

UNDP

STUDY GUIDE

#ideasbeyondborders

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Letter From The Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

It is my great honour to welcome you to the 7th edition of KAFMUN'26, which will take place from 13th to 15th February at Kocaeli Ali Fuat Başgil Social Sciences High School.

My name is Özkan Işıksoy, and I have been part of KAFMUN since 2023. In previous years, I have served as an Under Secretary-General and as an Academic Advisor, and it is now my privilege to serve as your Secretary-General. KAFMUN has provided me with invaluable experiences in leadership, international relations, awareness, and crisis management. Being part of this community has been both an honour and a source of personal growth.

Over the years, we have built a strong and collaborative community and established this distinguished conference as a proud tradition. I now invite you to continue this tradition and contribute to its legacy. KAFMUN'26 will host seven committees this year, including two of the six main United Nations committees, each prepared with challenging and meaningful agenda items. The world today faces numerous global instabilities; sustainable development goals remain unmet, and children continue to suffer from conflicts. As participants of KAFMUN'26, we will work together to address these complex issues and seek constructive solutions.

Our Academic and Organising Teams have worked tirelessly to provide you with a productive, comfortable, and memorable conference experience. I hope that during this conference you will enjoy both academic growth and meaningful engagement, and that you leave with valuable skills, insights, and connections.

I wish you all a successful and inspiring conference,

Özkan IŞIKSOY
Secretary-General

Letter From The Academic Advisor

Dear KAFMUN'26 Delegates,

I respectfully, warmly, and sincerely greet you all. Welcome to the KAFMUN'26 Conference, which will be held for the seventh time between February 13 and 15 at Kocaeli Ali Fuat Başgil Social Sciences High School.

My name is Berker Tezer, and I have been honored to be a part of the KAFMUN family since 2023. Prior to this conference, I have served in various roles at KAFMUN and at different Model United Nations conferences. At this conference, I stand before you as an Academic Advisor. Throughout my time within the KAFMUN family, I believe that I have significantly developed both socially and academically. The experiences I have gained have enabled me to acquire numerous skills such as crisis management, public speaking, and leadership, and have greatly contributed to my personal development.

Through years of dedication and the conferences we have organized, KAFMUN has been consistently sustained for seven years, becoming a culture and a brand of our school. I once again welcome and congratulate you for being part of such a well-established and meaningful organization. The primary aim of this conference is to contribute to your academic and social development, to help you view the world from different perspectives, and to raise awareness about global issues.

In line with this objective, we have worked diligently and thoroughly with the academic team to provide you with the best possible conference experience. Throughout the conference, I have no doubt that everyone involved will do their utmost to fulfill their responsibilities.

I wish you all a successful and enriching conference,

Berker TEZER
Academic Advisor

Letter From The Crisis Director

Dear Delegates and Valued Contributors,

I sincerely greet you all and extend my respectful regards. Welcome to KAFMUN'26, the seventh edition of our conference, which will be held on 13–15 February 2026 at Kocaeli Ali Fuat Başgil Social Sciences High School. Hello, my name is Hamza Duruk, and I am the Crisis Director. My KAFMUN journey, which began in 2023, has continued since 2024 through my continuous involvement in the crisis team. Alongside this, by taking part in various conferences and debate events, I have had the opportunity to develop myself and demonstrate my expertise and interest in many fields. In activities that bring together young individuals who will change the world on common grounds of consensus, my sole objective has always been to improve myself and the communities I am part of, and to organize them in order to make the world a better place and contribute to ensuring that everyone can live with dignity. As the director of the crisis team, my aim has been to offer you a different experience by combining my passion and vision with the work of this team, which continuously operates behind the scenes of the conference and is required to make accurate and critical decisions. As the crisis team, we supervise the event within a framework of consensus built upon shared values and assist in guiding its direction. In line with the academic directives, we approve decisions by applying strict discipline and high competence; moreover, we prepare crisis scenarios to enhance crisis management within the committees and to challenge their knowledge of the topics discussed. This year, with our eight-member crisis team, we will be working diligently for you, and as the Crisis Director, I will strive to carry forward the seven years of effort entrusted to me into the future. In this journey whose foundations were laid two years ago, today we have come together under this strong structure with many valued colleagues and are moving forward with confident steps toward our goals. This goal is, of course, not a simple one. The work we carry out essentially represents a bridge connecting the past and the future. This bridge is KAFMUN'26—a platform that links past issues to the present, allows us to make decisions and reflect within a state of in-between, and establishes a foundation extending toward the future. With its profound culture and perspective on the world, this platform once again rekindles the hope that dozens of individuals can change the world and enables us to move forward on this path. I wish that this event, which will bring new experiences to all of you, opens a meaningful door toward your future. Remain hopeful. Respectfully yours,

Hamza DURUK

Crisis Director

Letter From The Committee Board

Dear Delegates,

It is an profound honor to stand before this assembly of the United Nations Development Programme. We find ourselves at a historical crossroads, a unique moment in time where the gravity of global challenges is eclipsed only by the immense capacity of human ingenuity and collective resolve. Our world is currently navigating a volatile landscape defined by the urgency of climate instability, the widening chasm of economic disparity, and the fragile threads of social fragmentation. Yet, as we gather here, we must remember that the UNDP has never been a mere hall for rhetoric or a repository for grievances. It is, and must remain, a vibrant incubator for tangible progress. We are not assembled here simply to catalog the crises of our era or to act as passive witnesses to the hardships of our time. Rather, we are called to be the architects of the solutions that will safeguard the next generation. The resolutions you will debate, draft, and refine within these walls are far more than ink on paper; they are the strategic blueprints for a world that is more equitable, more resilient, and more sustainable. Every clause you negotiate carries the weight of potential change, and every consensus you reach builds a bridge toward a more stable global order. In these proceedings, I urge you to move beyond the traditional confines of diplomacy. I challenge you to approach every session with a spirit of radical empathy and intellectual rigor. True leadership is not found in seeking the path of least resistance or the comfort of the status quo; it is found in the courage to forge the right path, however difficult it may be. As you dive into the complexities of policy and the cold reality of statistics, never lose sight of the human pulse beneath them. Behind every data point on poverty is a family seeking dignity; behind every climate projection is a community fighting for its home; and behind every economic indicator is the hope of a youth seeking opportunity. Your presence in this chamber is a powerful testament to your commitment to the global collective. We hold an unwavering faith in your ability to transcend national borders, to bridge ideological divides, and to innovate with a boldness that ignores the limitations of the past. The era we inhabit demands an unprecedented sense of urgency, yet it also requires the persistent optimism that our shared humanity deserves. We look forward to witnessing your leadership as it unfolds in the coming days, knowing that your work here will echo far beyond these walls.

Let these words guide your perspective and your purpose: Memento vivere

Sincerely,

Görkem YILMAZ & Eymen YILMAZ
UNDP Committee Chairboard

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1. Introduction of the UNDP



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the principal programme established by the United Nations General Assembly and plays a central role in the field of development within the UN system. UNDP operates globally to support member states in achieving their economic, social, and environmental development goals. In this respect, UNDP is one of the fundamental institutional structures representing the development arm of the United Nations.

UNDP's core mission is to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and promote sustainable development. The programme does not limit development to economic growth alone; it adopts a holistic approach that centers human well-being, equal opportunity, and quality of life. This approach forms the basis of UNDP's understanding of human development.

Within this framework, UNDP considers the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the main policy and implementation framework for its work. It undertakes a coordinating role, promoting policy development, capacity building, and multi-stakeholder cooperation to support countries in achieving the SDGs. Thus, UNDP contributes to the implementation of global goals at the national and local levels.

UNDP's activities include: The committee focuses on combating poverty and inequality, strengthening democratic governance and institutional capacity, addressing climate change and environmental sustainability, and crisis prevention and resilience. Work in these areas aims to support long-term and inclusive development, and the UNDP committee facilitates solution-oriented and multilateral discussions in line with these goals.

1.1 Terminology

Human Developments Index: The Human Developments Index simplifies and captures only part of what human development entails. It does not reflect on inequalities, poverty, human security, empowerment, etc. The HDRO provides other composite indices as broader proxy on some of the key issues of human development, inequality, gender disparity and poverty.

SDGs: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

Capacity Developments: UNDP Capacity Development Approach for the benefit of development practitioners both within and beyond the UN development system – a real-world guide to real-world applications to strengthen and contribute to national capacities for development.

Cooperative: Cooperatives are people-centred enterprises owned, controlled and run by and for their members to realise their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations.

Governance: Governance systems across the globe are under increasing pressure in multiple ways, including economic contractions brought on by the Covid 19 pandemic, a growing debt crisis, a changing climate with increasingly extreme weather events, the rapid pace of technological change, increasingly visible inequalities, a fragmented, contested and less effective multilateralism, and people's growing dissatisfaction with the status quo. Furthermore, some governments and governance systems are becoming increasingly repressive, reinforcing exclusion, political polarity, and discrimination, thereby hindering efforts to end poverty, protect the planet and improve lives and livelihoods.

Development Bank: is a financial institution that provides risk capital for economic development projects on a non-commercial basis.

RBM: Results - based management (RBM) is a broad management approach whose core focus is achieving results. The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) defines RBM as a management strategy by which processes, outputs and services contribute to the achievement of clearly stated expected accomplishments and objectives.

Stakeholder: UNDP partner capacities for managing social and environmental risks; and ensure full and effective stakeholder engagement, including through mechanisms to respond to complaints from project-affected people.

Resilience: The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.

AIDS: HIV is a virus that targets the immune system and is transmitted through blood and unprotected sexual contact. HIV destroys CD4+ T lymphocytes, a vital component of the immune system, weakening the body's defenses and making it more vulnerable to infections. Therefore, HIV-positive individuals are at higher risk for infections such as tuberculosis, meningitis, pneumonia, and some types of cancer.

National Implementation: Responsibility for NIM projects rests with the government, as reflected in the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed by UNDP with the government, and with the implementing partner, as agreed in the country programme action plan or United Nations development assistance framework action plan and respective annual work plan.

Direct Implementation: Direct Implementation (DIM) is the modality whereby UNDP takes on the role of Implementing Partner. In DIM modality, UNDP has the technical and administrative capacity to assume the responsibility for mobilizing and applying effectively the required inputs in order to reach the expected outputs. UNDP assumes overall management responsibility and accountability for project implementation. Accordingly UNDP must follow all policies and procedures established for its own operations. In DIM modality, UNDP has the technical and administrative capacity to assume the responsibility for mobilizing and applying effectively the required inputs in order to reach the expected outputs. UNDP assumes overall management responsibility and accountability for project implementation.

2. Introduction to the Committee

UNDP was formed by the merger of the United Nations Extended Technical Assistance Programme, established in 1949, and the United Nations Special Fund, established in 1958. In its current form, UNDP was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1965. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality and exclusion. It also aims to assist countries in developing policies, leadership skills, partnership capabilities, and institutional capacity to achieve sustainable development.

As a key development agency within the United Nations system, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) operates in approximately 170 countries and territories, working to eradicate poverty and protect the planet. UNDP helps countries develop strong policies, skills, partnerships, and institutions to sustain their progress.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 SDGs are integrated—they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. Countries have committed to prioritize progress for those who're furthest behind. The SDGs are designed to end poverty, hunger, AIDS, and discrimination against women and girls. The creativity, knowhow, technology and financial resources from all of society is necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context.

2.1 Introduction to the Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Establishing the 2050 Development Vision: Regional Assessments and the Creation of Sustainable Development Goals

TWI2050 (The World In 2050) differs from standard integrated assessment models by asking a goal-based question. Rather than examining various future scenarios, the project focuses on describing a potential sustainable development pathway, that is, one in which social and economic development proceed in all regions of the world (including achieving the SDGs), while respecting the planetary boundaries at local to global scales. This is a normative approach that is not present in much of the world's analytical work on energy, macroeconomics, demography, and other issues of critical importance. The project's objective is to develop sustainable pathways (SDPs) that reach the two defined target spaces: all 17 SDGs and the transformation toward sustainability within planetary boundaries beyond 2050. At the heart of this framework are nine transformation pathways – actionable routes for companies to take – covering the areas of business activity that are essential to society: energy; transportation and mobility; living spaces; products and materials; financial products and services; connectivity; health and wellbeing; water and sanitation; and food. The vision and transformation pathways are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the targets of the Paris Agreement. Each of the nine transformation pathways contains ten action areas for the decade ahead, designed to help companies drive transformative change in their strategies, business operations and impact on society.

3. Historical Background to the Agenda Item

3.1 The Structural Gap in Global Education Access

Historically, global education goals under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) focused almost exclusively on primary school enrollment rates. While this succeeded in getting more children into buildings, it fundamentally ignored the quality of education and the "Digital Divide." As the world moved toward a knowledge-based economy, the international community failed to implement technology transfer, leaving students in the Global South with outdated skills. This historical oversight has turned educational injustice into a primary barrier, as the lack of digital literacy continues to prevent developing nations from participating in the high-tech 2050 economic landscape.

3.2 The Systemic Fragility of Healthcare Architectures

Developmental efforts in the early 21st century treated healthcare through "vertical" funding—targeting specific diseases like HIV or Malaria—rather than building national health infrastructures. This "emergency-response" mindset meant that while individual diseases were fought, the general health systems in developing countries remained fragile and underfunded. Historical neglect of basic public health architecture was exposed during recent global crises, proving that without a shift toward long-term structural strengthening, developing nations remain vulnerable to total infrastructure collapse.

3.3 Legislative Deadlocks in Gender Equality

Gender equality has been a core global objective since 2000, yet progress has historically been hindered by a focus on social representation rather than legislative reform. Past frameworks failed to effectively challenge the institutional barriers that prevent women from land ownership, equal credit access, and legal protections. The current necessity for ending gender discrimination is rooted in this historical failure to harmonize national laws with international equality standards, which has kept millions of women in the informal economy and limited global GDP growth for decades.

3.4 The Humanitarian-Development Gap and the Crisis in Gaza

Energy Sovereignty and the Legacy of Carbon-Locking For much of the last century, global energy policies were dominated by "Carbon-Locking," where industrial growth was prioritized over long-term environmental sustainability. Early climate agreements relied on voluntary targets that lacked the enforcement mechanisms to shift global markets toward renewables effectively. This led to a historical lack of resilience against global market

fluctuations, leaving many developing nations energy-insecure. The current push for a resilient energy transition is a response to this failure, seeking to build policies that protect nations from the volatility of fossil fuel markets.

3.5 The Tragedy of the Commons in Marine Ecosystems

Until recently, the health of the oceans was often sidelined in favor of rapid maritime trade and industrial expansion. The historical absence of a "Legally Binding Global Instrument" on plastic waste allowed microplastic pollution to evolve into a transboundary ecological crisis. Past initiatives failed because they did not address the root cause: an economic model that did not account for the environmental cost of plastic production. Today, the challenge is to overcome this historical lack of accountability and implement sustainable, circular solutions to save the marine ecosystem from permanent decay.

4. Current Situation

4.1 The Global Education Gap and the AI Revolution

Today, the world is facing a "Learning Poverty" crisis, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which locked millions out of classrooms. While primary enrollment is high, the current situation is dominated by the Digital Divide; students in the Global South often lack the internet stability and hardware required for an AI-integrated economy. As we move toward 2050, the focus has shifted from simple literacy to "Digital Sovereignty," where the priority is ensuring that developing nations are creators of technology rather than just passive consumers.

4.2 Post-Pandemic Healthcare Resilience

The current healthcare landscape is defined by the struggle to recover from the systemic shocks of recent years. We are witnessing a transition from reactive crisis management to building Universal Health Coverage (UHC). However, the current situation remains critical due to the uneven distribution of medical technology and the "Brain Drain" of medical professionals from developing nations to the Global North. Strengthening these systems is now viewed as a national security priority to ensure that future biological threats do not reset the 2050 development gains.

4.3 Economic Barriers to Gender Equality

While legal frameworks for gender equality have improved, the current socio-economic reality shows that women are still disproportionately affected by the "Informal Economy."

Today, the focus is on Gender-Responsive Budgeting and closing the global gender pay gap, which is estimated to take over a century to close at the current pace. The 2050 Vision currently prioritizes the removal of credit and property barriers, recognizing that total economic participation of women is the fastest way to accelerate global GDP.

4.4 The Gaza Crisis and the Collapse of Humanitarian Stability

The situation in Gaza represents the most urgent "Man-Made Famine" of the current decade, serving as a catastrophic example of how conflict can instantly erase decades of developmental work. Current international efforts are paralyzed by political deadlocks, highlighting the immediate need for a Humanitarian-Development Nexus. This crisis has forced the UNDP to re-evaluate how food security and essential infrastructure can be protected in high-conflict zones to prevent localized collapses from triggering regional instability.

4.5 The Energy Trilemma: Security, Equity, and Sustainability

We are currently in the midst of a global energy crisis, where nations are struggling to balance the "Energy Trilemma." While the push for Net-Zero by 2050 is accelerating, current geopolitical tensions have led to a short-term return to fossil fuels for energy security. The challenge today is to ensure that the "Green Transition" does not become "Green Protectionism," where developing nations are penalized with carbon taxes while lacking the capital to invest in renewable infrastructure like green hydrogen or solar grids.

4.6 The Marine Plastic Crisis and Circular Economy Transitions

The current state of our oceans is at a tipping point, with microplastics now found in every level of the food chain. Current international negotiations are moving toward a Global Plastics Treaty, but the reality remains that waste management systems in rapidly urbanizing regions cannot keep up with production. The 2050 Vision is currently shifting its strategy toward a "Circular Economy" model, aiming to decouple economic growth from plastic consumption and establish global standards for maritime protection.

5. Major Issues and Risks

Global development efforts continue to face serious challenges that threaten progress toward sustainable and inclusive growth. Injustices in education remain widespread, particularly in developing and conflict-affected regions, where unequal access to quality education, limited infrastructure, and digital divides restrict human capital development and reinforce long-term

social and economic inequalities. Fragile health systems in many developing countries represent another major risk. Insufficient funding, weak healthcare infrastructure, and unequal access to essential services increase vulnerability to pandemics, humanitarian emergencies, and climate-related health threats. Strengthening health systems is therefore critical for protecting lives, maintaining development gains, and improving societal resilience. Gender discrimination against women continues to undermine sustainable development and social cohesion worldwide. Persistent inequalities in education, employment, healthcare, and political participation, as well as gender-based violence, limit women's ability to fully contribute to economic and social life. Addressing these structural barriers remains essential for achieving inclusive and equitable development. Humanitarian crises and environmental pressures further intensify these challenges. Severe food insecurity and famine risks in Gaza demonstrate how conflict can rapidly escalate existing vulnerabilities, while energy insecurity and marine microplastic pollution pose long-term threats to economic stability, ecosystems, and human health, highlighting the urgent need for coordinated, sustainable, and resilient policy responses.

6. The Role of International Bodies and Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

International organizations have played a critical role in addressing global development challenges, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) acting as a central coordinating body within the United Nations system. Alongside UNDP, agencies such as UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), UN Women, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have led sector-specific efforts in education, health systems strengthening, gender equality, food security, energy transition, and environmental protection. These institutions have worked collaboratively with national governments and regional actors to promote inclusive and sustainable development. Previous global development initiatives, most notably the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), represented an early attempt to address issues such as poverty, education, healthcare, and gender equality through internationally agreed targets. During this period, UNDP supported national implementation and monitoring processes, while UNICEF focused on education and child welfare, WHO addressed public health systems, UN Women promoted gender equality, and FAO worked on hunger and food security. Although the MDGs contributed to significant progress in several areas, their limited scope and uneven regional outcomes revealed structural weaknesses in global development planning. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 marked a shift toward a more integrated and universal framework. Under the 2030 Agenda, UNDP assumed a leading role in coordinating SDG implementation, supporting policy coherence, and facilitating partnerships across sectors. Other UN bodies continued to play complementary roles: UNICEF advanced equitable education and child health, WHO strengthened health

systems, UN Women addressed systemic gender discrimination, FAO responded to food insecurity and famine risks, and UNEP focused on environmental sustainability, including marine pollution. Despite these collective efforts, progress toward the SDGs has remained uneven across regions. Global crises, including armed conflicts, climate change, pandemics, and energy insecurity, have further exposed the limitations of existing approaches. Humanitarian emergencies, such as food insecurity and famine risks in Gaza, illustrate how development gains can be rapidly reversed in fragile contexts. These challenges have highlighted the need for stronger coordination among international bodies and more context-specific strategies that reflect regional vulnerabilities, capacities, and development priorities. In light of these experiences, the agenda item on establishing the 2050 Development Vision emphasizes the importance of regional assessments and long-term planning. UNDP, working in cooperation with specialized UN agencies, is well positioned to integrate sectoral expertise into a comprehensive development framework. By strengthening regional analysis and aligning Sustainable Development Goals with long-term global trends, international bodies aim to move beyond short-term interventions and contribute to more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable development pathways toward 2050.

7. Roles of the Relevant International Organizations

7.1 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



FAO is essential for the 2050 Vision as it provides the framework for global food security and sustainable agricultural productivity. Its role in the committee is to offer technical expertise on building resilient food supply chains, particularly in regions prone to famine and resource scarcity like Gaza. For the 2050 assessments, FAO's data on soil degradation and agricultural technology transfer is vital for ensuring that regional development does not lead to a collapse in food systems.

7.2 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



UNICEF's strategic importance to this committee lies in protecting the "human capital" of the 2050 horizon. By focusing on educational inequalities and child healthcare, UNICEF ensures that the long-term regional assessments prioritize the youth, who will be the primary drivers of the 2050 economy. The organization's work in crisis zones provides the committee with a roadmap on how to maintain developmental gains in education and nutrition despite political instability.

7.3 World Health Organization (WHO)



WHO's primary contribution to the 2050 Development Vision is the establishment of resilient healthcare architectures capable of withstanding future pandemics and climate-related health risks. In the context of the committee, WHO serves as the lead agency for setting international health standards that developing nations must meet to achieve sustainable growth. Its focus on strengthening public health systems is a direct prerequisite for the demographic stability required for the 2050 goals.

7.4 UN Women



UN Women is central to the committee's objective of ending gender discrimination as a structural barrier to development. By advocating for legal reforms and women's participation in decision-making, it provides the socio-political framework necessary for the 2050 Vision to be truly inclusive. The organization's role is to ensure that regional development strategies do not overlook the economic potential of women, which is estimated to be a major catalyst for GDP growth in the Global South.

7.5 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



UNEP leads the ecological dimension of the 2050 agenda, specifically focusing on environmental governance and marine microplastic pollution. Its relevance to the committee is its ability to provide sustainable resource management models that balance industrial growth with planetary boundaries. UNEP's data on biodiversity and pollution is crucial for delegates when evaluating the "Green Transition" within their regional assessments.

7.6 International Energy Agency (IEA)



The IEA provides the technical and data-driven pathways for the "Net Zero by 2050" goal, making it a cornerstone for the committee's energy discussions. It assists the committee by offering policy recommendations on clean energy deployment and energy security. The IEA's role is to help delegates navigate the "Energy Crisis Resilience" challenge, ensuring that the transition to renewables is both economically viable and strategically secure for all participating states.

8. Positions of Relevant States

8.1 Argentina



Argentina centers the concepts of "financial justice" and "debt sustainability" in its 2050 development vision. As a nation grappling with significant economic fluctuations, Buenos Aires advocates for a revision of the global financial architecture, the alleviation of the foreign debt burden on developing nations, and the provision of more flexible credit mechanisms by institutions like the IMF. In regional assessments, highlighting Latin America's agricultural potential, Argentina argues that environmental taxes or quotas imposed by developed nations should not turn into barriers of "green protectionism"; instead, it emphasizes that global food security should be guaranteed through the transfer of agricultural technologies.

8.2 Brazil



Brazil constructs its 2050 vision around the preservation of the Amazon, one of the world's largest biodiversity reserves, and translating this conservation into economic gain. Brasília argues that development is possible not only through industrialization but also through nature-based solutions. As a member of the G20 and BRICS, Brazil vocally expresses that developed nations must provide direct and non-reimbursable financing to conservation projects in the Global South to compensate for historical environmental damage. Brazil aims to play a leading role in the global energy transition by transferring its expertise in biofuels and renewable energy to other developing regions..

8.3 China



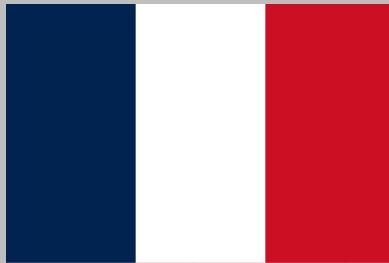
China presents its 2050 vision in full integration with its national strategy of "Great Rejuvenation" and the "Belt and Road Initiative." Beijing defines sustainable development not merely as an environmental issue, but as a process of economic independence supported by the eradication of absolute poverty, digital sovereignty, and massive infrastructure investments. Criticizing Western development aid conditioned on political reforms as "neo-colonialism," China advocates for "the right of every country to choose its own development path." It proposes state-led investment models and industrialization based on advanced technology (AI, 5G, green energy) as the cornerstone of the 2050 vision, while leveraging its dominance in green technology supply chains to set the technical standards for the 2050 SDGs.

8.4 Egypt



Egypt occupies a vital position in the 2050 vision within the axis of "water and food security." Facing rapid population growth and the adverse effects of climate change on the Nile River, Cairo advocates for the international development agenda to include binding rules on the fair sharing of water resources and the management of transboundary waters. With its geopolitical position bridging Africa and the Middle East, Egypt aims to become an "energy hub" for the industrialization of the continent and emphasizes that renewable energy investments (especially solar) must be spread across the region through global financing.

8.5 France



France advocates for a 2050 vision that is socially just, environmentally radical, and fully aligned with the European Union's "Green Deal" principles. Leveraging its deep historical and economic ties with Africa, Paris is leading diplomatic efforts to create a new "Global Financial Pact" to rescue the continent from debt cycles and foster sustainable investments. For France, the 2050 goals include not only reducing carbon emissions but also strengthening democracy, placing women's rights at the heart of development, and managing digitalization within ethical rules that protect cultural diversity. The French government suggests that a global carbon taxation system should be the primary funding source for the SDGs.

8.6 Germany



Germany builds its 2050 development vision on the foundations of "technological leadership" and "industrial transformation." As a leading global exporter, Berlin argues that sustainable development is only possible through the modernization of traditional industry with "Industry 4.0" and green hydrogen technologies. In regional assessments, Germany considers raising the economic standards of Eastern Europe and the Balkans essential for European stability. Globally, it presents multilateralism as the only solution to bridge development inequalities that fuel refugee crises and social unrest. The German stance prioritizes the protection of the workforce and the inclusion of the "social state" principle in global SDG standards.

8.7 India



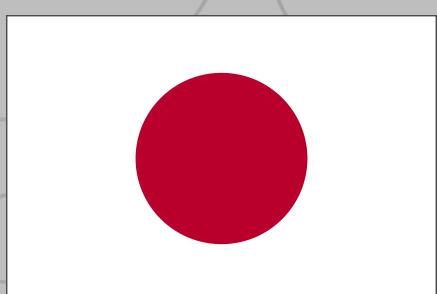
India, assuming the mission of being the "voice of the Global South," places climate justice and human-centric digitalization at the center of its 2050 vision. As the world's most populous country, New Delhi argues that developed nations must accept their historical responsibility for past emissions and that 2050 goals should not hinder the growth rights of developing nations. India emphasizes that technology transfer should occur without being blocked by patent barriers, prioritizing disaster-resilient infrastructure and agricultural sustainability in South Asia. India's position is that development is a process of including every individual in the financial and social system through Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

8.8 Israel



Israel approaches the 2050 vision from a "technological solutionism" perspective, generating answers to global scarcity and security issues through its start-up ecosystem. Utilizing its world-leading position in water recycling, desalination, vertical farming, and cybersecurity as a diplomatic tool, Tel Aviv argues that the 2050 SDGs should be driven by private sector dynamism and technological innovation rather than sluggish state aid mechanisms. Aiming to reflect the momentum of the "Abraham Accords" onto development projects, Israel emphasizes that technology-oriented regional cooperation models will also serve political stability in the Middle East.

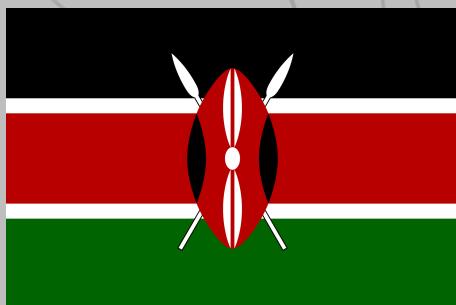
8.9 Japan



Japan advocates for the "Society 5.0" philosophy in its 2050 vision, offering a model for using technology to solve complex social issues such as an aging population, labor loss, and natural disasters. As a powerful democracy in the Pacific, Tokyo emphasizes that the prerequisite for development is the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" strategy, which ensures maritime security and a rules-based international order. Japan prioritizes "quality infrastructure" and disaster risk management,

arguing that development aid should be conducted transparently and sustainably without leading countries into debt traps.

8.10 Kenya



As the technological and economic engine of East Africa, Kenya leads the continent's "digital and green revolution" in its 2050 vision. Nairobi argues that to transform Africa's massive youth population into a demographic advantage rather than a development catastrophe, digitalization in education and the entrepreneurship ecosystem must be at the heart of the SDGs. Kenya envisions a 2050 where the African

Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is fully activated and the continent industrializes through renewable energy (geothermal and wind), moving away from raw material dependency.

8.11 Mexico



Mexico evaluates sustainable development through the lens of migration management and combating social inequality in its 2050 vision. Utilizing its bridge position between North American economic integration and Latin America, Mexico argues for the creation of a regional "prosperity belt" to address the economic deprivation underlying illegal migration and

organized crime. The Mexican government emphasizes that development is a project of social justice, calling for more concrete steps in gender equality, the protection of indigenous rights, and urban sustainability.

8.12 Nigeria

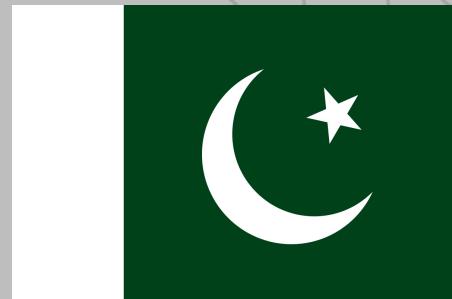


Moving toward becoming the world's third most populous country by 2050, Nigeria places energy access and youth employment at the center of its vision. As Africa's largest economy, Abuja argues that using resources like natural gas is a right during the transition period for the continent's industrialization,

while simultaneously demanding increased investment in technologies to reduce oil dependency. Nigeria's 2050 vision emphasizes the unbreakable link between security and

development in Sub-Saharan Africa, stating that stability is only possible through inclusive economic growth and educational reform.

8.13 Pakistan



Pakistan serves as a global advocate for "climate vulnerability" and "financial compensation" in 2050 development discussions. Despite contributing less than 1% of global carbon emissions, Islamabad—as one of the countries most affected by the climate crisis—insists that the 2050 vision be built upon a "Loss and Damage Fund" financed by developed nations. Pointing to the risks of water security and food crises in South Asia, Pakistan argues that 2050 goals should include a humanitarian-oriented technology-sharing mechanism free from geopolitical tensions.

8.14 Palestina



Palestine argues that sustainable development is only possible through political sovereignty, control over its own resources, and a just peace. Highlighting that the economic potential of the occupied territories is being obstructed, the Palestinian administration demands that the 2050 SDGs include concrete mechanisms to remove barriers to access to water, energy, and international markets. For Palestine, development is defined as a matter of "resistance and existence," and the international community must take direct responsibility in this process.

8.15 Poland



Poland prioritizes energy security and regional geopolitical resilience in its 2050 vision. Facing a major transformation in energy supply due to the war in Ukraine, Warsaw argues that the starting points and local resources (such as coal) of countries must be taken into account during the transition to green energy. Poland emphasizes that development is a security

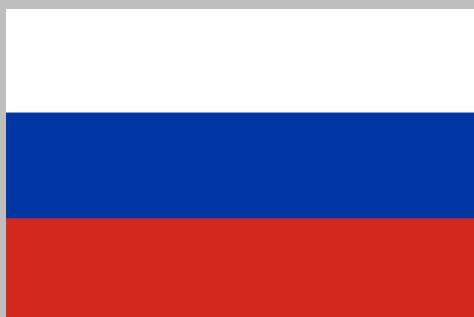
element supported by the defense industry and technological independence, stating that 2050 goals should reinforce democratic stability and infrastructure security in Eastern Europe.

8.16 Qatar



As one of the world's leading energy suppliers, Qatar focuses on the "rational management of energy transition" and "investment in human capital" in its 2050 vision. Doha argues that natural gas is the most critical and cleanest bridge fuel for moving away from coal toward the 2050 goals, while diversifying its energy revenues through massive investments in education (Education City), health, and technology. Using its role as a regional mediator, Qatar advocates for reducing the destructive impact of political conflicts on development and creating a model of scientific cooperation in the Middle East.

8.17 Russia



Russia opposes the 2050 vision being dictated by Western-centric global financial systems and SDG criteria. Moscow argues that development must rise based on each country's own cultural values, natural resource wealth, and sovereign rights, emphasizing that "energy supply security" is indispensable for the stability of the global economy. Despite Western sanctions, Russia seeks to increase the weight of non-Western power centers in the 2050 vision by developing regional integration through the Eurasian Economic Union and alternative trade routes like the North-South Corridor.

8.18 Rwanda



Rwanda leads the model of a "self-sufficient and technology-exporting Africa" in its 2050 vision. Emerging from past traumas with rapid economic growth and digital transformation, Kigali emphasizes the key importance of combating corruption, efficiency in public administration, and the social role of women in development. Rwanda argues that African nations should move away from aid

dependency toward a structure centered on trade and innovation, supporting integration projects like intra-continental free trade and visa-free travel.

8.19 Saudi Arabia



Saudi Arabia presents its 2050 vision as a global projection of its national transformation project, "Vision 2030." Preparing for a post-oil world economy, the Kingdom aims to be one of the largest investors in sustainable development through green hydrogen production, carbon capture technologies, and "cities of the future" projects like NEOM. Riyadh views the stability of global energy markets as the foundation of development and leads efforts against desertification and the climate crisis in the region through the Middle East Green Initiative.

8.20 South Africa



South Africa prioritizes the representation of the African continent in global governance and "economic justice" in its 2050 vision. As the country with the most advanced industrial infrastructure on the continent, Pretoria argues that the transition to green energy should not deepen unemployment and poverty in Africa; instead, it should create new jobs through a "just transition." As a G20 member, South Africa demands the elimination of inequalities in the global trade system and the facilitation of technology transfer.

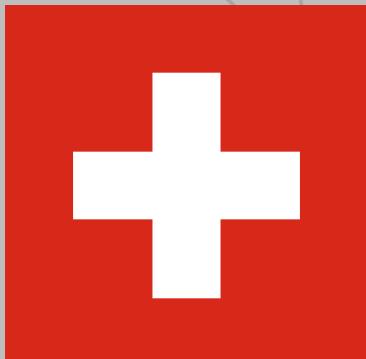
8.21 South Korea



South Korea advocates for a "technology-based sustainability" model as one of the world's most advanced digital societies. Having transformed from an aid recipient to a donor, Seoul shares its development experience (Saemaul Undong) and educational success with developing nations. It emphasizes that the 2050 goals should be

designed through AI, semiconductors, and smart city systems, supporting the globalization of low-carbon innovations in the fight against climate change.

8.22 Switzerland



Switzerland approaches the 2050 vision through its expertise in global finance, neutrality, and humanitarian aid. Bern emphasizes that the 2050 SDGs can only be achieved by aligning international capital with sustainable investments, advocating for "Green Bonds" and transparent financial reporting. As a global diplomatic hub, Switzerland focuses on the "Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus," arguing that long-term stability is essential for development. Additionally, Switzerland offers its technical leadership in water diplomacy and mountain ecosystem preservation as a model for global climate adaptation strategies.

8.23 Türkiye



Türkiye positions itself as a strategic "development and humanitarian bridge" between developed Western economies and the developing Global South. In line with the "The World is Bigger than Five" vision, Ankara argues that international institutions must become more just and inclusive for the 2050 goals to be valid globally. Aiming to increase connectivity (transit routes, energy lines) in Central Asia, the Balkans, and Africa, Türkiye presents its environmental projects like "Zero Waste" and its technological breakthroughs in the defense industry as part of sustainable development. It considers the fair sharing of the refugee burden and the integration of humanitarian aid with development (the humanitarian-development nexus) as indispensable for the 2050 agenda.

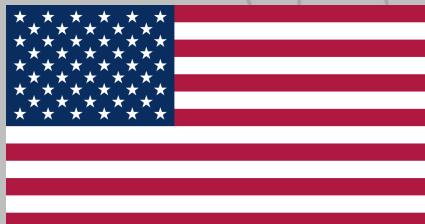
8.24 United Arab Emirates (UAE)



The UAE focuses on the transformative power of AI, space exploration, and sustainable finance in its 2050 vision. Having become a major actor in climate diplomacy with its COP28 presidency, Abu Dhabi argues that energy-producing nations should not be the victims of the climate crisis but the financiers of

its solutions. The UAE aims to lead the 2050 vision by digitalizing global supply chains, increasing investments in renewable energy (nuclear and solar), and serving as a global technology and trade crossroads.

8.25 United States of America (USA)



The United States exercises leadership based on democratic values, a free-market economy, and American technological innovation. Washington argues that sustainable development is only possible with transparent governance, the rule of law, and the protection of property rights, offering a strong alternative to state-centered models. For the USA, 2050 goals involve the global expansion of clean energy and AI solutions developed by American tech giants, ensuring cybersecurity in the digital economy, and preventing authoritarian regimes from using development aid as a tool of oppression. Centered on increasing economic resilience in the Indo-Pacific and the Americas, the USA aims to maximize the role of the private sector in climate finance.

9. Further Reading

- UNDP strategic plan 2022-2025
<https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-07/UNDP%20Strategic%20Plan%202022-2025.pdf>
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10. Challenges to be Addressed

- **Structural Injustices in Education**

The primary challenge is the "Digital Literacy Paradox." While the 2050 Vision assumes a high-tech future, many regions still lack the basic electrical and internet infrastructure to implement modern curricula. Delegates must recognize that without a standardized international framework for technology transfer, the educational gap will widen into "Educational Apartheid" between the Global North and South.

- **Healthcare Fragility and the TRIPS Waiver Debate**

Strengthening health systems is hindered by the lack of flexibility in Intellectual Property (IP) rights. The inability of developing nations to manufacture essential medicines locally during crises—often due to the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement—remains a major barrier. Building resilience requires a shift from "charity-based" aid to "capacity-based" systemic reforms.

- **Institutional Gender Discrimination**

The challenge is not just social but legal; many jurisdictions still lack "Gender-Responsive Budgeting" and legal protections for women's land ownership. Achieving the 2050 goals requires overcoming the legislative deadlock where national laws contradict international gender equality standards, preventing women from participating in the formal economy.

- **The Humanitarian-Development Gap (The Gaza Crisis)**

The famine in Gaza highlights a procedural failure in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. Traditionally, development stops when conflict begins. The challenge for this committee is to find a way to maintain "Developmental Continuity" even during active conflicts, ensuring that food systems and civilian infrastructure are protected under international humanitarian law regardless of political deadlocks.

- **The Energy Transition and "Green Protectionism"**

A major risk is the rise of Green Protectionism, where developed nations use environmental standards as a barrier to trade. Accelerating the renewable transition is

difficult because many developing nations are trapped in "carbon-locked" economies with high debt. Delegates must address the lack of a global "Just Transition Fund" that is both binding and sufficient for small-island and developing states.

- **Transboundary Governance of Marine Pollution**

Microplastic pollution is a "Tragedy of the Commons" issue. Because oceans are global commons, national regulations are easily bypassed. The challenge is the absence of a Legally Binding Global Instrument on plastic pollution. Delegations should examine why previous voluntary agreements failed and what enforcement mechanisms are needed for the 2050 vision.

- **The International Debt Trap Architecture**

Many nations face a choice between paying interest on foreign debt or investing in the SDGs. The current "Debt Sustainability Framework" often fails to account for climate-induced shocks. The challenge is reforming the IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDR) and creating a "Sovereign Debt Restructuring Mechanism" that prevents nations from falling into a cycle of permanent underdevelopment.

- **The Digital Divide and "Technological Colonialism"**

The rapid rise of AI creates a risk where data from the Global South is harvested by the Global North without reciprocal benefits. This "Data Colonialism" means that by 2050, some nations may only be consumers rather than creators of technology. The committee must address the lack of Global AI Governance that ensures equitable access to algorithms and computing power.

- **Urbanization and the "Infrastructure Financing Gap"**

By 2050, urban centers in Africa and Asia will explode in population, but the financing for "Smart Cities" is currently concentrated in already-developed regions. The procedural challenge is that municipal governments often lack the sovereign credit ratings needed to borrow for long-term sustainable infrastructure, leading to the "Slumification" of mega-cities.

- **Climate Displacement and the "Refugee Status" Gap**

Under current international law (The 1951 Refugee Convention), people fleeing climate disasters are not officially recognized as "Refugees." This creates a legal vacuum for millions of projected climate migrants. Delegates must consider how the 2050 Vision can accommodate "Migration with Dignity" and the legal status of populations from sinking island nations.

- **Biodiversity Loss and "Bio-Piracy"**

Protecting ecosystems is often hindered by Bio-piracy, where global corporations exploit indigenous biological resources without sharing profits. The challenge lies in enforcing the Nagoya Protocol on a global scale. Delegations must find ways to value "Natural Capital" so that keeping a forest standing is more profitable than cutting it down.

11. Questions to be Covered

1. How can the UNDP facilitate the transfer of digital infrastructure to the Global South to ensure that advanced digital literacy becomes a universal standard by 2050?
2. What mechanisms are required to reform the global healthcare architecture to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines and medicines during future pandemics?
3. How can international law be strengthened to provide a "Developmental Immunity" status for healthcare and education systems in active conflict zones?
4. What specific legislative reforms are necessary at the national level to eliminate gender-based discrimination in the global workforce by 2050?
5. How can the UNDP coordinate immediate and long-term strategies to prevent man-made famines, specifically focusing on the restoration of food systems in crisis zones like Gaza?
6. What strategies can be implemented to ensure that the transition to renewable energy does not cause economic collapse in oil-dependent developing states?
7. How can global plastic production be regulated to achieve a legally binding "zero-microplastic" impact on marine ecosystems by mid-century?

8. What role should regional development banks play in bridging the investment gap for infrastructure projects between developed and developing nations?
9. How can the 2050 Vision be insulated from shifts in national political leadership to ensure long-term policy continuity?
10. In what ways can the "Circular Economy" model be scaled from local initiatives to a global trade standard by 2050?
11. What financial mechanisms, such as debt-for-nature swaps, can be established to provide relief for nations suffering from climate-induced disasters?
12. How can the UNDP ensure that women's economic empowerment and reproductive health are integrated as core components of regional development assessments?
13. What measures are needed to prevent "Technological Colonialism" arising from the unequal global development and ownership of Artificial Intelligence?
14. How can sustainable urban planning be financed in rapidly urbanizing regions of Africa and Asia to prevent the growth of informal settlements?
15. What framework is necessary to manage the projected 2050 climate-induced migration and protect the legal status of displaced populations?

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SDGs 17

In the 2050 vision, there are 17 SDGs, these SDGs which are as follows:

1. No poverty:

Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. While the number of people living in extreme poverty dropped by more than half between 1990 and 2015, too many are still struggling for the most basic human needs. As of 2015, about 736 million people still lived on less than US\$1.90 a day; many lack food, clean drinking water and sanitation. Rapid growth in countries such as China and India has lifted millions out of poverty, but progress has been uneven. Women are more likely to be poor than men because they have less paid work, education, and own less property. Progress has also been limited in other regions, such as South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, which account for 80 percent of those living in extreme poverty. New threats brought on by climate change, conflict and food insecurity, mean even more work is needed to bring people out of poverty. The SDGs are a bold commitment to finish what we started, and end poverty in all forms and dimensions by 2030. This involves targeting the most vulnerable, increasing basic resources and services, and supporting communities affected by conflict and climate-related disasters.

2. Zero Hunger:

The number of undernourished people has dropped by almost half in the past two decades because of rapid economic growth and increased agricultural productivity. Many developing countries that used to suffer from famine and hunger can now meet their nutritional needs. Central and East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean have all made huge progress in eradicating extreme hunger. Unfortunately, extreme hunger and malnutrition remain a huge barrier to development in many countries. There are 821 million people estimated to be chronically undernourished as of 2017, often as a direct consequence of environmental degradation, drought and biodiversity loss. Over 90 million children under five are dangerously underweight. Undernourishment and severe food insecurity appear to be increasing in almost all regions of Africa, as well as in South America. The SDGs aim to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, making sure all people—especially children—have sufficient and nutritious food all year. This involves promoting sustainable agricultural, supporting small-scale farmers and equal access to land, technology and markets. It also requires international cooperation to ensure investment in infrastructure and technology to improve agricultural productivity.

3. Good health and well-being:

We have made great progress against several leading causes of death and disease. Life expectancy has increased dramatically; infant and maternal mortality rates have declined, we've turned the tide on HIV and malaria deaths have halved. Good health is essential to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda reflects the complexity and interconnectedness of the two. It takes into account widening economic and social inequalities, rapid urbanization, threats to the climate and the environment, the continuing burden of HIV and other infectious diseases, and emerging challenges such as noncommunicable diseases. Universal health coverage will be integral to achieving SDG 3, ending poverty and reducing inequalities. Emerging global health priorities not explicitly included in the SDGs, including antimicrobial resistance, also demand action. But the world is off-track to achieve the health-related SDGs. Progress has been uneven, both between and within countries. There's a 31-year gap between the countries with the shortest and longest life expectancies. And while some countries have made impressive gains, national averages hide that many are being left behind. Multisectoral, rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches are essential to address inequalities and to build good health for all.

4. Quality education:

Since 2000, there has been enormous progress in achieving the target of universal primary education. The total enrollment rate in developing regions reached 91 percent in 2015, and the worldwide number of children out of school has dropped by almost half. There has also been a dramatic increase in literacy rates, and many more girls are in school than ever before. These are all remarkable successes. Progress has also been tough in some developing regions due to high levels of poverty, armed conflicts and other emergencies. In Western Asia and North Africa, ongoing armed conflict has seen an increase in the number of children out of school. This is a worrying trend. While Sub-Saharan Africa made the greatest progress in primary school enrollment among all developing regions – from 52 percent in 1990, up to 78 percent in 2012 – large disparities still remain. Children from the poorest households are up to four times more likely to be out of school than those of the richest households. Disparities between rural and urban areas also remain high. Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. This goal ensures that all girls and boys complete free primary and secondary schooling by 2030. It also aims to provide equal access to affordable vocational training, to eliminate gender and wealth disparities, and achieve universal access to a quality higher education.

5. Gender Equality:

Ending all discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, it's crucial for sustainable future; it's proven that empowering women and girls helps economic growth and development. UNDP has made gender equality central to its work and we've seen remarkable progress in the past 20 years. There are more girls in school now compared to 15 years ago, and most regions have reached gender parity in primary education. But although there are more women than ever in the labour market, there are still large inequalities in some regions, with women systematically denied the same work rights as men. Sexual violence and exploitation, the unequal division of unpaid care and domestic work, and discrimination in public office all remain huge barriers. Climate change and disasters continue to have a disproportionate effect on women and children, as do conflict and migration. It is vital to give women equal rights land and property, sexual and reproductive health, and to technology and the internet. Today there are more women in public office than ever before, but encouraging more women leaders will help achieve greater gender equality.

6. Clean water and sanitation:

Water scarcity affects more than 40 percent of people, an alarming figure that is projected to rise as temperatures do. Although 2.1 billion people have improved water sanitation since 1990, dwindling drinking water supplies are affecting every continent. More and more countries are experiencing water stress, and increasing drought and desertification is already worsening these trends. By 2050, it is projected that at least one in four people will suffer recurring water shortages. Safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires we invest in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems is essential. Ensuring universal safe and affordable drinking water involves reaching over 800 million people who lack basic services and improving accessibility and safety of services for over two billion. In 2015, 4.5 billion people lacked safely managed sanitation services (with adequately disposed or treated excreta) and 2.3 billion lacked even basic sanitation.

7. Affordable and clean energy:

Between 2000 and 2018, the number of people with electricity increased from 78 to 90 percent, and the numbers without electricity dipped to 789 million. Yet as the population continues to grow, so will the demand for cheap energy, and an economy reliant on fossil fuels is creating drastic changes to our climate. Investing in solar, wind and thermal power, improving energy productivity, and ensuring energy for all is vital if we are to achieve SDG 7 by 2030. Expanding infrastructure and upgrading technology to provide clean and more efficient energy in all countries will encourage growth and help the environment.

8. Decent work and economic growth:

Over the past 25 years the number of workers living in extreme poverty has declined dramatically, despite the lasting impact of the 2008 economic crisis and global recession. In developing countries, the middle class now makes up more than 34 percent of total employment – a number that has almost tripled between 1991 and 2015. However, as the global economy continues to recover we are seeing slower growth, widening inequalities, and not enough jobs to keep up with a growing labour force. According to the International Labour Organization, more than 204 million people were unemployed in 2015. The SDGs promote sustained economic growth, higher levels of productivity and technological innovation. Encouraging entrepreneurship and job creation are key to this, as are effective measures to eradicate forced labour, slavery and human trafficking. With these targets in mind, the goal is to achieve full and productive employment, and decent work, for all women and men by 2030.

9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure:

Investment in infrastructure and innovation are crucial drivers of economic growth and development. With over half the world population now living in cities, mass transport and renewable energy are becoming ever more important, as are the growth of new industries and information and communication technologies. Technological progress is also key to finding lasting solutions to both economic and environmental challenges, such as providing new jobs and promoting energy efficiency. Promoting sustainable industries, and investing in scientific research and innovation, are all important ways to facilitate sustainable development. More than 4 billion people still do not have access to the Internet, and 90 percent are from the developing world. Bridging this digital divide is crucial to ensure equal access to information and knowledge, as well as foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

10. Reduced inequalities:

Income inequality is on the rise—the richest 10 percent have up to 40 percent of global income whereas the poorest 10 percent earn only between 2 to 7 percent. If we take into account population growth inequality in developing countries, inequality has increased by 11 percent. Income inequality has increased in nearly everywhere in recent decades, but at different speeds. It's lowest in Europe and highest in the Middle East. These widening disparities require sound policies to empower lower income earners, and promote economic inclusion of all regardless of sex, race or ethnicity. Income inequality requires global solutions. This involves improving the regulation and monitoring of financial markets and institutions, encouraging development assistance and foreign direct investment to regions

where the need is greatest. Facilitating the safe migration and mobility of people is also key to bridging the widening divide.

11. Sustainable cities and communities:

More than half of us live in cities. By 2050, two-thirds of all humanity—6.5 billion people—will be urban. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way we build and manage our urban spaces. The rapid growth of cities—a result of rising populations and increasing migration—has led to a boom in mega-cities, especially in the developing world, and slums are becoming a more significant feature of urban life. Making cities sustainable means creating career and business opportunities, safe and affordable housing, and building resilient societies and economies. It involves investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning and management in participatory and inclusive ways.

12. Responsible consumption and production:

Achieving economic growth and sustainable development requires that we urgently reduce our ecological footprint by changing the way we produce and consume goods and resources. Agriculture is the biggest user of water worldwide, and irrigation now claims close to 70 percent of all freshwater for human use. The efficient management of our shared natural resources, and the way we dispose of toxic waste and pollutants, are important targets to achieve this goal. Encouraging industries, businesses and consumers to recycle and reduce waste is equally important, as is supporting developing countries to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption by 2030. A large share of the world population is still consuming far too little to meet even their basic needs. Halving the per capita of global food waste at the retailer and consumer levels is also important for creating more efficient production and supply chains. This can help with food security, and shift us towards a more resource efficient economy.

13. Climate action:

There is no country that is not experiencing the drastic effects of climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions are more than 50 percent higher than in 1990. Global warming is causing long-lasting changes to our climate system, which threatens irreversible consequences if we do not act. The annual average economic losses from climate-related disasters are in the hundreds of billions of dollars. This is not to mention the human impact of geo-physical disasters, which are 91 percent climate-related, and which between 1998 and 2017 killed 1.3

million people, and left 4.4 billion injured. The goal aims to mobilize US\$100 billion annually by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries to both adapt to climate change and invest in low-carbon development. Supporting vulnerable regions will directly contribute not only to Goal 13 but also to the other SDGs. These actions must also go hand in hand with efforts to integrate disaster risk measures, sustainable natural resource management, and human security into national development strategies. It is still possible, with strong political will, increased investment, and using existing technology, to limit the increase in global mean temperature to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, aiming at 1.5°C, but this requires urgent and ambitious collective action.

14. Life Below Water:

The world's oceans – their temperature, chemistry, currents and life – drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. How we manage this vital resource is essential for humanity as a whole, and to counterbalance the effects of climate change. Over three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods. However, today we are seeing 30 percent of the world's fish stocks overexploited, reaching below the level at which they can produce sustainable yields. Oceans also absorb about 30 percent of the carbon dioxide produced by humans, and we are seeing a 26 percent rise in ocean acidification since the beginning of the industrial revolution. Marine pollution, an overwhelming majority of which comes from land-based sources, is reaching alarming levels, with an average of 13,000 pieces of plastic litter to be found on every square kilometre of ocean. The SDGs aim to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems from pollution, as well as address the impacts of ocean acidification. Enhancing conservation and the sustainable use of ocean-based resources through international law will also help mitigate some of the challenges facing our oceans.

15. Life on land:

Human life depends on the earth as much as the ocean for our sustenance and livelihoods. Plant life provides 80 percent of the human diet, and we rely on agriculture as an important economic resources. Forests cover 30 percent of the Earth's surface, provide vital habitats for millions of species, and important sources for clean air and water, as well as being crucial for combating climate change. Every year, 13 million hectares of forests are lost, while the persistent degradation of drylands has led to the desertification of 3.6 billion hectares, disproportionately affecting poor communities. While 15 percent of land is protected, biodiversity is still at risk. Nearly 7,000 species of animals and plants have been illegally traded. Wildlife trafficking not only erodes biodiversity, but creates insecurity, fuels conflict, and feeds corruption. Urgent action must be taken to reduce the loss of natural habitats and

biodiversity which are part of our common heritage and support global food and water security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and peace and security.

16. Peace, justice and strong institutions:

We cannot hope for sustainable development without peace, stability, human rights and effective governance, based on the rule of law. Yet our world is increasingly divided. Some regions enjoy peace, security and prosperity, while others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This is not inevitable and must be addressed. Armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development, affecting economic growth, and often resulting in grievances that last for generations. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are also prevalent where there is conflict, or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those who are most at risk. The SDGs aim to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to end conflict and insecurity. Promoting the rule of law and human rights are key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

17. Partnership for the goals:

The SDGs can only be realized with strong global partnerships and cooperation. Official Development Assistance remained steady but below target, at US\$147 billion in 2017. While humanitarian crises brought on by conflict or natural disasters continue to demand more financial resources and aid. Many countries also require Official Development Assistance to encourage growth and trade. The world is more interconnected than ever. Improving access to technology and knowledge is an important way to share ideas and foster innovation. Coordinating policies to help developing countries manage their debt, as well as promoting investment for the least developed, is vital for sustainable growth and development. The goals aim to enhance North-South and South-South cooperation by supporting national plans to achieve all the targets. Promoting international trade, and helping developing countries increase their exports is all part of achieving a universal rules-based and equitable trading system that is fair and open and benefits all.