

# **The United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme**

## **Delegate Portfolio Guide**

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### **People and planet - Managing consequences of climate change**

Committee Topics:

1. Deforestation and Actions Towards a Sustainable Forest Management
2. Consequences of Climate Change – Addressing the Challenges of Desertification and Drought
3. Transition to Sustainable Agriculture and Development of Rural Areas

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the Delegate Portfolio Guide. On behalf of the Scenario Group of UMUN 2016, I'd like to begin by setting the tone for what is to come.

As you now begin your journey as a delegate, from research and preparation to your opening statement and hopefully in the end, the passing of your committee's resolution, we'd ask you to keep a few things in mind.

As UMUN brands itself as "the academic simulation of the UN and the EU", we put a lot of emphasis on education, authenticity and gravity. You are now entering the role as a delegate, but the word 'role-play' is misleading as you do not represent a character but a "faceless" civil servant of a nation state. The views you are portraying should reflect the interest and policies of your contractor the state, and not foremost your own. We also would like to point out that even though we have prizes for 'Best Delegate' and 'Best Delegation', UMUN is not a competition. Successful negotiations and the very essence of the UN rests upon consensus, and we ask you to adhere to this principle, to find common ground when you approach other delegates and include each other as discussions and working papers are starting to take form.

We also like to remind you of what is actually at stake, would this be the real thing. Millions of innocent people are suffering from countless adversaries around the globe and the decisions taken in high-level forums such as the UN, might seem far away from the individual but can either better or worsen the conditions of countless living and future generations. It is easy to forget what is real when you move around the fancy halls and dinners of the diplomatic world (as we will do), but it is the people of the nations the UN and EU are affecting and ultimately trying to serve, with each nation state looking first and foremost to their own peoples and sovereignty.

On a last note, the quality of the debate and committee work you will conduct is entirely up to you, we have to the best of our abilities, attempted to give you the best possible prerequisites but it is up to you to use the tools we have provided you with. We advise you to read this document and the "RoP Guide" thoroughly and that you'll send us questions to the webinar with the chairs on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January.

Having that said I'd like to wish you the best of luck in your preparations and look forward to meeting you at the conference.

Juan C . F. Mauritz  
Scenario Director



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## 1. Delegate Letter

Distinguished delegate,

The goal of this guide, and the conference sessions, will be to challenge your understanding of the concept of sustainable development from an environmental perspective and to develop your ability to cooperate and find viable solutions in a global context. This guide strives to be a basis for the sessions that will circulate about deforestation, desertification and agriculture.

Before the sessions begin, it is expected that the delegates will have read chapter 11, 12 and 14 of Agenda 21. These are the chapters of main importance for the three topics of the committee. Furthermore, a requirement for the sessions will be that the delegates have a grasp of the content of *SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*, *SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss* and *SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development*.

To make the debates and discussions fruitful, the delegates should study the REDD+ mechanism, more specifically the concept and the involved agents of which the mechanism is composed. The REDD+ mechanism has a web page that allows for an in-depth understanding of the mechanism in relation to deforestation. For the discussions on desertification and drought, the delegates shall study the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification with an emphasis on understanding the 10-Year Strategic Plan. For the discussions on agriculture, the delegates are to read the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, scrutinizing the document for parts that touch upon sustainable agriculture, rural development and sustainable consumption and production, and read about the concept of SARD.

The delegates are expected to study the information sources listed above in relation to the “critical points of discussion” presented in the Scenario Guide and make contributions to the debates and the upcoming writing of a resolution based on the policies of the country that the delegates are representing. If the delegates have done the necessary reading, they will be able to take an active role in the committee sessions. Please note that it is of paramount importance to be aware of the policies of the country that is to be represented.

With knowledge of Agenda 21, the SDGs, the REDD+ mechanism, the UNCCD, the UNFCCC, SARD and country policies, the delegates are fully prepared for the UNEA sessions.

Sincerely,

Gustaf Andersson  
*Scenario Officer, UNEA of UMUN 2016*

Lisa Plattner  
*President, UNEA of UMUN 2016*

Thomas Hughes  
*Vice-President, UNEA of UMUN 2016*

## 2. Position Paper and Opening Statement

### 2.1 The Position Paper

All delegates will be required to submit a position paper on 17<sup>th</sup> January by 23:59.

The position paper should be sent to the President in PDF format, using font size 11 of Times New Roman, double-spaced. It does not need to be longer than 2 pages. Quality is better than quantity. There is no need to put anything fancy such as a country logo on it, just a simple name of the country and the name of the delegate.

The aim of the position paper is to showcase what your country would like to focus on in the coming debates. It should raise possible ideas and call for concrete actions of which one would like to discuss. As a general guideline, we recommend delegates to split their content into specific paragraphs as follows (note this is only a recommendation):

Paragraph 1: Issue and Position: Use this to clearly outline the main problems associated with the topics to be discussed in committee. Use this as a means to provide basic foundation to the current situation with regards to the topics in your country. After describing, you may wish to give your country's policy regarding the issue, and state specifically why your country supports that policy.

Paragraph 2: Background information in Greater Detail: This paragraph is an opportunity for you to show the depth of your knowledge about the past and current situations regarding the topics. This may include, the historical origin of the problems, how do these issues in your country relate to the international community, previous actions taken to try and solve these problems and whether they have or have not been successful, along with highlighting the problems that continue to exist and the ones that still need to be addressed.

Paragraph 3: Proposing Solutions on the Issues: After identifying the problems, this is an opportunity to list your proposed solutions that you have for as many of the issues that you believe need to be addressed, and that are to be discussed. This may include specific proposals regarding how to solve specific issues, how these solutions or proposals will be implemented, along with highlighting the global impact of solving the problem or as a result of implementing these solutions.

### 2.2 The Opening Statement

The opening statement will be delivered at the beginning of the first committee session. All countries are expected to arrive prepared with a short speech lasting no longer than 1 minute, noting that delegates will be cut-off by the President if they exceed this allotted time.

The content of the opening statement should be the same as produced for the position paper, albeit understandably in a more condensed form due to the time requirements. In order to be effective, we do highly recommend that speeches are well prepared. Every speech must also have an obvious beginning, eg. 'Mr President, honorable delegates'; this is in order to follow with formality.

The opening statement is the best opportunity for one to explain their country policy and the key sub-issues you would like the committee to focus on within the set topics. Opening Speeches are a main way for countries to determine whom they want to work with, thus again stressing the need to come well prepared.

## 2.3 Research and Preparation

Delegate preparation is paramount to the success of an engaging 2016 Uppsala Model United Nations Conference. This scenario guide intends to introduce the committee and the topics that will be deliberated for resolution. This guide is not intended to represent exhaustive research on every facet of the topics and we encourage and expect each delegate to fully explore the topics and be able to identify and analyse the intricacies of the issues presented for negotiation. Delegates must be prepared to utilise and apply their knowledge to their allocated country's policies. Some countries may have unique positions on the topics and will reflect these in the simulation.

Please utilise the bibliography and the footnotes for research, as well as the suggested source list underneath each topic. Chapter 8 provides recommended resources and databases for creating country profiles.

The position papers should clearly outline the country's policies on the topic areas to be discussed, what factors contribute to these policies and should articulate the policies you will espouse at the conference.

## 3. The Scenario of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP

### 3.1 Committee background and description

The consequences of climate change are already here. As drought and desertification spreads, the economy and stability of communities the most vulnerable are hit and give rise to social and political unrest, risking turning into bloody conflicts within and between countries. This in turn destabilises regions and creates uncertainty in security and economy on a global scale. Climate change in combination with deforestation and the erosion of soil will not only increase the exodus from areas the most affected but is also a threat to our planet's biodiversity.

The consequences have far-reaching and devastating impacts on development and human rights; it threatens the world peace and furthermore, puts our very existence in jeopardy. We have to learn from our mistakes and start cultivating a different mentality, both individually as well as structurally. Our culture has become the largest threat to ourselves and if we do not change our behaviour we will be lost. Climate change is here and unquestionable. The need to adapt and mitigate these changes has never been more crucial.

- It is the task of UNEA of UMUN 2016 to focus on discussing how desertification and deforestation can be reversed as well as how to adapt to these changes. A focus will lie on the cultivation of agriculture to not increase these effects.

### 3.2 Historic Milestones of UNEA: Becoming the Decision-Making Body of UNEP

- 1992: the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) is held in Rio. An important outcome of this conference is Agenda 21, an action agenda and a blueprint for commitments to promote sustainable development on a national, regional and global level.<sup>1</sup>
- 1992: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is negotiated. Implementation of this convention will become a crucial part of the work of UNEP

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<sup>1</sup> Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, 'Agenda 21', <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/outcomedocuments/agenda21> (accessed 9 December 2015).

where for example the analytical capacity of UNEP would be used to support the negotiation processes in the yearly Conference of the Parties to the Convention<sup>2</sup>.

- 1997: the Nairobi Declaration redefines and reinforces the mandates of UNEP “to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment”<sup>3</sup>.
- 2013: change of the governing body of UNEP from the Governing Council to the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA)<sup>4</sup> with the mandate to be the strategic decision-maker, political guide and promoter of an effective interface between science and policy-making of UNEP<sup>5</sup>.
- 2014: first UNEA session, on the elaboration and formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>6</sup>.
- 2015: the adoption of the 2030 Development Agenda *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, to secure the continued promotion of sustainable development after the 2015 deadline of the Millennium Goals<sup>7</sup>. The new agenda includes the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are “integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental”<sup>8</sup>.

The history of UNEP and UN show an increased focus on climate change and environmental issues and a shift from a traditional isolation of these themes to an approach where holism and international collaboration are the key words of the progress. New inputs have undoubtedly been given to UNEA before its second session in 2016 that will be centred about the implementation of the SDGs and the post-2015 development of the environmental dimension of the UN system<sup>9</sup>.

## 4. Committee Topics

### 4.1 Deforestation and Actions Towards a Sustainable Forest Management

#### 4.1.1 Introduction

About 31 % of the land area of Earth is covered with forests. However, this percentage is under change as approximately 46-58 thousand square miles of forest are lost every year. This equals to a rate of decrease by 48 football fields every minute.<sup>10</sup> Human interactions in the form of farming and agriculture are the dominant causes of deforestation<sup>11</sup>. The share of these and the shares of other factors are presented in Figure 1.

<sup>2</sup> The United Nations Environment Programme, *UNEP and Partners: United to Combat Climate Change*, The United Nations Environment Programme – Headquarters, Nairobi, 2008, p. 9.

<sup>3</sup> The United Nations, '[Decision 19/1]. Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme', A/52/25, *Report of the Governing Council on the Work of its Nineteenth Session*, New York, 1997, p. 29.

<sup>4</sup> The United Nations, 'Change of the designation of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme', A/67/784, *Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its Twelfth Special Session*, 2013, p. 2.

<sup>5</sup> The United Nations Environment Programme, 'About UNEA', <http://www.unep.org/unea/about.asp> (accessed 20 December).

<sup>6</sup> Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, 'United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) – UNEP', <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdinaction/unea> (accessed 20 December 2015).

<sup>7</sup> Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, 'Processes & UN System', <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/intergovernmental> (accessed 20 December).

<sup>8</sup> The United Nations, 'Declaration – Introduction', A/RES/70/1, *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2015, point 5.

<sup>9</sup> The United Nations Environment Programme, 'Path Towards UNEA 2', <http://www.unep.org/civil-society/civil-society/PathtowardsUNEA2/tabid/1060485/Default.aspx> (accessed December 2015).

<sup>10</sup> The World Wide Fund for Nature, 'Deforestation', <http://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/deforestation> (accessed 20 December).

<sup>11</sup> The United Framework Convention on Climate Change, *Investment and Financial Flows to Address Climate Change*, UNFCCC, 2007, p. 81.



Main direct drivers	Rate of deforestation/degradation (%)
<b>Commercial agriculture</b>	
Commercial crops	20
Cattle ranching	12
<b>Subsistence farming</b>	
Small scale agriculture	42
Fuel-wood and NTFP gathering	6
<b>Wood extraction</b>	
Commercial (legal & illegal)	14
Fuel-wood/charcoal (traded)	5
<b>Total</b>	100 (99 due to rounded numbers)

Figure 1: Main direct drivers of deforestation, based on data by the UNFCCC. Source: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, *Investment and Financial Flows to Address Climate Change*, UNFCCC, 2007, p. 81.

- A part from the critical role as carbon sinks, oxygen providers and land stabilizers, forests also serve as a source of income for around 1.6 billion people through paid employment in the forestry sector.<sup>12</sup>

#### 4.1.2 Deforestation in Agenda 21 and the SDGs

Chapter 11 of Agenda 21

- presents the issue of and means to reverse deforestation, first of all stating that “There are major weaknesses in the policies, methods and mechanisms adopted to support and develop the multiple ecological, economic, social and cultural roles of trees, forests and forest lands”.
- stresses the importance of the participation of both the public and the private sector to secure funding for afforestation and reforestation.
- Underscores the development of anti-deforestation policies and regular provision of data for evaluation and to prevent mismanaged agricultural expansion, inadequate control of forest-fires, unsustainable commercial logging and poaching.<sup>13</sup>

The views of Agenda 21 can be found in an updated form in SDG 15. SDG 15 and its targets that concern forests state that, by 2020, it will

- be ensured that forests and biodiversity are conserved and that there is protection for species threatened by extinction.
- “Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems” and supporting developing countries with financial resources to facilitate sustainable forest management.<sup>14</sup>

#### 4.1.3 The REDD+ Mechanism

- *the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD+)*  
REDD+ is a mechanism within the UNFCCC negotiations (and supported by UNEP). It has the aim to be an “effort to create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development”<sup>15</sup>. In short, the mechanism provides financial resources for developing countries that successfully are moving towards a more sustainable forest management.
- *Results-Based Finance*  
If a developing country successfully meets the demands of REDD+, the country will be given a *results-based finance* reward. The mechanism provides financial resources for developing countries successfully moving towards a more sustainable forest management.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Food and Agriculture Organisation, *Forests and Climate Change - Working with Countries to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change through Sustainable Forest Management*, FAO, 2012, p. 3.

<sup>13</sup> The United Nations, ‘Section II. Conservation and Management of Resources for Development - 11. Combating deforestation’, *The United Nations Conference on Environment & Development – Agenda 21*, 1992, §11.1-11.40.

<sup>14</sup> Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, ‘Goal 15’, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg15> (accessed 20 December 2015).

<sup>15</sup> UN-REDD Programme, ‘About REDD+’, <http://www.un-redd.org/aboutredd> (accessed 20 December).

<sup>16</sup> UN-REDD Programme, ‘Warsaw Framework for REDD+’, <http://redd.unfccc.int/fact-sheets/warsaw-framework-for-redd.html> (accessed 20 December 2015).



#### 4.1.4 Critical Points of Discussion

- Should the mechanism be national or international?
- What is defined as an eligible activity for the REDD+ finance awards?
- What channel(s) should be used to gather and distribute the finance?
- How should the results-based finance be distributed in a fair manner amongst the potential receivers of the financial resources?
- What is the exact definition of a forest and forest degradation?
- How can the mechanism secure that forest, local and other communities participate in the elaboration of the REDD+ programmes?
- Should the mechanism include the concept of carbon markets and emissions trading schemes?

What are the measures needed to be adopted to enhance the conservation and preservation of forests and forest biodiversity, reinforce afforestation and reforestation, improve the REDD+ mechanism and strengthen the international framework in sharing financial resources and expertise?

## 4.2 Consequences of Climate Change – Addressing the Challenges of Desertification and Drought

### 4.2.1 Introduction

- *Definition of desertification in the UNCCD*  
Desertification is defined in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) as “not the natural expansion of existing deserts but the degradation of land in arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas. It is a gradual process of soil productivity loss and the thinning out of the vegetative cover because of human activities and climatic variations such as prolonged droughts and floods”<sup>17</sup>.
- As deserts expand and aridity magnifies, around 50 million people may be displaced, becoming climate refugees, within the next 10 years. The rate of land degradation has reportedly increased at between 30 - 35 times the rate from historical events of displacement.<sup>18</sup>
- Combating desertification is about both adaption to climate change and halting human actions that contribute to land degradation. The drivers, consequences and possible approaches to lessen the impact of human land-degrading actions are presented in Figure 2.

### 4.2.2 Desertification and Drought in Agenda 21 and the SDGs

#### Chapter 12 of Agenda 21

- expresses concern over the inadequate global knowledge of desertification and states that “The capacity of existing international, regional and national institutions, particularly in developing countries, to generate and exchange relevant information is limited”.
- describes the importance of a functional system for measurement, reporting and verification of actions to combat desertification and to encourage transnational exchange of technology and knowledge related to land degradation mitigation.
- makes a connection between land degradation and poverty, implying that poverty leads to restrictions in possible actions and knowledge that in turn leads to a defective land use.
- suggests preventative measures to halt the desertification such as reforestation, watershed protection, the establishment of drought-relief schemes and early-warning systems for

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<sup>17</sup> The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, ‘Key Topics’, <http://www.unccd.int/en/resources/Library/Pages/FAQ.aspx> (accessed 21 December 2015).

<sup>18</sup> A. Kirby and K. Landmark, *Desertification – A Visual Synthesis*, Bonn, UNCCD Secretariat, 2011, p. 13.

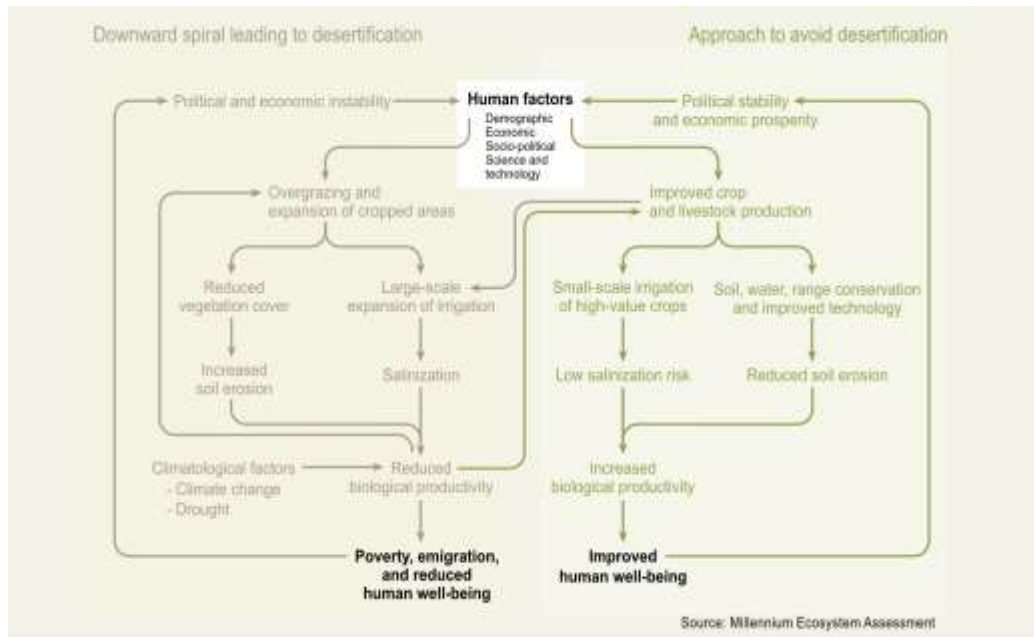


Figure 2: Drivers and consequences of desertification and how to tackle them. Source: Z. Adeel, et al., *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*, Washington, DC., World Resources Institute, 2005, p. 4.

drought, the development of alternative sustainable energy sources, the improvement of land-use policies, the establishment of mechanisms to ensure the active participation of land users in anti-deforestation activities and the creation and strengthening of rural community associations that are in charge of a sustainable land resource management.<sup>19</sup>

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Reflections of the ideas of Agenda 21 as regards measures and goals to combat desertification and drought can be found in SDG 15. SDG 15 has set the goal to, by 2030,

- restore degraded land with the ambition to achieve a world with zero land degradation.<sup>20</sup>

#### 4.2.3 The UNCCD

##### *The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*

- Through a bottom-up approach, the 196 Parties to the Convention collaborates with the common goal to mitigate the effects of desertification, land degradation and drought.<sup>21</sup> The aim of UNCCD is to “to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas”<sup>22</sup>.

##### *Distinction in UNCCD: Developed and Developing Country Parties*

- A distinction is made in UNCCD between affected and developed country Parties, equal to the division in the UNFCCC of developing and developed, where different obligations are required from the parties depending on the party’s degree of development<sup>23</sup>.

##### *National Action Plans (NAPs)*

<sup>19</sup> The United Nations, ‘Section II. Conservation and Management of Resources for Development - 12. Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Combating Desertification and Drought’, *The United Nations Conference on Environment & Development – Agenda 21*, 1992, §12.1-12.63.

<sup>20</sup> Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, ‘Goal 15’, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg15> (accessed 21 December 2015).

<sup>21</sup> The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, ‘About the Convention’, <http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/Pages/About-the-Convention.aspx> (accessed 22 December).

<sup>22</sup> The United Nations, ‘Article 2 – Objective’, A/AC.241/27, *Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa – Final text of the Convention*, 1994, p. 6.

<sup>23</sup> Op. cit. p. 8.

- In order to implement UNCCD, parties are urged to establish National Action Programmes (NAPs) where actions are to be presented on a national and local level to decrease land degradation with regards to specific capabilities and development of each party and specific national ecosystems<sup>24</sup>.

#### *The 10-Year Strategic Plan*

- To strengthen UNCCD, a plan was made containing a vision for a 10-year period (2008-2018) on how to implement the convention. The strategic plan strives for an optimal deployment of actions, which had not been the case before due to “insufficient financing ... a weak scientific basis, insufficient advocacy and awareness among various constituencies, institutional weaknesses and difficulties in reaching consensus among Parties”<sup>25</sup>.

#### *The Global Mechanism*

- Financing and technology transfer was delegated to the established Global Mechanism with the responsibility to improve existing financial mechanisms, channel financial resources within the convention and find and fund new adequate and predictable financial resources to make certain that the implementation of the strategic plan is financially possible.<sup>26</sup>

### 4.2.4 Critical Points of Discussion

- What shall be the criteria and baselines for the NAPs?
- How can technology and knowledge transfer be secured on a regular basis?
- How can financial mechanisms be designed to ensure fair finance and secured funding?
- What are the clear obligations of the country Parties in the implementation of the convention?
- How should poverty be eradicated and how should the relation between poverty eradication, desertification and land degradation be defined? How shall the parties to the convention set up a mechanism, network or framework to secure aid in relation to climate migration?

How can we achieve an international framework that promotes land degradation neutrality, transnational exchange of technological and financial resources, support of present and future climate refugees and the sustainable development of areas affected by desertification and drought?

## 4.3 Transition to Sustainable Agriculture and Development of Rural Areas

### 4.3.1 Introduction

- About one third of the global population is directly or indirectly employed in the agricultural sector with the majority living in rural areas.<sup>27</sup>
- An increase in food demand from population growth has put agriculture under stress. The world food production of edible and nutritive crops has increased by 23 % during the latest decade<sup>28</sup>. So far, it seems like the agricultural sector is adapting to the increase in demand. For instance, the share of the population that can be perceived as undernourished has decreased over time and a negative trend can be traced from data on undernourishment. Figure 3 shows the development of the level of undernourishment in the world.

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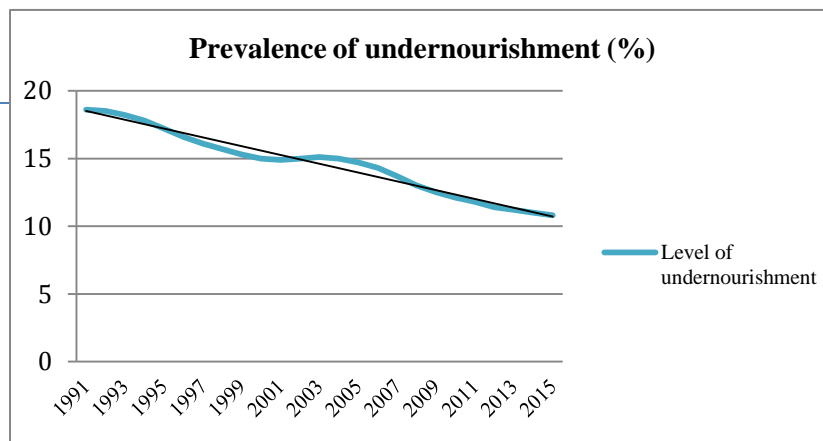
<sup>24</sup> Op. cit. p. 10.

<sup>25</sup> The United Nations, ‘The 10-year Strategic Plan and Framework to Enhance the Implementation of the Convention’, Decision 3/COP.8, Ten-year Strategic Plan and Framework to Enhance the Implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), 2007, p. 8 – 21.

<sup>26</sup> The United Nations, ‘The 10-year Strategic Plan and Framework to Enhance the Implementation of the Convention’, Decision 3/COP.8, Ten-year Strategic Plan and Framework to Enhance the Implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), 2007, p. 8 – 21.

<sup>27</sup> The United Nations Environment Programme, *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication – A Synthesis for Policy Makers*, The United Nations, 2011, p. 49.

<sup>28</sup> The World Bank, ‘Data – Agriculture and Rural Development’, <http://data.worldbank.org/topic/agriculture-and-rural-development> (accessed 22 December 2015). Base year in use is year 2005.



**Figure 3: the prevalence and development of world undernourishment. Trend calculated on a 3-year average. Data source: Food and Agriculture Organisation, Statistics Division.**

However, the absolute value of undernourished has increased from 788 to approximately 925 millions and forecasts calculate that the food production needs to increase by 69 % in food calories to feed the predicted population size of year 2050<sup>29</sup>.

#### 4.3.2 Agriculture and Rural Development in Agenda 21 and the SDGs

##### Chapter 14 of Agenda 21

- mentions changes in agricultural, environmental and macroeconomic policies as necessary to secure a sustainable development.
- Takes note of the uncertainty of agriculture to be able to sustain the future life of a growing population.
- Underlines the potential for reform in the agrarian and agricultural sector, methods to increase participation in rural areas, income diversification, anti-land degradation measures and methods to improve resource management.<sup>30</sup>
- clarifies that “The absence of a coherent national policy framework for sustainable agriculture and rural development is widespread and is not limited to the developing countries”.
- declares an elaboration of a framework for implementing the concept of sustainable development in agriculture and rural areas as noteworthy.
- stresses the importance of economic factors such as foreign trade, subsidies to agricultural practices, taxes as well as the revision of policies to encourage the transfer of farm technologies, the development of food markets and the exchange of information to further clarify the relation between agriculture and the state of the environment.<sup>31</sup>
- underlines the interconnectedness of agriculture, desertification and drought (two components of the concept of land degradation).
- makes a reference to the need of larger energy supplies and more powerful sources of energy for rural communities to ensure a stable growth of production output.<sup>32</sup>

The ambitions of Agenda 21 may be found in SDG 2. This SDG states as a goal to, by 2030,

- have eradicated malnutrition and double agricultural productivity, improve food production systems and resilience, decrease and prevent the presence of trade restrictions, limit the volatility of food commodity prices through stabilizing international food markets and increase technology development.
- ensure the increased incomes and inclusion of small-scale food producers, in specific women, indigenous peoples and local communities, in rural development and the transition to sustainable agriculture.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>29</sup> N. Alexandratos & J. Bruinsma, *World Agriculture Towards 2030/2050: the 2012 Revision*, Rome, 2012. The necessary increase is based on 2005 production levels.

<sup>30</sup> The United Nations, ‘Section II. Conservation and Management of Resources for Development - 14. Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development’, *The United Nations Conference on Environment & Development – Agenda 21*, 1992, §14.1-14.104.

<sup>31</sup> Op. cit. §14.4-14.15.

<sup>32</sup> Op. cit. §14.51-14.100

### 4.3.3 The UNFCCC and SARD

#### *The United Nations framework to Combat Climate Change (UNFCCC)*

- The overall aim of the convention, at latest modified during the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties in Paris (COP21), is to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre- industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre- industrial levels”<sup>34</sup> and to ensure the “stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system”<sup>35</sup>.

#### *Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)*

- The 2015 conference determined the post-2015 process and created a new climate agreement through which a bottom-up approach was established where parties submit Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), describing each party’s future planned commitments to the convention<sup>36</sup>.

#### *Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD)*

- SARD is an acronym found in Agenda 21 that comprise changes in agricultural, environmental and macroeconomic policies as necessary to secure a sustainable development. Some main SARD instruments are in other words reform in the agrarian and agricultural sector, methods to increase participation in rural areas, income diversification, anti-land degradation measures and methods to improve resource management.<sup>37</sup>

### 4.3.4 Critical Points of Discussion

- Should agriculture become a permanent perspective in the parties’ INDCs?
- What actions can secure continuity and adequacy in the parties’ commitments on SARD?
- Should a mechanism be established that force parties to include actions that promote sustainable development in their INDCs?
- Is there a conflict between the post-2015 bottom-up approach and SARD?
- How can the issue of foreign trade and trade restrictions be addressed in relation to SARD?
- Should agriculture subsidies and taxes be kept or changed?
- Should a mechanism be established for the transfer of technology and knowledge between parties?
- What should be the obligations for developed and developing country parties when it comes to SARD?
- How can food waste and loss be incorporated into the legal framework?
- How can the issue of the (over-) use of chemicals in agricultural practices be addressed?
- How can the support of rural development and energy transition in rural areas be strengthened?
- How can the inclusion of local and indigenous communities be strengthened in the legal framework and actions?
- Should a financial mechanism be elaborated that secures resources for mitigation and agricultural adaption to climate change? What should be the criteria for being eligible to receive funding or aid?
- how can the needed actions to ensure food security in the present and future tense be concretized?

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<sup>33</sup> Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, ‘Food Security and Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture’, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/foodagriculture> (accessed 23 December 2015).

<sup>34</sup> The United Nations, ‘Adoption of the Paris Agreement’, FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1, *Conference of the Parties Twenty-first Session*, 2015, p. 2.

<sup>35</sup> Op. cit. p. 9.

<sup>36</sup> World Resources Institute, ‘What is an INDC?’, <http://www.wri.org/indc-definition> (accessed 23 December 2015).

<sup>37</sup> The United Nations, ‘Section II. Conservation and Management of Resources for Development - 14. Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development’, *The United Nations Conference on Environment & Development – Agenda 21*, 1992, §14.1-14.104.

How can we ensure maintained agricultural productivity, ecosystem resilience, international collaboration in rural development and a sustainable food production system?

#### 4.4 Sources/databases to read

##### *The REDD+ mechanism*

- This page allows for an in-depth understanding of the mechanism in relation to deforestation.  
Link: <http://redd.unfccc.int>

##### *The UNCCD*

- On this page you can find the text of the convention and discover more about desertification, land degradation and drought. Link: <http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/Pages/About-the-Convention.aspx>

##### *The 10-Year Strategic Plan*

- The document provides information about the plan, the NAPs and the Global Mechanism.  
Link: <http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/10YearStrategy/Decision%20COP8%20adoption%20of%20The%20Strategy.pdf>

##### *The Global Mechanism*

- This website explains the work of the Global mechanism within UNCCD. Link: <http://www.global-mechanism.org/content/about-us>

##### *The UNFCCC*

- This is a platform for information about the UNFCCC process.  
Link: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

##### *Agenda 21*

- Recommended reading: chapter 11, 12 & 14.  
Link: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>

## 5. The Rules of Procedure and Resolutions

### 5.1 Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly during UMUN 2016

The rules that will be used during the conference of UMUN 2016 are adapted from the genuine rules used by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEA). However, some adaptation has been made to facilitate an efficient conference. Finally, it should be mentioned that the implementation of the rules follows the spirit of consensus that is the foundation of the United Nations.

The Rules of Procedure may be found in the delegate portfolio. You will also find the original Rules of Procedure that we have modified. Note that you are not required to read the original version from the United Nations as we will only be dealing with the rules that have been modified for our needs.

### 5.2 Resolutions

During the conference sessions, discussions and debates will be held that will conduct toward the writing of and the agreement on a resolution. The resolution is the outcome document of the discussions that, in the end, will contain all agreed solutions to the topic in question. Any delegate or a group of delegates in the committee can write a resolution but it needs a majority to be passed.

It is important to follow the specific formalities of a resolution. Otherwise, it must be revised until it can be perceived as formally adequate. The resolution will first be presented as a draft resolution.



After a presentation of the content, the resolution can be subject to change as other delegates or groups wish to modify or extend certain parts of the text. These types of changes are called amendments. The content of the resolution may be debated.

After the addition of potential amendments and debates, a voting procedure will take place where the resolution is either passed or dismissed. More than one resolution may be adopted as long as the resolutions do not contradict each other.

The resolution is to be built upon teamwork and the highest degree of consensus; it will show the reflections and proposed solutions of the conference and be a document that is representative of the committee in general.

In order to prepare for the resolution writing, delegates are encouraged to study the sample resolution included in the delegate package. This is a resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The resolution that will be created during the UNEA sessions at UMUN 2016 shall follow the format of the resolutions of the General Assembly. UNEA is a new committee and it has only had one meeting before in the form of a constitutive premier session. As the outcome document of this first and so far only session of UNEA does not correspond to the resolution formats that are frequent in the United Nations, a decision has been made to base the resolution writing on the rules applied in the General Assembly.

Further information on resolutions can be found in the Guide.

## 6. List of Committee Countries for UNEA of UMUN 2016

- **African Group**  
Democratic Republic of the Kongo, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, South Africa
- **Asia-Pacific Group**  
Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam
- **Eastern European Group**  
Poland, Russian Federation
- **Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)**  
Brazil, Haiti, Peru
- **Western European and Others Group (WEOG)**  
Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, The United States of America (Observer)

## 7. Country Profile Sources and Databases

In order to assimilate an in-depth comprehension of a country's profile and policies, a suggestion is to first and foremost study the position papers from each delegate team and take notes during the opening statements.

- The United Nations has created a webpage that compiles the government websites for each country in the UN. This page can constitute a facilitating role in the country research before and during the conference. Link to the page: <http://www.un.org/en/members/>.
- The United Nations Database. This database gives links to UN Treaties and official document system. Link to the database: <http://www.un.org/en/databases/>

The following pages might be of interest for the preparation:

- World Resources Institute (WRI), “produces maps, charts, data sets, infographics, and other visual resources as part of our commitment to turn information into action”. WRI produces data in areas such as forests, land and food/agriculture. Link to the maps & data: <http://www.wri.org/resources>
- The World Bank Group, “Working for a World Free of Poverty”. Provides data and indicators on (amongst other areas) agriculture, rural development, climate change, aid and poverty. The data pages also include country data that can be used in the research into country positions. Link to the data pages: <http://data.worldbank.org>
- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations Statistics Division (FAOSTAT), “For a World without Hunger”. FAOSTAT produces statistics regarding agriculture, land use and forestry. A special function that is available to use is the “Analysis” tool where one can conduct correlation calculations and produce correlation matrices for a specific country. Link to the website: <http://faostat3.fao.org/home/E>

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