



ZABMUN X

RESOLVING DISPUTES | REACHING MILESTONES



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

**TOPIC A: ADDRESSING THE EFFECT OF
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION ON CITIES.**

**TOPIC B: HARNESSING NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO
ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENTS GOALS.**

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Honourable participants,

ZABMUN has been the crown jewel of SZABIST since the past ten years, and being the President of ZABMUN X, the honor of meeting the standards falls upon me.

ZABMUN has always been a conference par excellence and within this year's theme: Resolving Disputes | Reaching Milestones, we intend to go further than we ever have.

Our aim is to promote the art of diplomacy and creating dialogue about the important world issues.

This year, ZABMUN not only promises to provide you an exhilarating conference but it even promises you to provide extensive training sessions which would provide you the best quality debate.

It would be an immense pleasure to host your brilliant minds at the 10th conference.

Kind regards,

Syed Ahmer Hussain Qadri,
President
ZABMUN

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



Greetings everyone!

My name is Syeda Romaiza Ibad and I am currently in my Junior Year, pursuing BSc in International Relations and Political Science. Being an advocate of debate, diplomacy and discourse, I am honoured to welcome the leaders of tomorrow to the 10th Edition of Szabist Model United Nations. ZABMUN is a conference built on proud traditions and a legacy of MUNs at SZABIST. This conference is a timely reminder of the succeeding generations that have dedicated their hard work, blood and sweat in making this conference exceptional.

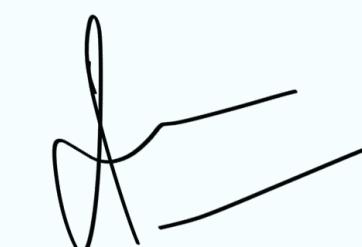
This year, we will be celebrating a Decade of Diplomacy with committees serving as 10 pillars, created with a blend of ambition, comprehensive concepts and internationally diverse topics, affirming high hopes of all. ZABMUN is modelled on open minds and fresh ideas where delegates are challenged and asked to represent national agendas or stands that they may personally disagree with. They will do so fairly and forcefully. This open-mindedness is the essence of successful diplomacy -- the ability to understand and analyse all positions, including those that they oppose.

As the Secretary-General of the conference, I recognize the value of having accomplished Committee Directors on board and how it contributes to making the conference a success and so, I have handpicked for you a mixture of ZABMUN Alumni and renowned Chairpersons from within the debating coterie, who have a profound knowledge and knack for Parliamentary discussions and debates.

I want this acceptance of differing viewpoints to clearly distinguish this conference from the rest. I believe it will prove crucial as delegates assume leadership roles in the twenty-first century. This year, the theme is quite simple: Resolving Disputes & Reaching Milestones. We want to harbour diversity and inculcate in our delegates the art of conflict resolution. I can assure all the delegates that by participating in this simulation and using this platform, these students can surely become better speakers. ZABMUN encourages each individual to trigger their analytical thinking skills, by stepping into the world of daily crisis and policy changes and enable their minds to interpret situations and suggest solutions.

Good luck to all those participating! Can't wait to see you all in December!

Kind regards,



Syeda Romaiza Ibad,
Secretary General
ZABMUN

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Agenda A: Addressing the effects of International Migration on cities.

1. Introduction to the Committee

The Economic and Social Council is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals. It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits. [1]

The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations.

ECOSOC links a diverse family of UN entities (Organigram) dedicated to sustainable development, providing overall guidance and coordination. The entities include regional economic and social commissions, functional commissions facilitating intergovernmental discussions of major global issues, and specialized agencies, programs and funds at work around the world to translate development commitments into real changes in people's lives. [2]

At the 2005 World Summit, in paragraph 155 of the World Summit Outcome Document, Heads of State and Government mandated the Economic and Social Council with ensuring the follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the internationally agreed development goals, and to hold annual ministerial-level substantive reviews (AMRs) to assess progress, drawing on its functional and regional commissions and other international institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates.

In follow up to the World Summit, the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/16 on the "Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council". [3]

The general assembly decided that AMR should:

- be held as part of its high-level segment.
- be conducted by means of a cross-sectoral approach focusing on thematic issues common to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the MDGs and other IADGs
- review progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of those conferences and summits and their follow-up processes

[1] UN Economic and Social Council

[2] Ibid

[3] Ibid

- assess its impact on the achievement of the goals and targets of the conferences and summits.[4]

ECOSOC engages a wide variety of stakeholders – policymakers, parliamentarians, academics, major groups, foundations, business sector representatives and 3,200+ registered non-governmental organizations – in a productive dialogue on sustainable development through a programmatic cycle of meetings. The work of the Council is guided by an issue-based approach, and there is an annual theme that accompanies each programmatic cycle, ensuring a sustained and focused discussion among multiple stakeholders.

Functions

The programmatic cycle of ECOSOC includes: [5]

- High-Level Segment
- High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow-up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments;
- Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), held annually since 2007, assesses progress in the implementation of the United Nations development agenda;
- Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), held on a biannual basis since 2007, reviews trends and progress in development cooperation on a biannual basis.
- Integration Segment, held annually since 2014, promotes the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development both within the United Nations system and beyond.
- Humanitarian Affairs Segment, that takes place in alternate years in New York and Geneva, seeks to strengthen the coordination of the United Nations' humanitarian efforts.
- Operational Activities for Development Segment, held annually, provides overall coordination and guidance for United Nations funds and programmes on a system-wide basis.
- Coordination and Management Meetings (CMM), held throughout the year, review the reports of its subsidiary and expert bodies; promote system-wide coordination and review of development issues; and consider special country situation or regional issues.
- Youth Forum, held annually since 2012, brings the voice of youth into the discussion of the Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 development agenda.
- Partnership Forum, held annually since 2008 and linked to the theme of the Council's Annual Ministerial Review, aims at finding innovative ways to collaborate with the private sector and foundations in search of solutions for the many development challenges facing governments today.

[4] ECOSOC

[5] ECOSOC, United Nations

2. International Migration- Introduction

2.1 Definition

International migration, a global phenomenon, is growing continuously in its complexity and impact. Migration is both a cause and effect of our ever-globalizing world. Migration may be due to the purposes of finding a livelihood, to escape a natural disaster or due to a range of other reasons. [6] For an international migrant, it is usually defined as a person who leaves the country he is a national of to live abroad, for a stateless man, it is the place of birth that is considered. However, there happens to be no legally binding definition of a migrant.[7]

Moreover, the rise in global mobility, the growing complexity of migratory patterns, and its adverse impacts on countries, migrants, families, societies and communities has made it a priority for the international community. [8]

Motivations for long term stability in the 21st century have foremost dependence upon the life conditions and the circumstances that the home or host country has to offer. In major cases, the capability to provide adequate livelihood conditions is the pivotal cause of migration. The life style circumstances may include the potential to provide religious freedom, economic sustainability, or a better life style. Education is also a very significant reason for international migration, as students pursue their degrees abroad. [9]

2.2 Causes

Plentitude of neutral, favorable or adverse circumstances lead to migration. The cause of migration is dependent upon the circumstances of either the place where the person originally belongs to, called origin, or the place of new settlement regardless of a temporary or permanent settlement, called the destination. There are several factors that account to a promising future of the masses, and the likeliness of migration to a destination may be characterized accordingly.

a. Economic Factors

These are associated to the labor market of a place, the status of employment and the overall health of the economy. Economic migrants are drawn towards their international migration because of the prospect of higher wages, better employment opportunities and, often, a desire to escape the domestic social and political situation of their home country. [10]

[6] The UN Refugee Agency Handbook.

[7] Refugees and Migrants, The UN Refugee agency

[8] UN Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

[9] Paris Publications, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

[10] Publications, Factors influencing migration

However, some may migrate due to the wage gaps that may exist between the low income countries and high income countries who may have the same education and qualifications, referred to often as the south-north migration, and is the main form of economic migration.

b. Socio-political factors

Ample social and political factors also inspire people to migrate or seek refuge to a safer place. Some certain traits that may account to such a migration include ethnic, cultural, religious and/or racial discrimination or massacre. A warfare or the threat of a conflict is also a major push factor. The politicization of religious and ethnic identities, a regime change, a power vacancy leading to a power struggle or a coup can prove to be incendiary in the context of a civil war.

c. Ecological factors

Among all the ecological factors that enforce migration, climate change is among the most serious. Climate change might grow to be intense enough to escalate the socio-political and economic push factors. For instance, many farmers or people involved in agriculture may end up having to find alternative forms of employment due to unsustainability of land to produce viable quantity of goods.

Climate change will have an impact upon water resources, agriculture, food security, public health and, in some instances, threaten the very existence of some states. The impacts of climate change will be most apparent in developing countries which lack the wherewithal to adequately address, or adapt to, the changing environment.

Consider the following image on a conclusive approach.[11]

Causes of Migration	
Push factors (Compel people to migrate)	Pull factors (Attract people to migrate)
- Economic <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Unemployment- Rural poverty- Unsustainable livelihood	- Economic <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Job opportunities- Wealth prospects- Industrial innovation- Specialized education
- Sociopolitical <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Political instability- Safety & security- Conflicts or threats- Slavery or bonded labour- Inadequate/limited urban services & infrastructure	- Sociopolitical <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Family reunification- Freedom- Integration & social cohesion- Food security- Affordable & accessible urban services
- Ecological <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Climate change- Crop failure/food scarcity	- Ecological <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Abundance of natural resources- Favourable climate

[11] Migration and its effects, World Economic Forum Report 2017.

3. International Migration; the impacts

Cities and urban areas have been an attractive destination for migrants, owing to their economic status, cultural diversity, social inclusion and their infrastructure development. Keeping account of the migration's impacts, it has significant opportunities and challenges, and is also interlinked with a city's economy and urban development.

3.1 Economic Impact

The economic impacts of migration may vary widely. Sending countries may experience both gains and losses in the short term, but, however, are more likely to benefit over the long term. For sending countries, the benefits lie, primarily, in remittances, however, for the receiving countries, or the destinations, the labour programs may help to overcome the labour and skill shortages but the repercussions might include a decrease in the domestic wages and addition to the public welfare burden.

A Swedish Professor notes, "the problem is not immigration; it is integration, especially in the labour market. If there are no jobs, the consequences are segregation, housing problems and divided cities" [12]

In Tajikistan, remittances from its cheap, unskilled labor force working abroad in countries like Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan have helped the country rebound from the failures of a planned economy and government instability; remittances have accounted for around 50 percent of Tajikistan's GDP in recent years. [13] At the same time, however, developing countries may suffer from brain drain. For example, there are more African scientists and engineers in America than there are in Africa.

Meanwhile, for developed countries, which often receive migrants, the positive economic gains from immigration are largely due to the migrants working on low wage jobs and integration into cheaper sectors of the industries. However, what can be argued is if these labour forces occupy the local people's jobs and account to unemployment.

3.2 Political Impacts

As the national and federal governments govern international migration to a region, it is the governors and the city leaders that must address the issues that may be caused by their government's decisions and must address the uncontrolled migration and the impacts it has on the infrastructure of the metropolis.

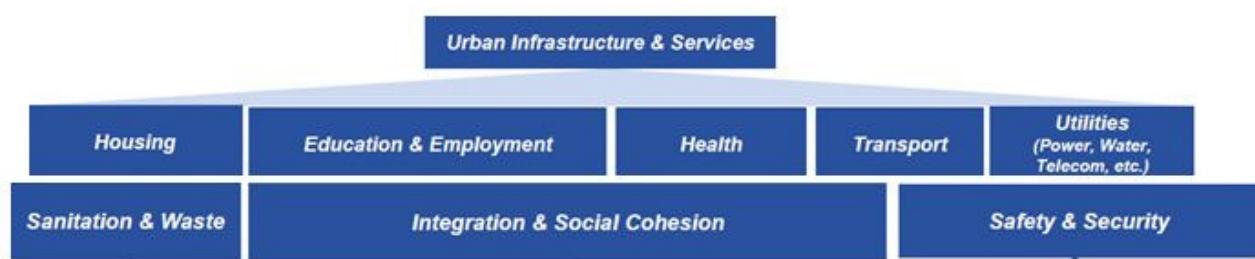
[12] (Traynor, 2010).

[13] (IMF Working Paper, 2006)

One of the most considerable impacts international migration has in the transnationalism. The traditional one-way flow of migrants to secure permanent residency is now decreasing and the migrant labors and even permanent settlers travel back and forth, hence, contributing to the pace of globalization and global connectedness. Consequently, transnational migrants transform cities into global centers. Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, London, Toronto etc. happen to be certain prominent examples. [14] However, apart from the merits of global connectivity, it also entails stricter immigration policies, that decreases the work force in the receiving countries. In 2013, 80% countries had policies to lower rural to urban migration[15], and given the recent trends, poor people and citizens of the third world countries find it more difficult to migrate to wealthy and stable countries due to strict visa policies and border controls.

3.3 Infrastructural Impacts

Migration of peoples toward urban areas is a vital part of development process. [16] However, the development process is modelled based upon whether the poverty reduction process would achieve more by prioritizing the urban development. However, migration affects the demands on urban infrastructure, in the visage of population growth. The rapid growth requires for migrants having to cope up with insufficient and/or inadequate infrastructure and lack of planning to meet the needs of people. The impacts on urban and infrastructural amenity of urbanization may be summed up by the chart below: [17]



a. Housing

Housing is the most fundamental requirement of a growing population and a challenge for the governmental authorities. Population migration has its vast effects on housing rates. In third world countries such as Pakistan the governmental and municipal authorities must counter a repercussion of the lack of houses or facilities of this genre in the name of encroachment of property. A lack of affordable housing has led to people living in slums or squatting. Typically,

[14] Geneva Conference on Migrants and Cities, 26-27 October 2015

[15] United Nations, DESA - Population Division, 2013

[16] International Growth center

[17] World Economic Forum

housing policy failures result in residents fending for themselves for their housing needs rather than meeting them through planned and regulated housing projects. Around a quarter of the world's urban population lives in slums due to poverty in conditions that can lead to poor health resulting from over crowdedness and a lack of potable water and proper sanitation.

Providing social and affordable housing is a key part of meeting residents' needs, including those of immigrants. A main challenge in this sector is addressing the lack of a social and/or affordable housing policy that forces migrants to meet their own needs; in some cases, the result is overcrowding and the development of slums.

b. Education and employment

Employment is the pull factor that attracts most immigrants to their desired country. It also results in a brain drain for the host country when the most of its literate and educated people migrate to set abroad.

Soaring immigration directly affects the availability of places in primary schools, and results in the school having to increase class sizes or adding excess class rooms to the school. An influx of children from migration causes cities to ramp up resources and capacity to deal with it. Lack of such resources poses big issues for their governments, undermining efforts to keep class sizes down and to provide school places for all children.

Some cities, in order to tackle the abyss, have adopted specific plans that focus on education to integrate migrants.

One important dimension of the employment sector and immigration is the labor market. The labour market is a mechanism through which urbanisation can drive poverty reduction. The dilemma whether urbanisation will deliver economic growth (and job creation) that is poverty reducing can be drawn from the experience of urban transition in developed country contexts, where urbanisation followed industrialisation. The traditional model by which countries tended to shift away from agriculture towards manufacturing and services as they urbanise overplays the linear transformations that occur within developing economies. [18] Entrepreneurship is a survival mechanism and "portfolios" of diverse livelihoods (or 'hustling' and 'juggling') have emerged in many low-income urban settings in recent years, to include youth-led enterprise as well as casual work and also illegal (and criminal) activities. [19]

Their disruptive innovations, as new goods and services, can lead to new employment, which in turn can produce a cascading effect or virtuous circle in the economy. Entrepreneurship is a good option for contributing to employment. However, there shall be certain challenges for entrepreneurs such as lack

[18] Urbanization and the employment opportunities

[19] Ibid

of knowledge of the legal, administrative and financial requirements of being self-employed or starting and managing a business Improving on limited linguistic proficiencies to carry out businesses, especially for local businesses where using the native language can be crucial to establishing networks for market entrants. Many youth claim preference for self-employment and entrepreneurship over looking for wage labour, in which they are likely to work under poor terms and for very low remuneration. This sentiment remains true even for even stigmatised work, such as waste management. [20]

Further read: Migration observatory, University of Oxford.

c. Health

Health is considerably linked to the conditions and environment in which people are born, live and work. Migration, social structures and economic policies are other social determinants of health.[21] The presence of infectious diseases in migrants causes concern for cities, which in some cases have opted to screen for them, leading to debates on the human rights of migrants. Conditions surrounding the migration process can also increase the vulnerability to ill health. Impacts have multiple determinants and may change over time. Migration also cuts across economic and social policies, human rights and equity issues, development agendas, and social norms – all of which are relevant to migration health. [22]

In areas where the majority of the migrant population lives in slums, migrants' living conditions and other social determinants exacerbate the physical mental and social health risks. The level of hygiene of refugee camps also accounts to the status of refugees' health.

d. Transportation and congestion

Upon urbanization and growth of cities, transportation infrastructure becomes vital due to its importance to most citizens. Migrants depend on transportation to commute, creating increased demand for such facilities. An efficient and affordable public transportation system plays a vital role in determining whether migrants can integrate into their new society. [23]

Upon arriving in a new city, one of migrants' primary concerns is how to avail themselves of public transportation services. In developing cities, where a significant portion of migrants lives in slums, streets are not even wide enough to accommodate vehicles, including emergency vehicles. Many slums have no pavements or street lights, leaving some migrants unable to travel or to move about safely at night.

[20] Ibid.

[21] World Economic Forum Report.

[22] Migration and Health

[23] Reports, WEF.

e. Utilities

The basic demands in the ever-so-modernized world of telecommunication, energy and water may be put under severe pressure that may cause those who live below the minimum wages and/or below the line of poverty, and at low income levels to suffer from a lack of access. The circumstance worsens when the migrants reside in the same area as the afore-mentioned underprivileged. Availability of water is one of the most serious challenge especially for the developing cities. The influx of migrants creates an increased demand of water resources which associates an increase in the sewage system and waste water treatment. A lack of such resources results in an increased risk of untreated waste contaminating water, rendering more sources unusable and depriving people off of a scarce resource.

Migration also affects energy consumption and CO₂ emissions quantitatively. Several researches have inferred that urban to urban migration does not have any significant effect on per capita energy consumption. However, rural to urban migration is shown to have a significant and negative influence on residential energy consumption and CO₂ emissions.

f. Sanitation and waste

The link between drinking water and sanitation is critical because human waste is a major source of water contamination. Migration can greatly exacerbate the challenges of managing sewage in a city given the growth of the population, but the city cannot always meet the demand due to insufficient capacity. The ageing of sewage infrastructure has led to leakages in some cities. In Mexico City, estimates suggest that 25% of the city's water supply is lost to leaks, which not only decrease the available supply but also allow contaminants to enter the system when water pressures fall below a minimum threshold.[24]

Cities facing power and water shortages experience important challenges pertaining to sanitation and waste collection. This aggravates health problems associated with spreading communicable diseases, which can further worsen with the lack of sanitation facilities. The child mortality rate is many times higher in areas poorly served with clean water and proper sanitation than in areas with adequate water and sanitation services. [25]

g. Safety and security

Several contradictory opinions exist on migration as a security issue and its relevance to national security and human security. The context of "whose security" is a subject of debate -

[24] World Economic Forum

[25] Ibid

state or humans, developed countries or developing countries, countries of destination or countries of transit and origin?

Some developed countries regard migration as a security issue and thereby instate stringent and restrictive policies. These policies limit asylum seekers' access to safe countries, and in extreme circumstances can lead to migrant smuggling and human trafficking, or their taking unsafe passages en route. They also result in disparity between the protection migrants are guaranteed under international law and the realities they face when travelling and working across countries.

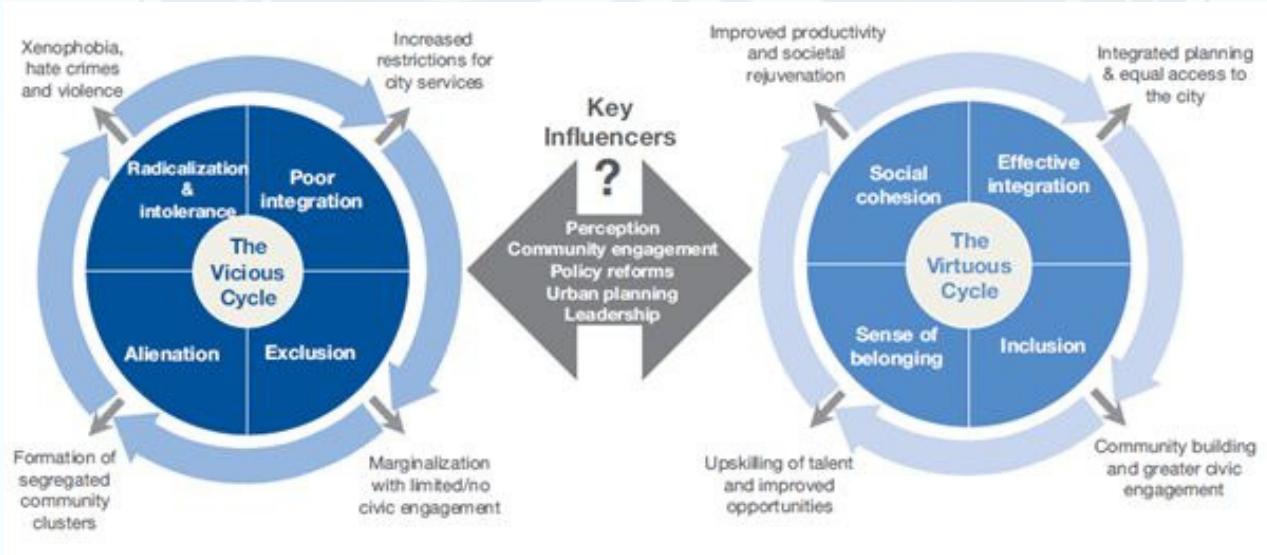
3.4 Social Impacts

Integration and social cohesion are dynamic, continuous processes of change in society where both the migrant and native communities learn to co-exist and embrace the differences. With cities taking responsibility for integrating migrant communities, their biggest challenge is to determine how integration and social cohesion can be assessed, what the end goals are and which metrics define the goals.

Amidst other challenges that cities face due to international migration, some happen to be addressing social inclusion and protection for the increasingly mobile and diverse migrant population, seeking equitable and affordable access to financial inclusion of migrants for easing remittances.

Another challenge for cities is to distribute migrants so they are settled in a way that avoids forming specific ethnic or racial clusters. While it is common for migrants to live close to others with the same ethnic background, concentrated settlements make their overall integration more difficult if those areas become permanent places of residence.

A picturization of the impacts of migration on cities along with the key influencers and their eradication. [26]



[26] The global Agenda Council.

4. International Migration; the city approach

4.1 Montreal

As of 2016, the population of Montreal was over 1.94 million and increased 2.9% from 2011 to 2016. It has a poverty rate of 25%, and an unemployment rate of 6.7% for the native-born population and 15.1% for newly arrived immigrants. Around 29% of the population live under the low-income line, with 22.8% of residents in low-income families. Nearly 28% of the population is under 25 years of age and 16% of those over 65 are dependents, with 142,000 receiving social assistance.[27]

Montreal is a city of immigration. One in two residents was born abroad or has parents who were born abroad. Immigrants account for 33.2% of the population.



Housing – Nearly half of Montreal's recipients of social assistance are born outside of Canada. Immigrant families face difficulties at times in finding clean and affordable housing. Food and housing costs, combined with unemployment or underpaid work, create poverty.



Education – To welcome new arrivals, special classes, services in minority languages and amenities, among others, are needed. Access to education for children with an irregular immigration status is one of the city's concerns.



Employment opportunities and the labour market – Some immigrant groups, especially those belonging to visible minorities, face difficulties in job integration, even though many of them have an educational level equal to or greater than that of Montreal's population as a whole. This situation also extends to the second- and third-generation migrants. Common problems include lack of recognition of achievements and jobs below their skill levels.

4.2 Dubai

One of seven emirates of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Dubai covers an area of 4,114 square kilometres and has a population of 2.5 million (2016), with 91% of them expatriates of different nationalities.

Migration in the city is driven mainly by economic factors to support growth and aspirations of diversification. Dubai's gross domestic product (GDP) in 1995 was estimated at \$11 billion and jumped about 10-fold to \$105 billion in 2016. This growth was accompanied by an expanding population, which grew from 690,000 in 1995 to 2.5 million in 2016, or 3.6 times in two decades.[28]



Education – The perception in Dubai had been that immigrants would come and stay for a few years (short to medium term). However, in the past decade, people have been staying for longer periods. In fact, the greater tendency is for families to bring their children to study in the city, which has contributed to the increasing number of schools and educational institutions.



Housing – Dubai has a floating population of 1.1 million (i.e. people working in the city but residing in a different city and commuting daily to work in Dubai), or about one-third of the current population that commutes to Dubai daily from other emirates. One of the main reasons for its highly mobile population is the cost of living and housing in the city, which makes it difficult for families with many dependents to stay there. Dubai has a flexible policy that allows employees to receive housing benefits even if they are not staying in the same emirate, as they contribute to the city's overall economic growth.

[27] The UN Population Division

[28] ibid

1.1 Auckland

Auckland's population is approaching 1.7 million, and the city has a relatively low unemployment rate of about 4.5% and a gross domestic product (GDP) that grew roughly 4% in 2016. While GDP growth has begun to slow, it remains strong, driven overwhelmingly by both migrant and natural population increases. Auckland's population is growing at an exceptionally high rate (just under 3% a year). Much of this is driven by migration, both reduced emigration by New Zealanders and strong immigration of foreign residents. A vast number of people living in Auckland are migrants or have migrant ancestors. The city tends to get the lion's share of migration into New Zealand; in fact, while Auckland constitutes 35% of the overall New Zealand population, it receives two-thirds of foreign migrants. [29]



Housing – One of the main reasons New Zealanders, including new migrants, move to Auckland is the dream of having their own home and living the lifestyle that New Zealand offers.

But house prices in Auckland have risen sharply, leading to more people living in each dwelling on average. The city needs more affordable housing, but this cannot be provided primarily by local government with its limited revenues. Those funds are consumed primarily by providing local roads, fresh water, wastewater and stormwater facilities, parks and community facilities, and public transport. Thus, the main responsibility for social or affordable housing lies with the central government.



Health – The shortage of housing is one of the main reasons for poorer health outcomes in the city. With house prices doubling in the last 10 years, more people are living in each dwelling on average, and fewer people can afford to buy. Renters tend to live in poorer-quality housing, as recent studies have highlighted. This means people are more likely to get sick, placing pressure on emergency rooms and doctors' clinics. Public healthcare services are provided through the central government. Those with work visas for two years or longer are entitled to the same healthcare as New Zealanders, without any additional fees. However, healthcare provision has not kept pace with the city's rapid population growth.



Education – Education is primarily funded and run by the central government. Schools typically have a catchment zone, allowing any child within the zone to attend that school. School education is free to those with the appropriate visa. The central government funds schools partly on the basis of the socio-economic category (e.g. schools in poorer areas get the most funding). But often, this funding is used to overcome basic gaps in, for example, language skills among new migrants who do not have basic English skills. This means many schools in lower socio-economic areas do not have funds for technology or advanced subjects that may be available at schools in wealthier areas. In addition, schools in wealthier areas tend to ask parents to contribute further funding, which parents in poorer neighbourhoods cannot afford.

5. QARMA (Questions A Resolution Must Answer)

- What programs can be implemented to cater the growing needs in the educational sector, also focusing upon the financing of educational or vocational programmes.
- How can healthcare facilities be made more accessible to immigrants?
- How can the sanitation effects and water scarcity be made better on a long term and a short-term basis?
- What steps can be taken to improve the housing facilities for the influx. And what program shall care for their utility requirements?
- Should strict immigration policies be established, and should there be any exceptions?
- How can the migration improvement programmes contribute to sustainable development goals?

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Agenda B: Harnessing new technologies to develop the SDGs.

1. Sustainable Development Goals; an introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[30] adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth - all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.[31]

Following is the list of 17 SDGs:

1. No poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good health & well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water & sanitation
7. Affordable & clean energy
8. Decent work & economic growth
9. Industry, innovation & infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice & strong institutions
17. Partnerships for the goals

[30] The sustainable development agenda

[31] <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

2. Sustainable Development Goals; History and Evolution

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. The objective was to produce a set of universal goals that meet the urgent environmental, political and economic challenges facing our world.

The SDGs replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which started a global effort in 2000 to tackle the indignity of poverty. The MDGs established measurable, universally-agreed objectives for tackling extreme poverty and hunger, preventing deadly diseases, and expanding primary education to all children, among other development priorities.

For 15 years, the MDGs drove progress in several important areas: reducing income poverty, providing much needed access to water and sanitation, driving down child mortality and drastically improving maternal health. They also kick-started a global movement for free primary education, inspiring countries to invest in their future generations. Most significantly, the MDGs made huge strides in combatting HIV/AIDS and other treatable diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis.[32]

3. Millennium Development Goals

- More than 1 billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty (since 1990)
- Child mortality dropped by more than half (since 1990)
- The number of out of school children has dropped by more than half (since 1990)
- HIV/AIDS infections fell by almost 40 percent (since 2000)

The legacy and achievements of the MDGs provide us with valuable lessons and experience to begin work on the new goals. But for millions of people around the world the job remains unfinished. We need to go the last mile on ending hunger, achieving full gender equality, improving health services and getting every child into school beyond primary. The SDGs are also an urgent call to shift the world onto a more sustainable path.

The SDGs are a bold commitment to finish what we started, and tackle some of the more pressing challenges facing the world today. All 17 Goals interconnect, meaning success in one affects success for others. Dealing with the threat of climate change impacts how we manage our fragile natural resources, achieving gender equality or better health helps eradicate poverty, and fostering peace and inclusive societies will reduce inequalities and help economies prosper. In short, this is the greatest chance we have to improve life for future generations.

The SDGs coincided with another historic agreement reached in 2015 at the COP21 Paris Climate Conference. Together with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, signed in Japan in March 2015, these agreements provide a set of common

[32] Development of SDGs, UNDP

standards and achievable targets to reduce carbon emissions, manage the risks of climate change and natural disasters, and to build back better after a crisis. The SDGs are unique in that they cover issues that affect us all. They reaffirm our international commitment to end poverty, permanently, everywhere. They are ambitious in making sure no one is left behind. More importantly, they involve us all to build a more sustainable, safer, more prosperous planet for all humanity.[33]

4. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018

In the middle of 2018, United Nations published a report on the progress made on the ambitious SDGs for the eradication of common problems and basic human needs like poverty, hunger and climatic changes. The report clearly said that the progress made so far is too slow to achieve the goals by 2030. Various reasons were defined in the report for the slow progress. A glimpse and summary of the report is presented as follows.

A fast-changing climate, conflict, inequality, persistent pockets of poverty and hunger and rapid urbanization are challenging countries' efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to a UN report launched in New York today. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018 found that conflict and climate change were major contributing factors leading to growing numbers of people facing hunger and forced displacement, as well as curtailing progress towards universal access to basic water and sanitation services.

For the first time in more than a decade, there are now approximately 38 million more hungry people in the world, rising from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016. According to the report, conflict is now one of the main drivers of food insecurity in 18 countries. In 2017, the world experienced the costliest North Atlantic hurricane season on record, driving the global economic losses attributed to the disasters to over \$300 billion.

At the same time, the Report found that more people are leading better lives than they were just a decade ago. The proportion of the world's workers living with their families on less than 1.90 per person a day declined significantly over the past two decades, falling from 26.9 per cent in 2000 to 9.2 per cent in 2017.

The under-five mortality rate dropped by almost 50 per cent and in the least developed countries, the proportion of population with access to electricity has more than doubled between 2000 and 2016. However, in 2015, 2.3 billion people still lacked even a basic level of sanitation service and 892 million people continued to practice open defecation. In 2016, there were 216 million cases of malaria compared to 210 million cases in 2013 and close to 4 billion people were left without social protection in 2016.

[33] UNDP and Sustainable Development Goals

The SDG Report presents an overview of progress toward achieving the Goals, which were unanimously adopted by countries in 2015. UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Liu Zhenmin said “Transitioning towards more sustainable and resilient societies also requires an integrated approach that recognizes that these challenges—and their solutions—are interrelated.” As the global community moves forward to achieve the SDGs and address existing challenges, reliable, timely, accessible and disaggregated data is critically needed. This requires technology and innovation, increased resources and political commitment to build strong data and statistical systems in all countries.

Other findings of the Report include:

- Rates of child marriage have continued to decline around the world. In Southern Asia, a girl's risk of marrying in childhood has dropped by over 40 per cent between 2000 and 2017.
- Nine out of 10 people living in cities breathe polluted air.
- In 2016, the absolute number of people living without electricity dropped below the symbolic threshold of one billion.
- Land degradation threatens the livelihoods of over one billion people.[34]

5. Achieving SDGs; A country-based case study

The ultimate aim of the Sustainable Development Goals, which replaced the Millennium Development Goals in 2015, is to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for everyone. Each goal has specific targets that need to be met by 2030.

So how close are countries to meeting them? To find out, non-profit organization Bertelsmann Stiftung and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network have created a prototype index that measures their performance.[35] Across all 17 goals, Sweden tops the list of countries surveyed. It is, on average, 84.5% of the way to achieving the targets envisaged for 2030.

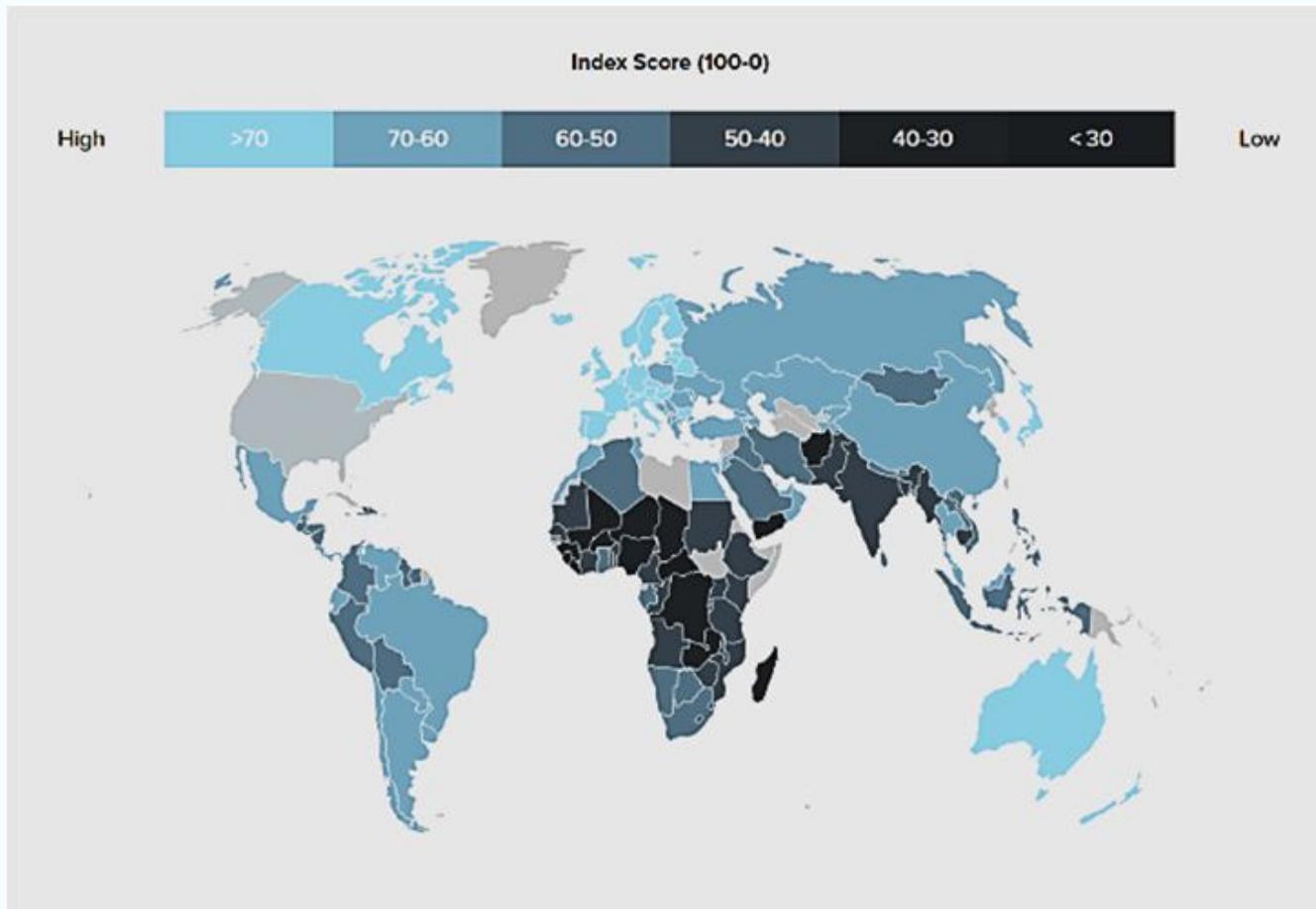
Following closely were Scandinavian neighbours, Denmark and Norway, with Finland in fourth place. Western European countries, plus Iceland (ninth), took the remainder of the top 10 slots and four of the top 20.

Also in the top 20 were Canada (13th), the Czech Republic (15th) and Slovenia (17th). Asia-Pacific's top performers Japan, Singapore and Australia rounded off the list at 18th, 19th and 20th, respectively.[36]

[34] The Department of Economic and Social Affairs Report

[35] World Economic Forum

[36] Ibid



6. Achieving SDGs; An Analysis on the Role Of Technology

Technology and innovation are central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). When utilized effectively, technology can be mobilized to identify barriers to and provide solutions for sustainable development challenges from the local to global level. Furthermore, the science-policy interface has become an increasingly important component of the UN system in order to guide evidence-based sustainable development policy design, implementation, follow-up and review. It has also been integral in identifying emerging needs, drawing links between the interconnected nature of thematic issues, and devising solutions to address challenges and barriers to progress.

Living in an increasingly sociotechnical world, locally-informed and context-appropriate applications of science and technology are crucial to ensure long-term resilience of development efforts. The process through which information is generated as an outcome of advances in science and engineering should be delinked from underlying biases when interpreting and applying knowledge for policy making. Strategies for assessing the potential benefits and risks, both intended and unintended, of emerging technologies are crucial to better inform the design, development, and scaling through innovations. Finding a balance between the

validation and introduction of technologies that bring gains to society will require a deeper understanding of how to project the social, economic, and environmental impact of innovations across different contexts.

Responsible leadership within the scientific and engineering communities is crucial to drive appropriate technology use, especially in cases where dual use research of concern exists. Increasing importance placed on citizen science also gives civil society a unique opportunity and responsibility to contribute to these discussions. In an effort to “leave no one behind” it is important to highlight the role of both formal and informal knowledge systems for complementary and appropriate technology development and assessment, as well as enhance opportunities for women and girls in science to work towards closing the gender divide and intergenerational gaps as well. To reap the full benefits of technologies, it is also important to understand the social, cultural, political, regulatory, environmental, and economic factors influencing access to technologies.

This includes several ongoing policy agendas within the UN system: intellectual property rights, technology transfer mechanisms, technology banks, efforts to strengthen statistical capacity, and more. Young people, as the torchbearers of the 2030 Agenda, play a lead role in the development and use of new technology, and have been trailblazers in the creation of technological and media solutions to some of our most pressing developmental challenges. They are creative, technologically adept, and informed of their local community needs.

Young people have been at the fore of developing technological tools and media solutions, which enhance collaboration and innovation through online engagement, as well as concrete social and humanitarian responses for our most pressing challenges. Yet, many young people also lack access to reliable internet and the infrastructure necessary to leverage technological advances. Ensuring the development and access to robust technological infrastructure and information, as well as education and learning, is central to ensuring technology can be utilized appropriately in the implementation of the SDGs.[37]

6.1 Enhancing the role of technology

In recent global research from Freeform Dynamics, organizations that said they were embracing agile across their business claimed 70% higher profit growth and 50% higher revenue growth. However, technological advances have the potential to disrupt the job market as more roles are automated, so attention needs to be paid to re-skilling the existing workforces as well as, of course, in attracting and encouraging more young people to consider careers in STEM to help address the skills shortfall that Europe is facing.

Digital literacy, skills and inclusion – a key focus of the Digital Single Market – must be a multi-stakeholder partnership that endeavors to facilitate collaboration among business and education providers, public and private actors to take action in attracting young people into ICT education, and to retrain unemployed people.

[37] ECOSOC youth Forum

CA is proud to have signed up to the Digital Skills & Jobs Coalition 2015 and through its Create Tomorrow program, its employees have worked with over 10,000 young people to help inspire, influence and educate them on the exciting opportunities a STEM career can offer.

But there is more to be done, particularly in relation to the fifth sustainable development goal focused on gender equality. ICT can present a level playing field, with equal access to information, learning, education and healthcare for all.[38]

6.2 Role of Information and Communications Technology (ICTs)[39]

Various researches have concluded a substantial correlation between ICTs and progress in meeting sustainable development goals, especially in Health and Well Being (SDG 3), Quality Education (SDG 4), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9), Sustainable Cities (SDG 11), and Climate Change (SDG 13). However, countries that lag in ICTs are also found to lag in SDGs.

Huawei ICT Sustainable and Development Branch in a report concluded: "The SDGs offer an ambitious path to end poverty, fight inequality, and tackle climate change. They are wide-ranging, but have one thing in common: all rely on the enabling power of ICT," said Kevin (Jingwen) Tao, Chairman of Huawei's Corporate Sustainable Development Committee, Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, also adding: "As a leading ICT company, Huawei has a keen interest in how ICT contributes to economic prosperity and raising standards of living." [40]

6.3 Contribution Of Women In Technology

It also opens up exciting career and business opportunities for women. Today there is an imbalance in the number of women working in technology and a frighteningly low number studying STEM subjects.

Collectively, the industry must break down gender stereotypes, prioritise digital literacy in schools, make STEM subjects fun such as offering code clubs to get girls excited about the world of tech and, of course, provide role models who are key in helping girls imagine themselves in these exciting and game changing roles.

Also, more can be done for women returning to the workplace, who need support, encouragement and new skills.

The good news is that there was full alignment from all parties that a skilled workforce and the thoughtful application of technology are vital, but it will be all the players working together on the Global Goals that will deliver the most meaningful impact.[41]

6.4 The Challenges

A series of long-term trends, from climate change to demographics, are already reshaping the global landscape for policymakers and practitioners, just as they set their sights on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

That was the main takeaway for participants at the 2016 Global Forum on Development held at the Paris headquarters of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development last Thursday.

[38] Role of technology, [39] Read also: ICTs and SDGs, [40] Achieving SDGs and ICT

[41] Ibid

"If you want the SDGs, it comes down to what you do to address the trends," said Mario Pezzini, director of the OECD Development Center and acting director of the OECD development cooperation directorate. "Sometimes in the development community, we forget that this is a real world."

A slowdown in emerging market economies, migration, and consequences of fragile states and societies – ranging from public health crises to terrorism – will all impact how the SDGs can be implemented.

The gravity of these challenges cannot be underestimated, one participant told the conference. Offering example, Ahmed Shide, Ethiopian state minister of finance and economic cooperation, warned that "environmental degradation and climate change are the most existential threats." He added, "with the current trends in climate change, we cannot achieve the 2030 agenda."

Of course, climate change and other challenges already loomed large as politicians, luminaries and global development professionals laid out the SDGs, during the landmark summits of 2015. Yet the rarefied air of high-level negotiations may have helped downplay the amount of hard work that will be needed to truly achieve the SDGs.

"Agreements make the headlines. Implementation changes lives," noted OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurria in his introductory remarks at the March forum. Amid this changing global dynamic, statistics, data, and monitoring systems can act as a sort of GPS for societies working toward the SDGs, Gurria offered as a metaphor. Some participants at the forum extended the analogy: "When you have 17 goals, 169 targets and 230 indicators, what you need is a process that simplifies complexity," said Pezzini. "That is usually called a strategy – you need to decide what comes first and what really matters. There is no one recipe. That for me is the GPS."

Not all trends need represent barriers. Sometimes they can help facilitate positive change, suggested suggested Claudia Juech, associate vice president and managing director for strategic insights and Bellagio Center programs at the Rockefeller Foundation, a New York-based philanthropic institution.

"You have to identify where the wind is headed or where it could be going, and figure out how to mobilize global trends," she said, giving the example of the "green revolution" in Southern Asia that rode trends in agriculture, food systems and demographics.

During an exclusive interview with Devex, Pezzini touched on some of the major challenges that development professionals will face over the next 15 years as they work to achieve the SDGs. Below is given some of his observations.

a. Demographies In Africa

The population on the African continent is set to double by 2050. Even compared with recent histories of rapid population growth in China and India, Pezzini noted that "this is unprecedented." His question: "How will society deal with the increasing population?"

b. Migration

"If we are not able to absorb the young population [in Africa]," the result will be "tension and migration," said Pezzini. "It is crucial to understand that migration is not just a temporary phenomenon [but] an increase in population that will increase until at least 2050. This will not end because we slightly adjust controls at the border."

c. Slower & Unequal Economic Growth

Not only are many emerging markets facing a downturn, but the commodity-driven surge that many countries experienced in recent decades has not brought about stable development. "As a consequence these societies tend to be extremely polarized," said Pezzini, adding that average citizens witness how things could get better but they "wait, wait, and wait" and "never get the benefits ... It is not just the slowdown. It is the model of growth."

d. The Vulnerable Middle Class

"People who have improved their positions, who have joined the so-called **middle classes**, remain vulnerable," said Pezzini. "There is a risk that they will fall back into extreme poverty. How do you address this? It is not about extreme poverty. These people have left extreme poverty. It is about a social protection systems and other policies." [42]

7. TWI2050 Initiative

Three years on from the adoption of the 2030 Agenda (which sets out the 17 SDGs that aim to ensure a more sustainable future for everyone), we still have a long way to go to achieving these Goals. The TWI2050 report argues that the global transformation is still possible, but requires strong political commitment and immediate and ambitious action.

The JRC is among the more than 60 authors of the new TWI2050 report, which outlines the major challenges facing humanity with respect to achieving the transformative changes toward a sustainable future. Rather than projecting into the future, the report describes the challenges from a 'back casting' perspective, namely what needs to be done now and in the immediate future to steer the international community, in a cooperative way, toward achievement of the 2030 Agenda and good life for all on a healthy planet beyond 2030.

[42] <https://www.devex.com/news/4-biggest-challenges-to-achieving-the-sdgs-87979>

8. Key Transformations

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The report presents six key transformations needed to achieve the SDGs in a manageable way, based on the major drivers of societal change, including human capacity, consumption and production, decarbonization, and the digital revolution.

These are:

- Sustainable development is a societal rather than an environmental challenge. Substantial advances in human capacity are needed through improvements of education and healthcare resulting, among others, in higher income and better environmental decisions.
- Responsible consumption and production cut across several of the other transitions, allowing us to do more with fewer resources – we need to adopt a circular economy approach and reduce demand.
- It is possible to decarbonise the energy system around 2050 while providing clean and affordable energy for all – including through energy efficiency, more renewables and electrification.
- Achieving access to nutritional food and clean water for all, while protecting the biosphere and the oceans, requires more efficient and sustainable food systems – for example by increasing agricultural productivity and reducing meat consumption.
- Smart cities: Transforming our settlement patterns will benefit the world population and the environment- such as through ‘smart’ infrastructure, decent housing and high connectivity.
- Digital revolution: Science, technology, and innovation need to support sustainable development. Much depends on the way the world will put the Information Technology revolution to use – continuing present trends or inverting them by asserting societal control over them.

9. TWI2050 Initiative; Paving way to future

The World in 2050 (TWI2050) project recognizes that all SDGs are interlinked and have knock-on effects on each other. A global interdisciplinary research initiative, it aims to develop pathways toward sustainable futures based on a science-based, integrative approach to addressing all 17 SDGs that builds on their synergies and benefits while alleviating their trade-offs.

The TWI2050 partnership is made up of the 60 international, academic, and non-governmental science and policy institutions (including the JRC) that make up the TWI2050 partnership, which is led by Professor J. Sachs (Columbia University), Professor N. Nakicenovic (IIASA) and Professor J. Rockstrom (Stockholm Resilience Centre). It aims to provide the robust scientific evidence for transformational and equitable pathways towards sustainable development, which will help policy makers best implement the SDGs.[43]

10. Block Positions

The least developed countries (LDCs), in particular such located in sub-Saharan Africa, are likely interested in continuing the pursuit of targets surrounding the issue of extreme poverty. It would be in their interest to receive further support from donor countries. Other countries, in which we have seen significant advances, especially rapidly growing economies such as China, probably no longer intend to focus on these issues of extreme poverty. It would be beneficial for the debate for those successful countries to share with the other member countries insights from fruitful and effective projects and policies. Should the discussion drift further towards sustainable development, resistance is to be expected from countries aiming to maintain high levels of growth, which may at time cause sacrifices with respect to the environment. While the LDCs may be further asking for the support by the previously most generous donor countries, this may also turn out to be an important point of conflict. With the budgets of several European countries as well as that of the United States of America having been severely strained, there might be greater reservation when it comes to unlocking money for causes such as poverty eradication.

[43] <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/science-update/six-steps-achieving-sustainable-development-goals>

11. Further Read

For further study, please refer to the following links.

- https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18541SG_SDG_Progress_Report_2018_ECOSOC.pdf
- <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2018/TheSustainableDevelopmentGoalsReport2018-EN.pdf>
- <https://www.fastcompany.com/3062185/which-countries-are-making-the-best-progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals>
- https://www.unitar.org/sites/default/files/uploads/g-stic_2017_conference-october2017.pdf
- <http://www.ijtech.eng.ui.ac.id/old/index.php/journal/article/view/9296>
- https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ciimem4d17_en.pdf
- <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2843WESS2013.pdf>
- <https://valleyinternational.net/index.php/theijsshi/article/view/1098/1126>
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B9780128093306000180>
- <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/statistics/sdgs-report-2018-launch.html>
- <http://www.sdfund.org/sustainable-development-goals>
- <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>
- <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2017/thesustainabledevelopmentgoalsreport2017.pdf>
- https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18809ScienceandTechnologyMajorGroupSectotalPaper_HLPF2018.pdf