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I. Letter from the SG

Dear Esteemed Delegates, Honorable Chairs and Distinguished Guests,

My name is Zeynep Kayalacin and it is my great honor to serve as the Secretary General of this year's FLZMUN. I am truly delighted to have the opportunity to lead such an inspiring academic gathering.

I firmly believe that diplomacy is not simply about expressing opinions but also about understanding different perspectives. Throughout this conference, I encourage each of you to embrace these values and step outside your comfort zones.

Whether this is your first MUN experience or one of many, I hope this conference will provide you with an environment where you can grow intellectually, strengthen your leadership skills and create unforgettable memories. Do not be afraid to speak up, defend your ideas and most importantly, learn from one another.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to making this conference possible. I also wish all delegates an inspiring, productive and enjoyable conference.

Eat an apple, revise hard and prepare yourself for the conference.

If you have any prior questions about the conference you can contact me anytime.

Welcome to FLZMUN26.

Secretary General

Zeynep Kayalacin

zeynepkayalacin@gmail.com

II. Letter from the USG

Distinguished Delegates,

To start with, I would like to welcome you all to the FLZMUN. I am İdil Başer, I have the honor and pleasure to serve as your Under-Secretary-General for this year's ECOSOC Committee. I also would like to thank my lovely co-chairs Ela for helping me throughout this journey . I believe that during these three days we will be spending together, with my experience and your dedication you will have a both academically enriching, and most importantly enjoyable conference.

I suggest that you read this Study Guide carefully to have enough knowledge on this crucial topic and to be completely prepared for the committee with the provided essential background information, context, and resources to help you. Also I recommend you to go further than the study guide to do more research, develop your ideas, find solutions and share with us when the day comes. İf you have any prior questions about the guide or the committee, you can email me and I will try to respond as soon as possible to clear up any questions you may have.

I am looking forward to meeting you all.

Warm regards,

İdil Başer

The Under-Secretary-General responsible for ECOSOC

idilbaser0@gmail.com

III. Introduction to the Committee

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 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was established in 1946 as one of the main organs of the United Nations; it is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as for implementation of the internationally agreed development goals.

ECOSOC engages a wide variety of stakeholders – policymakers, parliamentarians, academics, major groups, foundations, business sector representatives and over 3000 registered non-governmental organisations – in a dialogue on sustainable development through a programmatic cycle of meetings. The work of the Council is guided by an

issue-based approach, and there is an annual theme that accompanies each programmatic cycle, ensuring a sustained and focused discussion among multiple stakeholders.

ECOSOC has been involved in discussions on and assessments of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and has adopted annual resolutions in this regard since 2006. The Council has also been active in discussions on enhanced cooperation in Internet governance (through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development), and on other Internet public policy issues. In addition, at its annual meetings, ECOSOC adopts resolutions related to science and technology for development.

IV. Historical Background

ECOSOC was established by the UN Charter (1945), which was amended in 1965 and 1974 to increase the number of members from 18 to 54. ECOSOC membership is based on geographic representation: 14 seats are allocated to Africa, 11 to Asia, 6 to eastern Europe, 10 to Latin America and the Caribbean, and 13 to western Europe and other areas. Members are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly. Four of the five permanent members of the Security Council have been continuously reelected because they provide funding for most of ECOSOC's budget, which is the largest of any UN subsidiary body. Decisions are taken by simple majority vote. The presidency of ECOSOC changes annually.

The council was designed to be the UN's main venue for the discussion of international economic and social issues. ECOSOC conducts studies; formulates resolutions, recommendations, and conventions for consideration by the General Assembly; and coordinates the activities of various UN organizations. Most of ECOSOC's work is performed in functional commissions on topics such as human rights, narcotics, population, social development, statistics, the status of women, and science and technology; the council also oversees regional commissions for Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Western Asia, Latin America, and Africa. The UN charter allows ECOSOC to grant consultative status to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Beginning in the mid-1990s, measures were taken to increase the participation of such NGOs, and by the early 21st century more than 2,500 NGOs had been granted consultative status.

At the ECOSOC World Summit in 2005, it was mandated that the council convene annual ministerial reviews, designed to monitor progress on internationally agreed development goals, and a biennial Development Cooperation Forum. For discussion in the context of the United Nations, see the section on the Economic and Social Council in the United Nations article.

V. Introduction to the Agenda Item: Sustainable Development

Sustainable development means creating progress that balances environmental health, social wellbeing, and economic prosperity without sacrificing future generations' ability to do the same. The concept gained global recognition through the 1987 Brundtland Commission, which defined it as development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."



At its heart, sustainable development rests on three interconnected pillars:

Environmental sustainability – Protecting natural resources and ecosystems to ensure they remain viable for future use, including managing water resources, preserving biodiversity, and reducing pollution

Social sustainability – Ensuring equity, health, and human rights across communities through fair labour practices, inclusive decision-making, and access to education and healthcare

Economic sustainability – Creating prosperity that can be maintained over time through business models that generate value without depleting resources or creating unsustainable debt burdens

These three pillars form an integrated system where each element supports and depends on the others, creating a delicate balance that requires careful attention. Environmental health provides the foundation for social wellbeing by ensuring clean air, water, and stable climate conditions. Social wellbeing creates the stable, educated workforce necessary for economic prosperity through healthy, skilled populations. Economic prosperity then provides the financial resources needed for environmental protection initiatives and social programmes that improve quality of life. When organizations approach sustainable development holistically, considering all three pillars simultaneously, they create resilient strategies that address root causes rather than treating symptoms in isolation. Ignoring this approach entails two major risks: the need to ask the planet to make an unsustainable effort to deplete any reserves (food or energy) and the real possibility that many people will not be able to access those resources in a dignified manner.

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a. Millennium Development Goals

In September 2000, leaders of 189 countries gathered at the United Nations headquarters and signed the historic Millennium Declaration, in which they

committed to achieving a set of eight measurable goals that range from halving extreme poverty and hunger to promoting gender equality and reducing child mortality, by the target date of 2015.

1. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. To achieve universal primary education
3. To promote gender equality and empower women
4. To reduce child mortality
5. To improve maternal health
6. To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. To ensure environmental sustainability
8. To develop a global partnership for development

Each goal had specific targets, and dates for achieving those targets. The eight goals were measured 21 targets.

On paper, countries successfully met the MDG targets: from 2000 to 2015, the world experienced rapid development. One billion people [PDF] rose out of extreme poverty, and global gross domestic product (GDP) more than doubled.

That does not mean, however, that the world has finished developing, or that the development driven by the MDGs was felt equally everywhere.

Much of the progress made toward the MDGs happened in just two countries: China and India. They have the world's two largest populations and were long home to more poor people than anywhere else. Between 2000 and 2015, approximately three

hundred million people in China emerged out of extreme poverty. But many of the methods used to achieve that goal afforded Chinese citizens few individual rights and, notably, had severe environmental consequences.

A UN conference in September 2010 reviewed progress to date and adopted a global plan to achieve the eight goals by their target date. New commitments targeted women's and children's health, and new initiatives in the worldwide battle against poverty, hunger and disease.

b. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The SDGs are not a formal treaty; they do not require countries to make binding commitments or even report on their own progress (though nearly every country voluntarily does so). Instead, the goals are designed to set a common, measurable agenda to guide the efforts of governments, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and private institutions. Crucially, the SDGs are also meant to direct the flow of resources. Making progress on global development requires significant funding for projects like building new infrastructure, constructing renewable energy systems, creating housing, and adopting new education initiatives, among many others. Much of that funding comes from governments, private-sector institutions, international development banks, and philanthropic donors. The SDGs provide a framework for driving investment toward a unified set of priorities.

The best path to follow in pursuit of sustainable development was found in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a program of action for people, the planet, and prosperity signed in September 2015 by the governments of the 193 UN member countries. It identifies 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a major program of action, with a total of 169 targets to be achieved. The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals came into force on January 1, 2016: countries have committed to achieving all the goals within 15 years.



They represent common goals on a set of key development issues: fighting poverty, eliminating hunger, and combating climate change, to name but a few. These are goals that affect all countries and all individuals: no one should be left behind on the path to sustainable development.

The backbone of the Sustainable Development Goals is made up of the so-called "5 Ps":

- People: Ending hunger and poverty in all its forms and ensuring dignity and equality.
- Prosperity:Ensuring prosperous and fulfilling lives in harmony with nature.
- Peace:Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.
- Partnership:Implementing the agenda through strong partnerships.
- Planet:Protect the planet's natural resources and climate for future generations.

Sustainable development means improving the lives of populations in the present without harming future generations' ability to do the same. It is no longer considered enough to improve people's livelihoods regardless of the environmental cost. The SDGs encourage countries to find environmentally friendly methods of development, such as powering factories with renewable energy rather than exclusively exploiting fossil fuels, which contribute to climate change. Each development project has to account for its environmental effects: how it would affect life on land, ensure a clean water supply, and respond to climate change.

The SDGs are also designed to encourage economically sustainable development by promoting inclusive growth. An overall increase in a country's wealth is a worthwhile goal, but the SDGs ask these questions: Who benefits, and is the average person in a country gaining from the growth, or are just a few wealthy people reaping all the rewards? The SDGs push for programs that specifically target marginalized social groups, which often include women, ethnic and racial minorities, and people with

disabilities. To be considered sustainable, development projects need to ensure equal opportunities for growth and eliminate discriminatory practices.

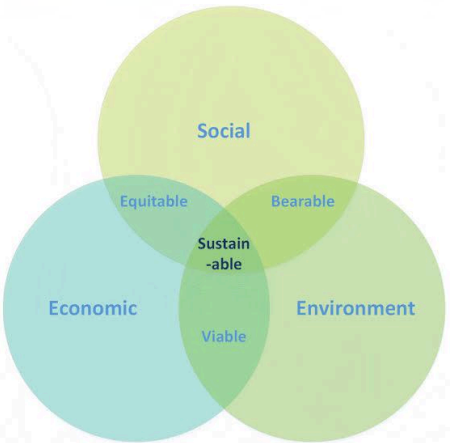
The MDGs were drafted by a small circle of experts and focused primarily on helping poor countries reduce poverty. The SDGs, by contrast, were negotiated over several years by dozens of countries, and they were meant to apply to everyone. Rich and poor countries alike are expected to make progress toward the targets included in the SDGs. Indeed, some of the SDGs are aimed directly at wealthier societies. SDG 12, for instance, calls for countries to use resources more efficiently, reducing wasteful consumption and production.

Global focus is not just about the rich and poor. It also reflects the fact that progress requires action across borders as much as within them.

A. The Sustainable Development Goals

I. Overview of the 17 Goals

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are a set of interconnected global objectives adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They cover a broad spectrum of human and planetary well-being,



ranging from ending extreme poverty to protecting life below water, and are designed to be pursued simultaneously rather than in isolation.

The 17 goals are:

1. No Poverty: Businesses can play a transformative role by implementing inclusive economic growth, ensuring fair wages, supporting local communities, and innovating affordable products and services targeting the economically disadvantaged.

2. Zero Hunger: By supporting sustainable agricultural practices, cutting down food waste, enhancing food supply chains, and collaborating with agri-tech innovations, businesses can ensure food security for all.

3. Good Health & Well-being: Beyond offering health insurance and wellness programs, companies can invest in medical research, partner with healthcare providers, and promote products/services that improve public health.

4. Quality Education: From scholarships, internships, and training programs to collaborations with educational institutions and NGOs, businesses can uplift global educational standards.

5. Gender Equality: An inclusive workplace that offers equal opportunities, supports women entrepreneurship, and runs campaigns against gender discrimination highlights how businesses can champion this goal.

6. Clean Water & Sanitation: Investing in clean water projects, minimizing water wastage, and introducing sustainable sanitation solutions in their supply chains can be a starting point for corporations.

7. Affordable & Clean Energy: By transitioning to renewable energy sources, supporting clean energy research, and making energy-efficient products, businesses can make this goal a reality.

8. Decent Work & Economic Growth: Prioritizing employee welfare, promoting a culture of lifelong learning, and supporting small businesses and startups are ways companies can contribute.

9. Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure: Encouraging R&D, fostering innovation hubs, and supporting resilient infrastructure projects, especially in developing regions, is crucial.

10. Reduced Inequalities: By addressing wage disparities, supporting marginalized communities, and championing inclusive products and services, businesses can take steps towards reducing inequalities.

11. Sustainable Cities & Communities: Sustainable real estate practices, urban farming projects, waste management solutions, and supporting green public transport options are some areas of focus.

12. Responsible Consumption & Production: Companies can emphasize circular economy principles, ensuring products are sustainably sourced, manufactured, used, and recycled.

13. Climate Action: Carbon neutrality, sustainable supply chains, investment in eco-friendly technologies, and support for reforestation are a few business action points.

14. Life Below Water: Businesses can advocate for sustainable marine practices, invest in technology that reduces water pollution, and sponsor marine conservation initiatives.

15. Life on Land: Reforestation projects, sustainable land-use policies, combating desertification, and supporting wildlife conservation are paths businesses can tread.

16. Peace, Justice, & Strong Institutions: Upholding ethical business practices, supporting the rule of law, promoting peacekeeping initiatives, and collaborating with just institutions will pave the way.

17. Partnerships for the Goals: Joint initiatives, collaborations, sharing of resources and knowledge among businesses, and partnerships with governments and NGOs can lead to magnified impacts.

Each goal is accompanied by specific targets, making it possible for countries, organizations, and communities to measure progress in concrete terms. The goals are universal, meaning they apply to every country regardless of income level or development status.

The SDGs matter because they represent the most comprehensive and widely agreed-upon blueprint for addressing global challenges at scale. Without a shared framework, efforts to tackle poverty, climate change, or inequality risk being fragmented, underfunded, or working at cross-purposes. The goals give governments, organizations, and communities a common language and direction.

One of the most powerful aspects of the SDGs is their recognition that global challenges are deeply interconnected. Climate change worsens food insecurity. Inequality limits access to education. Poor health outcomes reduce economic productivity. The SDGs are designed to be addressed together precisely because solving one often accelerates progress on others.

Furthermore, by addressing problems such as poverty, inequality and environmental damage, the SDGs contribute to building more stable and resilient societies. Implementing SDGs can also boost economic growth, create green jobs and promote innovation and sustainable technology. In short, the SDGs are a comprehensive roadmap for a more prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future.

II. Major Challenges

a. Poverty and Economic Inequality

The 2030 Agenda acknowledges that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

The first Sustainable Development Goal aims to “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”. Its seven associated targets aims, among others, to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, reduce at least by half the proportion of men,

women and children of all ages living in poverty, and implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

As recalled by the foreword of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals Report, at the Millennium Summit in September 2000, 189 countries unanimously adopted the Millennium Declaration, pledging to *"spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty"*. This commitment was translated into an inspiring framework of eight goals and, then, into wide-ranging practical steps that have enabled people across the world to improve their lives and their future prospects. The MDGs helped to lift more than one billion people out of extreme poverty, to make inroads against hunger, to enable more girls to attend school than ever before and to protect our planet.

Nevertheless, in spite of all the remarkable gains, inequalities have persisted and progress has been uneven. Therefore, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its set of Sustainable Development Goals have been committed, as stated in the Declaration of the Agenda, "to build upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seek to address their unfinished business".

The theme of the 2017 High-Level Political Forum was *"Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing worl"*", and it included SDG 1 as one of the focus SDGs

Priority actions on poverty eradication include:

- improving access to sustainable livelihoods, entrepreneurial opportunities and productive resources;
- providing universal access to basic social services;
- progressively developing social protection systems to support those who cannot support themselves;
- empowering people living in poverty and their organizations;
- addressing the disproportionate impact of poverty on women;
- working with interested donors and recipients to allocate increased shares of ODA to poverty eradication; and
- intensifying international cooperation for poverty eradication.

As of 2015, about 736 million people still lived on less than US$1.90 a day; many lack food, clean drinking water and sanitation. Rapid growth in countries such as China and India has lifted millions out of poverty, but progress has been uneven. Women are more likely to be poor than men because they have less paid work, education, and own less property.

Since its creation 70 years ago, the UN has achieved important results in advancing gender equality, from the establishment of the Commission on the Status of Women - the main global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women - through the adoption of various landmark agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Gender inequalities are still deep-rooted in every society. Women suffer

from lack of access to decent work and face occupational segregation and gender wage gaps. In many situations, they are denied access to basic education and health care and are victims of violence and discrimination. They are under-represented in political and economic decision-making processes.

With the aim of better addressing these challenges and to identify a single recognized driver to lead and coordinate UN activities on gender equality issues, UN Women was established in 2010. UN Women works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, empowerment of women, and achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

The vital role of women and the need for their full and equal participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development was reaffirmed in the The United Nations wants as well as in the Open Working Group Proposal for Sustainable Development Goals. The proposed Sustainable Development Goal 5 addresses this and reads "Achieve gender equality and empower all women

b. Climate Change and Environmental Degradation

The science is clear: our climate is heating rapidly. The average global temperatures have increased by 1.2 degrees Celsius since 1880, particularly in the late 20th century. The concentration of atmospheric CO2, the GHG that contributes more than 2/3 to

global warming, is at its highest level ever. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) steadily points out that human activities have warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land, producing widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere. Due to these changes in climate, the number of weather, climate and water-related disasters has increased by a factor of five over the past 50 years, causing over 2 million deaths and US$3.64 trillion in losses.

According to IPCC, warming beyond 1.5 degrees could have irreversible and irreparable consequences. However, effective and equitable adaptation and mitigation actions can significantly reduce vulnerability and contribute to climate resilience. To limit global warming to well below 2, preferably 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels, countries came together to hold themselves accountable under the Paris Agreement. The agreement is a milestone of international cooperation to tackle climate change – first legally binding document in the history of climate action.

To move fast in the race against the climate crisis, targeted actions that bring tangible benefits and limit the trade-offs on multiple fronts, are key for common success against climate change. The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the world's plan of action to achieve sustainability and resilience for people and planet, are closely linked with climate. Maximizing the interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement by leveraging Climate and SDG Synergies, has the potential of achieving both agendas and guaranteeing a livable future for next generations by leaving no one behind. In fact, progress made towards limiting global temperature increase would significantly ease the path to many other SDGs, such as those related to poverty, hunger, access to water, and terrestrial and marine

ecosystems. Many of the SDGs and their targets can also be achieved in ways that would enable adaptive responses to climate change, for example those related to resilience in SDGs 9 and 11, respectively relating to infrastructure and urban settlements.

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

Human life depends on the earth as much as the ocean for our sustenance and livelihoods. Plant life provides 80 percent of the human diet, and we rely on agriculture as an important economic resources. Forests cover 30 percent of the Earth's surface, provide vital habitats for millions of species, and important sources

for clean air and water, as well as being crucial for combating climate change. Every year, 13 million hectares of forests are lost, while the persistent degradation of drylands has led to the desertification of 3.6 billion hectares, disproportionately affecting poor communities.

While 15 percent of land is protected, biodiversity is still at risk. Nearly 7,000 species of animals and plants have been illegally traded. Wildlife trafficking not only erodes biodiversity, but creates insecurity, fuels conflict, and feeds corruption. Urgent action must be taken to reduce the loss of natural habitats and biodiversity which are part of our common heritage and support global food and water security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and peace and security.

c. Access to Education and Healthcare

Sustainable Development Goal 3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to *"ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"*. TThe associated targets aim to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio; end preventable deaths of newborns and children; end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases; reduce mortality from non-communicable diseases; strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse; halve the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents; ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services; achieve universal health coverage; and reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and pollution.

Education for all has always been an integral part of the sustainable development agenda. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 adopted the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) which in its Section X, reaffirmed both the Millennium Development Goal 2 in achieving universal primary education by 2015 and the goal of the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and at all levels of education by 2015. The JPOI addressed the need to integrate sustainable development into formal education at all levels, as well as through informal and non-formal education opportunities. There is growing international recognition of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as an integral element of quality education and a key enabler for sustainable development. Both the Muscat Agreement adopted at the Global Education For All Meeting (GEM) in 2014 and the proposal for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) developed by the Open Working Group of the UN General Assembly on SDGs (OWG) include ESD in the proposed targets for the post- 2015 agenda. The proposed Sustainable Development Goal 4 reads "*Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all*" and includes a set of associated targets.

For this purpose since 2000, there has been enormous progress in achieving the target of universal primary education. The total enrollment rate in developing regions reached 91 percent in 2015, and the worldwide number of children out of school has dropped by almost half. There has also been a dramatic increase in literacy rates, and many more girls are in school than ever before. These are all remarkable successes. Progress has also been tough in some developing regions due to high levels of poverty, armed conflicts and other emergencies. In Western Asia and North Africa,

ongoing armed conflict has seen an increase in the number of children out of school. This is a worrying trend. While Sub-Saharan Africa made the greatest progress in primary school enrollment among all developing regions – from 52 percent in 1990, up to 78 percent in 2012 – large disparities still remain. Children from the poorest households are up to four times more likely to be out of school than those of the richest households. Disparities between rural and urban areas also remain high.

Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. This goal ensures that all girls and boys complete free primary and secondary schooling by 2030. It also aims to provide equal access to affordable vocational training, to eliminate gender and wealth disparities, and achieve universal access to a quality higher education.

d. Gender Inequality and Social Exclusion

Ending all discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, it's crucial for a sustainable future; it's proven that empowering women and girls helps economic growth and development.

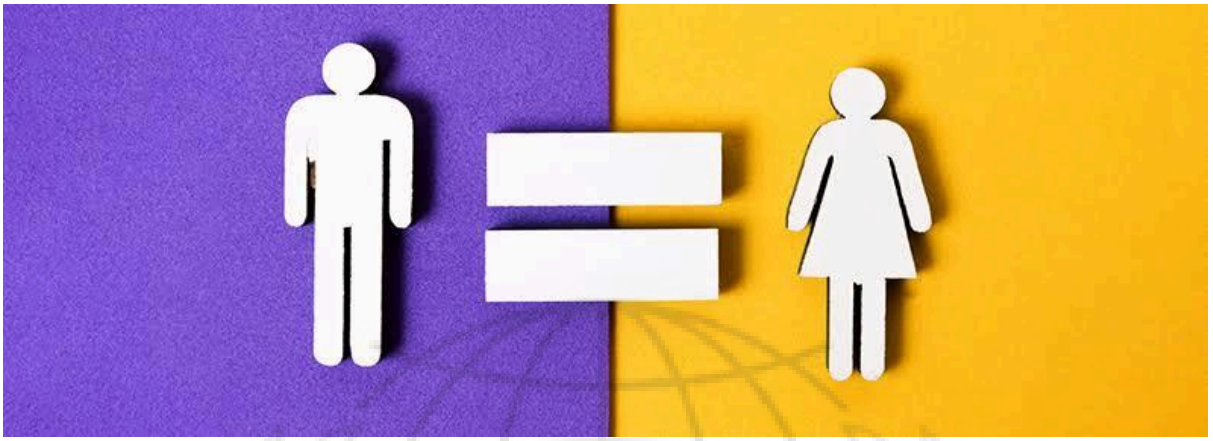
Since its creation 70 years ago, the UN has achieved important results in advancing gender equality, from the establishment of the Commission on the Status of Women - the main global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women - through the adoption of various landmark agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform

for Action. On the occasion of the General Debate of the 66th Session of the General Assembly held in September 2011, United Nations Secretary-General BAN KI-MOON highlighted in his Report “We the Peoples”, the crucial role of gender equality as driver of development progress, recognizing that the potential of women had not been fully realized, owing to, inter alia, persistent social, economic and political inequalities.

Gender inequalities are still deep-rooted in every society. Women suffer from lack of access to decent work and face occupational segregation and gender wage gaps. In many situations, they are denied access to basic education and health care and are victims of violence and discrimination. They are under-represented in political and economic decision-making processes.

With the aim of better addressing these challenges and to identify a single recognized driver to lead and coordinate UN activities on gender equality issues, UN Women was established in 2010.

UN Women works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, empowerment of women, and achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.



C. Possible Solutions and Policy Recommendations

Sustainable Economic Growth and Job Creation: Foster inclusive economic policies that support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), encourage entrepreneurship, and promote decent work opportunities, ensuring that vulnerable populations are integrated into the formal labor market.

Climate Action and Green Technology : Accelerate the global transition toward renewable energy sources, incentivize low-carbon industrial practices, and invest heavily in climate-resilient infrastructure to combat environmental degradation.

Financing Sustainable Development : Mobilize domestic revenue streams while expanding international development assistance. Leverage innovative financial

instruments—such as green bonds, blended finance, and impact investments—to close existing funding gaps.

Technology Transfer and Capacity-Building :Bridge the technological divide by facilitating the sharing of critical digital infrastructure, green innovations, and technical expertise from developed nations to developing countries, empowering local institutions to manage their own sustainable projects.

Strengthening International Cooperation: Reinforce multilateral frameworks and cross-border partnerships to address systemic challenges such as poverty, economic inequality, and regional instability through coordinated policy responses.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) : Combine governmental regulatory oversight and public funding with private-sector innovation, capital, and operational efficiency to successfully scale up large sustainable infrastructure initiatives.

Monitoring and Accountability Mechanisms : Establish transparent, standardized metrics and regular evaluations overseen by bodies like ECOSOC and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to track implementation progress and ensure nations remain accountable to their commitments.

D. Questions a Resolution should address

1. How Can the UN Reduce the Sustainable Development Gap Between Countries?

2. How Can ECOSOC Improve the Implementation of Existing Commitments?

3. How can countries achieve sustainable development?

4. How can developing countries finance sustainable development?

5. How can the UN reduce inequalities between developed and developing countries?

6. How can countries improve access to education and healthcare?

7. How can international cooperation accelerate sustainable development?

8. How can countries promote economic growth while protecting the environment?

9. How can the UN support countries struggling to achieve the SDGs?

10. How can developed countries support developing nations in achieving the SDGs?

11. How can countries strengthen their commitment to the 2030 Agenda?

12. How can countries ensure that no one is left behind?

13. How can the UN strengthen global accountability for achieving the SDGs?

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