Dehumanization: A Case Study

Regina Varthi

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DEHUMANIZATION:
A CASE STUDY

by

REGINA VARTHI

A capstone project submitted to the Graduate Faculty in Liberal Studies in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts, The City University of New York

2017
Dehumanization: A Case Study

by

Regina Varthi

This manuscript has been read and accepted for the Graduate Faculty in Liberal Studies in satisfaction of the capstone requirement for the degree of Master of Arts.

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ABSTRACT

Dehumanization: A Case Study

by

Regina Varthi

Advisor: David Halle

The capstone “Dehumanization” is divided into three main parts. The first part contains a brief presentation on the UN family (or UN system), showing its role through its organizational and managerial structures. All data are derived from UN corresponding websites. The second part, “Homelessness,” focuses on the SDG 11 of the 2030 GA Agenda. In 2014 the United Nations Human Rights Council appointed Leilani Farha Special Rapporteur on adequate housing in order to conduct research on the subject of homelessness as a violation of human rights. In her report, presented at the Human Rights Council in March 2016, Farha claims that the right to adequate housing is usually treated more as a socioeconomic policy objective rather than as a fundamental right. Moreover, Farha’s report examined the parameters of social exclusion, discrimination, and the loss of dignity incurred by homeless people. Farha considers homelessness a global human rights crisis directly linked to increased inequality of wealth and property. In this section of the capstone, the outcomes and proposals of Farha’s report are presented. The third part, titled “New York/Bio,” provides a firsthand account of the difficulties faced by a person who lacks shelter.

**Keywords:** The United Nations; Homelessness; Special Rapporteur Leilani Farha.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“Dehumanization: A Case Study” is a project which began within the context of my studies. But more than that, it reflects my own efforts to survive under adverse financial conditions. Ultimately, my research findings contradict the title of this project, asserting the fundamental dignity of the human being and the evidence of compassion in hard times. I am thankful to all the people who stood by me. It is with their help that I am brought to this final stage, the last prior to my graduation. I strongly believe that, without them, I would have never reached my final goal. In truth, it is impossible to name all those who I have met along my way, those who offered me unconditional support when I felt most trapped. I still don’t know many of their names. Yet I feel great respect and love for them. Likewise, my family and friends carried my burden too, and constantly encouraged me to remain strong. I love them; I admire them. I am thankful to them with all my heart.

I dedicate this project to my parents Aristides and Christiana Varthis; my grandmother Regina Agraniotou; my sister Paraskevi (Evi) Varthi and her family Spyros, Konstantinos and Ariana Konstantinopoulos; my brother Dr. Spyridon Varthis; Bishop Sevastianos Skordallos of Zela; Dr. Victoria Tountas; Fedra Moutidou; Apostolis; Konstantinos and Pavlos Kontomanos; Kossi Hector Helios; Daena Bahlatsis; Dr. Elisavet Serti; Yan Zhuang; Kaliopi Balatsouka; Irene C. Papadopoulos, Board of Directors of the Gerondelis Foundation; Dionyssios Kalamvrezos; Dimitrios Gioldassis; Elias Gerasoulis; Ilias Tsagkaris; Dr. Matthew K. Gold; Dr. Elizabeth Macaulay-Lewis, Ursula McGuckin; Andreas & Meletis Koulouris; Mike Kalliagas; Laura Damian, Juliana Omar; Kathy Koutsis; Emanuela Musso. Last but not least, Stefany Anne Golberg; Roxanne Shirazi; Donna Davey and my wonderful supervisor Dr. David Halle.
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“Dehumanization: A Case Study” derives from real facts; it examines homelessness on a multilateral basis within an international framework. The capstone endorses the implementation of a UN common system, and increased cooperation/communication between the UN’s various duty stations, in particular, the Centre for Human Rights located in Geneva, Switzerland with the General Assembly convention room located in Headquarters, New York, USA. The main pillar of this project is a research study on homelessness conducted by Leilani Farha, Special Rapporteur on the right to housing in Geneva. Her report stresses that homeless people are subject to intimidation and harassment by authorities and the general public; that they are denied access to basic services or places to shower, urinate or defecate; that they get humiliated by the press and sometimes by various social networks. Furthermore, Farha emphasizes how laws are created to render the homeless invisible; in many places of the civilized world, punitive measures such as fines or incarceration are imposed for activities that Farha feels are basic survival. Such laws are often framed under the guise of public health and safety, but in reality, the aim to “beautify” an area for the promotion of tourism and business is really just an attempt to increase property values at the expense of homeless people.

Dehumanization is imposed by the law upon those people that, for various reasons, have been condemned to life on the streets. Consider the unavoidable need to urinate. Public restrooms close at dusk and private restrooms tend to be only for customers’ use. Urination in the streets is prohibited and thus a violation of the law. This leads to unfortunate choice: break the law or break the bladder.

The second focus of the project is the United Nations as a whole. One year ago (2015), the story of a young UN intern who was forced to live in a tent on the shores of Lake Geneva (due to
the high cost of living in the city) while he was providing his services for the United Nations Organization in Geneva (UNOG) became international news. In a UN era of reforms that aims to enact the UN’s vision to become the forerunners of a better world, an important aspect of the Human Resources Management remains unexamined. While the flexible workplace, the Capital Master Plan (CPM), the introduction of an enterprise program and planning tool (Umoja), and similar initiatives provide evidence of UN efforts toward development and advancement, one major noncompliance with its own standards stays open. Reforms have not taken into consideration the category labeled as “advisers”: interns who offer their services to UN as non-staff personnel. UN policy must be clear and sound. If the UN wishes to be the Human Face of global rights regardless of shape, race, color or religious belief, it should not allow the injustices of the past to take part in the present. The UN Human Resources decision-makers and mainly the new Secretary-General Antonio Guterres—are called to reexamine the standards of “internship” and set a new language that allows interns to get paid for their services, especially within the context of a capitalist financial model.

Undoubtedly, an internship at the UN is a rarified experience and the argument that the prestige it carries is payment enough is justifiable. Nonetheless, intentionally or unintentionally, the UN discriminates between those who have money and those who don’t, since interns are completely responsible for all of their expenses. According to John Rawls’ theory of social justice, inequalities exist within human nature from Day One of the existence of the “self”; all humans participate “in the same race” but not all begin from the same starting point. Certainly it is not an easy task to bridge these gaps and manage a balance of justice. The question of internships must be reintroduced into the GA Agenda for further discussion. If a paid internship cannot be provided due to possible budgetary restrictions and/or factors, other benefits could be offered as a token of
mutual appreciation. Students gain an exciting and unique experience from a UN internship program and an extra “heavy weight point” on their resume. It is a great honor to be accepted to a UN internship program or a corresponding one of affiliated delegations. Interns contribute a great deal to the UN Organization. If payment is not possible, the United Nations family ought to reimburse interns with fair compensation such as low-cost transportation and shelter arrangements, reduced-price MetroCards, and food coupons for UN facilities.

According to the “Homelessness in America” website, in January 2015, 564,708 people experienced “homelessness,” defined as sleeping outside or in an emergency shelter. Only eighteen states reported decreases in the number of people living in unsheltered locations including the street, cars and abandoned buildings. The numbers of homeless people in 2016 is still high—a shocking 83,170 individuals, or 15% of the homeless population, are considered “chronically homeless.”

There are many issues at stake when it comes to discussing solutions for the homeless. Laws should be reexamined and alternative solutions adapted. I remain in agreement with Special Rapporteur Leilani Farha and support her great efforts to champion the rights of homeless people. The title of the capstone “Dehumanization” is heavy; it is a declaration of the inhumane state of existence a homeless person undergoes. Still, the project as a whole maintains a positive focus. This optimism is reflected in the third part of the capstone, which emphasizes the human being in the wonderful megacity of New York. It highlights the inconceivably diverse, multinational beauties gathered in the city. “No man is an island,” wrote John Donne, “every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.” “Man is by nature a social animal,” said Aristotle, and to me, isolation is incompatible with human nature. Sadly, this state of involuntary solitude is a reality for many homeless people that I have met on my way. Dehumanization is the degradation of living
standards, the deprivation of basic needs, and the loss of self-identity. But I argue that this capstone itself is a positive action—it is about passion, love, the human element, and the human touch.

It has been said that life itself is a school. I, too, consider every life experience as a potential opportunity for learning. Of course, this belief does not exclude the importance of traditional educational institutions such as universities. My background in studies is rich and I was honored to meet exceptional minds. Since I am a great supporter of lifelong education, I found in the MALS program the freedom and flexibility I was looking for. I loved it from the first. The fact that I could combine my various interests from different educational fields left no doubt in my mind that the International Studies track was perfect for me. During my years at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, I have attended classes on Global Terrorism, Global Cities, Sociology of Culture, and Psychology of Work and Family. In these classes I gained knowledge taught to me by distinguished professors. I have broadened my perspectives and have had the chance to exchange ideas with co-travelers and peers.

The “Dehumanization” capstone is an amalgamation of my studies and my personal experience. It deals with the problem of homelessness in meta-millennium societies, which can be found in developed and underdeveloped countries alike. It is linked to Leilani Farha’s thought-provoking report that declares homelessness a violation of human rights.

My studies at the Graduate Center CUNY opened up the opportunity to conduct my own internship. At the end of July 2016, I started my United Nations journey by covering Security Council issues for the Greek Delegation. On October 10th, the day of my birth, I was exclusively assigned to the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly.
I will always remember the contribution of Dr. Matthew K. Gold when I asked him for a letter of support to participate in the internship program. He replied to me immediately even though it was during a vacation period, and provided me with a letter hours later. Nonetheless, barriers kept appearing. A few days later, I discovered that my passport was expiring and no procedure could continue without a valid one.

If I could afford to go back home and proceed with the renewal of my passport, it would have taken less than three days. But as I could not afford it, I had to wait four to five weeks for my passport renewal. A couple of weeks later, I received my renewed passport, and I was ready to start my internship adventure. Yet another obstacle presented itself: the inability to prove that I had health insurance coverage.

Despite the formal declaration that I signed, stating that I was responsible for all my expenses without health insurance coverage, it was not possible to proceed with the registration procedure. I was afraid that it would cost me a fortune to obtain basic health coverage. I was so sad and wanted so much to create an opportunity for myself at the United Nations. One day, while wandering from one side of the city to the other, a homeless man gave me the solution. He advised me to go to a hospital and ask about health coverage options for people that do not have an income. The next morning, I visited a central hospital in the city and they gave me the option, as a student, to get coverage without paying fees. It was a great relief when I received my health card one week later.

The point is that even I, a student in New York City, have come face to face with the economic challenges and disparities that are so prevalent across the globe. Yet, no matter how hard some days were, no matter how stressful and sometimes desperate I felt, my work has given me the passion and the persistence that I needed to keep going. The “Dehumanization” capstone is the
proof of my willingness to succeed, and is witness to a city that is tough yet, at the same time, full of wonderful, warm-hearted people.

“Dehumanization” met its goal to present the hardships of homelessness as a violation of human rights (in line with Leilani Farha’s research) in which people get penalized for having basic needs. A basic need cannot be simply disregarded. If a woman does not drink water for more than three days, she will die of hydration; if she does not urinate, the natural function of the bladder will blow up and poison her system; if a man does not sleep for days he will collapse. The consequences of homelessness have a horrible domino effect. As such, it is of vital importance to the entire globe that the legal framework for homelessness be reexamined.

The first part of this project, which is devoted to the structure of the United Nations, reveals the importance of internship programs and their valuable contribution to trainees. Undoubtedly, an internship is a great opportunity for experience and knowledge-expansion, but the unpaid status is incompatible with its moral and ethical standards. In the context of the United Nations’ sustainable plans and programs (Agenda 2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda) for development, much more attention must be given to the increasing number of people that are facing housing problems; this must include basic housing standards for interns, such as the establishment of intern dormitories or reduced-rate agreements at hostels.

The first part of the capstone can be considered as more technocratic, since it illustrates the UN’s functions and operations. The project could not, of course, cover in full the entire UN organization; neither could it present homelessness in all its dimensions due to restrictions in space and time. The reader can delve into further details by clicking the corresponding links and gain useful information from the original sources on UN websites.
The second part of the capstone likewise does not present the problem of homelessness to its full extent. Some statistical sites and reports are highlighted.

I evaluate this capstone as being of great importance to me personally and its completion to be a crucial turning point in my life. I have never devoted so much time and energy to a project and feel passionate about its subject. In many ways, I cannot consider the capstone completed until initiatives are produced that improve the situation of homeless people and more viable conditions for UN interns are set. I would like to continue working on these issues; thus my capstone, too, will continue. According to statistics, the rates of homeless people in recent years have been rising dramatically. A look around the streets of any mega city is testament to that fact. Job loss, high rental rates, wars, and migrations from conflict zones continue to force people into states of homelessness. This is not just a matter of lacking a room, a kitchen, or a bathroom; these insufficiencies are equal to the denial of a dignified life.

My work on this capstone has further shown me the ways in which, ironically, the progress of our societies contribute to this human degradation. If we all lived in caves like our ancestors, we would have known the means of surviving, and would have been able to implement these tools. If we lived in rural societies, we could all share forms of subsistence living. But in contemporary societies, this form of basic survival, especially in cities and within the context of the law, is quite impossible. For those with money and means, city life is comfortable and easy. Yet, it has been the case since the very beginning of cities that those without means suffer much more than they would if they were living in the country, for example, where they could make use of the earth and the water to survive poverty. They could be fed by their own labor, and they could drink water from their own natural resources. In the city, this is not feasible. People cannot eat cement. In many cities, if there are rivers to wash in people can be arrested for their nakedness with the charge of
indecent exposure. They cannot warm up by lighting fires because they will be accused of attempted arson. The more developed the city, the more challenging this use of urban “natural resources.”

Without question, there have been great strides made both in the private and public sectors to relieve the sufferings of the homeless; but these are mostly stopgap measures and provide only temporary relief. Rarely do they address the root causes of homeless or its subtleties. For instance, there are some homeless shelters designed to give protection as well as a decent night’s rest, yet many people who live in the streets do not seem to want to use them. Why? Why would someone prefer to spend his/her nights on the street instead of taking advantage of a free shelter, even for a couple of hours? From talks that I had with homeless people, I discovered many different reasons.

First of all, shelters promote a feeling of imprisonment. A shelter usually shuts its doors at a specific time, often around 9:00 pm. The shelter then locks its doors and no one can enter or leave afterward. In addition, most shelters do not allow pets, and families or individuals with cats or dogs generally consider their pets to be companions, part of the family, just like any other pet-owner. For people who are alone, a pet is everything, their most precious relationship. People often have to make a painful choice: companionship or a bed? And who would abandon a friend just for a comfortable nap? Shelters can be dangerous, too, filled with addicts and those with mental health issues, and even those who not need shelter but see shelters as a place to easily exploit those who are vulnerable, to steal their few belongings. As such, most homeless people feel much safer dwelling in the streets like savage animals, than to be constantly under threat from potential attackers. Last, many homeless people simply prefer to be out of doors in places where they feel freer, such as subway stations, or on the stairs of churches where they dwell in the ambience of the city. I have learned that the reasons homeless people avoid shelters are complex and must be
thoroughly examined in order to create initiatives that will improve conditions and make these spaces more desirable.

While one subject of this capstone is homelessness as an outcome of the failure of the system to give equal opportunities to everyone, it also takes into consideration the transformation of societies with the advent of new technologies that are creating a dearth of jobs, not to mention ones that are intellectually and spiritually fulfilling. Many jobs that we are doing today, such as manual labor, may not exist in a few years. At one time the move was from blue-collar jobs to white collar. Now, even white-collar jobs are disappearing and what will replace them is uncertain. In considering work in general, I realized that “job creation” is not a good in itself; “jobs” must be part of a new social context where it is possible to be fulfilled regardless of one’s income, and where one’s basic needs are fulfilled. Our world is at a turning point where initiatives that contribute to the transformation of a fairer world for all should be set in motion.

The United Nations Family aims to set international standards and commit itself to efforts that will result in a world with more equitable opportunities for all by enforcing the goals of the 2030 Agenda: to eliminate poverty, reduce environment pollution, create equal job opportunities, and “strengthen universal peace in larger freedom.” This vision is what inspired me to join the UN Family’s efforts. The UN has shown over the decades that it is dedicated to enacting measures that contribute to overall improved quality of life. While a primary focus of my capstone project was examination of UN standards for interns, I see the need to protect the rights of all students regardless their financial status. Amenities such as discounts on accommodation and food with the participating providers (restaurants, hotels, hostels, subway, bus, etc.) can offer valuable relief for students and their families.
This capstone was initiated with my internship at the United Nations, an experience that become possible due to my studies at the Graduate Center CUNY. The United Nations Headquarters felt like home; I fell in love with every tiny element of its people and facilities. In the corridors, in the elevators, the music of different languages sang; in the air was the scent of people from all over the world working hard, with love and passion. In that environment, I could imagine a world without conflict or war. These people from so many different ethnicities, with such high levels of professionalism, education, and manners working together in harmony were a stark contrast to the global atrocities that they worked together to eliminate. Even the building and the walls of the UNHQ carried history within them, the traces of important figures who could only provoke respect and admiration. My internship was a voyage that I wished would never end. I felt very lucky and honored to have worked there. Of course, during my internship there were some tough moments, too. Often, I dove further into my work to distract from my hardships. But from the windows of the UN, I could gaze at the wonderful colors of NYC and its people, who were generous enough to offer me positive signs—a smile, a word, a hug, reassurance that erased my fears, my tiredness, my disappointment. While researching the complex, serious operation of the UN for my capstone, the UN Family became my family.

Working on this capstone has impressed upon me how important it is that I continue the work I began both in the office and the field. I hope, therefore, that the continuation of my capstone will include a greater future commitment to the UN.

Through my internship I got the chance to familiarize myself with UN terminology, its functions and its rules. At the same time, it was through the contact I had with homeless people that I gained valuable knowledge I could not have learned otherwise. My own assumptions were challenged as I lived side by side with these people who, despite lacking shelter, and no matter
how hard the system treated them, were so often ready to give help to their fellow man in need rather than themselves. I met people whose hygiene and appearance were in a terrible state—men and women with naked soles that were transformed into black, rough shoes, dressed like ragamuffins, carrying black garbage bags and an unwashed smell, men and women disconnected from reality, lost in their own world. This detachment from reality was often their protection from society’s indifference. Even without saying a word, their appearance screamed, “Leave me alone!” Or, “Perhaps, I will choose to approach you if I need you to spare some change or a cigarette.” When I met people like these I had to combat my own fears regarding their intentions. Yet, I learned that, most of the time, they were just people who had suffered a lot and were not as “crazy” as they pretended to be, that this was, again, just a way to keep themselves safe. Most distressing, I met people who had suffered so much that they had abandoned all efforts to escape their situation. But many of those people who I met in the streets were among the most compassionate and wonderful people I have ever met, and I was struck again and again by these courageous souls that overcame so many adversities.

Still, I don’t wish to idealize the homeless for fear that I am condoning their situation. learned that it is not enough just to be strong, to beg for a chance to work just for couple of bucks. The longer someone lives on the streets, the harder even the most ordinary of daily activities becomes. Things that are considered basic and easily achievable for most people are sometimes difficult if not impossible for the homeless. Thus, I wish to further investigate the psychological parameters of a person who ends up on the streets. I know that there are emotional factors that further perpetuate the problem. Homeless people have feelings of great embarrassment; their self-confidence suffers a serious blow. The stress and despair that come from losing the ground
underneath one’s feet increases with every day out on the street. The longer someone lacks shelter, the harder it becomes to recover.

I strongly feel that “Dehumanization” has the potential to be a platform for a documentary film or a book. It is a project with a timely and serious subject. As a documentary, I can imagine a format where homeless people are interviewed and can express their own difficulties and concerns, as well as suggestions for how to improve the quality of their own lives. I think a film like this could go a long way to gain the sympathy and understanding of the public. In order understand a situation, you must know it. My grandmother says that the person who is full of food does not feel sympathy for the hungry person. I can see a third project deriving from the documentary in which lawmakers would be given the “opportunity” to experience for themselves a couple of days what it really means to be homeless in a city. I’m sure that this would have a great effect on the laws regarding the homeless in any city.

Another iteration of this capstone could be a fictional film where different, real-life homeless people could be played by talented actors. A film like this could have an even greater potential to reveal the emotional and survival complexities of the homeless.

Last but not least, I would like to eventually write a book that would further explore my capstone project. This book would be able to provide many more specific stories about the people I met along the way, as well as more detailed information about my own personal story.

Even after all my research, my studies at the Graduate Center CUNY, my work at the UN, my personal experiences, I still can’t truly comprehend why people must suffer so much when there are enough wealth and resources to sustain the whole planet. Of course, I understand how difficult it is for human beings to abandon their desire for possessions and wealth. I acknowledge
that the idea of sharing resources has to do not only with education levels but more so with our putting into practice the idea that every man is our brother, every woman is our sister. Every human being belongs to our family.

The way we treat each other, what it means to love, what is worth sacrificing for—these ideals are deteriorating. Of course, we do have compassion for other people—but it is much harder to connect to each other when we do not even know the names of our neighbors. It is a fact that societies before Christ had a totally different shape. Many theories have been developed that try to explain our society’s evolution by examining different aspects and projecting an interdisciplinary approach. Robert Nozick’s entitlement theory proceeds from John Locke in positing that we are all free actors within the laws of nature, but when we interact with others we may face conflicts of interest. This is similar to the Hobbesian state of nature where our world is constantly in a war of all against all. The subordinates who struggle against the sovereigns to improve their lot end up as oppressors themselves.

Nowadays there is a feeling in many societies of being in a similar state of perpetual struggle. We seem to be in a series of unwinnable and ongoing “wars”: the war against terrorism, the war of banks, the war against poverty. All the while, real conflicts are taking place, killing innocent people and destroying nations. Syria, Yemen, Sudan—and for what? For whom? what do we really stand for? Are we weak or are we strong? Are these people across the world so far away? Do we feel their burden is too great for us to carry, that their pain is too huge for us to heal, so big that we can do little more than pick up the remote and switch the channel? Such pain is too much if only a small number of people choose to carry it. Indeed, we have one life to live; we must live it in the best possible way. I don’t know if ideal societies can exist, as Plato visualized, or as Thomas More described in his work *Utopia*, but I feel that it is a basic characteristic of the human
being to constantly seek opportunities for improvement and progress while keeping the hope of better days ahead. But is what I learned while writing and researching “Dehumanization” is any indication, people are able to treat each other with the utmost respect and dignity.

Finally, I would like to say this. The knowledge I gained through direct experience is knowledge that cannot come from books. As you will see in this capstone, I too, for a time, was homeless. Yet, as hard as it was, I value my time living without a home. No doubt, it made me stronger as a person. But it also proved invaluable to my future course: to champion the rights of the homeless, the underserved, and those invisible people all over the world for whom a small amount of care can go very, very far.
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DEHUMANIZATION: A CASE STUDY

by Regina Varthi

How the United Nations, The Sustainable Agenda for 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and more specific SDG 11 for sustainable urbanization are linked with a research conducted by special Rapporteur, Leilani Farha, in Geneva challenging homelessness as a violation of Human rights? how all are fit into a project titled dehumanization?
INTRODUCTION

The current capstone under the title “Dehumanization: A Case Study” consists of three parts. The first part presents, in a brief and schematic manner, the United Nations Family and its structure. This section of the project is mainly derived from my experience of having the honor and pleasure to provide my services at the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations. It was this specific challenge that inspired my inquiry into the nature of persistence and the willingness to “cope” with adversities.

The timeframe for Part One begins July 2016. At the beginning of my internship, my task assignments were related mainly to Security Council issues (though I was lucky enough to cover topics from other committees as well). At the beginning of October 2016, I was assigned exclusively to the fifth committee dealing with the organization’s Administrative and Budgetary aspects. The Fifth Committee examines policies, strategic decisions, and possible budgeting implications (PBI) of UN operations and provides stakeholders with a complete overview of UN functions.

At present, attention is being given to the 2030 Agenda and, more specifically, to the Goal 11 for sustainable cities with the expansion of Habitat III program. While strategic plans are being developed and importance being attached to specific goals of diminishing inequalities, in many meta-millennium societies—if not in all—the degradation of quality of life, the stagnation of the economy, the scarcity of jobs, as well as conflicts and wars are forcing people into further displacements and are increasing the number of homeless people worldwide.

Not having a place to live is not just an unpleasant situation. Having a place to sleep, take a shower, and fulfill one’s basic needs is of paramount importance in asserting a decent quality of
life. Thus, the second part of my capstone focuses on research conducted by Leilani Farha, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to housing, who put forward homelessness as a violation of human rights. In this section more information is provided regarding poverty and homelessness.

The third of my capstone focuses on home and homelessness in New York City, a megalopolis with huge economic inequalities, a greatly diverse population, a competitive working environment, and insane rental rates. In this section, I provide my own story with personal insights and observations.
Part 1A

Part 1A. The United Nations System: The UN Family

The Charter of UN is the foundational treaty of the intergovernmental organization signed on the 26th of June, 1945 in San Francisco at the conclusion of an International Conference which came into force on October 24, 1945. It contains two parts: a Preamble that is a general call for the maintenance of peace, international security and respect for human rights; and a second part that is a declaration on a contractual basis of agreement. It is consists of 19 chapters, containing in total 111 articles. Chapter I of the UN Charter describes its purposes and principles.

The 1st Article (see fig. 1) depicts the UN’s four main purposes:

Fig. 1. 4 Purposes of the UN Charter, Article 1.
In Article 2 of the UN Charter, the following 7 Principles are presented:

1. sovereign equality of all its Members,
2. fulfillment in good faith of the obligations as to ensure the rights and benefits resulting from membership,
3. settlement of international disputes by peaceful means,
4. abstinence from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state,
5. provision of every assistance in any action and the desistance from assisting any state against which the UN has taken preventive action.
6. The Organization shall ensure that states which are not Members of the UN act in accordance with these Principles so far as may be necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security.
7. UN is not authorized to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction.

Chapter II of the UN Charter details membership requirements:

⇒ Article 3: The original Members of the United Nations shall be the states which, having participated in the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco, or having previously signed the Declaration by United Nations of 1 January 1942
⇒ Article 4: Membership in the UN is open to all other peace-loving states which accept the obligations contained in the present Charter ... admission of any such state to membership in the United Nations will be effected by a decision of the General Assembly [GA] upon the recommendation of the Security Council [SC].

⇒ Article 5: A Member … may be suspended by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

⇒ Article 6: A Member … which has persistently violated the Principles contained in the present Charter may be expelled from the Organization by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

There are currently 193 Member States (MS); originally there were 51. Among these are the fifteen member states which make up the Security Council, including the five permanent members (also known as the Permanent Five, Big Five, or P5). These are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People’s Republic of China (PRC)</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Russian Republic Federation</th>
<th>United Kingdom</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>🇨🇳</td>
<td>🇫🇷</td>
<td>🇷🇺</td>
<td>🇬🇧</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UN Charter Chapter III Principle Organs

6 Main Organs

- **General Assembly (GA)**
  - Policymaking Organ Repr. of the 193 States (Chapter IV Articles 9-22)

- **Security Council (SC)**
  - Main Body Responsible for Peace and Security (Chapter V Articles 23-32)

- **Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC)**
  - Principal Organ for economic and social development (Chapter X, Articles 61-72)

- **Secretariat**
  - Enacts day-to-day work of the UN (Chapter XV Articles 97-101)

- **International Court of Justice**
  - Settles legal disputes between MS (Chapter XIV Articles 92-96)

- **Trusteeship Council**
  - Provides international supervision (Chapter XIII Articles 86-91)

---

**UN Bodies**

- **ALL UN Intergovernmental**
  - Principal Organs & Subsidiary Bodies (Boards – Executive Officers Board Committees, Commissions Working Groups)

- **The strictly usage of the term does not include**

  - *Specialized Agencies &
  - **Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs)**

---
NOTE: The Assembly takes into consideration items of the agenda and allocates them in accordance with its content to the Main Committees. Via dialogue and consultations, MS are seeking, where possible, to harmonize the various approaches as to present at plenary meetings resolutions to be voted upon. The first committee is concerned with disarmament and related international; the second with economic questions; the third with social and humanitarian issues. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee deals with a variety of political subjects not dealt with by the First Committee, as well as with decolonization; administrative and budgetary; and Legal.
The Six Official Languages of the UN are English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, and Arabic.

Locations:
1. Headquarters in New York City, USA
2. UNOG Geneva, Switzerland
3. UNOV Vienna, Austria
4. UNON Nairobi, Kenya
5. UN Offices in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for UNECA

NOTE: UNECA (see: Regional Groups)

Chapter IV of the UN Charter the General Assembly (GA) includes the following:

- The General Assembly shall consist of all the Members of the United Nations. (Article 9)
- Each Member shall have not more than five representatives in the General Assembly. (Article 9)
- Each member of the General Assembly elects and appoints its own officers, the members of the other principal organs, the members of some of its subsidiary bodies, and—based on the recommendation of the Security Council—the Secretary-General.
- Each member has one vote (Rule 124).
- Decisions on important questions require a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting (Article 18).
- A Member which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization has no vote in the GA if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The GA may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member (Article 1). The 72nd UNGA started on September 20, 2016 and will last until Tuesday, September 19, 2017
The General Assembly

**GA Responsibilities**

- Receives annual and special reports from the SC; reports include accounts of SC measures decided upon or taken to maintain international peace and security (Article 15);
- Receives and discusses reports issued by the other principal organs established under the Charter as well as reports issued by its own subsidiary bodies;
- May develop consultations regarding the powers or functions of any UN organ established by the Charter and of any of the subsidiary bodies of the GA;
- Approves the budget of the UN and decides on the scales of assessment, i.e., each Member State’s share of the budget.

**General Assembly: “A Parliament of Nations”**

- GA meets in Regular sessions and Special Sessions. Both consist of formal-open and informal-closed meetings (consultations). All sessions are numbered consecutively.
- Regular sessions are divided into two parts: The “main part of the GA” which takes place from mid-September (3rd week) to December until Christmas break, considered the most intensive period; and the “resumed part” addressing to thematic debates and working group meetings.
- Special sessions may, on occasion, be required. UNGASS can be convened either at the request of the SC or a majority of the MS. The request of the SC requires a vote of nine or more of its fifteen members. A Special session deals with one issue only and its agenda is very short; it usually adopts one or two outcome documents.
- **An emergency special session** is the only time the GA can make decisions on issues that are under the exclusive mandate of the SC.
The SG and The PGA

The Secretary General (SG): Selection
The position of the Secretary-General is one of great importance; it requires the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, as well as a firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the UN. The President of the General Assembly (PGA) and SC invite candidates with proven leadership and managerial abilities, extensive experience in international relations, strong diplomatic, communication and multilingual skills. Member States (MS) are invited to present candidates in a letter to the President of the GA and the President of the SC. The SG is Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, appointed by the GA on the recommendation of the SC for a five-year renewable term. Antonio Guterres from Portugal was elected by acclamation as the next UNSG (January 2017 – December 2021).

THE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY (PGA)

Any MS can put forward a candidate for PGA. He/she is not required to be (but always has been) a citizen of the MS presenting the candidacy. The PGA is elected for his/her personal capacity and for the duration of the term of office, and represents the membership as a whole. The MS of the PGA cannot simultaneously hold the office of Vice-President or Chair of a Main Committee. Thus, the five permanent members of the Security Council, who are always Vice-Presidents, cannot hold the office of the PGA according to the UN Code of Ethics. The Presidency of the GA rotates among the five regional groups according to Department of General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM): The Asian States Group (61st session), nowadays known as the Asian Pacific Group

- The Eastern European States Group (62nd session)
- The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (63rd session) (GRULAC)
- The Group of African States (64th session)
- The Western European and other States Group (65th session) (WEOG)
Subsidiary Organs of GA

Fig. 4. Subsidiary Organs of GA.

NOTE: In the Executive Boards are: UNICEF (International Children’s Emergency Fund, changed title to UN Children’s Fund); UNDP (Development Program); UNFPA (UN Population Fund); and WFP (World Food Program).

A committee is a group of people who meet and deliberate according to fixed rules in order to make a decision or produce a document as a group. A commission is a group of people who are entrusted by a government to carry out a task. A commission is usually distinct from other agencies in two ways: 1) it has no single, permanent administrator and; 2) it has no independent or constitutional authority of its own. It operates under the authority of another part of the government. In terms of Committees, apart the six main mentioned above, there are many more among them: The General Committee (GC), the Credentials Committee (CC), and the Committee on Conferences (COC).
Subsidiary bodies of GA

- The GA meets in regular annual sessions and special ones. Both consist of formal and informal meetings. Concerning the Special and Emergency Special sessions of the GA as well as conferences, all of the above convene under the **GA’s auspices**. The Committee is mandated to examine the credentials of representatives of the MS and to report to the GA thereon *(Rule 28 of the ROP of the GA)*. The **credentials of representatives** and the **names of members of the delegation** of each MS are submitted to the SG, and are issued either by the Head of the State or Government, or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs *(Rules of Procedure (ROP) of the GA–Rule 27)*. A **Credentials Committee** is appointed **at the beginning of the Regular Session of the GA**. It consists of **nine members** who are **appointed by the GA** on the proposal of the President.

- The General Committee (GC) at the beginning of each session considers the provisional agenda. It assists the PGA in drawing up the agenda for each plenary meeting, and in the general conduct of the work of the GA. The role of the **GC** has been strengthened over the past sessions with the holding of informal meetings and briefings, **open to all MS** on specific issues under consideration by or pertaining to the work of the Assembly. The GC also makes recommendations to the GA concerning the closing date of the session.

- **UN Committee on Conferences (COC)**, where at its 84th Plenary Meeting on December 21, 1988 the GA decided that must be composed of 21 members appointed by the PGA after consultations with the chairmen of regional groups for a period of three years.
The Revitalization of GA

The increase in UN membership and the continued expansion of the agenda add to the complexity of the GA’s work. There have been efforts to rationalize and streamline the GA’s procedures, an initiative that started a few years after the first session. Since 1991 (the 46th GA), the term “GA revitalization” has been used to describe this ongoing process. The main issues are:

- The role and Authority of GA & PGA,
- The working methods (i.e., not all the documents are being translated into UN Official Languages),
- The selection and appointment of the SG (debate from 5 to 7 or 10 years tenure).

Fig. 5. Revitalization of GA “Core issues.”
The Security Council

Chapter V of the UN Charter The Security Council (SC)

- Takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to peace or act of aggression. Under the Charter, the SC has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- Calls upon parties in a dispute to settle by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, SC can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.
- Convene in Open and Closed meetings. Closed meetings are not open to the public and no verbatim record of statements is kept; Communiqués, issued for closed formal meetings, summarize the topic discussed. “Consultations” are informal meetings of SC members. Formal meetings of the SC are entitled to verbatim coverage. The documents, which include the statements and speeches made during the meeting, are identified by the prefix "S/PV." and are official meeting records. The preparatory work for formal meetings is conducted in informal consultations for which no public record exists. Open meetings are broadcasted on UN webtv; details of monthly or daily programs are also available.
- Composed of 15 Members, 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent, elected for two-year terms by the GA. Press releases (not official documents) provide a summary of the SC meetings as well as the unofficial text of the resolutions and presidential statements adopted at the meetings. Each Member has one vote.
- Under the Charter, all MS are obligated to comply with Council decisions.
- The presidency of the Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month, following the English alphabetical order of the MS name.
Subsidiary Organs of Security Council (SC)

- Article 29 of the United Nations Charter sets out that the Security Council may establish subsidiary bodies as needed for the performance of its functions.
- All existing committees and working groups are comprised of the 15 members of the Council while standing committees are chaired by the President of the Council, rotating on a monthly basis.
- Committees are announced on an annual basis by a Note by the President of the Security Council.
- The mandate of subsidiary organs, whether they are committees or working groups, can range from procedural matters (e.g. documentation and procedures, meetings away from headquarters) to substantive issues (e.g. sanctions regimes, counter-terrorism, and peacekeeping operations).
UN Secretariat is responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies.

Check also OCHA

UN Secretariat is responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies.
SPM, DPA, DFS, HLE

The Special Political Missions (SPM) deploys Special Envoys who are linked with the High Commissioner within the confines of inter-agency communication in the UN System. The DPA (Department of Political Affairs) is the predominant component of the UN for political guidance. Each Special Envoy serves in specific areas and reports to the SG through the DPA. Public Information Officers (PIO)/Spokespersons provide information to the media and conduct biweekly press briefings. Last but not least, PIO keeps SG and Senior Advisers updated on news developments while sharing responsibility for the issuance of statements and remarks to the press made by OSE (Office Special Envoy):

SPM and CLUSTERS/DPA/DFS/HL Envoys: SPMs manage political missions engaged in conflict prevention, peacemaking, and post-conflict peacebuilding in the world. They forward platforms for preventive diplomacy, help in problem resolution, UN development, and humanitarian entities on the ground. Field-based missions include country-specific missions and regional offices. The DPA provides guidance and support to traveling envoys and special advisers of the SG, bringing to bear SG's "good offices" for the resolution of conflicts or the implementation of UN mandates. Good offices contain UN envoys and special advisers.

Fig. 7. SPM/DPA/DFS/HL Envoys.

SPMs, good offices, and other political initiatives authorized by the GA and/or the SC:

- special and personal envoys and special advisers to the SG
- sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels
Field Operations

**UNDPA: Department of Political Affairs / OCHA: Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNAMA</th>
<th>UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNOAU</td>
<td>UN Office to the African Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOWA(s)</td>
<td>UNOWA and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sahel (OSES) have merged into a single entity: UNOWAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOCA</td>
<td>Central Africa</td>
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<td>UNRCCA</td>
<td>Central Asia</td>
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<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
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<td>UNIOGBIS</td>
<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
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<td>UNAMI</td>
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<td>UNSCOL</td>
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<td>Great-Lakes</td>
<td>Great Lakes</td>
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<td>UNSMIL</td>
<td>Libya</td>
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<td>UNSCO</td>
<td>Middle East</td>
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<td>UNSOM</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
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<td>Burundi</td>
<td>Africa</td>
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<td>Syria</td>
<td>Office of the Special Envoy</td>
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<td>Yemen</td>
<td>Office of the Special Adviser to the SG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Office of the Special Adviser to the SG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece/FYROM</td>
<td>Personal Envoy of the SG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNRGID</td>
<td>UN Representative to the Geneva International Discussions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide
- Cameroon-Nigeria, United Nations Support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission
- South Sudan, Office of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan
- Western Sahara, Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara
- Guyana/Venezuela

Fig. 8. DPA/OCHA

PKO:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MINURSO</th>
<th>UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MINUSCA</td>
<td>UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINUSMA</td>
<td>UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINUSTAH</td>
<td>UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONUSCO</td>
<td>UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR of Congo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNAMID</td>
<td>African Union/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDOF</td>
<td>UN Disengagement Observer Force, Golan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFICYP</td>
<td>UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFIL</td>
<td>UN Interim Force in Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNISFA</td>
<td>UN Interim Security Force for Abyei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNMIK</td>
<td>UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNMIL</td>
<td>UN Mission in Liberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNMISS</td>
<td>UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNMOGIP</td>
<td>UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOCI</td>
<td>UN Operation Côte d’Ivoire</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNTSO</td>
<td>UN Truce Supervision Organization</td>
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Fig. 9. PKO.
SC Reform: 71st GA Agenda, Item 122

Yet, according to PGA Peter Thomson (Fiji), the Security Council must reflect a changing global reality. He noted that the world has changed dramatically in the 71 years since the United Nations had been founded, with population growth, economic, technological and human rights advancements, rising interconnectivity, mobility of people, shifting global dynamics, climate change and differences in the scale, nature and complexity of global security challenges.

In a November 2016 meeting on reform, the GA debated ways to advance SC Reform. These are as follows:

**SC Five Core Reform Issues:**

- Membership Categories
- Question of the VETO held by P5
- Regional Representation
- Enlargement of SC
- Working Methods

Fig. 10. Reform of SC Core Issues.
The Economic and Social Council

Chapter X of the UN Charter ECOSOC Articles 61-72

■ Bring **people and issues together** to promote collective action for a **sustainable world**
■ Link a diverse family **UN Entities** (organigram)
■ Take a leading role in identifying:

1. emerging challenges
2. areas to promote innovation
3. ways to achieve a balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable
development (economic-social and environmental)
4. Cooperates with **DESA** (Department of Economic and social Affairs) and other
   **NGOs**
NOTE: The HLPF provides political leadership, guidance, and recommendations for sustainable development, and reviews progress in implementing sustainable development commitments. AMR focuses on “Managing the transition from the MDGs to sustainable development goals (SDGs). What it will take: “Four countries—Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Philippines and Zambia—will deliver national voluntary presentations (NVP). DCF reviews the latest trends and progress in international development cooperation, and encourages coordination across diverse actors and activities, bringing together ministers and senior experts from developing and developed countries, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, international organizations and development banks, local governments, philanthropic foundations and private sector.
Economic Social Council

- Sustainable development has been a priority for Ban Ki-moon (1/1/2007-31/12/2016)

- President of ECOSOC Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava

- Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC), born in 1992. UN now organizes regular Climate Change Conferences

- 1997 Kyoto Protocol sets internationally binding emission-reduction targets for ratifying countries

- 2015 Paris Agreement

- Transition from MDGs including relating indicators to SDG’s Agenda 2030

- Development of Partnerships and Commitments

- UN Programs on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGGIM), a mechanism that plays a role in the implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Development Report for 2016.
ECOSOC System and Subsidiary Organs

**Specialized Agencies**

- **UN** New York, U.S.A
- **UPU** Bern, Switzerland
- **ITU** Geneva, Switzerland
- **WMO** Geneva, Switzerland
- **IMO** London, U.K.
- **IFAD** Rome, Italy
- **UNIDO** Vienna, Austria
- **UNWTO** Madrid, Spain
- **ILO** Geneva, Switzerland
- **FAO** Rome, Italy
- **UNESCO** Paris, France
- **ICAO** Montreal, Canada
- **WHO** Geneva, Switzerland
- **WB** Washington, U.S.A
- **IMF** Washington, U.S.A
- **WIPO**

**NOTE:** Universal Postal Union (UPU), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), International Labor Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, (FAO), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
ECOSOC Subsidiary Organs

ECOSOC Regional Commissions

Fig. 13. Regional Commissions and Functional Commissions.

Functional Commissions

Commission on Population and Development (CPD) - DESA
Division for Social Policy and Development (CSocD)
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)
Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) UNCTAD (Conference on Trade and Development)
UN Women Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
UNODC The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) UNODC The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)
United Nations Forest Forum (UNFF WG) DESA

STATISTICS
Fig. 14. Statistics Pyramid: “Programs and Funds.”
Other Subsidiary Organs

**Research & Training Institutes**

- UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
- UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
- UN System Staff College (UNSSC)
- UN University (UNU)

**Other Organizations Bodies Related to the UN**

- **IAEA** (International Atomic Energy Agency): Seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. Headquarters in Vienna, Austria.
- World Trade Organization (formerly GATT, [The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade](#)): Regulates international trade agreements, negotiations and disputes.
- **OECD** (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development): Analyzes and forecasts economic development, research on trade, environment, agriculture, technology, taxation. Headquarters in Paris, France.
- **BIS** (Bank for International Settlements): Fosters international financial and economic cooperation and operates as a bank for central banks. Headquarters in Basel, Switzerland.

Fig. 15. Other Entities.
Part 1A

■ The Secretariat

■ Comprises the SG
■ Carries out the day-to-day work of the UNGA and the Organization’s other Principal Organs
■ UN staff members are recruited internationally and locally, working in duty stations and peacekeeping missions
■ Terminology

The International Court of Justice

➢ Located in The Hague, Netherlands
➢ Only body of the UN outside New York
➢ Not to be confused with the International Criminal Court
➢ The court’s role is to settle in accordance with international law legal disputes submitted to it by Member States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized UN organs and specialized agencies
➢ Court is composed of fifteen Judges who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the UN, GA, and SC. It is assisted by the Registry, its administrative organ.
➢ Official languages are English and French

The Trusteeship Council

■ Established to move colonies into nations
■ The Trusteeship Council suspended its operations on November 1, 1994, a month after the independence of Palau, the last remaining UN trust territory.
■ By a resolution adopted on May 25, 1994, the Council amended its rules of procedure to drop the obligation to meet annually and agreed to meet occasionally as required by its decision or the decision of its President, or at the request of a majority of its members or the General Assembly or the Security Council.
Part 1B. ADMINISTRATION

Strategic Management

![Managerial Chain Diagram]

Fig. 16. Managerial Chain.
Part One: Plan Outline

CPC main subsidiary organ of the GA and ECOSOC and other Main Committees of the GA taking into account all relevant reports decide the priorities for the period 2018-2019 as follows:

a) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development resolutions of the GA & UN conferences;
b) Maintenance of international peace & security;
c) Development of Africa
d) Promotion of human rights;
e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;
f) Promotion of justice & international law;
g) Disarmament;
h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

Part Two: Biennial Programme Plan

A. The overall orientation reflecting the raison d’être of the programme as a whole
B. The subprograms
C. A list of Mandates
   50 sessions
   206 programme managers
   Increased engagement of programme managers makes frameworks more meaningful as planning and management tools
Plan Outline

Report: A/71/6-Part One

Promotion of Sustained Growth & Sustainable Development

SD mandates in the context of 2030 Agenda & the Paris Agreement under FCCC,
- Enhance Food security,
- Promote Trade,
- Strengthen Social Protection,
- Encourage job creation,
- Foster social stability.
- Support gender equality and the empowerment of women
- Confront with threats of climate changes.
- Raise Awareness of the impacts of climate changes,
- Monitor population growth or decline, age structure, urbanization &
  international migration areas
- Anticipate many changes over the next two decades.
- Encourage capacity development of the least developed countries (LDC) &
  landlocked developing countries (LLDC)
- Set the New Urban Agenda UN Habitat III
- Keep cooperation with MS & other stakeholders
- Enter into HL Dialogue on International Migration and Development

Development of Africa

- Africa Key area of focus for the UN.
- There are people in the region living in extreme poverty,
  inequalities persist,
  unemployment rates remain high
- war conflicts undermine prospects of progress
- UN will work with Africa Union
- Development program with long term vision as encapsulated in Africa’s Agenda 2063

Maintenance of International Peace Security

- Prevention of conflicts
- PKO Support Reform
- implementation of the agenda for the future of PKOs
- HL Independent Panel on PO to undertake a thorough review of UNPKO today and
  the emerging needs of the future and
- Guard societies emerging from conflicts to relapse.
- Provide Safety of the Personnel at the field stations
- Empower relations among UN members, regional organizations, other networks and partners
- Review and update knowledge,
- Maintain high standards of professionalization concerning its human resources

Note: The DPA prepares the SP (Strategic Plans) which are considered tools. Also SPM individual plans based on specific mandates.

The absence of peace and the persistence and exacerbation of armed conflicts have devastating effects on civilian populations and drastically undermine the

Note:
The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe; addressing situations of violations and making recommendations on them.

Crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court shall be limited to the most serious crimes that are of concern to the international community as a whole; has jurisdiction in accordance with this Statute with respect to the following
Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance Efforts

- Over the ten past years funding requirements for HO have increased six fold (from 3.4 billion in 2004 to 19.5 billion in 2015)
- The number of DP (displaced people) has increased reaching 60 million in 2016 the highest levels since the end of WWII.
- Natural Disasters such as hurricanes, typhoons, floods and drought rises due to new weather patterns associated with climate change.

Disarmament

- Attention on nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and nuclear weapons
- Efforts to combat the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons
- Promote universalization of and implementation of multilateral disarmament
- Assist MS in increasing understanding relationship between disarmament & development

Promotion of Human Rights, Justice and International Law

- UN continue to engage with MS to facilitate and support the achievement by the Human Rights Council of its mandate and to promote progress towards universal ratification of international human rights treaties and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
- Combat impunity for international crimes,
- Fortify the international criminal justice system with ICC & enhance capacity building measures to strengthen national justice systems.
- Give Emphasis on human rights of international and national agendas:
  - Fight against poverty, discrimination,
  - Promote rights of children women,
  - Raise awareness at all levels of education,
  - Respond to needs of the vulnerable groups seeking protection.
Drugs Control, Crime Prevention and Combating International Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

- UN need to further strengthen and increase its engagement with the interconnected problems of drug use, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings and firearms, transnational crime, corruption, terrorism.
- Drugs and crime have profound negative impact on sustainable equitable development, peace and security.
- UNODC address the challenges in a holistic and balanced approach, work closely with relevant stakeholders.
- Combating cybercrime that continues to evolve

NOTE: Report A/70/16 (para. 85) stressed the need for continued improvement in the formulation of UN objectives and full involvement
Part 1B

Analysis/Strategy/Goals/Feedback

Fig. 18. Functional Processes.

- Resources
- Technical Infrastructure
- High Talented/Motivated Actors
  
  Know-how of procedures and processes
  
  Recommendations SG RPT
  
  Stakeholders voices

Processes to ensure that measurable goals (smart, specific, measurable, agreed-upon realistic time-based framework) are met.

Related Activities

Collaborative Partnerships

Input

Procedures

Environment

- Implementation of the mandate for A Better World
- Depends on the program’s corresponding results; fulfillment of goals such as: Universal Peace, Poverty Eradication, Sustainable Development

Output

- Accomplishment in correlation with the objectives and indicators set at the beginning upon evaluation of the PEST (political, environmental, social, technological) conditions and in accordance with SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, threats, opportunities)

- Taking into consideration
Results Based Budgeting (RBB)

- Framework should be tested for logic using a series of if-then relationships leading to the objective
- If program receives (inputs) then it will deliver (outputs)
- If program delivers outputs, then it will contribute to expected accomplishments
- If program contributes to expected accomplishments, then it will help meet the objectives
- Finding the right distance between outputs and impact (results)
- Example of cause/effect relationship where the expected accomplishment and indicator of achievement are defined more as statements

NOTE: GA Res. A/RES/70/8 (para. 5): Proposals to improve RBD Results Based Budgeting

Human Resources Management Reform Report of the SG (A/71/323)

Toward a UN Workforce

Fig. 19. Toward a UN Workforce.

NOTE: GA September 2, 2010 A/65/305
**HRM**

**Reform Initiatives focused on:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contractual Framework</th>
<th>3 Categories</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harmonization of Conditions</td>
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<td>Flexible Workplace</td>
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| Talent Management     | Workforce planning          |
|                       | Recruitment                 |
|                       | Mobility                    |
|                       | Learning                    |
|                       | Career Development          |

**Implementation of Common System Compensation Package**

**Major Reform also in the area of staff health and well-being**

---

Fig. 20. HRM Reform Initiatives.

**HRM:**

- **umoja**
  - **Means UNITY in Swahili**
  - Is a **complete reworking of the way** the UN **Secretariat** manages its administration (business processes and IT solutions)
Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software provides a harmonized approach to the following core functions:

![UMOJA Core Functions](image)

Fig. 21. UMOJA Core Functions.
INSPIRA

- E-Staffing Tool Allows equal access to career opportunities; provides staff with the chance to learn and grow so that they can reach their greatest potential.

Fig. 22. Staff by Entity.

**NOTE:** Statistics based on UN Report A/71/360 page 28 (out of 128).
Facts (Resource Report of the SG (A/71/323))

- Peacekeeping budgets 2004-2005: $4.2 billion. 2010-2011: $7.3 billion

- Special political and peace-building mission 2004-2005: $92.1 million. 2010-2011: $582 million

- Humanitarian Operations: staff in the field

- Integration ensuring that policies apply across the Organization; procedures are followed consistently, tools are modern and multifunctional, enabling access to everyone

- Interoperability common system harmonized conditions of service fully coordinate and cooperate working together to achieve shared goals
Part C: Sustainability / Sustainable Development
Fig. 24. SDGs.

List of Actions: “The Lazy Person’s Guide to Saving the World”
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services. Upgrade slums
11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations: women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage
11.5: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected. Substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
11.a: Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
11.b: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
11.c: Support least-developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings, utilizing local materials
Habitat III

The UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development, Habitat III, provides a unique opportunity for the international community to address challenges that towns are facing. The third summit was conducted on October 17-20, 2016 in Quito, Ecuador. A global strategy on urbanization was set via the New Urban Agenda, its main concern being sustainability—not only in terms of environmental and natural resources but also economic and social issues of equality. There included a call for adequate shelter and sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world. Together with international aid and affordable housing requests, agencies have reduced their investments in cities people move to rural areas still agreeing that viable, accountable choices are a prerequisite for a better world.

Initiatives regarding urbanization have been taking place since 1996 where a Declaration on Human Settlements took place in Istanbul. A couple of years later, its main provisions were incorporated in the MDGs of 2000 for achieving cities without slums. It aims of inclusive social development, inclusive economic development, environmental sustainability, peace and security were part of the principles of the Millennium Declaration, which was further developed through the report of “Realizing the Future we want for ALL.” (2012 Report to the GA by a UN Task team). The approach selected is tri-fold: local fiscal systems, urban planning and basic services, and infrastructure by operational enablers. The core issues were defined as risk reduction and urban resilience; an important key area concerned a global monitoring mechanism tracking changes, which is planned for further debate by GA in 2017-2018.

The overall implication of these studies is that, while globalization offers opportunities, its benefits are not evenly shared. Inequalities and struggles over resources are contributors to conflicts, hunger, violence, and moreover, impede sustainable development.
Part 2

Homelessness
Fig. 25. Eviction. (photo by author)
The Special Rapporteur on behalf of the UNHCHR located in Geneva, Leilani Farha, conducted research on adequate housing, calling homelessness a violation of human rights. Her report examined the parameters of:

Fig. 26. Causes of homelessness.

In her report presented at the Human Rights Council in March 2016, Farha concluded that adequate housing is being treated by the global community more as a socioeconomic policy objective rather than a fundamental right.
The results of Farha’s research have furthermore shown that homeless people:

- Often get stigmatized;
- Are subject to intimidation and harassment by authorities and the general public;
- Are legally condemned to social exclusion by laws imposed under the guise of public health and safety, hiding the real aim, which is to keep areas touristic and entrepreneurially attractive;
- Laws render homeless invisible;
- Measures criminalize human needs since fines are imposed for sleeping or eating in public spaces;
- Marginalization
- Discrimination

Fig. 27. Causes of homelessness, 2. (photo by author)
Root initiators of homelessness

The causes of homelessness are due to an interplay between individual circumstances and broader systemic factors. More specifically, homelessness is caused by:

Fig. 28. Causes of homelessness, 3.

“A human rights response to homelessness addresses both. It understands that homelessness may be linked to individual dynamics such as psychosocial disabilities, unexpected job loss, addictions or complex choices to become street-connected, and that a major cause of homelessness is the failure of governments to respond to unique individual circumstances with compassion and respect for individual dignity … Rapid global urbanization has resulted in an astonishing accumulation of wealth for a few, accompanied by increasing poverty for many. Reliance on private market housing supply to respond to urbanization needs has meant that new housing supply has targeted mostly the rich, creating inflated real estate values, speculation and significant deficits of affordable housing. People who move to cities often have no choice but to live in informal settlements where millions suffer, in varying degrees, from poor sanitation, lack of access to clean water, overcrowding and makeshift structures [emphasis mine].” A/HRC/31/54_30/12/2015.
At present, the world is facing the largest migrations since WWII; many are fleeing conflict areas, and a large influx of people are seeking accommodation in neighbouring countries. A report from NGO Habitat for Humanity stresses Europe’s escalating housing crisis, declaring the continent’s “Inadequate housing infrastructure to support newcomers.” Affordable housing is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain. This link shows Europe’s Housing cost overburden rate by household type. The worst situations are in Paris, London, Brussels and other megacities where urban areas overpopulated. Paradoxically, these cities show, on the one hand, “packed places” with no adequate housing, and on the other, plenty of houses with huge rates that make them inaccessible to average- or low-income people. The global financial crisis in 2008 further impeded economic growth in big cities and dramatically increased unemployment rates. Inequalities grew.

I feel that adequate housing should be considered a human right according to the UN Declaration of Human Rights Article 25(1). Unaffordable housing severely impacts the well-being of people. It is also linked with violence, crime, and overall lower standards of living. Homelessness takes an emotional toll, as well. What does it mean not to have a place to live in a regulated society? How does it feel to wish to take a shower and lack a bathtub? As Farha stated in her report: “Lived experience illustrates that the right to life cannot be separated from the right to a secure place to live in dignity.” The right to adequate housing is a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination. The “right to life” is recognized as the “supreme” human right, the protection of which is required for the realization of all other human rights. Despite this centrality, and the fact that millions of marginalized individuals and groups experience dire housing conditions that threaten their right to life, the applicability of the right to life to the right to adequate housing demands much more attention from the international human rights community.
### Comments and Proposals by the Special Rapporteur of UNOG Mrs. Leilani Farha: A/HRC/31/54

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposals &amp; Recommendations to other Actors</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Any and all laws or measures that criminalize, impose fines on or restrict homeless people or behaviour associated with being homeless, such as sleeping or eating in public spaces, must be immediately repealed;</td>
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<td>Homeless people must be recognized as a protected group in all relevant domestic anti-discrimination and hate-crime laws, including where relevant in national Constitutions, national and subnational human rights legislation and in city charters;</td>
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<td>A careful review of existing legislation and policies must be undertaken to ensure that those that include discriminatory intent or effect against people who are homeless are repealed or amended, in compliance with international human rights law. Funding or transfer payments for local programmes should be made conditional on the elimination of all laws that criminalize or discriminate against homeless persons;</td>
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<td>Homeless people must be ensured access to hearings and effective remedies for violations of their rights, including as a result of the failure of States to take reasonable measures within the maximum available resources to eliminate homelessness. Class or group actions should be facilitated where possible and effective remedies should be available in multiple forums, including courts, administrative tribunals and national human rights institutions;</td>
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<td>National and local governments must re-engage and recommit to their role of providing social protection and ensuring access to affordable housing for marginalized and vulnerable groups, reaffirming that housing is a human right rather than a commodity. Subnational governments must have access to adequate resources to meet their allocated responsibilities;</td>
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<td>Any evictions that may result in homelessness, including those intended to render homeless people less visible, such as to promote tourism or facilitate mega events, must be recognized under domestic law as gross violations of human rights and be immediately stopped. Forced evictions must not occur without prior meaningful consultation with affected groups, an exploration of all alternatives, including in situ upgrading, and the implementation of agreed-upon resettlement options for those affected;</td>
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<td>Special attention must be directed to homelessness among indigenous peoples caused by displacement from land and resources and the destruction of cultural identity. Indigenous peoples should be provided with resources to implement programmes to address homelessness in both urban and rural contexts, consistent with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</td>
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<td>The media, including journalists, editorial boards, producers and owners, must ensure that homeless people are never depicted in a discriminatory or hateful manner. Oversight and regulation in this regard is needed;</td>
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<td>Humanitarian assistance must not be conditional on place of residence prior to conflict or natural disaster. Property titles or other documents that are often not available to people who are homeless should not be a barrier to receiving emergency and longer-term humanitarian assistance;</td>
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<td>Lawyers and advocates must work closely with homeless people and their representatives to ensure that homelessness is addressed as a human rights violation through any available avenues. The judiciary must develop its capacity and commitment to adjudicating these claims, including where the claims seek a remedy requiring positive measures. In this context, States must refrain from adopting positions in litigation that are contrary to international human rights law.</td>
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Leilani Farha presented her remarks at the Human Rights Council in March 2016. She clearly linked homelessness as a global human right to increased inequality of wealth and property. She brought to light the stigmatization by including real case studies.

*In August 2015 the office of the Mayor of New York introduced a mobile phone application called “Map the Homeless” that allowed users to take snapshots of homeless people and report them to police (social media hashtag #AggressivePanhandling & #Violent).*

Fig. 29. Map the Homeless. (photo by author)
Last but not least, Mrs. Farha examined the legal framework, arguing that laws are created to render homeless people *invisible*. 

Fig. 30. Sleeping in the Subway. (photo by author)
Department of Homeless Services “Code Blue” & “Code Red” Policy:

- “Code Blue” for winter nights when at least one of the following weather conditions occurs:

  - Temperatures below 32 degrees
  - Wind chill below 0 degrees
  - Snow greater than 6 inches
  - Ice storms or freezing rain

- Red code
  - Heat index of 90 degrees
Fig. 31. Sleeping in the Subway, 2. (photo by author)
Lately, the role of the UN in terms of its efficacy and efficiency is being called to question; the organization has been receiving severe criticism for its decisions and operations. Meta-millennium societies are facing multilateral issues on a global scale; developing and developed countries are confronted with many common problems. Times change and the rate of that change is itself accelerating. The decade of Nineties differs greatly from new Millennium, especially in the areas of technology and global interconnectedness; space and time are becoming unified. Technological advancements along with positive life modalities in collaboration with other actors (multidisciplinary approach) is resulting in radical ramifications. According to urban development UN experts, more than half of the world’s population lives in cities where adequate housing still remains a challenge.

Higher levels of inequality are seen the world over, and people seem split into two groups: those who have the wealth and power, and those who struggle to get a piece of the pie. Globally, there is a great threat to the middle class. Of course, according to the German sociologist Ulrich Beck (1944-2015), it does not matter who has the greatest portion of the pie since the pie itself is poisoned. Certainly, money can ease the way we live, but it cannot perform miracles. Money, for instance, will not help us obtain love or immortality. But without any money at all, humans cannot be incorporated into the current system. The exploitation of those who struggle by those who have the power (by positions of authority, money, territory, or class) separates the world.

More and more we are seeing political deadlocks stemming from apathy with civilians voting for the “least corrupted “candidates, i.e., those who might incur the least amount of political damage, instead of electing those who are most capable. The recent Presidential elections in the USA offered food for thought. For many, the victory of Donald Trump was a shock. Yet, at within the current socioeconomic framework, similar patterns of fanaticism, xenophobia, and violence
against immigrants are popping up globally in an era where the capitalistic system seems inadequate, old, and tired. Fear cultivation that preys upon people’s sense of insecurity has been increased via the Internet; social networks create the illusion of communication and genuine human interaction. Add to this the migration of people from one part of the world to another seeking a better life and new opportunities (the result of a normal human impulse combined with Europe and America’s promotion of global mobility). The previous century has been defined by major population migrations and changes in the composition (voluntarily or violently) of nation-states. It is possible to say that the 21st century will be a century characterized by immigration movements and refugees, people forced to leave their homes for fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, social group or personal beliefs, fearing for their health and safety (the concept of push and pull, repulsion and attraction).

Moreover, terrorist attacks, guerrilla conflicts, ISIS and other threats are also stoking the climate of insecurity. Violations of human rights resolutions are yet another factor in the displacement of people around the world. All told, large numbers of people are involved in vast migrations around the globe. As they try to survive in different continents, cities, and places, they all share a common dream: to live, to have a decent life. This global migration is a generalized crisis, exacerbated by technology, which is fueling social transformation on a grand scale. In a few years from now, nothing will remain the same. The ambition of the UN is to assist positively in this transformation of our world. I share this ambition and would like to be a part of it.
Fig. 32. The City (photo by author).
A walk through the streets of New York at night highlights the dehumanization of people.

Fig. 33. Dehumanization (photo by author).
Fig. 34. Feet of the streets. All photos by the author.
The following section reflects my real-life research.

I experienced homelessness firsthand, in all its dimensions. The first period was at the beginning of June and ended 25 days later. The second period started on the 20th of August 2016 and continued all the way until the beginning of November. I would like to emphasize that weather conditions were on my side; I was on the streets during a period of few seasonal rainstorms and only a couple of nights of chilling temperatures. I don’t know what would have happened to me during heavy winter. My initial reaction to my predicament was a blend of laughter, fear, shock and tranquility, all blended into one. I put my personal belongings in a storage room. I tried to keep my focus on the immediate reality of my situation. At the same time, I denied that this was my true reality and never really accepted it. I have always been sensitive toward homeless people. In my hometown of Athens, Greece, homeless people first started grabbing my attention at the start of the financial crisis in 2009. The homeless problem in Greece created an enormous amount of good intentions. Thoughts and ideas were put forth on how to provide relief to homeless people. Although both spontaneous and organized actions did provide some relief, deficiencies still persist. That’s because these approaches were usually based on the short term. I have the sense that the following subconscious belief is widely shared: Homeless people are the perpetrators of their own misfortune. This judgment, though incorrect, is understandable.

A person who becomes homeless is often confused and grappling with a rapidly changing situation. I recall one rainy night when I didn’t have money to purchase a MetroCard. I thought I’d sneak into the station, being a relatively safe to protect myself from the elements; but I wasn’t able to do it. I just couldn’t bring myself to break the law and jump the turnstile. My embarrassment was so deep that I also was unable to ask a stranger to swipe me through. I stood there for quite a
long time, starring at people coming and going. A young man caught my eye. In a burst of courage, I asked him to swipe for me. While I was entering, I noticed that he was using a pre-paid MetroCard. I yelled at him, “Give me your phone number. I want to pay you back for the cost of the ticket.” He just kept walking toward the exit. He saluted me and left.

During one of my “outhouse nights” a young lady saw me sitting on a bench and sleeping in an upright position. She touched me slightly and asked if I was feeling well. I said that I was feeling good and thanked her. A couple of minutes later, she returned carrying croissants. She approached me and left them next to me on the bench. I said that was not necessary and that I was not in need. But the lady insisted.

At the UN, I have recently heard a story, whispered in the corridors, about a young UN intern, David Hade, sleeping in a tent on the shores of lake of Geneva (UNOG). (For more information on this story, click here). Mr. Ahmad Fawzi, head of the UN Information service of UNOG, stated that “the policy of paying interns comes not from the UN agencies themselves but from the UNGA, which some years ago passed a resolution allowing the recruitment of interns but PROHIBITING their payment”. He stressed that the “UN tries its best by negotiating cheaper rates for interns on Geneva’s public transport system and offering discounts at the UN Cafeteria.” I myself, being in a position of proudly serving the UNHQ and representing my country with honor, can understand David Hade’s desire to persevere with an internship even under dire financial circumstances.

Much as I can relate to David Hade’s predicament, there are further considerations that have to do with gender differentiation. Women have different functions and days of menstruation pose special problems for a homeless woman. I also remember a couple of nights when I needed to urinate and could not find a place that would allow me to make use of restrooms. I knew that I
did not have the luxury to release my bladder in the middle of the avenue and with my clothes on. Should an accident like this have happened to me, I would not have had a place to clean myself in time to get to my beloved place of work. For someone who lacks a stable place to live, daily tasks take on a different dimension. The body does not rest properly. Hygiene rules are hard to follow. In my case, my toes were infected with fungus since my feet were always trapped in the same pair of shoes, deprived of air and water. My thighs and calves acquired a map of broken veins. My menstrual cycle was deregulated. I was often so in need of energy that I ended up consuming more than fifteen packets of sugar in one cup of coffee. My experience as a homeless unpaid adviser at the Greek Mission to the UN showed me that conditions can get hard and harder.

At my workplace, I tried to hide my problems. I realized how easily others jump to conclusions without second thought or further analysis. I felt that I would be judged—a childless woman has no right to complain. It is taken for granted that all my concerns are taken care of so I can spend my days primping in front of a mirror. These are the kind of misleading perceptions that downplay the struggles of people on the streets. My daily presence at the office was no simple task. Usually, after a sleepless night, I would visit the first stores to open nearby UNHQ in the early morning hours, to make use of beauty product testing kits. Make-up, mascara, and lipstick were my tools to erase my toughness. Each day I would go to storage facility to change clothes, so that I would look different from the previous day.

I remember one night being so exhausted and unable to find a quiet place to rest. As I kept walking, I remember my body surrendering to exhaustion. I kept walking with my eyes closed, literally in the mode of a sleepwalker. I only stopped when I did not manage to avoid a short street barrier and felt down. One of my knees was injured; my tights tore. A couple of hours later, I presented myself at the UN office. I did not share my experience with anyone.
The second time I fell was more severe. I had, again, been feeling so tired that I sat down for few minutes on one of the benches at 168th Street. I started to lose sensation in my body, and finally unable to resist my need for sleep, I collapsed. I remember feeling an acute burning in my head; holding it in my hands, I tried to understand what had happened to me. Yet, I was lucky. Someone saw me and called Emergency. While I was still on the ground, I was asked if I wanted to be transferred to the hospital. I insisted that I was well and in no need of medical assistance, but I tried to get up, I felt like I would throw up and lay down again. I agreed to go to the hospital, and I had an X-ray. No internal damage found. I could leave. A few hours later, I arrived at my office, despite the fact that I was still feeling the burning sensation in my head. Again, I did not let people know how my previous night was spent.

The UN is an entity that supports human rights—the rights of the vulnerable, the rights of women, the rights of youth. Through my experiences, I came to wonder: Why doesn’t the UN pay interns for their services? Why does the UN uphold an anachronistic resolution that effectually legalizes unpaid work? Why doesn’t HRM Reform pertain to UN non-staff? Would any of the UN high-level managers who made the decision to not pay interns surrender their own right to be paid? Don’t delegates, staff, and other consultants provide their services at a fee?

**This is how it is, and this is how it must be** as long as societies are by run capitalistic economic models. Surely, a UN internship is a gift for a student, providing valuable experience and resume credentials. But without payment, this opportunity is available only to those who can afford to work for free. Intentionally or unintentionally, the UN excludes from participating those who are of low-level income and other vulnerable groups. I do recognize that compromises must be made. Sacrifices might be required from the intern and his/her family. Permanent solutions are achievable; different approaches may be introduced and implemented. A paragon of HR
recruitment excellence can be seen in the hiring procedures and policies of the company Zappos. At Zappos, every new employee receives a paid training period.

While a flexible workplace, UMOJA, refurbishment, submersion of staff categories from 15 to 3, the Inspira tool and similar initiatives are evidence of headway, more improvement is needed. A serious commitment demands more ambitious action. UN core issues, cultural practices and policies must be a priority for the organization. Indeed, the United Nations is an inspiration, a hope, a temple of friendship, the embodiment of global harmony, promoting ideals and setting its self forth as a paradigm. I do recognize the enormous tasks the UN faces, as well as its complicated limitations, including the potential budgeting implications (PBI). I also acknowledge the sensitive financial issues that may engender a conflict of interests. To help, mediators can play a crucial role in finding a “golden mean” of common interests. The office of the Ombudsman can play a more decisive role. Nonetheless, the focus of the UN should not be to merely confront humanitarian crises, but to eliminate them. At the forefront of any lasting change must be the well-educated world citizen. While homeless people are often accused of loitering, the truth is often quite the opposite. Many homeless people treat the streets as their home (which it is), and if they are allowed into a public or private place (for instance, to use the restroom) they will respect it. One simple and obvious reason is that they would like to have access to such places in the future.

Once, I met a homeless woman in Columbus Circle. I asked how long she had been on the streets. She said almost three years. She started describing to me her difficulties accessing water in order to clean herself and wash her few clothes. She advised me to take good care of my belongings, since one night she took her shoes off and someone stole them. She added that one of the cleaning ladies who worked at one of the malls humiliated her because she caught the woman washing parts of herself. “I’m not doing anything wrong,” she said to me. “I want to clean myself,
I want to keep my dignity and self-respect. She did not understand why I was in this position. She just looked at me with disgust.”

While rats and cockroaches can freely walk the streets of New York (their abundance a natural outcome of the over-consumption that takes place in a capitalistic environment), homeless people are stigmatized, victims of the perception that their own inadequacy brought them into this unpleasant situation, rather than the system itself. Dehumanization is imposed by the law, punishing those people who, for a variety of reasons, were condemned to life on the streets and deprived of their basic needs. Consider the unavoidable need to urinate. Public restrooms close at dusk and private restrooms tend to be only for customers’ use. Urination in the streets is prohibited and thus a violation of the law. This leads to unfortunate choice: break the law or break the bladder.
Conclusion

New York is a beautiful, magical megacity—but surviving there is tough. My desire to complete my studies and continue offering my services at the UN is still strong despite the difficulties. This capstone project is not intended to be an autobiography, nor a melodrama. The reference to my personal experience has only one aim: to bring further attention to Leilani Farha’s conclusions asserting that unaffordable housing is a human rights violation.

“Dehumanization” is a title, but it is also a state that I experienced firsthand. There were many nights that I stepped across the boundary of what is considered socially, culturally and biologically appropriate. There were many times that I headed to work with the feeling that I was stinky despite my efforts to uphold a decent self-image. Lacking rest, I entered into a manic mode just to stay awake and productive. There were periods of utter self-doubt, outbursts, negative thoughts, depression, and feelings of intense anxiety. There were moments when I was afraid to face myself in the mirror. I felt like a carcass; I had no emotions, operating in a mechanical mode. I was scared of what I was becoming.

At the same time, I experienced a strong sense of power, an overwhelming desire to stay focused on the present, on the moment, focused on the beauty of the world—to enjoy every minute as much as I could. I had a precious asset, my health, though I was putting even this at risk. At the moments I felt I was losing ground and facing defeat, I searched desperately to re-energize my soul with the wonders of New York. I observed the variations of light in the colors of the New York City skies. I paid close attention to the attractions of the city, to its people, its breathtaking views, the diversity that permeates its every corner.
MYTHS ABOUT THE HOMELESS

- *Homeless people are alcoholics. They are insane, psychopaths.* Among the percentage of people that do not have shelter, there are, of course, those with psychosocial/psychopathological problems, but this does not mean that every homeless person does. This is akin to saying that, since I only see white ducks in the lake, I conclude that black ducks do not exist.

- *Homeless people are lazy.* There is nothing easy about life on the streets. Of course, there are those who live on the streets by personal choice. Most homeless people are lacking information and resources rather than willpower or the desire to work.

- *Homeless people are a danger to the public.* Generalizations are misleading; I have met homeless people who protected me and put my safety above their own.

- *Homeless people can be helped by the provision of basic goods such as food, clothes, blankets and medicines.* Though this is not a myth, we must remember that such acts are first-aid measures and will not lead to permanent resolutions.

In conclusion, I feel that the aim of “Dehumanization: A Case Study” is twofold: One, it confirms by experience the results of Leilani Farha’s report, and stresses the importance of adequate housing within the framework of human rights; and second, it analyzes the roles of Antonio Guterres (Secretary General of the UN), the Security Council, the General Assembly, and the involved parties, calling for a reexamination of the resolution for interns, and furthermore, a reopening of the item in the 72nd GA Agenda.
Υπάρχουν ομορφοί άνθρωποι ανάμεσα μας να σβήνουν την ασχήμια μας
Κάθε φύση έχει την όμορφη και άσχημη όψη:

*Click on the icon.*
APPENDICES
1. The UN Charter

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION
OF Human Rights

The recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

HEAVY DUTY trucker come to the United Nations, the 1945, human rights were viewed as inherent in all human beings. The UDHR, or Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948. It is a document of the United Nations that sets out, for the first time in a universally accepted instrument, a clear and comprehensive statement of universals human rights and freedoms to be enjoyed by all human beings everywhere. It is a statement that has been widely revered and has served as a foundation for the development of human rights law and policy. The UDHR is one of the most widely cited and influential human rights documents in history.

The UDHR is a cornerstone of international human rights law, and its principles have been incorporated into various international human rights treaties, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The UDHR is also a key instrument for the promotion and protection of human rights at the national level, as it has been included in national constitutions and legal frameworks in many countries.

The UDHR is not a legally binding document, but it serves as a comprehensive guide to the promotion and protection of human rights and is widely regarded as a source of inspiration for the development of national human rights laws and policies. It is a document that is celebrated by human rights activists and organizations around the world, and it has played a significant role in the advancement of human rights and the achievement of a more just and equitable world.

The UDHR has been widely translated into various languages and is available in many forms, including a digital version that is accessible to all. It is a document that is widely respected and is seen as a symbol of hope and progress for the future of humanity.

The UDHR is a testament to the power of human rights and the importance of ensuring that all people are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their background or circumstances. It is a document that reminds us of our shared humanity and our responsibility to protect the rights of all people.

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2. **The UN System**

![The United Nations System Diagram](http://munual.org/un-structure/)

3. The UN Structure
**OSG** (Executive Office of the Secretary-General)

  - Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General
  - Protocol and Liaison Service

**OIOS** (Office of Internal Oversight Services)

  - Internal Audit Division
  - Inspection and Evaluation Division
  - Investigations Division

**OLA** (Office of Legal Affairs)

  - Office of the Legal Counsel
  - General Legal Division
  - Treaty Section
  - Codification Division
  - International Trade Law Division
  - Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

**DPA** (Department of Political Affairs)

  - Africa I and II Divisions
  - Americas Division
  - Asia and the Pacific Division
  - Europe Division
  - Middle East and West Asia Division
  - Electoral Assistance Division
Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office

Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Myanmar

Division for Palestinian Rights

Policy and Mediation Division

Security Council Affairs Division

Decolonization Unit

**DDA** (Department of Disarmament Affairs)

Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch

Conventional Arms Branch

Information and Outreach Branch

Regional Disarmament Branch

Conference on Disarmament Secretariat and Conference Support Branch

**DPKO** (Department of Peacekeeping Operations)

Office of Operations

Africa I Division

Africa II Division

Asia and Middle East Division

Europe and Latin America Division

**Office of Military Affairs**

**Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions**
Police Division

Mine Action Service

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section

Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service: Justice and Corrections

Security Sector Reform Unit

Policy, Evaluation and Training Division

**OCHA** (Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)

Office of the Assistant Secretary-General

Field Personnel Division

Field Budget and Finance Division

Logistics Support Division

Information & Communications Technology Division

Policy Evaluation and Training (PET) Division

United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi (UNLB)

**DESA** (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

Financing for Development Office

Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Division for Social Policy and Development

Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests

Statistics Division

Division for Sustainable Development

Population Division
Development Policy and Analysis Division

Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Capacity Development Office

United Nations Forum on Forests

DGAACS (Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services)

Office of Protocol and Liaison Service

Central Planning and Coordination Service

General Assembly and ECOSOC Affairs Division

Meetings and Publishing Division

Documentation Division

DPI (Department of Public Information)

News and Media Division

Outreach Division

Strategic Communications Division

DSS (Department of Safety and Security)

Field Support Service

Division of Regional Operations

DM (Department of Management)

Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts

Programme Planning and Budget Division

Treasury

Office of Human Resources Management
UNHCR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner)

OHRLLS (Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States)

ODC (Office on Drugs and Crime)

UNOG (United Nations Office at Geneva)

UNOV (United Nations Office at Vienna)

UNON (United Nations Office at Nairobi)

UNHSP (UN Human Settlements Programme)

UNAIDS (Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS)

Internal Justice Bodies

Office of the United Nations Ombudsman

Office of Administration of Justice

UN Dispute Tribunal
UN Appeals Tribunal [the United Nations Administrative Tribunal was abolished as of 31 December 2009 by GA resolution 63/253]

Other Offices

Peacebuilding Support Office

United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Secretariat of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)

Ethics Office

Global Compact Office

United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP)

United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)

United Nations Staff Union

United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)

Special Advisers, Representatives and Envoys

Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Office of the Special Adviser on Africa

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

Office on Sport for Development and Peace
Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Myanmar

Special and Personal Representatives and Envoys of the Secretary-General (complete list)

Regional Commissions

**ECA** (Economic Commission for Africa)

**ECE** (Economic Commission for Europe)

**ECLAC** ([Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean](Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean))

**ESCAP** (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)

**ESCWA** (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia)

**UNOG** ([United Nations Office at Geneva](United Nations Office at Geneva))

**UNOV** (United Nations Office at Vienna)

**UNON** ([United Nations Office at Nairobi](United Nations Office at Nairobi))
4. Overview of the SPM start-up process

5. Process flow of two Agendas (2030 and Addis Ababa)

Process flow since the adoption of the two Agendas and guide to the total resources in support of the Agendas

Abbreviations: AAAA, Addis Ababa Action Agenda; ECOSOC, Economic and Social Council.
6. Homelessness in NYC (resource: Coalition for the Homeless)
Number of Homeless Children Each Night in NYC Shelter System, 1983-2016

Source: NYC Department of Homeless Services and Human Resources Administration and NYCStat, shelter census reports

Sep 2016: 24,148
7. Photo Gallery (all photos by the author)

a) UNHQ outer view: Morning hours. Designated smoking area.

b)
c) UNHQ outer view: Evening hours.

[Image of UNHQ outer view during evening hours]

d) [Image of a different view of UNHQ during a different time of day]

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e) United Nations view by night: Second-floor, Delegates’ lounge view
g) UN Quiet Lounge view
h) The Permanent Mission of Greece to the UN (11th, 12th, 13th floors)
The Olympic Games of 1896 constitute a breakthrough in the history of sports events. The revival of the ancient tradition transformed international sports meetings into the global events we know today.

One of the famous photographers of that period was the well-travelled and American educated German, Albert Meyer (Dresden 1857-1924). Meyer traveled to Athens for the Games and became the official photographer of the German team.

The 25 rather Spartan photographs of his album capture the chronicles of the Games, documenting both athletic rituals and the athletic labors of the participants.

The photographic studio and archive of Albert Meyer was destroyed in 1945, when allied bombings flattened Dresden, turning the original photographs into rare and priceless artifacts.

Among the members of the organizing committee who received one of the rare leather albums was its Secretary George Streit, banker and minister of the Greek government of the period. Marinos Yeroulamos, his grandson and President of the Board of Trustees of the Benaki Museum, donated the album to the Historical Archives of Museum were it is safeguarded today as a unique token to both History and Art.
j) Subway station: 34th Street, 1, 2, 3 trains

k) Subway station: Homeless outreach with police presence
1) The Graduate Center City University of New York, shot December 15, 2016. The Empire State Building across.
m) UN: Two beloved shots
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