
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ - UN Women Watch Campaign
www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing5/ - Beijing +5 Web page

Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations

Humanitarian crises occur in a wide range of situations that often require an even wider range of solutions. These crises arise from any number of events that affect the health, safety or security of a community or State, with causes as varied as armed conflict, natural disaster, famine, or epidemic. More often than not, States must turn to the international community for humanitarian assistance because they are unable to cope with the emergency alone.

Since its inception in 1945, the United Nations and a number of its subsidiary bodies have addressed the issue of humanitarian aid in cases of emergency. Humanitarian aid has often been a life-saving force for those in emergency situations. In a 1991 resolution, the United Nations recognized the need for a body to ensure that emergency humanitarian assistance response was strengthened. This opened a new dialogue across the UN, allowing Member States to contribute and refine ideas on ways to increase aid and assistance in the wake of natural and man-made disasters.

Beyond the establishment of the Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC), UN bodies have learned over time that their good offices are needed to provide a standardized framework for international, national and local NGOs. This role was eventually elevated to an Under-Secretary-General role when the Department of Humanitarian Affairs was established. The organization saw a change of name to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) as its scope amplified. Several other organs were created by the 1991 resolution: the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), charged with providing a forum for UN and non-UN organizations to establish consistent policies and frameworks to address humanitarian responses; the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP), allowing for a standing body to make appeals for funding from sources worldwide to subsidize monies available for emergencies; and, the Central Emergency Revolving (now Response) Fund (CERF), accountable for garnering donations and pledges from public and private sources to provide standing capital to decrease reaction time to events. Furthermore, the Hyogo Declaration was adopted as a Plan of Action with established goals and strategies for follow-up from 2005 to 2015 as another attempt to streamline the process of emergency humanitarian response.

These resolutions and declarations charge the office of the Secretary-General with providing reports at established intervals after a disaster. These all follow a similar structure: history of the disaster; immediate response of affected Member States; response, both short and long term, of UN and other international, national, and local agencies; observations on the effectiveness of actions taken; and recommendations for future disasters, focusing on both the specific type of disaster and coordination in general. A short review of recent reports reveals the most comprehensive of these reports emerge from natural disasters. The 2005 hurricane season in Central America, the October 2005 earthquake disaster in South Asia and 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami disaster reports all note similar recommendations which seem to be areas of concern, regardless of type of disaster. These areas of concern broaden the discussion of humanitarian assistance considerably, often complicating the opportunity for consistency in crafting reactions.

Disasters often hit nations and communities that are already in a state of economic disarray. Poverty levels are magnified and at-risk populations are rendered especially vulnerable. Women and children, who culturally may not have a voice in their situation, are often overlooked in the rebuilding process. Urban-oriented migration often leaves poorer areas with higher concentrations of women and children to bear the brunt of the disaster. There is an increased chance of gender violation and violence, along with child trafficking, in the wake of the event. A lack of development magnifies the economic impact, as entire industries face possible destruction. Confusion often arises about land ownership, magnified when ownership documentation is not available or destroyed. Access to medical and educational resources, as well as re-establishing the basic necessities of shelter, food and water are often the initial focuses of relief efforts.

The initial response activities to a crisis set the stage for recovery.

It is a quite common phenomenon for a large outpouring of support to come immediately following an emergency. Once immediate needs have been met, the need for resources continues and is often greater as recovery is typically a long, dynamic process. The CERF is attempting to prevent sudden drops in funding for humanitarian assistance as activities shift their focus to recovery. Prior planning for disaster response at all levels of government has tremendous impacts on the ability of response organizations to carry out coordinated activities in the immediate aftermath of a crisis. Many nations have standing policies to mobilize their military assets initially and then to phase in the use of civil society organizations to aid in recovery. This requires training for the militaries involved in humanitarian responsibilities and an established civil society. Groups of disaster responders from different organizational viewpoints working in coordination, on the ground, with UN and the government of the affected ensure that various perspectives are accounted for in the recovery process and the needs and well-being of disaster victims are protected.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- In what ways might existing levels of coordination be enhanced by suggestions of the reports of the Secretary-General?
- Are there any ways to increase international funding for the CERF?
- How can the level of disaster preparation for Member States be supported by the international community?
- How can ECOSOC promote cooperation, and not competition, between aid agencies?

Bibliography:

"At Mid-Year, UN Still Needs $3.1 billion for Humanitarian Action," *UN News Centre*, 2006, www.un.org/news.

Couldrey, Marion and Tim Morris, "UN Assesses Tsunami Response," *Forced Migration Review*, Jul. 2005.

Currion, Paul, "Learning from Kosovo: The Humanitarian Community Information Centre (HCIC), Year One," *Humanitarian Exchange*, Mar. 2001.

Currion, Paul, *Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) Handbook*, 2004.

Hudspeth, Claudia, "Accessing IDPs in Post-Tsunami Aceh," *Forced Migration Review*, Jul. 2005.

International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, *World Disasters Report 2005: Focus on Information in Disasters*, 2005.

Salmon, Jacqueline L. "Nonprofit Leaders Critique Tsunami Relief," *Washington Post*, 2 Feb. 2005.

Sida, Lewis and Chris Szpak, "An Evaluation of Humanitarian Information Centers: Including Case Studies of HICs for Iraq, Afghanistan, and Liberia," *USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistants and UK Department of International Development*, Aug. 2004.

"Shipping Company, UN Launch Disaster Relief Supply Team in Singapore," *UN News Centre*, 2006, www.un.org/news.

"UN Offers up to $2 million from Emergency Fund for Indonesia Flood Relief," *UN News Centre*, 2007, www.un.org/news.

Wood, Daniel B, "On the Job: Damp Tents, 20-Hour Days," *Christian Science Monitor*, 7 Feb. 2005.

UN Documents:

A/RES/61/134
A/RES/61/133
A/RES/61/132
A/RES/61/131
A/RES/60/196
A/RES/60/124
A/60/87
A/RES/59/279
A/RES/59/233
A/RES/57/153
ECOSOC 2006/5
ECOSOC 2004/50

ECOSOC 2003/5
SC 1502 (2003)
Hyogo Declaration

Additional Web Resources:

humanitarianinfo.org/sumatra/ - Sumatra Humanitarian Information Center
www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/content/default.asp - Interagency Standing Committee (IASC)
www.ochaonline.un.org - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA)
www.odihpn.org - Humanitarian Practice Network
www.reliefweb.int/ocha_ol/about/resol/resol_e.html - Relief Web