

DAYMUNC XVII

February 19 – 20, 2010

General Assembly Plenary

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the seventeenth Dayton Model United Nations Conference (DAYMUNC) and the General Assembly Plenary. My name is Jeff Kempton and I am honored to serve as the Director of the General Assembly (GA) Plenary. This will be my sixth year at DAYMUNC. In my previous years at DAYMUNC, I served as a delegate on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Chair and Rapporteur for the Simulated Security Council, and the director of the Economic and Social Council Plenary. In addition, I attended the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City for three years as a delegate and one year as a Head Delegate. I graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and in 2007 with a Master of Arts in International Comparative Politics. I currently work at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

For the 2010 session, the GA will be addressing the following topics:

1. The Control of Conflict Resources
2. Climate Change/Environmental Degradation as a Source of Conflict

As outlined in the United Nations (UN) Charter, the GA is responsible for making recommendations on general principals to preserve international peace and security. The annual work of the UN is primarily derived from the GA's mandates.¹ As the primary deliberative organ of the UN, the GA consists of representatives from all Member States, each with one vote.

As you prepare for the conference, please remember this guide is not all-encompassing and is designed to only provide you a basic outline of the topics you will be discussing. Please be prepared to present and discuss your State's policy on these, as well as other, elements of your committee topics. As DAYMUNC is a learning experience for everyone, please take this opportunity to practice your public speaking and writing skills. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at JKempton82@yahoo.com. Good luck with your research and I look forward to seeing all of you at the conference.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kempton, Director

David Buffington, Chair

Lisa Lin, Rapporteur

¹ United Nations. "Main Bodies." <http://www.un.org/en/mainbodies/index.shtml> (Accessed 20 September 2009)

I. The Control of Conflict Resources

Introduction

Since 1990, the international community has been ravaged by at least eighteen conflicts motivated by the control and exploitation of natural resources, with recent research indicating that at least forty percent of all intrastate conflicts since 1949 have been linked to control of natural resources.² Multiple African civil wars, most notably in Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan, and Angola have at least been partially influenced by control of “high-value” resources such as gold, oil, minerals, timber, and diamonds.³ Conflicts motivated by control of resources are not specific to Africa. The control of scarce resources, such as arable land and water, have spurred violence in the Middle East.⁴ In Myanmar, control of oil and natural gas have led to violence and human rights violations.⁵

Multiple elements of the UN have taken steps to alleviate the aftermath of and punish the perpetrators of resource-motivated conflict. The Security Council (SC) has been active in applying and monitoring sanctions in Angola, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, as well as mandating investigations in Liberia and the DRC.⁶ Also, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has actively followed this issue and encouraged the UN Peacebuilding Commission and the international community to improve oversight and protection of natural resources during conflicts, further develop UN capabilities for early warning and early action, address natural resources as part of the peacemaking and peacekeeping process, as well as include natural resources into integrated peacebuilding strategies.⁷ While these are positive efforts, the international community continues to implement additional steps to prevent and mitigate violence fueled by the control of conflict resources.

Diamonds as a Source of Conflict

Conflict diamonds, also known as blood diamonds, are defined by the UN as diamonds that originate from areas controlled by forces or factions opposed to legitimate and internationally recognized governments, and are used to fund military action in opposition to those governments, or in contravention of the decisions of the SC.⁸ To date, several billion dollars in profit from the trade of conflict diamonds have been used by rebels and warlords to buy weapons for warfare in the DRC, Angola, and Sierra Leone that have resulted in nearly four million deaths.⁹

The UN has taken multiple steps, including sanctions and convening multiple workshops, to prevent the sale of and raise awareness of conflict diamonds throughout the international community. In A/RES/55/56, the GA drew attention to the role of diamonds in fueling conflict and attempted to sever the link between diamonds and armed

² United Nations Environment Programme. “From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment.” <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/9a798adbf322aff38525617b006d88d7/288b48b73e816d158525756300712de9?OpenDocument> (Accessed 3 October 2009)

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Global Policy Forum. “Oil and Natural Gas in Conflict – Southeast Asia.” <http://globalpolicy.org/security-council/dark-side-of-natural-resources/oil-and-natural-gas-in-conflict/40299.html> (Accessed 3 October 2009)

⁶ Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. “Impact on children of illicit exploitation of natural resources in conflict zones.” <http://www.un.org/children/conflict/english/exploitation.html> (Accessed 3 October 2009)

⁷ United Nations Environment Programme. “From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment.” <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/9a798adbf322aff38525617b006d88d7/288b48b73e816d158525756300712de9?OpenDocument> (Accessed 3 October 2009)

⁸ United Nations. “Conflict Diamonds: Sanctions and War.” <http://www.un.org/peace/africa/Diamond.html> (Accessed 3 October 2009)

⁹ Amnesty International USA. “Conflict Diamonds.” <http://www.amnestyusa.org/business-and-human-rights/conflict-diamonds/page.do?id=1051176> (Accessed 3 October 2009)

conflict by calling upon States to implement SC measures designed to target the link between the trade in conflict diamonds and the supply to rebel movements of weapons, fuel, and other prohibited items.¹⁰ It also introduced the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), commonly referred to as the Kimberley Process.

The Kimberley Process is an industry, joint government, and civil society initiative to stem the flow of conflict diamonds.¹¹ It imposes strict and extensive mining to retail monitoring requirements on its members to enable them to certify diamond shipments as conflict-free.¹² In November 2007, 74 States and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended the Kimberley Process review meeting in Brussels, Belgium and agreed on multiple measures to strengthen the process.¹³ These measures included endorsing the Brussels Declaration, announcing a Brussels Initiative to enhance the control and monitoring of diamonds from the Ivory Coast, completing a first round of peer review visits of Kimberley Process participants, and increasing the number of Kimberley Process participants.¹⁴ As of late 2008, the Kimberley Process has 49 members, representing 75 States, with the European Community and its Member States counting as an individual participant.¹⁵ While the flow of conflict diamonds has been drastically reduced, States and NGOs continue to work to eliminate the sale of conflict diamonds.

Oil as a Source of Conflict

Oil has been a potential catalyst for conflict since the beginning of international industrialization. In recent years, the 1991 invasion of Kuwait by Iraq serves to illustrate oil's potential for conflict among States. In this case, the UN established a precedent of intervention for resource-motivated conflict, authorizing military action and sanctions against Iraq.

Violence in Sudan's Darfur region erupted in 2003 when Sudanese Rebels known as the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) rebelled against the Sudanese government and the Janjaweed, a militia widely believed to be under the control of the Sudanese army.¹⁶ Despite the Darfur Peace Agreement in 2006 and the increased role of the UN outlined in S/RES 1706, violence remains ongoing.¹⁷ While the conflict identified as "genocide" by some States is labeled as a civil war by others, oil has been identified as at least a minor motivation in the conflict. Internally, disagreements and violence have erupted between Sudanese factions over profit-sharing agreements from the State's oil wealth.¹⁸ Internationally, some States have been accused of ignoring human rights violations in Sudan, as well as potentially violating arms embargos, in order to protect their economic interests.¹⁹ The most notable of these States is the People's Republic of China, whose single largest source of foreign crude oil is Sudan.²⁰

Additionally, pipelines have emerged as another potential for conflict over oil. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline runs 1,768 km through Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey, and has the potential to transport one million

¹⁰ A/RES/5/56. <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N00/562/75/PDF/N0056275.pdf?OpenElement> (Accessed 3 October 2009)

¹¹ Kimberley Process. Kimberley Process: From Conflict Diamonds to Prosperity Diamonds." <http://www.kimberleyprocess.com/> (Accessed 3 October 2009)

¹² Ibid

¹³ DiamondFacts.Org. "Eliminating Conflict Diamonds." http://www.diamondfacts.org/conflict/eliminating_conflict_diamonds.html (Accessed 3 October 2009)

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Kimberley Process. Kimberley Process: From Conflict Diamonds to Prosperity Diamonds." <http://www.kimberleyprocess.com/> (Accessed 3 October 2009)

¹⁶ News 24. "The War in Darfur." http://www.news24.com/Content/Africa/Features/964/53390f2c56fd428da673ccf6d678c35c/22-10-2004-09-38/The_war_in_Darfur (Accessed 4 October 2009)

¹⁷ Security Council SC/8821. <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/sc8821.doc.htm> (Accessed 4 October 2009)

¹⁸ Sudan Tribune. "Sudan's new oil wealth still a source of conflict." <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article13473> (Accessed 4 October 2009)

¹⁹ BBC News. "China rejects BBC Darfur claims." <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7507392.stm> (Accessed 4 October 2009)

²⁰ Sudan Tribune. "Sudan's new oil wealth still a source of conflict." <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article13473> (Accessed 4 October 2009)

barrels of oil per day.²¹ However, the pipeline avoids Armenia, which has a history of conflict with Turkey and Azerbaijan. In the event of renewed tension between these States, the control of oil within the BTC pipeline could serve as a catalyst for violence in the region.

Water as a Source of Conflict

As a limited natural resource that is essential for human survival, water is another potential cause for conflict. Recognizing this potential, the UN called upon the international community to halve the number of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015 in Target 3 in Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).²² While progress has been made, with six years to go until the 2015 deadline and one year until the high-level review meeting in September 2010, much remains to be done.²³

Water is scarce in many regions, especially in the Middle East, where growing populations place increasing demands on this limited resource.²⁴ While wealthier States can meet some of their needs by desalinating seawater, this is not an option for poorer States and territories.²⁵ The Palestinians are one such group, whose problems are exacerbated because they are dependent on Israel for water access, as only 69 percent of Palestinian communities are connected to internal water networks.²⁶ However, although Israel recognized Palestinian water rights in the September 1995 Taba Agreement, the agreement identifies water as an issue to be resolved during “final status” negotiations.²⁷ To date, these negotiations have not been resolved and Israelis are estimated to consume four times more water than Palestinians.²⁸ To further complicate the issue, Israel and the Palestinians share two interrelated systems; the Mountain Aquifer and the Jordan Basin.²⁹ The Palestinians have no access to the Jordan Basin and Israel receives and uses a majority of the water from the Mountain Aquifer.³⁰ Given the historical animosity between Israel and Palestine, the lack of access to water has the potential to serve as an additional flashpoint for violence.

Conclusion

While the international community has done much to prevent conflict over control of resources, as well as alleviate the effects of resource-motivated wars, there is still much that can be done. As you begin your research, please consider the following: be familiar with your State’s international policy toward participants in conflicts over resources and consider the human rights implications associated with the conflict over resources. Are there any initiatives your State would like to see the international community undertake to reduce or eliminate the risk of conflict? What potential for future conflict does your State recognize or is your State concerned about? Are there specific resources your State recognizes as a catalyst for future conflict? Is your State currently involved in a war over resources or is it unusually susceptible for one? What has your State done to aid in the aftermath of resource-motivated conflict? Are there specific States or NGOs with whom your State has partnerships? Ultimately, what would your State like to accomplish in addition to current efforts?

²¹ BP. “Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline.” <http://www.bp.com/sectiongenericarticle.do?categoryId=9006669&contentId=7015093> (Accessed 18 October 2009)

²² Millennium Development Goal 7. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/envIRON.shtml> (Accessed 4 October 2009)

²³ Millennium Development Goals. “UN to Review Progress on the Millennium Development Goals at High-level Meeting September 2010.” http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/sept_2010_more.shtml (Accessed 4 October 2009)

²⁴ Al-Bab. “Water in the Middle East.” <http://www.al-bab.com/arab/env/water.htm> (Accessed 4 October 2009)

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ Palestine Monitor. “Water.” <http://www.palestinemonitor.org/spip/spip.php?article14> (Accessed 25 October 2009)

²⁷ Jad Isaac. “Water and Palestinian-Israeli Peace Negotiations.” <http://www.thejerusalemfund.org/www.thejerusalemfund.org/carryover/pubs/19990819pb.html> (Accessed 24 October 2009)

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ Palestine Monitor. “Water.” <http://www.palestinemonitor.org/spip/spip.php?article14> (Accessed 25 October 2009)

³⁰ Ibid

II. Climate Change/Environmental Degradation as a Source of Conflict

Introduction

Since instrumented temperature records have become more accurate and widely distributed, the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation are increasingly noticeable.³¹ This includes higher temperatures, changing landscapes, rising seas, and an increased risk of drought, fire, and floods.³² To date, climate change has been linked to increased carbon dioxide levels, a 3.2 millimeter per year sea level increase, and below average Arctic and Global Sea ice.³³ These changes will most negatively impact the three billion people around the world who live in poverty that are also the least responsible for climate change.³⁴ However, in addition to economic and environmental issues, climate change and environmental degradation serve as potential catalysts for conflict in many regions of the world.

Recognizing the multifaceted barrage of problems climate change and environmental degradation present, the UN has taken multiple steps to alleviate potential crises, including declaring environmental sustainability as one of the eight MDGs.³⁵ In addition, the UN introduced the Kyoto Protocol, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as hosted the UN Conference on the Human Environment and Earth Summit. Throughout 2009, the UN hosted and is planning to host a series of UNFCCC meetings designed to address an ambitious and effective international response to climate change in Bonn during March, April, June, and August; Bangkok in September and October; and Barcelona in November in preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference which will be held in Copenhagen in December.³⁶ However, despite the UN's ongoing work, the potential for conflict as a result of climate change and environmental degradation remains as prevalent as ever.

Environmentally-Induced Migration

In 1990, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) identified migration as the single greatest impact resulting from climate change, noting the potential for millions to be displaced by shoreline erosion, agricultural disruption, and coastal flooding.³⁷ In many cases, this is temporary migration in response to climate stress.³⁸ However, the ability to migrate is a function of mobility and resources, thus, those most vulnerable to climate change are not necessarily the ones who are most likely to migrate.³⁹

States in the South Pacific are especially vulnerable to migration due to environmental events that are likely to be exacerbated by climate change in future years.⁴⁰ Most notably, low-lying island States such as Kiribati and Tuvalu

³¹ Climate Change Facts. "Global Climate Change Facts: The Truth, The Consensus, and the Skeptics."

<http://www.climatechangeinfo.org/> (Accessed 8 October 2009)

³² The Nature Conservancy. "Climate Change Impacts: Feeling the Heat."

<http://www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/issues/> (Accessed 8 October 2009)

³³ Climate Change Facts. "Global Climate Change Facts: The Truth, The Consensus, and the Skeptics."

<http://www.climatechangeinfo.org/> (Accessed 8 October 2009)

³⁴ The Nature Conservancy. "Climate Change Impacts: Feeling the Heat."

<http://www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/issues/> (Accessed 8 October 2009)

³⁵ Millennium Development Goal 7. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/enviro.html> (Accessed 4 October 2009)

³⁶ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. "Countdown to Copenhagen."

<http://unfccc.int/2860.php> (Accessed 7 October 2009)

³⁷ Human Development Report 2007/2008. "Fighting Climate Change: Human Solidarity in a Divided World."

http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008/papers/brown_oli.pdf (Accessed 6 October 2009)

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰ SPEAR. "Climate Change and Migration in the South Pacific region: Policy Perspectives."

<http://www.spear.govt.nz/events/2009-june-ips.html> (Accessed 17 October 2009)

are vulnerable to shifting precipitation patterns, coastal inundation from rising sea levels, and tropical cyclones.⁴¹ In addition, some islands, including the Carteret Islands, are being evacuated due to rising sea levels.⁴² As more people are forced to migrate due to environmental degradation and climate change, they can find themselves the victims of violence and sexual exploitation from a hostile population that views them as intruders and second-class citizens.

As a result, the UN continues to study and take action to counter this issue. The United Nations University (UNU) Office in New York and the UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security in Bonn, Germany are currently organizing a series of panels to address policy perspectives on how climate change affects the ability of people to manage the risks associated with migration and displacement.⁴³ These panels will address various topics, including how risk reduction and insurance strengthen a migrant's adaptation, theoretically reducing violence in a new country, and are designed to complement the United Nations Climate Change meeting in Copenhagen in December.⁴⁴

Water Degradation

Although water covers approximately 139.4 million square miles, or 70.78 percent of the Earth's surface, 97 percent is salt water and two percent is locked in ice, leaving less than one percent available for human consumption.^{45,46} Also, precipitation, which serves to replenish existing water supplies, falls unevenly across the Earth.⁴⁷ As a result, water remains a scarce resource in many regions throughout the world.

One region where water degradation could serve as a motivator for conflict is South Asia, specifically India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Already predisposed for conflict because of poverty, religious fundamentalism, cross-border conflicts, and unstable governments, a sudden or gradual decrease in water availability could be enough to trigger violence. Climate change could exacerbate this issue by causing glacial retreat in the Himalayas, leading to a reduction of available water for human consumption and agriculture.⁴⁸ The Amazon region of South America is also susceptible to water shortages caused by climate change. As temperatures increase, glaciers in the Andes could retreat faster than expected, worsening the region's water problems.⁴⁹ The quality of water in the Palestinian-controlled territories is also an issue, with only seven percent of the water in the Gaza Strip meeting the World Health Organization's standards.⁵⁰ As climate change and environmental degradation continue to affect the quantity and quality of water available, increased violence is possible in these regions which are already predisposed to hostile tensions between States and non-State actors.

Desertification

Deforestation, defined as the process of land degradation in arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities, remains a growing problem that is strongly

⁴¹ International Organization for Migration. "Climate Change Conference Focuses on South Pacific Migration." <http://202.173.4.113/jahia/Jahia/media/press-briefing-notes/pbnAS/cache/offonce/lang/en?entryId=25550> (Accessed 18 October 2009)

⁴² Ibid

⁴³ United Nations University. "Insure Me: Climate Change, Human Migration and Risk." <http://www.ony.unu.edu/events-forums/new/WWNY/2009/insure-me-the-cost-of-climate.html> (Accessed 18 October 2009)

⁴⁴ Ibid

⁴⁵ E-Notes. Science Finder. <http://www.enotes.com/science-fact-finder/earth/how-much-earths-surface-land-how-much-water> (Accessed 8 October 2009)

⁴⁶ Water Encyclopedia. "Drinking Water and Society." <http://www.waterencyclopedia.com/Da-En/Drinking-Water-and-Society.html> (Accessed 9 October 2009)

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ United Nations Environment Programme. "Climate Change and Conflict – New Report Weighs the Risks and Pin Points Likely Hotspots." <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=523&ArticleID=5720&l=en> (Accessed 9 October 2009)

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ Palestine Monitor. "Water." <http://www.palestinemonitor.org/spip/spip.php?article14> (Accessed 25 October 2009)

linked to poverty, violence, migration, and food security.^{51,52} Although prevalent in multiple regions, desertification has its greatest impact in Africa.⁵³ Two-thirds of the continent is currently desert or drylands and three-quarters of available agricultural drylands are already degraded to some extent, thereby reducing food resources and increasing the possibility of violence in many States.⁵⁴

One of the most notable examples of desertification-motivated violence in Africa is Sudan's Darfur region. Already a flashpoint for violence due to ethnic tension, creeping desertification has increased competition for land and water, further encouraging violence.⁵⁵ This cycle of conflict is further compounded by the scorched-earth tactics of militias and government soldiers, which reduces the amount of arable land and food, which in turn increases violence in the region.⁵⁶

To date, the UN and individual States have taken multiple steps to combat desertification and its negative impacts. In addition to adopting the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the UN has pledged to protect, promote, and use relevant traditional and local technology, knowledge, human capacity, and practices to combat desertification.⁵⁷ In addition, the UN established a Committee on Science and Technology to collect information on matters related to technology, as well as a global funding mechanism designed to channel money to States for the purposes of combating desertification.⁵⁸ At the national level, multiple African States have implemented National Action Programmes, Regional Action Programmes, and Sub-regional Action Programmes to raise awareness of the causes of desertification and coordinate funds to combat this growing economic crisis.⁵⁹

Conclusion

While the international community has made progress in eliminating the potential for conflict as a result of climate change and environmental degradation, much remains to be done. As you begin your research, please consider the following: be familiar with your State's international policy toward eliminating conflict caused by climate change and environmental degradation. What is the impact of environmental degradation and climate change on your State? What has your State done to prevent climate change and environmental degradation? Is your State a participant of existing international regulation? Why or why not? Does your State practice any domestic policies that it would like to see introduced internationally? Does your State belong to any bilateral or multilateral partnerships designed to counter this threat? Are there specific instances for environmental-motivated conflict that your State recognizes and is working to prevent? What NGOs does your State work with on these issues? Are there any existing agreements with which your State would like to see follow-ups or greater participation?

⁵¹ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. "Combating Desertification in Africa." <http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/factsheets/showFS.php?number=11> (Accessed 14 October 2009)

⁵² United Nations. "Earth Summit + 5: Special Session of the General Assembly to Review and Apprise the Implementation of Agenda 21." <http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/sustdev/desert.htm> Accessed 14 October 2009)

⁵³ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. "Combating Desertification in Africa." <http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/factsheets/showFS.php?number=11> (Accessed 14 October 2009)

⁵⁴ Ibid

⁵⁵ Worldwatch Institute. "Desertification as a Source of Conflict in Darfur." <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/5173> (Accessed 15 October 2009)

⁵⁶ Ibid

⁵⁷ United Nations. "Earth Summit + 5: Special Session of the General Assembly to Review and Apprise the Implementation of Agenda 21." <http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/sustdev/desert.htm> Accessed 14 October 2009)

⁵⁸ Ibid

⁵⁹ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. "Combating Desertification in Africa." <http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/factsheets/showFS.php?number=11> (Accessed 14 October 2009)