

Kennesaw State University High School Model United Nations XXXI
Economic & Social Council Committee
March 10-11, 2017. Kennesaw, GA
Email: KSUHSMUN2017@gmail.com

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Thirty-First Annual Kennesaw State University High School Model United Nations conference. My name is *Alex Gunter*, and I am honored to serve as Director of the Economic & Social Council. This is my third year on staff as well my third year participating in Model United Nations. I am a senior here at Kennesaw State University and I am currently studying business management and will continue my undergraduate career by also obtaining a marketing degree and an entrepreneurship minor. I work part time at Atlanta Boiler and Mechanical. I enjoy running, hiking, and hanging out with friends. In the past, I have competed in the Southern Regional Model United Nations Atlanta conference three times and I look forward to more opportunities within Model United Nations here at Kennesaw State University.

I am thrilled to introduce my Assistant Director, *Chad Menear*, who is a senior here at Kennesaw State University majoring in Sociology with a concentration in Organizational and Social Change. He is currently searching for internships to make him a better researcher with hopes to make significant advancements to his field. With a passion for foreign affairs, Chad joined the Kennesaw State Model Union Nations this past fall. He is grateful to be involved with the High School Model United Nations program this year.

Also joining me at the dais are *Rachel Miller* as Chair and *Helen Smith* as Rapporteur. Rachel is a freshman at Kennesaw State University where she recently graduated from Kennesaw Mountain High School. She is currently majoring in biology with the intention of attending a physician's assistant program in the future. Rachel joined the Kennesaw State University Model United Nations team last fall with an interest of being involved on campus, as well as becoming more aware of contemporary political issues. Helen is a sophomore at Kennesaw State University majoring in political science and minoring in philosophy with the intention of attending law school. She intends on focusing on constitutional law and owning multiple dogs. Helen joined the Kennesaw State University Model United Nations team this past fall with an interest in public speaking and debating. Helen is a We The People Alumni and is excited to be participating in High School Model United Nations.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is a principal organ of the United Nations that has held one four-week session every July since 1998. As one of the six Main Committees of the General Assembly, ECOSOC maintains a body of fifty-four members. The committee provides a forum for the international community to come together and discuss issues such as international economic and social issues as well as for formulating policy recommendations to be addressed by Member States. ECOSOC also makes recommendations to the General Assembly Plenary and initiates conferences, assembles working groups, and prepares studies to advance the topics of its focus. The committee works closely with non-governmental organizations in order to achieve its goals.

The Economic & Social Council Committee will be considering the following pair of topics during the 2017 conference:

I. Improving Sanitation and Access to Clean Water

II. Promoting Sustainable Peace by Addressing the Root Causes of Conflict

Each Member State delegation within this committee is expected to submit a position paper which covers both of the agenda topics. Delegates are reminded that papers should be no longer than two pages in length. Citations should be in Chicago footnote format. Furthermore, plagiarism in an academic setting is unacceptable and will nullify any score for the paper in question. The objective of a position paper is to present the diplomatic position of your Member State on both agenda topics as closely as possible to how an actual diplomat would present the position of his or her native state. When researching for your position papers and preparing for this committee, we highly encourage you to carefully read this background guide and utilize the resources we have provided for you. The research guide contains documents, articles, and books that will benefit you not only for work in the Economic and Social Council during this conference, but also for your potential future studies.

If you should have any questions or concerns about the topics or the committee in general, please do not hesitate to email. I look forward to meeting you all in March!

Committee History and Prerogative:

"I believe that the development that my country experienced can happen anywhere in the world. The ECOSOC will support bringing economic and social development to regions where they are in need."

-Oh Joon, Seventy-first president of the Environmental and Social Council¹

Introduction

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) deals with economic, social, and cultural issues along with human rights and fundamental freedoms. ECOSOC is the United Nations' central platform for reflection, debate, and innovative thinking on sustainable development. ECOSOC is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, as established through articles seven and eight of chapter three of the UN Charter. It is the main body for policy dialogue, policy review, recommendation on economic, social, and environmental issues, along with application of international agreed upon goals.²

ECOSOC is home to over 25 commissions and committees dedicated to sustainable development, guidance and coordination, intergovernmental discussions of major global issues, and to real change in the world.³ The UN was established with five main tenants: establish peace and security, facilitate friendly relations among states, serve as a center for cooperation, reduce poverty, and secure human rights and freedoms. ECOSOC strives to adopt this model into the international community through its actions in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and nonprofit organizations.⁴

History

ECOSOC was established by the 1945 UN Charter; articles 61-72 discuss its mandate, functions, powers, and procedure. The charter was amended in both 1965 and 1974 to increase the number of members from 18 to 54.⁵ ECOSOC provides access for UN partnership and participation to the rest of the world. It offers an unique international meeting point for beneficial discussions among policymakers, academics, businesses, and over 3,200 registered NGOs.⁶ Since the mid-1990s, measures have been adopted to increase NGO participation in ECOSOC, conferences, and other UN activities. Since the early 21st century, ECOSOC has granted consultative status to more than 2,500 NGOs.⁷ Following the 2005 World Summit, ECOSOC begun holding Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) meetings and Development Cooperation Forums, as established by UN resolution A/RES/60/1. Following these meetings, ideas and recommendations are then presented by Ministerial Declaration, relaying the work of the committee and possible pathways for future discussions.⁸ Additionally, the 2005 World Summit reaffirmed the need for an effective multilateral system in order to achieve progress for peace and security, development and human rights, and to commit to strengthening the application of ECOSOC decisions and resolutions.

I. Improving Sanitation and Access to Clean Water

The issue of providing proper sanitation and clean water in developing nations is a constant struggle for Member States. Many Member States have direct access to large bodies of water and cleaning techniques which can be used for drinking and various other uses. Nevertheless, today, approximately 2.4 billion people lack access to proper

¹ Seung-ah, Lee, "Ambassador Oh Joon Becomes New ECOSOC President," *Korea.net*, July 27, 2015, <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/People/view?articleId=128921>, (accessed October 26, 2013).

² Charter of the United Nations, 1945, Art. 61-72.

³ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Subsidiary Bodies of ECOSOC.

⁴ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN at a glance.

⁵ "Economic and Social Council" *Britannica*. Web, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Economic-and-Social-Council>.

⁶ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, About Us.

⁷ "Economic and Social Council" *Britannica*. Web, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Economic-and-Social-Council>.

⁸ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, About Us.

sanitation and over 663 million people lack proper access to clean water.⁹ More than 800,000 children die every year from improper water sanitation and more deaths are caused by this issue than any other environmental crisis.¹⁰ For this reason, there are a countless number of organizations who continue to work with the United Nations in order to provide a better future for Member States who struggle to provide sanitation and access to clean water.

Improving sanitation and access to clean water within developing nations is imperative to the future economic and environmental advancement of these Member States. By addressing the topic of improving sanitation and access to clean water, we also address the prevention of the spread of diseases, the environmental impact of using sub par sanitation and water facilities, and the potential economic development in the future of these nations. Therefore, Member States must attempt to improve sanitation and access to clean water in order to become more developed.

History

Providing access to sanitation and clean water has been a long standing issue for the United Nations. In September 2000, the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were created¹¹ and providing access to clean water and proper sanitation was a significant aspect of the MDGs.¹² Acknowledging this goal, improving access to water and improving sanitation are of top priority within the United Nations. Since the year 2000, Member States have been debating in committee in order to create strong and decisive resolutions which focus on improving and obtaining the MDGs.

The MDGs have proven to be successful over the years. Most recently, the final MDGs report found that, overall, the effort was effective in reducing the effects of poverty throughout the globe.¹³ An example of this is the fact that the amount of people living in extreme poverty conditions has declined by about half since such resolutions were put into effect. The number of people living without access to improved water sources has also been reduced enough to reach the Millennium Development Goals in 2010. For example, access to piped drinking water has increased 82.6% since 1990.¹⁴ Also, between 2000 and 2014, overseas development assistance from rich nations to developing Member States has increased 66%.¹⁵ With this knowledge, the Economic and Social committee can frequently create and pass resolutions which encourage the improvement of sanitation and access to clean water.

The original deadline for the MDGs was 2015; however, they remain a large influence on today's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are based off of the successes of the MDGs. Of the SDGs, goal number six focuses directly on the importance of promoting clean water and sanitation. The new deadline for these goals to be met has been set for the year 2030.¹⁶ These goals, however, are meant to only act as a place marker as the Economic and Social Council focuses on not only reaching, but surpassing the SDGs within the coming decades.

⁹ "Water | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene | UNICEF." Unicef. April 5, 2016. Accessed October 21, 2016. http://www.unicef.org/wash/3942_4456.html.

¹⁰ Ibidem.

¹¹ "Millennium Development Goals." Undp.org. Accessed October 23, 2016. http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sdgoverview/mdg_goals.html.

¹² "UN Millennium Project | Goals, Targets & Indicators." Unmillenniumproject.org. Accessed October 23, 2016. <http://unmillenniumproject.org/goals/gti.htm>.

¹³ "Millennium Development Goals." Un.org. Accessed October 23, 2016. [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf).

¹⁴ "What Have the Millennium Development goals Achieved?" Guardian News and Media Limited. July 6, 2015. Accessed October 24, 2016. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/datablog/2015/jul/06/what-millennium-development-goals-achieved-mdgs>.

¹⁵ Ibidem.

¹⁶ "Sustainable Development Goals." Undp.org. Accessed October 25, 2016. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>.

Present Conditions and the Possibility of Reform

While there is still great room for improvement, access to clean water and proper sanitation has risen in recent decades. For example, 2.6 billion people have gained access to drinking water since 1990 and an additional 2.1 billion people have gained access to improved sanitation in the same period.¹⁷ This is indicative of the massive strides made by the MDGs; however, there are still many people who are greatly affected by a lack of water and sanitation. As of 2010, over 663 million people still live without proper access to water, and 159 million people use untreated water from lakes and rivers as their primary source of water.¹⁸

Using untreated water sources can be incredibly dangerous due to the possibilities of contamination from: industrial pollution, human fecal matter, and natural sources. There is a plethora of people who lack access to clean water living in rural areas.¹⁹ Unsafe drinking water affects many aspects of developing nations, including the overall health of the population, the functioning of the economy, and the overall environmental impact on natural resources found within the nation.

Sanitation is also a pressing issue for many developing nations. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), one in three people do not use improved sanitation, meaning that these people do not have access to the use of facilities that separate fecal matter from human contact as shown in Table 1.1.²⁰ Open defecation is also a major issue when discussing how to improve sanitation in many Member States. One in seven people practice open defecation, and a large number of these people live in rural areas.²¹ This can also provide a challenge for many local governments, much like providing access to clean water. Improving sanitation is crucial to prevent the potential spread of diseases in developing Member States. Sanitation can be improved by developing well managed communal facilities in high-density areas, improving hygiene awareness, and avoiding a one-size-fits-all style of implementation.

Several organizations have been working with the Economic and Social Council in order to work towards a solution to this topic. One example is UNICEF, which is a non-profit organization focusing on improving the conditions for children throughout the world. The keystone project of UNICEF is the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) program.²² The WASH program specifically focuses on improving the water, sanitation, and hygiene of those who are not able to improve it themselves. There are countless other programs that are run by NGOs which aim to improve sanitation and access to clean water. Some of the programs have specific niches; however, most of the programs surrounding improving sanitation and access to clean water are focused on everyone affected in order to reach the largest amount of people.

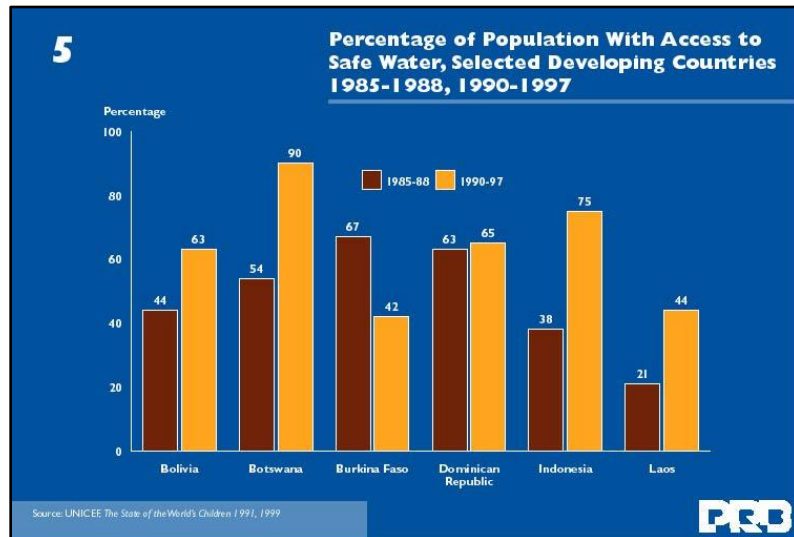


Table 1.1 - UNICEF The State of the World's Children 1991, 1999

¹⁷ "UN Economic and Social Council." Un.org. Accessed October 23, 2016. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/mdg7.shtml>.

¹⁸ "Water | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene | UNICEF." Unicef.org. Accessed October 25, 2016. http://www.unicef.org/wash/3942_4456.html.

¹⁹ "Facts about water and sanitation." water.org. Accessed October 25, 2016.

²⁰ "Water | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene | UNICEF." Unicef. April 5, 2016. Accessed October 21, 2016. http://www.unicef.org/wash/3942_4456.html.

²¹ Ibidem.

²² Ibidem.

The Role of the Economic and Social Council

ECOSOC was founded in order to advance environmental, social, and economic development. Creating sustainable development is an important goal for the council and has been for some time. ECOSOC has worked with several organizations in order to work towards the United Nations development goals that were set in place. ECOSOC is responsible for drafting and passing resolutions which can improve sanitation and access to clean water. Infrastructure is a large concern within the Economic and Social Council, especially for developing Member States. The council focuses on promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress.

Committee Directives

There are many challenges that are involved in creating a solution to this topic. Many developing Member States are severely affected in multiple ways by their lack of access to clean water and sanitation. What methods do delegates' Member States already employ or intend to enact? In order to increase the level of research and awareness towards providing solutions for this global issue, the committee would look favorably upon resolutions which contain or address the following:

- Ensuring universal access to safe and affordable drinking water by 2030.
- Providing improved sanitation in Member States suffering from problems relating to a lack of improved sanitation.
- How are the Sustainable Development Goals best used when discussing how to improve sanitation and access to clean water?
- In what ways can the UN body come together while using already established organizations in order to enact change?

II. Promoting Sustainable Peace by Addressing the Root Causes of Conflict

Conflicts may seem very diverse on the surface, but most conflicts stem from the same root causes: for example, many resistance groups feel that their rights are being infringed upon by a foreign or local governmental power. In addition, conflicts are sustained when access to resources are consistently limited for low funded Member States. For most modern day conflicts, the first cause is the most common, but in all instances, human rights violations are among the first signs of impending conflict within various geographic regions.²³

History

In the 1970s, Johan Galtung began an initiative called "Peacebuilding" which was designed to promote sustainable peace by addressing the root causes of conflict and supporting indigenous abilities for peace management and conflict resolution.²⁴ In 2007, the UN Secretary-General's Policy Committee agreed on the following basis for peacebuilding: "Peacebuilding involves a range of measures targeted to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management, and to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development."²⁵ Peacebuilding strategies must be coherent and tailored to the specific needs of the Member State in question. These strategies should therefore be based on national ownership, and should comprise a carefully prioritized, sequenced, and therefore relatively narrow set of activities aimed at achieving the above objectives.²⁶

²³ "Do Human Rights Violations Cause Internal Conflict?" Princeton. <https://www.princeton.edu/~othoms/files/HRQ2007.pdf>.

²⁴ "Peacebuilding and the United Nations". United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office.

²⁵ Ibidem.

²⁶ Ibidem.

Additionally, we must rid ourselves of the historically inaccurate and simplistic idea that poverty constitutes a threat to peace.²⁷ The most common root cause of conflict that impends upon international peace and security has historically risen from tensions stemming from more powerful and dominant industrialized nations.²⁸ Unilateral uses of force and militaristic tactics are more detrimental than the perception that poverty breeds instability. We are not insisting that poverty does not breed instability, rather that root causes of conflict often times stem from more detailed problems. For example, in Table 2.1, we notice the apparent problem is that children under five years old are malnourished. From there, we notice some of the symptoms of the perceived problem which translate into possible root causes. Finally, we can determine the actual root causes which are nothing like the apparent problem.

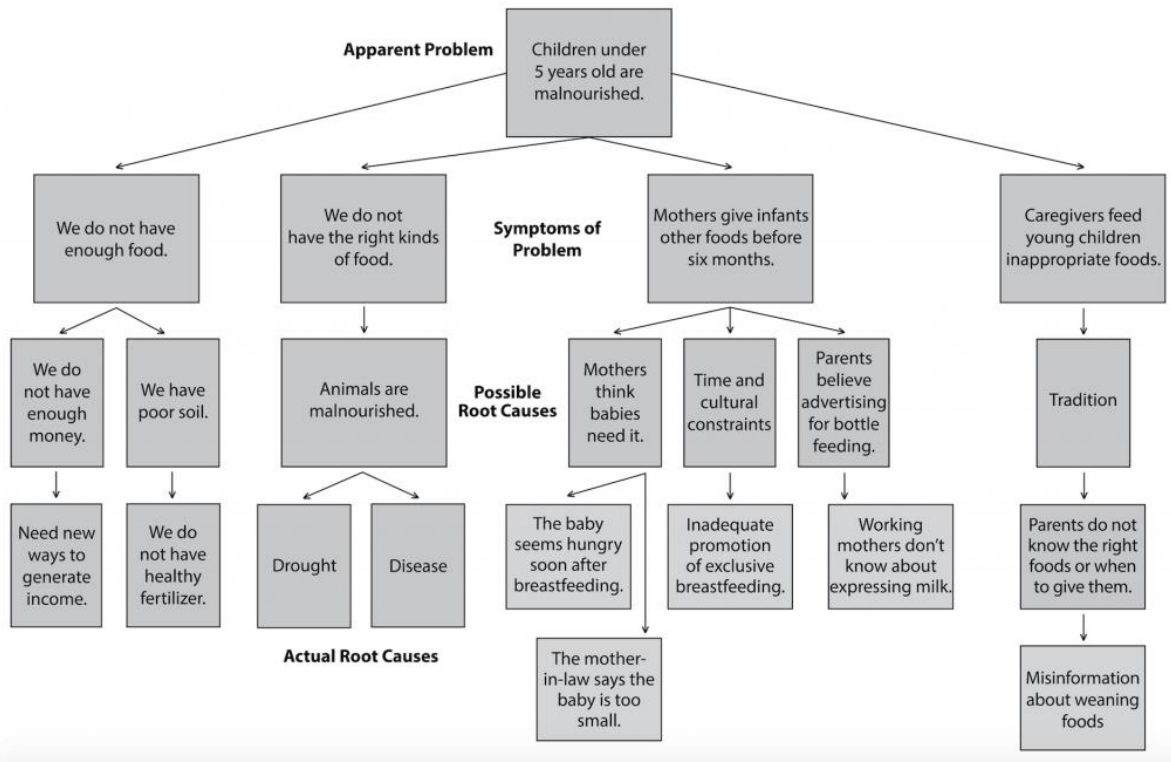


Table 2.1 - Peacebuilding and the United Nations

Present Conditions and the Possibility of Reform

In 1967, at the end of the Six-Day War between Israel and Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 242 passed unanimously. This resolution has five main principles; withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories occupied in the conflict, peace within secure and recognized boundaries, freedom of navigation, a just settlement of the refugee problem, and the appointment of a special representative to proceed to the Middle East in order to promote an agreement on peaceful settlement.²⁹ Unfortunately, this resolution only applied to existing Member States, therefore the sovereignty of the recently displaced Palestinians went unrecognized, contributing to the continuing unrest of today.

More recently, the Syrian Civil War has claimed 470,000 lives as of February 2016.³⁰ A common trend among various conflicts is that one group is rebelling because they feel they are not adequately represented in their local and national government affairs. Many terrorist organizations in the Middle East grew out of resentment toward the

²⁷ UN Security Council meeting SC/12124, 17 November 2015.

²⁸ Ibidem.

²⁹ "Timeline" Bicom. <http://www.bicom.org.uk/research/timeline/1960-1979/>.

³⁰ "Staggering New Death Toll for Syria's War" PBS. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/a-staggering-new-death-toll-for-syrias-war-470000/>.

western world for what they felt was interfering with their lives and using their governments as puppets. This is not unique to the Middle East. There are more and more ethnic conflicts which involve minorities not feeling represented by their local governments occurring throughout the world. We must take this information and determine the symptoms of the apparent problems. From there we can determine what the actual root causes may be and act accordingly.

Trust is seen as the first step Member States must take in order to for long-lasting relationships to be maintained. Trust could be established faster if international relations between governments were more transparent and civilians, ethnic majorities, and minorities alike, felt like they had sizable representation in their local and national government affairs.³¹ Transparency is key when dealing with questions of representation. Citizens throughout various Member States cause unrest when their views and ideas are not properly heard and put into action. Finally, Member States can push toward new laws where citizens can freely provide input to elected officials in order to enact change.

Furthermore, global response is not in line with the current realities of conflict. Many Member States lack the necessary infrastructure that is essential in order to combat immediate signs of conflict. For example, if an instantaneous response to conflict is assumed, fewer groups will take advantage of the lack of cohesiveness among Member States. As of now, current zones of conflict are being taken advantage of due to the lack of stability. The Economic and Social Council would like to encourage fellow Member States to ensure stability by eliminating symptoms of problems in order to attack the root cause of the conflict.

The Role of the Economic and Social Council

Social tensions are perpetuated by war, and also help to perpetuate war; it is a cycle that feeds into itself. Whether these tensions are caused by race, class, or gender, it all comes down to who has the most power and who feels underrepresented in government. The Economic and Social Council is responsible for drafting and passing resolutions which can promote peace by eliminating the direct cause of conflict. There are countless symptoms of various conflicts around the globe, but usually the symptoms fall under one root cause of conflict. This root cause could be vague in wording, but when mapped out, it can be more easily identified.

Committee Directives

As there are still more than one root cause of conflict, there are multiple issues to be addressed, since lasting peace can only be achieved when people have no reason to fight. Delegates must bear in mind the positions and interests of their Member States when tackling these issues. The committee would look favorably upon resolutions which contain or address the following:

- Methods to ensure inclusion of ethnic and cultural minorities in local and national governments, organizations, and businesses
- Creating practices to increase transparency of international relationships through the elimination of generational-based quarrels
- Improve infrastructure in individual Member States in order to achieve preventative stability
- Suggestions on how the UN could directly address conflict, and what should be defined as root causes of conflict to this body
- Improved ways of providing healthcare to areas of conflict, areas of poor economic conditions, and areas of immediate disaster
- Ideas on how to ensure that these areas have access to the basic resources they need such as: clean water, sustainable food, and adequate shelter

³¹ Report of the UN Secretary-General: "Agenda for Peace". <http://www.cfr.org/peacekeeping/report-un-secretary-general-agenda-peace/p23439>.

Research Directory and Advice

Below are listed resources to assist you in your research as you write your position papers and research for debate in committee. These include general resources for the Economic and Social Council Committee as well as the two topics covered in this background guide. The following links are excellent areas for beginning your research regarding general topic information. This is far from the limit of good sources, and delegates are expected to research independently, especially with their own Member State policy.

I. Improving Sanitation and Access to Clean Water

Sustainable Development Goals

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

This page on the UNDP website explains what all of the current Sustainable Development Goals mean.

Millennium Development Goals and Post 2015 Development Agenda

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/mdg.shtml>

This web page covers how the Millennium Development Goals formed the framework for the current Sustainable Development Goals.

About Millennium Development Goals

<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/index.htm>

The resource describes what the Millennium Development Goals are.

The UNICEF WASH Program

<http://www.unicef.org/wash/>

The website gives information on UNICEF's WASH program, which works towards improving sanitation and access to water.

II. Promoting Sustainable Peace by Addressing the Root Causes of Conflict

United Nations Peacebuilding Information

<http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/>

This resource explains what the United Nations peacebuilding program is about is and what it does.

What it Means to Build a Lasting Peace

<http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/peacebuilding>

This essay by Michelle Maiese explains what it means to build lasting peace and peacebuilding from a structural dimension..

Alliance for Peacebuilding

<http://www.allianceforpeacebuilding.org/>

This non-profit organization is responsible for advancing sustainable peace and security worldwide.

Peacebuilding Initiative

<http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org/>

This is an inactive source, but can serve as a resource for peacebuilding practitioners since it was partnered with the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office.

Causes of Disputes and Conflict

<http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/underlying-causes>

This is a source that addresses moral conflicts, issues of justice, rights, unmet human needs, identity issues, and distributional issues. This source also contains various other sources in its cited source section.