



ArcMUN

Aristotelio College Model United Nations

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

STUDY GUIDE

**Innovative financing for sustainable development goals:
Exploring new financial instruments and partnerships to
achieve the 2030 agenda.**

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1. WELCOMING LETTER

Distinguished delegates,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 22nd ARCMUN's ECOSOC committee. The subject of inquiry this year entails "Innovative financing for sustainable development goals: exploring new financial instruments and partnerships to achieve the 2030 agenda". This topic is critical and will demonstrate its relevance in the near future within this context.

The aim of this study guide is to offer comprehensive information and details about the committee's topic while also explaining key terms essential for a deeper understanding. This will help clarify the specific areas to focus on in your research regarding your country's national policy.

We encourage you to embrace this unique experience with the same enthusiasm we will and to come well-prepared with your research so you actively contribute to the debate.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have questions concerning the topic, we would be more than happy to answer all of your concerns.

We are looking forward to meeting you in person!

Sincerely,

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2. INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the main governing bodies within the United Nations and is primarily responsible for the economic and social coordination of the United Nations, particularly of all commissions under its jurisdiction. One of its key functions is cooperation to aid its goal of sustainable development over an extended timeframe. Meetings are held annually to provide grounds to discuss multiple global problems in which ECOSOC can intervene and address. This year, the focus is on achieving the United Nations' 2030 agendas through innovative and enhanced means.

3. INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a comprehensive framework for addressing global challenges, including poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation. Achieving these ambitious goals require substantial financial resources. Conventional means of funding are often inadequate to meet the scale of the challenges, which has birthed the need for innovative financing strategies. This includes new financial instruments, partnerships, and the mobilization of resources in support of the SDGs.

As we look toward 2030, there is an increasing focus on leveraging innovative financial tools to replace traditional funding methods. Partnerships between governments, international organizations and the private sector play a critical role in unlocking these resources and ensuring they are directed effectively to areas that will have the most impact. Through these collaborative efforts, it is possible to bridge the financing gap and drive the global movement towards sustainable development. This MUN session will explore the potential of these innovative financial solutions and how they can be used to accelerate progress toward achieving the SDGs

4. TERMINOLOGY

SDGs (Social Development Goals): The global goals set by the United Nations in order to address global challenges and aid in the realization of a sustainable future by 2030.

2030 Agenda: An action plan set by the United Nations, which includes the SDGs, with a goal of achieving worldwide prosperity and protecting our planet.

Innovative Financing: New ways of allocating funds towards the goals set by the United Nations, beyond methods like government funding and usual debt, such as Impact investing, blended finance, green bonds and partnerships.

Impact Investing: Investments that include a positive social and environmental outcome, alongside a financial return.

Blended Finance: Strategic use of both private and public funds in order to maximize the allocation of funds toward a positive financial goal.

Green Bonds: Fixed Income investments that are used for the channeling of funds toward projects that include a beneficial environmental outcome.

Climate Finance: Funding specifically aimed towards addressing climate change, mitigating its effects and helping adapt to its global impact.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Goals with measurable targets and clear deadlines for improving the lives of the world's poorest people.

5. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals were introduced by the United Nations in 2015 along with the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development. The ultimate target is peace and prosperity alongside preventing further effects of climate change, and specifically protecting our oceans and forests. The SDGs focus on building and highlighting economic and environmental connections through sustainable development. The primary focus of the SDGs is sustainability. There are 17 SDGs, the summaries of which are as follows:

No poverty (SDG 1), Zero hunger (SDG 2), Good health and well-being (SDG 3), Quality education (SDG 4), Gender equality (SDG 5), Clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), Affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), Industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9), Reduced inequalities (SDG 10), Sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), Climate action (SDG 13), Life below water (SDG 14), Life on land (SDG 15), Peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16), and Partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

These goals are highly ambitious, however, as the likelihood of achieving all of these until 2030 is low. Climate change, biodiversity loss, and the global pandemic all have had a negative impact on the progress of the SDGs and continue to threaten it today.

6. SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals have a wide range of social benefits. SDG 1 aims to eradicate extreme poverty in all forms, worldwide. If achieved, this would guarantee the basic human rights of shelter and food worldwide. SDG 4 primarily focuses on securing quality education and opportunities for all people globally. As education is the foundation for improving society and the well-being of individuals, access to quality education will guarantee a better social and economical state worldwide.

SDG 3 Ensures healthy living and well-being for all people of all ages. Socially, health is the most important determinant of stability in a society. Achieving good well-being requires decent facilities and access to healthcare for all, as well as clean drinking water, sanitation, which are all linked to socioeconomic factors.

SDG 5 Aims to reduce gender equality, which is a key factor socially and is something that needs to be given more focus especially in underdeveloped countries where gender inequality is rampant. Gender equality is crucial for social cohesion and economic prosperity. Inequality should be eliminated completely and discrimination against women should be taken more seriously in order to achieve prosperity.

SDG 6 Is key to ensure clean water and sanitation, both valuable and fundamental human rights, lack of both leads to deteriorating health and well-being which in turn results in an underdeveloped country in ruins and is what SDG 6 is striving to combat.

7. PRESENT STATUS

According to a 2024 report of the United Nations, only 17% of the targets are on track, with as many as 33% regressing or stalling. COVID-19 has had a major role in the negative progress of the SDGs, alongside climate change and the state of conflicts and geopolitical tension globally. This means that, not only are the SDGs not on track to be achieved, some are going backwards. Inequality is increasing, climate change is speeding up, biodiversity loss is at an all time high, and the worldwide conflicts are only getting worse.

8. ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN

Significant progress has indeed been made in addressing various development changes. Within the past generation, hundreds of millions of people have risen out of extreme poverty. According to the World Bank, the global extreme poverty fell from 36% in 1990 to around 10% in 2015. This decline has been driven by economic growth, particularly in countries like China and India, and efforts to increase access to basic services and social protection programs.

Access to education has significantly increased for both boys and girls. Reports mention that global primary school enrollment rates have reached 91%, and gender disparities in primary education have been nearly eliminated. The focus on achieving universal primary education, as part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), has resulted in millions more children attending school.

The spread of ICT (Information and Communications Technology) and global interconnections have transformed societies. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) highlights that mobile phone subscriptions have surged globally, with significant increases in internet access even in remote areas. This expansion facilitates greater communication, access to information, and opportunities for economic development.

Advancements in various fields such as medicine and energy have propelled human progress. Innovations like vaccines and new medical treatments have improved health outcomes, while renewable energy technologies are helping to address climate change and provide sustainable energy solutions. For example, the development and deployment of solar and wind energy technologies have expanded significantly, contributing to cleaner energy production.

9. POINTS TO BE ADDRESSED

- ⇒ How are the SDGs going to get back on track?
- ⇒ How will the new arising conflicts and threats to SDGs be tackled?
- ⇒ Which innovative financing methods can be used to allocate adequate funds?
- ⇒ How can governments and private sectors collaborate to address gaps in funding for sustainable development?
- ⇒ How can financing be tailored to meet the unique needs of countries most vulnerable to climate change?

10. SUMMARY

The SDGs and 2030 Agenda as a whole are extremely critical for our planet and its sustainable development. All 17 interconnected SDGs are hugely important for our planet and sustainability, and achieving these goals would tackle vital issues such as lack of basic human rights and environmental damage from climate change and global warming respectively. Significant actions have already been taken, but continued effort and worldwide cooperation are key factors in order to get back on track and achieve these goals, and create a world where everyone can thrive within the planet's limits.

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