

LVMUN VII

7th Annual Las Vegas Model UN Conference
February 7-8, 2020

Dear LVMUN VII Delegates,

My name is Ivana Karastoeva, one of your chairs for the General Assembly this year at the 7th annual Las Vegas Model United Nations Conference. This is my third year in Model United Nations and my second year chairing this conference. I have participated in many MUN conferences throughout my high school career including UCI MUN in California, FLHS MUN and LVMUN in Vegas, and most recently I attended NHSMUN in New York. MUN provides me a chance to share my passion for politics and really work on my public speaking skills. It has opened my mind and made me more knowledgeable about our world and the issues it is facing and what we, as global citizens, can do in order to advocate for change. By participating in this year's LVMUN you have shown that you are interested in learning about and solving the dilemmas of this world so please take this debate seriously and be prepared to show your knowledge and speak your truth. I hope to see each one of you excel in this debate and contribute unique solutions to the problems at hand in order to make for a great conference.

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Greetings LVMUN GA Delegates

I am ecstatic to co-chair the General Assembly at LVMUN this year! My name is Sage Koebcke, and this is only my second year in Model United Nations, but I have been blessed with amazing mentors, advisors, and classmates that have taught me so much over my short time. I have never been one for public speaking, debating, or negotiating, but MUN has provided me a platform to overcome personal challenges and has not only enhanced my school career but has enhanced my character. The conferences I have attended also provided me with confidence and experience including FLHSMUN, BruinMUN, and of course, LVMUN. This year's General Assembly topic is Progress on Sustainable Development Challenges and Opportunities which I find perfectly relevant due to the 2030 agenda being just 10 years away. Be innovative. Come up with solutions, share, collaborate, and most importantly learn. Challenge yourself to take charge and speak up because the more you do it the easier it will become. I cannot wait to see the creative solutions this committee will come up with to solve these global problems.

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Hello Delegates!

My name is Austin Davison, and I am one of your chairs for the Las Vegas Model United Nations conference. I am extremely excited to chair my second conference and hear the ideas that could change the world in the future. Personally, I enjoy studying history, politics, flags, and I am a hockey player. I hope to become a diplomat, public official, or businessman in the future, and take what I've learned from Model United Nations with me. I have been to prestigious conferences such as BruinMUN, UCIMUN, NHSMUN, and ILMUNC. I believe that Model United Nations and its young participants are key to exposing as well as solving the problems of today. I am optimistic for a great final LVMUN as I am a senior, and I am looking forward to our cooperation in solving the problems of the world.

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Topic: Progress on Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities

Sustainable development has proven to be on slow growth since the time the sustainable development goals were created. Global hunger, inequality, and effects on the environment are on the rise and insufficient funding and lack of influential technological advancement are hindering a push toward growth. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs published, in July 2019, a Global Sustainable Development Report which provides insight into where we are in the progress to achieve the 2030 agenda.¹ According to this recent document, and secretary-general António Guterres, the most pressing hindrances are meeting the 2030 agenda is climate change and inequality. In regards to climate change, the pressure that humans have put on the environment, including CO2 emissions and our global material footprint (which is expected to reach 190 billion metric cubes), as well as the effects caused by climate change, including rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and natural disaster severity. In order to reduce these harmful effects, as there is overlap with other challenges in the other SDGs, there needs to be a focus to reduce emissions and increase adaptability. It is encouraged that all governments act due to the limited time we have before we are in too deep to make significant changes. As the concern on climate change is growing, so is the issue of inequality. Inequality is seen most prevalent in the concentration of poverty and hunger throughout the world. When it comes to inequality of females, they are still underrepresented in decision making and even though the number of women in the workforce

¹ "SDG Indicators." United Nations, United Nations, unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/.

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has grown, only 27% of women are in positions of management. The UN holds a strong belief that the 2030 agenda will be unable to happen if people are left behind.

The pace of reduction of poverty and hunger has slowed, and progress is not at a pace enough to meet the 2030 agenda. Since 2014, the number of those hungry has been rising, totaling almost 821 million people without enough nourishment. Child mortality has declined from 9.8 million in 2000 to 5.4-million and still has positive projections to decrease in the future; however, there are 300,000 women dying of complications during childbirth, especially in sub-Saharan Africa due to lack of resources. 55% of children, 617 million, are receiving a primary and secondary education, yet there is still an alarming number of children lacking proficiency in math and reading, two-thirds of which are currently enrolled in school. In 2017, 785 million people lived without basic water services and about 700 million people could be displaced due to water scarcity. Even though there are concerning disparities, financing for renewable energy is rising along with labor productivity. In urban areas, there is still population growth which puts a strain on sustainable development of larger urban cities. Regarding human trafficking, the system to report trafficking has majorly developed but through these reports it is seen that human trafficking is increasing. 70% of those trafficked are female and 50% are trafficked for sexual exploitation.²

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Bloc Positions

European Union

Since the adoption of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the EU Member States have achieved remarkable progress in many areas of the 17 Sustainable goals and as a result, rank amongst the top SDG performers worldwide. The EU has set some of the highest social and environmental standards and is an overall global leader in the pursuit of these goals. Despite this, current trends show that the EU is not on track of achieving all targets by 2030. Recent reports on the EU's progress show that efforts by the region have stalled or stagnated completely over the years according to the Eurostat Progress on Sustainable Development Report of 2019.

For starters, Europe has been underperforming in business sector investment in research and innovation (Goal 9). Public and private investments in research and development (R&D) in Sweden is higher than that of Europe's total average, making it the current leader in innovation.³ Investment in R&D and innovation can provide job opportunities, help promote women empowerment in the work field, and can provide a chance for the region's infrastructure to become more sustainable and environmentally cautious.⁴ Though investment in research and development has increased over the past 15 years, this increase has been gradual and much more is needed in order to ensure these benefits.

³ "reflection paper toward 'The Sustainable Development Goals Report.'" The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019, July 2019, unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf.
Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030 - Guni Network." 30 Jan. 2019, http://www.guninetwork.org/files/rp_sustainable_europe_30-01_en_web.pdf.
Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

⁴ "The Impact of Innovation: WIPO and the Sustainable Development Goals." <https://www.wipo.int/sdgs/en/story.html>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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Another key issue Europe is facing is the ever-growing problem of income inequality (Goal 10) within Member States, and according to the draft 2018 Joint Employment Report by the European Commission; Spain, Greece, Bulgaria, and Lithuania are amongst the worst performing countries in profit equality.⁵ A key indicator of this inequality is the income distribution gap that has not only persisted but has expanded slightly in recent years, with the richest 20% earning 5.1 times higher income than that of the poorest 20%.⁶ Another indicator is that marginalized and vulnerable groups, especially migrants and ethnic minorities, still suffer from particular forms of inequalities. Their socio-economic inclusion continues to be inadequate.⁷ Despite this, the region is still viewed as the least unequal on a global scale. Delegates should focus their research on ways they can improve themselves and other global partners.

Preserving life on earth and reducing the effects of climate change (Goals 13 and 15) are other major focuses of the European Union. With previous actions addressing climate change, such as the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP) much more is necessary in order to reach the goals targets. More action needs to be directed towards fitting agricultural practices in line with environmental standards. Delegates should focus on pursuing climate action through a combination of financial support and regulation as well as spreading its influence of sustainability to less developed countries (LDCs).

⁵ "2019 Joint Employment Report - European Commission - europa.eu." 21 Nov. 2018, https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/file_import/2019-european-semester-draft-joint-employment-report_en_1.pdf. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

⁶ "reflection paper towards a sustainable europe by 2030 - Guni Network." 30 Jan. 2019, http://www.guninetwork.org/files/rp_sustainable_europe_30-01_en_web.pdf. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

⁷ "Who is being left behind? Patterns of social ... - the United Nations." <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/rwss/2016/chapter3.pdf>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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In Goal 15, the EU has made progress on improving the ecosystem status over the past few years, however, land degradation and increasing biodiversity have been mixed, and most indicators show continued and strong declines in these areas.⁸ Continuous action towards achieving this goal is needed and the EU's pursuit of implementing a circular economy is one action of top importance delegates should focus on in this upcoming debate. Being a continent with great power and influence, the EU needs to consider its responsibility on the global stage because a multitude of EU internal policies can result in spillover impacts outside the EU borders, with potential negative impacts on other countries' endeavors to achieve the SDGs.

⁸ "SDG 15 - Life on land - Statistics Explained - European Commission." 27 Jun. 2019, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=SDG_15_-_Life_on_land&oldid=439652. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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Asia and the Pacific

The Asia-Pacific region will likely miss all goals by 2030 at the current pace of progress.⁹ The region needs to fast-track progress or reverse negative trends regarding all Sustainable Development Goals to achieve the ambition of the 2030 Agenda. Little progress has been made towards most of the goals and even for the ones the region has significantly advanced in such as ending poverty (Goal 1), ensuring all have access to quality education and lifelong learning (Goal 4), and delivering affordable and clean energy (Goal 7), they too will not be reached unless progress is accelerated.¹⁰ For three goals, the situation has deteriorated. Negative trends have been registered when it comes to providing clean water and sanitation (Goal 6). Currently, around 300 million people in the region do not have improved access to safe drinking water and 1.7 billion lack availability to basic sanitation.¹¹ Water shortage is another threat with the main contributor being the effects of climate change, and the regions' inability to adapt. More investment needs to go towards water projects and new technologies that will help make the water supply system more reliable, sustainable, and climate resilient.

Ensuring decent work and economic growth (Goal 8) has also progressed in the wrong direction. Much of the labor force is informally employed, and unfortunately, youths, especially young females, are facing high unemployment rates.¹² For fast-growing economies like China

⁹ "Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2019 - United Nations ESCAP." https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/publications/ESCAP_Asia_and_the_Pacific_SDG_Progress_Report_2019.pdf. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

¹⁰ "Asia-Pacific moves slow on environment-related SDGs: Report." 30 May. 2019, <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/governance/asia-pacific-moves-slow-on-environment-related-sdgs-report-64829>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

¹¹ "300 mln people in Asia-Pacific have no improved access to water: ADB." 2 Oct. 2018, http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/02/c_137507412.htm. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

¹² "sdg 8_decent work and economic growth - Asia Pacific SDG Partnership." <http://sdgasiapacific.net/download/SDG8.pdf>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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and Thailand, more than half are informal workers and because of low primary education levels and limited accessibility to skill training, trapping them in an endless cycle of poverty.¹³ At the same time, exploitative labor practices and disregard for labor rights and workplace safety are prevalent across the region. Organizations such as the International Trade Union Confederation - Asia Pacific (ITUC AP) have urged governments for change but it remains a serious issue that will impede progress towards other goals if not resolved.¹⁴

Nearly half of the SDG indicators in which progress is likely to deteriorate by 2030 are environmental including goals 12, 13, 14, and 15. Waste and waste management is a major obstacle as, of the approximate 8 million tons of plastic that reach the Earth's oceans daily, most are coming from five major Asian countries; China, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand.¹⁵ Therefore, having the business sector to apply life cycle analysis to their operations will trigger important change, change that will lead to a reduction of wasteful lifestyles and lead to overall wellbeing. Greenhouse gas emissions remain at high levels in the region. The region accounted for 33% of global emissions in 2014, more than the US and EU combined. China is most problematic in the region as it uses more coal than the rest of the world and generates more electricity than any other country in Asia.¹⁶ India is also projected to increase its demand for energy to meet its development needs.

¹³ "The Overview of Informal Sector in Thailand - Asia Pacific Perspectives." 27 Apr. 2017, <http://ctpecctw.blogspot.com/2017/04/the-overview-of-informal-sector-in.html>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

¹⁴ "ILO addresses decent work deficits at forum to review SDGs." 10 Jul. 2019, https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_712636/lang--en/index.htm. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

¹⁵ "Five Asian Countries Dump More Plastic Into Oceans Than Anyone" 21 Apr. 2018, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/hannahleung/2018/04/21/five-asian-countries-dump-more-plastic-than-anyone-else-combined-how-you-can-help/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

¹⁶ "Emissions - International Energy Agency." <https://www.iea.org/geco/emissions/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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There are reasons for optimism as many governments, especially in North and Central Asia, have carried out significant actions but there is a need for sub regional communication to really see a result nationally and globally. Data availability is lacking in the region, only being available for just 36 percent of the global SDG indicators.¹⁷ Data inefficiency harms tracking progress and therefore countries are in the dark as to what approaches they should take next on the account of progressing towards the Goals. Therefore improvement of data accessibility should be among the region's top priorities.

As for the region's global responsibility, China has set the standard with its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This initiative, formulated in 2016, is set to improve connectivity and cooperation on a transcontinental scale. With investing in foreign countries, China plans to increase infrastructure and trade from countries around the world, ranging from Europe to Africa. Such investments and projects can benefit the whole world and lift billions of people out of poverty, making it a focal point for achieving the SDGs. Through being a major proponent, the initiative undermines the environmental impacts of these wide-scale projects, therefore, aligning future ideas with environmental standards will be key in tackling all sectors of the SDGs.

¹⁷ "Asia-Pacific moves slow on environment-related SDGs: Report." 30 May. 2019, <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/governance/asia-pacific-moves-slow-on-environment-related-sdgs-report-64829>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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African Union

Following the adoption of SDGs in September 2015, Africa has made many commitments towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda 2030. With the development of the African Union Agenda 2063, the continent's strategic framework on sustainable development and inclusion, African nations have really shown their dedication to bettering their world. Africa is the most disadvantaged region when it comes to the SDGs. For some targets, not only is the region underperforming; the reality is that achieving them appears virtually impossible if Jurassic measures aren't taken.¹⁸

Health and wellbeing (Goal 3) in Africa has been maintaining steady progress, but the continent still confronts the world's most dramatic public health crisis.¹⁹ The World Health Organization shows that HIV/AIDS continues to devastate the region. Globally, 90 percent of the estimated 300–500 million malaria cases that occur every year are in Africa, but most countries are moving forward to better treatment policies.²⁰ Most African countries, especially those in Northern Africa, are making good progress on preventable childhood illnesses through increased immunization coverage but challenges still pertain with insufficient funding being the main contributor.²¹ Resources are needed for the health systems to respond effectively to life-threatening communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases that have been

¹⁸ "SDG Center for Africa." <https://sdgcafrica.org/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

¹⁹ "Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages" <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2017/goal-03/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

²⁰ "WHO | The African Regional Health Report: The Health of the People." <https://www.who.int/bulletin/africanhealth/en/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

²¹ "Challenges of immunization in the African Region - NCBI." 21 Jun. 2017, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5745929/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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increasing in recent decades due to environmental challenges like the deteriorating quality of air and water.

As with every region mentioned, so far, Africa is a victim of the impacts of climate change. Despite the continent only contributing less than 4% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, it is the most vulnerable, and most threatened by the impacts.²² Because of consistent trends of drought, flooding, and other such disasters in recent years, pressure is being put on food production and security (Goal 2). Today, some 232 million Africans are suffering from malnutrition and if current trends continue, it is projected that Africa will only be able to meet 13% of its food needs by 2050.²³ Not only is the agricultural sector under threat, but entire livelihoods are at risk as climate change also attributed to poor health and displacement.

Member states have been working through various regional and global institutions to fortify their response to climate. Countries in West Africa and other regions are adopting climate-smart methods of agriculture and increasing funding towards improving weather and water resource management practices, but these countries are still a long way from achieving any sustainability in this region. Africa's urban centers currently account for 40% of the population, and it is projected that by 2040, the region will become majority urban at 51.1%. However, much of the urbanization currently in Africa is unplanned and poorly managed (Goal

²² "Africa is particularly vulnerable to the expected impacts of global"
http://unfccc.int/files/press/backgrounders/application/pdf/factsheet_africa.pdf. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

²³ "News Article: Global hunger continues to rise, new UN report says - FAO." 11 Sep. 2018,
<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1152031/icode/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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11).²⁴ Many African cities are characterized by informality, infrastructure deficits, and limited opportunities for employment in productive sectors of manufacturing, among others.²⁵

Poverty (Goal 1) remains one of the biggest challenges of the continent, except for North Africa that has maintained a constant decrease in poverty rates since 2000. As for the rest of Africa, poverty levels have been increasing with Madagascar, Zimbabwe, and Sudan having the highest rate of poverty of over 70%.²⁶ In order to reduce these trends poverty and inequality, African cities need to be well planned and managed. National governments must focus on and invest in core urban barriers including infrastructure and service deficits and maintain proper planning and legislation.

Good governance (Goal 16) is a fundamental aspect of achieving the 2030 Agenda. Africa has witnessed progress in governance, in both political and economic spheres, but serious challenges prevail in many African nations. According to the 2016 Ibrahim Index of African Governance Report, Somalia and South Sudan scored the lowest with below 23 points out of a continental average of 50. The region is still characterized by ethnic and religious conflicts, civil unrest, corruption, terrorist threats, electoral disputes, the proliferation of arms and other internal conflicts.²⁷ For this reason, it is necessary not only for each country to reflect on its current SDG status and progress, but to analyze how government-led efforts can be improved and accelerated.

²⁴ "Urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa | Center for Strategic and" 12 Apr. 2018, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/urbanization-sub-saharan-africa>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

²⁵ "Africa Sustainable Development Report - UNDP in Malawi." http://www.mw.undp.org/content/dam/malawi/docs/sustainable-development-goals-copies/Undp_Malawi_2018_Africa_sustainable_Development_Report.pdf. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

²⁶ "While Poverty in Africa Has Declined, Number of Poor Has Increased." <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/publication/poverty-rising-africa-poverty-report>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

²⁷ "2018 African Union Summit: fight against corruption at the centre stage" 1 Feb. 2018, <http://mo.ibrahim.foundation/news/2018/2018-african-union-summit-fight-corruption-centre-stage/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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Gender inequality (Goal 5) still hinders Africa's sustainable growth. Women face discrimination both in education and in the work field. Achieving gender equality through education will not only improve lifestyles but will also boost the economy since currently, the country is losing \$95 billion just on this issue alone.²⁸

²⁸ "Gender gap costs sub-Saharan Africa \$US95 billion a year: New" 28 Aug. 2016, <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2016/08/28/les-disparit-s-entre-les-genres-co-tent-l-afrique-subsaharienne-95-milliards-de-par-an.html>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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North America

Despite being one of the richest countries in the world, the United States is surprisingly falling behind in terms of advancing on the Sustainable Development Goals. The US stands last among the G20 to attain these goals and this year was ranked 35th worldwide on the SDG Index and Dashboard. Many speculate that this low performance is mainly due to the government's disregard for social and environmental development.²⁹ While sustainable development is supposed to rest on economic, social, and environmental conditions as a whole, the US only persists its progress on the economic spectrum with the social and environmental goals essentially go ignored.

Poverty (Goal 1) still holds the nation back despite the recent years of economic recovery. Outrageously, 40 million US citizens (12% of the population) still live in poverty. This trend is attributed to the ever-rising gap between the wealthy and the poor.³⁰ Income inequality (Goal 10) rates have seen an increasing trend during the past several years with the top 1% earning 22% of the country's overall income.³¹

Gender (Goal 5) and racial inequality also persist as women are seen still only earning 85% of what their male counterparts earn and African and Native Americans still more likely to live in poverty than white Americans.³² These inequalities hinder the country prosperity and the livelihoods of its citizens ultimately leading to those less fortunate being left behind and

²⁹ "2018 SDG Index and Dashboards." <https://sdgindex.org/reports/2018/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

³⁰ "Poverty in the United States - Debt.org." <https://www.debt.org/faqs/americans-in-debt/poverty-united-states/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

³¹ "Income Inequality - Inequality.org." <https://inequality.org/facts/income-inequality/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

³² "The narrowing, but persistent, gender gap in pay - Pew Research Center." 22 Mar. 2019, <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/03/22/gender-pay-gap-facts/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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addressing these structural inequalities across sectors and communities will be essential to making progress towards the SDGs.

The US is the biggest historical emitter of CO₂ and remains one of the largest annuals per capita and total emitters in the world.³³ This disproportionate contribution to global emissions impacts international efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change (Goal 13). Meanwhile the country's government is not doing anything productive on the matter on a national scale, and climate action only continuing through state and local efforts.

Canada has shown progression towards the 2030 Agenda, but, just like the rest of the world, it falls short on several of the targets. The country is still grappled by exclusion which puts many in vulnerable and risky positions throughout the country's provinces with the most prominent being the indigenous people. Things such as food security (Goal 2) and access to clean drinking water (Goal 6) are still not adequately provided for these people despite the country's efforts as well as obtaining are especially challenging for these groups. Additionally, the country also scores poorly on gender and income inequality (Goals 5 and 10), unsustainable consumption and production (Goal 12), ensuring peace and security at home and abroad (Goal 16), and in supporting the SDGs themselves (Goal 17).³⁴

On climate change, Canada has some of the world's highest per capita emissions and requires breakthrough rates of progress to meet its own 2030 emissions targets. Luckily, the country has been advancing in reducing this statistic, most recently with the Climate Action

³³ "CO₂ emissions - International Energy Agency." <https://www.iea.org/geco/emissions/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

³⁴ "Canada's Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable" 17 May. 2018, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20033CanadasVoluntaryNationalReviewENV6.pdf>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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Intensive Fund adopted June of this year and said to deliver up to \$218 million in its first year.

This fund will provide a much-needed investment into Canada's climate change policies.³⁵

³⁵ "Canada launches Climate Action Incentive Fund - Climate Action." 4 Jun. 2019, <http://www.climateaction.org/news/canada-launches-climate-action-incentive-fund>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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Latin America and the Caribbean

Significant progress towards all the Sustainable Development targets has been seen in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) these past few years, however, the region is facing many constraints, hindering its positive uproar. For starters, despite not being of the world's poorest, the region is labeled as the most unequal. Income inequality (Goal 10) continues to be a serious issue, undermining the region's economic potential and the well-being of its population.³⁶ Thus, progress on eliminating poverty (Goal 1) is stagnant while extreme poverty is on the rise. In 2018, 63 million people were in extreme poverty, about 1 million more than in 2017, this statistic is projected to rise if present trends continue.³⁷

Women are still greatly discriminated against in this region (Goal 5). At present, 50.2% of women participate in the labor market, compared to 74.4% of men, while the unemployment rates among women were 27% higher than that of their male counterparts. On the other hand, of those women who joined the labor market during the last decade, many do not yet have a minimum level of labor rights.³⁸ In most countries with available data, many women in the region remain either unemployed or overrepresented in low-productivity informal jobs. Despite the region's legislative progress on eradicating violence against women, it is still a reoccurring issue and the policies implemented have not been enough. Many women in this region have fallen victim to some type of violent act and therefore emphasis has been

³⁶ "Latin America remains the most unequal region in the world | Oxfam" 18 Dec. 2017, <https://blogs.oxfam.org/en/blogs/17-12-18-latin-america-remains-most-unequal-region-world/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

³⁷ "10 Shocking Facts About Poverty in Latin America | The Borgen Project." 24 Oct. 2016, <https://borgenproject.org/10-facts-about-poverty-in-latin-america/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

³⁸ "Challenges and Strategies for Sustainable Development in ... - UNDG." <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Challenges-and-Strategies-for-Sustainable-Development-in-Latin-America-and-the-Caribbean.pdf>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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put on countries to push for the creation of national plans at the local level to strengthen victims' reparation actions.³⁹

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the number of extreme weather events related to climate change has increased, affecting about 160 million people in the region in the last three decades.⁴⁰ This is as a result of poorly planned and managed urban growth and a lack of investment towards risk management programs throughout the region, especially in cities with a high percentage of people living in informal settlements. The agriculture sector is also being threatened with food insecurity being on the rise as a result of events, such as drought, that are decreasing the yield production of crops. Therefore, there needs to be an increased effort in adopting adaptation strategies.

As for decreasing the effects of climate change (Goal 13), the region has been slowly progressing towards the use of more sustainable sources of energy. Countries have done quite well in transitioning from non-renewable to renewable forms of energy accumulation. Costa Rica and Uruguay have generated more than 90% of their electricity from renewables in 2015 and Brazil saw the second-largest increase in the world in hydropower along with coming in fourth in wind energy.⁴¹ Overall, there has been a surge in renewable energy use but emissions are still high with agriculture and transportation being the main contributors.

³⁹ "Latin America and the Caribbean 'most violent' against women | The St" 22 Nov. 2017, <https://stluciarstar.com/latin-america-caribbean-violent-women/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

⁴⁰ "Second annual report on regional progress and challenges in ... - Cepal." https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43439/S1800379_en.pdf. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

⁴¹ "Second annual report on regional progress and challenges in ... - Cepal." https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43439/S1800379_en.pdf. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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Committee Mission

The current mission of the committee should be focused on the status and ongoing progress of Sustainable Development goals, along with assessing the initiative taken by countries to achieve the goals. The focus of the committee should regard different factors that inhibit development, as well as opportunities that nations can take advantage of to further promote and produce development to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. The committee should aim to promote solutions that target factors that disallow worldwide development. Regarding specific conditions, limitations, and aspects that nations face in respect to development are essential to solving the issue of stagnation. Examples of conditions facing nations that inhibit development include Gross Domestic Product (GDP), differences in the Human Development Index (HDI), Gender Development Index (GDI), and other Human Development Indicators⁴². As a guideline, delegates should regard the main aspects of that affect development, these being: political factors, economic factors, and social factors.

Political factors encompass international/national conflicts, ideological differences, rule of law, and governmental legitimacy. These aspects halt the advancement of development as a nation's focus is put almost entirely on fighting conflicts. The question of governmental legitimacy is extremely important when it comes to development as an unstable government may not support/obey international organizations such as the United Nations, thus disallowing development to occur. Aside from instability in governments hindering development, factors that can influence the slowing of a nation's development are the interference in the market by

⁴² "Human Development Indices and Indicators 2018 Statistical Update." *Undp.org*, The United Nations, hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018_human_development_statistical_update.pdf.

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a government, lack of transparency and liability, as well as the absence of a proper legal framework.

Economic factors play a very important role in the process of development in many aspects. Economic factors of a nation encompass one's access to capital, and the ability for a country to receive aid from other countries. Economic factors are vital to development through means of creating self-sustaining economies to support the improvement of a region, as well as to gain, use, and return funds gifted by foreign nations for development.

Climate change and other environmental factors are also essential for progressing development across the planet. Countries risk losing massive amounts of land area to rising sea levels, droughts, and other extreme conditions which all limit the production of change to nations across the world.

Lastly, social factors are key to development. Social factors, in regard to development, ensure that people are treated equally under the law, without discrimination of any kind, as well as secure traditions and cultures. Social factors include a region's culture, and tradition, gender equality, as well as the flow of inward or outward migration.

Although we will cover all SDGs as they are all of importance, in the interest of time and productivity, we would like the committee to put special emphasis on SDG 1, poverty, and SDG 13, climate action. These two goals are the focal points for the overall achievement of the SDGs. Progressing in eradicating poverty and protecting our environment will, in turn, lead to progress in all other SDGs.

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Questions to Consider

1. Do the Sustainable Development Goals need to be adapted to a changing world?
2. Should companies/organizations pick and choose the SDG that they want to support and aid in or should they always be clumped together?
3. Now that we have had time to have a set of goals, do any of them have negative effects on each other, which ones prove to be the most underdeveloped?
4. What indexes/data should we use to measure or refer to when talking about development?
5. What solutions globally encompass the needs of the world while locally target and execute for macro and micro development?
6. What social, economic, environmental, and political factors act as a limitation to the effectiveness and ultimate success of solutions?
7. How can your country assist in achieving these goals internationally? What are some national plans your country has implemented that could be applied on a global level?
8. How can focused initiatives on eradicating poverty cause a positive spillover effect on other social/economic based SDGs?
9. How can focused initiatives on climate action cause a positive spillover effect on other environmental-based SDGs?