BACKGROUND GUIDE

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA: USE OF DATA AND TECHNOLOGY FOR ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

INDEX

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)! We trust that your committee experience will be both enlightening and engaging, allowing you to immerse yourselves in thoughtful debates and enhance your comprehension of this crucial global matter. We hope that you will depart the committee as individuals who have broadened their international perspective and contributed to the unity of the global community.

In our capacity as the executive board, we are filled with enthusiasm to witness the distinct viewpoints, insightful deliberations, and conversations that you will bring to the table. We aspire to ensure that your time at NVMUN becomes an unforgettable experience, leaving you with lasting memories.

Throughout the conference, we anticipate delegates to engage in collaborative efforts to devise practical solutions that effectively attain this goal. Additionally, we cannot sufficiently emphasize the significance of collaboration and cooperation in the UN's policy formulation. These principles constitute the foundation of the UN framework and serve as fundamental tenets of a Model UN conference.

Moreover, do remember to enjoy yourselves! A Model UN conference sets itself apart from other modes of public discourse or intellectual engagements. This serves as a chance to learn and cultivate connections that you will cherish for a long time. Please seize this opportunity, as you are indeed privileged to possess such platforms that can enhance your abilities and expand your connections.

In essence, this matter presents significant potential for global policy initiatives, which is particularly noteworthy. We anticipate that each of you will experience intellectual growth and enrichment during the conference, while also forging new friendships. We are truly enthusiastic to meet all of you!

Kindest regards,

Arnav Dev
President

Mukulraj Vakil
Vice President

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly (GA) occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the United Nations. Comprised of all 193 Members of the United Nations, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter. It also plays a central role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.

The Assembly is free to choose the way it conducts its business. Its Rules of Procedure continue to evolve and to be adapted. Over the years, the Assembly has granted itself many exceptions to established rules.

The General Assembly has a President (President of the General Assembly — PGA) and twenty-one Vice-Presidents. It works through a Plenary, six Main Committees, a General Committee, and a Credentials Committee. In addition, there are various subsidiary bodies, such as boards, committees, commissions, and councils, that report to the Assembly.

The Assembly meets from September to December each year (main part), and then as needed from January to September (resumed part). During the resumed part, it handles remaining reports and current issues through high-level thematic debates organized by the President of the General Assembly. It also holds informal consultations on various topics to adopt new resolutions.

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

The Assembly makes **recommendations** to States on international issues within its competence. It has also taken actions across all pillars of the United Nations, including with regard to political, economic, humanitarian, social, and legal matters.

In September 2015, the Assembly agreed on a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals, contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda *(resolution 70/1 entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development).* In 2022, the Assembly held a series of meetings to discuss the recommendations put forward by the Secretary-General in his report entitled **"Our Common Agenda"**, an agenda of action, designed to strengthen and accelerate multilateral agreements – particularly the 2030 Agenda – and make a tangible difference in people's lives.

According to the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly may:

- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States,
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General,
- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament,

- Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it,
- Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations,
- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational, and health fields,
- Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among countries,
- Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs.

The Assembly may also take action in cases of a threat to the peace, breach of peace, or act of aggression when the Security Council has failed to act owing to the negative vote of a permanent member. In such instances, according to its **"Uniting for peace"** resolution of 3 November 1950, the Assembly may consider the matter immediately and recommend to its Members collective measures to maintain or restore international peace and security.

VOTING

Each of the 193 Member States in the Assembly has one vote. Votes taken on designated important issues – such as recommendations on peace and security, the election of Security Council and Economic and Social Council members, and budgetary questions – require a two-thirds majority of Member States, **but other questions are decided by a simple majority.** That said, following informal consultations among Member States during which proposals are negotiated, the majority of resolutions are adopted without a vote (i.e., by consensus).

GENERAL DEBATE AND MAIN COMMITTEES

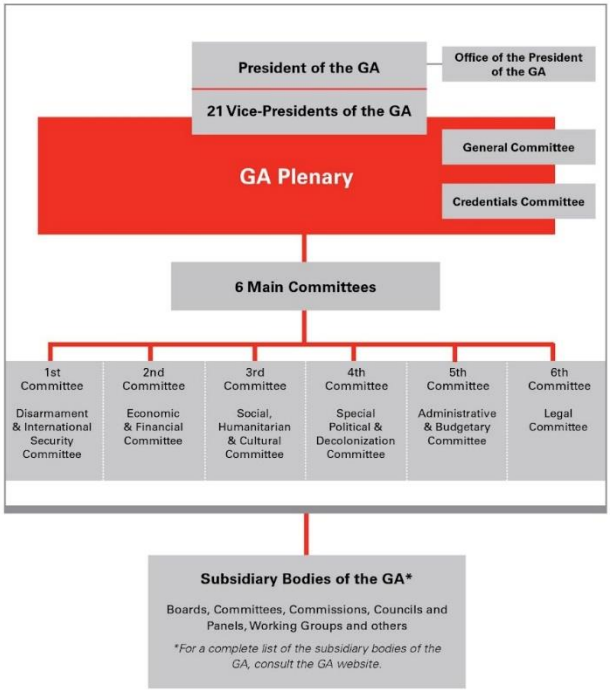
The Assembly's annual general debate provides Member States the opportunity to express their views on major international issues. On this occasion, the Secretary-General presents on the opening day of the debate his report on the work of the Organization.

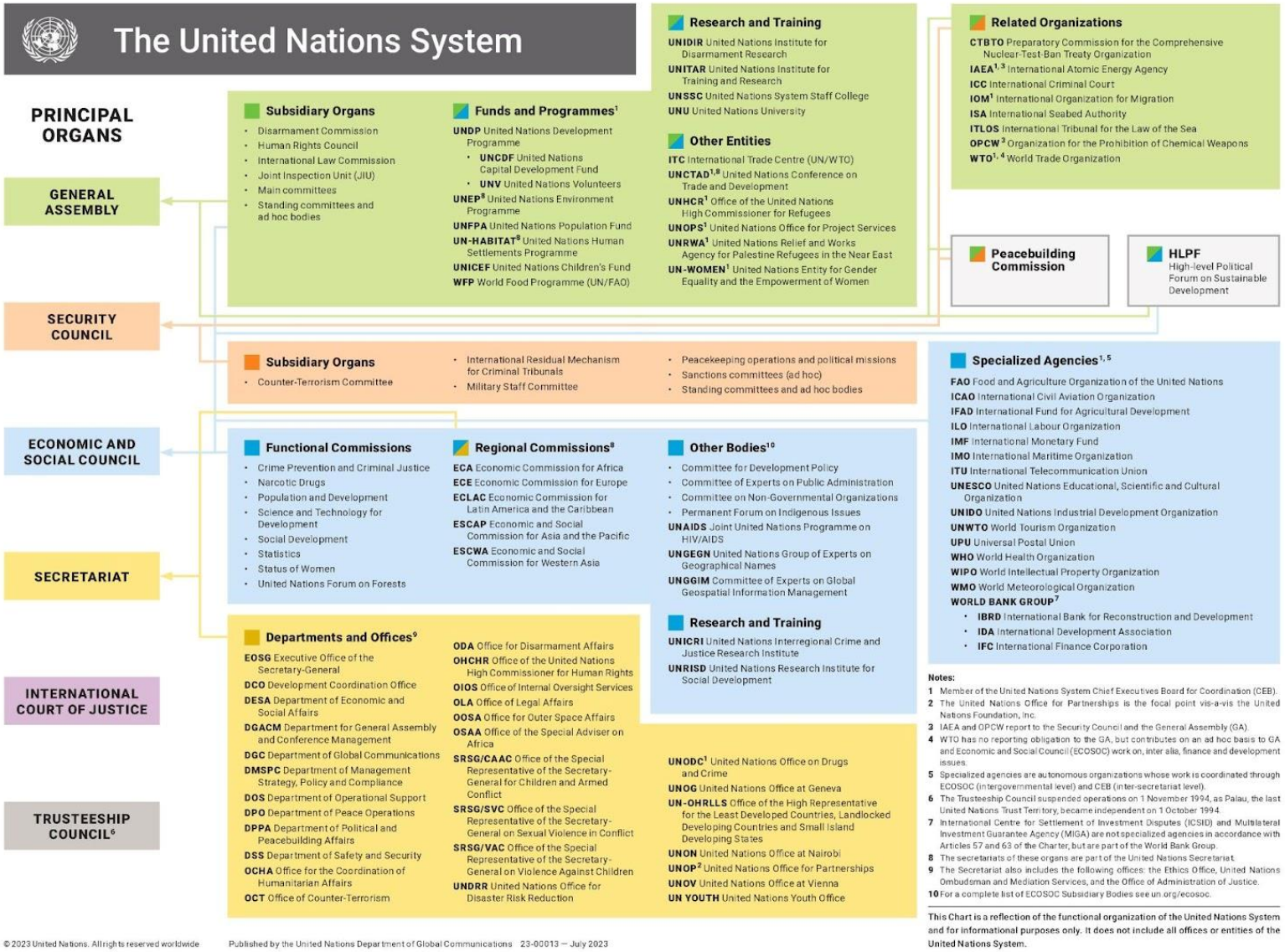
With the conclusion of the general debate, the Assembly begins consideration of the substantive items on its agenda. Because of the great number of items on the agenda, the Assembly allocates to its six Main Committees items relevant to their work. The Committees discuss matters under the agenda items and recommend draft resolutions and decisions to the Assembly for consideration and action.

The six Main Committees are:

1. Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee);
2. Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee);
3. Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee);
4. Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee);
5. Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee);
6. Legal Committee (Sixth Committee).

In addition to its regular sessions, the Assembly may meet in special and emergency special sessions. To date, the Assembly has convened 32 special sessions and 11 emergency special sessions.




The United Nations System
PRINCIPAL ORGANS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SECURITY COUNCIL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT
INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL[6]
Subsidiary Organs
Disarmament Commission
Human Rights Council
International Law Commission
Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)
Main committees
Standing committees and ad hoc bodies
Funds and Programmes[1]
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNCDF United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNV United Nations Volunteers
UNEP[8] United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
UN-HABITAT[8] United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund
WFP World Food Programme (UN/FAO)
Research and Training
UNIDIR United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNITAR United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNSSC United Nations System Staff College
UNU United Nations University
Other Entities
ITC International Trade Centre (UN/WTO)
UNCTAD[1,8] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNHCR[1] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNOPS[1] United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRWA[1] United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UN-WOMEN[1] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
Related Organizations
CTBTO Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
IAEA[1,3] International Atomic Energy Agency
ICC International Criminal Court
IOM[1] International Organization for Migration
ISA International Seabed Authority
ITLOS International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
OPCW[3] Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
WTO[1,4] World Trade Organization
Peacebuilding Commission
HLPF High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
Subsidiary Organs
Counter-Terrorism Committee
International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
Military Staff Committee
Peacekeeping operations and political missions
Sanctions committees (ad hoc)
Standing committees and ad hoc bodies
Functional Commissions
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Narcotic Drugs
Population and Development
Science and Technology for Development
Social Development
Statistics
Status of Women
United Nations Forum on Forests
Regional Commissions[8]
ECA Economic Commission for Africa
ECE Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
Other Bodies[10]
Committee for Development Policy
Committee of Experts on Public Administration
Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNGEGN United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
UNGGIM Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Research and Training
UNICRI United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNRISD United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
Specialized Agencies[1,5]
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization
IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO International Labour Organization
IMF International Monetary Fund
IMO International Maritime Organization
ITU International Telecommunication Union
UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNWTO World Tourism Organization
UPU Universal Postal Union
WHO World Health Organization
WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO World Meteorological Organization
WORLD BANK GROUP[7]
IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDA International Development Association
IFC International Finance Corporation
Departments and Offices[9]
EOSG Executive Office of the Secretary-General
DCO Development Coordination Office
DESA Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DGACM Department for General Assembly and Conference Management
DGC Department of Global Communications
DMSPC Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
DOS Department of Operational Support
DPO Department of Peace Operations
DPPA Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
DSS Department of Safety and Security
OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OCT Office of Counter-Terrorism
ODA Office for Disarmament Affairs
OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OIOS Office of Internal Oversight Services
OLA Office of Legal Affairs
OOSA Office for Outer Space Affairs
OSAA Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
SRSG/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
SRSG/VAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
UNDRR United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNODC[1] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOG United Nations Office at Geneva
UN-OHRLLS Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
UNON United Nations Office at Nairobi
UNOP[2] United Nations Office for Partnerships
UNOV United Nations Office at Vienna
UN YOUTH United Nations Youth Office
Notes:
1 Member of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).
2 The United Nations Office for Partnerships is the focal point vis-a-vis the United Nations Foundation, Inc.
3 IAEA and OPCW report to the Security Council and the General Assembly (GA).
4 WTO has no reporting obligation to the GA, but contributes on an ad hoc basis to GA and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) work on, inter alia, finance and development issues.
5 Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations whose work is coordinated through ECOSOC (intergovernmental level) and CEB (inter-secretariat level).
6 The Trusteeship Council suspended operations on 1 November 1994, as Palau, the last United Nations Trust Territory, became independent on 1 October 1994.
7 International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are not specialized agencies in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter, but are part of the World Bank Group.
8 The secretariats of these organs are part of the United Nations Secretariat.
9 The Secretariat also includes the following offices: the Ethics Office, United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, and the Office of Administration of Justice.
10 For a complete list of ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies see un.org/ecosoc.
This Chart is a reflection of the functional organization of the United Nations System and for informational purposes only. It does not include all offices or entities of the United Nations System.
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INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

Sustainable development has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts toward building an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future for people and the planet. For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: **economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection**. These elements are interconnected and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies.

Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. To this end, there must be a promotion of sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.

THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 targets**, which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The SDGs build on decades of work by countries and the UN, including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs,

- In June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, more than 178 countries adopted Agenda 21, a comprehensive plan of action to build a global partnership for sustainable development to improve human lives and protect the environment.
- Member States unanimously adopted the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 at UN Headquarters in New York. The Summit led to the elaboration of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.
- The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in 2002, reaffirmed the global community's commitments to poverty eradication and the environment and built on Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration by including more emphasis on multilateral partnerships.

- At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, Member States adopted the outcome document "The Future We Want" in which they decided, inter alia, to launch a process to develop a set of SDGs to build upon the MDGs and to establish the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Rio +20 outcome also contained other measures for implementing sustainable development, including mandates for future programmes of work in development financing, small island developing states, and more.
- In 2013, the General Assembly set up a 30-member Open Working Group to develop a proposal on the SDGs.
- In January 2015, the General Assembly began the negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda. The process culminated in the subsequent adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with 17 SDGs at its core, at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.
- 2015 was a landmark year for multilateralism and international policy shaping, with the adoption of several major agreements:
    - Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015)
    - Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (July 2015)
    - Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 SDGs was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015.
    - Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015)
- Now, the annual High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development serves as the central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the SDGs.

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 are furthest behind. The SDGs are designed to end poverty, hunger, AIDS, and discrimination against women and girls. The creativity, know-how, technology, and financial resources from all of society are necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context.

Additional Readings:

- SDGs
- 2030 Agenda
- Sustainable Development Agenda

CURRENT SITUATION

The UN's 2030 Agenda comprising 17 SDGs sets out a plan for action for people, the planet, and prosperity, and to promote universal peace. Ambitious when adopted in 2015, the SDGs are now an even more significant proposition at the halfway point to their 2030 deadline. Against a backdrop of climate change, global conflict, and pandemic recovery, progress toward many of the SDGs remains off-track and some targets have even halted or regressed: in 2020, global poverty increased for the first time in over two decades. Growing global turmoil has led to unprecedented reversals in human development progress in 90 percent of countries. The 2024 progress assessment reveals the world is severely off-track to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Out of 135 targets with trend data and additional insights from custodian agencies, only 17% are progressing as expected to be achieved by 2030. Nearly half (48%) exhibit moderate to severe deviations from the desired trajectory, with 30% showing marginal progress and 18% indicating moderate progress. Alarmingly, 18% have stagnated, and 17% have regressed below the 2015 baseline levels.

Despite these recent challenges, significant achievements have been delivered. Since 2015, over 911 million people gained access to safely managed sanitation services and over 687 million to clean drinking water. This progress has also been mirrored in the context of digital technologies. 5.4 billion people are now online - whilst 75 percent of those aged between 15 and 24 were using the internet in 2022. The African continent is now home to 120 'unicorns' – companies with a market valuation of more than USD 1 billion – and advances in digital public service delivery by many national and local governments have saved citizens countless hours in accessing social protection, registering births and businesses, and undertaking other vital functions.

Additional Readings:

- SDG Progress Report (2024)
- Global Sustainable Development Report (2023)

ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY

We live in an age of dramatic technological advances, mostly concentrated in developed countries, but the great divides between countries that we see today started with the onset of the first industrial revolution. At that point, most people were equally poor and the gaps in per capita income between countries were much smaller. Then with waves of technological change, Western Europe and its offshoots- Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States – along with Japan, pulled ahead. Most other countries remained on the periphery. Everyz wave of progress was associated with sharper inequality between countries – with widening disparities in access to products, social services, and public goods- from education to health, from ICT infrastructure to electrification. Nevertheless, a few countries, notably in East Asia, were subsequently able to catch up through technological learning, imitation, and innovation.

Human development in recent decades has been accompanied by rapid changes in technology and an increasing proliferation of digitized devices and services. And the pace of change seems likely to accelerate as a result of "frontier technologies" such as artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, big data, biotechnology, and nanotechnology. These technologies have already brought enormous benefits – dramatically highlighted in 2020 by the accelerated development of coronavirus vaccines.

Technology plays a crucial role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by providing innovative solutions to global challenges and enhancing economic and social development. It improves access to essential services like education, healthcare, and financial inclusion, even in remote areas, through digital platforms and mobile applications. Renewable energy technologies promote clean energy, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and addressing climate change. Advanced agricultural technologies improve food security and promote sustainable farming practices. In the economic sphere, digital technologies foster entrepreneurship, create job opportunities, and boost productivity. Socially, technology facilitates better communication, social inclusion, and empowerment of marginalized communities. Data analytics and artificial intelligence aid in better decision-making and efficient monitoring of progress towards the SDGs.

In 2023, the world faces severe social and economic challenges. While trying to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries are now coping with the repercussions of the war in Ukraine, which has not only caused immense suffering but has also heightened geopolitical tensions and created threats to global trade and energy and food security. The most difficult choices are in developing countries where this conjuncture of crises threatens hard-won development gains. To eliminate poverty, they need diversified and more productive economies to create more and better jobs and boost household incomes. However, faster economic growth will demand far more energy which, if sourced from fossil fuels, would send millions of tons of carbon billowing into the atmosphere.

Developing countries need not, however, follow the historical pathways of carbon-fuelled growth. With the rise of Green Technologies, they now have opportunities to catch up, reduce poverty, and at the same time help tackle climate change and set the world on a more sustainable course. However, for countries aiming to catch up with the more technologically advanced countries, switching green requires more than simple imitation; it demands creative adaptation and innovation and their pathways are likely to differ substantially from those taken by advanced

economies. Green innovation is also influenced by global agreements and agendas, rules, and mechanisms, especially those related to climate change, such as the Paris Agreement.

The starting point is experimenting with new ideas and technologies and adapting these to local circumstances, values, and priorities. Next, to take advantage of these ideas, countries will need the appropriate infrastructure, including climate-related public goods. Additionally, the establishment of new green sectors and policy interventions, through direct government involvement would be necessary.

Green Technology, guided by the Sustainable Development Goals, can be used to drive the world along more sustainable and equitable pathways, particularly in the generation and use of energy.

CHALLENGES

However, developing countries cannot seize technological opportunities without the support of the international community and official development assistance due to the following issues;

1. Low-income and lower-middle-income countries typically have growing and younger populations – which will increase the supply of labour and depress wages, reducing the incentives for automation.
2. Many frontier technologies require at least literacy and numeracy skills. Other technologies require digital skills, including the ability to understand digital media, to find information, and to use these tools to communicate with others. Low-income countries have fewer skilled people and depend to a large extent on agriculture which tends to be slower to take advantage of new technologies.
3. Developing countries typically innovate by imitating industrialized countries, diversifying their economies, and absorbing and adapting new technologies for local use, but this process is slowest in the poorest countries.
4. Most developing countries have increased their Research & Development expenditures, but these are still relatively low. The African Union, for example, has established a target of one percent of GDP, but on average sub-Saharan African countries are still at 0.38 percent. There is very little private funding of industrial technologies for productive applications.
5. Stringent intellectual property protection will restrict the use of frontier technologies that could be valuable in SDG-related areas such as agriculture, health, and energy.
6. Many people in developing countries cannot afford new goods or services, particularly those in rural areas. In this case, the barriers are not technological but economic and social.
7. Many frontier technologies rely on steady, high-speed fixed Internet connections, but a huge percentage of the world's population remains offline. Many developing countries lack adequate digital infrastructure, and for most of their people, Internet costs are prohibitive.

Additional Readings:

- Technology and Innovation Report 2021
- Technology and Innovation Report 2023
- SDGs and Technology

ROLE OF DATA

Data is raw facts and figures that give us information on a given topic. Big data, on the other hand, refers to extremely large and complex datasets that traditional data processing software cannot manage. It involves collecting, storing, and analyzing vast amounts of information to uncover patterns, trends, and insights. Big data can be collected from publicly shared comments on social networks and websites, voluntarily gathered from personal electronics and apps, through questionnaires, product purchases, and electronic check-ins. The presence of sensors and other inputs in smart devices allows for data to be gathered across a broad spectrum of situations and circumstances.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires integrated action on social, environmental, and economic challenges, with a focus on inclusive, participatory development that leaves no one behind. Despite being the existential challenge of our times, only one in five countries have data to report on the climate goal. Fewer than half of UN member states can measure progress on gender equality. **We cannot achieve what we cannot measure.**

Thus, data is the driving force behind progress across all the SDGs. Strengthening data systems will revolutionise decision-making, accelerate countries' digital transformation agendas, and open up economic opportunities for a more equal and sustainable world.

Big data can reveal societal disparities that were previously hidden, such as those affecting women and girls, who often work in the informal sector or at home, face social mobility constraints, and are marginalised in both private and public decision-making. Much of the valuable big data for public good is collected by the private sector, making public-private partnerships crucial.

CHALLENGES

1. Critical data for global, regional, and national development policymaking is still lacking. Many governments do not have adequate data on their entire populations, especially the poorest and most marginalized.

2. Unlocking the potential of data is often hindered by a lack of political prioritization, insufficient funding, and fragmented efforts.

3. Fundamental elements of human rights must be safeguarded to realize the opportunities presented by big data: privacy, ethics, and respect for data sovereignty require us to assess the rights of individuals along with the benefits of the collective.

4. Ensuring the sustainability of public-private partnerships and establishing clear frameworks for roles and expectations are additional challenges that need to be addressed.

There is also a risk of growing inequality and bias. Major gaps are already opening up between the data haves and have-nots. Without action, a whole new inequality frontier will split the world between those who know, and those who do not. Many people are excluded from the new world of data and information by language, poverty, lack of education, lack of technology infrastructure, remoteness or prejudice, and discrimination. There is a broad range of actions needed, including building the capacities of all countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Land-

locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). To achieve goals such as zero extreme poverty and zero emissions by 2030, and to truly 'leave no one behind,' comprehensive and inclusive data is essential.

Additional Readings:

- Big Data for Sustainable Development
- Role of Data in Sustainable Development
- Data and SDGs
- Big Data
- Big Data 2.0

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

1. **Data Accessibility and Equity**

    - How can international cooperation ensure equitable access to critical data among all nations, especially focusing on the poorest and most marginalized populations?
    - What measures can be taken to bridge the digital divide and ensure that developing countries have adequate digital infrastructure and affordable internet access?

2. **Capacity Building and Skills Development**

    - What measures should be undertaken to support the development of digital literacy and technical skills in low-income countries to harness the potential of frontier technologies?
    - What strategies should be implemented to increase Research & Development investments in developing countries, particularly in sectors crucial for achieving SDGs like agriculture, health, and energy?

3. **Privacy, Ethics, and Governance**

    - What global standards and frameworks are needed to safeguard individual rights, such as privacy and data sovereignty, while maximizing the benefits of data-driven technologies?
    - How can international agreements mitigate the risks of growing inequality and bias in data access and use, particularly between developed and developing countries?

4. **Public-Private Partnerships and Sustainability**

    - How can sustainable public-private partnerships be fostered to ensure long-term support for technological advancements aimed at achieving SDGs?
    - What roles and responsibilities should be defined for governments, private sectors, and civil society to ensure transparency and accountability in data-driven initiatives?

5. **Policy and Funding Support**

    - How can governments and international organizations prioritize funding and political support for comprehensive data collection and analysis, especially in regions with limited resources and infrastructure, to support progress toward the SDGs?
    - What steps should be taken to encourage greater investment in green technologies that address productive applications in developing countries, thereby contributing to sustainable development goals?
    -

6. Inclusive Development

- What strategies are needed to ensure that technological advancements do not exacerbate existing inequalities based on language, poverty, education, and geographical remoteness?
- How can the international community support the capacity building of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Land-locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to effectively utilize data and technology for sustainable development and to achieve the SDGs?
- What measures can be taken to enhance technological capabilities in low-income and developing countries, particularly in rural areas, to bridge the digital divide and leverage frontier technologies effectively for the SDGs?

HOW TO RESEARCH FOR AN MUN

A common question among delegates in any MUN is how to effectively research. Here are some recommended steps to guide your research process:

STEP 1: The Background Guide

- **READ THE BACKGROUND GUIDE THOROUGHLY!**

STEP 2: Country Research

- Research about your allotted country. Get to know the basic facts about the country and understand its:
    - Geography
    - Polity
    - Economy
    - Culture
    - History, etc.
- Comprehend the Foreign Policy of your allotted country. This includes understanding the ideology and principles adopted by your country in general and on the agenda, studying past actions taken by your country on the agenda, knowing the alliances (for example: NATO) and groups (for example G20) of which your country is a part of, knowing the treaties and conventions to which it is a party, and any other information related to how it carries out diplomacy.

STEP 3: Committee Research

- Read about the United Nations system and the committee being simulated.
- Understand the committee's mandate. The mandate of a committee specifies the powers, responsibilities, and objectives assigned to the particular committee. It further specifies the extent of the committee's authority. Every committee in the UN has a specific mandate. You should know about the committee's mandate to determine what topics can and cannot be discussed in the committee.
- Understand your country's relevance to the committee.

STEP 4: Agenda Research

- Start by searching the agenda as it is in Google and go through the content that pops up. Try to get a basic understanding of the agenda through the background guide and by referring to sources like Wikipedia.

  Note: Do not base your research on Wikipedia!

- Break down the agenda into the following to simply your approach:
    - History
    - Current Situation
    - Future Actions and Goals
- Understand the ideology and principles adopted by your country on the agenda.
- Research further upon the agenda using the links given in the guide and from other sources such as UN reports and resolutions, academic papers, institutional reports, national reports, news articles, blogs, etc.
- Read any documents- reports, resolutions, communiques, acts, bills, etc. adopted or passed by any organ or committee of the United Nations or by your government on the agenda. Make a note of the same.
- Read about any past actions taken by the UN and your government on the agenda, analyse if they were a success or a failure, and research why. Make a note of them.
- Read about any important treaties and conventions related to the agenda.
- Understand the policies adopted by different blocs of countries (for example: NATO, EU, etc.) and major countries involved in the agenda, including their position, ideology, and adopted past actions.

STEP 5: Organising and Applying your Research

- Characterize the agenda into sub-topics and prepare speeches and statements on them. It is the same as preparing topics for the moderated caucuses and their content. You may also prepare an introductory speech that clarifies your country's stance on the agenda and what it aims to achieve in the committee
- Prepare a list of possible solutions and actions the committee can adopt on the issue as per your country's policies.
- Assemble proof or evidence for any important piece of information or allegation you are going to use in the committee.
- Keep your research updated using various news sources.

Note: These are merely recommendations from the EB on how to research.

CREDIBLE SOURCES

These are some highly recommended sources to use for your research. However, please do not limit yourself to these, and do not hesitate to critically analyse and use any other information that may come your way.

1. Any United Nations-owned or affiliated website.
2. Government Websites (generally end with *.gov*).
3. Well-reputed Independent Organisations.
4. News Sources (provided more than three news sources provide the same information).

Note: This hierarchy will be adhered to when assessing the credibility of two conflicting claims.