

# INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

**STUDY GUIDE** 











#### FROM THE DESK OF THE BUREAU

Honorable Member State Representative,

Welcome to ECOSOC at KIIT e-MUN. The agenda for this conference has been set as "Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of Sustainable Development".

There are a few instructions we have to give with this study guide:

- 1) This study guide is a mere framework for your deeper research. This study guide consists of readings from various sources and we have attempted to make it as comprehensive as possible, covering various angles and viewpoints so that you have a good idea about the concepts associated with the agenda. We cannot stress enough that you need to pursue your own sources, especially because the study guides will not cover your individual foreign policies and foreign policy compliance is very important to us. It is very likely that we, in our limited knowledge, have also omitted some crucial insights, perspectives or initiatives that are really effective or could be implemented later on.
- 2) We are following the UN4MUN procedure in the committee, which looks for consensus-building rather than conflicting and adverse debate. Please base your research on this basis. Oftentimes, delegates may simply pursue research whose approach is more aggressive and accusatory. We would discourage this greatly. Please concentrate on concerns where all states may find common ground.
- 3) The sources used in this study guide is all open-source and we are providing the links in the bibliography. The reason we chose not to write it ourselves was because we wanted to avoid a certain bias which may be evident in the language that it is being written in. We have tried instead to bring a certain balance in the way we assign you readings, but then again, there may be a chance that it may be seen as favoring any one side. We would like to assure you that it is not done by intention, but merely the constraints of time and sources.

Read widely and extensively. Be aware of your foreign and domestic policies. We wish you all the best and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have doubts or even if you just want to have a casual chat about the agenda.

**Ashwath Komath** 

**Rishal Naik** Vice-President

President

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES

- We abide by the letter and spirit of UN4MUN as a procedure, which emphasizes
  utmost respect between delegates, conference officials, organizing committee
  members and the like. Any disrespect or the lack of diplomatic courtesy will
  have unwanted consequences. You are bound by a certain code of conduct
  and you are expected to abide by behaviour that is befitting the status of a
  diplomat.
- The focus is on building consensus and debates here mean healthy discussions. This is not a forum for shouting matches. Your oratory prowess, while commendable, means little to us if it is going to be used for no good purpose.
- Always keep in mind that it is a cumulative assessment of all the skills of the
  delegates such as foreign policy, research, diplomacy and the like. Try to
  maintain a healthy balance between all these skills than putting your bet on
  getting just one right.
- Procedure will be explained in great detail before we begin committee. Especially if you are first-timers, do not worry about making mistakes in procedure. Procedure can always be corrected and explained and we would be happy to do so. We will also adopt methods which are used in real-world diplomacy. You can access a full procedural briefing here <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsR8441WDsg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsR8441WDsg</a>
- Depending on the size of the committee, there may be recognition issues, which is to say that it is likely that you may not be recognized to speak as often as you like. The Bureau has to take into account a lot of factors when it comes to recognition. We mention this because it may seem unfair, but it is merely by circumstance and not by intention. Kindly do not hold it against us.
- Read widely and diligently. There exists enough literature out there that will help you and would make your research very productive. Please do not stick merely to the study guide. The study guide was built to be a framework at best. It is up to you to develop it further and tailor it according to your own needs as far as your own state is concerned.
- Be punctual.

- Your job as a diplomat is to convince the committee of your proposals, not the bureau. The bureau (to the furthest possible extent) acts as a mere moderator and facilitator. Focus your efforts in trying to convince your fellow member state representatives than the chairperson.
- The diplomatic chits are sacrosanct and protected by codes of diplomatic conduct. Such communication between states are not subject to scrutiny by the bureau, the secretariat or by the international press without the express consent of the delegation(s) that are party to the communication. This rule may not apply to cases of sexual harassment. Chits will neither be marked, nor sent through the bureau.
- The rules established here are non-negotiable. Entry to the committee would imply that you have read and understood the rules established through this document.

# **HOW TO READ THIS GUIDE**

Given that the scope of the agenda is vast, it has been decided that the discussions will be limited only to a few goals and they have been outlined below. First, please look at the sub-issues that have been highlighted under each goal. They constitute the main debates surrounding developmental issues in the wake of the pandemic. Please orient your reading and your research in the framework that has been highlighted below. The list is not conclusive as such but can either be expanded or reduced depending on the flow of the committee. If you have ideas for expansion of this list, please bear in mind that any topic you suggest must be already have contention and debate surrounding it and should not be overly simplified or general (examples of overly simplified include things like 'measures to curb coronavirus' and the like, which is not really as useful to discuss and whose discussion ends quickly). The goal here is to get as many perspectives as possible on the issues. Feel free to continuously refer to the framework for guidance. It would also be helpful if you took a look at the goals itself, its targets and its indicators to understand how the COVID-19 outbreak has created impediments to the global developmental agenda. Please click the links to find relevant material. The readings provided are general and are mostly from reputed websites. Please bear in mind that the readings are not specific and you have to do your own research to suit your country's needs. In such a scenario, states may differ from the views expressed in these sources, and please do your due diligence when you go through the reading list below. Your views must be in consonance with your domestic policies. It is our hope that you understand that what is being touted as good globally, may not be good for your state, and that is where you need to put in individual research to fill those gaps.

The sources are a mixture of official reports, editorials/commentary and journal articles representing government, inter-governmental sources, traditional media and academia.

We repeat again, that this is not an exhaustive list. Please feel free to read more sources, especially related sources that you can find in most of the links and other references.

A general technical understanding of the goals and their concepts such as poverty, public health, climate change and the like can be very beneficial to your discussions. The agenda requires you to have extensive knowledge in many areas including economics, society, global politics and the like. Please don't be worried, there is no requirement of expert level knowledge in any of the fields but it would be a more interesting conversation if you have some of your basics in place. Please bear in mind that this will NOT be a discussion on the epidemiology of COVID-19, this is primarily a forum to discuss developmental challenges. We urge you to not indulge in either the research or the discussion of epidemiological aspects of COVID-19 as this is not the forum and this is definitely not the agenda to do so.

During the course of your reading, if you do find concepts that are tough/technical/complicated, please don't fixate on it and just move on the next sentence/idea till it makes sense at some level.

If you have any queries about the agenda, please feel free to send us an email on the following addresses:

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## AGENDA FRAMEWORK

#### **GOAL 1: No Poverty**

- Models for poverty eradication during a pandemic (member states may present national examples)
- Factors/Impacts/Challenges of various poverty alleviation measures in the face of COVID-19
- Social Protection of poor and vulnerable people during pandemics

More Information on Goal 1 -

https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030-goal1.html

#### **GOAL 2: Zero Hunger**

- Impact of COVID-19 on efforts to end hunger
- Sustainable Agriculture in Post-COVID-19 world
- How to achieve resilience in agriculture and food distribution during pandemics

More Information on Goal 2 -

https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030-goal2.html

## GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

- Resilience in National Public Health Systems in response to pandemics
- Impact of COVID-19 on other public health concerns such as NCDs, narcotics, and sexual and reproductive health.
- Vaccine Nationalism
- Health Financing and Universal Health Coverage.
- Role of Intellectual Property Rights in the development of vaccines.

More Information on Goal 3 -

https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030-goal3.html

#### GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

- Changing trends of employment under the COVID-19 pandemic
- Skilling, job-creation during a pandemic
- Role and support to MSMEs during COVID-19
- Restoring global economic growth
- Protection of labor rights under pandemics

More Information on Goal 8 -

https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030-goal8.html

#### GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

- Trends of consumption as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Practical steps to ensure sustainable consumption and reduction of waste generation.
- Technological innovations enabling sustainable consumption.
- Fossil fuels and COVID-19

More Information on Goal 12 -

https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030-goal12.html

#### **GOAL 13: Climate Action**

- Accelerating Climate Action in face of global disruption amidst COVID-19.
- Impact on Climate Financing

More Information on Goal 13 -

https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030-goal13.html

#### GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

- Deglobalization and COVID
- Role and Impact of Overseas Developmental Assistance
- Managing Post-COVID debt
- Capacity building in developing countries
- Role of International bodies in the Post-COVID world.

More Information on Goal 17 -

https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030-goal17.html

#### **READINGS**

## **General Readings**

- The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020
- Reset Sustainable Development Goals for a pandemic world
- Get the Sustainable Development Goals back on track
- World Bank Research on Impacts of COVID-19
- COVID-19 as a global challenge: towards an inclusive and sustainable future
- Beyond COVID-19: Applying "SDG logics" for resilient transformations \

#### **GOAL 1: No Poverty**

- COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers
- Addressing the economic fallout of COVID-19: Pathways and policy options for a gender-responsive recovery
- Opinion: The long shadow of COVID-19 on extreme poverty
- <u>The COVID-19 pandemic: Lessons on building more equal and sustainable societies</u>

## **GOAL 2: Zero Hunger**

- The Hunger Virus: How Covid-19 Is Fuelling Hunger In A Hungry World
- COVID-19 and the future of food systems at the UNFCCC

## GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

- Globalizing the COVID Vaccine
- Micromanagement Is Plaguing the Vaccine Rollout
- South Africa and India push for COVID-19 patents ban
- Tuberculosis and malaria in the age of COVID-19
- An Unnecessary Proposal: A WTO Waiver of Intellectual Property Rights for COVID-19 Vaccines
- Opinion: The debate around intellectual property rights and the COVID-19 vaccine
- Will the COVID-19 crisis trigger a One Health coming-of-age?

#### **GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**

- Which policies can help small businesses withstand COVID-19
- Explained: How Covid-19 has affected the global economy
- Thriving after COVID-19: What skills do employees need?
- Key provisions of international labour standards relevant to the evolving COVID-19 outbreak
- Reimagining the global economy: Building back better in a post-COVID-19 world
- This is the new skills gap for young people in the age of COVID-19

#### **GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**

- Global Energy Review 2020:The impacts of the Covid-19 crisis on global energy demand and CO2 emissions
- Explained: The 'travel bubble' idea that many are pinning their hopes on

#### **GOAL 13: Climate Action**

- Explained: How COVID-19 might complicate the conversation around climate change
- COVID-19 lockdown has cleaned up the air, but this may not be good news.
   Here's why
- Investing in a Green Recovery
- Covid-19 and the politics of sustainable energy transitions

#### GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

- An Expert Explains: 'WHO's underfunding hits global disease response'
- COVID-19 vaccines are a scientific feat but lower-income nations are still fighting for equity
- How deglobalization is hurting the world's emerging economies

