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PMUN 2024
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PRESIDIUM MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2024

UNDP
BACKGROUND GUIDE

UNITED NATIONS
DEVELPMENT PROGRAMME

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AGENDA:
Deliberating on fund allocation towards the Global South with special emphasis on implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

UN DP

PRESIDIUM SCHOOL MUN 2024

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Presidium MUN 2024! We are beyond excited to meet you and are eager to witness the deliberative dialogue as we simulate the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Through this background guide, we are striving to equip you with a befitting toolkit which empowers you to understand the subtleties of the agenda at hand. We hope that you construct this guide as a starting point and explore the multifarious dimensions of the agenda along with the sub-themes.

We view such simulations as an opportunity where one unequivocally learns the art of constructing opinions on significant global issues. We shall make earnest attempts at assisting you in every possible manner before the conference and during formal sessions to lead this dialogue to fruition. If you are faced with any difficulty in familiarizing yourself with the contents of this guide, we request you approach us without hesitation.

Best,

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Administrator

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9th Edition of Presidium MUN

Presidium School, Gurgaon

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

Official Website: **https://www.undp.org/**

Established in 1965 by the General Assembly of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is on the ground in some 170 countries and territories, supporting their solutions to development challenges and developing national and local capacities to help them achieve human development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Their initiatives are concentrated on three main focus areas:

      (a) Sustainable development

      (b) Democratic governance and peacebuilding

      (c) Climate and disaster resilience

UNDP is central to the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UN SDG), a network that spans varying countries and unites the 40 UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other bodies working to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and with the UNDP Administrator as Vice-Chair, the UN SDG provides strategic direction and oversight to ensure UNDS entities deliver coherent, effective and efficient support to countries in their pursuit of sustainable development.

UNDP has a critical advisory role in driving the sustainable development agenda, based on Member States' priorities and country context and plays an important role in fostering coordination within the UN system at the country level, including by providing key system-wide

services and country support platforms to support the implementation of the SDGs. UNDP participates in 66 "Delivering as One" initiatives which, together with the Standard Operating Procedures, enable UN Country Teams to operate more coherently, effectively and efficiently, minimizing transaction costs, reducing duplication and scaling up common approaches and joint initiatives. UNDP also reinforces joint action on development in such forums as the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations.UNDP helps countries attract and use aid effectively while also promoting gender equality and the protection of human rights.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

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Agenda: *Deliberating on Fund Allocation Towards Global South with Special Emphasis on Implementation of SDGs*

I. *Sustainable Development Goals: The Shared Blue-Print of Peace and Prosperity*

When the havoc-wrecking implications of industrialisation and the resultant migrations, technological advancements and disparities surfaced, the world community was compelled to reconsider the questions concerning their progress and sustenance. It was only in 1972 that the first conference relating to 'Human Environment' took place resulting in the Stockholm Declaration and the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme. In 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development designed the thematic realm of sustainable development through their outcome document called the 'Brundtland Report' titled 'Our Common Future'.

The evolution of the jurisprudence relating to internationally relevant frameworks on the environment was gradual continual bursts. In 1992, Agenda 21 along with the Rio

Declaration, which were the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (or the Rio Conference), aided the states in orienting their national policies in alignment with the precepts of Sustainable Development. It is imperative to note here that the review of the progress made in the implementation of Agenda 21 also took place every few years.

In September 2000, leaders from 189 countries gathered at the United Nations Headquarters to design the historic Millennium Declaration, in which they committed to achieving a set of eight measurable goals by the target date of 2015, ranging from halving extreme poverty and hunger to promoting gender equality and reducing child mortality. The MDGs were revolutionary in that they provided a common language for reaching global agreements. The eight goals were realistic and had a clear measurement/monitoring mechanism. The Rio+20 conference (the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 galvanized a process to develop a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will carry on the momentum generated by the MDGs and fit into a global development framework. The SDGs address all aspects of human development and environmental conservation.

The 169 targets set within this framework must be met by both developing and developed states; however, despite the size of the agenda, the text of the agreement is silent on how different states, particularly developing ones, will use their limited financial and human resources to achieve these goals. Within this context, the international community has begun to address issues concerning interstate energy, trade, and financial relations, both as goals included in the Sustainable Development Goals and as tools for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Suggested Readings/Links:

1. UNGA Resolution for the Adoption of Agenda 2030:

[Microsoft Word - 1516301E.docx (un.org)](#)

2. Follow-up and Review of the Agenda 2030:

[High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (un.org)](#)

3. Major UN Conferences relating to Sustainable Development:

[Conferences | Sustainable Development (un.org)](#)

II. *Implementation Issues in the Global South*

There is no definitive definition of the Global South, which means there is no definitive list of countries. One way of identifying countries is to look at the membership of the G77, a group of developing countries established in the 1960s to articulate and promote their collective interests at the United Nations. The group now numbers 134 states from Central and South America, Africa, Asia and Oceania, and refers to itself as the "global south". Another indicator is the list of the 125 countries that attended the first virtual Voice of the Global South summit in India in January 2023. The label encompasses an array of countries with vastly different histories, economies, ideologies, climates and interests. Many scholars have tagged this term as unhelpful because putting such diverse countries under one umbrella is not logically plausible. The term has become a "convenient shorthand" to describe the non-Western world, according to C Raja Mohan, who argues it is a hindrance rather than a help.

With the 2030 deadline looming, it is evident that the current pace of progress is insufficient to meet the sustainable development goals. Particularly alarming is the fact that the Global South, encompassing much of the Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America, is bearing the brunt of climate change, poverty, and food insecurity, all of which are linked to the SDGs. To change the trajectory, the Global South must take a leading role in driving the

effort to achieve these ambitious goals. The Global South is uniquely positioned to spearhead the achievement of the SDGs because it is where the stakes are highest. The Asia-Pacific region, for example, is facing unprecedented climate-related hazards that threaten decades of progress in reducing poverty and hunger. Severe droughts, floods, and heatwaves are increasingly straining environmental and socio-economic systems, pushing millions into deeper poverty and exacerbating food insecurity.

The UN's recent progress report highlights these challenges which are most acutely felt by the poorest and most vulnerable communities, including women, children, and Indigenous peoples. This region is also faltering on the SDGs, with projections indicating that 90% of the 116 measurable targets under the 17 SDGs set for 2030 will be missed if current trends persist. The challenges of climate change, poverty, and hunger make it clear that addressing these issues together is not just necessary but urgent. One of the most significant barriers is the persistent data gap in monitoring and implementing the SDGs. As highlighted in a recent OECD report, many countries struggle with insufficient data, weak national statistical offices (NSOs), and inadequate technical and financial support. This lack of reliable data not only hampers the ability to track progress but also risks undermining the credibility of sustainability efforts, leading to what some have termed "SDG-washing."

How to Research?

The practices enumerated below could be employed by the delegates to explore the research realm. This list of practices is not exhaustive and one may come up with an approach to breaking an agenda down:

1. Read the Background Guide before the conference.

2. In cases where a Crisis committee is being simulated, always read and look for the analysis and plausible rationale for the updates that may be issued a week before the MUN.

3. Google/Search everything and find related documents (UN, News Articles, Scholarly Works) and tag them as per the sub-themes you could identify.

4. After sufficiently understanding the Agenda, make an attempt at understanding your allotted portfolio's/country's perspective on the agenda.

5. Prepare a stance in accordance with the country's perspective on the agenda, which shall also define your foreign policy (history, past actions etc.). Understand the bilateral and multilateral ties other countries have with the country you represent.

6. Understand the cues and hints that are embedded in the Background Guide that may come in handy during the course of the committee.

7. Follow the links containing the suggested readings.

8. Predict the kind of sub-themes which may be brought to light during the course of the committee session and prepare accordingly.

9. Make a Word/Pages document and arrange your arguments there for better presentation in the council.

10. Ask the Executive Board your doubts, if you have any, before the conference by utilizing the given e-mail ID and make sure not to disclose your allotted country until you want to understand the policy of your country.

Accepted Documents and Sources

Documents from the following sources will be considered credible proof for any allegations made in committee or statements that require verification:

- Reuters: Appropriate Documents and articles from the Reuters News agency will be used to corroborate or refute controversial statements made in committee.

- <u>UN Documents:</u> Documents by all UN agencies will be considered sufficient proof. Reports from all UN bodies, including treaty-based bodies, will also be accepted.

- <u>Government Reports:</u> Government Reports of a given country used to corroborate an allegation on the same aforementioned country will be accepted as proof.

- Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch or newspapers like the Guardian, Times of India, etc. be accepted as credible proof, but may be used for better understanding of any issue and even be brought up in debate, if the information given in such sources is in line with the beliefs of a government or a delegate (who is a representative of a government, usually).

<u>Research Resources</u>

I. *Questions to be considered*

(a) What are the implications of the consistent increase in implementation-related issues in the Global South?

(b) What constitutes the Global South?

(c) How do the challenges to implementation threaten the Global Development Agenda?

(d) Which solutions have been crafted so far by the UN in this regard?

(e) Are the existing international frameworks missing the point or has the progress in relation to eliminating the gap between the Global North and South been piecemeal?

(f) What role could the various UN Agencies, INGOs, NGOs, Private Individuals and Governments play in order to bridge the gaps and offer support to the Global South?

(g) What is the role of funding in relation to the implementation of Agenda 2030?

(h) Could multilateral arrangements result in effective remedies to the concerns at hand?

II. *Sources for Research*

(a) Progress Report issued by the Secretary-General in 2024:

SG-SDG-Progress-Report-2024-advanced-unedited-version.pdf

(b) The Challenging Global Context for Implementation of SDG

Framework-Challenges and Opportunities: The Changing Global Context for SDG Implementation – Challenges and Opportunities | Организация Объединенных Наций

(c) On Challenges faced by the Global South: Challenges faced by the global South in achieving SDGs (orfonline.org)

(d) On South-South Cooperation: South-South Cooperation Is Essential to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals | United Nations

(e) Fund for South-South Cooperation: United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation – UNOSSC (unsouthsouth.org)

(f) Role of Funding: More Cohesive International Support, Funding Key for Expediting Global South's Path to Sustainable Development, Deputy Secretary-General Tells Political Forum Closing | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases

(g) SDG Indicators-Parity and Equity related Issues: Risks of producing and using indicators of sustainable development goals - Lyytimäki - 2020 - Sustainable Development - Wiley Online Library

Disclaimer

Information contained in this research brief does not possess any evidentiary value, nor does it qualify as proof of the occurrence/non-occurrence or

existence/non-existence of any fact. The brief is meant only to provide the

participants with a modicum of information upon which further research can be

built and does not in any manner whatsoever reflect the views or political leanings

of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson or Rapporteur. They shall at all points in time

maintain neutrality and not have any political affiliations.

NOTE: Kindly note that this Background Guide is not exhaustive in nature and is merely a vessel to guide your research procedures by hinting at a few of many key focus areas and the degree of the technicality and analysis that is expected out of every one of you. Research should not be limited to the background guide and the links provided here, delegates are encouraged to go beyond and research all relevant information.

With this, we wish you all the best and anticipate two days of exemplary academic deliberations!