



Aristotelio College Model United Nations

**The Economic and Social Council of the United
Nations
(ECOSOC)**

**Mitigating the economic impact of climate change
under the umbrella of SDGs number 8 and 13
Study Guide**

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1. Welcoming Letter of the board

Dear Delegates,

It is our sincere pleasure to welcome you to this year's ECOSOC of ARCMUN 2019. We are delighted to be serving as the Board of the Economic and Social Council for the 17th Aristotelio College Model United Nations conference and we look forward to meeting and working with all of you. This document is meant to serve as "helping hand" and a study tool for the conference. Our Committee is faced with the challenging task of comprehensively dealing with a very crucial issue currently placed at the top of the international agenda; mitigating the economic impact of climate change under the umbrella of SDGs number 8 and 13. Our response should be unanimous and our work should exceed all expectations. More precisely, our proposals should be practicable with the sole purpose of rendering the world a better place to live in. To conclude, we would like to welcome you once again to this year's ECOSOC Committee and simultaneously urge you to make a thorough research upon the topic, which is to be discussed in our debates. A good start shall be to begin reading the present study guide as a stepping stone to expand your research. We look forward to meeting you all in March!

Sincerely,

Pasxalidou Konstantina,

Bouzalakos Charalampos

2. Introduction to the committee

«The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations». The Economic and Social Council has an important role in the system of United Nations. It is the central platform for debating economic, social and environmental issues and a unique global meeting point for productive dialogues among policymakers, parliamentarians, academics, foundations, businesses, and youth. The purpose of ECOSOC is to promote intergovernmental cooperation on global issues and at the same time, it guides and directs UN members on these demanding affairs¹. Moreover, it cooperates with all the organs of the United Nations as well as with non-governmental organizations to support programs that can change people's lives².

The responsibilities of ECOSOC are encompassing the promotion of the sustainable development all over the world, while it is the main responsible organ of the UN for the implementation of the Agenda 2030. Also, it is charged with reviewing the financing for the development follow-up process. Parallel, ECOSOC is authorized to build partnerships with operators, such as NGOs, and by engaging youth in its activities.³

Nowadays, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations is more needed than ever. It focuses on current burning issues upon the economic development, the humanitarian refugee crisis, the environment, children in need, food security and education.

3. Introduction to the topic

Climate change is gradually shaping a new environment for economic policy making. There is a vital need to mitigate and shift to a lower-carbon economy, but also manage risks and adapt to the changing climate⁴.

As a global problem, climate change, affects all countries, both large and small. In recognition of this fact, the international community has undertaken internationally agreed-upon policies, such as the *Kyoto Protocol* and the more recent *Paris Accord*, in order to address the problem on a global level. This volume presents the theoretical foundations of environmental agreements and also traces the history of these agreements and the international agencies created to implement and support them.⁵

¹ Un.org. (n.d.). *About Us | UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC and SOCIAL COUNCIL*. [online] Available at: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/about-us> [Accessed 15 Jan. 2019].

² Csonet.org. (n.d.). *1 June is the last day to apply for consultative status with ECOSOC*. [online] Available at: <http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=14> [Accessed 15 Jan. 2019].

³ Un.org. (n.d.). *UN Economic and Social Council*. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/amrmandate.shtml> [Accessed 15 Jan. 2019].

⁴ Bankofgreece.gr. (2018). *THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE*. [online] Available at: <https://www.bankofgreece.gr/BogEkdoseis/Book%20The%20Economics%20of%20Climate%20Change%20WebVersion.pdf> [Accessed 14 Jan. 2019].

⁵ Id At 4**

On a general note, the impact of climate change on all sectors of the economy, which will be examined further in this document, should concern all the nations and should be placed on the top of the agenda of the international community as an issue that seeks immediate and sustainable solutions.

4. Definition of Key Terms

Urban planning: the development, design and regulation of land use that focuses on the physical form, economic functions, and social impacts of the urban environment and on the location of the different activities within it.⁶

Mega-cities: A megacity is defined by the United Nations as a city which has a very high population or average density (a population of 10 million or more people). Currently, there are 37 megacities in the world.⁷

Slum: an area marked by crowding, run-down housing, poverty, and social disorganization, where people live in inappropriate infrastructure.⁸

Urban sprawl: the rapid expansion of the geographic extent of cities and towns on undeveloped land near a city.⁹

Unemployment: a person who is actively searching for employment, but is unable to find work.¹⁰

Entrepreneurship: the ability of a businessman to organize and manage labor, capital and land in order to achieve profit, which is usually characterized by innovation and risk-taking.¹¹

Renewable energy: energy sources that are naturally replenished, like the one derived from solar, wind, geothermal or hydroelectric action. Energy produced from the refining of biomass is also often classified as renewable. Coal, oil or natural gas, on the other hand, are finite sources.¹²

⁶ Encyclopedia Britannica. (n.d.). *Urban planning*. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/urban-planning> [Accessed 15 Jan. 2019].

⁷ Urban Dictionary. (2005). *Urban Dictionary: Megacity*. [online] Available at: <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Megacity> [Accessed 16 Jan. 2019].

⁸ Merriam-webster.com. (n.d.). *Definition of SLUM*. [online] Available at: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/slum> [Accessed 15 Jan. 2019].

⁹ Merriam-webster.com. (n.d.). *Definition of URBAN SPRAWL*. [online] Available at: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/urban%20sprawl> [Accessed 16 Jan. 2019].

¹⁰ Investopedia. (2018). *Unemployment*. [online] Available at: <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/u/unemployment.asp> [Accessed 15 Jan. 2019].

¹¹ BusinessDictionary.com. (n.d.). *Read the full definition..* [online] Available at: <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/entrepreneurship.html> [Accessed 16 Jan. 2019].

¹² ScienceDaily. (n.d.). *Renewable energy*. [online] Available at: https://www.sciencedaily.com/terms/renewable_energy.htm [Accessed 16 Jan. 2019].

5. History of the Topic

Previous to the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN had set 8 goals known as the “eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)”, which range from halving extreme poverty rates to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015. These goals formed a blueprint that has been agreed upon by almost all the countries of the world and many leading development institutions.¹³

On the 2nd of August 2015 the long-lasting process of negotiations, which took place at the UN headquarters, came to an end. The result was the 17 Sustainable Development Goals accompanied by 169 targets, two of which will be analyzed below.

Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8)

Over the last years, globally, the percentage of unemployment has declined and the production process has improved. Even though there is an obvious recovery on the international economy, still, there are not enough opportunities for the new generations to take in. There are yet many problems regarding to the work conditions, the work place and the access to financial services. Though, governments are still developing demand side policies and supply side policies in order to achieve economic growth. These policies include cutting taxes, multiplying government spending, privatization, free trading etc.¹⁴

More specifically, in 2017 labor productivity was increased on an international level by 2.1%, where 61% of all employees were engaged in formal employment, while 51% of them turned into the agricultural sector. The global unemployment rate was 5.6% in 2017, while in 2000 it was 6.4%. The youth unemployment rate (young people between 15 and 24) has reached the 13%, whilst they are 3 times less likely to find a job.¹⁵

Men are earning 12.5% more money than women in 40 out of 45 countries of the world, while women are engaged to unpaid or informal type of employment. In 2017, there were approximately 300.000.000 workers who lived with meager salary and under miserable work conditions. Moreover, only 29% of the people worldwide have social security, while the 71% is partly not at all protected.¹⁶

¹³ Un.org. (n.d.). *United Nations Millennium Development Goals*. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

¹⁴ UNDP. (n.d.). *Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth | UNDP*. [online] Available at: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-8-decent-work-and-economic-growth.html> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

¹⁵ United Nations Sustainable Development. (n.d.). *Economic Growth - United Nations Sustainable Development*. [online] Available at: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/economic-growth/> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

¹⁶ Sustainabledevelopment.un.org. (n.d.). *Goal 8 .:. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform*. [online] Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg8> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

Last but not least, a Harvard research showed that by 2025, 28 trillion dollars could be added to the governments “account” only if gender equality dominates the labor productivity.¹⁷

The most important goal-target, thus, is the protection of employees and the promotion of a more secure and pleasant environment, including women, young people and migrants.

Climate change (SDG 13)

The climate change affects every human, every family, government, country and continent. Weather conditions are changing, sea levels are rising, weather events are getting more intense and the greenhouse gas emissions have reached the highest levels in the global history. If not taken any action, the average temperature of the earth surface might exceed 3 degrees Celsius until the end of 21th century, something that affects poor and vulnerable people the most.

In order to respond to the threat of the climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement at the COP21 in Paris, which entered into force in November of 2016. All countries agreed on cooperating so that the rising of the global temperature can be limited.¹⁸

It has been recorded that from 1880 to 2012, the average global temperature increased by 0,85 ° C. Since 1970, the number of natural disasters has more than doubled to proximately 400 per year. Furthermore, from 1901 to 2010 the global average sea level increased by 19 cm owing to melting ice and high temperatures.¹⁹

Climate change has also caused many disasters. Between 1990 and 2013, more than 1.6 million people died during disasters and for these reason 83 countries, in 2015, have had legislative provisions in order to manage and limit the disaster risk. Developed countries have pledged to jointly raise \$ 100 billion a year by 2020 to meet the climate needs of developing countries and continue to support levels by 2025. Initial efforts to mobilize resources for the Green Climate Fund gathered 10.3 billion dollars, and developed parties were asked to increase their financial support.²⁰

6. Legal Framework

The topic of "economic impact of climate change under the umbrella of SDGs number 8 and 13" in all its manifestations and forms, turns out to be one of the most crucial issues that the international community has to deal with. The international legal

¹⁷ Id At 14**

¹⁸ United Nations Sustainable Development. (n.d.). *Climate Change - United Nations Sustainable Development*. [online] Available at: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

¹⁹ UNDP. (n.d.). *Goal 13: Climate action | UNDP*. [online] Available at: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-13-climate-action.html> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

²⁰ Id At 18**

framework, created the past decades, is showing the way that States need to follow in order to ensure a better future for the generations to come.

One of the most important agreements ever made from this committee is the ***Paris agreement on climate change***, which went into effect on November 4, 2016.²¹ This is an act by the United Nations to bring the world's countries together, in a view of international collaboration and intergovernmental effort, in order to combat the issue of climate change. Its overall mission is to pursue countries that sign on to be a part of the pact to limit the century's global average temperature increase to no more than 2 degrees Celsius, or even no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, above the levels from the years 1850-1900 (the pre-industrial era). The signatories, also, agreed to adopt green energy sources, cut down greenhouse gas emissions and limit the rise of global temperatures. The aforementioned agreement is followed by a separate commitment of each country to establish an individual plan (or "Nationally Determined Contributions") to tackle its greenhouse gas emissions.²²

Another very important agreement is the ***Kyoto Protocol***²³, adopted in 1997 and entered into force on February 16, 2005. The Kyoto Protocol is the only agreement which has emerged from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process that imposed binding limits on the emission of GHGs. Under the Protocol, 37 industrialized countries and the countries in the European Community committed themselves to binding targets for GHG emissions for the first compliance period from 2008 to 2012. The Protocol included flexible mechanisms, through which countries subject to emission targets could meet their obligations. In addition to reducing domestic emissions, countries could purchase emission credits through International Emissions Trading (Article 17), support Joint Implementation projects in other developed countries to obtain Emission Reduction Units (Article 6), or obtain Certified Emission Reductions by supporting projects in developing countries through the Clean Development Mechanism (Article 12).²⁴ The Kyoto Protocol included a compliance mechanism; for every ton of emissions by which a country exceeded its quantified emission limitation and reduction objective, it would have 1.3 tons of emissions deducted from its assigned amount for a subsequent commitment period²⁵.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) lays out the steps that the international community needs to take in order to enhance the new sustainable development agenda

²¹ Unfccc.int. (2018). The Paris Agreement | UNFCCC. [online] Available at: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement> [Accessed 16 Jan. 2019].

²² The Peninsula Qatar. (2017). *Is Arctic sea ice doomed to disappear?*. [online] Available at: <https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/06/03/2017/Is-Arctic-sea-ice-doomed-to-disappear> [Accessed 16 Jan. 2019].

²³ Unfccc.int. (n.d.). *Kyoto Protocol - Targets for the first commitment period | UNFCCC*. [online] Available at: <https://unfccc.int/process/the-kyoto-protocol> [Accessed 16 Jan. 2019].

²⁴ Id At 23**

²⁵ Unfccc.int. (n.d.). *Compliance under the Kyoto Protocol | UNFCCC*. [online] Available at: <https://unfccc.int/process/the-kyoto-protocol/compliance-under-the-kyoto-protocol> [Accessed 16 Jan. 2019].

of the United Nations²⁶. Taking into consideration that its main aspects concern taxes, the Civil Society Organizations led the creation of an intergovernmental body on tax. This body is authorized to make decisions on international tax cooperation and safeguard the maintenance of the commitment to work together to significantly reduce, and ultimately obliterate, illicit financial flows, as well as to reinforce the capabilities of the developing countries' tax administrations.²⁷

In this spirit, the *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)* launched a new plan with the *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)* entitled 'Tax Inspectors Without Borders', under which tax control experts will operate alongside local officials of developing countries' tax administrations so as to build local tax audit capacity.²⁸

The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development is the main United Nations' platform on sustainable development, established by "The Future We Want", the outcome document of the "Rio+20" Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012.²⁹ It is the central body for the follow-up and review for the implementation of sustainable development commitments and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the SDGs. HLPF provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations. It addresses new and emerging challenges by promoting the science-policy interface and through the enhancement of the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.³⁰

7. Discussion of the topic

7.1 Urban planning and management

Essentially, this term is about how a city or urban area is being built; how public authorities of a city place parks or rivers on urban fabric and if there is public transportation or not in a city. An example of urban management and planning is Amsterdam, the capital of Netherlands. In the beginning of the 17th century, Amsterdam was built by a comprehensive plan which included four concentric half-circles of canals that made the city sustainable, while facilitated transportation and trade. Centuries after, this plan was considered effective because it helped municipal

²⁶ Un.org. (2015). *Addis Ababa Action Agenda*. [online] Available at: https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

²⁷ development?, T. and Gail Hurley, P. (2015). *The Addis Ababa Action Agenda: A step forward on financing for development?*. [online] UNDP. Available at: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2015/7/21/The-Addis-Ababa-Action-Agenda-A-step-forward-on-financing-for-development-.html> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

²⁸ Tiwb.org. (n.d.). *OECD/UNDP Partnership - Tax Inspectors Without Borders*. [online] Available at: <http://www.tiwb.org/about/oecd-undp-partnership/> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

²⁹ Sustainabledevelopment.un.org. (n.d.). *High-level Political Forum ∴ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform*. [online] Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

³⁰ Id At 29**

authorities to reduce the cars that circulated in the city, making it bicycle-friendly.³¹ Another example of urban planning is the Plan of Philadelphia that was included gridiron street pattern and open green public squares. Also, it was designed to include future expansion plans for the city and was the first city in USA aimed for urban planning.³²

7.2 Mega-cities

The challenges of megacities include slum, traffic congestion, urban sprawl, as well as energy and material resources. The problem of slums is a huge issue in megacities, concerning the following:

- a) 1.6 billion people live without sufficient home.
- b) 1 in 7 people on the planet currently live in a slum.
- c) 1 in every 4 people will live in a slum by 2030, according to current estimates.
- d) 1 in 3 urban residents live in slums in developing countries.
- e) In some countries, as much as 90% of the urban population lives in slums.³³

In most cities where slums exist, there are many unsafe homes that do not have the proper infrastructure to accommodate people. On several occasions, these rustic houses have an excessive number of people. It is worth noting that the inhabitants of these areas do not have, in most cases, access to water, electricity or public services, not to mention the risk of infectious diseases. Also, it is important to mention that slums strengthen the cycle of poverty; preventing residents of these areas from escaping from this phenomenon.

Some countries that are heavily facing the issue of slums are India and Brazil. In the city of Mumbai, there is one of the biggest slum's areas in the world, Dharavi. Dharavi has an area of just over 2.1 square kilometers and a population of about 700,000. In Brazil the biggest favela is Rocinha with population of 70.000. Houses in this area are relatively well structured and there are businesses, such as banks. Due to its lack of services, "*Rocinha is ranked 120 out of the 126 neighborhoods in Rio on the Human Development Index*".³⁴

Another challenge of megacities is traffic congestion. To move in a megacity is a very big issue, and affects all residents of the city either the landlords or the poorest. For

³¹ Newurbandesigner.com. (2010). *Top 20 Urban Planning Successes of All Time | New Urban Designer*. [online] Available at: <http://newurbandesigner.com/2010/10/top-20-urban-planning-successes-of-all-time/> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

³² Asce.org. (n.d.). *City Plan of Philadelphia | ASCE*. [online] Available at: <https://www.asce.org/project/city-plan-of-philadelphia/> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

³³ Habitat for Humanity GB. (n.d.). *What is a Slum? Definition of a Global Housing Crisis*. [online] Available at: <https://www.habitatforhumanity.org.uk/what-we-do/slum-rehabilitation/what-is-a-slum/> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

³⁴ Rocinha Favela. (n.d.). *Rocinha Favela*. [online] Available at: <https://rocinhafavela.weebly.com/> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

example, Dhaka, that is the capital of Bangladesh, lost its productivity due to traffic congestion. This loss is estimated at about 3.86 million dollars.³⁵

Urban sprawl is another major issue of megacities. The reasons for this growth around urban areas are economic growth and job opportunities. However, the cost of this growth and expansion has environmental and economical dimensions.³⁶

Finally, the energy and material resources are very important for megacities, since they require large energy and material resources, which create problems in other cities or villages. In addition, some could question the sustainability of these sources, as well as of the lack that will exist in other cities, or even if they are fairly distributed.

7.3 Entrepreneurship, Creativity and Innovation

USA is in one of the important key-players in the sector of entrepreneurship, which means they can attract new people in the country and have a comparative advantage in labor and productivity in comparison with their competitors like China and the European Union.

In order to be able to meet the challenges of the 2030 Agenda and for young entrepreneurship to be possible, countries must emphasize on creativity. Moreover, it is necessary to emphasize innovation as a focal point in implementing the objectives of the Agenda 2030. There should be an effort to encourage governments and companies produce innovative products, make cities more sustainable, and finally have a wide range of innovative commodities at the disposal of their citizens. Having taken under serious consideration the value of innovation in the European Union, it has been included in its strategic planning, with the objectives first of increasing productivity, and second of leading innovation into the scientific sector, and of introducing it in local entrepreneurship.³⁷

7.4 Unemployment

The reasons for unemployment are many and different, whilst they usually concern economic factors. Recently, in the global financial crisis of 2008, the global economy was in recession, with hundreds of companies being forced to cut spending and lay off thousands of people. One more reason for the phenomenon of unemployment is technology. The rapid rise in technology, with hundreds of inventions, has changed the lives of thousands of people. Now, countries do not need as many working hands to build a car, but only machine or robot management for the same reason, thus, leading many people out of jobs. An additional reason is the immigration policy of a

³⁵ congestion?, H. and Matthew David Viccars, R. (2014). *How can mega-cities innovate to reduce traffic congestion?*. [online] UNDP. Available at: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2014/6/6/how-can-mega-cities-innovate-to-reduce-traffic-congestion.html> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

³⁶ Rafferty, J. (2018). *Urban sprawl*. [online] Encyclopedia Britannica. Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/urban-sprawl> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

³⁷ World Economic Forum. (2018). *The state of research and innovation in Europe in 7 charts*. [online] Available at: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/02/the-state-of-research-and-innovation-in-europe-in-7-charts/> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

country. That refers to the amount of immigrants flowing into a country and their social status with regards to their income.

In our days, unemployment in the United States varies in at 4% and in European Union at 8.1%³⁸. Clearly, these are some of the lowest rates of recent years. Nevertheless, in many EU countries unemployment rates are still high and youth unemployment is a double-digit number.

During the past years and up until today, governments are taking measures to tackle the phenomenon of unemployment. For example, they motivate parents to find a job and be able to support their families. Also, they give financial grants to businesses and employers to recruit new employees, or they subsidize employees' contributions. Furthermore, governments are focusing on young people and fund youth entrepreneurship and mobility programs. Lastly, it is important to mention that public authorities regulate labor markets in such a way that they are flexible enough to make it easier for businesses to hire or dismiss their workers.^{39,40}

7.5 Impact of tourism

The impact of tourism on the cities of the world is multi-leveled. It is divided into three categories: environmental, economic and cultural. The environmental impact of tourism in various parts of the world includes pollution of rivers and seas, and high demand in energy sources. In addition, the garbage problem as well as the issue of the protection of endangered animals constitutes a huge concern.

For example, tourism in Caribbean accounts for 14% of its GDP. It creates 700,000 direct jobs and 2.2 million indirect jobs. At the same time, however, it leads to a negative environmental impact in this area. Such a practice has the effect of destroying coral reefs which are important for the biodiversity of the area. In addition, the existence of a large number of cruise ships has the consequence of the “marine pollution”.^{41,42} The economic impact could be enormous. On the one hand, it provides millions of jobs, but on the other hand, draws huge resources and creates complex issues in local economies. It changes the form of the economy and absorbs financial resources from the primary sector, leaving enough farmers unemployed. It also

³⁸ Ec.europa.eu. (2018). *Eurostat - Unemployment in Europe*. [online] Available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/9422707/3-30112018-BP-EN.pdf/fb7929e7-5e59-4a28-ba16-46a0beb188dc> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

³⁹ Merrionstreet.ie. (2015). *10 government measures for tackling unemployment - MerrionStreet*. [online] Available at: https://merrionstreet.ie/en/allaboutjobs/Features-Articles/10_government_measures_for_tackling_unemployment.html [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

⁴⁰ Pettinger, T. (2017). *Policies for reducing unemployment*. [online] Economicshelp.org. Available at: <https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/3881/economics/policies-for-reducing-unemployment/> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

⁴¹ Cep.unep.org. (n.d.). *Solid Waste and Marine Litter — Caribbean Environment Programme*. [online] Available at: <http://www.cep.unep.org/publications-and-resources/marine-and-coastal-issues-links/solid-waste-and-marine-litter> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

⁴² Kennedy, R. (2018). *The Effects of Tourism in the Caribbean*. [online] Traveltips.usatoday.com. Available at: <https://traveltips.usatoday.com/effects-tourism-caribbean-63368.html> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2019].

creates issues in the sustainability of development, as it binds energy resources quickly and without recycling, endangering overall the viability and stability of the economy and society. At this point, it should be highlighted that the tourist market is dominated by all-inclusive packages that favor the products of the multinational companies and eliminate the products of the local economies.

It is obvious that governments face huge challenges in combining the high number of jobs in tourism with the survival of local economies and the sustainability of the economy in general.

8. Block Positions

The sustainable development goals 8 and 13 known as “Decent Work and Economic Growth” and the “Climate Action” correspondingly, concern strongly many member states globally.

a) United States of America

The main part of the management development program is the bill that lowered the tax rate from 35% to 21%, also known as “*The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA)*” introduced on January 1st, 2018.⁴³ Corporate earnings have multiplied since the end of the recession and profits in national income have increased. On average, US companies have a lot of cash in hand. Also, Trump promised to minimize the waste and has reduced the number of federal workers by freezing recruits and promised a budget cut⁴⁴. As for the climate action goal, on June 1, 2017, Trump announced the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement with the justification that it will undermine the US economy, thus, it will no longer be aligned with the 195 signatories that have committed to cut their greenhouse gas emissions to a level that is 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels, by 2025.⁴⁵

b) China

One of the main aspects of economic growth in China is investment. In 2010, investing in China possessed the 46% of its GDP. By comparison, Japan in its 1970s boom topped out at 36%, while Korea's share peaked at 39% in the 1990s.⁴⁶ Success in improving sustainability through low carbon innovation and other technological innovations can provide China with new sources of external demand as Chinese

⁴³ Tradingeconomics.com. (2019). *United States Federal Corporate Tax Rate | 2019 | Data | Chart | Calendar*. [online] Available at: <https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/corporate-tax-rate> [Accessed 16 Jan. 2019].

⁴⁴ Anon, (2019). [online] Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/trumps-formula-for-growing-the-u-s-economy-what-will-work-and-what-wont/>

⁴⁵ AMADEO, K. (2019). *Donald Trump's Economic Plan and How It Is Changing the Economy*. [online] The Balance. Available at: <https://www.thebalance.com/donald-trump-economic-plan-3994106> [Accessed 9 Jan. 2019].

⁴⁶ tutor2u. (n.d.). *China - Economic Growth and Development | tutor2u Economics*. [online] Available at: <https://www.tutor2u.net/economics/reference/china-economic-growth-and-development> [Accessed 9 Jan. 2019].

businesses export products and license technology in green industries. Since 2016, China has continued the support of global climate governance process and has been strongly praised by the international community for the noteworthy subsidy to the conclusion and swift entry into force of the Paris Agreement, as well as for the promotion of international cooperation concerning the climate change.

c) European Union

EU development policy seeks to promote the sustainable development of developing countries, with the main goal of eradicating poverty. It is a cornerstone of EU relations with the other countries worldwide and contributes to the objectives of EU's external action – apart from the foreign security and trade policies, as well as their extents in environmental, agricultural and fishery fields.

At the same time, preventing dangerous climate change is a priority for the European Union. Europe is committed to cut its greenhouse gas emissions essentially, while encouraging other countries and regions to act the same way. Its climate targets could be reached through a combination of financial support and regulation. The EU is part of the new global climate agreement, signed in Paris in 2015, and due to be implemented by 2020.⁴⁷ The EU has, also, pledged a second phase of the Kyoto Protocol running from 2013 to 2020. Finally, the EU provides substantial funding to tackle climate change, thus, making it the world's leading donor of development aid for such a cause.

d) South Africa

South Africa has conducted its National Employment Vulnerability Assessment (NEVA), which includes the development of Sector Jobs Resilience Plans (SJRPs) to address the job losses or potential job losses that may result from addressing and adapting to climate change in South Africa.⁴⁸

Since 2016, the progressive rise of the commodity prices was the main action taken so as to improve global conditions, which have also helped curtail current account deficits. In 2017, foreign direct investment helped to finance current account deficits and cushion foreign reserves (World Bank and Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development) with the goal to boost economic growth in the region.⁴⁹

9. Questions to be addressed

- 1) How can goals 8 and 13 of the SDGs be achieved through urban public management and planning?

⁴⁷ Commission, E. (n.d.). *EU climate action - Climate Action - European Commission*. [online] Climate Action - European Commission. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/citizens/eu_en [Accessed 9 Jan. 2019].

⁴⁸ Nbi.org.za. (2019). [online] Available at: <http://www.nbi.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/DEA-NBI-Infographics-2-20171102-WEB.pdf>.

⁴⁹ Unctad.org. (2019). [online] Available at: https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/aldcafrica2018_en.pdf.

- 2) What measures should be taken by the governments in order to reduce the negative impacts of tourism?
- 3) Are the existing anti-unemployment measures adequate and capable of decreasing unemployment? If not, how can states and their local governments manage and combat the issue?
- 4) In which ways can innovation and entrepreneurship be introduced and incorporated into domestic policy to achieve goals 8 and 13?
- 5) How can the causes of environmental pollution, and therefore of climate change, be properly detected and the nations to be adequately prepared for its impacts, with regards to the “Paris Agreement” on climate change?
- 6) What steps are required for the governments to take so as to address the negative impacts of megacities, as well as of its manifestations?
- 7) Are the SDGs 8 and 13 identical for all countries? Should there be any distinction concerning their implementation, with respect to the needs and the economical situation of the different parts of the world?

10. Conclusion

To sum up, the planet today is facing multiple challenges. According to Goal 8 of the SDGs, 470 million jobs will be needed to absorb new entrants to the labor market between 2016 and 2030. So, it is important for states to take immediate action to deal with this work blast. Also, Greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise and are now more than 50 percent higher than their 1990 level. Thus, it is perfectly understandable that governments have, over the coming years, to manage huge challenges that involve billions of people with multi-level interests and needs.

As the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations the committee must be decisive and pledge allegiance to a sustainable future both for the societies and for the planet. This document should be the beginning of your research; however you are expected to make your own inquiry upon the topic. The latter is what will enable you to understand not only the severity of the topic, but also to realize which should be the next steps of the international community towards solving the issue at hand.

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