



THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECOND COMMITTEE

ECONOMIC & FINANCIAL

PURVIEW OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECOND COMMITTEE

The Second Committee makes recommendations on means to improve the economic development of Member States and maintain the stability of international financial and trade networks. The economic issues considered by the Second Committee are distinguished from those considered by the Fifth Committee in that this Committee deals solely with financing the economic assistance to Member States, whereas the Fifth Committee addresses the budgetary issues within the United Nations System. The Second Committee does not address social issues that affect development; such issues are considered by the Third Committee. For more information concerning the purview of the United Nations General Assembly as a whole, see page 25.

Website: www.un.org/ga/second/index.shtml

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

In the past fifty years, industrial development cooperation has expanded greatly because of globalization and the shift away from rural societies into urban living. In the same vein, a move toward industrial development has shifted countries closer to achieving “developed” status and spurred the creation of jobs and economic growth. This growth, strengthening the economy and the State’s viable credit amongst other States, is important for development. As many States classified as developing may not individually possess what they need to shift toward industrial development, cooperation becomes important. Aid in the form of information sharing, development and assistance is key to this, creating equity among States to continue the developmental process. As the latest wave of industrialization slows down, there is a need to find new and innovative means to bring the developing States into the ranks of developed States.

Development has come to be understood in three main facets: long-term sustained industrialization, social inclusiveness and the equal distribution of opportunities, and environmental sustainability. Sustained industrialization stems from the development of infrastructure within a State, such as roads and public transportation, water systems, as well as energy and information technologies. Many developing countries still lack basic infrastructure. According to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) report, over 2.5 billion people still lack access to reliable, around-the-clock electricity and basic sanitation. Adopted on 26 September 2015, some of the SDGs do pertain directly to industrial cooperation and development: SDG 9 aims to “build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.” Additionally, by advancing the developing States, developed States can achieve a more environmentally sustainable use of technology to generate new markets for goods and services.

In 1966, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 2152, creating the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as an autonomous body. In 1975, it was converted into a specialized agency, operating as a forum for cooperation to share technology, information and other resources between States. Currently, UNIDO has 171 members. UNIDO

negotiations are often contributed to by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to create shared prosperity.

The Lima Declaration: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development, was adopted at the fifteenth session of the General Conference of UNIDO, was held in Lima from 2 to 6 December 2013. The Lima Declaration encourages the integration of all three areas of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) into UNIDO’s work. Additionally, the Declaration recognizes the basis for this industrial development as being foreign direct investment, transfer of knowledge and technology, appropriate financial mechanisms, and on mutually agreed terms. Emphasis is placed on UNIDO’s position as a unique global facilitator of advice regarding sustainable industrial development and these development services should be provided according to differentiated needs of Member States, especially to least developed countries but also considering countries at other stages of industrial development.

The concept of inclusive and sustainable industrial development was introduced in the General Assembly’s 2 August 2012 report on industrial development cooperation (67/223) as the primary mandate of UNIDO for the post-2015 development agenda. It determined that “challenges should be addressed through international industrial cooperation, including growth and jobs; resource efficiency, energy poverty and climate change; shifting demographics; knowledge creation and transfer; and growing inequalities.” In 2014, the General Assembly’s resolution on industrial development cooperation recognized the importance of recent and future moves towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development strategies. Both of these, among other reports and resolutions, have shaped debate on this topic by focusing on the inclusivity between States and the future of sustainable actions.

Because of the lingering effects of the global financial and economic crisis and the continued effects of frequent natural disasters, there has been a renewed focus on the importance of the relationship between economic growth, environmental safeguards and inclusive development. This has helped the international community grow toward recognition of industrialization as the core of sustainable development for eradicating poverty post-2015. There are benefits for individual developing countries to take responsibility and finance their own industrial development to achieve a positive long-term future impact within their country and region, and this responsibility should be encouraged.

Within industrial development, international and regional effort should be made towards inclusiveness, particularly between genders and cultural or ethnic groups. Working toward these goals, the international community, as well as the private sector, must collaborate to enable sustainable industrial development. There should be more importance placed on corporate sustainability, especially for publicly listed or large companies, to integrate sustainability information into their reports, and industry regulators and governments should facilitate and integrate this sustainability reporting. Member States should play their part by considering adoption of goals toward inclusive and sustainable industrialization, considering the post-2015 development agenda.



The unique role of UNIDO must be used to promote dialogue between stakeholders at the local, regional and international level to encourage progress towards these goals, especially in least developed countries, as well as other developing countries through environmentally-sound and sustainable agro-industry and agribusiness. UNIDO should continue working toward effectiveness in improving the quality of services provided to developing countries by using its four capacities: technological cooperation, research and analysis, normative assistance, and global forum activities. As UNIDO adopts more policies, moving forward these should be reviewed to ensure alignment with UN frameworks, as well as responsiveness to new developmental challenges. Additionally, as many States continue to view UNIDO as politicized and ineffective, its Members must work together to overcome these perceptions and change the culture of the organization to encourage larger and more effective participation.

Finally, industrial development cooperation is not without a larger controversy, particularly around who owns the means of production. Foreign direct investment is often a positive means of spurring industrial development, but frequently it removes ownership from the citizens of a Member State. With the onus of development taken off those individuals, and with industrialized countries generally wanting to be able to invest wherever they like, a lingering form of dependence can occur, creating a State that has some industrial development but it has taken the shape of what its funder has in mind. While some developing States do not mind this, just as many do; carefully navigating this line will be of utmost importance moving forward on this issue.

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

- How will industrial development cooperation change as it is shaped by the Sustainable Development Goals? Are there other Sustainable Development Goals that could be incorporated?
- Which other agencies or organs of the United Nations touch on this issue in a similar way? How can that work be used toward creating industrial development cooperation?
- What is the responsibility of developed countries to help those still developing implement this particular topic or Sustainable Development Goal?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bredel, Ralf (2003). *Long-term Conflict Prevention and Industrial Development: The United Nations and its Specialized Agency, UNIDO*. Brill Academic Publishers, Inc. 15 July.
- Deichmann, Uwe and Somik V. Lall, Stephen J. Redding, and Anthony J. Venables (2008). *Industrial Location in Developing Countries*. Oxford Press. 27 May.
- OECD: Development Co-Operation Directorate.
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (2016). UNIDO and the SDGs.
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (2016). UNIDO in Brief.
- World Bank (1972). Industry: Sector Working Paper. April.

UN DOCUMENTS

- United Nations, General Assembly (2012). Industrial development cooperation. 2 August. A/67/223.

United Nations, General Assembly (2014). Industrial development cooperation. 20 August. A/69/331.

United Nations, General Assembly (2014). Eradication of poverty and other development issues - Report of the Second Committee. 25 November. A/69/472.

United Nations, General Assembly (2015). Industrial development cooperation. 15 January. A/RES/69/235.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (2013). Lima Declaration: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development. 6 December.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Natural resources and ecosystems play an enormous role in humankind's development: from crop production to natural disasters, the delicate balance of the Earth's resources has come to the forefront in the last few decades. In November 1988, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) convened the Ad Hoc Working Group on biological diversity; UNEP established the Ad Hoc Working Group of Technical and Legal Experts in May 1989 to begin outlining an international legal means of protecting the Earth and its resources. Eventually known as the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in February 1991, this group completed its work with the 22 May 1992 Nairobi Conference on the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Opened for signature in June 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Rio "Earth Summit"), the Earth Summit helped to bring together scientists from around the world to discuss climate change in unprecedented clarity. For one of the first times, people representing all different countries, backgrounds and specialties from around the world could discuss the impact of climate change on the environment and, in turn, the changing environment's impact on humanity. The Convention on Biological Diversity was signed by 168 United Nations Member States and entered into force in December 1993. It stresses the importance of protecting all natural resources, as they are not infinite. The Convention identifies and outlines three main objectives: conservation of biological diversity; sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. Additionally, the Convention provides a global legal framework for biodiversity and its protection. The Convention also creates a handful of bodies to continue work on this issue. The Conference of Parties (COP) meets every two years, or as needed, to review progress on the Convention's implementation and to provide guidance on biodiversity policy. The COP is complemented by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), made up of experts in relevant fields, as well as government and non-government representatives providing recommendations on implementation.

The Convention requires that all States Parties submit National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans to the COP. These identify key areas for implementing the Convention at the State level and how to integrate these into existing programs and activities that have a positive or negative affect on the environment. The COP has also established offshoot programs to address biomes individually and specifically; this is unique, as previous work has been specifically on the preservation or conservation of a specific animal or habitat.



Since its adoption in 1992, the Convention has added supplementary agreements: the 2000 Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2011 Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity. These seek to more clearly implement the Convention's goals. The Cartagena Protocol, outlining the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms, seeks to protect natural biological diversity; the Nagoya Protocol speaks to the sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, contributing to biodiversity through sustainable use and conservation.

Integrating not only United Nations agencies and organizations, the Nagoya Protocol also calls upon non-governmental organizations, and even regional economic partnerships, to help monitor and maintain the environmental protection agreements. While mostly centered in Europe and the Arctic, these agreements help to protect for future generations vital wildlife and floral native ranges.

Additionally, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets have extended specific Convention goals until 2020. Principal themes include maintenance of existing forests and ecosystems, prevention of human intrusion, intrusion by human factors into non-human and protected areas, and cooperating with existing regional and local stakeholders into protecting conservation lands. It is the overall goal of the Aichi Plan to work on the local level with those most at-risk and with those best poised to help implement and protect this plan of action.

While recognition for the protection of the environment continues to grow, there have been significant hurdles in reaching the goals set out in the original Convention on Biological Diversity. As States face other pressing issues such as war or instability, concern and funding for environmental protections fall to the wayside. Additionally, non-state actors frequently have little regard for the environment or sustainable practices: they are also not held to the legal ramifications outlined in the Convention, as they are not signatories. A sharp increase in consumer culture in many developed States creates a problem of what to do with and how to dispose of waste; as landfills reach capacity and man-made plastics take centuries to decompose, the question of next steps remains unanswered.

In the Convention and its addenda alone, challenges arise with regard to bureaucracy; some argue that the Nagoya Protocol in particular adds so many layers of legislation and red tape that its overall effect will be to hamper global response to infectious disease, conservation and biodiversity at large. Moving forward, the international community will need to place greater importance on biological diversity and sustainability. As ecosystems shrink and global temperatures increase, spurring natural disasters and famine, facing the challenge of conservation and sustainability is more pressing than ever.

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

- How should States balance the need to protect vital habitats with humanity's need for growth into new environments and its ever-growing need for resources?
- How can the international community assist States Parties in meeting their national biodiversity targets, through cooperation, information sharing or other means?

- How might the international community address the environmental impacts of non-State actors who are not bound by the Convention and Protocols?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Convention on Biological Diversity. [Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#).
 Convention on Biological Diversity. [History](#).
 Convention on Biological Diversity. [Status of Contributions](#).
 Cressey, Daniel (2014). [Biopiracy ban stirs red-tape fears](#). Nature. 20 September.
 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets. [National Implementation](#).
 Watanabe, Myrna E (2015). [The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing: International treaty poses challenges for biological collections](#). Oxford Journals. 2 June.

UN DOCUMENTS

- [Convention on Biological Diversity](#). (1992).
[Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#). (2000).
[Nagoya Protocol on Access To Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising From Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#). (2011).
 United Nations, General Assembly (2012). [Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development](#). 6 December. A/C.2/67/L.58.
 United Nations, General Assembly (2014). [Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development](#). 17 October. A/C.2/69/L.10.
 United Nations, General Assembly (2015). [Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development](#). 7 December. A/C.2/70/L.53.