



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



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Letter from Under-Secretary-General

Honorable Delegates,

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you all to UN Office on Sustainable Development Committee at Haydarpaşa Model United Nations Conference 2020. Prepare yourselves for four days of heated yet fruitful debates and being challenged as a delegate. You will have the opportunity to meet students of diverse backgrounds and have an all-around amazing experience, both in and outside of committee.

I will be serving as your Under-Secretary General. My name is Atakan Eser and I am currently studying at Yıldız Technical University. I'm second year in Industrial and System Engineering. On campus, I'm part of the Yıldız Technical University System Engineering Society, the Yıldız Technical University Model United Nations Conference Club. I am also the player in American Football team. I served as the president of my high school MUN club and I've chaired DISEC, as well as the ECOSOC, SOCHUM, numerous times. I cherish my MUN experiences a great deal and hope to pass on my passion for it to the next generation of MUNers. MUN has taught me to appreciate different viewpoints and value true friendship. Through it, I've also been able to enhance my analytic skills concerning world affairs.

I look forward to seeing all of you have to offer. I expect each and every one of you to be well read - going beyond the background guide - and give your very best at this conference. I look forward to meeting you all. I promise you will have an unforgettable experience at HAYDARPAŞAMUN 2020. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Atakan Eser

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I.Introduction to the Committee: UN Office on Sustainable Development

The purpose of the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) is to support UN Member States in planning and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, through knowledge sharing, research, training and partnerships.

UNOSD was established in 2011 by the United Nations and the Government of the Republic of Korea. UNOSD is supported by the Republic of Korea Ministry of Environment, Incheon Metropolitan City, and Yonsei University.

The Office is part of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

UNOSD promotes sustainable development through the following activities.

- **Knowledge Exchange:** Serving as a broker of knowledge, UNOSD continues to facilitate the sharing of information, tools and resources available for sustainable development practitioners. We facilitate connections between researchers and practitioners, particularly for national and local policy making and programming.
- **Capacity Building:** The Office's role as a broker of knowledge is complemented by the direct support which UNOSD provides through capacity development activities in the field of sustainable development. This includes institutional building, whereby UNOSD supports the strengthening of public agencies through administrative reforms, strategy and policy review, etc.
- **Research and Advisory Services:** The Office provides direct assistance to UN Member States in their efforts to implement the SDGs, notably through the transfer of acquired knowledge and cross-cutting tools and methodologies that were created or

refined through its knowledge exchange and capacity building in addition to disseminating available knowledge and information on sustainable development issues.

- **Partnerships:** To implement the activities above, UNOSD nurtures cooperation and promote efficient and effective sharing of resources, including expertise, capital and knowledge from and between all stakeholders.
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UNOSD is uniquely positioned, institutionally as well as geographically, to play an increasingly important role in the dissemination and adoption of sustainable development ideas and practices; draw on numerous world-leading institutions and experts through our connections within UN DESA, a central player in sustainable development global governance; fill a gap in sustainable development knowledge management and networking aimed at supporting policy making for SDGs implementation in developing countries; bring together and promote synergies between researchers, capacity-building institutions, UN programs and other centres of expertise.

UNOSD's location in Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea puts UNOSD at the heart of an emerging international hub of sustainable development related research, implementation expertise and policy making.

II. Introduction to The Agenda Item A:

Encouraging Multi-Stakeholder

Partnerships and Voluntary

Commitments

The achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals will require all hands on deck. It will require different sectors and actors working together in an integrated manner by pooling financial resources, knowledge and expertise. In our new development era with 17 intertwined Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets as a blue-print for achieving the sustainable Future We Want, cross sectorial and innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships will play a crucial role for getting us to where we need by the year 2030.

Partnerships for sustainable development are multi-stakeholder initiatives voluntarily undertaken by Governments, intergovernmental organizations, major groups and others stakeholders, which efforts are contributing to the implementation of inter-governmentally agreed development goals and commitments, as included in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Millennium Declaration, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) entitled "The Future We Want",

the Third International Conference on Small island Developing States, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Sustainable Development Goal 17, which reads “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development”, recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries. Goal 17 further seek to encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

a) Partnerships for the Schools and Organizers

The Partnerships for SDGs online platform is United Nations’ global registry of voluntary commitments and multi-stakeholder partnerships, facilitating global engagement of all stakeholders in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Partnership for SDGs platform is open to all stakeholders, including Member States, civil society, local authorities, private sector, scientific and technological community, academia, and others, to register a voluntary commitment or multi-stakeholder partnership which aims to drive the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Managed by the Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DSD/DESA), it is intended to provide space for sharing knowledge and expertise among different actors that are engaged in multi-stakeholder SDG-related partnerships and voluntary commitments, and for providing periodic updates on their progress. The platform brings together online registries that were launched in support of various United Nations conferences and processes dealing with sustainable development, including the 2017 The Ocean Conference, the 2016 Global Sustainable Transport Conference, the 2014 SIDS Conference, and the 2012 Rio+20 Conference. It also provides access to several other thematic multi-stakeholder action networks that aim to galvanize partnerships and commitments in support of the SDGs.

b) Achieving the SDGs: The Power of Partnerships

The Sustainable Development Agenda aims to transform the world, eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030 world-wide, ensuring that no one is left behind. Yet, as António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations said: “to deliver on the promise of a prosperous and peaceful future, development actors will have to find new ways of working together and leveraging genuine partnerships that make the most of expertise, technology and resources for sustainable and inclusive growth”. This comprehensive and “boldest agenda for humanity” cannot be realized without increased and effective cooperation of all stakeholders at all levels.

The importance of partnerships is recognized within the Sustainable Development Goals and the SDG 17: ***Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development*** that acknowledges multi-stakeholder partnerships as major drivers of the SDGs in two targets:

17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries,

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

According to the UN, partnerships are voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits.

Yet, establishing partnerships is not an easy task and requires the creation of nurturing and enabling environment for partnering that includes building up institutional capacities, convening and supporting infrastructure, and a policy environment that together can help mainstreaming collaboration.

The Sustainable Development Agenda has been adopted by the 193 Member States of the United Nations. This fact clearly indicates that the realization of the Agenda cannot be reached only with sole actions but asks for the creation and fostering of multi-stakeholder partnerships that will have a common vision and lead the implementation of the SDGs. The Partnership for SDGs online platform is designed to provide space for sharing knowledge and expertise among different actors that are engaged in multi-stakeholder SDG-related partnerships and voluntary commitments, and for providing periodic updates on their progress. It contains 4,962 partnerships and voluntary initiatives for SDGs, registered by different stakeholders, either directly through the website, or in connection with a specific conference or process.

The achievement of the SDGs will be defined by the existence of multi-level, multi-national partnerships that will drive their implementation with a joined vision.

c) The Key Enablers of Partnerships

In its latest report *Partnership Exchange 2018*, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) shared the insights and findings following the 2018 Partnership Exchange that was held on July 2018 in the margins of the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development that featured two expert level parallel sessions, a plenary segment, and a Partnership Showcase.

The first expert session addressed the topic of **building institutions and platforms that are fit for partnering**. The key messages from this session point to the importance of the leadership of an organization to promote collaboration and partnerships and the establishment of a partnering strategy that either supports or is integrated into the organizational strategy. Also, the establishment of internal systems and processes to help partnerships through the whole partnership lifecycle, the enhancement of staff' skills to partner more effectively, and the creation of outward-looking culture are recognized as the necessary tools for developing partnerships. The session also addressed the topic of **building country level action platforms to catalyse partnerships for the SDGs**.

Recognizing the existence of different platforms such as platforms for dialogues around national development priorities, general platforms that support all SDGs and specific thematic platforms that are run by all sectors of society (business organizations, the UN, government, NGOs), the session participants laid out the success factors of national level platforms:

- **Country ownership:** important to have country actors take the lead and set priorities through a bottom-up approach;
- **A neutral high-level convener** who can bring everyone around the table;
- **A common vision** (such as the SDGs which are shared across societal sectors).

The second session apart from acknowledging the importance of **building an effective monitoring framework system for partnerships**, placed emphasis on **building a conducive policy and funding environment for partnerships**. The creation of conducive legal and policy environments enabled by committed governmental partners is recognized as an indispensable enabler of developing partnerships. Also, the session discussion has pointed out the need for processes of establishing and developing partnerships to be more inclusive and allow for a joint vision to be established. Since funding is depicted as a major challenge, the participants have called for demand of new ways of funding, including loans, equity, subsidies and bonds.

d) The Cases of Successful Partnerships

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are designed to drive implementation of the SDGs and the report presents some of them:

E-waste Coalition (SDG 12) is the coalition composed of some of the key United Nations entities that work on e-waste. This informal and open Coalition has built a link with the private sector and is supported by the World Economic Forum and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. The Coalition supports stakeholders at the country level including electronics manufacturers and recyclers, in addressing e-waste-related issues right across the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) (SDG 7) is a partnership program launched by the European Commission in order to support African cities with the challenges of the growing urban population, by increasing their planning capacities and providing them with a platform to share knowledge and best practices. The CoM SSA has been inspired by the success of the “Covenant of Mayors Europe” (CoM Europe) that united more than 6700 municipalities in their fight against climate change.

AGENDA ITEM 2: SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SMALL ISLAND STATES

Introduction to the Agenda Item

Sustainable development is often stated as objective of management strategies for small islands. However, relatively little work has explicitly considered what sustainable development means in the context of small islands. This article explores the nature of the development process on small islands and considers this in the context of different interpretations of sustainable development. A case study of the Galapagos is presented which considers the drivers and threats to development in these islands. The case study helps illustrate some of the multiple interpretations of sustainable development that are possible in a small island context.

1. History of the topic

In 1992, at The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, more than 178 countries volunteered to Agenda 21, an inclusive plan of actions to build a global alliance for sustainable developments to improve human lives and secure the environment.

Member States unanimously adopted the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 at UN Headquarters in New York. The Summit led to the elaboration of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to minimize extreme poverty by 2015.

The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in 2002, reaffirmed the global community's commitments to poverty eradication and the environment, and built on Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration by containing more emphasis on multilateral partnerships.

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Developments (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, Member States adopted the outcome document “The Future We Want” in which they decided, inter alia, to launch a process to develop a set of SDGs to build upon the MDGs and to establish the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Developments. The Rio +20 outcome also contained other measures for implementing sustainable development, containing mandates for future programmes of work in development financing, small island developing states and more.

In 2013, the General Assembly established a 30-member Open Working Group to

develop a proposal on the SDGs.

In January 2015, the General Assembly started the negotiation progress on the post-2015 development agenda. The process culminated in the subsequent adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with 17 SDGs at its core, at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.

2015 was a landmark year for multilateralism and international policy shaping, with the adoption of various major agreements:

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015)
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (July 2015)
- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 SDGs was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015.
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015)

3. Current situation

South China Sea Islands:

In the South China Sea, there is great domination of the People's Republic of China. Because of that, there are some problems which we don't want to see. In those islands, approximately none of the sustainable development goals can be achieved. For example, the region suffers from huge poverty, hunger and terrible health conditions. Moreover, peace can not be maintained in the region due to the conflicts in the area. Their life below water is under threat just like the life on land in the region. Long story short, in terms of sustainable development, they are in a bad situation.

Caribbean Islands:

In the Carribeans, they managed to maintain the social goals. For example, there is no huge poverty, there is no hunger, almost all of the people are well-educated, there is gender equality and there is peace but in some islands, there is a high crime rate. Their economy and industry are at a low level. One more good thing their life below water and life on land is safe. We can say, in terms of sustainable development they are in a good situation.

Pacific Islands:

In the Pacific Islands, poverty is high people are dying. Just like South China Sea, none of the SDG's are achieved. For example there is poverty: Most common dying reason in small Pacific islands is hunger and thirst and these reasons because of poverty. Education and Health conditions are terrible because of civil wars in some countries life below water and life on land are suffering. We can say in terms of sustainable development they are in a good situation.

Non-UN Members/Associate Members of Regional Commissions Islands:

Most of Non-UN Members/Associate Members of Regional Commissions Islands haven't got total independence so they belong to developed countries, most of developed countries are supporting and using the goals of sustainable development. There is no hunger or thirst so we can say in terms of sustainable development they are in a good situation.

4. Question a resolution should answer

- What actions can be taken to support sustainable development in small island states
- What economical steps can be taken to improve economy in small island states
- What actions can be taken to decrease the effects of the climate change on small island states
- What can be done to put sustainable development goals in action
- How the crime can be decreased

5. Further readings

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/jsr-report-20190717_en.pdf

<http://www.fao.org/3/CA3121EN/ca3121en.pdf>

https://www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/SIDS_1994.shtml

6. REFENRENCES

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