

Futuristic General Assembly: **Study Guide**

Introduction to the committee:

The General Assembly (GA) is the main organ of the UN for various policymaking and discussion over critical subjects such as unity and safety. Taking a level up by changing the usual GA discussions, we introduce the Futuristic General Assembly which will focus on discussing the update to the sustainability goals for 2030.

A set of development goals focused on sustainability were implemented in 2015 under the name “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” or “Global Goals.” The 17 goals cover a span of vast topics such as poverty, education, equality, and climate change, all with one central purpose: to modify our world for the better. The SDGs are set to close in 2030 and be replaced by a new set of aims that are intended to address the concerns of the world at that time. The Futuristic General Assembly is assigned the task of judging these future world issues. The committee's experience operating across the Goals equips delegates with relevant expertise and proven policy skill to ensure we all reach the targets set out of the SDGs by 2030. We will formulate guidelines for how development goals should be designed, consider what development goals should be implemented, and guarantee the benefit of these goals worldwide. In today's complicated and rapidly evolving world, events and trends in various fields interact with one another in unpredictable ways. Climate change, for example, associates with other issues of interest including production and consumption, access to water, agriculture, etc. This committee presents a further challenge for decision-makers tasked with formulating policies and procedures that efficiently address the interconnected and interdependent dilemmas.

Introduction to the agenda

The agenda of this committee is to update the sustainability goals for 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. There are 17 goals in total which are as follows: no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequality, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate

action, life below water, life on land, peace and justice strong institutions and lastly partnerships to achieve this goal.

This committee we will only be focussing on 4 goals- 12, 13, 14 and 15. Goal number 12 is responsible for consumption and production. According to the UN, material footprint per capita in high-income countries is 60% higher than in upper-middle-income countries and more than 13 times the level of low-income countries. Responsible consumption and production of food and goods must go hand-in-hand with measures to end our population growth. The very high number of people escaping poverty is the main reason that average resource use per person in 2050 is projected to be 71% higher than today. We are already using resources 1.75 times faster than they can regenerate - unless things change, we will require three piles of earth to supply our needs by 2050.

The next goal is goal number 13 which is climate action. Unsustainable consumption patterns in high-income countries are largely responsible for the climate crisis but every additional person on our planet adds more emissions. A comprehensive review of available climate solutions by Project Drawdown found that slowing population growth through the combination of educating girls and providing family planning would be one of the most powerful ways to reduce atmospheric CO₂ by 2050. The 2019 Scientists' Warning of a Climate Emergency, endorsed by more than 11,000 scientists, called for ending and ultimately reversing human population growth, among other transformative actions, to avert the worst effects of climate change.

Goal number 14 is life below water. Pollution (plastic and runoff), overfishing, coral bleaching, and coastal ecosystem destruction all exacerbated by population growth. Two-thirds of marine areas have been damaged by human activity and a third of sharks and rays and a third of reef corals are threatened with extinction. Tackling the loss of life underwater has to include a commitment to reducing population growth and runaway consumption. Family planning, women's education and empowerment together can also enable more women to participate in marine resources management; enhance food security and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The last goal which is goal 15 is life on land. Human population growth is one of the main causes of biodiversity loss. According to WWF, we have lost 60% of all vertebrate wildlife populations since 1970. During that time, our population has more than doubled. A landmark 2019 UN assessment explicitly noted that human population growth is an indirect driver of biodiversity loss and stated: *“changes to the direct drivers of natural deterioration cannot be achieved without transformative change that simultaneously addresses the indirect drivers.”* To be truly effective in the long-term, conservation efforts must incorporate population solutions.

If you want to go more in-depth and see all the guidelines for the 4 sustainability goals which we are going to be looking at here are the links-

Goal number 12- <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030-goal12.html>

Goal number 13 - <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030-goal13.html>

Goal number 14- <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030-goal14.html>

Goal number 15- <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030-goal15.html>

Position Papers

Your position papers should include-

- A brief introduction to your country and its history concerning the topic and committee
- How the issue affects your country
- Your country's policies concerning the issue and your country's justification for these policies
- Statistics to back up your country's position on the issue
- Actions taken by your government concerning the issue
- What your country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution

The position paper should be 100-150 words. Please note that it is fine if you don't include all these points but for a good position paper these points should be there.

Countries

USA

The USA has been well connected with the SDGs. one example is sustainable production and consumption. As U.S. companies look to more efficiently use of resources (e.g., improve energy efficiency, minimize raw materials use), ensure compliance with domestic and international environmental and health regulations, and enhance the marketability of their products and services, they have also become interested in sustainable manufacturing practices. U.S. Department of Commerce defines sustainable manufacturing as the creation of manufactured products that use processes that minimize negative environmental impacts, conserve energy and natural resources, are safe for employees, communities, and consumers, and are economically sound. There is a growing understanding that sustainable manufacturing practices will improve U.S. global competitiveness, firm profitability, and manufacturing job growth.

Russia

In a recent report, Russia gave this information making them well involved with the SDGs. The Russian Federation is committed to achieving the goals defined by the international community in the 2030 Agenda. We have been making continued efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national level. This work has been done as a direct continuation of the activities in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals achievement. While the concept of sustainable development was formulated and has become an integral part of the national development concept of Russia in 1996.

New Zealand

In the voluntary national review 2019, this is what New Zealand had to say. New Zealand is committed to playing its part at home and abroad to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

New Zealand's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) covers all 17 SDGs with a focus on how we deliver outcomes most relevant to New Zealand. The VNR outlines New Zealand's approach to the SDGs and reflects our commitment to productive, sustainable and inclusive economic development. The report highlights challenges as well as successes and identifies areas where further work is needed.

Italy

Growing environmental, economic and social challenges put sustainable development at the core of the global agenda and induced the international community to act to strengthen and share worldwide sustainable development commitments. The last decade-long economic crisis has provided evidence for the growth of inequalities in Italy as well. Several factors underlie this long-term process. Many of them are directly linked to the creation of "new winners and losers" as well as to the lack of appropriate responses to several critical issues: globalization, trade and financial integration, technological transformation, labour market, demographic trends, migration. This is Italy's response to the SDGs.

Croatia

In addition to its responsibility for the national implementation of sustainable development goals, Croatia is fully committed to comprehensive implementation of Agenda 2030, both within the framework of the United Nations and within the framework of the European Union where, together with the other Member States of the European Union, coordinates and develops its views in regard of the sustainable development. This is what Croatia said in the voluntary national review.

Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the 2030 Agenda an opportunity to strengthen and to boost sustainable development at, global, regional and national levels. Iran has had active participation in drafting the post-2015 development agenda and will continue its constructive cooperation to fulfil its commitments to global sustainable development goals and principles based on the national priorities and in conformity with its national legislation. Iran has contributed profoundly to the realization of the MDGs within Iran. It intends to actively build on these achievements and is committed to the effective implementation of the 2030 agenda holistically and comprehensively. Iran is confident that, with a true partnership, cooperation and solidarity, commitments can be brought into actions yielding tangible results.

Bahrain

The Kingdom of Bahrain has taken several steps forward towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and has aligned its national development agenda with the SDGs. Since the year 2000, the Kingdom has responded to the nation-wide the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) endorsed by the United Nations. Bahrain has addressed all the goals and has achieved them in the year 2015.

India

Strengthening India's commitment to the SDGs, the country's Parliament has organized numerous panels to advance strategy and progress perspectives on addressing climate change. India has played a significant role in developing the SDGs. Overall, India's score has improved from 57 to 60, with notable progress. While targeting economic growth and industrialisation, the country remains committed to protecting the environment. The Chief Ministers have come forward to start action on such important matters as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan (Clean India Campaign). A clear agenda has been formulated for promoting the 'Blue Revolution'. For tracking the amount of marine pollution, the country has developed the Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System. Additionally, an oil spill management system has been put in place for responding to emergencies. India is the fourth largest GHG emitter, responsible for 5.3% of global emissions. India has committed to reducing the emissions intensity to 25% by 2020.

France

Slightly improving from rank 21 to 18, France remains within the group of medium performers within the CCPI 2020. The country receives a medium rating within the GHG Emissions category and an occasional rating within the Renewable Energy category, reflecting the low-rated current share of renewable energy. In July 2019, a new climate and energy package was established to become carbon neutral by 2050, with a 40 per cent reduction in fossil fuel use by 2030. France is a participant in the 10 Year Framework Plan on Sustainable Consumption and production. Greenhouse gas emissions in France fell by 11% between 1990 and 2013. The French Initiative for Coral Reefs (IFRECOR) includes the issue of climate change in its programme of work. France has 10% of the world's coral reefs, 20% of the world's atolls, and 6% of the world's seamounts. The French navy is doing its part to control risks related to maritime activities, to combat pollution, and to monitor and safeguard protected and vulnerable species. France is also implementing programmes to protect its true heritage and is extending protected areas, which cover more than 34% of the total land area.

Pakistan

Pakistan is among the countries most affected by the impacts of climate change. Uncontrolled global patterns of economic production and consumption result in increased greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), Hence, Pakistan is attacked by the result of climate change. Climate change has become a forced reality for Pakistan. Mutual efforts amid 2013 and 2018 have resulted in improvement in the country's environmental and climate structure. Pakistan has initiated efforts to both protect the environment and contribute towards efforts to minimize climate change. Moreover, programmes such as Clean and Green Pakistan as well as Recharge Pakistan have been launched. Pakistan launched the "Billion Tree Tsunami" program in 2014 to reestablish the bare forests and fight the effects of global warming. These nature-based solutions are leading examples of climate action among developing countries, with co-benefits to improve biodiversity and livelihood generation.

Cambodia

Cambodia is one of the most exposed countries to climate change. A committed Climate Change Technical Working Group (CCTWG) has been established. Climate change has been combined in the Rectangular Strategy IV 2018-2023 and the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2019-2023. Cambodia has also confirmed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). In line with NDC, the government executed several actions to make Cambodia flexible to climate change. In 2015, the country established and implemented 6 policies, strategies and regulations on ecosystem services. In 2016, 2017 and 2018, the number of policies, strategies and regulations issued and implemented exceed the SDG aims.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Congo commits to effectively fight climate change and reduce disaster risks. The Government has created 17 protected areas which cover an area of 4,350,418 hectares. USAID under the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) works with governments and local communities to sustainably manage natural resources and preserve the Congo ecosystem. Congo is the only the second-largest tropical rainforest in the world. As key players in the earth's carbon cycle, tropical rainforests are key factors for climate change to settle. Like most African countries, the Democratic Republic of Congo is in the process of implementing the United Nations Framework Agreement on Climate change.

Brazil

Brazil has a 2020 commitment to reduce deforestation by 80% from 1996-2005 levels, and its Paris Agreement commitments include a target of zero illegal deforestation in the Amazonia by 2030. The seas and oceans cover over two-thirds of the Earth's surface, provide a variety of resources to mankind, and harbour rich biodiversity. Brazil, through governmental planning, develops programs to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources, which contribute to the eradication of poverty, promoting prosperity and taking into account a changing world. The country has committed to implementing actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43% by 2030, in comparison to 2005 levels. Brazil has submitted a National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2004. The Communication established the First National GHG Inventory for the period 1990-1994. It also describes the programs and policies currently active in the country containing a climate change component. Finally, a Second National Communication is in the works and will include a renewed National GHG Inventory with 2000 as its base year.

UK

The UK already has a 2050 target - to decrease emissions by 80%. That was recognised by MPs under the Climate Change Act in 2008, but will now be altered to the new, much tougher, goal. The actual terminology used by the administration is "net zero" greenhouse gases by 2050. The UK is committed to encouraging more sustainable production and consumption. The UK is working to conserve material resources by decreasing waste, improving supply efficiency and moving towards a circular economy. The UK takes a leading role internationally in reducing its GHG emissions and helping other countries to reduce theirs. The UK was the first country in the world to introduce emission reduction targets under the Climate Change Act 2008 and has made notable changes in decarbonising its economy. As an island nation, with the fifth-largest marine estate, strong progress on Goal 14 can already be seen across the UK. Improvement has been made and more than 50% of UK waters, are set to be in Marine Protected Areas by 2020. The UK is also committed to leading

international action to protect biodiversity. In recent years, there have been several species conservation successes too.

Suggestions for further research

- Past government actions
- Allies to form the resolution with
- Based on your country the changes that need to be made
- Solutions to this issue
- Any targets that you would like to change or update

Questions a resolution must answer

- Government action/implementation‘
- Expenditure
- edits/ changes/ updates to the following agenda
- Impact on climate and civilians
- Impact on economy