Contents

UNITED NATIONS ...........................................................................................................................................2

UN STRUCTURE .............................................................................................................................................2
  Member States ............................................................................................................................................2
  Main Organs ...............................................................................................................................................3
  Leadership ................................................................................................................................................7

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ("UN FAMILY") .................................................................................................7

UNITED NATIONS AND SDGs ....................................................................................................................9
  From MDS-s to SDG-s ...............................................................................................................................9
  Post – 2015 Development Agenda .........................................................................................................10
  SDGs at a Glance - The 17 Goals .............................................................................................................11
  How Will We Finance SDG-s? ................................................................................................................12

THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ...................................................................13
  Introduction .............................................................................................................................................13
  Objectives ...............................................................................................................................................13
  Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals ................................14
  Members ..................................................................................................................................................15
  Voluntary National Reviews ..................................................................................................................15
  Inputs to the HLPF ................................................................................................................................15
  How We are Going to Simulate HLPF ....................................................................................................16

IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH ..........................................................................................................................18
  Youth and SDGs ......................................................................................................................................18
  Why should youth participate in SDGs? ..................................................................................................18

UN4MUN CONFERENCE ..............................................................................................................................20
  About .......................................................................................................................................................20
  Educational Value of MUN Simulations .................................................................................................20
  Why consensus is important? ..................................................................................................................21
  Delegate Preparation ..............................................................................................................................22

USEFUL LINKS: ...........................................................................................................................................25
UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations (UN) was founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations, as well as promoting social progress, better living standards, and human rights.

Key Steps toward the Establishment of the United Nations

- 12th June 1941 - the Allied countries came together to establish an international organization.
- 1st January 1942 - The Declaration of United Nations was signed and the name “UN” was coined.
- August-October 1944 - the countries submitted a proposal for the UN structure.
- 25th April 1945 - The UN Charter was drafted.
- 26th June 1945 - The UN Charter was signed.
- 24th October 1945 - The UN officially came into existence.

The Preamble of UN Charter says:

"We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, And for these ends to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, Have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims. Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations."

Three Pillars of the UN

- Maintain International Peace and Security
- Promote Sustainable Development
- Protect Human Rights

UN STRUCTURE

Member States

Membership of the UN is open to all States that accept the obligations in the UN Charter and are able to carry them out in the judgment of the Organization. States are admitted to membership in the UN by the decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.
Growth in the Membership (1945 – Present)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main Organs

The United Nations (UN) has six main organs. Five of them — the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council and the Secretariat — are based at UN Headquarters in New York. The sixth, the International Court of Justice, is located at The Hague in the Netherlands.

The United Nations is neither a supra-State nor a government of governments. It does not have an army and it imposes no taxes. It depends on the political will of its Member States to have its decisions put into action and relies on the contributions of its Members to carry out its activities.

The six organs of the United Nations are outlined in the sections below:

**General Assembly**

All UN Member States are represented in the General Assembly. Each Member State has one vote. Decisions on such key issues as international peace and security, admitting new members and the UN budget are decided by a two-thirds majority. Other matters are decided by simple majority. Many decisions are reached by consensus without a formal vote.

Under the UN Charter, the functions and powers of the General Assembly (GA) include:

- To discuss any question relating to international peace and security (except when a dispute or situation is being discussed by the Security Council);
- To make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation which might harm the friendly relations among nations;
- To discuss and make recommendations on the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- To request studies and make recommendations to promote international cooperation, the development of international law, the protection of human rights, and international collaboration on economic, social, cultural, educational and health issues;
- To receive and discuss reports from the Security Council and other UN organs;
- To discuss and approve the UN budget;
- To elect non-permanent members of the Security Council, the members of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and additional members of the Trusteeship Council (when necessary); to elect the judges of the International Court of Justice (jointly with the Security Council); and on the recommendation of the Security Council, to appoint the Secretary-General.

Although the General Assembly’s recommendations on global issues are an important expression of world opinion, the Assembly cannot force a Member State to follow its recommendations on a particular issue.
The Assembly holds its annual regular session from September to December. When necessary, a special session on subjects of particular concern may be called at the request of the Security Council, of a majority of the Member States, or of one member if the majority of the Member States agree. In addition, an emergency session can be called within 24 hours in the same manner.

At the beginning of each regular session the General Assembly holds a General Debate when many Heads of State come to express their views on the most pressing international issues. Following the General Debate, most issues are discussed in one of the Assembly’s six main committees:

- First Committee (Disarmament and International Security);
- Second Committee (Economic and Financial);
- Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural);
- Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization);
- Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary);
- Sixth Committee (Legal).

**Security Council**

The UN Charter gives the Security Council primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. The Council may convene at any time, whenever peace is threatened. In contrast to the decisions made by the General Assembly, all Member States are obligated under the UN Charter to carry out the Security Council’s decisions.

There are 15 Council members. Five of these — China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States — are permanent members. The other 10 are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. Member States continue to discuss changes in Council membership and working methods to reflect today’s political and economic realities. Decisions of the Council require nine yes votes. Except in votes on procedural questions, a decision cannot be made if there is a no vote, or veto, by a permanent member.

**Economic and Social Council**

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), under the overall authority of the General Assembly, coordinates the economic and social work of the United Nations and the UN family of organizations. As the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues and for formulating policy recommendations, the Council plays a key role in fostering international cooperation for development. It also consults with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), thereby maintaining a vital link between the United Nations and civil society. The Council has 54 members, elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms. It meets throughout the year and holds a major session in July, during which a high-level meeting of Ministers discusses major economic, social and humanitarian issues.

The work of ECOSOC involves so many issues it has many commissions to help it. Some are known as functional commissions. They meet regularly and report back to it on such issues as human rights, social development, the status of women, crime prevention, narcotic drugs, and science and technology.
Other regional commissions deal with special problems that people living in different geographical areas face. ECOSOC has five regional commissions that promote economic development and cooperation in their respective regions:

- Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

The Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), which was mandated at the 2005 World Summit, assesses the progress made in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the other goals and targets agreed at the major UN conferences and summits over the past 15 years, which constitute the United Nations Development Agenda (UNDA). Each year, the AMR focuses on a specific aspect of the UNDA.

While the Security Council’s primary responsibility is maintaining peace, ECOSOC focuses on promoting social progress and better standards of living. Achieving international security and social progress go hand in hand. You can’t have one without the other. Poverty and the denial of human rights greatly increase the risk of instability and violence. Similarly, war sets back development.

**UN Trusteeship Council**

At the end of World War I, control over territories that had once been part of the German and Ottoman Empires was transferred by the League of Nations to other European countries. These territories, referred to as League of Nations Mandates, were renamed United Nations Trust Territories once the UN Charter came into force in late 1945.

Under Article 77 of the Charter, the Trusteeship System applied to:

- Territories held under Mandates established by the League of Nations after the First World War;
- Territories detached from "enemy States" as a result of the Second World War;
- Territories voluntarily placed under the System by States responsible for their administration.
- The Trusteeship Council was established to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories and to make sure that adequate steps were taken to prepare the Territories for self-government or independence.

By 1994, all Trust Territories had attained self-government or independence, either as separate States or by joining neighboring independent countries. The last to do so was the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands —Palau— which was administered by the United States and became the 185th UN Member State.

One month after Palau’s independence, the Trusteeship Council suspended its operations. Although the Council’s work has been completed, the formal elimination of the Trusteeship Council would require the revision of the UN Charter. As the Charter states, “amendments to the present Charter shall come into force for all Members of the United Nations when they have been adopted by a vote of two thirds of the members of the General Assembly and ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two thirds of the Members of the United Nations, including all the permanent members of the Security Council.”
International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice, also known as the World Court, is the main judicial organ of the UN.

It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.

The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (United States of America).

The Court’s role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies. The Court decides disputes between countries, based on the voluntary participation of the States concerned. If a State agrees to participate in a proceeding, it is obligated to comply with the Court’s decision.

The International Court of Justice is composed of 15 judges elected to nine-year terms of office by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. The Court may not include more than one national of the same State. Moreover, the Court as a whole must represent the main forms of civilization and the principal legal systems of the world. These organs vote simultaneously but separately. In order to be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the votes in both bodies. This sometimes makes it necessary for a number of rounds of voting to be carried out. In order to ensure a measure of continuity, one third of the Court is elected every three years. Judges are eligible for re-election. Should a judge die or resign during his or her term of office, a special election is held as soon as possible to choose a judge to fill the unexpired part of the term.

Secretariat

The Secretariat carries out the substantive and administrative work of the United Nations as directed by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the other organs. At its head is the Secretary-General, who provides overall administrative guidance. The main functions of the Secretariat are:

- To gather and prepare background information on various issues so that government delegates can study the facts and make recommendations;
- To help carry out the decisions made by the different organs of the United Nations;
- To organize international conferences;
- To translate speeches and distribute documents into the UN’s official languages;
- To keep the public informed about the work of the United Nations.

As of 30 June 2012, the Secretariat had some 43,000 staff members around the world. As international civil servants, staff members and the Secretary-General answer to the United Nations alone for their activities, and take an oath not to seek or receive instructions from any Government or outside authority. Under the Charter, each Member State undertakes to respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and the staff and to refrain from seeking to influence them improperly in the discharge of their duties.

The United Nations, while headquartered in New York, maintains a significant presence in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Beirut, Geneva, Nairobi, Santiago and Vienna, and has offices all over the world.
The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a period of five years. Equal parts diplomat and advocate, civil servant and CEO, the Secretary-General is a symbol of United Nations ideals and a spokesman for the interests of the world’s peoples, in particular the poor and vulnerable among them. The current Secretary-General, and the eighth occupant of the post, is Mr. Ban Ki-moon of the Republic of Korea, who took office on 1 January 2007 and was appointed to a second term starting 1 January 2012.

The Secretary-General’s functions include:

- Bringing any problem that threatens world peace to the attention of the Security Council;
- Proposing issues to be discussed by the General Assembly or any other organ of the United Nations;
- Acting as a “referee” in disputes between Member States;
- Each Secretary-General also defines his role within the context of his particular time in office.

Leadership

The Secretary-General is a symbol of the UN’s’ ideals and a spokesperson for the interests of the world’s peoples. The Secretary-General is chief administrative officer of the Organization, appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year, renewable term.

**Secretaries-General, 1946-present**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secretary-General</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trygve Lie</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>1946-1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dag Hammarskjöld</td>
<td>(Sweden)</td>
<td>1953-1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Thant</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>1961-1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurt Waldheim</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>1972-1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kofi A. Annan</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>1997-2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ban Ki-moon</td>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>2007-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>António Guterres</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>2017-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (“UN FAMILY”)**

The UN system, also known as the "UN family", is made up of the UN Secretariat and many affiliated programmes, funds, and specialized agencies, all with their own membership, leadership, and budget. The programmes and funds are financed through voluntary rather than assessed contributions. The specialized agencies are independent international organizations funded by both voluntary and assessed contributions.
UNITED NATIONS AND SDGs

The establishment of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The Future We Want". The format and organizational aspects of the Forum are outlined in General Assembly resolution 67/290.

The Forum meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly for two days.

The UN has facilitated the global dialogue on the Post-2015 Agenda, especially a set of SDGs proposed by a 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) General Assembly, and supported broad consultations. It also has the responsibility of supporting member States by providing evidence-based inputs, analytical thinking, and field experience.

From MDS-s to SDG-s

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a follow-up effort to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in effect from 2000 to 2015. How did SDGs evolve and how are they unique?

What are MDGs?

At the turn of the century in September 2000, leaders of 189 countries gathered at the UN Headquarters in New York and signed the historic Millennium Declaration. This established a global partnership of countries and development partners committed to achieving a set of eight voluntary development goals called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the target date of 2015.

MDGs represented the ambitious moral and practical commitment to improve people’s lives around the world. The Goals ranged from halving extreme poverty and hunger to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education.
Progress under MDGs

Although substantial progress had been made under MDGs, it was far from fully accomplished. In particular, three of the eight Goals achieved prior to the final deadline of 2015 were in fact attained unevenly within and across countries. Here are some major achievements and shortcomings:

Post – 2015 Development Agenda

*What are SDGs and why are they significant?*

As the time frame for MDGs ended in 2015, the world and our governments needed to continue with the efforts to fully achieve MDGs and build upon them by tackling new challenges. For the last few years, the UN has been discussing what the global priorities should be for the next 15 years (2016 - 2030).

In particular, the Rio+20 conference in June 2012 galvanized a process to agree upon the post-2015 global development framework and develop 17 new Goals, or global priorities, which are called SDGs.

On 1 January 2016, SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development officially came into force. Over the next fifteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities, and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.
SDGs at a Glance - The 17 Goals

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (taking note of agreements made by the UNFCCC forum)
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
Targets and Indicators

The 17 Goals are supported by 169 targets that expand on and define them in clearer terms. For instance, under the first goal of “ending poverty in all forms everywhere” there are seven targets including: “1.1 - By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day.” Beside these targets, SDGs are accompanied with indicators that focus on measurable outcomes. For instance, an indicator under the first goal includes: “1.1.1 - Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural).” The country level data, goal, and regional aggregates can be found at the Global SDG Indicators Database. Determining whether or not SDGs are achieved is up to the individual government who sets its own national targets by taking into account the global level of ambition and its own national circumstances.

Visit the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform website (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org) and the Sustainable Development Goal indicators website (http://unstats.un.org/sdgs) for the full list of targets and indicators.

How Will We Finance SDG-s?

Domestic resources from both public and private sources are central to financing the implementation of SDGS. However, financial support from the international community is critical for many developing countries.

Official Development Assistance

Official Development Assistance (ODA) refers to financial support from OECD-DAC (Development Aid Committee) member countries to developing countries in order to advance economic development and promote welfare in areas such as health, sanitation, education, infrastructure, environment, etc. In addition, developed countries provide financial resources dedicated to the implementation of the internationally agreed goals and conventions on climate change, biological diversity, desertification, etc.

Multilateral Development Banks

Multilateral development finance institutions, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, work in partnership with the UN to strengthen the economies and expand the markets of developing countries around the world. These institutions provide technical assistance, grants, loans, and other forms of practical help by formulating policies, setting standards and guidelines, and mobilizing funds.
THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

UN4MUN Armenia 2017 conference will simulate The United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development 2017. More detailed information about HLPF can be found below:

Introduction

The establishment of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The Future We Want". The format and organizational aspects of the Forum are outlined in General Assembly resolution 67/290.

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development meets:

- Every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly for two days;
- Every year under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for a period of eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment.

The Forum’s first meeting was held on 24 September 2013. It replaced the Commission on Sustainable Development, which had met annually since 1993.

The HLPF is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. General Assembly resolution 70/299 provides further guidance on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The Forum adopts intergovernmentally negotiated political declarations.

Objectives

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 66/288 and 67/290, the Forum, consistent with its universal intergovernmental character, shall:

- provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development;
- enhance integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels;
- provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue and for stocktaking and agenda-setting to advance sustainable development;
- have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges;
- follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments contained in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and The Future We Want and, as appropriate, relevant outcomes of other United Nations summits and conferences, including the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries as well as their respective means of implementation;
f. encourage high-level system-wide participation of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and invite to participate, as appropriate, other relevant multilateral financial and trade institutions and treaty bodies, within their respective mandates and in accordance with United Nations rules and provisions;

g. improve cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on sustainable development programmes and policies;

h. promote transparency and implementation by further enhancing the consultative role and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to better make use of their expertise, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of discussions;

i. promote the sharing of best practices and experiences relating to the implementation of sustainable development and, on a voluntary basis, facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned;

j. strengthen the science-policy interface through review of documentation, bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including in the form of a global sustainable development report, building on existing assessments;

k. enhance evidence-based decision-making at all levels and contribute to strengthening ongoing capacity-building for data collection and analysis in developing countries; and

l. promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies.

Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals

As stipulated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the HLPF has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums.

The Forum facilitates the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned and provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up. It promotes system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies. It ensures that the 2030 Agenda remains relevant and ambitious and focuses on the assessment of progress, achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries as well as new and emerging issues. Effective linkages are made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries.

The HLPF also undertakes annual thematic reviews of the SDGs including cross-cutting issues. As decided in General Assembly resolution 70/299, the themes of and the sets of SDGs to be reviewed by the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC in 2017 were:

- **Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- **Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- **Goal 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- **Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- **Goal 9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- **Goal 14.** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Follow up and review at the HLPF is informed by an annual progress report on the SDGs prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The HLPF is also informed by the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), which strengthens the science-policy interface and is issued every four years (E/HLS/2016/1). The follow up and review at the HLPF are also informed by other relevant inputs.

Members

The General Assembly in resolution 67/290 decides that all meetings of the Forum shall provide for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies.


Voluntary National Reviews

A central feature of the HLPF are the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) that it receives from Member States on their implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Regularly undertaken by both developed and developing countries, the VNRs provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders. These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC. As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders.

The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This online review platform were dedicated to compiling information from countries participating in the voluntary national reviews of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. In 2017, 44 countries have volunteered to present their national voluntary reviews to the HLPF. More information about Voluntary National Reviews can be found here: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/.

Inputs to the HLPF

INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES & FORUMS 2017

ECOSOC functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums, were invited to share relevant input and deliberations as they address goals and targets from the perspective of theme of the 2017 HLPF "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". All 17 SDGs were examined from the perspective of the theme. Additionally, the following SDGs will be discussed together with SDG 17: 1,2,3,5,9 and 14.

Inputs could follow the following template, inspired by the report of the Secretary-General on Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level (A/70/684).
• an assessment of the situation regarding the principle of "ensuring that no one is left behind" at the global level;
• the identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges;
• valuable lessons learned on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity;
• emerging issues likely to affect the realisation of poverty eradication and achieving prosperity;
• areas where political guidance by the high-level political forum is required;
• policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress for those at risk of being left behind.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS & VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS

In an innovative provision of the 2030 Agenda (para. 89), major groups and other relevant stakeholders were called upon to report on their contribution to implementation. That provision is particularly important for the voluntary reporting and accountability by non-governmental actors who manage significant resources or assets, and therefore play an important role in the achievement of individual Sustainable Development Goals and targets on the ground. These could include, for example, business, non-governmental organizations, specific partnerships and alliances, large cities, and others. To ensure comparability, reports from such stakeholders could build on a voluntary template based on existing tools and models.

This section will feature inputs from multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments, generated from those partnerships that have submitted a progress report through the Partnerships for SDGs online platform.

How We are Going to Simulate HLPF

The conference will simulate the HLPF 2017 Ministerial meeting’s general debate and as an outcome a Ministerial Declaration will be adopted.

Two plenary sessions, 5 regional commission parallel sessions and several caucuses will take place on the 1st day.
The second day will start with a one hour session replicating Armenia’s side event on “Impact Investment and Innovations for SDGs” that took place on July 13th along the margins of HLPF in New York. Special guests, participants of the real side event will meet the conference participants.

The plenary session will close the conference proper with a general voting on the adoption of the ministerial declaration.

Participants will play the roles of delegates of UN member states in regional groups, regional commissions, key specialized agencies as well as major groups and other relevant stakeholders. ECOSOC President will chair the conference with 2 Vice Chairs.

The theme will be the same as was at HLPF2017 – “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”.

The set of goals to be reviewed in depth in the position papers of the participants will be the following:

- **Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- **Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- **Goal 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- **Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- **Goal 9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- **Goal 14.** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

As well as **Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

VNRs will help the member state delegates in writing position papers.

The conference will also include a cultural component wherein the country delegations simulating the roles, with possible support from their respective country embassies, will display elements of traditional arts, cuisine, dress, etc. of the states they represent.
IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH

Who do we mean by ‘youth,’ and why are they particularly significant stakeholders for the present and the future?

Who do we mean by “youth?”

The UN defines youth as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24, the period of transition from childhood to adulthood, in which individuals gain independence and awareness of interdependence as members of a community.

Youth as a development priority of today

We pay a high cost when our development policies and programmes fail to recognize the particular needs and aspirations of youth. For example, the lack of social protection and job security leaves youth being stuck in unemployment or vulnerable and informal employment instead of transitioning from school to the labor market. What is more, the impact of poverty is not only greater in scale, but also multi-dimensional and long-lasting. For instance, adolescents dropping out of school narrow employment opportunities and poor nutrition during adolescence often leaves chronic effects on the health of individuals when they become adults. This is why youth must be recognized as an important component and priority of our development agenda today.

Youth as invaluable participants of our future

Investing in youth is also an investment in our future. Youth can be a positive force for development when the knowledge and opportunities they need to thrive are given. Likewise, young people can create a dynamic force of political change and social transformation when they are included in decision-making processes. If we fail to realize the potential of youth, the entire society loses out greatly.

“You have the talent, energy and ideals to prevent conflicts, defend human rights, secure peace, and realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Youth and SDGs

SDGs acknowledge the centrality of youth and their role in the path towards sustainable development as they are part of the 9 Major Groups with which the UN closely collaborates to ensure broad participation and representation of all corners of the society. By definition, “sustainable development” – development that meets the needs of the present without compromising those of the future – begins with the respect for the future generation as an important stakeholder. The young people of today will mature in the next 15 years right alongside SDGs. They are the people who will experience the success or failure of the 2030 Agenda. This is why it is particularly important to engage with youth and empower them in our endeavor for a more sustainable future.

Why should youth participate in SDGs?

Why is it important that youth actively participate in the implementation of SDGs? And what are some channels and platforms within the UN for youth participation?
Every youth matters. Youth are not a homogenous group, but a truly diverse group of individuals. For instance, some youth live in rural areas, while others live in big cities. Or important factors such as the level of education and economic conditions prevailing in a country may differ greatly. Certain social groups such as young women, indigenous youth, and youth with disabilities often deal with distinct and multiple forms of discrimination. The diversity of youth is especially true for the Asia-Pacific, being a geographically, politically, socially, culturally, and economically expansive region. To make SDGs truly meaningful, the general goals must be specified and contextualized. Each young individual has a unique story and faces unique challenges.

Q. How are youth represented in the UN?

UN Youth Delegate Programme
The UN Youth Delegate Programme was established as another form of youth representation and participation at the UN. Young delegates are included in a country’s official delegation to the General Assembly and various functional Commissions of the ECOSOC. The role of a youth representative varies from country to country, but normally includes providing input to their delegation on issues related to youth and participating in their delegation’s general work by attending meetings and informal negotiations.
UN4MUN CONFERENCE

About

Model UN is one of the most popular ways to learn about the workings of the United Nations. Conferences are organized by hundreds of educational institutions at all levels to engage young students in diplomatic debates and conversations that resemble those at the United Nations. It is often the first time that students are exposed to international affairs.

It has been noted, however, that due to a lack of knowledge of the procedural and substantive roles played by UN diplomats and UN staff, Model UN simulations don’t accurately reflect the true UN decision-making process.

As a first step to improve MUN simulations, the UN Department of Public Information (UNDPI) organized three Global Model UN (GMUN) conferences in Geneva (2009), Kuala Lumpur (2010) and Incheon (2011) to provide a model of best practices. Having learned from these successful events, UNDPI Outreach Division recognized that its role in supporting Model UN needed to evolve and decided to focus its efforts on organizing workshops and training sessions for student leaders and MUN advisors who organize MUN conferences around the world instead.

Starting in 2012, the Division launched a series of workshops with the aim of giving students and MUN advisors a basic understanding of: the General Assembly’s Rules of Procedure; the discussion and action phases of General Assembly Committee meetings; how to draft and review resolutions; the duties and responsibilities of the General Assembly and UN Secretariat officials and how to capture the relationship between these two main organs in the leadership structure within MUN simulations; and, the role of consensus in making decisions and how this is achieved. The main motivation for organizing these workshops is to train those who are in charge of MUN programmes in a new approach that more accurately represents the way the UN functions and that deepens students’ knowledge of the art of diplomacy and the critical role it plays in the work of the UN.

As a companion to the workshops, this online guide details the structure, procedures, negotiation process and skills needed to conduct a simulation that accurately captures the essence of the decision-making process at the UN.

Educational Value of MUN Simulations

Model UN helps students to develop public speaking, writing and research skills. In addition, they often provide the first entry point into international affairs and introduce students to the wide range of peace and security, human rights, development and rule of law issues that are on the UN agenda.

What is often overlooked is the important role that MUN simulations can play in teaching students about the UN as an institution, its role in world affairs, and the art of diplomacy that underlies the unique way in which it makes decisions that affect our lives.

Most MUN simulations are very competitive in nature and use rules of procedure that prevent students from acquiring a true picture and appreciation of how the UN actually functions. This document aims to provide a comprehensive guide to assist MU programmes in organizing simulations that are more accurate.
and provide students with an opportunity to learn about the role that diplomacy plays in the decision making process.

It is our hope that you will find this guide a useful resource, and that you will share with us your questions, comments, or suggestions.

**Why consensus is important?**

This explains why Member States consider it so important to adopt a resolution that has the widest possible agreement among Member States. Before taking action on a draft resolution, they spend hours discussing every word in the resolution in the hope of reaching agreement on the text. When consensus on the text is reached all of the Member States agree to adopt the draft resolution without taking a vote. Adopting a draft without a vote is the most basic definition of what consensus means. If 193 Member States agreed on the text but there is just one Member State that requests a vote, then consensus is not reached.

If a GA resolution is not legally binding then the best way to encourage all Member States to implement the recommendations expressed in a resolution is to get all of them to agree on the same text. When a resolution is adopted by a simple majority, those that did not vote in favor of a resolution on a particular agenda item will be less likely to implement the actions on an agenda item that are recommended in a resolution.

When the UN was created in 1945, there were only 51 Member States and resolutions were adopted by a vote. Today, in contrast, there are 193 Member States and roughly 80% of the General Assembly resolutions are adopted by consensus, that is, without taking a vote.

When you adopt resolutions by a vote, you only need to get a simple majority to agree on the text of a resolution. You don’t need to care about or try to understand the perspectives of the minority who disagree. This process is divisive.

When you adopt resolutions by consensus, you have to be concerned about the viewpoint of everyone and engage in negotiations that often result in compromises so that different points of view are taken into consideration. This process is inclusive.

Given the dramatic increase in Member States over time, reaching the widest possible agreement is more vital today than ever. Because the General Assembly’s resolutions are recommendations and not legally binding on Member States, reaching consensus has evolved as a way to ensure the widest possible implementation of GA decisions.

In Model UN simulations, delegates do not even consider implementation and therefore have not learned the value of reaching consensus over voting. Most resolutions at a MUN conference are adopted by a vote. This way of operating is stuck in the past and does not reflect how the UN has changed. Moreover, by valuing voting over reaching consensus, most simulations do not model the negotiation process that is required in order reach consensus. You cannot truly understand the UN as an institution without understanding the decision-making process as it has evolved at the UN since 1945. This guide aims to assist organizers in modifying their simulations of the GA so that it reflects these changes.
More about consensus

As mentioned above, consensus is reached when all Member States have agreed to adopt the text of a draft resolution without taking a vote. However, reaching consensus is not the same thing as being unanimous. It is important to note that consensus does not mean that all Member States agree on every word or even every paragraph in the draft resolution. Member States can agree to adopt a draft resolution without a vote but still have reservations about certain parts of the resolution. The important point is that there is nothing in the resolution that is so disagreeable to any Member State that they feel it must be put to a vote.

When Member States have reservations on elements of a draft resolution that they have agreed to adopt by consensus, those who are not sponsors of the resolution have the opportunity to explain their position either before action is taken or after action is taken on the resolution. When Member States know that their reservations can be included in the public record of a Committee’s deliberations on an agenda item, it sometimes makes it easier to agree to consensus.

Delegate Preparation

Gathering Information
The first step should be to read the UN Charter.

Then, here are four important areas for delegates to research as part of their preparation for a conference: The UN system. Delegates should be aware of the 6 main organs of the UN plus the UN family and how it relates to the General Assembly (see overview in this guide). The history, culture, political structure, and current political affairs of the countries that have been assigned for a simulation. In addition to resources on these topics, it may be useful to read fiction and non-fiction books (e.g., biographies) written by authors who live in the country you have been assigned. They may offer insights into the culture of the country delegates will be representing.

Government positions on the topics will be discussed at a MUN conference. In order to adequately represent a country during the conference, a delegate will need to interact with delegates representing other countries. Knowing the viewpoints and policies of “their” country as well as those positions of other countries that will be represented will help delegates predict what will be said during the debate phase of the conference. This will be very useful in helping delegates identify which countries will be in agreement with their position and which ones will be opposed. In addition, it will help them decide in advance where it might be useful to seek cooperation or compromise.

Positions of the main political groups, such as the Group of 77 and China, Non-Aligned Movement, European Union, African Union, etc. (see list of Groups of Member States) are equally important since many negotiations at the UN often take place between political groups.

Current statistical data on assigned countries and topics.

Research Tips
When preparing for a conference, it is useful for delegates to divide the research into four categories:

- General research on the assigned topic. A delegate should be well-versed on the topic they will be debating.
- General research on the background and culture of the country they have been assigned.
- Research on the policies of “their” country on the topics they will be debating.
Research on the policies of other countries that will be represented at the conference so that they can anticipate the arguments that might be put forward by other delegates.

**Researching country policies on an assigned topic**

Delegates should look for books and websites that give a general overview of the topic as well as information on more specific aspects of your topic. It is important to get an idea of how complex the subject is and how many different aspects of the topic might be discussed during the conference.

When delegates use the Internet for their research they should make sure to carefully select their sources. The amount of materials available is likely to be far greater than what they can digest in the amount of time they have available to prepare for a conference.

It is also important for them to keep in mind that web resources must be selected carefully. Not all websites are reliable sources and many of the sources may be biased. If possible, delegates should try to find independent confirmation of the information they have obtained from more than one source.

Moreover, when gathering information it is important to distinguish between opinions and facts. Facts are used to support opinions. Whenever possible, delegates should use facts to support their arguments. Sometimes, however, there are instances when facts are not available. Ultimately, delegates will be presenting an opinion and must defend it against other opinions. Therefore, it is crucial for them to be familiar with different viewpoints and opinions on the topics they are assigned. Delegates should study arguments that are different from the one their assigned country is likely to take on a topic. Therefore, they need to analyse the facts that are used to support opposing arguments. Sometimes the same facts can be used to support two different positions on a topic. Delegates will need to decide which particular points they want to focus on in their arguments and this decision needs to be guided by their country’s policies on the topic they are debating!

When searching the Internet for information it is usually a good idea to vary the keywords used to research an assigned topic. This will sometimes lead you to additional sources of information which you might not have found if the keyword search is too narrow.

Here are some common internet resources to help delegates get started:

  Many Missions to the UN post statements and other information about their positions on issues of importance.

- **Ministries of Foreign Affairs**
  The foreign affairs websites often contain information about governmental policies on different issues.

  This UN library reference also provides voting records for all General Assembly resolutions adopted since 1946 as well as an index to speeches. This database allows users to search all speeches given by a country on a specific topic.

  This official UN website provides information about the membership of each Member State, an index to their speeches in the General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC, draft resolutions they have sponsored, and periodic reports on human rights conventions they are parties to.

This official UN resources gives an overview of each issues on the UN agenda as well as useful links to other UN related bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), past summits and conferences and important documents on each issue. NGOs are a good source of information that should not be overlooked. In addition to performing a variety of services and humanitarian functions, bringing citizens' concerns to Governments, monitoring policies and encouraging political participation at the community level, they also provide analysis of issues, serve as early warning mechanisms and help monitor and implement international agreements. Some are organized around specific issues, such as human rights, the environment or health. The UN works with thousands of NGOs all over the world: around 4,000 have a formal association with the UN, through the Department of Public Information and the ECOSOC. The main UN website contains an extensive list of NGOs organized alphabetically as well as by region and topic.

- Finally, delegates should read UN resolutions on their assigned topic to find out what issues tend to be discussed when their topic is debated. Resolutions passed by the General Assembly, Security Council, and ECOSOC can be found at the UN Documentation Centre http://www.un.org/en/documents/index.html.

Position Paper Guidelines

Introduction
The position paper is a brief and concise description of a State's, international organization's or NGO's position and priorities for a given committee. The position paper allows delegations to plan their course of action before the meeting by taking into consideration each country's positions on the topics to be discussed at the conference. Once the position paper is finalized it should be shared with the chairpersons of the committee, it will allow them to give delegates useful feedback on what they have written prior to the conference.

As already mentioned above, VNRs will help the member state delegates to draft their position papers. More details about VNR-s can be found here https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/.

Content
The position paper on an assigned topic should contain the following elements:

- A general sentence in the beginning clearly stating the country's position;
- A succinct policy statement for each topic representing the relevant views of the country that has been assigned;
- An elaboration of the position that includes one or more of the following: quotes from the UN Charter; agreements/resolutions your Member State has ratified; quotes from statements made by your Head of State, Head of Government, ministers, delegates to the UN, and any other relevant international documents including but not limited to
  - Reports from the UN Secretary-General on the topic;
  - Recommendations for actions to be taken by the committee; and
  - A conclusion restating assigned country’s position on the topic.

Relevant statistics, quotes etc. should be cited in an accepted scholarly citation format.

Do NOT use the first person in a position paper. Instead simply use the delegation's name or alternatively expressions such as "our government", "our country", "our nation". Long essay-type position papers presenting a nation's history or background information on the topic are not useful. A simple and concise overview is best.
USEFUL LINKS:

1. UN Official Website http://www.un.org/

2. UN Armenia Official Website http://www.un.am/


10. Members of the HLPF:

GOOD LUCK

Compiled for publication by UN Department of Public Information Yerevan Office.
UN EN-100-October 2017 UNO/DPI Yerevan/168. UN4MUN Armenia-2017, Guidebook for Participants.