

# WASMUN 2018

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Background Guide for the

# Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC

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## Welcome from the Director-General

*Dear Delegates,*

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to Washington State Model United Nations (WASMUN) 2018. My name is Tyler Lincoln, and I am serving as your Director-General for this year's WASMUN conference. Throughout my time at the University of Washington, I have been able to participate in Model United Nations as a delegate, committee staff, and executive staff, each bringing their own sets of challenges and rewards. I have been working with WASMUN for 3 years now, first serving as committee staff, and last year as the Assistant-Director-General for WASMUN 2017. As Director-General for this year's conference, it has been my goal to continue to increase WASMUN's ability to provide a fun, challenging experience from which all can grow and learn.

The theme of this year's WASMUN conference is building a more sustainable future together. With the conference taking place in the Pacific Northwest, and keeping in mind the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, this year's WASMUN is focusing on diversity and inclusivity. The wide range of committees chosen for WASMUN this year aims to reflect the importance of sustainable development. Additionally, the diversity of committees aims to show the interlinkages between the social, economic and political pillars of sustainable development. Each of these three dimensions is crucial for promoting the development of all. We hope you keep this in mind as you pursue your own unique solutions to the challenges we provide you.

On a final note, each committee dais worked hard in ensuring they provide you with helpful and useful information through writing the background guides. That being said, I wish you the best of luck in preparing for this conference and I look forward to meeting you all in a couple of months! If you have any questions during your preparation, please don't hesitate to send them to [dg@wasmun.org](mailto:dg@wasmun.org).

Best,

Tyler Lincoln

Director-General

WASMUN 2018

## Welcome from the COP Staff

*Dear Delegates,*

On behalf of the Secretariat and the Conference of the Parties (COP) committee dais, we welcome you to WASMUN 2018! It is our sincerest hope to guide you in producing fantastic work through the creation of conference decisions that all of you will be negotiating with each other. The topics simulated this year in the COP stem from WASMUN 2018's theme of building a more sustainable future together. Particularly, this means including more voices into the work of the COP, as evidenced by the topics of capacity building in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and gender mainstreaming in the use of natural resources. We look forward to seeing an engaged, healthy dialogue as you take up the mantle of representing your Party and contributing to a challenging, yet changing, conversation about these issues.

Cheers, good luck, and have fun!

Megan Eu, Chair

Jaden Moon, Assistant Director

Lizzy Staal, Director

## Committee Overview

### *Introduction to the Conference of the Parties*

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the topmost decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which was realized on 21 March 1994, following the Rio Conference in 1992.<sup>1</sup> The UNFCCC and the COP mark the beginning of a heightened focus on climate change by the United Nations (UN). Its roots can be found decades before in 1968, when ECOSOC and the GA passed resolutions that led to the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm.<sup>2</sup> This conference made an early attempt to address the anthropogenic influence on the climate and create a common outlook on how to preserve the environment and led to the creation of another important UN climate agency, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).<sup>3</sup>

### *Organization and Structure*

197 Parties have signed the Convention.<sup>4</sup> They convene annually at COP sessions to discuss climate action as a whole and take decisions based on the goals of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and other climate agreements relating to the UNFCCC.<sup>5</sup> Sessions of the COP, during which decisions relating to the UNFCCC are taken, are comprised of a meeting of the Parties, though Article 7 of the UNFCCC allows for specialized agencies and States that are not Party to be represented as observers.<sup>6</sup>

In addition to the COP, the UNFCCC created other subsidiary bodies. Some convention subsidiary bodies include a secretariat, the Bureau of the COP, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).<sup>7</sup> These other bodies support the COP by providing relevant technical information and carrying out the recommendations made during a COP session.<sup>8</sup> There are also subsidiary bodies for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement. The COP has also created various funding mechanisms, the most recent of which is the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which was established

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. *Essential Background*. October 04, 2016. Accessed January 15, 2018. [http://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/items/6031.php](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/items/6031.php).

<sup>2</sup> “Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment - Main Page.” *United Nations*, United Nations, [legal.un.org/avl/ha/dunche/dunche.html](http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/dunche/dunche.html).

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. *Essential Background*. October 04, 2016. Accessed January 15, 2018. [http://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/items/6031.php](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/items/6031.php).

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> UNFCCC. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. *Essential Background*. October 04, 2016. Accessed January 15, 2018. [http://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/items/6031.php](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/items/6031.php).

<sup>8</sup> UNFCCC. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*.



in 2011 at COP 16.<sup>9</sup> The GCF was created to support countries as they carry out their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other goals from the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement.<sup>10</sup>

COP mechanisms to understand are its financial mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the GCF, its technology and expert mechanisms in the SBSTA, SBI, and the UNFCCC secretariat, and the treaty specific bodies.<sup>11</sup> All of these interact with other UN bodies and Parties to make the Convention goals come about.<sup>12</sup>

### *The COP within the UN System*

Other bodies within the UN play important roles in supporting the COP, largely with information and reports that inform their assessments of the progress the Convention has made. The UNEP is a longstanding advocate for climate action that supports the COP by conducting research and producing reports such as *The Emissions Gap Report 2017: Synthesis report*, which assesses emissions goals in light of current national mitigation goals.<sup>13</sup>

The COP is also supported by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) through its scientific and technical inputs.<sup>14</sup> It is present for every session of the COP, there to provide its scientific information and guidance to the government representatives of the Parties.<sup>15</sup> The underpinning climate science research networks used by the WMO give it a huge role in convincing governments at COP sessions to address climate change in their mitigation and adaptation efforts, and was very influential in the creation of the Paris Agreement.<sup>16</sup>

Most important for the SBSTA, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a scientific body that reviews and assesses the most recent scientific, technical, and socioeconomic information produced worldwide.<sup>17</sup> It's assessments of climate change are received by the COP, which then uses that information when reviewing the goals from its agreements. The IPCC conducts specific research asked for by the COP.<sup>18</sup> It is valuable to research information put forward by the IPCC in its assessment reports.<sup>19</sup>

### *Functions and Powers*

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<sup>9</sup>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Green Climate Fund. November 22, 2017. Accessed January 16, 2018. [http://unfccc.int/cooperation\\_and\\_support/financial\\_mechanism/green\\_climate\\_fund/items/5869.php](http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/green_climate_fund/items/5869.php).

<sup>10</sup> Green Climate Fund. Accessed January 15, 2018. <http://www.greenclimate.fund/who-we-are/about-the-fund>

<sup>11</sup>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. *Essential Background*. October 04, 2016. Accessed January 15, 2018. [http://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/items/6031.php](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/items/6031.php).

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> "The Emissions Gap Report 2017: Synthesis report." UN Environment. Accessed January 16, 2018.

<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/emissions-gap-report-2017-synthesis-report>  
g/resources/report/emissions-gap-report-2017-synthesis-report

<sup>14</sup>"WMO at UNFCCC COP." World Meteorological Organization. November 09, 2017. Accessed January 15, 2018.

<https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/climate/wmo-unfccc-cop>.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*<sup>3</sup>

<sup>17</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Bodies. January 14, 2013. Accessed January 15, 2018.

<http://unfccc.int/bodies/items/6241.php>.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Bodies. January 14, 2013. Accessed January 15, 2018.

<http://unfccc.int/bodies/items/6241.php>.

The objective of the UNFCCC, found in Article 2, is “to achieve [...] stabilization of greenhouse gas [(GHG)] concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.”<sup>20</sup> The Convention committed to capping the climate to at most 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and later in the Paris Agreement it was encouraged for this goal to be lowered to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius.<sup>21</sup>

As outlined in Article 7 of the Convention, the mandate of the COP is to keep under regular review the implementation of the Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt, and shall take, within its mandate, the decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention.”<sup>22</sup> When it meets every year it is responsible for following up on the progress Parties have made with their various reports on GHG emissions and mitigation and adaptation processes from the Convention and other agreements made by the COP.<sup>23</sup> The COP has many functions that lead to the implementation of the Convention; among other priorities, at a COP session, Parties will assess and facilitate the exchange of the most current scientific information on climate change, mobilize and guide the protection of sinks and make GHG emission inventories, seek to mobilize financial resources, and review reports submitted to it by subsidiary bodies.<sup>24</sup> As mentioned previously, to do this it works in conjunction with other international organizations and bodies that can provide information and reports on climate change, including the WMO, UNEP, and the IPCC.<sup>25</sup>

### *Notable Work and Current Priorities*

The two long standing priorities of the COP are adaptation and mitigation; adaptation refers to changes “in processes, practices, and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change.”<sup>26</sup> Adaptation efforts are important for developing countries since they are particularly vulnerable to climate change.<sup>27</sup> The mitigation process refers to the action that will reduce GHG emissions and enhance reservoirs and sinks, in an effort to keep the global average temperature from getting 2 degrees Celsius, or 1.5 degrees, above pre-industrial levels. Some of the Convention requirements on mitigation include national inventories of GHG emissions and removals, use of climate friendly technologies, and policies that limit GHG emissions and protect sinks and reservoirs.<sup>28</sup>

Historically, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol was one of the first international agreements agreed upon by the COP. It placed heavier burdens on developed countries to reduce GHG emissions. The protocol and much of the work from the COP at this time was top down oriented, with “negotiated, binding targets for developed countries, and

<sup>20</sup> UNFCCC. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. 2014. Accessed January 15, 2018. [http://unfccc.int/files/essential\\_background/background\\_publications\\_htmlpdf/application/pdf/conveng.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/background_publications_htmlpdf/application/pdf/conveng.pdf).

<sup>21</sup> *Adoption of the Paris Agreement*. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of the Parties, Twenty-first session, Paris, 12 December 2015. <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/109r01.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> UNFCCC. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*.

<sup>23</sup> UNFCCC. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> *FOCUS: Adaptation*. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. May 20, 2014. Accessed January 15, 2018. <http://unfccc.int/focus/adaptation/items/7169.php>.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> *FOCUS: Mitigation*. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. May 20, 2014. Accessed January 15, 2018. <http://unfccc.int/focus/mitigation/items/7169.php>.

no new commitments for developing countries.”<sup>29</sup> However, many countries with the highest ability to contribute did not join, and there were ineffective targets that didn’t go past 2012. Because of this, as of 2015 that meant that the Kyoto Protocol covers less than 15 percent of global emissions.<sup>30</sup>

Adopted in December 2015, the Paris Agreement represents the farthest the COP has gotten in making a comprehensive, widely ratified agreement on climate action. It reaffirms the Convention goal of bringing global temperature increase well below 2 degrees Celsius, encouraging at most 1.5 degrees, according to Article 17 of the Agreement.<sup>31</sup> The most prominent and feasible part of the Paris Agreement is Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). NDCs are binding commitments for all Parties to the Convention to create mitigation and adaptation goals and report regularly on emissions and “progress made in implementing and achieving” those goals. A widely debated function of the Paris Agreement was to extend a mechanism to address “loss and damage” from climate change, which explicitly will not “involve or provide a basis for any liability or compensation,” per clause 50.<sup>32</sup> Many vulnerable states would like “loss and damage” mechanisms to have the same importance as adaptation and mitigation efforts in the COP.

### *Conclusion*

Anthropogenic climate change has huge implications for the economic and social health of states around the world, and in particular will lead to further instability and a much greater refugee crisis than the world is dealing with today. The urgency and threat climate change poses to the international community comprises the backdrop under which the Convention and the COP were created.<sup>33</sup>

The COP is at the forefront of the international community’s efforts to address climate change. The task and opportunity for delegates in this session of the COP is to monitor the progress Parties have made in light of the Convention and other COP climate agreements, in order to achieve the Convention’s goal of stabilizing GHG emissions and preventing adverse anthropogenic climate change.<sup>34</sup> With an understanding of the relationship between delegates’ Parties and topically relevant COP mechanisms, states will be able to create workable solutions to the vital issues surrounding the COP.

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<sup>29</sup> "Outcomes of the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Paris." Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. October 24, 2017.

<sup>30</sup> "Outcomes of the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Paris." Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. October 24, 2017.

<sup>31</sup> *Adoption of the Paris Agreement*. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of the Parties, Twenty-first session, Paris, 12 December 2015.

<sup>32</sup> *Adoption of the Paris Agreement*.

<sup>33</sup> UNFCCC. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*.

<sup>34</sup> UNFCCC. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*.



# I. Capacity Building for Improved Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change in Small Island Developing States

## *Introduction*

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are among the most vulnerable groups to climate change and natural disasters in the international community.<sup>35</sup> The United Nations (UN) Office for the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) currently recognizes 52 Member States and territories as SIDS. 38 of these SIDS are UN Member States, and 14 of them are non-UN Member States or are Associate Members of the Regional Commissions.<sup>36</sup> These SIDS are located over three main geographical regions: the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS).<sup>37</sup> SIDS were first recognized as a distinct group of developing countries during the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit.<sup>38</sup> The environmental and developmental challenges faced by SIDS were recognized as a special case, specifically through chapter 17 in Agenda 21 (1992).<sup>39</sup> These factors that make them uniquely susceptible to environmental changes were also highlighted in the General Assembly (GA) resolution 66/288 (2012), titled “The Future We Want”.<sup>40</sup> For example, the relationship that many SIDS have with the oceans is crucial to their economies, from its use in facilitating trade, to providing goods, and to tourism.<sup>41</sup> Additionally, 90% of SIDS are in the tropics, and are highly susceptible to extreme weather conditions such as tropical storms, cyclones, and hurricanes.<sup>42</sup> The changes in climate patterns and the rise in sea levels can cause a loss of land along the coast of low-lying SIDS.<sup>43</sup> These are some of the many impacts from climate change that will negatively impact the social, economic and developmental aspects of these SIDS.

Typically, capacity building is thought of as the development and strengthening of human and institutional resources<sup>44</sup>. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines capacity building in the context of climate change as the “process of developing the technical skills and institutional capability [...] to enable [countries] to [effectively] address the causes and results of climate change.”<sup>45</sup> Article 11 of the Paris Agreement highlights the importance of enhancing the capacity and ability of developing countries to take effective climate change action through adaptation and mitigation actions.<sup>46</sup> Recognizing that countries cannot

<sup>35</sup> “International, day, islands, island, small island, developing states, development, SIDS, sids, climate change, natural disasters, UN, United Nations, 2014.” 2017. *United Nations*. United Nations.

<sup>36</sup> Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS). 2017. *Small Island Developing States*. United Nations.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid

<sup>38</sup> “Earth\_Summit.” 2017. *United Nations*. United Nations.

<sup>39</sup> United Nations, and United Nations. 1993. *Agenda 21. Agenda 21*. United Nations.

<sup>40</sup> “Future We Want... Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.” 2017. *United Nations*. United Nations.

<sup>41</sup> “International, day, islands, island, small island, developing states, development, SIDS, sids, climate change, natural disasters, UN, United Nations, 2014.” 2017. *United Nations*. United Nations.

<sup>42</sup> UNFCCC. 2005. *Climate Change: Small Island Developing States. Climate Change: Small Island Developing States*. United Nations.

<sup>43</sup> “International, day, islands, island, small island, developing states, development, SIDS, sids, climate change, natural disasters, UN, United Nations, 2014.” 2017. *United Nations*. United Nations.

<sup>44</sup> “Capacity building and initiatives.” 2017. *WHO*. World Health Organization

<sup>45</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 2017. “Glossary of climate change acronyms and terms.” *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

<sup>46</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 2017. “Capacity-Building.” *Capacity-Building: Home*.

begin to mitigate the effects of or adapt to climate change without the adequate capacity to do so, the UNFCCC and its decision-making bodies have been including capacity building into its negotiation processes. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17, Revitalizing the Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development, includes targets for capacity building through the use of increasing technology and innovation in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and improving data collection and monitoring of the achievement of the SDGs.<sup>47</sup>

The two central approaches in the international climate change process are adaptation and mitigation. The UNFCCC defines adaptation as the “adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts.”<sup>48</sup> This can include changes in processes, practices, and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change.<sup>49</sup> There are five important elements to adaptation: observation, assessment of climate impacts and vulnerability, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions.<sup>50 51</sup> The UNFCCC defines mitigation in the context of climate change as “human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.”<sup>52</sup> There are many methods of mitigation, such as gaining efficiency electricity generation, switching to solar energy or wind power, improving the insulation of buildings, and expanding forests and other "sinks" to remove greater amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.<sup>53</sup> Although adaptation and mitigation might seem like similar approaches to climate change, adaptation is changing as the climate and the environment changes while mitigation is to work to lessen the impacts of climate change.

### *International Frameworks and Committee-specific Action*

In 1994, the first ever international SIDS conference, the UN Global Conference of the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference), was held in Barbados, during which the Barbados Programme of Action was adopted.<sup>54</sup> The Barbados Programme of Action set forth recommendations for actions and measures in 14 areas—such as climate change and sea-level rise, tourism, resources and disasters—at the national, regional and international levels for SIDS. These recommendations included appropriate actions such as the transfer of technology, research and providing improved access to financial and technical resources to countries.<sup>55</sup>

The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002) was drafted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), in which a series of specific issues, such as vulnerability to climate change, were noted and the reaffirmation of the special case of Small Island Developing States was made.<sup>56</sup> The

<sup>47</sup> “Goal 17 ∴ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.” 2018. *United Nations*. United Nations.

<sup>48</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 2013. “Adaptation.” *FOCUS: Adaptation*.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 2014. *Elements of Adaptation*

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 2017. “Glossary of climate change acronyms and terms.” *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS). 2017. *Programme Of Action For The Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*. United Nations.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> United Nations. 2002. *Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development. Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development*. United Nations.

Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development<sup>57</sup> (JPOI) was also adopted during the WSSD. A key means of implementation for the JPOI is capacity building through the enhancement and acceleration of human, institutional and infrastructural capacity building initiatives<sup>58</sup>. The International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States that was held in Mauritius in 2005 adopted the Mauritius Declaration (2005) and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (2005). The Mauritius Declaration reaffirmed the validity of the Barbados Plan of Action as the “blueprint providing the fundamental framework for the sustainable development of small island developing States.”<sup>59 60</sup> The declaration also recognizes that special attention needed to be given to SIDS in building resilience, especially through technology transfer and development, capacity-building and human resource development.<sup>61</sup> The Mauritius Strategy set forth actions in 20 priority areas,<sup>62</sup> building upon the 14 areas originally mentioned in the Barbados Plan of Action, and are intended to support SIDS in achieving internationally agreed upon targets and goals.<sup>63</sup> During the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly in 2010, a five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States was called for: MSI+5.<sup>64</sup> The MSI+5 identified key issues relating to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy such as monitoring and evaluation, and strategic partnerships.

The outcomes of the third SIDS conference in 2014 are presented in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (A/RES/69/15).<sup>65</sup> The SAMOA Pathway contains sustainable pathways and goals for SIDS in the next 10 years, aiming at achieving them through partnerships in various focus areas. Through paragraph 109 of the SAMOA Pathway, there is support for SIDS:

“[T]o improve existing mechanisms and resources to provide coordinated and coherent United Nations system-wide capacity-building programmes for small island developing States through United Nations country teams, in collaboration with national agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental organizations, to enhance national capacities and institutions, building on the lessons and successes of the Capacity 2015 initiative.”<sup>66</sup>

GA resolution 66/288, The Future We Want, also calls for enhanced capacity building for sustainable developments in paragraphs 277 to 280.<sup>67</sup> In UN Development Program (UNDP) report titled *Rising Tides, Rising*

<sup>57</sup> United Nations. 2017. *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development . Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development* . United Nations.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>59</sup> United Nations. 2005. *Mauritius Declaration. Mauritius Declaration*. United Nations.

<sup>60</sup> “Mauritius Declaration.” 2017. *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*. United Nations.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>62</sup> “Mauritius Strategy.” 2017. *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*. United Nations.

<sup>63</sup> “Mauritius Strategy.” 2017. *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*. United Nations.

<sup>64</sup> “MSI 5 (2010): Five-Year review of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation .: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.” 2017. *United Nations*. United Nations.

<sup>65</sup> General Assembly. 2014. *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway*. United Nations.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>67</sup> “Future We Want... Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.” 2017. *United Nations*. United Nations.

*Capacity: Supporting a Sustainable Future for Small Island Developing States*<sup>68</sup>. The report showcases the results of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) UNFCCC Support Programme which is managed by the UNDP and implemented by AOSIS.<sup>69</sup>

Keeping in mind that SIDS have a much lower capacity to be able to formulate and implement adaptation and mitigation policies due to their unique circumstances, the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted two important decisions, decision 2/CP.7 (2001) and decision 3/CP.7 (2001), that set important guiding principles and approaches to capacity building and included the specific needs of least developed countries and small island developing States.<sup>70 71 72</sup> Those decisions paved a way forward for capacity building activities through the development and enhancement of skills and knowledges, and increased awareness for various organizations to enable them to participate more fully in the climate change process.<sup>73</sup> These frameworks were endorsed by the COP to guide capacity building initiatives under the Kyoto Protocol in 2005. The COP has continued to support the efforts of countries implementing and enhancing their capacity building activities through annual monitoring and periodic reviews, as well as workshops and meetings.<sup>74</sup>

## Key Issues

### Sea-level Rise

Rises in sea levels can be very harming to many SIDS due to their already small size. For example, a half a meter rise in sea level will result in Grenada losing 60 per cent of its beaches, while a 1-metre rise would inundate the Maldives.<sup>75</sup> Though the global average sea level rise is 3.2 mm per year, rising seas impact SIDS disproportionately; for example, the island of Kosrae, in the Federated States of Micronesia, experiences an average sea level rise of 10 mm a year.<sup>76</sup> Rising sea levels bring about higher threats of flooding and shoreline erosion, decreases the amount of land open to use in SIDS, and creates internal displacements. However, there has been little done in the international community to address rising sea levels, specifically regarding SIDS. They have an urgent need to take measures based on their specific needs and available resources including local knowledge and traditional skills and technologies. Climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies derived only from external agendas can lack a SIDS-specific focus, leading to inappropriate design, wasted resources, or worse, maladaptation.<sup>77</sup>

### Socio-economic Insecurity

<sup>68</sup> UNDP. 2017. *Rising Tides, Rising Capacity: Supporting a Sustainable Future for Small Island Developing States*. *Rising Tides, Rising Capacity: Supporting a Sustainable Future for Small Island Developing States*. United Nations.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> COP. 2017. *Decision 2/CP.7*. *Decision 2/CP.7*. UNFCCC.

<sup>71</sup> COP. 2017. *Decision 3/CP.7*. *Decision 3/CP.7*. UNFCCC.

<sup>72</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 2015. "Capacity Building: Background." *UNFCCC*. United Nations.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

<sup>75</sup> "International, day, islands, island, small island, developing states, development, SIDS, sids, climate change, natural disasters, UN, United Nations, 2014." 2017. *United Nations*. United Nations.

<sup>76</sup> "Sea-Level Rise in Small Island Nations to Cost US\$ Trillions: Shift to Green Policies and Investment Critical - UN and Climate Change." 2017. *United Nations*. United Nations.

<sup>77</sup> UNEP. 2013. *Identifying Emerging Issues from the Perspective of the Small Island Developing States*. *Identifying Emerging Issues from the Perspective of the Small Island Developing States*. United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

In addition to loss of land, climate change will also impact important socio-economic sectors in SIDS. In recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to achieve security in livelihoods and the economy due to the accelerating degradation of marine and terrestrial ecosystems.<sup>78</sup> Due to their island nature, many SIDS rely significantly on fisheries, with an estimated 12 percent of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) coming from it.<sup>79</sup> Climate change will also impact tourism, which accounts for more than 30 percent of their total exports.<sup>80</sup> The loss of essential natural and cultural ecosystem functions due to a limited natural resource base, is a potentially serious constraint to sustainable development in SIDS<sup>81</sup>. Measures to combat this can come with certain environmental risks including land degradation, biodiversity loss, increasing incidence of invasive species as well as higher pesticide use and pollution, which could further threaten ecosystem functioning and productivity.<sup>82</sup>

### **Food Security and Clean Water Availability**

Changes in variable rainfall patterns affect the availability of clean, safe water and the survivability of crucial crops, with increasingly urgent shortages of water due to increased demand and decline in sources. It is crucial to ensure the availability of clean, safe water and food security in SIDS due to their limited resource base. Availability of water sources can be impacted by land use changes, limited surface area for harnessing runoff, leakage, over extraction, salinization and pollution of surface and groundwater supplies.<sup>83</sup> For small islands and coastal areas, surface and groundwater resources are limited and uniquely fragile, being easily damaged by human or natural disturbance. Other factors such as rising temperatures and ocean acidification can detrimentally impact food security.<sup>84</sup> There needs to be better frameworks to build the capacity of water and food sources that tailor to the specific needs and circumstances of SIDS in the international community.

### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

In light of the various detrimental impacts climate change, the need for enhanced Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and improved infrastructure are needed. Climate change impacts SIDS differently and in a much larger scale compared to other more developed nations. The small size and limited specialist technical capacities for disaster preparation and risk management inhibit their ability to avoid shocks, to confront extreme events and recover quickly from their impacts, in comparison with continental and more developed island states.<sup>85</sup> SIDS need to have the capacity to withstand, overcome, and recover after disasters caused by climate change. A strategic approach to disaster risk reduction at regional, national and local levels is called for to ensure the development of adaptive measures that combine the best local and modern scientific knowledge to address these growing environmental threats to SIDS.<sup>86</sup>

<sup>78</sup> “Sea-Level Rise in Small Island Nations to Cost US\$ Trillions: Shift to Green Policies and Investment Critical - UN and Climate Change.” 2017. *United Nations*. United Nations.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>80</sup> “Sea-Level Rise in Small Island Nations to Cost US\$ Trillions: Shift to Green Policies and Investment Critical - UN and Climate Change.” 2017. *United Nations*. United Nations.

<sup>81</sup> UNEP. 2013. *Identifying Emerging Issues from the Perspective of the Small Island Developing States. Identifying Emerging Issues from the Perspective of the Small Island Developing States*. United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>84</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*



## Case Study

### Fiji and the Climate Vulnerability Assessment

Like most of the Small Island Developing States, the Republic of Fiji remains one of the smallest contributors to global carbon emissions, and yet they still face some of the most devastating consequences of extreme weather patterns.<sup>87</sup> Home to nearly 900,000 people, Fiji is made up of more than 300 volcanic islands and atolls, with about one third of these islands being inhabited.<sup>88</sup> Fiji's susceptibility to deadly food- and water-borne diseases have increased due to rising sea levels, warmer temperatures and stronger El Niño patterns.<sup>89</sup> Fiji recorded a drought-induced outbreak of diarrheal disease in 2011, combatted a post-flood leptospirosis outbreak in 2012 and quelled a Dengue outbreak in 2013.<sup>90</sup> The rising sea levels have led coastal flooding that has destroyed farmland, disrupted the supply of staples in the Fijian economy and forced communities to migrate to safer ground.<sup>91</sup> In 2012, Vunidogoloa became the first village to begin relocating to higher ground due to sea-level rise.<sup>92</sup> Since then, more than 80 villages have been identified for relocation.<sup>93</sup>

At COP 23 in 2017, a report, titled *Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Making Fiji Climate Resilient*, was prepared in partnership with World Bank and Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).<sup>94</sup> The Assessment identifies 125 measures across five priority areas that could make Fiji and Fijians more resilient.<sup>95</sup> The five areas include: building inclusive and resilient towns and cities, improving infrastructure services, climate smart agriculture and fisheries, conserving ecosystems and building socioeconomic resilience.<sup>96</sup> The assessment estimates that over 4 billion US dollars, almost equivalent to 100 percent of the country's GDP for one year, is needed over the next 10 years to build resilience and capacity for Fiji to adapt to climate change. Like in Fiji, many SIDS face similar detrimental environmental changes and extreme weather events. To build the capacity and resilience in SIDS, a large amount of resources is needed. Access to these resources, resources that these SIDS lack, are obstacles to improving the adaptation and mitigation methods of Small Island Developing States.

## Conclusion

The international community continues to lack in addressing the special needs of SIDS in frameworks and policies regarding the capacity building of climate adaptation and mitigation. The vulnerabilities of SIDS and their reliance on the natural resources around them have made them susceptible to changes in the environment due to climate change, which bring about harmful impacts on social, economic and developmental aspects. The needs and circumstances of each SIDS differs greatly, making it increasingly difficult to draft solutions that will be

<sup>87</sup> "Fiji and the Pacific." 2018. *Cop23*.

<sup>88</sup> "How Fiji is Affected by Climate Change." 2018. *Cop23*.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>90</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>93</sup> "Fiji and the Pacific." 2018. *Cop23*.

<sup>94</sup> "New Report Projects \$4.5 billion Cost to Reduce Fiji's Vulnerability to Climate Change." 2017. *World Bank*.

<sup>95</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>96</sup> "New Report Projects \$4.5 billion Cost to Reduce Fiji's Vulnerability to Climate Change." 2017. *World Bank*.

beneficial to all SIDS. In addition, the task of adequately building the capacity of SIDS to adapt to and mitigate climate change is extremely urgent as climate change continues to increase its effects on our world every day.

### *Questions to Consider*

There is no doubt that it is crucial to craft solutions to address the dire situation that many SIDS are currently facing. However, with many faces to the situation and the differing state of many SIDS, it is hard to draft comprehensive and adequate proposals. While conducting your research, it will be useful to keep the following questions in mind:

- In addition to crafting new and innovative ways for capacity building for the improved adaptation and mitigation of climate change, how can existing programs and policies be tailored to the needs and circumstances of SIDS?
- How can it be ensured that policies and programs drafted do not have negative impacts on the physical and cultural aspects of SIDS?
- How can the international community best provide support, such as resources or finances, to SIDS for capacity building in communities within SIDS to best adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change?

## II. Mainstreaming Gender in the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

### *Introduction*

The use of gender as an objectified blockade on the road towards equality is highly prevalent in a majority of the societies around the world.<sup>97</sup> The varied allocation of resources and the accessibility to sustainable practices is one example of gender discrimination. The male population has more access to the tools necessary to sustainably use natural resources. The unequal access to such tools has led to an increased abuse of natural resources among women in comparison to men.<sup>98</sup>

In 2015, UNSD estimated about 70-80% of the domestic work is done by women.<sup>99</sup> With that said, women's allocation of resources tends to revolve around the necessities of the household, such as wood for fire and water for cooking and cleaning. The allocation of resources with men vary in the sense that they focus on market use of resources for profit, rather than for domestic use.<sup>100</sup> Because of this, men tend to have prioritized access to new technology, education and training, enabling them to practice more sustainably.<sup>101</sup> Women also have limited access to land rights, with most land being passed down the paternal line.<sup>102</sup> Even if the wife is widowed, she may not often retain the rights to the land.<sup>103</sup> This same pattern can be observed in water rights, as well as access to NGO's, and leads to depletion of natural resources.<sup>104</sup>

### *International Framework*

In 1955, the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** was created at the Fourth World Conference on Women.<sup>105</sup> The primary target of the Platform was to create an agenda for female empowerment around the world.<sup>106</sup> Through removing barriers that block women from participating in all spheres of life, the international community made it clear that gender equality was going to become a more vital component of their work in the future.<sup>107</sup> It also marked the beginning of the usage of gender mainstreaming as a strategy for promoting gender equality.<sup>108</sup> In the United Nations, the strategy of gender mainstreaming was explicitly defined and agreed to during **ECOSOC 1997/2**.<sup>109</sup> In the Beijing Declaration, it was made clear that the strategy of mainstreaming must be adapted to each particular issue and subject as there is no set blueprint that would encompass all issues in the

<sup>97</sup> "The World's Women 2015." United Nations Stats. 2015 <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/chapter4/chapter4.html>

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>100</sup> Sachs, Carolyn, and Marina Laudzi. "Gender and Natural Resources Management." Worldbank. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENAGRLIVSOUBOOK/Resources/Module10.pdf>.

<sup>101</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>103</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>104</sup> "Gender, Water and Sanitation: A Policy Brief." Inter-agency Task Force on Gender and Water . June 2006.

[http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/un\\_water\\_policy\\_brief\\_2\\_gender.pdf](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/un_water_policy_brief_2_gender.pdf)

<sup>105</sup> "Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action." United Nations. September 1995.

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>.

<sup>106</sup> "Beijing Platform for Action." Gender Equality in Ireland. <http://www.genderequality.ie/en/GE/Pages/BeijingPlatform>

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>109</sup> 1997/2. ECOSOC. 1997 <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/pdf/ECOSOCAC1997.2.PDF>

realm of gender discrepancies.<sup>110</sup> However, there is one common aspect that ties all issues of mainstreaming together, and that is that a concern for gender equality should be brought into the ‘mainstream’ of activities, rather than dealt with as an add-on in the conversation.<sup>111</sup>

Issues around gender inequality became prevalent in the Conference of Parties during COP 20 in 2014 with the **Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG)**.<sup>112</sup> This programme was enacted with the goal of advancing gender equality mandates across all areas of climate negotiations.<sup>113</sup> It encouraged parties and relevant organizations to support training and awareness-raising for all delegates on issues related to gender and climate change, and building the skills and capacity of female delegates to enhance their participation in negotiations.<sup>114</sup> In 2017, the **Establishment of a Gender Action Plan (GAP), CP.23** was created under the LWPG at COP 23.<sup>115</sup> It gave a thorough plan on how to mainstream the issues of gender equality through five priority areas;<sup>116</sup> the first is capacity building, knowledge sharing, and communication, followed by gender balance, participation, and women’s leadership, then coherence, proceeding after is gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation, and lastly there is monitoring and reporting.

The aforementioned ECOSOC resolution 1997/2 was reaffirmed and updated by ECOSOC in 2011 with **Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective into all Policies and Programmes in the United Nations System**.<sup>117</sup> It expanded upon the previously created resolution by including the vast majority of committees within it, as well as creating a system in which committees work together to obtain the common objective of women’s equality and the mainstreaming of gender.<sup>118</sup> Another notable aspect of it is the detailed plan it outlined for UN Women to work to follow through with other sectors and for the United Nations system as a whole, which would include the COP and UNFCCC, and to work collaboratively to enhance gender mainstreaming within it.<sup>119</sup>

## Key Issues

### Access to Land for Women

Typically, in the international community, women have rights to use land rather than the rights of ownership<sup>120</sup>. Men often own the land and control it due to the primarily patriarchal notions prevalent in societies across the world. In a legal sense, the rights of women tend to fall in line with *de facto* rights, whereas men have *de jure* rights, rights protected by law. A cycle of male ownership is perpetuated by land being passed down between

<sup>110</sup> "Gender Mainstreaming, an Overview." United Nations. January 2002.

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/pdf/e65237.pdf>.

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>112</sup> "Lima Work Programme on Gender." United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 2014.

[https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima\\_dec\\_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv\\_cop20\\_gender.pdf](https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv_cop20_gender.pdf).

<sup>113</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>114</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>115</sup> "Establishment of a Gender Action Plan." United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 2017.

[http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/bonn\\_nov\\_2017/application/pdf/cp23\\_auv\\_gender.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/bonn_nov_2017/application/pdf/cp23_auv_gender.pdf).

<sup>116</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>117</sup> "Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective Into all Policies and Programmes in the United Nations System." ECOSOC. 2011.

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2011/res%202011.6.pdf>.

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>119</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>120</sup> Sachs, Carolyn, and Marina Laudzi. "Gender and Natural Resources Management." Worldbank.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENAGRLIVSOUBOOK/Resources/Module10.pdf>.

father and son in many cultures.<sup>121</sup> In some cultures, even if a woman is a widow of the previous owner, the land would go back to the husband's family rather than to her.<sup>122</sup> In many countries, women aren't allowed to own land at all.<sup>123</sup>

Depleted resources lead to more than issues revolving around food security. Without the right amounts of resources, ecosystems will start to degrade. The degradation of ecosystems is a pushing factor in furthering climate change. This especially holds true in rural areas due to the indirect pushing of women into common areas that in turn get overused and exhausted.<sup>124</sup>

### **Political and Socio-economic Empowerment of Women**

Men and women, especially when situated in rural areas have differing roles in society. Men typically use their land for commercial purposes, such as in agriculture, logging, and fishing.<sup>125</sup> Cash crops are the most common agricultural product, and the men tend to focus on market oriented farming.<sup>126</sup> On the other hand, women are often responsible for providing their household with the basic necessities of life, such as food, fuel, and water through working with subsistence crops, minor crops, and vegetable garden, in turn growing a wider diversity of crops.<sup>127</sup> Access to new technology, information, and training is typically granted to men, especially when relating to resource management.<sup>128</sup> Many NGOs, as well as official governments, choose to speak only to men with the belief that they will relay the information to their wives.<sup>129</sup>

The separation of women from the processes of government and a lack of access to education, furthered through relegation to powerless socioeconomic statuses, is a problem that undermines sustainable resource management. When women are left out of the conversation on the creation of laws, and the sharing of new practices and innovations, their voice is silenced, their contributions minimized.<sup>130</sup> Older, unsustainable practices that impede upon optimal resource management are continued, further degrading ecosystems around the world. While cultural and social barriers are clearly present, the issue is not that they are there, but the lack of attention that natural resource management programs give to the barriers.<sup>131</sup> There is a lack of recognition that these barriers increase the vulnerability of women in society, and a lack of an environment in the programs which the barriers are ignored or removed.<sup>132</sup>

It is essential for the success of a program, in which sustainable resource management is the goal in this situation, that both men and women participate in all stages of the processes.<sup>133</sup> When women are able to overcome the social, cultural, and logistical barriers, which include things such as time and length of meetings, they are often

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<sup>121</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>122</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>123</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>124</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>125</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>126</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>127</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>128</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>129</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>130</sup> Crawford, Clare. "Gender: Natural Resource Management and the Importance of Gender." World Wildlife Fund. 2012. [http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/women\\_conservation\\_overview\\_2012.pdf](http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/women_conservation_overview_2012.pdf).

<sup>131</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>132</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>133</sup> *Ibid.*



silenced by a lack of confidence to speak to men, and a common bias towards male attitudes and voices present in the meeting.<sup>134</sup>

### **Limited Water Management**

Coupled with the lack of land rights is a lack of rights for water and management for women. As women are primarily in charge of managing the household's water supply, sanitation, and health in most societies, their needs take a backseat.<sup>135</sup> Women often rely upon rainfall to fulfill their expected duties, as there is no capital to improve, and not enough economic growth in the economies of many developing countries to create irrigation systems throughout the rural areas.<sup>136</sup> More than 2.2 million people die in developing countries from preventable diseases, transferred through a lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene.<sup>137</sup> Water borne diseases are more prevalent in areas with less development and higher rates of gender equality.<sup>138</sup> While it is not under the mandate of the COP to tackle the issue of water management and sanitation directly, it is important to note that these issues will become worse as climate change alters rainfall patterns.

### *Conclusion*

The mainstreaming of gender in the sustainable use of resources is vital in fulfilling the goal of slowing the process of global warming, one of the main goals of the Conference of Parties. Since the Beijing Declaration introduced gender mainstreaming as a viable strategy for increasing female empowerment, the international community has strived to include all genders in most things from all processes of the UN, to local governmental happenings, culminated in the Lima Work Programme on Gender. The COP has worked to apply gender mainstreaming in their work through creating the Gender Action Plan, with five areas of focus. As the International community moves forward in the mainstreaming of gender in natural resource management, it is important to keep in mind the policies that are shaping the present, and apply them toward shaping the future.

### *Questions to Consider*

- What can be done to make sure that women benefit equally from programs developed by COP, State Parties, NGOs, and other stakeholders in the sustainable use of natural resources?
- Given that women are often reliant on the subsistence use of natural resources, what can the COP under its mandate to protect them from the negative effects of climate change, especially in the areas of adaptation and mitigation?
- How has gender mainstreaming been utilized in other areas? What were the outcomes? What were the success and drawbacks of the methods? How can they be applied to natural resource management?

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<sup>134</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>135</sup> "Gender, Water and Sanitation: A Policy Brief." Inter-agency Task Force on Gender and Water . June 2006. [http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/un\\_water\\_policy\\_brief\\_2\\_gender.pdf](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/un_water_policy_brief_2_gender.pdf).

<sup>136</sup> "Gender, Water and Sanitation: A Policy Brief." Inter-agency Task Force on Gender and Water . June 2006. [http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/un\\_water\\_policy\\_brief\\_2\\_gender.pdf](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/un_water_policy_brief_2_gender.pdf).

<sup>137</sup> *Ibid.*

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This source is useful in summarizing the Paris Agreement and its relevance when compared to the previous COP agreements. It broke down the key factors in the Paris Agreement, explaining the NDCs, loss and damage mechanisms, and the \$19 billion pledged from parties to assist developing countries with their goals. It is a good resource to read alongside the Paris Agreement in order to better understand its different points.

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## *I. Capacity Building for Improved Mitigation to Climate Change in Small Island Developing States*

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This UNEP document identifies the emerging issues from the perspective of SIDS. It lists a variety of social, economic and environmental issues that plague SIDS and defines each problem. The issues range from invasive alien species, to waste for resources and to global contaminants affecting SIDS. This

document provides a range of issues that impact SIDS and lays the foundation for SIDS specific solutions to be crafted.

UNFCCC. 2005. Climate Change: Small Island Developing States. Climate Change: Small Island Developing States. United Nations. [http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/cc\\_sids.pdf](http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/cc_sids.pdf).

This guide by the UNFCCC provides relevant information about the vulnerabilities that SIDS face as a result of rising sea levels. The guide emphasizes different adaptation mechanisms and their limitations, helping provide an understanding of the detrimental impacts that rising sea levels can have on the health and well-being of humans, clearly stating that resilience requires the ability to adapt. It also highlights the participation of SIDS participation in the UNFCCC and the ongoing concerns and needs that SIDS have expressed.

United Nations. 1993. Agenda 21. Agenda 21. United Nations. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>.

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United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 2017. “Capacity-Building.” Capacity-Building: Home. November 16. [http://unfccc.int/cooperation\\_and\\_support/capacity\\_building/items/1033.php](http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/capacity_building/items/1033.php).

This provides the UNFCCC definition for capacity building, showing its integration into the Paris Agreement and COP decisions. It mentions the main topics in capacity building: Paris Committee on Capacity-building, Durban Forum on Capacity-building, Capacity-building Portal and Capacity-building frameworks. It explains each topic, also providing links to further information and resources regarding those topics. It provides a understanding of capacity building under the UNFCCC and provides resources to other related bodies and frameworks.

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## II. *Mainstreaming Gender in the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources*

### **Annotated Bibliography**

Crawford, Clare. "Gender: Natural Resource Management and the Importance of Gender." World Wildlife Fund. 2012. [http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/women\\_conservation\\_overview\\_2012.pdf](http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/women_conservation_overview_2012.pdf).

The World Wildlife Fund created an all-encompassing explanation of how they approach gender issues within their programs, centered around natural resource management, back in 2012, and many of the aspects of it still ring true to this day, and are vital to take into consideration when creating solutions to the problems expressed. It includes many areas that could be revisited in future resolutions, and it gives a guiding voice on how to run a program free of gender inequality.

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Gender and Natural Resources Management is module 10 in a informational series put on by the World Bank that gives deep insight to how gender affects citizens access to items in society, the impact it has in a governmental sense, and ties it all back to the effects it has upon natural resource management. It goes over a couple of issues not touched upon in this background guide, and gives broad ideas about how one can remedy the situation.

"What is Gender Mainstreaming." European Institute for Gender Equality. July 03, 2017. <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/what-is-gender-mainstreaming>.

This article gave one of the most precise, and clear, definitions of gender mainstreaming that helped to truly form the thoughts represented in topic 2 of the background guide. Beyond a definition is the in depth guide to issues surrounding gender mainstreaming as well as possible ways to remedy them.

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