## Utopia Model United Nations ‘19

## United Nations Development Programme

# Background Guide

Agenda:

*Reviewing the Progress of Agenda 2030 with special emphasis on Goals 10-17.*

**Message from the Executive Board**

Greetings, delegates!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to this session of the United Nations Development Programme. The following background guide has been prepared in order to facilitate your research. This document should not by any means bind your research to its limits.

We expect you to be thoroughly researched about your portfolios as well as your country’s stand on the current issue in addition to the agenda at large. Under no circumstances can this document be cited as substantial proof for any argument put forth when the committee is in session. The aim of this document is to structure your thoughts and ideas to have a constructive debate.

The agenda of the Committee places emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals that the Panel has envisaged. The focus of the Committee shall be at discussing and deliberating upon Sustainable Goals 10-17, and therefore the research should be focused on those aspects.

It is of great importance that we discover the various facets to the issue and attempt to provide solutions to any technical issues and complexities that come up through the provisions of the same.

Lastly, we wish to emphasise the importance of good research which must guide what you speak, how you negotiate in a given position while staying true to the country you represent at different international forums.

Hope to see you all ready with innovative solutions to the persisting problems of the world.

Best Wishes,

The Executive Board

**DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Sustainable Development is the organizing principle for meeting human development goals while simultaneously sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend. The desired result is a state of society where living conditions and resource used continue to meet human needs without undermining the integrity and stability of the natural system. Sustainable development can be defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations.

**The Post 2015 Development Agenda**

**Background**:

The pre-2015 UN development agenda was centred on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They were established following the Millennium Summit of the UN in 2000. The MDGs encapsulated eight globally agreed goals in the areas of poverty alleviation, education, gender equality and empowerment of women, infant and maternal health, environmental sustainability, reducing HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases, and building a global partnership for development. The deadline for the MDG’s was 2015.

The 2010 High-Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly was called to review progress towards the MDGs, wherein governments called for accelerating progress and for thinking of ways to advance the development agenda beyond 2015. After the aforementioned meeting, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon took several initiatives. He established a UN System Task Team, launched a High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons and appointed Amina J. Mohammed as his own Special Advisor on Post-2015 Development Planning. These changes are complemented by a set of eleven global thematic consultations and national consultations in 88 countries facilitated by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG).

**High-level Panel's report:**

On 30 May 2013, the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda released “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development.” This report sets out a universal agenda to eradicate extreme poverty from the face of the earth by 2030 and deliver on the promise of sustainable development. It calls upon the world to rally around a new Global Partnership that offers hope and an integral role to every person in the world in this partnership.

The report mentions new post-2015 goals to drive five big transformation shifts:

1. Leave No One Behind. After 2015, we should move from reducing to ending extreme poverty, in all its forms. We should ensure that no person, regardless of ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, race or other status is denied basic economic opportunities and human rights.
2. Put Sustainable Development at the Core. We must integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability. We must act now to slowdown the alarming speed of climate change and environmental degradation, both of which pose unprecedented threats to humanity.
3. Transform Economies for Jobs and Inclusive Growth. A profound economic transformation can end extreme poverty and improve livelihoods. This can be achieved by harnessing innovation, technology, and the potential of business. Diversified economies, with equal opportunities for all, can drive social inclusion, especially for young people, and foster sustainable consumption and production patterns.
4. Build Peace and Effective, Open and Accountable Institutions for All. Freedom from conflict and violence is a fundamental human entitlement, and the essential foundation for building peaceful and prosperous societies. At the same time, people all over the world expect their governments to be honest, accountable, and responsive to their needs. We are calling for a fundamental shift towards recognizing peace and good governance as a core element of well-being, and not just an optional extra. 5.
5. Forge a New Global Partnership. A new spirit of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual accountability must underpin the Post-2015 agenda. This new partnership must be based on a common understanding of our shared humanity, mutual respect and benefit. It should be centred on people, including those affected by poverty and exclusion, youth, the aged, disabled and indigenous people. It should include civil society organizations, multilateral institutions, local and national governments, scientific and academic community, businesses, and private philanthropy.

The Panel was co-chaired by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom. It included leaders from civil society, private sector as well as various governments.

The Panel was part of the Secretary-General’s Post-2015 initiative. This was mandated by the 2010 MDG Summit. UN Member States have called for open, inclusive consultations involving the civil society, the private sector, and academia and research institutions from all regions, in addition to the UN system, to help in advancing the development framework beyond 2015.

The work of the Panel reflected new development challenges while also drawing on experience gained in implementing the MDGs, both in terms of results achieved and areas for improvement.

The Panel submitted a report containing recommendations to the Secretary-General in May 2013.

**Introduction to the SDG’s**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as ‘Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ is a set of 17 "Global Goals" with 169 targets between them. These goals have been spearheaded by the United Nations through a deliberative process involving its 193 Member States, as well as the global civil society. They are contained in paragraph 54 United Nations Resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015. The Resolution is a broader intergovernmental agreement that acts as the Post 2015 Development Agenda

**Background:**

The history of the SDGs can be traced to 1972 when governments met in Stockholm, Sweden, for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. This conference considered the rights of the human family to live in a healthy and productive environment. It was not until 1983 that the United Nations decided to create the World Commission on Environment and Development. This commission defined sustainable development as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

In 1992, the first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was held in Rio. The first agenda for Environment and Development, also known as Agenda 21, was developed and adopted in Rio.

In preparation for the Rio+20 Conference, Indonesia held a government retreat in Solo, Indonesia in July 2011. During this event, Colombia proposed the idea of the SDGs. This was picked up by the United Nations Department of Public Information 64th NGO Conference in September 2011 in Bonn, where the outcome document proposed 17 sustainable development goals and associated targets. In the run-up to Rio+20 there was much discussion about the idea of SDGs. At the Rio+20 Conference, a resolution known as “The Future We Want” was reached by member states. Among the key themes agreed on were poverty eradication, energy, water, sanitation, health, and human settlement. Paragraph 246 of the Future We Want document forms the link between the Rio+20 agreement and the Millennium Development Goals: "We recognize that the development of goals could also be useful for pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development. The goals should address and incorporate all three dimensions of sustainable development (environment, economics, and society) and their interlink ages in a balanced way. The development of these goals should not divert focus or effort from the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals". Paragraph 249 states that "the process needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes to consider the post-2015 development agenda”.

Taken together, paragraphs 246 and 249 paved the way for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs were officially established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000 and the agreement in the Future We Want outcome document. The Rio+20 summit also agreed that the process of designing sustainable development goals, should be "action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities”.

A future process was required as the MDGs were to be achieved by 2015. Discussion of the Post-2015 framework for international development began well in advance. The United Nations System Task Team on Post-2015 Development Agenda released the first report known as “Realizing The Future We Want”. This report was the first attempt at achieving the requirements under paragraphs 246 and 249 of the Future We Want document. It identified four dimensions as part of a global vision for sustainable development: Inclusive Social Development, Environmental Sustainability, Inclusive Economic Development, and Peace and Security. Other processes included the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, whose report was submitted to the Secretary General in 2013.

**Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**Preamble:**

This Agenda is a plan of action for people, our planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next fifteen years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet:

**People**

We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all its forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

**Planet**

We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so it can support the needs of the present and future generations.

**Prosperity**

We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

**Peace**

We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

**Partnership**

We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

The interlinkages and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realized. If we realize our ambitions across the full extent of the Agenda, the lives of all will be profoundly improved and our world will be transformed for the better.

**ABOUT SDGs 10-17**

**SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**

10.1. By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

10.2. By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

10.3. Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

10.4. Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

10.5. Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

10.6. Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

10.7. Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

## **SDG 11:** **Sustainable Cities and Communities**

11.1. By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and 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 and 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

## **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**

12.1. Implement the 10-year framework of programs on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries

12.2. By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

12.3. By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses

12.4. By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

12.5. By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

12.6. Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

## **SDG 13 : Climate Action**

13.1. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

13.2. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

13.3. Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

13.4. Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly $100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

13.5. Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

## **SDG 14: Life Below Water**

14.1. By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

14.2. By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

14.3. Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

14.4. By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end over fishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

14.5. By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

14.6. By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and over fishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

## **SDG 15: Life on Land**

15.1. By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

15.2. By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

15.3. By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

15.4. By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

15.5. Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

15.6. Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

## **SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**

16.1. Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

16.2. End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

16.3. Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.4. By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

16.5. Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

16.6. Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

## **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goal**

17.1. Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

17.2. Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries

17.3. Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

17.4. Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress

17.5. Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

17.6. Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

**CRITICISMS OF THE SDGs**

The ambitious UN-adopted sustainable development goals (SDGs) have been criticized for being inconsistent, difficult to quantify, implement and monitor. Disparaging analysis suggests that there exists a potential inconsistency in the SDGs, particularly between the socio-economic development and the environmental sustainability goals. Critiques also raise questions on the measurability and monitoring of the broadly framed SDGs. The goals are non-binding, with each country being expected to create their own national or regional plans. Moreover, the source(s) and the extent of the financial resources and investments for the SDGs are ambiguous. This chapter quantifies and examines the inconsistencies of the SDGs. It further inspects which of the underlying social, economic or environmental pillars are that most effective for achieving sustainable development. Analyses of the data reveal that the developed countries need to remain focused on their social and environmental policies. The developing countries, on the other hand, are better off being focused on their economics and social policies in the short run, even though environmental policies remain significant for sustainable development.

**MEANING OF PREGRESS PATHWAYS**

It is important that the meaning of this term is clear to each and every delegate. This term implies some plan of action which is possible with the given resources and is subject to the acceptance of all parties, can and should be undertaken to move closer to the completion of the SDG’s under focus. “Some” plan of action does not necessarily mean any plan of action, but the best possible plan of action, under the prevailing/existing conditions.

**QUESTIONS TO PONDER**

1. In what way do the SDGs differ from the MDGs?
2. Are the SDGs undermining democracy?
3. Why are the SDGs stalling?
4. What is the effect of various countries backing out of climate change agreements?

**FURTHER READING**

* <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>
* <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/sustainable-development-goals>
* <https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/guest-articles/where-are-we-in-achieving-sdg-15/>
* <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>