# 2023 第九届
# 广东省中学生模拟联合国大会

## 2023 Guangdong High School
## Model United Nations Conference

# 英文（高中）委员会
# 背景文件
# English Group
# (Senior High School)
# Background Guide

2023.10.05-2023.10.06

**委 员 会：**联合国经济及社会理事会

**Committee:** United Nations Economic and Social Council

**议　　题：**评估和审查"可持续发展2030目标"的实施进展

**Topic:** Assessing Progress: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**工作语言：**英语

**Language:** English

## 1. Background

In 2015, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly made a landmark plan called the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN, 2015). This plan is about making progress in important areas for people and the planet by the year 2030. Sustainable development means taking care of today's needs while also making sure we can meet the needs of the future.

The 2030 Agenda wants a world where everyone is treated fairly, poverty is gone, and everyone gets good education and healthcare. It's also about saving Earth's resources for the next generations. Through this plan, all the UN Member States have agreed to work towards making the world better economically, socially, and environmentally, while making sure everyone is treated equally and with respect.

This plan has 17 goals called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 smaller goals connected to them. Although the 2030 Agenda isn't something countries are forced to follow, they have agreed to create their own plans that fit with these 17 goals. Countries with different situations all around the world have a responsibility to join in on this plan, and each country will focus on the goals that matter most to them.

In the 2022 Sustainable Development Goals Report (UNDESA, 2022), the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, pointed out that achieving the 2030 Agenda is becoming difficult because the world has been hit by several big problems in recent years. These include the COVID-19 pandemic, more natural disasters, and a high number of violent conflicts. These crises have directly affected progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the vision of a better world by 2030.

One big focus now is dealing with the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis has made society less stable and has caused a lot of problems. Figuring out exactly how much the pandemic has affected the world is tough because we don't have all the needed data. This lack of information is especially hard on the most vulnerable groups in society - those who often aren't included in general statistics and data collection efforts.

Despite the setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Member States have an opportunity to effectively realign post-recovery efforts with the 2030 Agenda to quickly rebuild pandemic-related losses, and accelerate its implementation.

## 2. International and Regional Framework

The 2030 Agenda was created to continue the work of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which ended in 2015. It's a global plan for sustainable development that brings together countries to work together. This plan is a way to make sure everyone can have a better life on Earth.

The 2030 Agenda sets up a plan for sustainable development that all countries need to be part of. It doesn't matter how rich or poor a country is – they're all responsible for making the world better.

One big idea in the 2030 Agenda is inclusivity, which means that everyone should be part of it, no matter their situation. It's about not leaving anyone behind and making sure that the benefits of progress reach everyone. This idea is urgent because we need to make sure that the good things happening in the world are shared by all, no matter where they come from or how much money they have.

Promising to leave no one behind means helping the most vulnerable people and fighting against unfairness and discrimination they face. These vulnerable groups often aren't included in regular measurements and progress tracking. This is why we need different ways to collect information to keep the promise of not leaving anyone behind.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that go along with the 2030 Agenda cover a

wide range of important areas for a sustainable world. These areas include things like health, the economy, education, the environment, and infrastructure. Each of the 17 SDGs has a list of 7 to 19 main targets that break down the big goal into smaller, concrete things that countries can work on. And each target has 1 to 4 key indicators that help measure progress.

It's really important to keep an eye on these key indicators because they help us know if we're making progress toward the 2030 Agenda. The UN puts out a yearly chart that shows how things are going with the SDGs. They use data from different UN departments and organizations like the World Health Organization, as well as outside groups like the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank Group.

In the 2022 chart, there were some indicators that showed things were getting worse. These were about making sure everyone has safe, good food and about having enough jobs for everyone. These problems getting worse are linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and conflicts happening around the world. These challenges are making it harder to achieve the 2030 Agenda's goals (UNDESA, 2022).

Countries realized that achieving the 2030 Agenda requires a lot of money, so they worked together to come up with a plan. This plan is called the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), and it was made in 2015. The AAAA is like a guide for making sure that money is used in ways that help sustainable development (UNGA, 2015).

The AAAA covers all kinds of financing – from ways to encourage private investment to public funds from different sources like national banks, international banks, and groups that support development. It also talks about international help for development, like bridging gaps in infrastructure and providing financial and technical support for countries that need it.

Countries agree to use their own resources, like tax money and public funding, for sustainable development. They also agree to work together in areas that are really important for the 2030 Agenda, such as energy, transportation, and clean water. To keep track of all these agreements, there's a yearly meeting called the Financing for Development Forum that helps review progress toward the 2030 Agenda.

The Paris Agreement was adopted in 2015 during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21). Its main aim is to limit the rise in global temperatures, with the goal of not going beyond 2 degrees Celsius, and striving to keep it under 1.5 degrees Celsius. This international agreement legally binds all 194 participating countries to decrease emissions and work together to lessen the effects of climate change.

The Paris Agreement gives a plan for reducing emissions and lessening the amount of harmful gas we release into the environment, like by planting more trees and investing in cleaner energy sources. Every five years, each country must share their plan (called a Nationally Determined Contribution) on how they'll reach climate targets and how they'll track their progress.

This agreement is crucial not only for Goal 13 (Climate Action) but also for the entire 2030 Agenda. Climate change affects almost every part of life, which means it impacts progress toward all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Even though the Paris Agreement directly focuses on climate action, its effects are interconnected with achieving all the SDGs (COP, 2015).

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework) was adopted in 2015 to help lower the risks and damage caused by disasters. Its aim is to save lives, protect people's jobs and health, and make societies more resilient to disasters (UNGA, 2015).

The framework sets seven big goals for the world to work on. These goals include things like reducing how much money is lost due to disasters, having more systems to warn about disasters early, and making strategies to lower disaster risks at the country and local levels.

The Sendai Framework also focuses on four important areas: figuring out disaster risks, making sure there are good plans for disasters, investing in ways to lower risks, and being ready to respond well if a disaster happens.

Countries are encouraged to improve their disaster risk plans. This can be done by having real-time access to trustworthy disaster data, getting government structures ready for disasters, building strong structures that can handle disasters, and teaching the public about disaster plans.

To keep track of how well countries are doing, there's something called the Sendai Framework Monitor. It gathers information from countries about their progress using 38 key indicators that support the seven big goals. The Sendai Framework's goals are really important to make sure disasters – which are happening more often and are getting worse – don't stop us from reaching the 2030 Agenda's goals (UNSDG, 2019).

## 3. "Resilience and Recovery: Navigating the Impact of COVID-19 on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly slowed down progress towards many parts of the 2030 Agenda. It has had negative effects on both public health and the economy all around the world, especially hitting countries that are still developing (UNESC, 2023).

While all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been affected, some have been hit harder. Goals like No Poverty, Quality Education, and Decent Work and Economic Growth have been particularly impacted. The pandemic has made the economic differences between developing and developed countries even worse, creating more inequalities.

The pandemic also caused a rise in extreme poverty in 2020, which hadn't happened since 1998 (UNESC, 2023). The poorest countries, which depended on tourism and money from other places, were hit the hardest. Schools were closed for an average of 41 weeks in the early days of the pandemic, which hurt students' learning (UNDESA, 2022). Even when schools reopened, many students didn't return, and those who were already struggling in their education faced even more challenges.

In 2022, organizations like UNICEF, UNESCO, and the World Bank published a report about how the pandemic affected education (UNCF, 2022). They stressed the need for enough resources to rebuild education in communities that were affected. The pandemic's effects have made it really important to work towards getting back on track with the 2030 Agenda's goals.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a lot of problems, there are chances to learn and build new ways of supporting the SDGs. In 2022, the OECD released a paper about how the SDGs can be used to guide recovery from the pandemic. They can help shape the recovery process to make it more inclusive and sustainable for the long term.

The SDGs can help countries figure out what's important, what can motivate positive actions, and where resources should go. This can happen at the national, regional, and local levels of government. By aligning recovery funds and capacity building with the SDGs, the 2030 Agenda can become a part of how society works.

A report from the HLPF in 2022 showed that during the pandemic, countries found new ways to provide services to their citizens (UN Independent Group of Scientists, 2022). They used digital technology to offer remote services, especially for education. For instance, they provided students with computers to learn online and used TV and radio to help people who didn't have internet access. Countries also came up with ways to support those who were hit hardest by the pandemic, like giving money to poor and vulnerable populations.

Despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic, using the recovery from it to work with the 2030 Agenda is really important. It's a chance to speed up progress toward meeting the goals by the 2030 deadline.

## 4. "Navigating Data Challenges: Tracking SDG Progress and Innovations Amidst Data Gaps"

Although efforts to collect data for the SDGs have gotten better over time, there are still gaps in the information that make it hard to track progress toward the 2030 Agenda. On average, from 2015 to 2019, countries had data for only about 55% of the SDG indicators. Having data that's broken down by different factors like gender, age, and disability is really important to understand how things are changing (World Bank, 2021).

Disaggregated data means data that's been split into smaller groups based on different things like whether someone is a man or woman, their age, or if they have a disability. For example, there are 32 SDG indicators that need data separated by gender, but only two-thirds of those indicators have this kind of data across most countries. And out of the indicators that need data separated by both gender and age, only 7 out of 21 have this information available. Even fewer indicators have data for disability status.

Countries know that good data is important, but they have challenges in collecting the right data to measure progress on the SDGs. One big challenge is having enough resources and money to collect data on time and in the right way. Sometimes, data is collected differently in different parts of the government, which makes it hard to put everything together for a clear picture of what's happening.

In short, even though data collection is improving, there's still work to do to gather the right data to measure progress toward the SDGs accurately.

The COVID-19 pandemic made it hard for national statistics offices (NSOs) to collect data in the usual way, which usually involves in-person interactions. Despite this, the need for data to make decisions during the pandemic led to new and creative ways to get information and support the data system.

For example, in the Philippines, they started using Computer-Aided Web Interviews to gather data for the SDGs (UNDESA, 2022). This method, which they used because of the pandemic, turned out to be more efficient without losing accuracy. In Kazakhstan, they tried out a project that used space-based monitoring to see how well agricultural land was being used, which is important for SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) (UNDESA, 2022).

Some countries also improved their data collection efforts by investing in their national statistical systems. For instance, Pakistan increased the number of indicators they were collecting from 21 in 2016 to 133 in 2021. They did this by getting technical support, training, and creating common standards for different parts of the government to work together (UNDESA, 2022).

While these innovative approaches might be easier for countries that already have good data systems, there are chances for countries to work together and share knowledge to improve their data systems. Having a strong foundation for data collection helps countries figure out where they need to focus and act to reach the 2030 Agenda's goals.

## 5. Summary

The 2030 Agenda is a global effort to make the world fairer and more sustainable. To make sure countries are on the right track, ECOSOC has an important role. It helps share knowledge and checks how well countries are doing with the SDGs.

But right now, progress isn't good enough to reach the goals by 2030. Things got even harder because of recent global problems like the COVID-19 pandemic. But this situation also gives a chance to make things better. For example, countries can build better systems to collect data, which will help watch progress in a detailed way.

ECOSOC, as the UN group that works on the three parts of sustainable development, is important for helping countries get better after COVID-19. It helps countries get stronger and create good data systems to keep working toward the 2030 goals

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