

United Nations Sustainable Goals

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§ 1 Introduction

Sustainable Development Goals, often abbreviated as the ‘SDGs’ are a set of goals of 17 interlinked goals which are adopted by the United Nations in 2015 to end poverty by 2030 so that all people can enjoy peace and prosperity.

§ 2 What is Sustainable Development?

The very idea of sustainable development is quite beautiful. It relies on the saying “We have not inherited this earth from our forefathers; we have borrowed it from our children.” Evolution is necessary for survival which means it is not impossible to stop all the activities which harm our environment. But we can control it such that the damage is minimal and repairable. Generally speaking, sustainable development means to keep developing without extreme damage to the environment and utilising our resources very efficiently.

§ 3 The 17 Sustainable Goals

United Nations (UN) founded on 24 October 1945 is an intergovernmental organisation aiming to preserve international peace and security. Recently in 2015, they launched the

17 Sustainable Development Goals that are often described as the “Heart of UN”. These goals solely focus on the growth and development of everyone without leaving anyone behind. The main goals here are:

Goal 1: No Poverty: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Goal 2: Zero Hunger: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Goal 4: Quality Education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Goal 5: Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.

Goal 10: Reduced Inequality: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Goal 13: Climate Action: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Goal 14: Life Below Water: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

Goal 15: Life on Land: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Goal 17: Partnerships to Achieve the Goal: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

§ 4 Conclusion

Launching Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations is a wonderful measure that carries immense potential for public growth and development in all aspects without hampering the future. The SDGs can help focus efforts on the health and wellbeing of people that are the furthest behind. The resource burden for initial engagement with the SDGs is low. The people have also developed a keen understanding of this concept and contributing actively. It is still a long way, but we are reaching there.