

Committee: Economic and Social Council

Issue: Generation 2030: True leadership to ensure the implementation of the Sustainable Goals

Student Officer: Apostolou Vasiliki

Position: Deputy President

INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Vasiliki Apostolou and I will serve as the Deputy President of the Economic and Social Council in this year's ATSMUN conference. I will be the expert chair of the first topic of this committee: True leadership to ensure the implementation of the Sustainable Goals. This topic combines the true leadership of generation 2030 with the implementation of the Sustainable Goals, set by the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in 2015. In general, these goals aim to ameliorate the world in a humanitarian perspective. The performance of any country, in seeking to achieve the SDGs, to a large extent depends on its leadership. True leadership practically refers to the judicious public policy formulation and implementation. For countries to achieve those goals, concerted efforts by many sectors are needed. The sectors that are mentioned require the government, the business sector, society, and individual citizens. So, effective leadership plays a major role for organizations in all sectors to integrate the SDGs into plans and activities in service of realizing the 2030 aspirations. By this study guide I hope that all delegates will get a clear understanding of the topic and precious help for their study. For any further explanation and clarification you can reach me at vasiliki.apost.2003@gmail.com . Don't hesitate to contact me!

Important note from the chairs' team

In order for the chairs to fully understand the dynamics of the committee, discovering any misunderstanding prior to the debate and for the better preparation of the delegates you are asked to proceed as indicated below;

1) Conduct your chairs via email and informing them about your mun experience so that they can know what exactly to expect from you.

2) Prepare and send your chairs by 11:59 of the 6th of November one position papers for each of the topics you are going to discuss during the conference. You can conduct the expert chair, of each topic for further information concerning your country's policy if needed, and for general guidance when it comes to your position papers (word limit structure etc). You are going to receive general comments during the lobbying for your position papers as well as personal feedback and grades for your papers. The points you will receive will add up to your general score which is one of the factors that determine the best delegate award. If you for any reason fail to send your papers before the final deadline you will not be eligible for any award.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Generation 2030

Generation2030 is a UNICEF action that aims to help young people reach their potential and be heard. This portal provides loads of resources to help young people speak and act on the issues they're passionate about and make a change.¹

Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals, also referred as SDGs, are the plan to achieve a better and more sustainable future for everyone. They direct most of the global challenges we meet, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. Every goal is related to each other so, in order to leave no one behind, it is important that each Goal is achieved and targeted by 2030.



Picture: The SDGs announced by the UN

True leadership

Generation 2030's true leadership refers on how the leaders of tomorrow will manage to implement the SDGs. True leadership is quite a complicated term but for the purposes of this issue, we could define the "true leader" as John Quincy Adams said: *"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."*²It

¹ <https://www.internetofgoodthings.org/section/gen2030-future-yours/gen2030-future-yours/what-generation-2030/>

² <https://medium.com/the-mission/6-traits-that-make-you-a-true-leader-no-matter-whats-your-title-15952b9c4b73>.

is of utmost importance that the government uses specific strategy in order to ensure the implementation of the SDGs by all the sectors that are mentioned in the introduction.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The History of Sustainable Development in the United Nations

The idea of Sustainable Development in the United Nations was first introduced in 1972 in the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm. After that conference other such meetings followed, leading to the creation of global institutions within the UN system. In 1980, the International Union for the Conservation of Natural Resources (IUCN) published the World Conservation Strategy (WCS) which provided a precursor to the concept of sustainable development. Later, In 1983, the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) was created and, by 1984, it was constituted as an independent body by the United Nations General Assembly. The new commission was asked to form 'A global agenda for change', so some years later, in 1987, in its report *Our Common Future*, the WCED ameliorated and improved the understanding of the relationship between economics and the environment previously introduced by the WCS. In June 1992, the first UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro and adopted an agenda for environment and development in the 21st Century. Agenda 21: *"A Programme of Action for Sustainable Development contains the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which recognizes each nation's right to pursue social and economic progress and assigned to States the responsibility of adopting a model of sustainable development."*³ One year later, Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was assigned to follow-up on the implementation of Agenda 21. On 24th December 2009 the UN General Assembly agreed to hold the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in 2012 - also referred to as 'Rio+20' or 'Rio 20'. The Conference has set three goals. These goals namely are:

1. securing renewed political commitment to sustainable development
2. assessing the progress and implementation gaps in meeting already agreed commitments

³ <https://web.archive.org/web/20120618171731/http://www.uncsd2012.org/history.html>

3. addressing new and emerging challenges

The Member States have also agreed on green economy and poverty eradication as two themes for the Conference.

The Earth Summit

Twenty years after the first global environment conference, the UN wanted to help Governments think once more about economic development and find ways to stop the destruction of irreplaceable natural resources and pollution of the planet. The Earth Summit influenced all subsequent UN conferences, to find and examine the relationship between human rights, population, social development, women and human settlements — and the need for environmentally sustainable development.

The UN Sustainable Development Summit announced the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, the 15-year cycle of Millennium Development Goals came to an end and the United Nations officially decided that they will set new goals, even more ambitious, to banish a whole host of social ills and inequalities by 2030. “The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals are our shared vision of humanity and a social contract between the world’s leaders and the people,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted unanimously by 193 Heads of State and other top leaders at a summit at UN Headquarters in New York in September.

The United Nations announced that it was seeking applications for its second class of Young Leaders

At the 7th of October, 2017, the UN announced for exceptional young people for its second class of Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, the Young Leaders Initiative will recognize 17 young leaders every year who will be led by the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth Jayathma Wickramanayake. The Young leaders program focuses on young people between the ages of 18-30 from all over the world, who have contributed in making a change across many different issues. They are people who are leading positive change towards a sustainable future. The 17 Young Leaders selected will

work with the UN Youth Envoy to address youth in the SDGs, advocate for their accomplishment and add to a brain trust that supports the UN advocacy attempts to mobilize young people.

The Ministers for Nordic Co-operation adopted the Generation 2030 program

In September 2017 the Nordic countries pledged to implement the agenda about the SDGs. In order to get people to know about the agenda and inform them about its importance, as part of Nordic co- operation, under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers, the countries adopted a program for the implementation of Agenda 2030 under the title "Generation 2030".

Africa on goals for generation 2030

According to studies about the fertility rates and the number of women of reproductive age, in Africa, over the next 35 years almost 2 billion babies will born in Africa. Consequently, the population of the continent will increase dramatically and this will cause vital problems. So, national action plans must adapt to these demographic changes. UNICEF announced in August 2014 that Generation 2030/ Africa calls specifically for "*expanded access to reproductive health services, girls' education and empowerment, and stronger civil registration and vital statistics systems*"⁴.

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018 reviews progress in the third year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, based on the latest available data. This overview shows what has been done already and how the world has improved, but also what more needs to be done and what the remaining gaps are. More specifically about each goal:

- **Goal 1** "*End poverty in all forms everywhere*": Extreme poverty has eased considerably since 1990

⁴ https://www.unicef.org/publications/index_74751.html

Only 45 per cent of the world's population are covered by at least one social protection cash benefit



Economic losses attributed to disasters were over \$300 billion in 2017

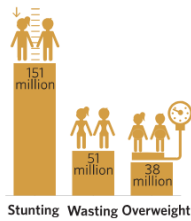


- **Goal 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”** : World hunger appears to be increasing again.

World hunger is on the rise again:
815 million people were undernourished in 2016, up from 777 million in 2015

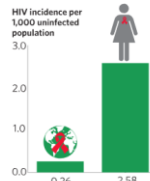


Stunting, wasting and overweight still affected millions of children under age 5 in 2017



- **Goal 3 “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”** : People nowadays are living healthier lives than in the past decades.

HIV incidence rate for women of reproductive age in sub-Saharan Africa is 10 times higher than the global average



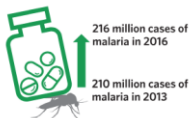
Births attended by skilled health personnel increased globally



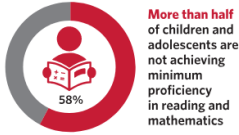
Under-five deaths fell between 2000 and 2016



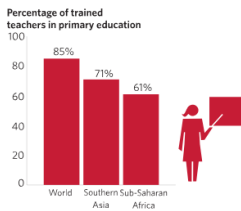
The world is not on track to end malaria by 2030



- **Goal 4** “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote” : Globally, the percent of children in early childhood who participate in primary education was 70 per cent in 2016, up from 63 per cent in 2010.

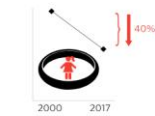


More trained teachers are needed for quality education



- **Goal 5** “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” : Globally, the percentage of women in single or lower houses of national parliament has increased from 19 per cent in 2010 to around 23 per cent in 2018.

Child marriage in Southern Asia decreased by over 40 per cent between 2000 and 2017



- **Goal 6** “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” : Data from 79 countries show 59 per cent of all wastewater are safely treated.

3 in 10 people lack access to safely managed drinking water services

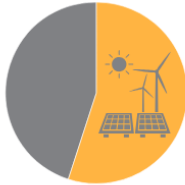


6 in 10 people lack access to safely managed sanitation facilities



- **Goal 7** “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”: 55 per cent of renewable energy was derived from modern forms in 2015.

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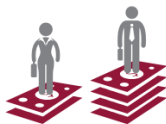


4 in 10 people still lack access to clean cooking fuels and technologies

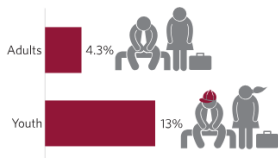


- **Goal 8** “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all” : Globally, labor productivity has increased and the unemployment rate has decreased. However, more are need to be done in order to increase employment opportunities.

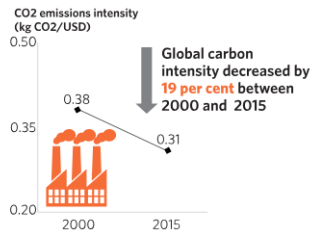
Earning inequalities are still pervasive: men earned 12.5 per cent more than women in 40 of 45 countries with data



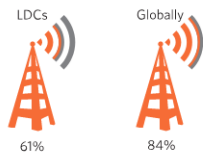
Youth were three times more likely to be unemployed than adults in 2017



- **Goal 9** “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”: Globally, the carbon intensity decreased by 19 per cent from 2000 to 2015



Proportion of population covered by a 3G mobile broadband network was lower in the LDCs in 2016



- **Goal 10** “Reduce inequality within and among countries”: Efforts have been made to reduce inequalities, but there hasn’t been a major improvement, so more measures should be taken.

Products exported by SIDS facing zero tariffs increased by 20 per cent between 2010 and 2016



Remittances to low- and middle-income countries represented over 75 per cent of total global remittances in 2017



- **Goal 11** “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”: Even though between the years 2000 and 2014 the proportion of the global urban population living in slums was decreased, the actual number of people living in slums was increased.

In 2016, **4.2 million people** died from ambient air pollution



Damage to housing due to natural disasters showed a **statistically significant rise** between 1990 and 2013



- **Goal 12** “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”: Decoupling economic growth from resource use is one of the most crucial challenges of the humanity nowadays, so policies that create a conducive environment for such change should be followed.



Globally by 2018, **108 countries** had national policies on sustainable consumption and production



93 per cent of the world's 250 largest companies are now reporting on sustainability

- **Goal 13** “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”: The year 2017 was one of the three warmest on record and was 1.1 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial period. This calls for urgent and accelerated action by countries as they implement their commitments to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

2017 was the most costly North Atlantic hurricane season on record

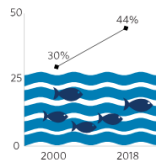


The majority of countries have ratified the Paris Agreement and provided nationally determined contributions (NDCs)

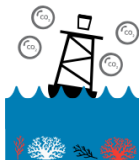


- **Goal 14** “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”: Mean coverage of marine KBAs increased between 2000 and 2018.

Mean coverage of marine KBAs increased between 2000 and 2018



Open ocean sites show current levels of acidity have increased by 26 per cent since start of Industrial Revolution

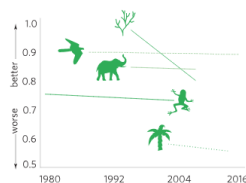


- **Goal 15** “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”: Land degradation threatens the security and development of all countries.

Land degradation threatens the security and development of all countries

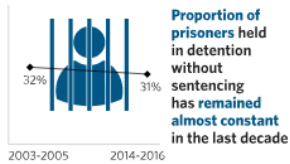


The Red List Index shows alarming trend in biodiversity decline for mammals, birds, amphibians, corals and cycads

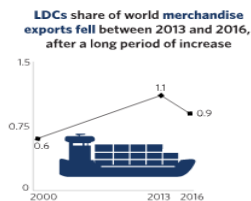
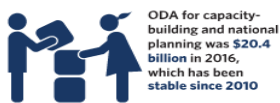


- **Goal 16** “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”: there are still many regions in the world, which continue to suffer untold horrors as a result of armed conflict or other forms of violence that occur within societies and at the domestic level.

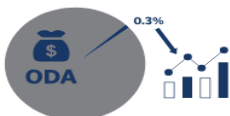
More than 570 different trafficking in persons flows were detected between 2012 and 2014



- **Goal 17** “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development”: Even though there were advances in certain areas, more needs to be done to accelerate progress. All stakeholders will have to refocus and intensify their efforts on areas where progress has been slow.



In 2015, developing countries received only 0.3 per cent of total ODA to support all areas of statistics



MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF, as the UN's international children's emergency fund, plays a major role in the implementation of the SDGs. In order to achieve these goals by the year 2030, children must be put at the center of the agenda. Children of today, will be the active adults of tomorrow and they will be the ones to make the SDGs a reality. UNICEF is already taking action against the global problems that the SDGs are addressing, but its action should be enhanced

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO, has announced that it will be actively involved in the implementation of the SDGs, through its work on education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture and communication and information. UNESCO, helped to frame the Education 2030 agenda which is included in SDG 4. The Incheon Declaration entrusted UNESCO to lead and coordinate Education 2030.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

June 1992	In the Earth Summit, more than 178 countries adopted Agenda 21, a plan of action to build a global partnership for sustainable humanitarian development
September 2000	The Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit at UN Headquarters in New York (elaboration of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs))
2013	The General Assembly set up an Open Working Group to develop a proposal on the SDGs
August 2014	UNICEF article: Generation 2030 / AFRICA, was published
May 2015	The Incheon Declaration, adopted at the World Education Forum in Korea

25 September 2015	UN Sustainable Development Summit announced the 17 Sustainable Development Goals
December 2015	Paris Agreement on Climate Change
September 2016	The first class of Young Leaders was announced
5 September 2017	The Ministers for Nordic Co-operation adopted the Generation 2030 programme
7 October 2017	UN announces that it is seeking applications for its second class of Young Leaders for the SDGs
July 2018	The Sustainable Development Goal Report 2018

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

The Agenda 21 was a plan of action in order to build a global partnership for sustainable humanitarian development. The United Nations Conference on Environment & Development in Rio de Janeiro, in June 1992, announced it. In the first chapter (preamble), in paragraph 1.3. it is said that *"Agenda 21 addresses the pressing problems of today and also aims at preparing the world for the challenges of the next century. It reflects a global consensus and political commitment at the highest level on development and environment cooperation. Its successful implementation is first and foremost the responsibility of Governments."*

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Millennium Development Goals were the goals that the UN set before the SDGs. They were announced in September 2000, in the Millennium Summit, New York. These goals, similar to the SDGs, were aiming to solve humanitarian and environmental problems from all over the world. Namely these goals are

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; and
8. to develop a global partnership for development.

These goals were agreed to be succeeded until 2015 and when the 15-years circle came to an end the United Nations agreed on setting new goals, even more ambitious (1st of January 2016).

PARIS AGREEMENT

The Paris Agreement was the first one to bring all nations into a common cause in order to deal with climate change and take measures in order to prevent or at least eliminate it, but also adapt to its effects. Climate change is one of the biggest environmental problems in the modern world and one of the SDGs. So, in the Paris Agreement, it was decided that a new course in the global climate effort is needed. This agreement's central aim was to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. In addition, the agreement wants to improve the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change.

USEFUL LINKS

When you start studying on the topic and forming your resolution there are some websites that you can get valid and useful information about the issue and also about the position of the country that you represent. I propose you to get your information from the official UN, UNESCO and UNICEF websites or BBC, CNN etc. I kindly urge you not to use information from websites that are not authentic and not properly updated. Some links you can use are:

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

https://www.isglobal.org/en_GB/-/sdgs-and-global-health

<https://en.unesco.org/sdgs>

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

In this topic there are plenty of solutions that you can propose in your resolution. Firstly, while writing your resolution, you should focus on how people will get informed about the SDGs and their importance. Especially important is that the youth gets proper education on the issue. Additionally, there needs to be a promotion and explanation on efficient leadership and, once again, it is essential to focus on youth and educate young people on how to become true leaders. Generally, in your resolution you should pay particular attention to the young people and their education. Then, you should find ways to encourage people to act against global problems. As far as the international community is concerned, the suggestion is that the international community develops an integrated, comprehensive, and effective framework for both developing and implementing the SDGs. Also, people should get informed on the international conventions and agreements that have already been adopted and agreed. These cover many aspects of sustainable development, but most people do not know what is really contained within them and how to help implement them. Ending, I wish you all have a careful and detailed, but pleasant study and that you form a resolution full of effective solutions on the issue. I am looking forward to meeting you all at the conference.

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If you have any inquires about the topic, don't hesitate to contact me. My personal email is: vasiliki.apost.2003@gmail.com