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Economic and Social Council Plenary Background Guide 2023

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2023 National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, DC (NMUN•DC)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC). This year's staff is: Director Anthony Bassegy and Assistant Director Evan Sun. Anthony studied Biological Sciences at Arkansas State University, and currently works for the American Red Cross - Service to the Armed Forces. This is his fourth year on staff. Evan holds a Master of Science in electrical engineering from Johns Hopkins University and currently works at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab. He is looking forward to working on staff for the first time as Assistant Director of ECOSOC.

The topics under discussion for ECOSOC are:

1. Reviewing the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2. Fostering Growth for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)

As one of the six principal bodies of the United Nations, ECOSOC facilitates international cooperation on economic, social, cultural, and health related issues by working with commissions, convening international conferences, issuing studies and reports, and conducting follow-ups on major UN conferences and summits. ECOSOC is the primary forum for policy analysis, review, and guidance for Member States and oversees several subsidiary bodies including fifteen specialized agencies, eight function commissions, and five regional commissions. Recently, ECOSOC's role has also expanded to promoting innovation and balanced integration in the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social, and environmental. Additionally, ECOSOC guides and coordinates other subsidiary bodies to conduct activities that address the topics under discussion.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to conduct additional research, explore your Member State's policies in-depth, and examine the policies of other Member States to improve your ability to negotiate and reach consensus. In preparation for the conference, each delegation will use their research to draft and submit a [position paper](#). Guidelines are available in the [NMUN Position Paper Guide](#).

The [NMUN website](#) has many additional resources, including two that are essential both in preparation for the conference and as a resource during the conference. They are:

1. The [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#), which explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not discuss the topics or agenda with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. The [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#), which includes the long and short form of the rules as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the conference itself, please contact the Under-Secretary-General Alliyah Edwards at usgalliyah.dc@nmun.org or Secretary-General Ana Williamson at secgen.dc@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,
Anthony Bassegy, Director
Evan Sun, Assistant Director



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Committee Overview

Introduction

As per the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations (UN).¹ It serves as the primary body for policy dialogue on economic, social, cultural, educational, and health-related topics, advises and coordinates the activities of its subsidiary bodies on these topics, and leads discussions on the implementation of the international development framework.² As such, ECOSOC is at the center of UN efforts to achieve the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) and key to the follow-up of several UN conferences and summits.³

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

The main function of ECOSOC is to coordinate the activities of its subsidiary bodies and other UN specialized agencies working on sustainable development.⁴ Article 62 (1) of the *Charter of the United Nations* also allows ECOSOC to "make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters," including human rights and freedoms, to present to the General Assembly and to UN specialized agencies.⁵ ECOSOC may further call for or convene international conferences and hold special meetings on global development emergencies and humanitarian crises.⁶ A prominent example of this is the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which is held annually under the auspices of ECOSOC (apart from every fourth year, when it is held under the auspices of the General Assembly).⁷

Broadly speaking, the following non-exhaustive list summarizes ECOSOC's mandate:

- **ECOSOC will generally:** provide policy recommendations on matters related to sustainable development; coordinate efforts by its subsidiary bodies and UN specialized agencies; follow-up and review progress towards these activities; create commissions and convene international conferences.⁸
- **ECOSOC will not generally:** design and implement projects or programming on sustainable development; direct UN specialized agencies to develop or implement specific projects or programs; decide on budgetary matters of UN entities.⁹

Governance, Structure, and Membership

ECOSOC is comprised of 54 Member States, of which 18 are elected each year by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms.¹⁰ ECOSOC proceedings are overseen by a President and four Vice-Presidents, which together comprise the Bureau.¹¹ The Bureau sets ECOSOC's agenda, devises action plans, and collaborates with the Secretariat on administrative duties.¹²

¹ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *About us*. 2022; *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. art. 7.

² *Ibid.*, art. 62.

³ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *About us*. 2022; United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. para. 47.

⁴ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *About us*. 2022.

⁵ *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. art. 62.

⁶ *Ibid.*, art. 62; United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Special Meetings on Emerging Issues and Emergency Situations*. 2022.

⁷ United Nations, High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. *Structure*. 2022.

⁸ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Brochure*. 2021. p. 3.

⁹ United Nations Development Programme. *About us*. 2022; United Nations Development Programme. *Executive Board*. 2022; United Nations, General Assembly. *Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee)*. 2022.

¹⁰ United Nations, General Assembly. *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.19)*. 2021. p. 39.

¹¹ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/5715/Rev.2)*. 1992.

¹² *Ibid.*

ECOSOC oversees the work of five regional commissions, eight functional commissions, 12 specialized agencies, six funds and programs, and several other related UN bodies.¹³ The functional commissions focus on specific issues and the regional commissions are geographically focused.¹⁴ Additional subsidiary bodies include standing, ad hoc, expert, and other related bodies.¹⁵ Each subsidiary body adopts specific methods of work to align with its mandate, and methods are updated regularly.¹⁶ ECOSOC also allows for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to consult on the work of the UN.¹⁷ More than 6,000 NGOs have been granted ECOSOC consultative status, enabling them to attend and participate in various UN meetings, conferences, and special sessions and participate in international discussions.¹⁸

The ECOSOC meeting cycle lasts one year and is divided into four groups.¹⁹ The first group consists of the Partnership Forum which aims to bring together a wide array of stakeholders from civil society and the private sector to academia and local governments to discuss and exchange ideas to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and the Coordination Segment, which coordinates the work of ECOCOC's subsidiary bodies and UN specialized agencies through general policy recommendations.²⁰ The second group of meetings includes various fora established by ECOSOC, including the Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up and the Youth Forum among others, which take place between April and May of each year.²¹ The Development Cooperation Forum, which is also part of the second group, takes place every two years.²² The third group comprises of the Operational Activities for the Development Segment, the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, and the Meeting on the Transition from Relief to Development.²³ The fourth group focuses on the review of the implementation and progress towards the 2030 Agenda, comprising of the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC, both of which take place in July at the end of a meeting cycle.²⁴ The ECOSOC meeting cycle is further complemented by the Management Segment in June, which focuses on procedural questions and considers the reports and recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and UN specialized agencies.²⁵

¹³ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Coordination Segment*. 2022.

¹⁴ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies*. 2022.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/75/290 A)*. 2021. p. 9.

¹⁷ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Introduction to ECOSOC Consultative Status*. 2022.

¹⁸ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Brochure*. 2021. p. 23.

¹⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/75/290 A)*. 2021. pp. 4-5.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid., p. 5.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid., p. 6.

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United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Brochure*. 2021. Retrieved 29 April 2023 from: https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2022doc/ecosoc-brochure-12_2021.pdf

This brochure provides a snapshot overview of ECOSOC, its mandate, and modalities as well as actions in 2022. It compiles the most relevant and recent information on ECOSOC into one publication and presents that information in a succinct and visually appealing manner. Delegates might find this brochure useful as it provides a comprehensive, yet succinct introduction to how ECOSOC functions.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Coordination Segment*. 2022. Retrieved 29 April 2023 from: <https://www.un.org/en/content/ecosoc-coordination>

This website contains information on the ECOSOC Coordination Segment. The General Assembly established the ECOSOC Coordination Segment per its resolution 75/290 A on the "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council" in 2021 to reinforce the coordinating role of ECOSOC within the UN system. The Coordination Segment website provides background information, video recordings, and a program overview. Thus, delegates will find this website useful to help them understand how ECOSOC takes up its coordination role in practice.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies*. 2022. Retrieved 29 April 2023 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/ecosoc-subsidiary-bodies>

This website presents a list of all ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, including its regional commissions, functional commissions, and expert bodies, standing committees and ad hoc bodies. It also presents a timeline of sessions of ECOSOC's subsidiary bodies and includes links to the respective sessions and bodies. For delegates, this website is the ideal starting point to explore the wider ECOSOC system and research the various subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC. Additionally, delegates will be able to use this website to inform themselves about the ongoing review process of the subsidiary bodies.

United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/75/290 A)*. 2021. Retrieved 29 April 2023 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/290%20A>

This General Assembly resolution is the latest of a series of resolutions aimed at strengthening the role of ECOSOC within the UN system. It introduced reforms to the governance structure of ECOSOC that divided the ECOSOC meeting cycle into four groups in addition to the Management Segment. It further replaced the Integration Segment with the Coordination Segment. While the reform process of ECOSOC is constantly evolving, this resolution will help delegates understand the rationale behind the current governance structure of ECOSOC.

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United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015. Retrieved 29 April 2023 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/72/305)*. 2018. Retrieved 29 April 2023 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/72/305>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/75/290 A)*. 2021. Retrieved 29 April 2023 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/290%20A>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.19)*. 2021. Retrieved 29 April 2023 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/520/Rev.19>

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United Nations, High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. *Structure*. 2022. Retrieved 29 April 2023 from: <https://hlpf.un.org/structure>

1. Reviewing the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Introduction

In 2015, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) as a landmark plan for achieving progress in critical areas of importance for humanity and the planet by the year 2030.²⁶ Sustainable development meets present needs without limiting the capacity to also meet future needs.²⁷ The 2030 Agenda envisions a society that is equitable and without poverty, provides adequate health and education for all, and preserves the Earth's natural resources for future generations.²⁸ Through the 2030 Agenda, Member States have unanimously committed to work towards economic, social, and environmental sustainability that focuses on the dignity and equality of all people.²⁹ It includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 associated target indicators.³⁰ While the 2030 Agenda is non-binding, Member States have committed to instituting national frameworks that align with the 17 SDGs.³¹ Member States of all socioeconomic backgrounds are united in a responsibility to engage in the 2030 Agenda, with each Member State identifying the goals most pertinent to its own socioeconomic situation.³²

In the *Sustainable Development Goals Report* of 2022, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, noted that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is in jeopardy due to the numerous, overlapping global crises that the world has faced over the past years including the COVID-19 pandemic, escalating natural disasters worldwide, and the largest number of violent conflicts since 1946.³³ These destructive crises have directly impacted progress towards the SDGs and the vision of a sustainable future by 2030.³⁴ One significant priority is addressing the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, a crisis that has broadly weakened the stability of society.³⁵ Furthermore, it is a challenge to accurately estimate the total, global effects of the COVID-19 pandemic due to a lack of comprehensive data metrics.³⁶ The lack of comprehensive data particularly impacts society's most vulnerable groups - those often not captured in general population statistics, and collection efforts.³⁷ Despite the setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Member States have an opportunity to effectively realign post-recovery efforts with the *2030 Agenda* to quickly rebuild pandemic-related losses, and accelerate its implementation.³⁸

International and Regional Framework

The 2030 Agenda was formulated as a successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that formally ended in 2015 and represents the latest effort to coordinate a unified, global partnership towards sustainable development.³⁹ It establishes an interrelated framework for sustainable development that places joint responsibility on all Member States.⁴⁰ Inclusivity is a key tenet of the 2030 Agenda, and the

²⁶ United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

²⁷ United Nations, World Commission on Environment and Development. *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*. 1987.

²⁸ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The 17 Goals*. n.d.

²⁹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Social Development for Sustainable Development*. n.d.

³⁰ United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *Foundational Primer on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. 2019.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² *Ibid.*

³³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. 2022. p. 2.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-7.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The 17 Goals*. n.d.

⁴⁰ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Sustainable Development*. n.d.

goals set forth are applicable to all Member States irrespective of socioeconomic status.⁴¹ Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda highlights the importance of leaving no one behind, reflecting a new sense of urgency in ensuring that the benefits of globalization are spread across all ranges of socioeconomic statuses.⁴² The promise to leave no one behind implies that society supports the most vulnerable populations and addresses the inequality and discrimination that these populations often face.⁴³ Vulnerable populations are oftentimes not captured in typical metrics, and indicators used to measure progress, underscoring the need for non-traditional methods of data collection to fulfill the promise to leave no one behind.⁴⁴

The 17 SDGs that accompany the 2030 Agenda emphasize progress across a wide span of areas integral to a sustainable society such as health, economy, education, environment, and infrastructure.⁴⁵ Each of the 17 SDGs is substantiated by 7-19 key targets that translate the overarching goal into a list of tangible targets that Member States can work towards.⁴⁶ Each target is supported by 1-4 key indicators that aid in measuring progress towards each target.⁴⁷ Tracking the underlying key progress indicators is critical to accurately measure momentum towards attaining the 2030 Agenda.⁴⁸ The UN releases a yearly *Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart* that provides a summary of progress towards the SDGs based on current data and estimates from UN departments such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the World Health Organization, as well as external organizations such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and World Bank Group.⁴⁹ In the *Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart of 2022*, there were a number of deteriorating indicators such as ensuring access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food as well as achieving full employment.⁵⁰ This deterioration reflects the deepened challenges in achieving the 2030 Agenda due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and conflict.⁵¹

Member States recognized the level of financing required to meet the 2030 Agenda, and as such worked together to create the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA) which was adopted in 2015 as a policy framework for aligning economic investment towards sustainable development.⁵² The AAAA addresses all sources of financing from public policies for strengthening private investment to public finance in the form of national, international, and multilateral development banks.⁵³ It contains several commitments for official developmental support from the international community through engagements such as a global forum to bridge the infrastructure gap and specific financial and technical support between developed and least developed countries.⁵⁴ Member States agree to mobilize domestic resources such as tax revenue and public procurement frameworks towards sustainable development as well as cooperate multilaterally in financing development in areas critical to the 2030 Agenda, such as energy, transportation, water, and

⁴¹ United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *Foundational Primer on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. 2019.

⁴² UN General Assembly. *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

⁴³ United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Leaving no one behind*. n.d.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *Foundational Primer on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. 2019.

⁴⁶ UN General Assembly. *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

⁴⁷ United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *Foundational Primer on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. 2019.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022*. 2022.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Financing sustainable development and developing sustainable finance*. 2015. p. 1.

⁵³ United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313)*. 2015. p. 6.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

sanitation.⁵⁵ To follow-up on the implementation of the commitments, the AAAA establishes an annual Financing for Development Forum that supports the review of the 2030 Agenda.⁵⁶

The *Paris Agreement* was also adopted in 2015 at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) with the long-term goal of limiting the global temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius while also making efforts to limit it even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.⁵⁷ This legally binding international treaty commits all 194 signatory Parties to reduce emissions and support global efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change.⁵⁸ The *Paris Agreement* outlines methods to reduce emissions and mitigate current output of greenhouse gasses such as expanding greenhouse gas sinks like forests as well as investing in renewable energy infrastructure.⁵⁹ Member States are expected to submit a Nationally Determined Contribution every five years, outlining each Member State's plan to reach key climate targets as well as systems necessary to monitor and verify progress.⁶⁰ The reduction of greenhouse emissions necessary to limit the global temperature increase is critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda as well.⁶¹ Though the *Paris Agreement* is most directly applicable to Goal 13 (Climate action), climate change will impact nearly every aspect of society, consequently affecting overall progress towards each of the 17 SDGs.⁶²

The *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* (Sendai Framework) was adopted in 2015 with the goal of mitigating disaster risk and reducing losses in lives, livelihoods, and health of societies due to disasters.⁶³ Seven global targets are outlined within the framework including reducing direct economic loss due to disasters, increasing the number of early warning systems, and developing disaster reduction strategies at national and local levels.⁶⁴ The Sendai Framework further addresses four priority areas that cover: assessing disaster risk, strengthening governance of disaster risk, investing in infrastructure for risk reduction, and ensuring effective responses in the event of disasters.⁶⁵ Member States are encouraged to improve disaster risk infrastructure in ways such as increasing real time access to reliable disaster risk data, preparing government infrastructure to address potential disasters, strengthening disaster-resilient infrastructure, and increasing public awareness of disaster management strategies.⁶⁶ In order to monitor progress, the Sendai Framework Monitor captures self-reported progress data from Member States towards 38 global indicators that support the seven global targets. The goals of the Sendai Framework are critical to ensuring that progress towards the 2030 Agenda is not hindered by disasters of increasing severity and frequency.⁶⁷

Role of the International System

Within the UN System, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is responsible for facilitating knowledge and progress linked to the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental sustainability.⁶⁸ ECOSOC oversees several UN agencies that support the 2030 Agenda through mechanisms such as bridging knowledge gaps between Member States, examining lessons learned from past initiatives such as the MDGs, and addressing implementation challenges that may

⁵⁵ United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313)*. 2015. p. 10.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 37.

⁵⁷ Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Twenty-first session. *Paris Agreement*. 2015. p. 3.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*. 2015.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 12.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 16-24.

⁶⁷ United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *Foundational Primer on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. 2019. p. 10.

⁶⁸ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Sustainable Development*. n.d.

arise.⁶⁹ ECOSOC also facilitates the exchange of information around sustainable development through the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the Development Cooperation Forum, the High-Level Policy Dialogues, the Integration Segment, and the Operational Activities for Development Segment.⁷⁰ ECOSOC shares joint responsibility for the HLPF, one of the principal international platforms for tracking progress at both the Member State and international level.⁷¹ The HLPF convenes every four years under the auspices of the UN General Assembly to conduct a comprehensive review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.⁷² The HLPF then convenes on an annual basis under the auspices of ECOSOC for eight days, providing an opportunity for stakeholders to gather and present updates, share knowledge, and highlight challenges regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.⁷³

During the HLPF, ECOSOC receives inputs from intergovernmental bodies and forums, major groups and stakeholders, partnerships and other voluntary commitments, and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) from Member States that detail progress and challenges in the implementation of the SDGs.⁷⁴ Member States have the opportunity to present VNRs that detail progress and challenges in the implementation of the SDGs.⁷⁵ VNRs also serve as the basis for the regular reviews of the 2030 Agenda conducted by ECOSOC and consist of Member States' self-conducted reviews that track implementation progress of the 2030 Agenda at national and sub-national levels.⁷⁶ Member States have highlighted how the VNR process is a mechanism to raise awareness about the SDGs, demonstrating the utility of the VNR not just as a performance metric but also to mobilize stakeholder engagement in the process of working towards the 2030 Agenda.⁷⁷ The Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report is a compilation of the VNRs presented at the HLPF, and is produced by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.⁷⁸ The 2022 VNR Synthesis Report focused on the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.⁷⁹

Another key instrument for strengthening the science-policy interface of the 2030 Agenda is the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) which is published every four years by an Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the UN Secretary-General in support of the HLPF.⁸⁰ The 2019 GSDR highlighted that the world is not on track to achieve most of the 169 targets and many trends were not even moving in a direction towards sustainable progress.⁸¹ Noting rising inequalities, climate change, biodiversity loss, and increasing amounts of waste from human activity, the 2019 GSDR offered six entry points that offer the most potential for achieving the scale of transformation necessary to put the world on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda: human well-being and capabilities, sustainable economies, food systems and nutrition patterns, energy decarbonization with universal access, urban and peri-urban development, and global environmental commons.⁸² The GSDR recommends that these six entry points be targeted through four levers including governmental action, economic policy and public and private

⁶⁹ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Sustainable Development*. n.d.

⁷⁰ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Promoting Sustainable Development*. n.d.

⁷¹ United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-seventh session. *Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (A/RES/67/290)*. 2013.

⁷² United Nations, High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. *High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*. n.d.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-seventh session. *Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (A/RES/67/290)*. 2013.

⁷⁶ United Nations, High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. *Inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*. n.d.

⁷⁷ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *2022 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report*. 2022. pp. 79-80.

⁷⁸ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Voluntary National Reviews: Synthesis of Main Messages*. 2022. p. 2.

⁷⁹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *2022 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report*. 2022. pp. 66-68.

⁸⁰ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)*. n.d.

⁸¹ United Nations, Independent Group of Scientists 2019. *The Future is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development (Global Sustainable Development Report 2019)*. 2019. pp. xx-xxiii.

⁸² Ibid.

financing, engaged citizenry and grassroots contributions, and investments in science and technology.⁸³ The 2023 GSDR will build upon the 2019 GSDR and provide evidence and recommendations for practical solutions that enable science to support the acceleration of the six entry points.⁸⁴

Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The COVID-19 pandemic has impeded progress towards nearly every aspect of the 2030 Agenda.⁸⁵ The pandemic has negatively impacted public health outcomes as well as socioeconomic outcomes globally, especially in least developing countries.⁸⁶ Although all SDGs have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, some SDGs that have been particularly impacted include SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).⁸⁷ The UN Secretary-General's report on overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic (E/CN.5/2023/3) brings attention to the exacerbated economic inequalities between developing and developed countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁸ Even as Member States rebuild pandemic-related economic losses, the per-capita output of developing countries is projected to be more than 2 per cent below pre-pandemic levels while that of developed economies is expected to fully recover by 2023.⁸⁹ As noted in the 2023 report, "Addressing the social impacts of multifaceted crises to accelerate recovery from the lingering effects of the pandemic through the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda" (E/CN.5/2023/4), the pandemic led to a rise in extreme poverty in 2020 for the first time since 1998.⁹⁰ The rise in extreme poverty due to the COVID-19 pandemic was more severe in least developed countries that relied on tourism and external capital flows to sustain the economy.⁹¹ At the beginning of the pandemic, schools were fully or partially closed for, on average, 41 weeks across the world, hindering learning development for students across primary, secondary, and tertiary grades.⁹² Member States with poor learning outcomes pre-pandemic also tended to have the longest school closures, exacerbating the existing inequalities in educational outcomes between Member States with large disparities in the education system.⁹³ Even as schools have reopened, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) estimates that 24 million students are at risk of not returning to school, with those that come from more disadvantaged backgrounds being at a higher risk of not returning.⁹⁴ In 2022, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in partnership with UNESCO and the World Bank published "Where Are We on Education Recovery?", a joint report highlighting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on educational outcomes.⁹⁵ The report emphasizes the need for adequate resources to effectively recover and rebuild education infrastructure in affected communities.⁹⁶

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ United Nations, Independent Group of Scientists, HLPF 2022. *Global Sustainable Development Report 2023 Update to Member States, HLPF 2022*. 2022.

⁸⁵ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. 2022. pp. 3-4.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.5/2023/3)*. 2023.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Addressing the social impacts of multifaceted crises to accelerate recovery from the lingering effects of the pandemic through the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.5/2023/4)*. 2023.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. 2022. pp. 34-35.

⁹³ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization et al. *What's Next? Lessons on Education Recovery: Findings from a Survey of Ministries of Education amid the COVID-19 Pandemic*. 2021. pp. 4-5.

⁹⁴ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. pp. 34-35.

⁹⁵ United Nations Children's Fund. *Where Are We on Education Recovery?* 2022. pp. 27-28.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

Despite the significant setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, there are opportunities for capacity-building in new ways to better support progress on the SDGs.⁹⁷ In 2022, the OECD published a policy paper entitled “The Sustainable Development Goals as a framework for COVID-19 recovery in cities and regions.”⁹⁸ In this paper, the OECD notes that the SDGs can be a valuable guide for shaping the recovery process towards a more inclusive and sustainable long term recovery plan.⁹⁹ For example, SDGs can be a framework for identifying priorities, incentives, and resources that align with sustainable development across national, regional, and local levels of government.¹⁰⁰ Furthermore, capacity building and recovery fund allocation can be aligned with the 2030 Agenda to integrate the 2030 Agenda into society.¹⁰¹ The Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report of 2022 published by the HLPF highlights a number of ways through which Member States successfully adopted new mechanisms to provide remote services to all their citizens during the pandemic, leading to the introduction of new digital technologies that expand access to key public services.¹⁰² For example, Member States were able to rapidly build new programs for computer loans to streamline online learning for students and utilize technologies such as television and radio broadcasts to support learning for marginalized populations that lack internet access.¹⁰³ Member States also needed new ways to provide social assistance for those vulnerable to the socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to measures such as cash transfer programs to poor and vulnerable populations.¹⁰⁴ Despite the setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, effectively aligning post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery with the 2030 Agenda is a critical opportunity to accelerate progress towards meeting the 2030 deadline.¹⁰⁵

Strengthening Data Infrastructure for Tracking Progress on the 2030 Agenda

Although SDG data collection efforts have steadily improved, there are still significant data gaps that hinder the ability to track progress towards achieving the *2030 Agenda*.¹⁰⁶ The World Bank reports that on average, Member States only had at least one data point on 55% of the SDG indicators between 2015 and 2019.¹⁰⁷ Disaggregated, geographically-located, timely data on the key indicators of progress are necessary to accurately estimate the pace of progress.¹⁰⁸ Disaggregated data refers to data that has been divided into smaller subpopulations by different metrics such as sex, age, and disability status.¹⁰⁹ There are 32 SDG indicators that require disaggregation metrics by sex, yet only two-thirds of those are available as disaggregated data sources across most Member States.¹¹⁰ Furthermore, only 7 of the 21 indicators that require disaggregation by both sex and age are available, and only two out of the 10 indicators that require disaggregation by disability status are available.¹¹¹ While Member States recognize the need for high-quality data, the 2022 VNR highlights the challenge that they face in collecting the

⁹⁷ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Report of the Virtual Expert Group Meeting On “Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda”*.

⁹⁸ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *The Sustainable Development Goals as a Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in Cities and Regions*. 2022.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

¹⁰² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *2022 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report*. 2022. pp. 79-81.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁴ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Addressing the social impacts of multifaceted crises to accelerate recovery from the lingering effects of the pandemic through the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.5/2023/4)*. 2023.

¹⁰⁵ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *The Sustainable Development Goals as a Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in Cities and Regions*. 2022.

¹⁰⁶ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. pp. 3-4.

¹⁰⁷ World Bank. *Are we there yet? Many countries don't report progress on all SDGs according to the World Bank's new Statistical Performance Indicators*. 2021.

¹⁰⁸ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. pp. 3-4.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*

requisite data to measure SDG progress.¹¹² One of the major impediments is capacity and funding for collecting timely data at the required disaggregated dimension.¹¹³ Furthermore, oftentimes data is not well-coordinated across different administrative systems, leading to multiple sources for the same indicator that differ in both definition and methodology.¹¹⁴ As a result, these data sources cannot be collated, and provide little overall insight into the indicator itself.¹¹⁵

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in nearly all national statistics offices (NSOs) reducing or eliminating in-person data collection, severely limiting traditional sources of data collection. Yet, the demand for data to support policy making and public assurance throughout the COVID-19 pandemic lead to new innovative ways to use non-traditional data and support the national data ecosystem.¹¹⁶ For instance, in the Philippines, the use of Computer-Aided Web Interviews has carried over from the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing more efficient SDG data collection without any loss in accuracy.¹¹⁷ In Kazakhstan, a pilot project was launched to use space-based monitoring systems to examine efficiency of agricultural land for monitoring SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).¹¹⁸ The 2022 VNR also noted that some Member States have significantly improved their data collection efforts by investing in national statistical systems.¹¹⁹ For example, Pakistan increased the number of indicators from 21 in 2016 to 133 in 2021 by investing in technical support and training, as well as establishing common standards and survey instruments for integrating work across different ministries.¹²⁰ Ultimately, disaggregated, high-quality, timely data collection is necessary to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Although these creative approaches are oftentimes limited to Member States with preexisting, strong data infrastructure, there are opportunities for partnerships and knowledge-sharing to improve Member States infrastructure.¹²¹ Strong foundations ultimately ensure that Member States can preemptively identify areas of future need and take timely action to mitigate any hindrance to achieving the 2030 Agenda.¹²²

Conclusion

The 2030 Agenda is a global, unified effort to reshape the world into a society that is more equitable and sustainable.¹²³ With the responsibility of facilitating knowledge transfer and reviewing the current state of implementation, ECOSOC plays a key role in ensuring that Member States are supported in their efforts to achieve the SDGs.¹²⁴ Current progress is not sufficient to meet the 2030 deadline, and the gap has only been exacerbated by the recent global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.¹²⁵ Although the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in setbacks regarding SDG progress, it has also created the opportunity to build back better in ways such as robust data infrastructures to support timely, disaggregated monitoring of progress.¹²⁶ As the UN body responsible for the three pillars of sustainable development, ECOSOC is a key facilitator of the capacity-building efforts to strengthen post-COVID-19 resilience and create robust data infrastructures that keep Member States on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda.¹²⁷

¹¹² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *2022 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report*. 2022.

¹¹³ *Ibid.*, pp. 59-68.

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*

¹²¹ World Bank. *Are we there yet? Many countries don't report progress on all SDGs according to the World Bank's new Statistical Performance Indicators*. 2021.

¹²² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. pp. 3-4.

¹²³ United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

¹²⁴ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Sustainable Development*. n.d.

¹²⁵ United Nations, Independent Group of Scientists 2019. *The Future is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development (Global Sustainable Development Report 2019)*.

¹²⁶ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. 2022. pp. 3-4.

¹²⁷ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Sustainable Development*. n.d.

Further Research

In further understanding the role that ECOSOC plays in reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, delegates should consider: Are there are gaps in technology and knowledge transfer between Member States regarding sustainable development that ECOSOC could address? How can ECOSOC help ensure that economic inequalities do not continue to grow in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic? How can ECOSOC help accelerate post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery in a way that is aligned with the 2030 Agenda? What are ways in which ECOSOC can bolster Member States' capacity for data metrics and tracking progress towards the 2030 Agenda? What are the limitations and challenges in collecting data on the SDGs at the local and governmental level that ECOSOC can help address?

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This final report of the expert group meeting regarding resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic provides detailed insight as to the cumulative effects that the pandemic has had on some of the Sustainable Development Goals. The report provides regional perspectives of the impacts as well and discusses some of the unique ways in which marginalized and vulnerable groups were uniquely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It also examines the various protection measures that Member States implemented and provides a set of short-term and long-term policy recommendations for recovery. This document will be useful for delegates in understanding the various impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as provide an outline for potential policy solutions that will aid in mitigating the overall impact of the pandemic.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *2022 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report*. 2022. Retrieved 11 February 2023 from: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/VNR%202022%20Synthesis%20Report.pdf>

The 2022 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report is a summary of the voluntary national reports that are given each year at the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development. The synthesis report highlights key messages and identifies areas of need within the Voluntary National Reviews. This report complements the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 by providing deeper insight into specific examples of ways in which Member States are working towards meeting the 2030 Agenda. Delegates will find this resource helpful in exemplifying specific actions that Member States have undertaken to work towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, this resource provides insight into the types of internal reviews that Member States will typically conduct on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. 2022. Retrieved 11 February 2023 from: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2022.pdf>

This report is the most recent annual report documenting the status of the 2030 Agenda. The document highlights several key recent developments such as the COVID-19 pandemic that have negatively affected progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This document is helpful in gaining an understanding of the impacts that recent global issues have had on each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Delegates can review this document to gain a high-level overview of progress and challenges in any of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and apply that knowledge towards the unique challenges facing their own country.

United Nations, Independent Group of Scientists 2019. *The Future is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development (Global Sustainable Development Report 2019)*. 2019. Retrieved 11 February 2023 from: https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/24797GSDR_report_2019.pdf

This report is the first of the quadrennial review of progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report highlights that the world is not on track to achieve most of the 169 goals and many trends were not moving in the right direction towards sustainable progress. To reduce this deficit, the report offered six select entry points and four levers by which to bring about the necessary transformations. Delegates can use this document for a better understanding of the recommendations proposed and how those recommendations may inform the upcoming 2023 edition.

United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *Foundational Primer on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. 2019. Retrieved 19 March 2023 from: <https://unsdg.un.org/SDGPrimer>

This document provides a high-level overview of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is designed to establish a common base of understanding for the UN System upon which to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The document explains aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development such as financial support, data-driven metrics, integrated policy planning, and follow-up and review. Delegates will find this document useful in understanding the philosophy behind the 2030 Agenda and specific core tenets behind its design. Furthermore, delegates can use this document as a resource for specific implementation or logistical nuances related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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2. Fostering Growth for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)

*Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) are at a critical juncture on their path to sustainable development and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. They have been the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, not only in its immediate health and social impacts, but also its indirect consequences through economic changes and disruptions in trade and production.*¹²⁸

Introduction

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a group of 38 United Nations (UN) Member States, and 20 Non-UN Members of UN regional commissions that are exposed to unique social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities such as tropical cyclones.¹²⁹ SIDS are located in the Caribbean, the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) regions of the world.¹³⁰ SIDS were established to foster their growth and development at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Brazil in 1992.¹³¹ This summit highlighted how social, economic, and geographical factors influence growth and development, and established a platform for addressing economic, and environmental issues that affect SIDS, and other parts of the world.¹³²

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are low-income countries that have limited resources for economic negotiations – also known as structural impediments, which leave them highly susceptible to economic, and environmental shocks.¹³³ The UN designates 46 countries as members of this group, and assists them by promoting global awareness about their economic, and social status, special technical assistance, and eased access to global markets for their growth and development.¹³⁴ The Committee for Development Policy (CDP) reviews the list of LDCs every three years using different criteria.¹³⁵ One of these criteria is human assets index (HAI) – which is comprised of data about health, nutrition, and education.¹³⁶ Additionally, gross national income (GNI) and economic and environmental vulnerability indexes are used to evaluate Member States designation as LDCs.¹³⁷ The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), defines GNI as the gross domestic product of a given country including taxes and foreign earnings.¹³⁸ The CDP reports to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) about additions or graduations from the list of LDCs, which is when a Member State's development indices shows that they are able to thrive without the special accommodations and support that come with being on this list.¹³⁹ The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) works within the UN system to mobilize and engage relevant stakeholders to promote growth and development in LDCs.¹⁴⁰ UN-OHRLLS works to ensure that Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) receive specialized assistance on issues such as regional trade, regional integration, diversification of production and export, and climate

¹²⁸ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *2021 ECOSOC Special Event on SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs*. 2021.

¹²⁹ Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States. *About Small Island Developing States*. n.d.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform. *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Earth Summit*. N.d.

¹³² United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *A New Blueprint for International Action on the Environment*. n.d.

¹³³ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Least Developed Countries (LDCs)*. n.d.

¹³⁴ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. *Least Developed Countries*. n.d.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. *Gross National Income*. n.d.

¹³⁹ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. *Least Developed Countries*. n.d.

¹⁴⁰ Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States. *Landlocked Developing Countries*. n.d.

change.¹⁴¹ Landlocked Developing Countries are a group of 32 UN Member States, 17 of which are considered landlocked least developing countries.¹⁴² LLDCs face unique challenges in international trade as they lack access to the sea, and other forms of trade that require ground transportation across international borders.¹⁴³ These challenges require the export of goods to pass through at least one neighboring state, and often through more difficult terrain.¹⁴⁴ The result of this, makes the cost of trade for LLDCs unsustainable, and leaves them more vulnerable to a disruption in the supply chain.¹⁴⁵ Climate change, trade, economic development, and global integration are some of the issues that the UN prioritizes in SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs to ensure sustainable development even in the most challenging parts of the world.¹⁴⁶

International and Regional Framework

In 1992, Member States adopted *Agenda 21* as a program of action for implementing sustainable development measures for the use of marine, and coastal resources in SIDS, and how to effectively use them to cater for human needs, while protecting, and maintaining biodiversity.¹⁴⁷ The agenda serves as a plan of action for world governments at every level to address poverty, enhance economic and human development, and preserve the world's ecosystems from destruction.¹⁴⁸ It also serves as a framework on which the former Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and subsequently the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were built.¹⁴⁹ To ensure its continuous implementation, the Commission on Sustainable Development was created in 1992 to monitor, and report on its implementation at national, local, and regional levels of government.¹⁵⁰ *Agenda 21* also encourages international cooperation to enact policies that prioritize resilient infrastructure which includes building and construction techniques and designs that can withstand natural disasters, and the threats of climate change to coastal and marine resources in SIDS.¹⁵¹ Trade and sustainable development are included in *Agenda 21* as a tool for supporting every region of the world to integrate into global markets to promote global economic growth.¹⁵² Continuous implementation of *Agenda 21* provided world leaders with more ambitious objectives as were enumerated in the MDGs, and now in the transition to the SDGs.¹⁵³

In 2014, Member States adopted the *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA Pathway)* as a framework to address the challenges faced by SIDS, especially due to climate change.¹⁵⁴ This expanded the mandate of the UN-OHRLLS to include SIDS and address their challenges in growth and development.¹⁵⁵ The goals of the SAMOA Pathway include the eradication of poverty and sustainable development.¹⁵⁶ The SAMOA Pathway consists of objectives that are specific to SIDS such as regional collaboration for economic growth.¹⁵⁷ The SAMOA Pathway seeks to revive global attention to SIDS and their vulnerabilities to natural disasters, climate change, and economic shock, while calling for international support building resilient infrastructure, promoting international partnership, and seeking

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. *List of Landlocked Developing Countries*. n.d.

¹⁴³ Ibid.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States. *About Small Island Developing States*. n.d.

¹⁴⁷ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. *Agenda 21*. 1992.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ United Nations General Assembly. *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

¹⁵⁰ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. *Agenda 21*. 1992.

¹⁵¹ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Conferences – Small Island Developing States*. n.d.

¹⁵² United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Trade*. n.d.

¹⁵³ United Nations, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States. *The SAMOA Pathway*. n.d.

¹⁵⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵⁵ Ibid.

¹⁵⁶ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Conferences – Small Island Developing States*. n.d.

¹⁵⁷ United Nations, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States. *The SAMOA Pathway*. n.d.

innovative solutions to their climate challenges.¹⁵⁸ Member States acknowledged that SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs are more vulnerable to climate change due to the vulnerabilities that arise from lack of adequate economic and human growth evident in lack of resilient infrastructure.¹⁵⁹ The 5th UN Conference on LDCs of 2023 (LDC5) includes the Youth Forum under UN-OHRLLS which serves as a platform for young people to engage with world leaders on issues related to SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs, while giving them the opportunity to engage with each other and share ideas on implementing change for growing their economies.¹⁶⁰ A statement was released at the end of the conference in which youth called on national governments, civil society, and the private sector to actively engage young people across the world in policymaking and implementation of the goals of LDC5, and the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.¹⁶¹ The *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030* (Sendai Framework) is being actualized through partnership with the implementing bodies of the, the *Paris Agreement*, and the *SAMOA Pathway on Climate Change* to focus on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). These partnerships have identified DRR as a tool for sustainable growth, and Member States have committed to supporting domestic efforts of these countries in building resilient infrastructure to withstand climate shock, natural disasters, and boost local manufacturing.¹⁶² These partnerships seek to provide financial support from the public and private sectors through investment in DRR management, and by supporting domestic efforts of these countries by other Member States in building resilient infrastructure through funding and sharing of technology.¹⁶³

In 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 70/1, “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” with 17 goals, including the eradication of poverty worldwide.¹⁶⁴ LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs face unique challenges in growth of their economies, the SDGs serve as a framework for their growth and development.¹⁶⁵ The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) highlights SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs as having uneven growth when compared to other Member States in terms of SDG 1 (no poverty), and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), etc.¹⁶⁶ As a commitment to ending global poverty, the agenda calls for allocation of resources to rural areas such as modern farming and irrigation equipment, where they can be used to support rural farming, fishing and other means of livelihood as expressed in SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), etc.¹⁶⁷ Another commitment by the international community for SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs, in the 2030 Agenda, is the mobilization for transfer of technology such as fast internet, access computers, etc. to these countries.¹⁶⁸ These partnerships work towards building resilient, and sustainable infrastructure, that will in turn foster economic growth through consistent and highly efficient production techniques, and ensure their integration into global markets as enshrined in SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals).¹⁶⁹ The nature of SIDS requires foreign partnerships for capacity development, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and regional growth.¹⁷⁰ Since the growth and development of SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs, depends on interaction with other economies, integration into global trade markets is vital for continuous implementation of currently undertaken measures for growth.¹⁷¹

¹⁵⁸ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Conferences – Small Island Developing States*. n.d.

¹⁵⁹ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Conferences – Small Island Developing States*. n.d.

¹⁶⁰ United Nations 5th Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5). *Youth*. 2023.

¹⁶¹ United Nations 5th Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5). *Youth Track Statement – LDC5 Closing Plenary*. 2023.

¹⁶² United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Conferences – Small Island Developing States*. n.d.

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁴ United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

¹⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁰ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Conferences – Small Island Developing States*. n.d.

¹⁷¹ *Ibid.*; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Trade*. N.d.

In 2020, the CDP reemphasized that LDC5 should adopt “Expanding productive capacity for sustainable development” as its theme, proposing it as a framework for the new program of action for 2021-2030.¹⁷² The framework highlights a lack of local production infrastructure as a challenge that prevents building of resilient infrastructure, creation of local job opportunities, and advancements in technology.¹⁷³ In this framework, the CDP highlights five focus areas for capacity building which are adequate international support, domestic financial frameworks that support economic growth, institutionalizing development through building development governance capabilities in local and national governments, investments in upgrading production technologies in areas such as agriculture and manufacturing, while strengthening social advancements through increased production capabilities that will provide more local jobs, and better household income.¹⁷⁴

Role of the International System

In 2018, ECOSOC organized a meeting on “Pathways to Resilience in Climate-affected SIDS: Promises, Actions, and Results”.¹⁷⁵ This meeting focused on how commitments made by the international community towards growth and development of SIDS had been implemented in line with the 2030 Agenda, and exploring new and innovative ways to address climate change, and promote resilient growth in SIDS.¹⁷⁶ Some of these commitments include building resiliency for SIDS to manage climate change, disaster risk reduction, and the sustainable management of oceans.¹⁷⁷ In 2018, the ECOSOC president, Munir Akram, released a Presidential Statement on the “Pathways to Resilience in Climate Affected SIDS - A Forward-Looking Resilience Building Agenda: Promises, Results, and Next Steps” in which he emphasized the importance of resilient infrastructure for sustainable development in SIDS.¹⁷⁸ President Akram also noted that fostering growth and development of includes investments in innovative financial and economic partnerships designed for the needs of each SIDS such as increased export markets, and more investment in local production.¹⁷⁹ The Presidential Statement also calls for innovative proposals that would include debt relief for LDCs with high debt, and boosting tourism and agriculture for climate adaptation.¹⁸⁰

In 2020, ECOSOC adopted resolution 2020/10 on “Economic and Environmental Questions: Sustainable Development”, the Economic and Social Council requested a report from CDP on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on LDCs.¹⁸¹ This resolution highlighted the importance of updating the existing criteria such as economic and environmental vulnerability for maintaining, and graduating from the LDCs category, to be more inclusive and cognizant of the various unique, and specific challenges that are faced by each LDC.¹⁸² Graduation from the LDCs category happens when a Member State meets all the requirements listed in the LDC Identification Criteria and Indicators, with enough infrastructure to sustain growth without the accommodations that come with being on the LDCs list.¹⁸³ For example, graduation

¹⁷² United Nations, Committee for Development Policy. *Framework for the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries*. 2020.

¹⁷³ Ibid.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ International Institute for Sustainable Development. *Pathways to Resilience in Climate-affected SIDS: Promises, Actions, and Results*. 2018.

¹⁷⁶ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Pathways to Resilience in Climate-Affected Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – A Forward-Looking Resilience Building Agenda: Promises, Results, and Next Steps*. 2018.

¹⁷⁷ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *New Small Island Developments Commitment to Tackle Effects of Climate Change and Obstacles to Sustainable Development*. n.d.

¹⁷⁸ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Presidential Statement on the Occasion of the ECOSOC Meeting on Pathways to Resilience in Climate-Affected SIDS- A Forward Looking Resilience Building Agenda: Promises, Results, and Next Steps*. 2018. p. 1.

¹⁷⁹ Ibid.

¹⁸⁰ Ibid.

¹⁸¹ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Economic and Environmental Questions: Sustainable Development (E/RES/EN/2020/10)*. 2020.

¹⁸² Ibid., p. 2.

¹⁸³ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Least Developed Countries Identification Criteria and Indicators*. n.d.

from the LDCs list by GNI requires a Member State to have a three-year average of 20% above their GNI before being added to the list.¹⁸⁴ The resolution also acknowledged the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on graduating LDCs, and requested that the report should include the effects of the pandemic on their growth and development when they are no longer categorized as LDCs.¹⁸⁵

In 2021, the ECOSOC Special Event on SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs, was held to discuss their implementation of the SDGs in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁸⁶ The event served as a forum for Member States to address the setbacks to growth and development in these regions that already faced major challenges to development.¹⁸⁷ One of the objectives of this event was to foster international partnerships through policies in different areas of their economies, such as health and tourism, which would foster recovery in line with the 2030 Agenda.¹⁸⁸ In 2021, President, Akram, stated that “financial and international support are necessary for SIDS to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other natural disasters”.¹⁸⁹ President Akram also highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted LLDCs, and SIDS sources of income due to lockdowns, supply chain disruptions, and default of debt.¹⁹⁰ Most SIDS have been ineligible for debt suspension – a pause in debt repayment, and interests - during the pandemic, and have received inadequate help from the international community leaving their sustainable development and growth at risk of even more vulnerability to natural disasters, and other unfavorable events.¹⁹¹ This presents a need for alternative measures such as debt restructuring and long-term fiscal planning to prevent future debt crises.¹⁹²

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Growth of Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries, and Landlocked Developing Countries

In 2020, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) identified 42 of the 47 LDCs as having tourism as a major part of their economies.¹⁹³ In 2021, the CDP submitted a report to ECOSOC entitled “Comprehensive Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Least Developed Country Category”.¹⁹⁴ The report illustrates how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the growth and graduation of LDCs from the LDC category, and how this will affect them going forward.¹⁹⁵ Among LDCs, graduating LDCs have been most affected by global trade disruptions that have contributed to diminished international trade due to restrictions that were utilized to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁹⁶ Despite continuous global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is estimated that while the tourism industry will continue to grow, total business levels may not recover to pre-COVID-19 levels until other business sectors have recovered from COVID-19 related losses.¹⁹⁷ The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the growth of LDCs by reducing demand for locally manufactured goods, causing delay in supply chain to where raw materials are exported, decreased tourism activities, and debt challenges that have severely impacted the funding for household incomes in LDCs.¹⁹⁸

¹⁸⁴ Ibid.

¹⁸⁵ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Economic and Environmental Questions: Sustainable Development (E/RES/EN/2020/10)*. 2020. p. 2.

¹⁸⁶ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *2021 ECOSOC Special Event on SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs*. 2021.

¹⁸⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.

¹⁹¹ Ibid.

¹⁹² Ibid.

¹⁹³ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Comprehensive Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Least Developed Country Category*. 2021. pp. 1-4.

¹⁹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁹⁶ Ibid., p. 5.

¹⁹⁷ Ibid., p. 31.

¹⁹⁸ Ibid., p. 12.

FDI is a key contributor to the household income of LDCs, and it has impacted the livelihoods of people living in these countries – including those in LDCs that are highly reliant on FDIs from oil and gas.¹⁹⁹ The decline in tourism activities has also caused a decrease in the prices of local goods and services, leaving local populations with even lower income as national governments seek solutions through new economic policies.²⁰⁰ While some SIDS were able to enact financial policies such as debt relief, to mitigate the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic due to their population, most LDCs were unable to implement such measures because they did not have resilient economies.²⁰¹ In cases where these measures provided some relief, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has stated that these are not fiscally sustainable, because LDCs will still require significant financial and economic support from the international community, or risk losing the gains of the pre-pandemic era.²⁰² The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economies of SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs, has not only slowed international trade, but has also disintegrated many local markets from international trading routes, and has yet to pick up despite several new economic policies.²⁰³ While the international community through actors such as the G20, the IMF, and the Paris Club of Industrial Country Creditors have enacted fiscal measures for debt relief such as debt suspension and debt forgiveness, the support for revamping SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs economies are inadequate for building back in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁰⁴

Partnership for Growth in Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries, and Landlocked Developing Countries

In 2012, the General Assembly adopted resolution 67/206 declaring 2014 as the “International Year of Small Island Developing States” with “the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States Through Genuine and Durable Partnerships” as its theme.²⁰⁵ This resolution called for international support and cooperation in promoting investments, and measures that would facilitate growth and development in SIDS.²⁰⁶ The third International Conference of Small Island Developing States took place in 2014, and focused on six areas for improving partnerships on SIDS growth and development.²⁰⁷ The areas of focus included marine biodiversity, food security and waste management, climate change, sustainable energy, water and sanitation, and sustainable economic development with a focus on how multilevel partnerships can support the growth of the least developed economies.²⁰⁸ During the preparatory process, the SIDS Member States reiterated the importance of maintaining ownership of policymaking and implementation to better address their respective needs as highlighted in the SAMOA pathway.²⁰⁹ The SAMOA Pathway promotes national and regional partnerships among SIDS to develop local economies to enhance investments in infrastructure such as transportation, electricity and power generation, roads, and ports.²¹⁰ These infrastructures will in turn drive entrepreneurship and innovation, provide jobs and living wages for local populations, enhance gender equality by providing more jobs and education for women, while building more regional partnerships for long-term implementation.²¹¹ One of such partnerships is the annual Global Multi-Stakeholder Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Partnership Dialogue which addresses issues such as long-term sustenance of SIDS support, multilevel monitoring and accountability of partnerships, and capacity building.²¹² UN-OHRLLS stated that the

¹⁹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰⁰ Ibid.

²⁰¹ Ibid., p. 12.

²⁰² Ibid.

²⁰³ Ibid.

²⁰⁴ Ibid.

²⁰⁵ United Nations, General Assembly. *International Year of Small Island Developing States (A/RES/EN/67/206)*. 2012. p. 2.

²⁰⁶ Ibid.

²⁰⁷ International Institute for Sustainable Development. *SIDS PrepCom Releases Info Note, Sets Six Areas for Partnerships*. 2014.

²⁰⁸ Ibid.

²⁰⁹ Ibid.

²¹⁰ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Conferences - Small Island Developing States*. n.d.

²¹¹ Ibid.

²¹² International Institute for Sustainable Development. *SIDS Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Focuses on Partnerships*. 2018.

vulnerability for SIDS to natural disasters and climate change poses a challenge for foreign investment in resilient and sustainable infrastructure.²¹³ This led to a call for research for innovative mechanisms that would attract foreign donors and investors for more unilateral partnerships among SIDS for a stronger regional partnership.²¹⁴ In a 2018 presidential statement President Akram, emphasized the need for a strong partnership with the private sector as a means for public-private partnership, including private capital for funding infrastructure, and other economic mechanisms.²¹⁵ His sentiments also encourage governments to enact favorable policies and engagements that promote disaster risk-informed private sector investments in SIDS, while promoting the development of local solutions to disaster risks.²¹⁶

During LDC5, Member States acknowledged that LDCs are not on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030.²¹⁷ One of the thematic round tables at the conference focused on resource mobilization and strengthened global partnerships for sustainable development in least developed countries.²¹⁸ This round table addressed issues that affect economic growth of LDCs in relation to financing and investments, and concluded with a recommendation that private companies increase their trade with local businesses as a means of developing local markets.²¹⁹ Member States at the round table acknowledged that since FDI is low in SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, outside funding would be vital to fostering economic growth.²²⁰ Stakeholders called for more incentives for public financing in the economies of LDCs that will address structural vulnerabilities in their economies, and as such build a foundation for further FDI.²²¹ For foreign investment, stakeholders also advocated for South-South cooperation as a tool for mobilizing southern Member States to engage more actively in empowering, financing, and investing in the economies of LDCs.²²² Member States also acknowledged the importance of civil society in implementing these goals through their engagement with each Member State, and ability to build consensus on more specific issues.²²³ The Civil Society forum at LDC5 engaged with the Global Policy Forum, the Third World Network and Social Watch, LDC-Watch, and other members of civil society to share ideas for continuous implementation of the 2030 Agenda in LDCs.²²⁴ LDC5, also addresses the engagement of youth in partnerships that are working towards the sustainable development of LDCs.²²⁵ The advocacy for youth engagement calls for recognizing youth as more than recipients of aid, but as human assets in enacting change when given the right opportunities, training, and access to policymaking forums.²²⁶

²¹³ Ibid.

²¹⁴ Ibid.

²¹⁵ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Presidential Statement on the Occasion of the ECOSOC Meeting on Pathways to Resilience in Climate-Affected SIDS- A Forward Looking Resilience Building Agenda: Promises, Results, and Next Steps*. 2018. p. 2.

²¹⁶ Ibid.

²¹⁷ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5)*. 2023.

²¹⁸ United Nations 5th Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5). *High-Level Thematic Round Table 7: Resource Mobilization and Strengthened Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development in Least Developed Countries*. 2023.

²¹⁹ Ibid; United Nations 5th Conference on the Least Developed Countries. *High-Level Thematic Round Table 7: Resource Mobilization and Strengthened Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development in Least Developed Countries: Summary of Proceedings*. 2023.

²²⁰ United Nations 5th Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5). *High-Level Thematic Round Table 7: Resource Mobilization and Strengthened Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development in Least Developed Countries*. 2023.

²²¹ Ibid.

²²² United Nations 5th Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5). *South-South Cooperation at LDC5*. 2023.

²²³ United Nations 5th Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5). *Civil Society Forum*. 2023.

²²⁴ Ibid.

²²⁵ United Nations 5th Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5). *Youth*. 2023.

²²⁶ Ibid.

Conclusion

While there has been improvement in growth and sustainable development in SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs, the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed implementation to critical levels.²²⁷ Ambitious partnerships from Member States will improve existing mechanisms for growth and development of SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs.²²⁸ Continuous multilevel partnership from the private sector, civil society, and youth, will support building back better initiatives in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.²²⁹ As these efforts continue to yield positive results, investment resilient infrastructure and sustainability are being emphasized in all present and future investments in growth, while maintaining that much is still left to be done.²³⁰

Further Research

When researching this topic, delegates should consider the following questions: How does ECOSOC address challenges to growth and development in LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS? How does ECOSOC work to ensure that no Member State is left behind in “building back better” in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic? How does ECOSOC monitor implementation of the 2030 Agenda *Development* in LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS? How will implementation of the 2030 Agenda affect the growth and development of LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS? Are there any challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic that affect LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, that are not currently being addressed by the international community?

Annotated Bibliography

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<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>

Agenda 21 was adopted by Member States as a commitment to global partnership in combating environmental damage, preserving ecosystems, and providing a guide to local governments to draft their own Agenda 21 based on their own needs. This document emphasized the need for sustainable development, to ensure the preservation of the world’s human and environmental resources for future generations, while utilizing them for growth and development. Delegates can use this as a starting point for their research into how growth can be fostered in Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries, and Landlocked Developing Countries.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. *Least Developed Countries*. n.d. Retrieved 6 February 2023 from:

<https://unctad.org/topic/least-developed-countries/list>

This publication shows the list of all Least Developed Countries. It will help delegates understand how partnership global partnerships can foster growth that transcends borders, because national growth will lead to regional growth, and onwards till global actualization. This publication also shows the indices that determine the establishment of Least Developed Countries, the criteria for growth to graduate from this category, and how the triennial reviews aid in this process. Delegates can use this information to determine which areas of economic, human, and environmental growth to prioritize in each Least Developed Country.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Comprehensive Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Least Developed Country Category*. 2021. Retrieved 7 February 2023 from:

https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/CDP_Comprehensive_Study_2021.pdf

This study was undertaken at the request of the Economic and Social Council to the Committee for Development Policy. The goal of this study was to evaluate the effects of

²²⁷ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *2021 ECOSOC Special Event on SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs*. 2021.

²²⁸ Ibid.

²²⁹ United Nations 5th Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5). *Youth*. 2023.

²³⁰ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5)*. 2023.

the COVID-19 pandemic on growth and development in Least Developed Countries. The report showed that already implemented objectives were at risk of collapse due the effects of the pandemic. It also showed that countries that were graduating from this category face the most challenges in “building back better”. Delegates will find this useful when researching the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Least Developed Countries.

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Conferences - Small Island Developing States*. n.d. Retrieved 8 February 2023 from:

<https://www.un.org/en/conferences/small-islands>

This publication highlights the reasons Small Island Developing States are given special attention, and why prioritizing them in growth and development is important in regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It addresses how Small Island Developing States are uniquely affected by climate change, natural disasters, and economic shock. It shows how partnerships are necessary for development of these areas in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and how best to serve these populations. Delegates can use this as a primary research tool towards understanding how growth and development of Small Island Developing States can be structured for sustainable development in these areas.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015. Retrieved 10 February 2023 from:

<http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

The growth and development of Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries, and Landlocked Developing Countries depends on international partnerships. Sustainable Development Goal 17 serves as a tool for facilitating these partnerships between each State and the relevant stakeholders in implementing the other Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the local and national objectives. Delegates can use this as a resource for researching how international partnership is a tool for growth and sustainable development.

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