United Nations General Assembly

BACKGROUND GUIDE

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Letter from the Executive Board

We welcome you to the United Nations General Assembly - Plenary being simulated at the DPS Eldeco Model United Nations 2023. The agenda for the meeting of this council is 'Realignment of the United Nations and international organisations in light of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 with particular emphasis on reducing overlap and duplication of efforts.' The General Assembly Plenary considers issues best addressed comprehensively or the ones that necessitate collaboration among many United Nations bodies. The Plenary has the most leeway of the deliberative bodies in discussing and passing resolutions on various issues.

Seven years ago, in 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were adopted by world leaders. Being almost at the midway point, we will discuss the prospect of realignment of UN and international organisations with respect to the 2030 agenda. We will also glance over the past seven years and see the challenges and accomplishments we had as an international community, at the same time seeing what the future looks like.

This guide aims to provide insight into the agenda of the issue at hand. As a result, it is a humble request that you carefully read this guide. However, remember that this guide is the beginning of your research, not the end. All delegates should approach this agenda from multiple perspectives to allow for a comprehensive and substantive debate. The rules of procedure that will be followed in the committee will be based on, but not strictly limited to, UNA-USA. The modifications in the rules of procedure will be explained in the first session before any committee discussion. The guide also contains research tips, questions to consider about the agenda and committee objectives.

Finally, we would like to encourage you to ask questions and vigorously debate, as this will brighten the atmosphere of the committee and provide a more meaningful experience. Please feel free to contact us with any questions about the committee or the Background Guide. We are thrilled to meet and collaborate with you. Till then, we wish you the best in your preparations.

Best Regards,

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Annexure I - Introduction

Committee

United Nations General Assembly - Plenary

Agenda

Realignment of the United Nations and international organisations in light of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 with particular emphasis on reducing overlap and duplication of efforts.

About the Committee

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the primary organs of the United Nations, serving as its main deliberative and policymaking body. Established in 1945, it convenes annually at the UN Headquarters in New York City. With representation from all 193 member states, each having one vote, the UNGA, throughout its annual sessions, discusses a wide range of pressing issues. These may include conflicts, peacekeeping operations, disarmament, human rights, poverty alleviation, climate change, and sustainable development. While the General Assembly's resolutions are not legally binding, they carry significant moral and political weight, shaping the international community's response to various challenges. The UNGA is also known for its "High-Level Week," which occurs at the beginning of each session. During this week, world leaders, including heads of state and government, gather to address the assembly and participate in bilateral and multilateral meetings. This unique opportunity for direct interactions between leaders is vital in building mutual understanding and fostering cooperation. In addition to its regular sessions, the UNGA can convene special sessions or emergency special sessions to address urgent matters, ensuring that the UN can swiftly respond to global crises and emerging challenges. The presidency of the UNGA is another crucial aspect of its functioning. The presidency rotates annually among the five regional groups: African, Asian, Eastern European, Latin American and Caribbean, and Western European and Other States. The president presides over the assembly's meetings, represents the body at various events, and plays a key role in guiding its work.

Overall, the UNGA embodies the spirit of multilateralism, where nations seek collective solutions to shared problems. While it may not have the legal authority of the Security Council, its moral authority and power to shape global discourse and cooperation make it a crucial institution within the United Nations system. By fostering dialogue, promoting cooperation, and setting global priorities, the General Assembly contributes significantly to advancing peace, security, and sustainable development worldwide.

Annexure II

Background Guide

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a global action plan adopted by the United Nations in September 2015. It consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to address various social, economic, and environmental challenges facing the world. The agenda is designed to be implemented by all countries and seeks to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by the year 2030.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are as follows:

- **No Poverty (SDG 1)**: The goal is to eradicate extreme poverty and ensure all people have access to basic needs, resources, and social protection systems to lift them out of poverty.

- **Zero Hunger (SDG 2)**: This goal aims to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture practices to ensure everyone can access nutritious and sufficient food.

- **Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3)**: The objective is to promote physical and mental health, reduce maternal and child mortality, combat significant diseases, and ensure universal access to healthcare services.

- **Quality Education (SDG 4)**: The goal is to provide inclusive and equitable education for all, promote lifelong learning opportunities, and improve the quality of education to foster knowledge and skills development.

- **Gender Equality (SDG 5)**: This goal aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by eliminating discrimination, violence, and harmful practices.

- **Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6)**: The goal is to ensure access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities for all and improve water quality and water-use efficiency.

- **Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7)**: This goal seeks to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all while promoting renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.

- **Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8)**: The objective is to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work opportunities.

- **Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG 9)**: This goal aims to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation and technological advancement.

- **Reduced Inequality (SDG 10)**: The goal is to reduce inequalities within and among countries by ensuring equal opportunities, social, economic, and political inclusion.

- **Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11)**: This goal focuses on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable through better urban planning and management.

- **Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12)**: The objective is to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including reducing waste and efficiently using resources.

- **Climate Action (SDG 13)**: This goal emphasizes urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, including increasing resilience and capacity to adapt to climate-related issues.

- **Life Below Water (SDG 14)**: The goal is to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development and marine biodiversity conservation.

- **Life on Land (SDG 15)**: This goal focuses on protecting, restoring, and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, forests, and biodiversity.

- **Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16)**: The objective is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

- **Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17)**: This goal emphasizes the importance of global partnerships and cooperation among governments, businesses, and civil society to achieve the SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda recognizes that these goals are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. They address complex and interrelated challenges, ranging from poverty and inequality to environmental degradation and climate change. Achieving these goals requires collaborative efforts from governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals worldwide.

By addressing poverty, hunger, health, education, gender inequality, environmental degradation, and other challenges, the 2030 Agenda aims to create a pathway towards a better future where no one is left behind and the planet's resources are preserved for future generations.

A midway point on the way to the 2030 agenda

At the mid-point on the way to 2030, policy efforts and commitments for the SDGs vary greatly across countries.

Early efforts after the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted produced some favourable trends. Extreme poverty and child mortality rates continued to fall. Inroads were made against such diseases as HIV and hepatitis. Some targets for gender equality were seeing positive results. Electricity access in the poorest countries was on the rise, and the share of renewables in the energy mix was increasing. Globally, unemployment decreased to levels not seen before the 2008 financial crisis. The proportion of waters under national jurisdiction covered by marine protected areas more than doubled in five years. But it is clear now that too much of that progress was fragile, and most of it was too slow. In the past three years, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the war in Ukraine and climate-related disasters have exacerbated already faltering progress.

It is time to sound the alarm. At the midpoint, on our way to 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals are in deep trouble. An assessment of the around 140 targets for which trend data is available shows that about half of these targets are moderately or severely off track, and over 30 per cent have either seen no movement or regressed below the 2015 baseline.

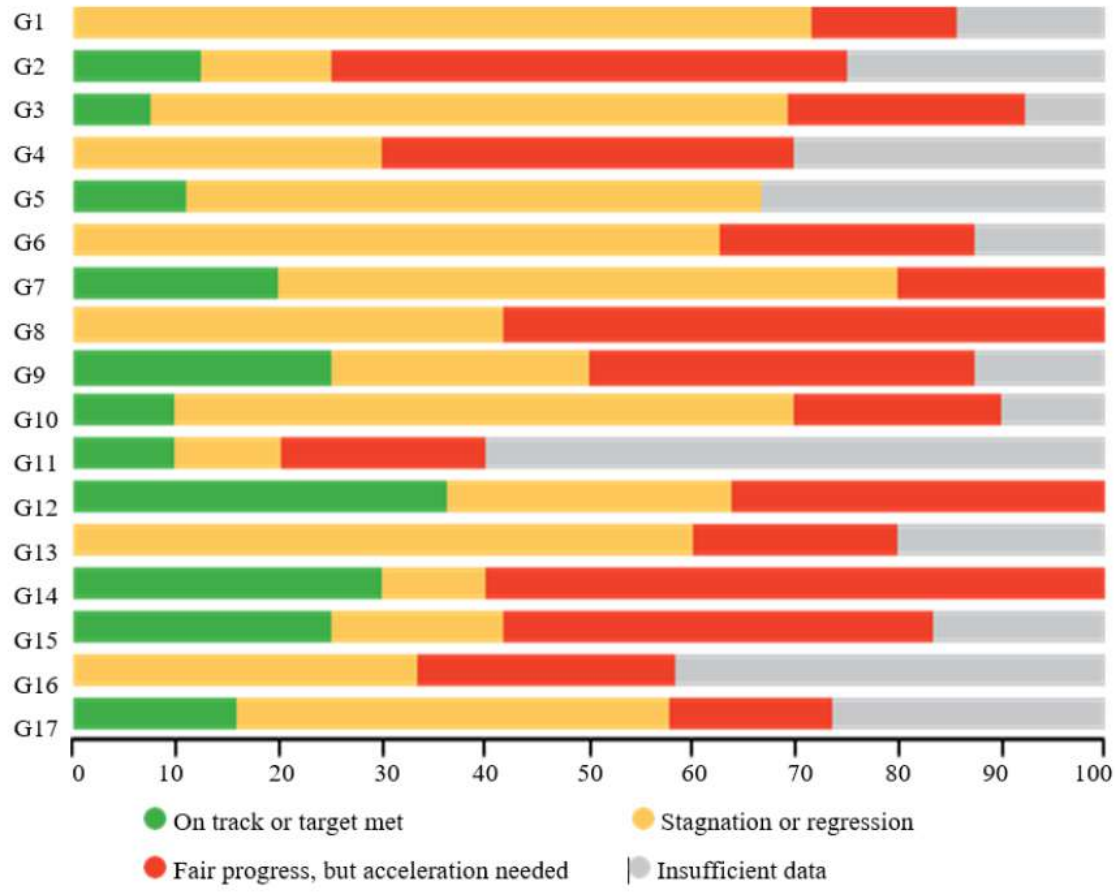
Under current trends, 575 million people will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030, and only about one-third of countries will meet the target to halve national poverty levels. Shockingly, the world is back at hunger levels not seen since 2005, and food prices remain higher in more countries than in 2015–2019. The way things are going, it will take 286 years to close gender gaps in legal protection and remove discriminatory laws. And in education, the impacts of years of underinvestment and learning losses are such that, by 2030, some 84 million children will be out of school, and 300 million children or young people attending school will leave unable to read and write.

If ever there was an illumination of the short-sightedness of our prevailing economic and political systems, it is the ratcheting up of the war on nature. A small window of opportunity is fast closing to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius, prevent the worst impacts of the climate crisis and secure climate justice for people, communities and countries on the front lines of climate change. Carbon dioxide levels continue to rise – to a level not seen in 2 million years. At the current rate of progress, renewable energy sources will continue to account for a mere fraction of our energy supplies in 2030. Some 660 million people will remain without electricity, and close to 2 billion people will continue to rely on polluting fuels and technologies for cooking. So much of our lives and health depend on nature, yet it could take another 25 years to halt deforestation while vast numbers of species worldwide are threatened with extinction.

The lack of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals is universal, but it is abundantly clear that developing countries and the world's poorest and most vulnerable people are bearing the brunt of our collective failure. This is a direct result of global injustices that go back hundreds of years but still play out today. The compounding effects of climate, COVID-19 and economic injustices are leaving many developing countries with fewer options and even fewer resources to make the Goals a reality.

Taking Stock of the SDG Progress at the midway point

A reality check of the progress made on the SDGs at the midpoint towards 2030 reveals significant challenges. The latest global-level data and assessments from custodian agencies paint a concerning picture: of the approximately 140 targets that can be evaluated, half show moderate or severe deviations from the desired trajectory. Furthermore, more than 30%t of these targets have experienced no progress or, even worse, regression below the 2015 baseline. This assessment underscores the urgent need for intensified efforts to ensure the SDGs stay on course and progress towards a sustainable future for all.



Graph 1: Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, 2023 or latest data (percentage)

Insufficient progress on the SDGs

Slow progress towards the SDGs has made many countries far more vulnerable during the recent spate of crises. For example, high inequality, lack of universal healthcare and inadequate social safety nets left vulnerable groups even more exposed to the myriad health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19, while unequal gender roles placed an enormous burden on women. Similarly, many countries that had made insufficient investments in agriculture, or efforts to diversify their sources of energy, were highly dependent on food and fuel imports from a handful of countries, including Russia and Ukraine. Inadequate protection of forests and the trafficking of wildlife also increased the risk of zoonotic diseases.

Some of the shocks are temporary. For example, economic growth bounced back in 2021, and extreme poverty is now falling again. However, even temporary reversals at the national level can have lifelong impacts on individual families, and particularly on children who have lost a breadwinner, or a family member, or who never return to school. Years of malnutrition or lost education create setbacks that can last a lifetime.

i. SDG 1 : No Poverty

Any predictions that SDG 1 would be achieved by 2030 have been upended. When the pandemic struck, there had been steady progress on reducing global poverty even though the no poverty target was not on track to be achieved. The combined crises have pushed an additional 75 million to 95 million into extreme poverty. Roughly 575 million people will still be in extreme poverty in 2030 with poverty particularly entrenched in sub-Saharan Africa

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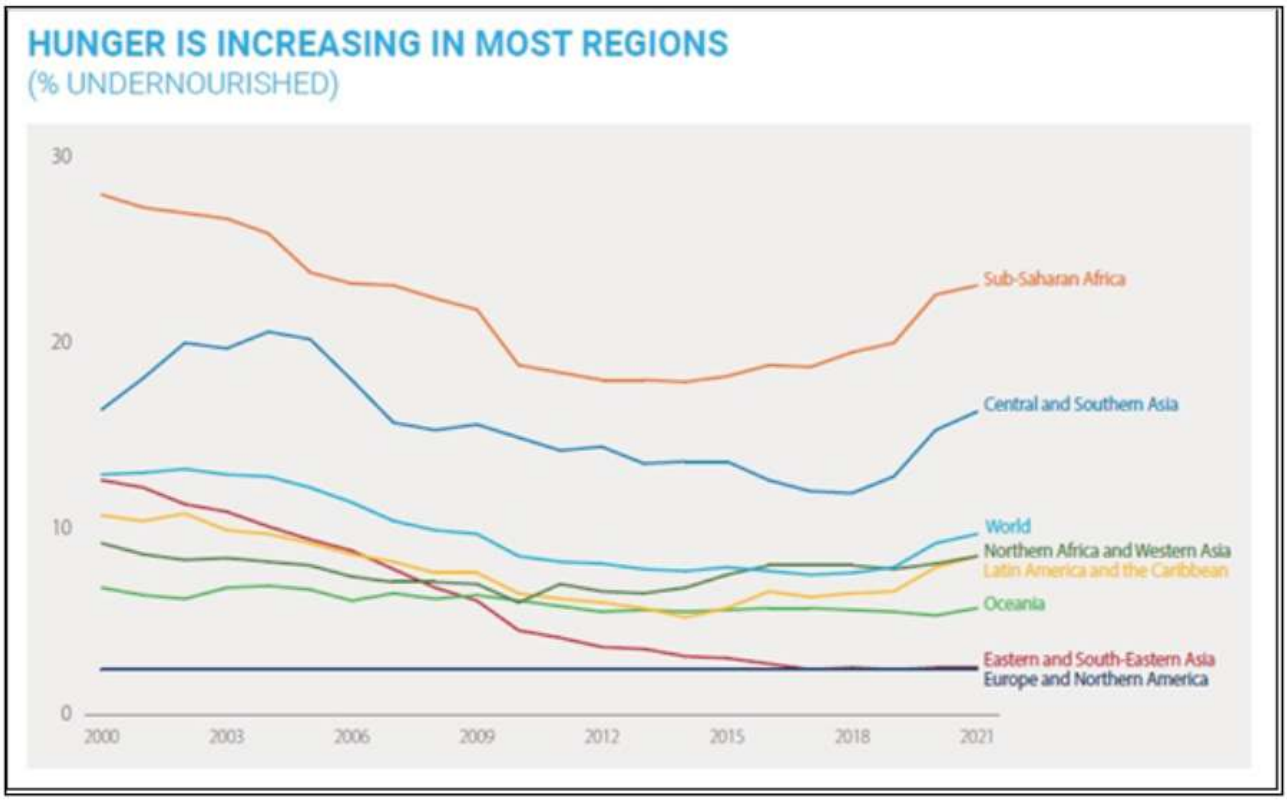
People suffer from poverty not just in terms of low income but in many other aspects of daily life. The multidimensional poverty index (MPI) accounts for deprivations faced by households in health, education and standard of living. Under these three broad dimensions, MPI tracks deprivations in ten indicators of human well-being. In 2022, 1.2 billion people live in multidimensional poverty. The health dimension accounts for 24.9% of the deprivations, the education dimension for 31.3% and the standard of living dimension for 43.8%. Most poor households are deprived of access to modern fuels, while many deprivations link to housing, sanitation, drinking water, school attendance and child mortality. Early indications of the impacts of the pandemic globally are striking, showing a significant worsening in all 10 MPI deprivations among the poor. In response to COVID-19 and its impacts on poverty, governments across the world quickly ramped up social protection, often through digital means. For example, in Togo, the Government made quick and efficient digital payments to 600,000 urban residents.

However, the pandemic also exposed vast shortfalls in digital and non-digital coverage with particular difficulties in reaching informal workers, women and youth. In response to the pandemic, around the world, cash transfers covered on average just 46% of recipients' pre-pandemic incomes.

ii. SDG 2 – Zero hunger

Between 2019 and 2020, globally, the proportion of people living with hunger increased from 8.0 to 9.3%, and in 2021 to 9.8%. Hopes that food security would quickly recover from the pandemic were dashed. The hardest hit region was Africa, with hunger at around 20% in 2021. Since 2015, the prevalence of hunger in Africa has increased by 4.4 percentage points.



Graph 2: Prevalence of Undernourishment 2000-2021

COVID-19 and the measures to contain it had a disproportionate impact on women, especially rural women, through reduced food production and distribution capacities, decreased purchasing power and reduced access to nutritious food. Women already face greater constraints in accessing productive resources, technologies, markets, and social protection. The pandemic also increased their workload and levels of gender-based violence.

Food supplies have been cut by the war in Ukraine. Russia and Ukraine supply 12% of the world's traded calories and are among the top five global exporters of cereals and oilseeds, including wheat, barley, sunflowers, and maize. These two countries produce 73% of the world's sunflower oil and 30% of its wheat. In 2022, the Global Report on Food Crises found that 53 countries were dependent on imports, and 36% depended on imports from Ukraine or Russian exports for more than 10% of their total wheat imports. For Somalia, the proportion was over 90%, for the Democratic Republic of the Congo 60 per cent, and for Madagascar over 70%. Food supplies have been further affected by climate change through droughts and low rainfall and conflict. Up to 205 million people were expected to face acute food insecurity and be in need of urgent assistance, over the period October 2022 to January 2023, including in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen. Rising prices and difficult access to grains have severely affected humanitarian aid to support refugees and countries in conflict. The World Food Program used to buy 50 per cent of its wheat in Ukraine. Globally, between 2000 and 2022 the prevalence of stunting among children under five declined steadily from 33 to 22 per cent, though this could have slowed down because of the pandemic. In 2022, 45 million children (6.8%) suffered from wasting. The prevalence of anaemia in women of reproductive age continues to be alarming, stagnant at around 30% since 2000 and low and lower-middle-income economies bear the greatest burden of stunting, wasting, low birth weight and anaemia.

iii. SDG 3 – Good health and well-being

The number of excess deaths attributable to the pandemic, directly or indirectly, is around 15 million. Between 2019 and 2021, global life expectancy, which had been increasing, fell from 72.8 to 71.0 years. The pandemic put health services under severe financial and organizational strain and diverted resources from other medical needs. In addition, during lockdowns, patients lost access to medical facilities, delaying treatment for chronic conditions including HIV, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and cancers. Deaths from tuberculosis (TB) and malaria increased. Ongoing suffering has also heavily impacted mental health in multiple ways.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, global health trends were encouraging – with progress on reproductive, maternal and child health, immunization coverage, and treatment of communicable diseases. But subsequently, at least 50 per cent of countries reported disruption to services for NCDs and over one-third reported disruptions across mental, neurological, and substance-use services. At the current pace, many indicators, including premature mortality due to NCDs, the incidence of TB, malaria, and new HIV infections, will not meet their SDG targets by 2030.The pandemic has also disrupted regular vaccination schedules. Between 2019 and 2021, global infant vaccine coverage for diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DPT3) dropped from 86 to 81 per cent, with 25 million children under one-year-old not receiving basic vaccines – the highest number since 2009. As of 2022, 68 million children are known to be un- or under-vaccinated

There are also significant health hazards from environmental factors, including pollution. Globally, there are 6.7 million deaths each year from exposure to ambient and household air pollution, and 99% of the world's population lives in places where air pollution exceeds WHO guideline limits. Global public health continues to be threatened by these health hazards.

iv. SDG 4 – Quality education

The pandemic has been the largest disruptor of education systems in history. Globally, at the peak of the crisis, school closures affected over 90% of students. By October 2021, schools had been at least partially closed for 55% of total days. As a result, 1042 more than one billion children are at risk of falling behind in their studies, while over 100 million additional children will fall below the minimum proficiency level for reading. The longer children are out of school, the less likely they are to return; the same risk applies to students who had no access to remote learning during lockdowns. UNESCO estimates that half of all global learners do not have a household computer and 43% have no household internet access – with the widest gaps in low-income countries.Lost learning due to COVID-19 may affect a generation of students: the World Bank estimates that, over their working life, students currently in school stand to lose a cumulative $17 trillion. The impacts have been greatest in low-income countries and for low-income households, as well as for women and girls, persons with disabilities, migrants, and refugees. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the world was off-track for achieving quality education at all levels by 2030. Some 64 million children of primary school age were out of school, as were 63 million adolescents of lower-secondary age, and 132 million youth of upper-secondary age. One success for girls' education is that the world is closer to gender parity. At all three levels of education, the gender gap is less than one percentage point. The region furthest from parity is Sub-Saharan Africa. Overall, however, the largest gaps in access to education are not by sex but by income and location.

v. SDG 5 – Gender equality

COVID-19 generated new pressures on women and girls. In 2020, women with children at home on average spent 31 hours per week on childcare – five hours more than before the pandemic. When schools and preschools closed during COVID-19, women shouldered most of the childcare – and nearly 60% of countries took no steps to offset this increase in unpaid work. Due to the increasing pressures of unpaid care, more than two million women left the workforce. Globally, employment for women fell by 4.2% compared with 3% for men. Approximately 12 million women experienced disruptions in birth control, resulting in 1.4 million unwanted pregnancies. In 2020, in many countries, there were much higher call volumes on emergency hotlines for violence against women. One in four women reported increased household conflict and intimate partner violence. UNICEF estimates that by 2030 due to COVID-19 around 10 million more girls will be at risk of child marriage. Similarly, other harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) increased during the pandemic as girls were kept home, away from the protective environment of schools. Disruption to services may lead to 2 million more FGM cases over the next decade Globally, most frontline workers are women, who make up about 70 per cent of health workers and first responders, which puts them at continuous high risk of infection. But they are less likely to be in charge: notably, in 2020 women held only 24% of seats on COVID-19 task forces, and while the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments has steadily increased in recent years, in 2023, women held only 26.5% of seats in lower and single chambers of parliaments and 35.4 per cent in local government. In addition to impacts from the pandemic, women's sexual and reproductive health have been affected by in legal restrictions, recent social backlashes, and vulnerabilities experienced through violent conflict and climate change. Progress on the 2030 Agenda cannot be achieved if half the human race is left behind. Advancing on SDG 5 can untap huge potential and have multiplier effects across the SDGs.

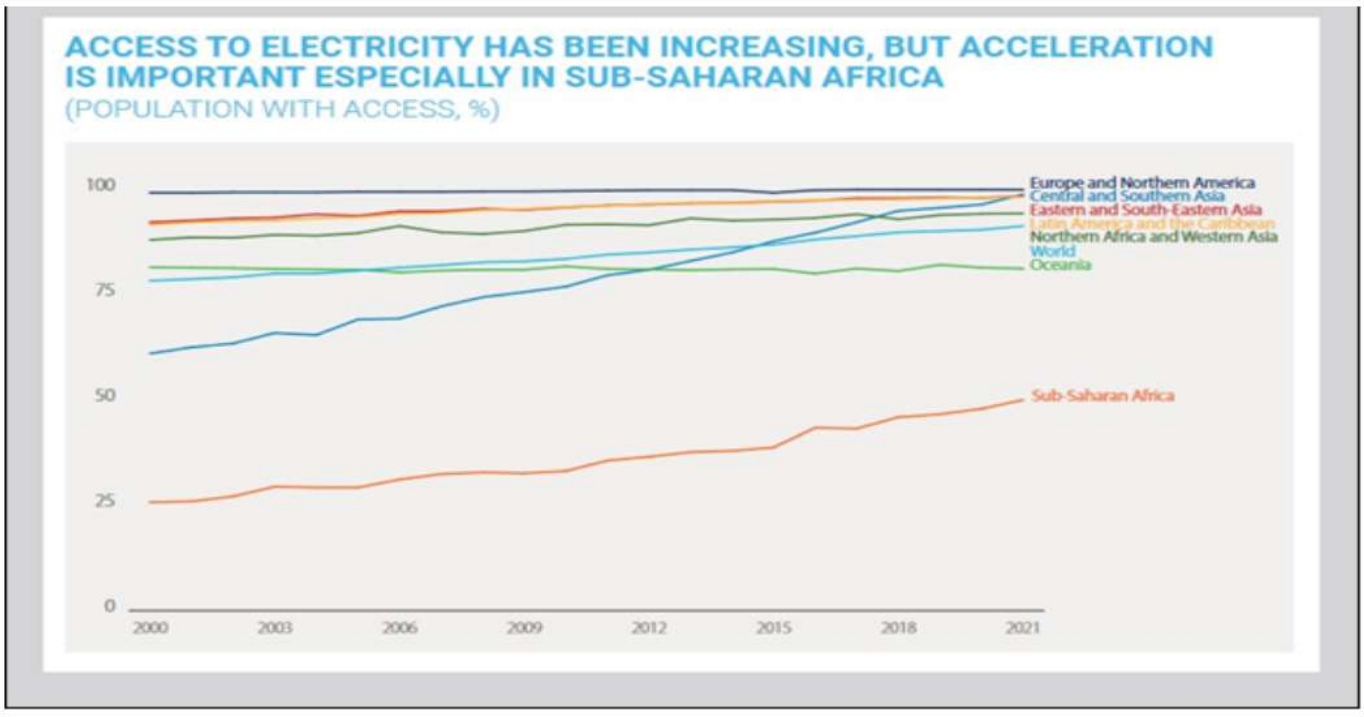
vi. SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation

Between 2000 and 2020, the proportion of the world's population that used safely managed drinking water increased from 62 to 74 per cent – representing safer water for two billion more people. Nevertheless, there are vast inequalities between and within countries, and 2.2 billion people still do not use safely managed drinking water. Progress is also threatened by climate change, and by competing agricultural, ecological and financial priorities, along with multiple threats to water quality. More people also have access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene, with a reduction in open defecation yet 3.4 billion people still lack safely managed sanitation services and 1.9 billion lack basic hygiene services. It is currently estimated that 2.3 billion people live in water-stressed countries, of which 733 million live in high and critically high water-stressed countries. Those most at risk are those living in fragile contexts who are less likely than other people to have safely managed to drink water or sanitation services Especially vulnerable are people living in refugee camps: in many countries, camps are unable to meet the target of 85% of households having a toilet and 95%t having access to soap.

Over half (107) countries are not on track to have sustainably managed water resources by 2030 which is vital for balancing competing water demands from across society and the economy. Out of 153 countries that share transboundary waters, only 24 countries reported that all the rivers, lakes and aquifers that they share with their neighbours are covered by operational arrangements for cooperation, which are important instruments to prevent or manage conflicts and promote regional sustainable development.

vii. SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy

The war in Ukraine prompted a global energy crisis. Some 75 million people have lost the ability to afford extended electricity services, and 100 million people, faced with surging prices for liquified petroleum gas may revert to traditional fuels like coal and solid cooking fuels. The global population with access to electricity has increased to 91% in 2021 but the pace of the growth has slowed in recent years and some 675 million people, mainly located in LDCs and sub-Saharan Africa, still lack access.



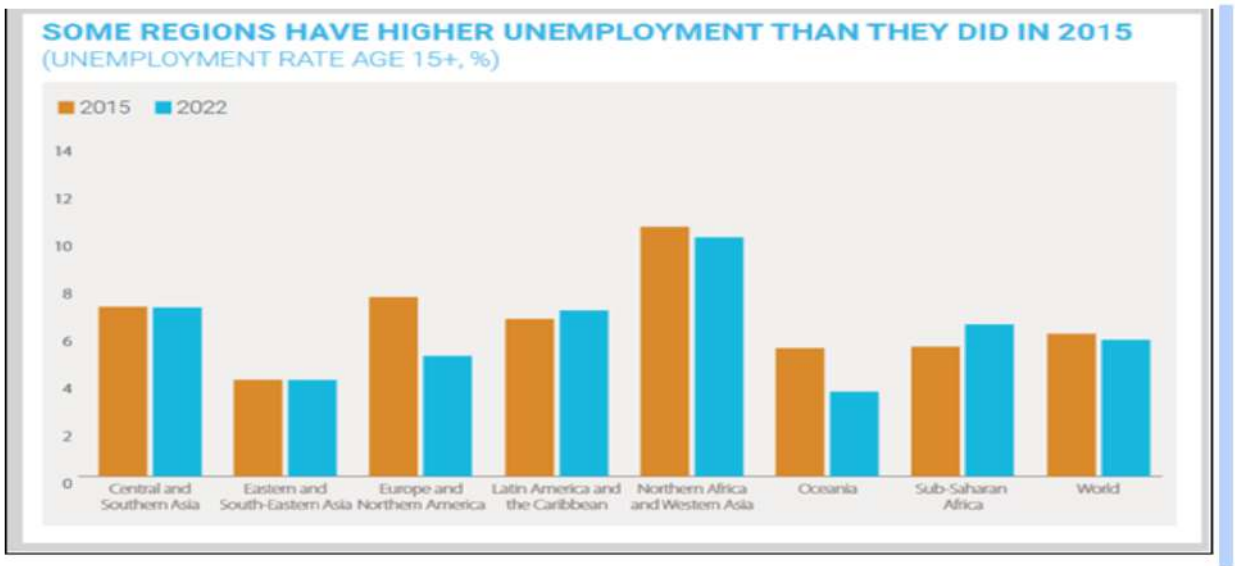
Graph 3: Proportion of population with access to electricity

On a more optimistic note, the world could be transitioning faster towards green energy. Since 2010, the cost of solar power and lithium-battery technology has fallen by more than 85%, and the cost of wind power by about 50%. Green energy is now seen as a growth sector that can create jobs and boost economic growth, while also bringing resilience and long-term benefits. In 2022, for the first time, investment in green energy exceeded that in fossil fuels and in the next few years global coal use is expected to start declining. The war in Ukraine led to a spike in the use of fossil fuels, including coal, but this is expected to be short-lived, with the demand for fossil fuels expected to peak in the near future.

viii. SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth

Economic activity and international trade were severely disrupted by the war in Ukraine so that global growth is expected to slow from 5% in 2021 to 1% in 2023. With 1131 shrinking fiscal space and the need to curb inflation, governments cannot sustain the types of monetary support, including low-interest rates, offered during the pandemic. In the past, economic growth has typically been accompanied by increases in greenhouse gas emissions – with corresponding increases in global heating, and damage to biodiversity. In 2020 COVID-19 lockdowns and disruptions in supply chains resulted in a six% decline in global emissions. In 2021, however, as economic activity revived, the drop in emissions was reversed and emissions continued to grow in 2022.

Global unemployment peaked in 2020 at 6.9% but is lower at 5.8% in 2022. However, some regions have higher unemployment than they had in 2015. In 2022, informal wage employment still trailed its pre-crisis level by 8%, leaving many families in a precarious position, with rising poverty and inequality 1145 Most countries have not yet returned to the levels of employment and hours worked seen before the outbreak of the pandemic. Global employment is projected to increase by 1% in 2023, a significant deceleration from the 2.3% growth in 2022.



Graph 4: Unemployment Rate

In the years ahead, achieving the 2030 agenda will mean decoupling economic growth from environmental damage and ensuring that growth is also more inclusive. A green transition can also be an opportunity for employment and job creation in green sectors. Such a transition could create a net of 18 million jobs worldwide.

ix. SDG 9 – Industry, innovation and Infrastructure

The pandemic affected almost one-in-three jobs in the manufacturing industry. But impacts varied between enterprises and industries. Production of essential goods including food, chemicals and paper remained robust and there was higher demand for producers of pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and computers. Also, high-tech industries, including machinery and electrical equipment bounced back rapidly after lockdown restrictions were eased. On the other hand, manufacturing small and medium enterprises (SMEs) did not fare so well, with labor-intensive industries such as apparel, furniture, leather and others, reporting drops in sales. Generally, countries with larger and stronger manufacturing systems weathered the crisis better. 1 Innovation investments were resilient in the face of the pandemic. Investment in global research and development (R&D) grew at 3.3 percent, not falling, but slowing from the 2019 record high rate of 6.1 percent. Government R&D budgets grew. Corporate R&D spending also grew substantially, driven by ICT sectors and also biotechnologies, nanotechnology, new materials and other areas that are transforming health, food, environment and mobility. The biggest boom was in venture capital which has also been very active in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Africa. The pandemic moved many activities of daily life including work, school, retail, banking, and health, online and caused an unprecedented acceleration in the digitalization of services. 66% of the global population or 5.3 billion people used the Internet in 2022, up from 54% in 2019. However, 2.7 billion people globally have yet to access the internet. They are missing out on vital services provided digitally. Some groups, such as older persons and persons with disabilities, are being left behind.

Adequate and resilient infrastructure is a prerequisite for all the SDGs and even before the pandemic, infrastructure was far from adequate. Some one billion people live more than a mile from a road and 450 million live beyond the range of a broadband signal. With fiscal tightening and the end of low borrowing costs, infrastructure updates and investments are likely to be below what is needed. The war in Ukraine is expected to continue to dampen the slow investment recovery following the pandemic.

x. SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities

COVID-19 magnified pre-existing inequalities including health inequalities and inequalities in the capacity to cope. In terms of income inequality, the global Gini coefficient increased by about 0.5 points, from 62 points in 2019 to about 62.6 points in 2020. COVID-19 widened the gaps between low- and high-paid workers. Lower-paid workers are less likely to have jobs that can be done from home, and they and essential workers tend to interact more with people – exposing them to infection. Many service industries such as tourism and restaurants which have a high proportion of low-paid workers, had to be suspended. These workers and many others in the informal sector have little cover from social protection.

During the pandemic, wealthy individuals increased their assets while the poor became poorer. The world's 10 richest people doubled their incomes, while 99% of humanity became worse off. Between 2020 and 2021, the productivity gap between advanced and developing countries widened further in real terms, from 17.5:1 to 18:1, the highest gap since 2005. Inequality between countries is expected to rise as a result of weak recoveries in emerging markets and developing economies, further exacerbated by inflation.

xi. SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities

More than half of the world's population lives in cities and by 2050 that proportion is expected to rise to two-thirds. Between 2020 and 2021, 2.9 million people in slums and informal settlements gained access to basic services. However, many challenges remain for 37 urban areas. Poverty rates are falling slower than in rural areas. Cities account for over 80% of global GDP and more than 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, cities bore the brunt of the impact, with economic downturns due to lockdowns, while many people lacked safe water and sanitation or green public spaces for exercising in – particularly those in informal settlements and urban slums which faced overcrowding and had limited socio-economic support. Well-planned, compact cities can improve the environment and people's health and well-being. But rapid and poorly planned urbanization can lead to deep inequalities, in housing, public transportation, and access to basic services. "Leaving no one behind" will require an intensified focus on 1 billion slum dwellers.

xii. SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production

Overconsumption—using too many natural resources too quickly and inefficiently—has created a triple planetary crisis – of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Between 2000 and 2019, material footprint consumption per capita rose steadily and reached 95.1 billion metric tons. While at the global level, production and consumption 1220 will necessarily match, the data diverge at the regional and national levels, with larger 1221 consumption footprints in the Global North. At the same time, the world generates very high levels of waste. Globally, around 14 per 1 cent of food is lost in production processes and 17 per cent is lost in retail and households. Other forms include improperly managed electronic and chemical waste.

On current trends, the world will generate 3.40 billion tonnes of solid waste annually by 2050. Unsustainable resource use has also been bolstered by continuing fossil fuel subsidies. Plastic pollution has risen exponentially in the last few decades, to some 400 million tons per year, and is set to double by 2040.The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a documented increase in demand for single-use plastics, worsening the severe impacts on natural ecosystems and human health. The 5th United Nations Environment Assembly Session (UNEA-5.2) adopted a historical resolution to end plastic pollution and forge an international legally binding agreement by 2024. Learning to live in balance with planet Earth is at the core of the 2030 Agenda. Without sustainable use of resources, it will not be possible to limit damage to the climate, and land and sea ecosystems. Research shows that up to 2015, countries tended to transgress biophysical boundaries at a faster rate than social thresholds were achieved, suggesting a recurring pattern of environmentally unsustainable social development gains.

xiii. SDG 13 – Climate action

The world is already 1.1°C hotter than in preindustrial times. The latest data from the IPCC shows that global average temperatures are estimated to breach 1.5°C by the early 2030s. Given current pledges in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), warming is likely to be between two and three degrees over preindustrial times by the end of the century. Failure to achieve SDG 13 and ensure deep, rapid and sustained reductions in GHG emissions leads to dangerous climate change, for humans and all living beings. The world is already seeing unprecedented sequences of hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and heat stress damaging agricultural production, fisheries, forests and ecosystems that people the world over rely on. Global warming beyond the 1.5 degrees target risks triggering multiple tipping points in the climate system and causing planetary instability. Climate change could force as many as 216 million people to move within their countries by 2050. The IPCC projects a 200% increase in human displacement across Africa for 1.6°C of global warming and an increase of 600 per cent for 2.6°C of global warming.

In many countries, the COVID-19 economic stimulus packages created opportunities to invest in more sustainable and climate-resilient systems. Some countries did apply part of their stimulus funds this way, but overall, the results were more grey than green.Based on OECD data, government support that could damage the environment amounts to more than $680 billion annually around the world, including subsidies for fossil fuel production and for consumption, and environmentally harmful agricultural support. After only two years, these subsidies have already cancelled out the $1,090 billion of green spending to be spent over multiple years.

Combined with innovations in clean energy, sufficient funding for scale-up, and other efforts to decarbonize the world's economies, natural climate solutions offer some of the best options in the response to climate change. Nature-based solutions often rely on the participation and inclusion of local communities and indigenous people and can enhance their agency. Examples include investing in green areas to reduce temperatures, improving water quality, and improving agricultural practices to ensure food security. At the COP 27 climate talks in Egypt, the commitment to the Paris goals was reaffirmed and it was recognized that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius requires rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions of 43% by 2030 relative to 2019 levels. COP 27 resulted in the establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund to be financed by wealthy nations to help vulnerable countries cope with climate change-induced disasters. Without achieving SDG 13, it will be close to impossible to achieve Agenda 2030. Limiting human suffering from a warming planet will require transformational change in energy and economies.

xiv. SDG 14 – Life below water

Climate change, pollution, habitat destruction, public sector subsidies for harmful ocean economic activity and overfishing still pose a threat to the ocean and are increasingly degrading the ocean's ability to regulate the climate and sustain livelihoods. Since 1970, there has been a global-scale decline in 14 out of 18 categories that measure the capacity of nature to "sustain contributions to good quality of life . In 1974, 10% of stocks were fished at "biologically unsustainable" levels; in 2019, that proportion had increased to 35.4%. Notably, that rate of degradation has slowed over the last decade due to diverse efforts. The majority of landings (82.5%) come from biologically sustainable assessed stocks. Global catches were reconstructed to include estimates of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) catches from 1950-2010. Over that time period, the reconstructed estimates were 53% higher than recorded catches, but importantly, the proportion of IUU catches peaked in the 1990s and have fallen. Discards have also declined from the 1990s are currently estimated at 10%-12% of unreported.

Despite improvements, there are still tremendous challenges. Nations with low levels of wealth and nutritional status that also depend on fisheries are affected more by climate change impacts on fished species than by their own fishing practices, even as they contribute least to climate change. Those nations are in areas where there is a higher proportion of fished species at risk of climate change. Several areas are also hotspots for marine heatwaves, which may further imperil their long-term food security. Small island developing states are highly vulnerable and would benefit greatly from a blue economy. Funding allocations to SDG 14 globally remain lower than for any other SDG. Indeed, four targets of SDG 14, related to marine protection and management, expired in 2020; the corresponding indicators show that most nations have made very little progress, which can be related to a lack of capacity, funding, and commitment. Recently, written commitments to ocean sustainability provide a reason for hope, including a recent WTO agreement to reduce harmful fisheries subsidies, the new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the 30×30 pledge by member nations to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030, and finally the UN High seas treaty to extend the 30X30 pledge to the High Seas, which are areas beyond national jurisdiction. These global-level commitments to SDG-aligned goals require the corresponding capacity and funding for full monitoring and implementation.

xv. SDG 15 – Life on land

Species are becoming extinct at unprecedented rates. Overharvesting of species, agricultural activities, logging and deforestation for agriculture are causing irreversible damage to the world's biodiversity. On current trends, between 1990 and 2030, the Red List Index of species survival will drop from 0.82 to 0.70 or lower. Only 32% of countries are on track to achieve their national biodiversity targets. The poorest and the most vulnerable have traditionally relied on forests and small-scale fishing to supplement other lines of income, especially when facing the loss of jobs and income related to the pandemic. Also, land use change and degradation and resource-intensive consumption and production open up new pathways for infectious diseases.

The pandemic recovery period and the COVID-19 recovery plans and stimulus packages offered an opportunity to change direction, but this has largely been missed. Five SDG 15 targets were to be met by 2020 but have come and gone with insufficient progress. In a promising development, though, the recent Convention on Biodiversity Conference of Parties (COP) 15 resulted in a landmark Biodiversity agreement that aims to avert planetary disaster. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework includes 23 targets to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, including a target to protect 30 per cent of land and oceans by 2030 (30X30). Other targets include cutting global food waste by half and progressive phasing out or reforming 2030 subsidies that harm biodiversity by at least $500 billion per year while scaling up positive incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The Accelerator Partnership was also launched at COP 15 to help 40 countries fast-track and upscale the implementation of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora COP 19 brought a record number of species to be regulated by it to ensure that international trade in wildlife is sustainable, legal and traceable and does not aggravate biodiversity loss.

xvi. SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Progress on SDG 16 is threatened by rising levels of conflict, war and instability. Progress across the SDGs relies on peaceful and inclusive societies with access to justice for all and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. These are especially important during times of uncertainty and crisis. Instead, when under strain, they often deteriorate: the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, exacerbated existing socio-economic insecurity and inequalities that worsened violence and illicit activities – weakening rights and protection systems with severe repercussions for marginalized people.

The recovery from COVID-19 has also been undermined in some cases by corruption in the allocation of resources for emergency equipment and health services. During lockdowns, there is less chance of detecting violence and abuse including against youth, older persons, women and the poor or of delivering assistance. Increases in unemployment rates also increased trafficking in persons, half of whom were trafficked for sexual exploitation or forced labour. SDG 16 should be seen as an enabler for other SDGs – it is an important condition for successful pathways to sustainability. On the other hand, the absence of institutional capacity and continuing violent conflicts in many parts of the world severely constrain the achievement of the SDGs.

xvii. SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

SDG 17 is about strengthening the means of implementation to achieve all of the Goals and Targets, including sufficient access to science and technology, financial resources, fair and equitable trade and capacity for bringing about change. In multiple crises, partnerships are strained as resources are redirected to crisis management and recovery efforts, and protectionist policies may be appealing at home. For example, since the pandemic, much foreign aid has been directed towards immediate public health concerns. Total official development assistance (ODA) as a percentage of GNI reached 0.36% in 2022 compared to 0.31% in 2021, reflecting aid for Ukraine and increased spending on refugees. But it still fell far short of the 0.7 per cent target needed to support investments in longer-term sustainable development. Foreign direct investment (FDI) dropped to a point lower than during the 2008 financial crisis in 2020 during the pandemic but has since recovered to pre-pandemic levels, with a large part of the recovery growth in renewable energy and energy efficiency investments. Remittance flows registered a smaller decline due to COVID-19 than expected and recovered by 2021.

Despite these increases, the scale of challenges to be 1369 addressed leaves many lower-income countries fiscally strained. Equally crucial to financial resources are partnerships to build capacity and enable access to science and technology innovations that can be applied to accelerate SDG progress. The importance of knowledge and science partnerships was on full display during the pandemic with open sharing of genome sequencing data, open-source designs for personal protective equipment (PPE), preprint publishing of research articles and data sharing platforms. Knowledge sharing enabled the development of COVID-19 vaccines in record time. But then mechanisms for sharing broke down - as of April 2023, 3 out of 4 people in high-income countries had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, while only 1 in 3 people in low-income countries had received at least one shot.SDG 17 calls for cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation through a global technology facilitation mechanism. In the context of multiple crises with impacts felt globally, strong mechanisms for cooperation and knowledge partnerships are all the more crucial. Creating synergies among the expertise and resources in different regions and institutions would allow for more efficient and equitable SDG attainment than working in silos.

Please refer to the SDG report 2023 for a deeper understanding of the progress at the midway point of the 2030 agenda.
https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2023.pdf

Questions/Topics to Consider

1. Is realignment of the United Nations and international organizations really a necessity?

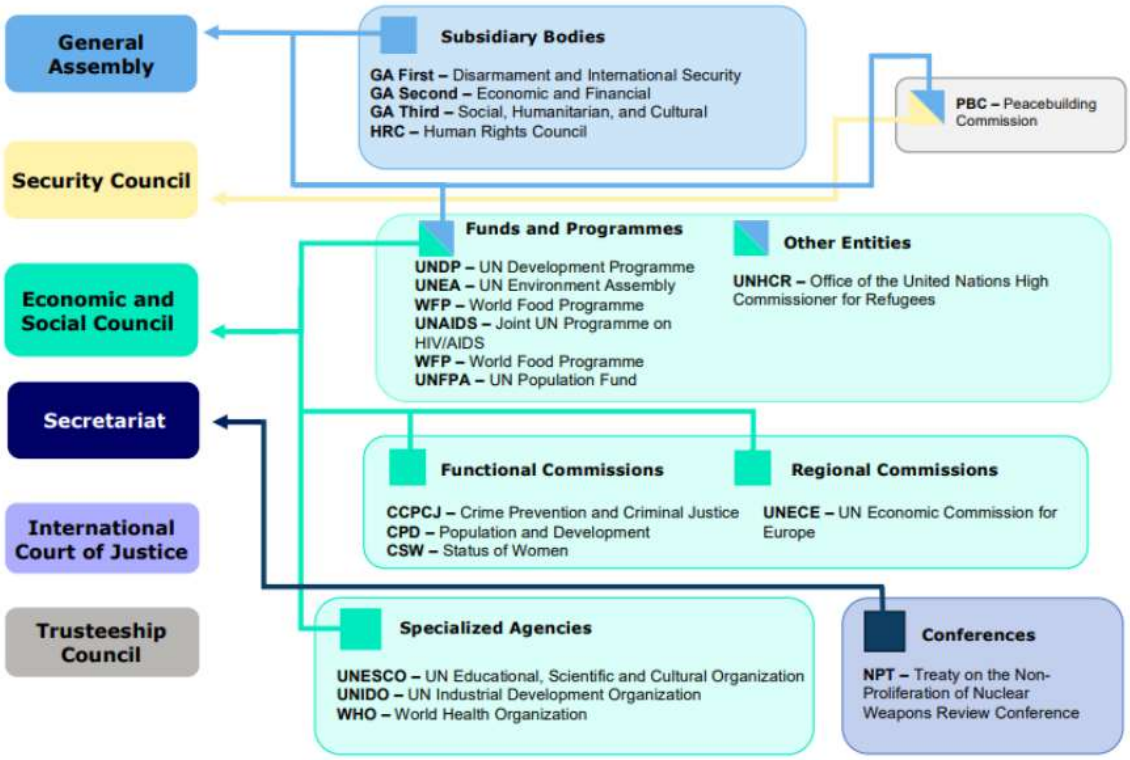


Image 1: The United Nations – Committees and Subsidiaries

The United Nations system is vast and comprises numerous specialised agencies, programs, and bodies that work on various global issues. While some level of coordination and overlap may be necessary for addressing complex challenges, there are instances where different UN bodies may have overlapping mandates or areas of focus. Here are a few examples of potential overlap:

1. **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):**
   Both UNDP and UNEP work on sustainable development issues but have different areas of emphasis. UNDP focuses on broader human development, poverty reduction, and capacity building in developing countries, while UNEP concentrates on environmental protection and sustainability. Sometimes, projects related to environmental conservation and sustainable development may involve both agencies, leading to some degree of overlap.

2. **World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF):**
   While WHO is primarily responsible for international public health issues, UNICEF focuses on the well-being of children worldwide. However, there is overlap in areas where child health and general public health intersect, such as vaccinations, disease prevention, and healthcare for mothers and children.

3. **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP):**
   The FAO works on agricultural development, food security, and nutrition, whereas the WFP is responsible for providing food assistance in emergencies and supporting hunger relief efforts. In food crises and emergencies, their roles may overlap as they collaborate to address immediate needs while working towards long-term solutions.

3. **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):**
   UNESCO's mandate promotes education, science, and culture, while UNFPA focuses on reproductive health, population dynamics, and gender equality. These areas can intersect when addressing educational opportunities and health issues related to adolescent girls and young women.

There are other examples of overlap, which you can read more about on the UN's website for SDGs. Regarding realignment, it is imminent to think about the UN organisations and other international organisations endorsing and promoting SDGs (duplication of efforts) and the realignment of the goals.

Realignment can foster better coordination and collaboration among various UN bodies and international organizations. This can improve the effectiveness of global efforts to achieve the SDGs, as each entity can focus on its area of expertise, avoid unnecessary duplication, and work together more seamlessly. Several countries, especially those in the Global South, have struggled to achieve sustainable development due to fragmented approaches by different UN bodies working within their territories. Improved coordination could lead to more coherent and integrated solutions. By reducing overlap, realignment can lead to clearer lines of responsibility, making tracking and assessing progress towards the SDGs easier. This accountability ensures that countries and international organizations fulfil their commitments effectively.In the case of Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), multiple UN bodies and organizations have been involved in related projects, leading to challenges in attributing outcomes and holding specific entities accountable for their contributions.

It can also free up resources that can be better allocated to areas where they are most needed. A streamlined system can lead to better resource distribution and more targeted funding for critical sustainable development projects. In the past, some countries have faced challenges in receiving adequate funding for certain SDGs due to multiple UN bodies working on similar initiatives in their regions, leading to competition for resources. Realignment can facilitate the adoption of more comprehensive and integrated approaches to tackle complex issues that cut across multiple SDGs. This would allow for a better understanding of interconnected challenges and the development of solutions that address the root causes of problems. Climate change is an issue that intersects with multiple SDGs, including those related to poverty, food security, and sustainable cities. A more integrated approach involving relevant UN bodies could lead to more effective strategies for mitigating its impacts.

On the other hand, each UN body and International organization have developed expertise in its specific domain. Merging or streamlining these entities could risk losing specialized knowledge and capacity, reducing effectiveness in addressing complex issues. The World Health Organization (WHO) has unique expertise in health-related matters. Merging it with other UN bodies might dilute its focus on global health concerns. Realignment initiatives may encounter political resistance from member states. Countries may be unwilling to relinquish control over specific agendas or entities, fearing that their interests may be compromised in a consolidated structure. Restructuring the UN and international organizations requires a massive undertaking and could lead to significant bureaucratic challenges. It may take years to complete the realignment process, which could delay the implementation of SDG-related initiatives.

Different regions and countries have unique cultural, social, and economic contexts. Maintaining diverse UN bodies and international organizations can better address these specific contexts and tailor solutions accordingly. UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, focuses on education, culture, and science. It considers diverse cultural heritage and identities, which might be lost in a more generalised or consolidated structure. Different regions of the world face distinct sustainable development challenges. Preserving region-specific UN bodies can ensure that the SDGs' implementation accounts for unique regional needs and priorities. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) addresses the specific development challenges African countries face. Its work is tailored to the continent's needs and may not be effectively addressed under a globalised structure.

2. Economic Growth vs Sustainability

While agreeing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 does not inherently hamper economic growth in developing countries, the implementation of some SDGs may pose challenges or require careful balancing with economic development priorities. Here are a few examples of how certain aspects of the SDGs could potentially impact economic growth in developing countries:

1. **Environmental Regulations and Industrial Growth**
   Some SDGs, particularly those related to environmental sustainability (e.g., SDG 13 - Climate Action, SDG 14 - Life Below Water, and SDG 15 - Life on Land), may require stricter environmental regulations and measures to combat climate change and protect natural resources. While these efforts are essential for the planet's long-term health, they may impose compliance costs on industries, especially those relying heavily on natural resource extraction or carbon-intensive processes. For developing countries heavily reliant on such industries, striking a balance between environmental protection and economic growth becomes challenging.

2. **Investment in Social Infrastructure vs Economic Infrastructure**
   SDGs that focus on social infrastructure and human development (e.g., SDG 4 - Quality Education, SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-being, and SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation) often require significant investments in education, healthcare, and sanitation. While these investments contribute to long-term social development, they may divert resources away from building critical economic infrastructure, such as transportation networks, energy facilities, and industrial zones.

3. **Shift to Sustainable Production Methods**
   SDGs that advocate for sustainable production and consumption (e.g., SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production) may necessitate a transition to more sustainable and environmentally friendly production methods. While this shift is beneficial in the long run, it could require initial investments and adjustments in production processes, affecting profit margins and competitiveness for some industries.

4. **Agricultural Practices and Food Security**
   SDGs related to food security and sustainable agriculture (e.g., SDG 2 - Zero Hunger) may require changes in agricultural practices to improve productivity while ensuring environmental sustainability. However, these changes may involve transitioning from traditional farming methods, which could initially impact farmers' livelihoods and agricultural output.

It's essential to emphasize that while the implementation of the SDGs may present challenges, they are designed to promote inclusive and sustainable development, which, in the long run, can contribute to stronger and more resilient economies in developing countries. Achieving the SDGs requires a balanced approach, where economic growth and social and environmental goals are pursued simultaneously to create a more equitable and prosperous future. Governments and stakeholders need to prioritise and strategise effectively to ensure that economic growth is not hindered but is aligned with the overall objectives of sustainable development.

Some real examples of how agreeing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 has posed challenges or required careful balancing with economic growth priorities in specific countries:

1. **India - SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy:**
   India faces the challenge of meeting its growing energy demands while also transitioning to cleaner and more sustainable energy sources. As part of its commitment to SDG 7, the country aims to increase the share of renewable energy in its energy mix. However, due to its abundant coal reserves, India's economic growth has been fueled largely by coal-based power generation. Balancing economic growth and environmental sustainability has led to complex policy decisions and significant investments in renewable energy infrastructure.
2. **Brazil - SDG 15: Life on Land:**
   Brazil is known for its vast Amazon rainforest, which plays a crucial role in global biodiversity and climate regulation. However, economic activities like deforestation for agriculture and logging have been challenging to control due to the competing demands for economic development and conservation. Agreeing to SDG 15 has led Brazil to implement measures to protect its forests and biodiversity while promoting sustainable land use practices.
3. **Nigeria - SDG 4: Quality Education:**
   Nigeria, like many developing countries, faces the challenge of providing quality education to its rapidly growing population. While investing in education aligns with SDG 4, budgetary constraints and the need to address other pressing development issues can limit the resources available for educational infrastructure and teacher training. Balancing these priorities remains a significant challenge for Nigeria's economic and social development.

These examples illustrate that while agreeing to the SDGs is critical for sustainable development, achieving these goals often requires complex decision-making and trade-offs between economic growth and social and environmental objectives. Each country must find its own path towards implementing the SDGs in a way that aligns with its unique development context and priorities.

3. Socio-Cultural Development Vs. Sustainability

During the preparatory process of Agenda 2030, the representatives of different actors attempted to incorporate culture into SDG goals and their own goals. In these discussions, culture was defined as a “factor that promotes other sustainable development goals and is a development goal in itself”.

However, the role of culture in the sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN General Assembly is both limited and ambiguous. It does not exist as a development goal itself. The Agenda 2030 mentions culture (associated with the terms civilisation, diversity, interculturality, cultural heritage and tourism) under four goals prominently: Quality education (SDG 4); Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8); Sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11); and Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), and it lightly touches upon other goals as well.

The limited attention to cultural sustainability as part of sustainable development and the absence of culture from the 2030 goals have also given rise to criticism. For example, the fact that the contribution of indigenous people was undervalued when defining sustainable development goals has been criticised. According to the criticisms presented by indigenous people, culture is the key to understanding how real sustainability can be achieved in the relationship between man and nature. It has been criticised that the goals of Agenda 2030 for not addressing the fact that local ways of knowledge, the preservation of cultural heritage and cultural diversity are continuously decreasing. Many local communities, such as indigenous peoples, face problems preserving their lifestyles, traditional knowledge, cultural memory, and traditions. Biocultural heritage refers to biodiversity in terms of culture and the environment, which includes location-specific information about nature, values, memory, and a way of living.

Many researchers have defended biocultural heritage as essential to sustainability, but cultural diversity and local ecological knowledge have been left out of the UN's sustainable development goals. The right of indigenous people to exercise their own culture and transfer cultural heritage from one generation to the next would require special attention.

Even though the role of culture in the 2030 Agenda's goals is not entirely visible, another interpretation of culture's role in SDGs is possible. Firstly, various cultural values and ethical assumptions have shaped the UN’s sustainable development goals. Secondly, it is possible to assume that cultural factors have a penetrating impact on the preconditions of achieving all of the UN’s sustainable development goals; without examining our cultural practices in all areas of life, no sustainability change is possible.

Interventions for human development in areas such as SDG 3 - Health and Well-being and SDG 4 - Quality education are most effective when they are responsive to the cultural context and the particularities of a place and community. Culture is explicitly noted in SDG 4, which calls for education to promote a culture of peace and non-violence, an appreciation of cultural diversity, and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.

Promoting respect for cultural diversity within a human rights-based approach also facilitates cultural understanding and peace (SDG 16 - Peace, justice, and strong institutions), prevents conflicts, and protects the rights of marginalized groups. Recent events have also demonstrated the importance of protecting culture, cultural diversity, and social cohesion in armed conflict.

Culture has an obvious correlation with climate action (SDG 13). Several traditional occupations and crafts draw on local knowledge of ecosystem management, natural resource extraction and local materials. As many of them require lower levels of technology, energy, and investment, they help to generate sustainable livelihoods and contribute to green economies.

In Uganda, a project to safeguard intangible heritage trained craftspeople, especially youth, in the ancient craft of barkcloth making. The project also established the sustainable practice of using the indigenous and ubiquitous Mutuba trees, which had been neglected due to civil wars in the region. Such an effort furthered environmental goals and ensured income generation, besides safeguarding the intangible heritage element of bark-cloth weaving.

The knowledge systems and environmental management practices of indigenous and local people provide insights enabling better management of ecological challenges, preventing biodiversity loss, reducing land degradation, and mitigating the effects of climate change. Culture, particularly traditional knowledge, also contributes to resilience and recovery in the case of natural disasters (SDG 13).

Committee Objectives

- Analyze the SDG Report 2023: Delegates will examine the findings of the SDG Report 2023 to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current state of progress, existing challenges, and opportunities for improvement.

- Identify Areas of Overlap and Duplication: Delegates will identify instances where multiple organizations are working on similar projects or initiatives, leading to inefficiencies and wastage of resources.

- Propose Solutions: Delegates will collaborate to propose innovative solutions to reduce overlap and duplication of efforts. These solutions should be practical, actionable, and tailored to address specific challenges in different regions.

- Enhance Coordination and Collaboration: Delegates will explore ways to strengthen coordination and collaboration among UN entities, international organizations, and other stakeholders. Emphasis should be placed on sharing best practices, expertise, and resources.

- Consider the Financing Challenge: Delegates will consider the financial aspect of the SDGs and explore ways to mobilize resources effectively to support sustainable development projects.

- Address Inequalities and Leave No One Behind: Delegates should prioritize strategies to address inequalities and ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit of the SDGs.

Annexure III

Research Tips

Here are a few research-related tips you should remember while conducting your research.

1. **Country Profile** - To get started with research, it's essential to understand the country you're representing. The physical geography of your country, politics and government, and the economy. Knowing these things will help you know your country better.
2. **Topic Background** – All delegates are encouraged to deeply research the topic. During the conference, only use information available on government websites, UN websites, Reuters or any other credible website. Information from sites like Wikipedia will not be considered credible, and the delegate's points will not be noted.
3. **Past International Action** - One of the most important things to understand when discussing the agenda is what the United Nations and the international community have already done about the topic. You don't want your solutions to be redundant, and you want to make sure you know what the world has and hasn't done. Past international action can come in the form of UN resolutions, international conventions and treaties, or actions by NGOs and international organizations.
4. **Country Policy** - Once you have a decent understanding of the topic and your country, you take this knowledge together and learn what your "Country Policy" is on your topic. Your Country Policy is what your country thinks should be done, or not done, about the issue and how this topic impacts your country. This means determining if your country is in favour of solutions that have been proposed or resolutions that have been passed or if your country has been advocating at the UN for policies. A good starting place to learn your country's policy is to research what your country's government, foreign ministry, or UN mission have said about the topic on their website
5. **Possible Solution**- The most critical part of researching is to research possible solutions to help resolve the issue your committee is discussing. The solutions aren't what your country wants to do for itself- that would never need to be discussed at the UN. Instead, you should consider what your country wants the United Nations to do about the issue worldwide. Feel free to use your own creativity to think of ideas (but be within the bounds of reality), and find reasons why they would work that you can use in speeches and later in your resolutions in committee.

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