Forum:	General Assembly Fourth Committee
Issue:	The Question of Providing Legal Identity for All, Including Birth Registration
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Position:	Chair

Introduction

According to the World Bank Identification for Development (ID4D) Global Dataset for 2018, there are approximately 987,030,770 people in the world who do not have proof of their legal identity[1]. In 2015, the United Nations provided their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 16 which aimed to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies. Within this goal, the ninth point aims by 2030, to provide legal identity for all including birth registration.[2]

Rising numbers of refugees and lack of birth registration have excluded many from educational, financial and health benefits on a national level as well as worldwide. Those in poverty internationally have never had and will never get the chance to partake in these conveniences as well. The UN has, through SDG 16.9, set up part of the course of action to solve this problem.

The UN has been working to allow all people the right to a legal identity, brought forth yet again in SDG 16.9, for a long time. Birth registration as a part of that poses another challenge in the strides towards this goal, as it stands as the foundation for a legal identity and the ability for a person to live politically, socially, and economically in the modern world.

Definition of Key Terms

Birth Registration

Birth registration, part of SDG 16.9, is the act of providing legal identification for a child directly after birth. This act provides a certificate, i.e. a birth certificate, for the child and allows the child to become a legal citizen of a country, either from birth or later

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[1] "Identification for Development (ID4D) Global Dataset." *Search | Data Catalog*, World Bank, 25 June 2018, datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/identification-development-global-dataset.

[2] "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - United Nations Sustainable Development." United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/.

corresponding with the government's laws.[3] Without legal registration, a child does not, in the eyes of the law, exist.

Civil Registration

Part of establishing a legal identity, civil registration notes the birth, death, and marriage of a person continuously and permanently.[4] In many countries this is compulsory. It confirms that a person is recognized in a country, and ensures that the legal identity of all people is concrete and continuous. Not only does this registration aid the person, as does all legal identification, but it can also be statistically required by a country to allow for development planning and the adjustment of policy.

Identification for Development program (ID4D)

Identification for Development, or ID4D, is an initiative started by the World Bank in 2014 focused on "making everyone count by providing an identity and delivering digital ID-enabled services to all." One of the emphasized purposes of this initiative was the idea that the provision identification (ID) would ensure access for every individual to "educational opportunities, financial services, health and social welfare benefits, economic development, as well as electoral participation for citizens."[5]

Explanation of the Question

The Question of Providing Legal Identity for All, Including Birth Registration has been a prominent topic, as a legal identity is one of the most important things for a person to have. It is a question that the UN has continuously addressed since legal identity became the deciding factor in a person's existence.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) work towards the UN's ultimate goals towards international peace through providing an action plan for these goals. In 2015, UN member states voted seventeen world goals into action to work towards and promote economic growth and global prosperity, aiming for full implementation by 2030. These goals focused on issues relating to water, energy, climate, oceans, urbanization, transport, science, and technology.[6]

SDG 16.9

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[3] "Nigeria: FAQ on Birth Registration (Birth Registration, FAQ, Nigeria)." United Nations, United Nations, unstats.un.org/unsd/vitalstatkb/KnowledgebaseArticle50786.aspx.

[4] "What You Need to Know about Civil Registration." Civil Registration Service, Philippine Statistics Authority, www.census.gov.ph/content/what-you-need-know-about-civil-registration.

[5] Dahan, Mariana. "Joining Forces to Make IDs Accessible to All." Jobs and Development, The World Bank, 23 Sept. 2015, blogs.worldbank.org/ic4d/joining-forces-make-ids-accessible-all.

[6] "Home .:. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." United Nations, United Nations, sustainabledevelopment.un.org/.

Goal 16 aims to "promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels." Target 9 of this goal is to, "by 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration."[7]

Through Goal 16.9, the UN works to provide equal rights to all citizens starting from birth, which emphasizes the point of birth registration, which is often recognized as the first right of a child. This goal is the starting point for all peoples to get access to public and international education and to any aid which their country provides its citizens--including healthcare, social protection, and voting rights. Although birth registration does not always mean birth citizenship, both terms often coincide.

Poverty and legal identity

The largest number of people without a legal identity lies with those in poverty.[8] Birth registration and legal identity are credited with the direct effect of providing a person with the total ability to participate in an internationally and locally social, political, and economic life. The lack of a legal identity leaves nearly a billion people worldwide[9] without access to standardly provided healthcare, education, and other numerous rights. The lack of these things likely leads to poverty and results in a constant vulnerability in this unrecorded population.

According to a UN study in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Guatemala in 2007, not having a document securing a national identity "was found to have economic and financial implications and to be a determining factor in the cycle of poverty." The study focused on the economically, culturally, and socially vulnerable groups that are excluded to access to a legal identity, investigating the characteristics, numbers and locations of these peoples.[10]

Refugees

Many refugees are without a home or country, without citizenship. They live in constant poverty and are reliant on others to help them gain legal identification so that they can benefit as the majority of the world does. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are also commonly denied access or live without access to a legal identity.

The displaced Syrians are a prime example of a refugee group who suffer from the inability to prove their existence.[11] A problem is presented to these refugees when their children are unable to obtain legal documentation because of tensions between the refugees and the government. This specific

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[7] "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development .:. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." United Nations, United Nations, sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld.

[8] "Identification for Development (ID4D) Global Dataset." Search | Data Catalog, World Bank, 25 June 2018, datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/identification-development-global-dataset.

[9] ibid.

[10] "The Significance of Legal Identity in Situations of Poverty and Social Exclusion (Identity, Poverty, Rights)." United Nations, United Nations, 2015, unstats.un.org/unsd/vitalstatkb/KnowledgebaseArticle50465.aspx.

[11] Clutterbuck, Martin, et al. "Establishing Legal Identity for Displaced Syrians." Feb. 2018. https://www.fmreview.org/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/syria2018/clutterbuck-cunial-barsanti-gewis.pdf

conflict has, at the same time, resulted in the closing and destruction of civil registry offices throughout the country, making it increasingly difficult for refugees to update their civil records to maintain legal identities.[12]

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has been working towards aiding those forced to flee ever since its creation. In the question of providing legal identity, it has also played a crucial role. In the case of the Syrian refugees, a UNHCR Asylum Seeker Certificate is a useful tool for children who have no proof of their birth to obtain permits solidifying residency, specifically in Jordan.[13]

The UNHCR works to protect all refugees through providing registration. They record, verify, and update their information, an imperative aspect in determining what is needed to fully aid the refugee camp. This registration helps refugees gain asylum and avoid forced return (refoulement), arbitrary arrest and detention, military recruitment (specifically for children), and familial separation.[14]

Key Member States and NGOs Involved and Their Views

The World Bank

The World Bank is an organization that is collectively owned by 184 countries that provides investments to aid governments and their corresponding member countries in investing in schools and health centers, providing water and electricity, fighting disease, and protecting the environment. It provides one of the largest sources of funding and knowledge through a multitude of different forms.[15] The World Bank created the project ID4D to help the UN work towards its goal to provide legal identification for all.

Australia and Indonesia

The Australia and Indonesia Partnership for Justice (AIPJ) is a five-year planned governmental partnership between Indonesia and Australia to work towards "strong and accessible justice and security institutions that [...] over time contributing to stability and prosperity in Indonesia and the region."[16] The two nations provided a case study showing the importance of legal identity, finding that a number of barriers existed that blocked citizens from obtaining legal documents.

As part of their address to this problem, the AIPJ began a legal identity program as on of their components in 2012. The component would help them later establish civil registry offices in three

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[12] ibid.

[13] ibid.

[14] United Nations. "Registration." UNHCR, United Nations, www.unhcr.org/en-us/registration.html.

[15] "Resources For." Public Health at a Glance - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene, The World Bank, web.worldbank.org/archive/website01016/WEB/0__CO-85.HTM

[16] "Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice." Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia. https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/australia-indonesia-partnership-justice-2-design-document.pdf

provinces to provide legal documentation to citizens.[17] The AIPJ is no longer an active program, however their activity in the field of legal identity provided an example of progress and solutions that could work sustainably.

Morocco

Morocco has developed on their legal identification utilizing three systems, their civil registry, the RAMED database, the Carte Nationale d'Identite Electronique (CNIE)--the National Register of Children (MASSAR)--and the Social Security register (CNSS). The CNIE and MASSAR is a fully electronic and digital database that is used in the management of all children's scholastic life. The RAMMED database helps support free medical insurance for the poor, and the CNSS notes formal wage earners and their dependants. Morocco employs technology to implement legal identification, through the usage of these databases. It has also begun to develop a new population registration program with the support of ID4D and the World Bank. [18]

Pakistan

A biometric computerized national identity card (CNIC) is the innovative approach that Pakistan is taking to address the problem of legal identity. This card is required to open a bank account, receive a mobile SIM card, and secure a passport and driver's license, among other social and economic services. The issuing of CNICs helped lessen the threat imposed on the poorer population, largely on women, by their inability to benefit from the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP).[19] The CNICs provided women with empowerment through legal identification, which allowed them more independence.

Timeline of Events

You can include a small paragraph to explain the timeline. Otherwise you should follow the format specified below:

Date	Description of event
September 2, 1990	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) put into effect
2012-2015	The AIPJ legal identity component was in direct action in working towards the bettering of the legal identification issues in Indonesia

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[17] Buffardi, Anne L., and Kwan Men Yon. "Realising the Right to Legal Identity|A Case Study as Part of an Evaluation of the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice." PDF, Overseas Development Institute, July 2016, www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/10716.pdf.

[18] "MOROCCO: Strenthening Service Deilvery Using Unique ID." Data | Identification for Development, World Bank, id4d.worldbank.org/country-action/morocco-strenthening-service-deilvery-using-unique-id.

[19] "Pakistan: Building Equality for Women on a Foundation of Identity." Data | Identification for Development, World Bank, id4d.worldbank.org/country-action/pakistan-building-equality-women-foundation-identity.

July 5, 2012	EU releases project for birth registration in eight countries across Africa, Asia, and the Pacific
2014	ID4D started by the World Bank
December 15, 2015	SDGs published (goal 16 being to provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), works towards helping this goal through focusing specifically on birth registration. They work with the World Bank and UN Development Program (UNDP) to increase legal identity through the use of technology, using biometrics such as iris and fingerprint scans to electronically register individuals to aid them in obtaining legal identification in their respective countries.[20]

The aforementioned work of the UNHCR in refugee registration provides an example to the scope and importance of this question and, in addition to the treaties and events outlined below, is one action of the UN in the work towards human equality.

- European Union/Commission (EU), vows to provide and fund birth registration for children in Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Myanmar, Mozambique, Uganda, Kiribati, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands, July 5 2012[21]
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), September 2 1990 **(A/RES/44/25)[22]**

The CRC guarantees rights to every child to all member states who signed the treaty. Article seven in particular refers to the question, stipulating, "[t]he child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality an, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents." Part two places the responsibility of the implementation on the governments, stating, "State Parties shall ensure the implementation of these rights in accordance with their national law".[23]

Possible Solutions

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[20] McCann, Niall, and Lea Zoric. "Harnessing Digital Technology for Legal Identity." *UNDP*, United Nations, 1 June 2017, www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2017/6/1/Moving-towards-digital-technology-for-legal-identity.html.

[21] "Providing Children with Their 'First Right': New EU Project to Ensure Birth Registration in Eight Countries." European Commission Press Release Database, European Union, 5 July 2012, europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-743_en.htm

[22] Resolution A/RES/44/25 https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1990/09/19900902%2003-14%20AM/Ch_IV_11p.pdf

[23] ibid.

One possible solution for this question could be for the UN to globally establish legal identification offices. Much akin to how this has helped refugee groups, if the UN created offices, run by governments but monitored by the UN, inside countries, specifically in places with a concentration of poverty or where there is knowledge of unregistered persons, then it would be easier for these people to obtain legal identification. A larger platform for these solutions would help the spread of the solution.

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