17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SOCOMUN XXXIII

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

FRESHMAN #17
TOPIC: HOW TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT THE SDGS

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How to Educate People About the SDGs

Greetings delegates! I'm Ivanka Hankus-Zhou, and I am excited to be your Head Chair for this committee! I am currently a Senior at SM, making this my fourth year of MUN. As a MUNer, I have enjoyed learning about problems in today's world and discussing solutions to them with fellow delegates. Apart from being a MUNer, I am an actress, a member of the Overwatch team, and an avid tea connoisseur. I look forward to seeing you all in committee and hearing all your solutions :D

Hello delegates! My name is Sammie Elizarraraz and I am extremely excited to be your vice chair for this committee. This year marks my 3rd year in MUN and I am incredibly grateful to have had so many opportunities in this program. When I am not gavel hunting, I am always at swim practice, catching up on F1 and Grey's Anatomy, and playing electric guitar. I cannot wait to hear great discussions and collaboration, good luck delegates!

Hello delegates! My name is Allison Leung, and I am so excited to be your Rapporteur this year. I am currently a sophomore, making this my second year of MUN. Being in MUN has taught me so many new things, and it has been an amazing experience so far. I have met so many new people through MUN, and I can't wait to meet all of you! Outside of MUN, I swim, play tennis, play water polo, and love traveling and being outdoors. I am so excited to see what you all can achieve at this conference and remember to have fun!

We're super excited to have you at SOCOMUN XXXIII! This conference is one of the first ones that happens in the Orange County area, so don't fret, we have designed it to be beginner friendly. For most delegates, this is their first MUN conference, so we will guide you through the process by explaining the rules and procedures as we go. To summarize what you, as the delegate, will be doing at the conference, you will be presenting solutions that represent your country's policy and then you will collaborate with other delegates to write resolutions. If you have any questions or need help, please email us at socomunfresh17@gmail.com and we will get back to you as soon as possible! We're here to help you and want you to succeed!

Background

       The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015. Each of these goals centers around a theme that has its own set of global issues that need to be addressed. The SDGs work to alleviate all forms of suffering through universal teamwork. Ideally, all of these goals are to be accomplished by 2030, but these goals are extremely ambitious and realistically won't be met by then (ex. Zero Hunger). They are meant to serve as an inspiration and common agenda for the world to work towards so that one day, these goals will become a reality. The SDGs themselves are a renewal of previous goals the UN has put in place. The original goals were adopted in 1992 during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. These goals were a plan to build partnerships to help humanity and the environment. After these successes, the next series of goals was adopted in 2000 during the Millennium Summit in New York. These were fittingly called the "Millenium Development Goals." The Millennium Development Goals were eight goals with the objective of combating extreme poverty. Due to the pressure to accomplish and follow the plans set out by these goals, SDGs have proved to be an extremely effective tool to push nations to act. In fact, an estimate of 21 million lives have been saved, compared to if nations continued to be complacent on issues as they were initially. As a result of this success, the UN then launched the SDGs as a more extensive version of the Millennium Development Goals in hopes of achieving the same degree of success in a variety of global issues.

       The goal of SDG #17 is to foster collaboration between public, public-private, and civil society partners to improve trade, communication, and technology for the SDGs. In simpler terms, the goal is to encourage as much global collaboration as possible to support the rest of the SDGs. Currently, this goal is especially important to the interests of developing countries due to emerging financial struggles such as inflation and debt. This limits developing nations' ability to invest in the SDGs. Without collaboration, developing nations can lack financial and technical resources needed to advance global progress. For example, in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2018, there was an increase in countries that began implementing national SDG-related statistical plans. However, only 23% of these plans were able to be fully funded. This is where SDG 1#7 becomes specifically relevant as it works to use collaboration as a tool to help developing nations fulfill their ambitions to accomplish the SDGs. Collaboration between the government of a developing nation and a thriving company in a developed nation could create a mutually beneficial partnership. This allows the company to provide resources to support the developing nation. These actions also give the company credibility, global reach, and connections. In fact, it has been found that 78% of companies that have taken action to support the SDGs have benefited as a result.

       A key element of the SDGs is Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which focuses on educating individuals to gain the skills, knowledge, values, and attitudes needed to address the SDGs. The focus of this committee will be to develop creative ways to teach people about the importance of the SDGs and how they can act at a local level to create global change. Many nations have taken creative approaches to teaching the SDGs under ESD. In Brazil for example, the ESD "Globinho Activists" Program was launched in schools to teach students how their local sewer systems and waterways impact SDGs 14 and 15. The children were given lessons as part of their curriculum but also painted murals around sewers to educate their communities about how using the sewers as trash cans damages the beauty of nature. Another ESD approach was the premiere of the film "Les Gardiennes de la Planète" at the UNESCO headquarters which was shown to a primarily youth-filled audience. The film itself was

educational but this was also paired with panels and interviews with a variety of experts in fields such as sea photography, marine biologists, and filmmakers to teach the youths how to educate others about the SDGs and what they learned from the movie. ESD also holds a program called the Associated Schools Network which connects over 12,000 schools in 182 countries to promote ESD, global citizenship education, and intercultural learning. Under this program, schools may experiment with various education methods, an example being one school in Germany creating a "climate parliament" where students discuss important decisions to make the school more environmentally sustainable, such as the installment of solar panels or installation of electric hand dryers.

Another creative approach the UN took to educate about the SDGs through the Creative Community Outreach Initiative was its strategic partnership with the company Sanrio to create a collaboration with the SDGs and worldwide cultural phenomenon Hello Kitty. The collaboration has resulted in a series of YouTube videos being released starring the iconic Japanese mascot which have collectively gained millions of views to teach about the UN's work and what the SDGs are.

A recent example of collaboration to develop SDG Education is the formation of the SDG Academy. This is a joint effort from the UN, NGOs, and universities around the world to develop full length courses to educate about specific elements of the SDGs at the higher level. So far 48 courses have been developed that have covered each of the SDGs. There are over 700,000 alumni that have participated in these free digital courses, and these will continue to serve as valuable resources to educate about the SDGs at a higher level.

In summary, the SDGS are a series of goals that look to solve a variety of global issues before 2030. SDG #17 specifically focuses on fostering collaboration globally between all people, organizations, and nations. As part of fostering collaboration, it is necessary to educate people on the importance of the SDGs, which the UN continues to do at all levels of education and through partnerships with companies, NGOs, universities, etc.

Potential Solutions

As you develop your solutions, there are a few things that we recommend focusing on.

1. Make sure that you are focusing on developing solutions for your topic, not the entirety of SDG #17. It's much easier to focus in on and develop solutions just for specific pieces. For example, a focus on Educating People About the SDGs can be more effective rather than creating solutions to satisfy the entirety of SDG #17.

2. Make sure that the solutions you develop are in line with your country's policy. For example, a developing nation such as Haiti is severely in debt and would be unlikely to support a solution that would require every country to contribute an equal amount of money to a fund for the SDGs. The nation of Haiti would likely develop solutions that focus on developed nations supporting developing nations to level the playing field.

3. Make sure your solutions cover the topic from a variety of perspectives. Additionally, make sure that your solutions cover a variety of time periods such as short-term (less than a year), mid-term (1-2 years), and long-term (2+ years). Also make sure that you have solutions applicable from a local to an international level. A solution does not need to be applicable to every time frame and level, but ideally you should have multiple solutions to address each one.

4. Make sure your solutions are detailed. For example, if you want to create educational social media campaigns, don't just leave it at that. Elaborate by including details such as the platforms that will be used, the specific content that will be uploaded, who will run these social media campaigns, etc.

5. In the wise-words of my MUN advisor, "be a voice, not an echo." What this means is, make sure that your solutions are creative and bring something new to the table. Using past solutions as a foundation is a great way to build feasible solutions. However, make sure you add something new that will improve upon past efforts instead of simply reusing them.

6. Don't primarily focus on funding solutions. It is assumed that the UN's 5th Committee will manage the financial aspects of solutions if passed, so it is unnecessary to do so.

We recommend that delegates bring at least three solutions to the committee, but this is not a requirement. Below are some example solutions to help you! **Please do not copy them, thank you.** We look forward to hearing all your wonderful solutions in committee!

One solution to educate individuals about the SDGs is to create an international holiday. This would be a short-term solution because it may be implemented quickly and serves as a gateway to longer-term solutions. Governments would be encouraged to adopt this holiday and enforce its celebrations since it benefits society and educates children. This celebration would happen on September 25 as it is the anniversary of the SDGs and relatively close to the beginning of the typical school year for many nations. This means that the SDGs can easily become a recurring theme in school curriculum. On this day, children will attend school normally but instead of the usual curriculum, teachers will teach what the SDGs are and have students engage in a project that contributes to them. Each year, a different SDG will be the theme for that year, and the UN will announce official project ideas based on this. For example, if the theme were SDG #2, Zero Hunger, ideas for projects would be to take a field trip to a local food pantry or distribution center to volunteer, teach children how to create their own gardens and cook their own healthy meals, or to write about experiences with hunger in the community to spread awareness.

Another solution to educate about the SDGs is to collaborate with artists globally to create educational artworks. This would be a mid-term solution because it would take time to find artists to collaborate with and for the production of artwork to occur, but this solution would produce impactful results for the future. Such a campaign would allow for the SDGs to be discussed from a new angle while supporting artists globally for a united cause. The UN Creative Community Outreach Initiative would create a social media campaign where every day, a piece of artwork such as a painting, short story, song, etc. would be created based on one of the SDGs by an artist from a different nations until all of them have been represented. Each post will be paired with a relevant fact, statistic, or story from the same SDG. These works will be shared on various social media platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, etc. If the campaign gains enough traction, a permanent exhibit will be created at the UN Headquarters in New York for all the works to reside.

Questions to Consider

Here are some questions to help you in your research and solution-planning. You will not be asked to formally answer these in committee. They are here to guide you in research and potential solutions.

1. What actions has your country taken to address SDG #17?
2. How educated are your country's citizens about the SDGs?
3. How can you incorporate the SDGs into preexisting curriculums globally?
4. Why should people, especially younger generations, care about the SDGs?
5. How can you use the media as a tool to educate? Are there any cons to this?
6. What are some companies or organizations that would be beneficial to partner with for the sake of education?
7. How does educating younger generations differ from older generations?
8. How can the UN educate governments and politicians?

SDG #17 Targets

17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.

17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries.

17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.

17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress.

17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries.

17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing

mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

       17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favorable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed.

       17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology.

       17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

       17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda

       17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020.

       17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access.

       17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence.

       17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.

       17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

       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.

       17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

       17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.

MUN Impact

       Thank you for attending SOCOMUN XXXII! If you would like to make an impact on your community related to what you learn in MUN, please check out the educational non-profit MUN Impact. You can participate in services and projects to help your community and learn more by clicking here: https://munimpact.org/ Here is what MUN Impact is specifically doing with SDG #17: https://munimpact.org/sdg-17/

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