

# **STUDY GUIDE**

**The Economic and Social Council**



**BITSMUN 2019**

# Letter from the Dias

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Dear Delegates,

Congratulations on getting the opportunity to participate in BITS PILANI MUN 2019. To the veterans of MUN, I promise you a very enriching debate that you've never experienced before and to the newcomers, I am really excited to be a part of your maiden voyage.

What we desire from the delegates is not how experienced or articulate they are. Rather, we want to see how she/he can respect disparities and differences of opinion, work around these, while extending their own foreign policy so that it encompasses more of the others without compromising their own stand, thereby reaching a unanimously acceptable practical solution.

The following pages intend to guide you with the nuances of the agenda as well as the Council.

The Guide chronologically touches upon all the different aspects that are relevant and will lead to fruitful debate in the Council. It will provide you with a bird's eye view of the gist of the issue.

However, it has to be noted that the background guide only contains certain basic information which may form the basis for the debate and your research.

You are the representative of your allotted country and it is our hope that you put in wholehearted efforts to research and comprehensively grasp all important facets of the diverse agenda.

All the delegates should be prepared well in order to make the council's direction and debate productive. After all, only then will you truly be able to represent your country in the best possible way.

We encourage you to go beyond this background guide and delve into the extremities of the agenda to further enhance your knowledge of a burning global issue.

May the force be with you!

Regards,

Soumya Basu, President

Effy John, Vice President

# Introduction to the Committee

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The Economic and Social Council is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals. It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.

The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations.

## **Coordination within the UN**

ECOSOC links a diverse family of UN entities dedicated to sustainable development, providing overall guidance and coordination. The entities include regional economic and social commissions, functional commissions facilitating intergovernmental discussions of major global issues, and specialized agencies, programmes and funds at work around the world to translate development commitments into real changes in people's lives.

Reforms over the last decade, particularly General Assembly resolution 68/1, have strengthened ECOSOC's leading role in identifying emerging challenges, promoting innovation, and achieving a balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development—economic, social and environmental. ECOSOC is charged with giving special attention to coordinated follow-up on major UN conferences and summits.

## **Partnership with the rest of the world**

Building on its coordination role within the UN system, ECOSOC is a gateway for UN partnership and participation by the rest of the world. It offers a unique global meeting point for productive dialogues among policymakers, parliamentarians, academics, foundations, businesses, youth and 3,200+ registered non-governmental organizations.

## **A spotlight on global issues**

Each year, ECOSOC structures its work around an annual theme of global importance to sustainable development. This ensures focused attention, among ECOSOC's array of partners, and throughout the UN development system.

By emphasizing combined economic, social and environmental concerns, ECOSOC encourages agreement on coherent policies and actions that make fundamental links across all three.

**ECOSOC's annual High-Level Segment includes:**

- High-Level Political Forum provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, and reviews progress in implementing sustainable development commitments.
- Development Cooperation Forum reviews trends and progress in development cooperation.

**Other sessions encompass:**

- Integration Segment promotes integrated actions on economic, social and environmental issues, within the United Nations system and beyond.
- Humanitarian Affairs Segment strengthens coordination of UN humanitarian efforts.
- Operational Activities for Development Segment provides overall guidance for UN funds and programmes.
- Coordination and Management Meeting reviews reports of ECOSOC subsidiary and expert bodies; promotes UN system coordination on development issues; and considers special country or regional concerns.
- Youth Forum brings youth voices into discussions on global policy-making on development issues of the day.
- Partnership Forum encourages collaboration among Governments, businesses and foundations, non-governmental organizations, academia and Parliamentarians.
- Special meetings to address global development emergencies or crises, to raise awareness and to serve as a high level policy platform for coordination of actors working on a specific situation.

## **AGENGA ITEM 1:**

**Economic and social challenges in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 9 (Industrial Development) with special focus on economically developing nations.**

# Introduction to Agenda Item 1

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In the era of rapid expansion of industry, we are missing the key point of saving our environment in the process. Multinational businesses and corporations are investing billions in rapid industry expansion, most of which are direct funding sources for the UN. Fossil fuels are extensively used and the society is used to the existing technology. Keeping the Agenda 2030 in mind, how challenging would it be for nations to achieve total renewable energy usage and sustainable consumption of natural resources.

Goal 9 encompasses three important aspects of sustainable development: infrastructure, industrialization and innovation. Infrastructure provides the basic physical systems and structures essential to the operation of a society or enterprise. Industrialization drives economic growth, creates job opportunities and thereby reduces income poverty. Innovation advances the technological capabilities of industrial sectors and prompts the development of new skills.

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.

# The Sustainable Development Agenda

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On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit — officially came into force. Over the next fifteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The SDGs, also known as Global Goals, build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty. The new Goals are unique in that they call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals. Countries have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of the progress made in implementing the Goals, which will require quality, accessible and timely data collection. Regional follow-up and review will be based on national-level analyses and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level.

## 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 towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and 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 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.

*Are the Sustainable Development Goals legally binding?*

- No. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not legally binding.
- Nevertheless, countries are expected to take ownership and establish a national framework for achieving the 17 Goals.
- Implementation and success will rely on countries' own sustainable development policies, plans and programmes.
- Countries have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review, at the national, regional and global levels, with regard to the progress made in implementing the Goals and targets over the next 15 years.
- Actions at the national level to monitor progress will require quality, accessible and timely data collection and regional follow-up and review.

*How will the Sustainable Development Goals be implemented?*

- The Addis Ababa Action Agenda that came out of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development provided concrete policies and actions to support the implementation of the new agenda.
- Implementation and success will rely on countries' own sustainable development policies, plans and programmes, and will be led by countries. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be a compass for aligning countries' plans with their global commitments.
- Nationally owned and country-led sustainable development strategies will require resource mobilization and financing strategies.
- All stakeholders: governments, civil society, the private sector, and others, are expected to contribute to the realisation of the new agenda.
- A revitalized global partnership at the global level is needed to support national efforts. This is recognized in the 2030 Agenda.



- Multi-stakeholder partnerships have been recognized as an important component of strategies that seek to mobilize all stakeholders around the new agenda.

## Sustainable Development Goal 9

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Investments in infrastructure – transport, irrigation, energy and information and communication technology – are crucial to achieving sustainable development and empowering communities in many countries. It has long been recognized that growth in productivity and incomes, and improvements in health and education outcomes require investment in infrastructure.

Inclusive and sustainable industrial development is the primary source of income generation, allows for rapid and sustained increases in living standards for all people, and provides the technological solutions to environmentally sound industrialization.

Technological progress is the foundation of efforts to achieve environmental objectives, such as increased resource and energy-efficiency. Without technology and innovation, industrialization will not happen, and without industrialization, development will not happen.

### **GOAL 9 TARGETS**

- Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.
- Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry’s share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.
- Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.
- By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.

- Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending.
- Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States 18.
- Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities.
- Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020.

## **PROGRESS OF GOAL 9 IN 2017**

Despite steady improvements in manufacturing output and employment, renewed investment will be needed in the least developed countries to build needed infrastructure and ensure the doubling of industry's share of GDP in those countries by 2030.

- Efficient transportation services generate employment and wealth and drive economic development. In 2015, the estimated global economic impact (both direct and indirect) of air transport was \$2.7 trillion, equivalent to 3.5 per cent of global GDP. The least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States represent far less air travel and freight volumes, with each country group accounting for only 1 per cent to 2.7 per cent of the global total.
- Manufacturing is a principal driver of economic development, employment and social stability. Globally, manufacturing value added as a share of GDP increased from 15.3 per cent in 2005 to 16.2 per cent in 2016. In 2016, manufacturing value added per capita amounted to \$4,621 in Europe and Northern America, compared to about \$100 in the least developed countries.
- As many countries move to more efficient and less energy-intensive industries, their emissions of carbon dioxide per unit of manufacturing value added are generally

declining. From 2000 to 2014, Europe and Northern America reduced their emissions intensity by 36 per cent. All of the 10 largest manufacturing countries saw decreases in their emissions intensity. Such promising trends are not reflected in the global emissions intensity level, however, since a significant share of global manufacturing value added has moved to countries with generally higher intensity levels.

- In 2014, investments in research and development stood at 1.7 per cent of global GDP, up from 1.5 per cent in 2000. Worldwide, there were 1,098 researchers per million inhabitants in 2014, ranging from 63 in the least developed countries to 3,500 in Europe and Northern America.
- ODA for economic infrastructure in developing countries reached \$57 billion in 2015, an increase of 32 per cent in real terms since 2010. The main recipient sectors were transport and energy (\$19 billion each).
- Manufacturing is increasingly shifting towards more technologically complex products. While medium- and high-tech products continue to dominate manufacturing production in industrialized economies (where they contribute about 80 per cent of total manufacturing output), the share has barely reached 10 per cent in least developed countries.
- Mobile-cellular services have spread rapidly and have allowed people living in previously unconnected areas to join the global information society. In 2016, 95 per cent of the world's population and 85 per cent of people in the least developed countries were covered by a mobile-cellular signal.

# Finance: A Challenge for SDG 9

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To address the funding gap, we need alternative means of financing and collaborative public-private governance frameworks to provide innovative infrastructure solutions. This is not only about building new infrastructure but also about using our existing systems more effectively and efficiently. Some examples of companies stepping up to the challenge are:

- Google recently added (yet) another string to its bow with the establishment of a new independent company (Sidewalk Labs) dedicated to innovating new technologies needed to improve urban life. The venture is to be headed up by the former deputy mayor of New York and former chief executive of Bloomberg, Daniel Doctoroff. The announcement accompanying the launch specifically singled out transit, cost of living (particularly housing infrastructure), energy use and government efficiency as areas of focus.
- U.K. retailer Marks & Spencer recently launched a fund for small-scale renewable energy projects. As well as providing some much needed capital for such projects, the fund should help ensure that M&S's sustainability plan is made relevant to local communities.
- IBM's Smarter Cities, Cisco's Smart+Connected Communities and Siemens Sustainable Cities are all programs designed to work with local governments to provide solutions to urban challenges — in particular those relating to infrastructure.
- Green Bonds are continuing to grow as investment vehicles dedicated to sustainable projects. YES bank, India's fifth largest private-sector bank, announced India's first Green Infrastructure Bond in February. The bond issue raised \$158 million, doubling its original target — with big interest from insurers and pension funds.

Providing finance and technical expertise for solutions to infrastructure problems could prove to be big business in the future. Companies, especially technology-led firms, have a wealth of resources available that can improve the operation of infrastructure assets by local governments.

Infrastructure also can make a sound long-term investment with stable and predictable cash flows that suit the horizons of pension funds and insurers. Increasingly, businesses and investors are growing wise to this potential and seizing opportunities. Without them, there would be no way of bridging the gap.

# Challenges for Major Developing Nations

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## **BANGLADESH**

### Successes:

- The government's 2016-2020 plan, revised in late 2015, now addresses 56 SDG targets directly and the rest are included indirectly.
- The ministry of education has also contacted private sectors to produce braille books to be distributed among the visually impaired children attending the government schools from January 2017.
- NGOs in the country are shifting their programme priorities towards climate change, extreme poverty reduction and considering disability as a cross-cutting issue.
- A civil society group has been formed with expert professionals to monitor the progress of achievement of the SDGs in the country. United Nations has been actively participating in the discussions of the group.

### Challenges:

- The government health, water and sanitation activities have a reduced budget this year due to funding cuts.
- There is no noticeable progress in improving governance, curbing corruption, steps on to ensure decent, secure and inclusive workplace and inclusive economic growth.
- Donor funding to education, health and other social sectors started reducing from this year. The NGOs working on the inclusion of people with disabilities will face challenges in continuing their work at the scale they are now.

## **BENIN**

### Successes:

- A ministry is being put in place at the presidency of the republic to coordinate policies implementing the SDGs and other large project works.
- The government organised a high-level seminar on the SDGs and the Paris agreement on climate change. The goal was to begin the operational phase of the measures taken in these two international documents in order not to miss the deadline of 2030 for achieving the SDGs.

## **BURKINA FASO**

### Successes:

- The SDGs were taken into account in planning a national programme of economic and social development.
- The Secrétaire Permanent des Organisations Non Gouvernementales (SPONG) developed a project for ownership of the SDGs by the communities and civil society organisations of the country. SPONG will monitor the implementation of the SDGs.

### Challenges:

- A lack of finances for the SDGs project to be explained to the wider community.
- United Nations' team in Burkina Faso needs to ensure it plays a role in SDGs monitoring with other NGOs.

## **COTE D'IVOIRE**

### Successes:

- The SDGs are being aligned with sectoral and local health policies – United Nations is contributing to this process.
- The country has put in place a steering committee and scientific committee for the transition process from the Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015) to the Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030)
- Five strategies on development interventions have been put in place to work towards meeting the SDGs in the period 2016-2020.

### Challenges:

- Increased financing is needed to meet sustainable development objectives, and there's a need to ensure the availability of data for regular monitoring.

## **GUINEA**

### Successes:

- United Nations' country team maintains strong support and collaboration with the national government (through the Ministry of Health) toward implementing the SDGs.
- Guinea has just developed its national health sector development plan 2015–2024. The plan took into consideration the SDGs in the health sector, particularly goals 3, 9, 10, 11 and 13.

## **INDIA**

### **India and the SDGs – a status update**

#### Successes:

- A new national body, the National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) aayog (commission) was created in January 2015, and has been given responsibility for implementation of the SDGs. It has already completed a process mapping the ministries and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) of the central government against the SDGs.
- United Nations' social inclusion programme has monitoring systems that gather data disaggregated by gender, caste and religion, helping us reach the most marginalised people.

#### Challenges:

- There are still very low levels of awareness about the SDGs in the eye health and disability sectors – there's a need for widespread awareness generation on the potential positive impact of the SDGs on people's lives.
- Despite the emphasis on gender equality in our programmes, gender gaps still exist in our social inclusion programme where the number of women covered is significantly less than the number of men.

## **NIGERIA**

#### Successes:

- United Nations is contributing to interventions for the control and elimination of five neglected tropical diseases in six states of Nigeria, in partnership with the federal and states ministries of health. Control and elimination of the NTDs in these districts will significantly improve the health and wellbeing of the most marginalised communities, boosting economic outcomes and contribute to the broader development goals and the achievement of Goal 3.

#### Challenges

- There is poor government funding for the control and elimination of NTDs.

## **PAKISTAN**

#### Successes:

- An amendment disability bill, drafted by a committee which included United Nations, has been tabled in the National Assembly to provide health care, education, employment and others facilities to approximately eight million persons with disabilities in Pakistan.
- United Nations is working through the National Forum of Women with Disabilities to work with the government on gender issues within the SDGs, and mainstreaming disability within gender issues.
- LEAD Pakistan (a national level NGO) has formed a specialised team to work on translating the SDGs into a national framework of policy coherence, implementation, and monitoring. Work has already begun on sensitising the government of Pakistan and other stakeholders on the potential implications of the SDGs for the country.

## **TOGO**

### Successes:

- In July 2016, a session of the Policy Forum on Sustainable Development concluded with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration on “Leaving no one aside”.
- The country has made progress in the field of food safety (reduction of hunger), education and the fight against HIV/AIDS, according to the Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning.

## **UGANDA**

### Successes:

- A new government framework is in place for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. United Nations is part of the disability movement within the country, and participates in disability discussions around inclusion and advocacy.
- The need for consultation with disabled people’s organisations (DPOs) has been recognised. A plan for DPOs to build pressure on the Ministry of Gender to take action on disability matters is in its early stages, and there’s also a plan in place for DPOs to call on parliament for the appointment of a minister in charge of disability.

### Challenges:

- There is a need to train DPO representatives to link the SDGs with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



- There is work to be done to engage other stakeholders (women, children, older people, youth movements etc) to voice disability issues to relevant government bodies.
- Ensuring successful, ongoing dialogue with government by DPOs.
- There is a need to ensure that the government framework on the SDGs is inclusive.

## **ZAMBIA**

### Successes:

- The ministry of community development and other partners convened the first ever social protection week on the theme of ‘Achieving prosperity for all’ in May 2016.
- With the success of a social cash transfer initiative improving people’s lives, the government has decided to extend the project to 78 districts throughout the country and target 243,000 people, contributing towards Goal 1 by increasing incomes of the poorest people and reducing extreme poverty.
- In May 2016 a disability policy was launched, to create a working, education and social atmosphere inclusive of people with disabilities – United Nations supports members of various disability groups to participate in these, and has held discussions with the Ministry of Community Development. The policy indicated that the government would ensure disabled people were included in the upcoming general election process. It included a commitment to procure 5,600 ramps in polling stations and relocate all polling stations to ground floor level to improve accessibility. The commission also promised to provide braille voter education materials, and ballot paper jackets for voters who were visually impaired and did not wish to be assisted in casting a secret ballot.

### Challenges:

- Despite commitments, the election process didn’t run smoothly in its inclusion of people with disabilities. Disability data gathered during voter registration was problematic, and the political environment during the official campaign period was marred by political violence and intolerance, meaning people with disabilities were deterred from attending political meetings including rallies where they could have accessed messages on which to base their decisions.

- The adoption processes within the political parties was also generally not inclusive and discouraged many persons with disabilities from participating in elections as candidates seeking election to public office.

# A strong sustainability challenge

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Climate change also puts pressure on natural resources that are essential for sustaining human civilization. In the past, resource scarcity was often presented as a critical challenge, but for much of the twentieth century, resource prices actually fell. The combination of rapid economic expansion, continued population growth and a changing climate raises the spectre of resource scarcities. In the medium and long term, it may lead to a strong sustainability challenge. There is significant scope for substitution in many areas, yet certain forms of natural capital including the ecological services they provide cannot be replaced by man-made capital. Their exploitation has thus to be limited so as to preserve the overall capacity of ecosystems to provide those services (Ayres, 2007). Land, water and energy in particular are critical resources for humanity, and their availability and use are tightly interconnected, with multiple feedback channels between them. All of them have strong links to agriculture and food production. Large unmet needs at the global level require and will inevitably lead to a further expansion in their use and exploitation. Combined with the additional impact of climate change, this expansion may very well lead to much tighter supplies, and thus to price volatilities and sustained price increases. If scarcities arise and if limits to substitutability are reached, distributional conflicts will have to be addressed at the national and global levels, as well as with respect to purposes of use. The common drivers of resource use are population growth and economic expansion and the associated lifestyle changes. The global population will continue to expand, but population growth will take place largely in the poorest countries, adding comparatively small additional pressure at the global level. Resource use is strongly correlated with income, however. Currently, per capita material and energy use in developed countries is higher than in developing countries by a factor of 5-10.

## Trends and challenges

Global socioeconomic, demographic and environmental megatrends have increased interdependence among countries, but without any commensurate strengthening of global governance. As a result, global macroeconomic imbalances, migratory pressures and environmental challenges are insufficiently addressed, and crises occur with increasing frequency. At the same time, countries with growing exposure and interlinkages become more vulnerable to such external shocks, and crises spread more quickly, threatening development progress. At the national and sub national levels, these tighter links have

facilitated socioeconomic progress, but not everybody is benefiting to the same degree. Rather, inequalities both within and between countries persist. While growth has accelerated in many developing countries, often it has been non-inclusive, failing to create sufficient employment opportunities and exacerbating inequalities. The consolidation of value chains and the related deceleration of trade growth may render the implementation of export-based growth strategies even more difficult in the years ahead, at the same time as demographic developments make accelerated employment generation an imperative in countries with large youth cohorts. Population dynamics will also impose additional stresses on local governments and rapidly growing cities and national health and education systems. Rapid ageing in numerous countries, in particular, will require further investments in social protection systems. The persistence of inequalities, whether in incomes, or in access to services, decent jobs, land or technology, also hints at their entrenched structural causes. Discrimination and exclusion, based on gender, age, disability or ethnicity, have to be tackled directly in order that greater inclusiveness and transformative change may be achieved. These challenges are exacerbated in multiple ways by accelerating environmental degradation. The poor are most vulnerable to environmental hazards and, owing to the unequal distribution of assets, will also suffer the most from resource scarcities. In terms of the medium and long run, threats to the stability of the global climate overshadow all other challenges, as they would fundamentally undermine the preconditions for human development.

# The solution - to strengthen the developing countries?

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The developing countries' economies are in a constant state of threat. Their vulnerability at present is far worse than ever before, all due to their weakness in the global economy, making them far less prepared to face the uncertain external environment. However, hope prevails. A World Bank study indicated that the success of the Doha Round would increase global income by more than \$500 billion a year by 2015 and over two thirds of that increase is poured into the developing economies, pulling approximately 144 million people to live above the poverty line. Yet, such a success depends on both parties: the developed countries binding to what they enforce and the developing countries agreeing to the proposals; in other words, full global liberalization. Several developing countries have shown great signs of participation in the GATT/WTO system, some of them even joining the negotiations from the beginning. Several advantages trailed this early admittance, as it entails entering into a series of bilateral agreements with numerous countries. Developing countries had a good chance to be effective as the WTO provided them with a productive setting

## **Strategies for sustainable development**

The transformative change necessary to address the challenges set out above will be driven mainly by actors at the local and national levels. Coherence between local and national strategies will therefore remain critical. Policy decisions in one country have regional and often global repercussions, but currently such externalities—be they positive or negative—are not taken sufficiently into account in decision-making processes. Coherence in national development strategies implies most fundamentally that socioeconomic development strategies aim to avoid further environmental distress. Developed countries in particular have to address unsustainable consumption and production patterns and their continuously rising environmental impact, while emerging and developing economies need to pursue the goal of greening their catch-up growth. At the global level, the human development agenda and the goal of environmental protection have to be jointly pursued. Developed countries in particular would make moves towards sustainable production and consumption, while developing countries would offer greater cooperation in meeting climate and other global challenges. Such a global consensus on sustainable development will be based on solidarity, with human development and environmental protection as integrated and universal goals for

all countries. A final key challenge is ensuring responsibility and accountability for progress towards meeting the SDGs. Mechanisms to do this need to link across local, national and international scales.

## Questions the resolution should answer

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1. “Aid for development, is it the answer?” The OECD defines aid as a voluntary transfer of wealth from one country to another with the aim of benefiting the recipient country. This, however, is not always the case, as many donors use aid as ways to benefit themselves either by favorably influencing the politics of a certain country, opening up market access

We need to measure both “inputs” (ie, did nation X invest what they said they were going to invest in addressing issues A, B, and C), as well as “outcomes” (ie, did we actually achieve our goals to eradicate poverty, improve health, and provide access to water, food and energy in nation X)?

However, crucially, we need powerful ways of feeding this information back into the policy and political arena to hold responsible stakeholders to account. This chiefly includes governments, but also other key stakeholders in the private sector, NGOs, and even civil society. If we don’t create these sorts of ‘feedback loops’ to hold each other to account, how will we make sure that the SDGs are actually being implemented?

While aid flows into developing countries and LDCs, one might expect inflated growth in the economy. The gap between the expected and actual growth can be traced back to corruption and private consumption. Corruption is widely spread in countries with low development conditions; however, quantifying it has proved to be elusive. Corruption continues to be a taboo subject; thus, the ability to separate corruption costs from wastage, mismanagement and inefficiency is impossible. This leads to more control clauses from the donor countries enforced upon recipients in order to limit these wastages. However, this leads to loss of flexibility to the recipient economy, as it has to deal with more constraints thus lowering the aid efficiency.

## 2. “One size fits all?”

It becomes evident that reaching a clear-cut solution whereby a recommendation can be issued to all countries seeking development is impossible. Certain methods seem to work in some cases, while causing extreme damages in other cases. This leads to the belief that every case needs its own recommendation based on its economic strengths, weaknesses and development status, to name a few economic indicators. Direct implementation of an economic policy framework without taking into consideration the underlying social, political and economic structure led to a large duality among the society, i.e., large corporations ran by corrupt few elites and the remaining impoverished workers trying to survive with the effects of sudden globalization. In a recent G-20 meeting, the IMF was finally reformed to include and empower the developing countries’ voice and to overcome the “shock therapy” approach, which accompanies the loans along with the strict conditionalities. Will a similar WTO reform take place soon? Will the developing countries finally unite and take a final stand?

**Further Readings** - <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/Home.aspx>

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/devel\\_e/devel\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/devel_e.htm)

<http://www.quno.org/geneva/pdf/economic/Background/Patents-TradeDevelopmentEnglish.pdf>

[http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/core/forms/Trade\\_for\\_Development.pdf](http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/core/forms/Trade_for_Development.pdf)

<http://www.oecd.org/investment/investmentpolicy/1922690.pdf>

<http://www.farmfoundation.org/news/articlefiles/816-vsmith.pdf>

**For further reading of the delegates,  
attachments of reference materials are being  
given. You are requested to go through them in  
details.**