



UNDP 2015



WCHSMUN2019
BACKGROUND GUIDE

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UNDP 2015 - Committee Overview

The year is 2015, the millennium development goals are reaching the end of their tenure. As members of the United Nations, it becomes your duty to develop goals for the future, in order to achieve global prosperity. Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, are a large part of this process. SDGs are frameworks developed by the United Nations Development Programme that educate nations and relevant stakeholders about issues which harm the earth from achieving prosperity. Additionally, the SDGs provide nations with the framework needed to adopt practices necessary for progressing and improving sustainability in various sectors ranging from energy, education, urbanization etc. Therefore it is critical that the committee develops goals which will provide a fresh workable approach to achieving a sustainable future.

This General Assembly is not exactly like all previous general assemblies. Although it does follow similar structure, in diplomatic protocol and nuance, it is slightly more free. In UNDP 2015, the committee is responsible for determining the future sustainable development goals. It is up to the committee's discretion to decide and originate the direction in which discourse will go. Therefore it is very important to understand a plethora of issues surrounding the world to make the best and most cohesive choices regarding goals the committee will select and subsequently divulge.

Committee structure and will follow normal protocol and foreign policy will be stressed. It is important for each delegate to understand that they are representing their nation on the world stage for setting goals for the future. Therefore the goals that a nation advocates for should be consistent with the delegate's government's policy towards a sustainable future.

In regards to working papers, the committee is responsible for developing a minimum of 3 key sustainable developments goals, and going in depth about the ramifications of each goal, key stakeholders for the future, and strategies for success moving forward. The working paper should in essence be a framework which outlines how a certain goal should be carried out. What are implications of this goal? Why does this goal matter? How could this goal be supported? Where would funds to provide for this goal come from?

Ultimately, you, the delegate, have the power to direct the future of the world. Recognize that cooperation is important. We only have one Earth and it is the responsibility of delegates to work effectively to create the most comprehensive strategy to ensure our world yields a sustainable future.

Good luck and all the best in committee,

Sincerely,
Lucas Ion
Head Chair UNDP

1. Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger

At the 2000 Millennium Conference, over 189 countries agreed to take active steps to create constructive solutions to combating poverty, citing that they would “spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty.”¹

It had become evident in the 21st century that poverty is an ongoing threat to world security, world progress, and a barrier to stability. As delegates, it is important to consider the various factors which has left millions hungry; every 3.6 seconds an individual dies from the devastating effects of starvation.² This statistic is incredibly frightening. Many individuals affected by starvation are children who lack access to food and critical nutrition. Therefore delegates should consider how they can effectively deliver nutrition to children. In some nations women have to walk kilometers to access clean drinking water and food, a basic human need. Lack of resources in the developing world has left many fighting due to scarcity.

Alongside hunger, extreme poverty is concerning. About 14.5% of the global population - roughly 1 billion people - live on less than \$1.25 per day,³ despite global wealth increasing exponentially. It has been cited that in 1950 South Korea and Pakistan had roughly the same wealth. Today, South Korea’s economy has grown 2300%, whereas Pakistan’s has only tripled.⁴ This severe economic disparity is not an anomaly. As a result, less well off nations are constantly being reminded of their struggle without many mechanisms to help them improve their current conditions. For some governments it is incredibly difficult to manage this growing wealth divide without the assistance from other nations or parties. Organizations such as UNICEF have worked tirelessly to implement and introduce various health centers, supplying developing nations with key micronutrients such as Vitamin A and iron, both of which are critical from early childhood development.⁵ Combating poverty begins with lessening the economic burden of struggling nations. Without a framework for success, these nations will remain trapped within a cycle of poverty.

¹ UN Millennium Declaration, UN A/Res/55/2, 2000.

² “Goal: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.” UNICEF. <https://www.unicef.org/mdg/poverty.html> .

³ Lomborg, Bjorn. “The best ways to fight extreme poverty.” *World Economic Forum*. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/07/the-best-ways-to-fight-extreme-poverty/> . 23 July 2015.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ “Goal: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.” UNICEF. <https://www.unicef.org/mdg/poverty.html> .

In addition, there remains a significant economic divide between urban and rural areas, and 800 million people continue to starve.⁶ The target for reducing the proportion of hungry people by half was narrowly missed in 2015.⁷ Many initiatives have led to the successes of this goal, while more investment is required to continue improvement. Much success resulted from nations embedding development policies on a national level.⁸ On the other hand, The Millennium Development Goals Report emphasized the need for better statistics and data collection, and highlighted the problems that arose from small sample sizes and a lack of information.⁹

The combination of these issues - lack of access to critical nutrition, lack of mechanism to address the wealth divide, and split between urban and rural areas - are especially prevalent in nations lacking regional interconnectedness, according to the NGO Concern Worldwide. Nations such as Sudan, Madagascar, and Afghanistan are prevalent examples, though their issues stem from differing infrastructure failures. As a whole, however, it has been noted that a combination of sea access, proper roads, and economic trade routes increase incentives for economic and social interconnectedness within a nation, leading to a reduction in economic based disparity and an increased access to goods.

Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger was the first of the eight Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations in 2000. The policies and frameworks enacted under this goal, including the hunger project, have lifted more than one billion people out of extreme poverty.¹⁰ The hunger project aimed to tackle root causes of hunger in rural Africa through training and credit, micro financing, and the development of community level food banks. In fact, the goal of halving extreme poverty rates globally was actually achieved five years before the 2015 deadline.¹¹ Organizations such as UNICEF have also helped through building infrastructure, supporting local healthcare, and implementing micronutrient support programs to fight malnutrition on a major scale. That being said, the lifetime risk of death for the world's poorest nations as actually increased since 1990; additional emphasis must be placed on assisting the poorest communities, not just those that are easily accessible.

⁶ "The Millennium Development Goals Report." 2015.
[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) . Page 8.

⁷ "Were the Millennium Development Goals a success? Yes! Sort of." *World Vision International*. 3 July 2015.
<https://www.wvi.org/united-nations-and-global-engagement/article/were-mdgs-success>

⁸ "Remembering Kofi Annan: A Leader in the Fight Against Global Poverty." *The Borgen Project*. 2 December 2018.
<https://borgenproject.org/remembering-kofi-annan-a-leader-in-the-fight-against-global-poverty/>

⁹ "The Millennium Development Goals Report." 2015.
[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) . Page 11.

¹⁰ "The Millennium Development Goals Report." 2015.
[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) . Page 3.

¹¹ "Were the Millennium Development Goals a success? Yes! Sort of." *World Vision International*. 3 July 2015.
<https://www.wvi.org/united-nations-and-global-engagement/article/were-mdgs-success> .

Stakeholders to consider:

- a) Developing countries which lack the resources to help connect, support, and acknowledge their citizens nationwide in regards to access to key resources.
- b) Non Governmental Organizations such as Oxfam International, the Hunger Project, and UNICEF that work to alleviate global poverty via improvements to living and working conditions.
- c) Developed nations which have the fiscal, social, and humanitarian drive and resources to help support developing nations.

Questions to consider

- a) What are challenges that have made achieving global poverty eradication so difficult?
- b) How can the sustainable development goals build on the success of the millennium goals?
- c) What reasonable investments can be made in regions requiring support, while ensuring sovereignty is maintained?

2. Achieving Universal Primary Education

Although the global number of children out of school has fallen significantly since 1990, the pace of improvement for achieving universal primary education is insufficient. Currently, 57 million children are estimated to be out of school. Of these children, 33 million live in sub-Saharan Africa and more than half are girls.¹²

The second of the eight Millennium Development Goals aimed to ensure that children could universally complete a full course of primary education by 2015. UNESCO estimates that 264 million children do not have access to education.¹³ This is incredibly problematic as it limits a nation's workforce to certain sectors; for a nation to grow and develop, it is important that citizens can access a variety of careers. When citizens of a nation lack access to critical academic foundations such as math and reading, their potential careers become incredibly limited. This causes a domino effect, thus limiting growth. The Global Partnership for Education cites that "education reduces poverty, boosts economic growth and increases income."¹⁴ Moreover, the Global Partnership for Education cites that education is critical for preserving peace and security in many developing nations.¹⁵ However, when nations choose not to emphasize education, they have fewer reasons to abstain from war as there would be no substantial change in the status of children. Moreover, it is important to recognize that fostering education creates a positive feedback loop for employment. If the education system is strong, jobs are incentivized in that area, which attracts skilled candidates, further incentivizing work.

One obstacle to achieving this goal is the divide in education between urban and rural children. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization, 80% of the children not enrolled in school live in rural areas. As rural children are highly affected by malnutrition and hunger, their learning ability is affected. In result, to increase the ability for children to complete a full course of primary education, food security is an issue that must also be addressed. Through general infrastructure improvements have been mandated in the past, agrarian reform traditionally falls to the government of nation states. Focus on other state projects or conflicts has therefore reduced the attention applied to eliminating urban and rural divides.

¹² "The Millennium Development Goals Report." 2015.

[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) . Page 25.

¹³ "UNESCO: 264 million children have no access to school." *Al Jazeera*. 24 October 2017

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/unesco-264-million-children-access-school-171025044844609.html> .

¹⁴ "Education." *Global Partnership for Education*. <https://www.globalpartnership.org/education> .

¹⁵ *Ibid*.

Additionally, water, sanitation, and hygiene are crucial to getting and keeping children in school, as they bear the brunt of sickness and disease caused by unhygienic or non-existent latrines. Lack of water in the household also keeps children away, as they are usually the ones designated to walk long distances to fetch the household's water supply, though this is predominantly an issue for women. UNICEF currently is attempting to alleviate this problem through support initiatives to fund hand pumps, hygiene education, and pre-packaged kit of materials for up to 80 students. While this has been successful, UNICEF's solutions have been criticized as being purely short-term solutions. Thus, delegates may want to consider methods to improve long-term benefits to the amenities provided to schools.

While there has been significant progress in increasing primary education, there are developing countries where children do not attend school, or do not complete it. The rate of enrolment in developing areas only increased by 3% from 1990 - 2000, but ever since the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) were adopted, the growth accelerated, reaching 90% in 2007. Although there has been some significant improvement, enrolment stagnated following 2007.¹⁶ Furthermore, this growth was not uniformly applied around the globe. Regions in North Africa, East Asia, and Latin America failed to meet their annual rate of increase thanks to somewhat mediocre pre-existing levels of education. Therefore, the goal of education must not only address long-standing obstacles, but it must also generate global policies and strategies that assist in creating exponential growth, rather than exponential decline.

Stakeholders to consider:

- a) Nations where academia is not mandated or successful.
- b) Non-governmental organizations which work to increase the enrollment rate in these nations.
- c) Demographics that have failed to see considerable increases to education despite previous improvements to education rates.

Question to Consider:

- a) What role does education play in creating foundations for the future?
- b) Do we need to take certain approaches based on certain climates, or should the Sustainable Development Goal Advocate for one type of education?
- c) How can we ensure that the education system is inclusive for all?

¹⁶ "The Millennium Development Goals Report." 2015. [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) . Page 25.

3. Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women

The empowerment of women developed substantially since the creation of the Millennium Development Goals. In Southern Asia in 1990, for every 100 boys enrolled in primary school, there were only 74 girls. Today, however, this disparity has been eliminated,¹⁷ a testament to the empowerment of women and the development of local education systems. In addition, women are better represented in politics and government than ever, in governments from all continents.¹⁸

However, it is incredibly saddening that “1 in 5 women and girls between the ages of 15-49 have reported experiencing physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period.”¹⁹ Furthermore, many female adults today lack formal education; these women will be less likely to access land, credit, and education due to legal discrimination and subtle barriers to progression. Many nations have an increased workload, lack of mobility, and low social bargaining positions in regards to women. It is critical that everyone, regardless of gender, is provided with access to education, work, health care and other basic human rights.

It is also important to recognize that women are underrepresented in politics, making it difficult to advocate for policy which ultimately aims to benefit them. It is also important to consider the impact that quality education can have in changing the narrative for women around the world, considering that education is such an incredibly powerful platform to help increase awareness. Moreover, allowing women into the workforce through education helps strengthen economies by training women for a variety of jobs required for a burgeoning economy. The United Nations has cited that “more than 100 countries have taken action to track budget allocations for gender equality.”²⁰ This has been achieved primarily through the United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI), which coordinates efforts of a broad range of partners at global, regional, and national levels. This degree of interconnectedness has allowed for the creation of UNGEI field offices in 158 countries, supported by media campaigns and international funding.

¹⁷ “The Millennium Development Goals Report.” 2015.

[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) . Page 5.

¹⁸ *Ibid*, page 31.

¹⁹ “Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.” *United Nations Sustainable Development Goals*. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/> .

²⁰ *Ibid*.

However, there is still progress to be made. For example, girls remain at a disadvantage in primary education, especially in regions like sub-Saharan Africa. Meanwhile, disparities against males exist in tertiary education, particularly in Latin America.²¹ Additionally, women remain less likely than men to participate in the workforce, especially in developing nations.²² This has been attributed to the prevalence of diseases and unhygienic practices that particularly influence women. In some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, HIV prevalence among teenage girls is five times higher than among teenage boys. The danger of infection is highest among the poorest and least powerful, particularly children who live among violence, suffer sexual exploitation or have been orphaned.

UNICEF has attempted multiple broad stroke policies to reduce these elements holding women back, to varying degrees of success. Notable policies include attempts to influence social norms regarding sexual behaviour, providing equipment to improve maternal health, favour women in adult education programs, and promoting child protection. Despite each of these initiatives seeing positive results, these methods are some of the slowest to be implemented out of all the Millennium Development Goals. Regions such as the Middle East, Central Africa, and nations with majority populations below the poverty line continually failed to achieve gender parity expectations annually in lieu of the multiple programmes slowly disseminated in these regions. Creating a greater range of solutions to address health, educational, and political issues, all in a timely manner, is required.

Stakeholders to consider:

- a) People around the world who are affected by prejudice, unjust laws, and a lack of access to education.
- b) Governments responsible for providing education to their citizens.
- c) Specified NGOs capable of providing solution specific-equipment and plans to combat social and political issues on a region-by-region basis.

Guiding Questions:

- a) What can we learn from the last 50 years of progress that will help us move forward continuing to blaze new trails?
- b) How do we mitigate tension between men and women?
- c) How do we limit the effect of toxic masculinity in developing nations?
- d) To what extent should we strive for full parity?

²¹ "The Millennium Development Goals Report." 2015.

[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) . Page 29.

²² *Ibid*, page 30.

4. Reducing Child Mortality

Every year, nine million children die before their fifth birthday.²³ Although child mortality rates were dropping by 2.5% per year in the past decade, this is still not enough to reach the Millennium Development Goal of a ⅔ reduction.²⁴ This is startling, considering the disparities that exist between developed and developing nations.

Child mortality rates are highest in developing regions such as sub-Saharan Africa. In these regions, children under five are 15 times more likely to die than those living in higher income nations.²⁵ Over half of these deaths could be prevented or treated affordably and easily, with leading causes including birth complications, pneumonia, and diarrhea.²⁶ The goal of reducing child mortality is closely linked with MDG5: Improve maternal health. Many of these diseases are preventable, using vaccines or existing health-care technologies. Organizations such as UNICEF have taken progressive and active approaches to solving the issue. They have enacted numerous programs in the developing world, including a partnership with the World Health Organization to bring support for mothers, improving access to nutritional programs, and vaccination programs.²⁷

Furthermore, it is imperative to consider family care practices, though they are currently overlooked in solution models. About 80 percent of healthcare in developing nations occurs in the home - and the majority of child deaths occur without contact with a registered health worker. This is partially attributed to lack of proper infant feeding, detrimental health advice from community leaders, and improper disposal of biomaterial and feces within households. Approximately 40 percent of child deaths are linked with the three issues mentioned above. Consequently, some form of education or community assistance is required. As of now, the only frameworks dealing directly with the internal clockwork of regional communities stems from UN Women. This committee's regional plans occasionally aim to revamp community dynamics in order to reduce mortality rates related to childbirth and maternal care, among other things. However, these national plans are constantly rejected national governments, due to their extremely interventionist nature.

²³ *The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, & Child Health*. "Child mortality." *World Health Organization*. September 2011. [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) .

²⁴ Hill, Kenneth et al. "Child Mortality Estimation: Accelerated Progress in Reducing Global Child Mortality, 1990-2010." *PLOS Medicine*. Danzhen You, Mie Inoue. *PLoS Med* 9(8): e1001303. 28 August 2012. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1001303> .

²⁵ "Children: reducing mortality." *World Health Organization*. 19 September 2018. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/children-reducing-mortality> .

²⁶ *Ibid*.

²⁷ "Goal: Reduce child mortality." *UNICEF*. <https://www.unicef.org/mdg/childmortality.html> .

While internationally provided plans are rescinded, many nations lack the economic stability to undertake programs to curb malnutrition and provide neonatal support. As previously described, a government's inability to provide healthcare often derives from a myriad of sources. Lack of infrastructure, the prevalence of opposing state plans, and general instability are the most notable sources. Addressing neonatal health in a newfound way is a critical component which must be considered. Suggestions to achieve this have included the creation of rapid response to lack of neonatal support and disease prevention. Crises in these field are closely tied to any increases in child mortality rates and, therefore, are logical points of concern. However, the required monitoring, resources, and implementation methods for rapid response on an international scale simply do not exist. Finding a method to overcome this lack of infrastructure would dramatically reduce the increases to child mortality and allow member-states to focus on the improvement of current means to reduce mortality.

Stakeholders to consider:

- a) Community leaders and their role in providing guidance for children and mothers unable to access health workers.
- b) Parents, especially new mothers, and the roles they play in the maintenance of healthy environments for newborns and children.
- c) Healthcare distribution and support networks, specifically those specializing in rapid response to disease outbreak.

Guiding Questions:

- a) How can we ensure access to health care services becomes easily accessible?
- b) How do we fund and implement these programs in such a way that they are appealing to national governments?
- c) How can citizens learn about caring for their children without massive interventionist methods from the global community?

5. Improving Maternal Health

Closely linked with MGD4, MGD5 aimed to reduce the number of women dying during childbirth, as well as universalize access to reproductive health. By 2013, the number of women dying during childbirth had dropped by 45% from 1990.²⁸ However, almost 300 000 women still die each year during pregnancy and childbirth.²⁹ Similar to MGD4, the majority of these deaths are preventable, and often occur due to unavailability of services.³⁰ Too many women continue to give birth without the care of midwives or doctors. Additionally, unsafe abortions and lack of access to family planning services continue to cause maternal mortality.³¹

Increasing access to health care systems is a critical and pivotal step in achieving higher maternal health conditions. It has been found that hemorrhaging during childbirth is one of the leading causes of death to new mothers. Moreover, conditions such as preeclampsia (high blood pressure) are also large factors affecting deaths in new mothers.³² Therefore, MGD4 and MDG5 vary in that MDG5 requires action in a very specific time frame; consequently, 'hot fixes' are widely regarded as the best way to achieve better maternal health. 'Hot fixes' allow for the movement of doctors between regions in response to calls from local communities, so that demand is met with supply. Calls have been made to move Doctors without Borders to a similar model, but clear logistical obstacles must be addressed. Infrastructure to transfer equipment, availability of common sanitary conditions, and a request system simply do not exist. Additionally, issues surrounding maternity are extremely time-sensitive so doctors have to be available within a 24 hour radius.

In lieu of this difficult scenario, the global community has focused predominantly on ensuring that nations eventually increase the availability of individuals with midwifery skills. UNICEF, the UN Population Fund, and WHO all attempt to assist policy makers to ensure that emergency obstetric care is a priority in national health plans. This comes through the form of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, and Sector-Wide Approaches. However, these solutions do not address the immediate needs of mothers and children.

²⁸ "MDG 5: improve maternal health." *World Health Organization*. May 2015.
https://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/maternal_health/en/ .

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ Islam, M, and Yoshida, S. "MDG 5: How close are we to success?" *BJOG*. OI: 10.1111/j.1471-0528.2009.02335.x . 13 July 2009.
<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1471-0528.2009.02335.x> .

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² "Preeclampsia and Maternal Mortality: a Global Burden." *Preeclampsia Foundation*.
<https://www.preeclampsia.org/149-advocacy-awareness/332-preeclampsia-and-maternal-mortality-a-global-burden> .

Moreover, delegates should consider the implications of regional health structures. Specific frameworks are needed to achieve sustainable maternal health. For many mothers there simply is not a regional health center within a concentrated vicinity. The only current solution is occasional support from UNICEF in terms information regarding signs of pregnancy complications, nutrition, and how to prevent low birth weight. This information dissemination obviously cannot replace the effectiveness of regional health centres, so additional solutions must be drafted. That being said, the type of care, the means by which its provided, and location of new centres is extremely controversial between nations, if accepted at all. Creating consensus on the fine details of new operations is of the utmost importance.

Stakeholders to consider:

- a) Expecting mothers, or mothers who have recently given birth, in regards to their preferred methods of receiving aid and information regarding childbirth.
- b) Regional Support Networks, National health plans, and their relationship to the domestic policy of individual nations.

Guiding Questions:

- a) What factors have made it difficult for women to access regional health centers, and by what mechanisms can these factors be eliminated?
- b) How can the international community reach consensus on matters such as implementation of healthcare and content of provided knowledge?

6. Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

The fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other disease has improved significantly as the number new contractions continues to decline. New HIV infections have fallen by approximately 35% since 2000.³³ By June 2014, 13.6 million people with HIV were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) globally; ART averted 7.6 million deaths from AIDS between 1995 and 2013.³⁴ Over 6.2 million malaria deaths have been averted between 2000 and 2015, primarily of children in sub-Saharan Africa.³⁵

Though there has been significant progress due to the massive overlap between this MDG and many others, problems such as the lack of knowledge regarding diseases persists. At the same time, an unacceptably high number of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths occur each year. In 2014, around 2 million people were infected with HIV and 1.2 million people died of AIDS-related illnesses.³⁶ Furthermore, 22 million people require antiretroviral therapy, and 17.1 million people living with HIV do not know they have the virus.³⁷

The World Health Organization (WHO) has outlined constructive solutions that nations can adopt to take proactive approaches to combating malaria, including increasing access to insecticide and mosquito netting, and developing regional health centres.³⁸ Moreover the United Nations has also cited various approaches and initiatives which can be undertaken by countries also aiming to curb the devastating effects of HIV, through regional training and pediatric care. The main source of contention once again become the methods of infrastructure implementation, as previously mentioned.

³³ "AIDS by the numbers." *UNAIDS*. 2015. http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/AIDSbythenumbers_2015_en.pdf .

³⁴ *Ibid*.

³⁵ "The Millennium Development Goals Report." 2015.

[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) . Page 47.

³⁶ *Ibid*, page 45.

³⁷ *Ibid*, page 45.

³⁸ "MDG 6: combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases." *World Health Organization*. December 2014. https://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/diseases/en/ .

Stakeholders to consider:

- a) Non-governmental organizations which aim to curb the effect of HIV and Malaria through region specific means, and how their expertise and be implemented on a global scale.
- b) Regional Support networks which aim to subsidize and fund regional health centers, in agreeance with domestic policy and feasibility within a nation.

Guiding Questions:

- a) How can we educate the sexually active regarding prevention of HIV and Malaria in and efficient and meaningful manner?
- b) How can we contain and reduce the spread of disease in lew of the impossibility to provide high-cost treatment and prevention?

7. Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

The United Nations has called climate change “the defining issue of our time.” From devastating hurricanes, to sweltering heat waves, some of the early impacts of climate change can already be seen, and will only continue to worsen if no action is taken. Additionally, issues such as pollution and deforestation continue on an unsustainable path. To solve these issues will require drastic political, economic, and social changes in all the world’s nations.

Although deforestation has decreased recently, global emissions of carbon dioxide have increased by over 50 percent since 1990.³⁹ Each month of 2015 has been the hottest on record, putting this year on track to be the warmest since records first started being gathered 130 years ago. Scientists have noted that the three warmest years – 2015, 2014 and 2010 – in recorded history have all occurred in this century.

Issues as complex as climate change will require an enormous intergovernmental effort. An example of this is the issue of ozone-depleting substances. At its peak in the 1980s, almost two million metric tons of these substances were consumed.⁴⁰ However, by 2013, this number was reduced to essentially zero -- the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was ratified universally by all nations. Not only is the ozone layer now expected to fully recover by mid-century, but as many as 2 million cases of skin cancer and 135 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions may have also been prevented.⁴¹

To limit warming by 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels would require greenhouse gas emissions to near zero by the end of this century.⁴² If today’s trend continues, the world’s sea levels are expected to rise by as much as 63cm,⁴³ which would displace millions from coastal cities, from Vancouver to Lagos. Alarmingly, there is evidence that some irreversible tipping points may have already been passed. Limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius will require vast and immediate changes in every aspect of our daily lives.⁴⁴

³⁹ “The Millennium Development Goals Report.” 2015. [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) . Page 53.

⁴⁰ *Ibid*, page 54.

⁴¹ *Ibid*, page 54.

⁴² “How a 2C temperature increase could change the planet.” *CBC News*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news2/interactives/2degrees/> .

⁴³ “Climate Change.” *United Nations*. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/index.html> .

⁴⁴ *Ibid*.

Although serious, climate change is not the only environmental issue facing this committee. Overfishing has caused fish stocks to drop below the level of maximum sustainable yields.⁴⁵ This is expected to reduce biological diversity and threaten food security. Meanwhile, water scarcity is another important environmental issue. Today, ten countries are forced to withdraw water from non-renewable and non-conventional methods, such as groundwater and desalination. Globally, water scarcity affects over 40% of the world's population.⁴⁶

Preserving biodiversity and saving species from extinction is another serious issue. The Millennium Development Goals Report stresses that we are in a "race against time" to save these species. 63% of the world's cycad (a major plant group) species are currently listed as in danger of extinction.⁴⁷ Protecting land and marine areas can help to prevent loss of biodiversity. Progress has been made - today, 15.2% of all land in the world is protected for wildlife.

Previous successes show that international cooperation can solve these issues. Since the creation of the Millennium Development Goals, 2.1 billion people have gained access to improved sanitation, while the population without access to safe drinking water has been halved.⁴⁸ The rural-urban divide has shrunk, and fewer people are living in slums than before.

Stakeholders to consider:

- a) Individuals that are dependent on farming and the environments for their livelihoods.
- b) Global and regional food and water networks.
- c) Non-governmental organizations which have actively worked to help strengthen the environment.

Guiding Questions:

- a) How can political will for change be developed?
- b) What strategies were effective in solving these issues, and how can they be built upon?
- c) How can these issues be solved as quickly as possible?
- d) How can coastal nations ensure that their voice is heard on issues that affect them?

⁴⁵ "The Millennium Development Goals Report." 2015.

[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) . Page 54.

⁴⁶ *Ibid*, page 55.

⁴⁷ *Ibid*, page 57.

⁴⁸ *Ibid*, page 58.

8. Developing a Global Partnership for Development

Developing a global partnership with all nations is crucial to assist the world's least developed countries. International organizations such as the United Nations are in a unique position to be able to coordinate between nations issues such as trade, aid, communications, and more.

Too many isolated or sub-scale efforts fail due to partnership approaches incommensurate with the complexity of global challenges. What's needed is an effective cross-sector collaboration that mobilizes the international community while also driving measurable progress on the ground. Official development assistance from developed countries increased by 66 percent in real terms between 2000 and 2014. As a result, people are experiencing the power of collective impact and succeeded because of it.

While there has been significant progress in developing global partnerships for development, there is still work that needs to be done. Many of the millennium development goals require global partnerships in order to maximize the progress of improving and reaching these goals. Furthermore, despite the many successes already achieved through improved collaboration, not even the strongest partnerships have mastered this required division of labour. Getting the public, private and nonprofit sectors to work together is in itself a challenge, and the need for coordination at multiple levels adds another layer of complexity. To better understand this division of labour for global partnerships, it is crucial to examine the key roles of the global, regional, and local backbones for each core element of collective impact. The final goal is about providing guidance to the leaders and funders of global partnerships to enable them to reach their full potential.

Over the period of the Millennium Development Goals, the amount of aid to the world's least developed countries increased significantly.⁴⁹ Landlocked and island nations in particular continue to require developmental assistance, as it is more economically difficult for them to raise public funds. As the new Sustainable Development Goals are created, it is important that future ambitious goals are met with adequate funding and support for all nations.

⁴⁹ "The Millennium Development Goals Report." 2015. [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) . Page 63.

Additionally, a fair and open trade system can provide significant economic benefits for all nations. It is important that all nations are held accountable to a level playing field, so that they can fully reap the benefits of international trade. The benefits of trade are clear, especially for developing nations, whose share of the global trade increased from 29% in 1996 to 37% by 2006.⁵⁰ The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita has increased 16% over five years, in regions such as Africa, West Asia, and Latin America.⁵¹ However, there continue to be hurdles and barriers for these nations to trade. Some of these nations continue to face selective tariffs and others receive preferential treatment.

Another issue is the growing technological divide between rich and poor countries. Newer technologies have completely revolutionized the way people live and communicate. In 2015, 95% of the world's population was connected to a mobile phone network.⁵² Although just 6% of the world's people were connected to the internet at the turn of the century, this has now increased to almost one half of the population.⁵³ The growing divide between developed and developing countries in this respect is stark. In the world's least developed countries, less than a tenth of the population is connected to the internet. In developed nations, this proportion is as high as 82%.⁵⁴ Only when all nations are able to participate and invest in these technologies can these goals be achieved to their full potential.

Stakeholders to consider:

- a) Individuals who work in trade-related industries.
- b) Non-governmental organizations which aim to foster global partnerships

Guiding Questions:

- a) How can existing aid and trade institutions be better improved?
- b) How can aid be used more efficiently and effectively?
- c) What steps can be taken to safeguard fair trade?
- d) How can the benefits of trade be maximized further?
- e) What institutions exist or can be created to help coordinate efforts between nations?

⁵⁰ de Cordoba, Santiago Fernandez. "Trade and the MDGs: How Trade Can Help Developing Countries Eradicate Poverty." *UN Chronicle*. March 2008.

<https://unchronicle.un.org/article/trade-and-mdgs-how-trade-can-help-developing-countries-eradicate-poverty> .

⁵¹ *Ibid*.

⁵² "The Millennium Development Goals Report." 2015.

[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) . Page 67.

⁵³ *Ibid*, page 67.

⁵⁴ *Ibid*, page 68.

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