



Washington, D.C., USA

8–10 November 2024



Economic and Social Council Background Guide 2024

Written by Mariana G. Marañón Laguna and Nicole Kach



NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

© 2024 NMUN, Inc.

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2024 National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, DC (NMUN•DC)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This year's staff is: Director Mariana Marañón Laguna and Assistant Director Nicole Kach. Mariana earned her master's degree in Integrative Neuroscience at Georgetown University. She currently works advancing large language models while pursuing medical training. Nicole earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science with an International Relations concentration, along with minors in Sustainability and Communications from the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth. Currently, Nicole serves as an AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) Team Leader in the Pacific.

1. Addressing the Transition from Relief to Development
2. Promoting Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Achieve the 2030 Agenda

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is a principal organ of the UN responsible for coordinating economic, social, and related work across 15 specialized agencies, five regional commissions, and numerous functional commissions. Established in 1945, ECOSOC serves as a central platform for fostering debate, innovative thinking, and forging consensus on international economic and social issues. Together with the General Assembly (GA), ECOSOC oversees and governs UN activities in sustainable development, reviews and measures the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and coordinates relevant UN actions. The GA recognizes ECOSOC's key role in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to conduct additional research, explore your Member State's policies in-depth, and examine the policies of other Member States to improve your ability to negotiate and reach consensus. In preparation for the conference, each delegation will use their research to draft and submit a [position paper](#). Guidelines are available in the [NMUN Position Paper Guide](#).

The [NMUN website](#) has many additional resources, including two that are essential both in preparation for the conference and as a resource during the conference. They are:

1. The [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#), which explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not discuss the topics or agenda with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. The [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#), which include the long and short form of the rules as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the conference itself, please contact Under-Secretary-General Ashlee Rolheiser at usgashlee.dc@nmun.org or Secretary-General Chris Duggan at secgen.dc@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,
Mariana G. Marañón Laguna, Director
Nicole J. Kach, Assistant Director



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Committee Overview	4
Introduction	4
Mandate, Functions, and Powers	4
Governance, Structure, and Membership	4
Bibliography	7
1. Addressing the Transition from Relief to Development	9
Introduction	9
International and Regional Framework	10
Role of the International System	12
Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Development	13
The Triple Nexus for Health Systems	15
Conclusion	16
Further Research	16
Bibliography	18
2. Promoting Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Achieve the 2030 Agenda	22
Introduction	22
International and Regional Framework	23
Role of the International System	25
Using Technology to Enhance Public Participation in the 2030 Agenda	26
Youth-Led Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for the Goals	28
Conclusion	29
Further Research	30
Bibliography	31



Committee Overview

Introduction

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations established by the *Charter of the United Nations* in 1945.¹ It serves as the primary body for policy dialogue on economic, social, cultural, educational, and health-related topics, advises and coordinates the activities of its subsidiary bodies on these topics, and leads discussions on the implementation of the international development framework.² ECOSOC is highly involved in coordinating efforts to achieve the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) (2015) and efforts to advance several other international frameworks.³

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

The primary function of ECOSOC is to coordinate the activities of its subsidiary bodies and other United Nations specialized agencies.⁴ Article 62.1 of the *Charter of the United Nations* allows ECOSOC to “make or initiate studies and reports concerning international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters” to present to the General Assembly and United Nations specialized agencies.⁵ ECOSOC may also call for or convene international conferences and hold special meetings on global development emergencies and humanitarian crises.⁶ A prominent example of such a special meeting is the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which is held annually under the auspices of ECOSOC, apart from every fourth year, when it is held under the auspices of the General Assembly.⁷

The following non-exhaustive list summarizes ECOSOC’s mandate:

- ECOSOC **will generally** provide policy recommendations to Member States and other international bodies; coordinate efforts by its subsidiary bodies and United Nations specialized agencies; follow up and review progress towards these activities; convene international conferences; create subsidiary thematic commissions, in those rare instances where there is ubiquitous demand for continuous examination of a broad subject area.⁸
- ECOSOC **will not generally**: design and implement projects or programs; direct United Nations specialized agencies to develop or implement specific projects or programs; decide on budgetary matters of United Nations entities.⁹

Governance, Structure, and Membership

ECOSOC is comprised of 54 Member States, 18 of which are elected each year by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms under a system of rotation that ensures equitable geographic

¹ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *About us*. N.d.; United Nations Conference on International Organization. *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. art. 7.

² United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *About us*. N.d.; United Nations Conference on International Organization. *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. art. 62.

³ Ibid; United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. para. 47.

⁴ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *About us*. N.d.

⁵ United Nations Conference on International Organization. *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. art. 62.

⁶ Ibid; United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Special Meetings on Emerging Issues and Emergency Situations*. N.d.

⁷ United Nations, High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. *Structure*. N.d.

⁸ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Brochure*. 2021. p. 3.

⁹ United Nations Development Programme. *About us*. 2023; United Nations Development Programme. *Executive Board*. 2023; United Nations, General Assembly. *Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee)*. N.d.



representation.¹⁰ ECOSOC allotted 14 members from African States, 11 members from Asian States, 6 members from Eastern European States, 10 members from Latin America and the Caribbean States, and 13 members from Western Europe and other States.¹¹ ECOSOC proceedings are overseen by a president and four vice presidents, who together comprise its Bureau.¹² The Bureau sets ECOSOC's agenda, devises action plans, and collaborates with the Secretariat on administrative duties.¹³

ECOSOC oversees the work of five regional commissions, eight functional commissions, 12 specialized agencies, six funds and programs, and several other related United Nations bodies.¹⁴ The functional commissions focus on specific issues, and the regional commissions have a geographic focus.¹⁵ Other subsidiary bodies include standing, ad hoc, expert, and other related bodies.¹⁶ Each subsidiary body adopts specific methods of work to align with its mandate, which are updated regularly.¹⁷ ECOSOC also allows for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to consult on the work of the United Nations.¹⁸ More than 6000 NGOs have been granted ECOSOC consultative status, enabling them to attend and participate in various United Nations meetings, conferences, special sessions, and other international discussions.¹⁹

The ECOSOC meeting cycle lasts precisely one year starting in July, and is divided into four groups.²⁰ The first group consists of the Partnership Forum and the Coordination Segment, which are held in February.²¹ While the Partnership Forum aims to bring together a wide array of stakeholders, from civil society and the private sector to academia and local governments, to discuss and exchange ideas to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda, the Coordination Segment is set up to coordinate the work of ECOSOC's subsidiary bodies and United Nations specialized agencies through general policy recommendations.²² The second group of meetings includes various established by ECOSOC, including the Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up and the Youth Forum, which take place between April and May of each year.²³ The Development Cooperation Forum, which is also part of the second group, takes place every two years.²⁴ The third group comprises the Operational Activities for Development Segment, the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, and the Meeting on the Transition from Relief to Development.²⁵ The fourth group focuses on the review of the implementation and progress towards the 2030 Agenda, comprising the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC, both of which take place in July at the end of a meeting cycle.²⁶ The ECOSOC meeting cycle is further complemented by the Management Segment in June, which focuses on procedural questions and

¹⁰ United Nations, General Assembly. *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.19)*. 2021. p. 39.

¹¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Members*. N.d.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Coordination Segment*. N.d.

¹⁵ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies*. N.d.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/75/290 A)*. 2021. p. 9.

¹⁸ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Introduction to ECOSOC Consultative Status*. N.d.

¹⁹ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Brochure*. 2021. p. 23.

²⁰ United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/75/290 A)*. 2021. pp. 4-5.

²¹ *Ibid.* pp. 4-5.

²² *Ibid.* p. 5.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*



considers the reports and recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and United Nations specialized agencies.²⁷

²⁷ United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/72/305)*. 2018. p. 6.



Bibliography

United Nations Conference on International Organization. *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>

United Nations Development Programme. *About us*. 2023. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://www.undp.org/about-us>

United Nations Development Programme. *Executive Board*. 2023. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://www.undp.org/executive-board>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Introduction to ECOSOC Consultative Status*. N.d. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://csonet.org/?menu=30>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *About us*. N.d. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/about-us>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Coordination Segment*. N.d. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/en/content/ecosoc-coordination>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Members*. n.d. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/members.shtml>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Special Meetings on Emerging Issues and Emergency Situations*. N.d. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/ecosoc-special-meetings-emergency-situations>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies*. N.d. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/ecosoc-subsidiary-bodies>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/5715/Rev.2)*. 1992. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://undocs.org/en/E/5715/Rev.2>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Brochure*. 2021. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2022doc/ecosoc-brochure-12_2021.pdf

United Nations, General Assembly. *Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee)*. N.d. 2022. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/fifth/index.shtml>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Enlargement of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/2847 (XXVI))*. 1971. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: [http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/2847\(XXVI\)](http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/2847(XXVI))

United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/72/305)*. 2018. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/72/305>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (A/RES/75/290 A)*. 2021. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/290%20A>



United Nations, General Assembly. *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.19)*. 2021. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/520/Rev.19>

United Nations, High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. *Structure*. N.d. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://hlpf.un.org/structure>



1. Addressing the Transition from Relief to Development

"It is easy to break and destroy. The heroes are those who make peace and build."²⁸

Introduction

Per Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), in 2024, nearly 300 million people around the world will need humanitarian assistance and protection due to conflicts, climate emergencies, and economic factors.²⁹ In 2023, humanitarian groups aided 62% of the target population, totaling 124 million people.³⁰ In contrast, in 2022, due to increased funding availability, they assisted 79% of the target population, a total of 157 million people.³¹ Although securing funding remains crucial for addressing humanitarian needs, prioritizing a developmental approach to relief is of greater urgency, as stated by the Humanitarian Coalition.³² Insufficient coordination between emergency aid and development efforts can threaten development gains and lead to protracted humanitarian crises.³³

At times of conflict, climate disasters, and infectious disease outbreaks, for example, relief aid aims to alleviate immediate suffering and facilitate a return to normalcy, irrespective of Member States' wealth.³⁴ Development aid, conversely, targets low- and middle-income Member States to address systemic issues of poverty and governance over the long term.³⁵ When both relief aid and a developmental approach are combined, it is necessary that emergency assistance not undermine development and contribute to long-term progress, such as safeguarding assets and investing in infrastructure, namely water supplies and healthcare facilities.³⁶

In the context of a complex humanitarian crisis, it is paramount to ensure the effective delivery and access to basic social and economic services to diminish the intensity of shocks and vulnerability of populations to ease rehabilitation and reduce the need for emergency relief.³⁷ Fostering an environment conducive to recovery and long-term development is equally important.³⁸ Enhancing development endeavors can alleviate the frequency, severity, and impacts of emergencies.³⁹ Improving relief measures can align with and reinforce development objectives, and coordinated efforts can lead to more than the mere restoration of pre-crisis conditions.⁴⁰ Transitioning from relief to development demands active engagement with efficient and inclusive state institutions, governance structures at every level, and stakeholders such as civil society, which can catalyze social cohesion, facilitate reconciliation, and ultimately foster sustainable peace.⁴¹

²⁸ Mandela. United Nations Information Centers. *Mandela SDGs Quote Book*. 2023. p. 38.

²⁹ Griffiths. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Global Humanitarian Overview 2024 – Doha Launch "Putting People First: Humanitarian Diplomacy in a Challenging World"*. 2023.

³⁰ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Global Humanitarian Overview 2024*. 2023.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Humanitarian Coalition. *From Humanitarian to Development Aid*. 2021.

³³ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus*. N.d.

³⁴ Bidder. *United Nations Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia*. 1994.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ United Nations Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs. Audiovisual Library of International Law. *Declaration on the Right to Development*. N.d.

³⁷ Bidder. *United Nations Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia*. 1994.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.



International and Regional Framework

Article 2(1) of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966) established “development” as a significant means for advancing human rights, aligning with the principles outlined in Articles 55 and 56 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945).⁴² This recognition underscored that development initiatives can establish a framework for defining and realizing economic and social rights for all.⁴³ In 1968, during the Tehran Conference on Human Rights, the international system officially recognized the link between development and human rights for the first time.⁴⁴ However, it wasn’t until 1968 that the United Nations incorporated the right to development into its human rights agenda with the *Declaration on the Right to Development* (DRTD).⁴⁵ This declaration guarantees every person the right to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from economic, social, cultural, and political development.⁴⁶ By emphasizing equity, equality, and justice as fundamental aspects of development, the DRTD has since signaled a rights-based approach to development.⁴⁷

Disjointed United Nations humanitarian efforts to aid displaced populations during the 1990-1991 Gulf War highlighted the need to create an organization for coordinating emergency assistance.⁴⁸ Consequently, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/182 on 19 December 1991, strengthening the mandate of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and renaming the ERC.⁴⁹ General Assembly resolution 46/182 (1991) on “Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations” emphasizes the link between emergency response, rehabilitation, and development, advocating for emergency aid strategies conducive to both short-term recovery and sustainable development.⁵⁰ Since 1993, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has adopted 25 resolutions on strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.⁵¹ In them, ECOSOC emphasizes the need to provide not only relief to crisis-affected Member States, but also to facilitate the means for rehabilitation, poverty reduction, long-term development, and where possible, peace-building.⁵²

In recent years, the United Nations has shifted its focus to peacebuilding from crisis response to progress toward recovery, reconstruction, and development, particularly through forming strategic and operational partnerships with civil society actors.⁵³ This transition has signaled the importance of forging these types of partnerships and has enhanced coordination between United Nations bodies.⁵⁴ In 2020, the United Nations published the *Community Engagement Guidelines on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace*, and the *United Nations Common Guidance on Resilience*.⁵⁵ The *Community Engagement Guidelines on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace* provide practical advice for increasing local-level engagement with

⁴² United Nations Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs. *Audiovisual Library of International Law. Declaration on the Right to Development*. N.d.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *OCHA on Message: General Assembly resolution 46/182 [EN/AR]*. 2012.

⁴⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations (A/RES/46/182)*. 1991.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Search ECOSOC Documents*. N.d.

⁵² *Ibid.*

⁵³ United Nations Peacebuilding. *United Nations Community Engagement Guidelines on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace*. 2020. p. 1.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*; United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *United Nations Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies*. 2020.



civil society.⁵⁶ Meanwhile, the United Nations Common Guidance on Resilience aims to unify the United Nations system around a consistent approach to building resilience across the humanitarian, development, and peace sectors.⁵⁷

Other organizations have also developed frameworks to bridge the gaps between relief and development across different areas.⁵⁸ For example, Oxfam's Conceptual Framework on Women's Economic Empowerment (2017) offers guidelines for realizing women's economic empowerment through humanitarian response, long-term development, and advocacy efforts.⁵⁹ Oxfam has incorporated gender-sensitive strategies into its work with resilient smallholder agriculture and humanitarian programming.⁶⁰ Oxfam promotes economic recovery for women by advocating for inclusive market development.⁶¹ By addressing crises with targeted measures such as emergency cash for women, cash-for-work programs, and cash-for-training initiatives, Oxfam mitigates the impact of economic shock on women's experience.⁶² These actions support women in immediate recovery and enhance local market dynamics, fostering long-term economic resilience and women's empowerment.⁶³ *With Us & For Us: Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises* (2020) are a set of guidelines developed by the United Nations Children's Fund and the Norwegian Refugee Council under Task Team 1 of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action that serve as a resource for engaging with and supporting young people in humanitarian contexts and protracted crises.⁶⁴ A section of the guidelines focuses on fostering resilient and peaceful societies with young people at the forefront, while also noting the importance of strengthening connections across the triple nexus, an operational framework in which humanitarian, development, and peace efforts synergize relief, development, and peace actions to achieve long-term development outcomes after crises.⁶⁵ In Viet Nam, from 2009 to 2014, young people in Green Clubs partnered with farmers by offering technical guidance on implementing climate-resilient livelihoods and developing multifaceted awareness campaigns to educate and mobilize residents on mangrove protection and climate change adaptation.⁶⁶ Additionally, through the expansion of Resilience Innovation Facilities in Burkina Faso, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Romania, and Ukraine, children and youth from refugee and host communities gain practical digital skills that enhance their creativity, job-readiness, and entrepreneurial skills.⁶⁷ The Comprehensive School Safety Framework 2022-2030 (2022), aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals contained within the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), provides guidance aimed at enhancing collaboration and impact among humanitarian and development actors involved in granting continuous education worldwide, particularly in times of crisis.⁶⁸

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Oxfam International. *Oxfam's Conceptual Framework on Women's Economic Empowerment*. 2017.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Inter-Agency Standing Committee. *With us & for us: Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises, UNICEF and NRC for the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action*. 2020.

⁶⁵ Ibid. p. 103; WeWorld. *The Triple Nexus: Questions and Answers on Integrating Humanitarian, Development and Peace Actions in Protracted Crises*. 2020. p. 3.

⁶⁶ Inter-Agency Standing Committee. *With us & for us: Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises, UNICEF and NRC for the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action*. 2020. p. 112.

⁶⁷ Terre des Hommes. *Safe, inclusive and digital innovation spaces*. N.d.

⁶⁸ Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction & Resilience in the Education Sector. *Comprehensive School Safety Framework (CSSF) 2022-2030*. 2022.



Role of the International System

ECOSOC plays a significant role in coordinating and guiding United Nations development efforts.⁶⁹ Since 1998, the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) has served as the primary platform for coordinating the United Nations' global humanitarian response and facilitating networking among various stakeholders.⁷⁰ Its key outcome is ECOSOC resolution 2018/54 (2018) titled "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations".⁷¹ Since 1998, preceding HAS, ECOSOC has annually convened a meeting on transitioning from relief to development.⁷² The session emphasizes the link between humanitarian and development aid, especially in peacebuilding efforts, such as fostering inclusive societies and ensuring access to justice.⁷³ The 2024 ECOSOC HAS will take place on 19-21 June 2024, with the meeting on the transition from relief to development scheduled on 18 June 2024.⁷⁴

At the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the United Nations Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, RET International, the United Nations Population Fund, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, pledged to adopt a New Way of Working linking relief, rehabilitation, and development to reduce risk and vulnerability, and, consequently, attain the Sustainable Development Goals.⁷⁵ In 2017, as a result of the summit, stakeholders added a third pillar, "peace", establishing a triple nexus in which development and humanitarian efforts align.⁷⁶ The triple nexus has emerged as an operational framework to mitigate escalating complexities in crises, which pose challenges for resolution.⁷⁷ According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, on average, humanitarian crises persist for over nine years, with numerous enduring for decades.⁷⁸ The Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration (JSC) is another United Nations mechanism that fosters coherence between humanitarian and development efforts in situations of crisis and supports the transition towards sustainable development and resilience-building.⁷⁹ The JSC supports Resident Coordinators, the senior-most representative of the United Nations development system at the national level, and United Nations country teams, to address the humanitarian-development nexus through closer collaboration, integrated approaches, and joint field missions.⁸⁰ Additionally, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the longest-standing and highest-level United Nations humanitarian coordination forum, coordinates, develops policies, and makes decisions involving key United Nations and non-United Nations humanitarian partners.⁸¹ The ERC leads

⁶⁹ Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. *The ECOSOC Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations Economic and Social Council*. 2021. p. 11.

⁷⁰ Ibid. p. 91.

⁷¹ Ibid. p. 91.

⁷² Ibid. p. 93; Inter-Agency Standing Committee. *ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2022*. 2022.

⁷³ Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. *The ECOSOC Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations Economic and Social Council*. 2021. p. 93.

⁷⁴ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Working arrangements for the 2024 session of the Economic and Social Council (E/2024/L.1)*. 2023. p. 2.

⁷⁵ Inter-Agency Standing Committee. *With us & for us: Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises, UNICEF and NRC for the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action*. 2020. p. 187.

⁷⁶ Ibid. p. 187.

⁷⁷ WeWorld. *The Triple Nexus: Questions and Answers on Integrating Humanitarian, Development and Peace Actions in Protracted Crises*. 2020. p. 3.

⁷⁸ Ibid. p. 4; United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Global Humanitarian Overview 2019*. 2019. p. 4.

⁷⁹ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration*. N.d.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ United Nations, Human Rights Council. *Cluster Approach*. 2023.



the IASC and develops humanitarian policies, assigns responsibilities, addresses response gaps, and promotes effective humanitarian principles during crises.⁸²

Diverse non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have partnered to address the transition from relief to development.⁸³ Notably, RET International utilizes a triple nexus philosophy to provide humanitarian assistance and empower nearly 2,500,000 program participants with tools to become self-sufficient, support their families, and be involved in societal progress, consequently contributing to long-lasting development.⁸⁴ Along with Education Cannot Wait, the first global fund for education during crises, RET works to prioritize education in humanitarian efforts.⁸⁵ Through its collaboration with RET, the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action aims to address the needs of adolescents and youth in humanitarian settings.⁸⁶ Since 2005, RET has held consultative status at ECOSOC, enabling the organization to participate in international conferences and events, as well as make oral or written statements.⁸⁷ This facilitates networking, coordination, and awareness-raising regarding the situation and involvement of young people in fragile environments.⁸⁸

Nontraditional actors and approaches can also contribute to the transition from relief to development.⁸⁹ Health-related programming, when combined with life-saving protection and humanitarian aid to mobile populations, can further the creation of public health interventions that mitigate underlying factors of conflict and simultaneously strengthen health systems that aid in establishing long-term development.⁹⁰ The International Organization for Migration (IOM) offers a range of services to affected migrant populations, including shelter, health, and water and sanitation.⁹¹ It additionally manages camps and coordinates assistance within IASC structures.⁹² Through its Migration Health Division, IOM addresses acute health needs, emphasizing migrant-sensitive health systems and global health goals.⁹³ Such measures ensure that health initiatives promote sustainable development for all while avoiding worsening existing conflict.⁹⁴

Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Development

Civil society encompasses NGOs, such as schools, universities, advocacy groups, professional associations, churches, and cultural institutions, and they serve as a crucial information source for both citizens and the government.⁹⁵ At the national level, civil society organizations (CSOs) spearhead development efforts by closely collaborating with communities to incorporate local voices and needs into development program design.⁹⁶ CSOs have made significant strides in aiding vulnerable citizens in post-civil war Uganda, and contributing to addressing global acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), tuberculosis (TB), and malaria crises.⁹⁷

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ RET International. *Bridging the Gaps*. N.d.

⁸⁴ RET International. *About RET*. N.d.

⁸⁵ RET International. *Bridging the Gaps*. N.d.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ World Health Organization. Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. *Bridging the Divide: A Guide to Implementing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus for Health*. 2021. p. 9.

⁹⁰ Broman. Migration Health Division. *Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus in Health*. 2021. p. 1.

⁹¹ Ibid. p. 1.

⁹² United Nations, International Organization for Migration. *Save Lives and Respond to Humanitarian Needs*. 2024.

⁹³ Broman. Migration Health Division. *Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus in Health*. 2021. p. 1.

⁹⁴ Ibid. p. 2.

⁹⁵ Ingram. The Brookings Institution. *Civil society: An essential ingredient of development*. 2020.

⁹⁶ The World Bank in Africa. *Engaging Civil Society for Better Development Impact*. 2019.

⁹⁷ The Borgen Project. *Strengthening Civil Society Through Bottom-Up Development*. 2023.



The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is a global nonprofit organization that provides humanitarian aid, relief, and development assistance to those affected by crises.⁹⁸ All IRC programs focus on enhancing the health, safety, education, economic well-being, and decision-making of conflict-affected individuals using a long-term approach.⁹⁹ For instance, although the IRC offers immediate cash assistance post-crisis, the organization also promotes self-sufficiency through business skill training for high-demand jobs and improving connections in local labor markets.¹⁰⁰ In Northern Uganda, the IRC supported the reintegration of returnees and internally displaced persons into profitable agricultural value chains by providing training in agricultural practices and marketing, as well as access to financial services.¹⁰¹ Through a value chain analysis, IRC identified a lucrative opportunity to sell cotton to a major processing firm, resulting in initial sales exceeding \$25,000 and benefiting over 400 households.¹⁰²

CSOs are also increasingly recognized as vital agents in implementing health interventions at the grassroots level.¹⁰³ The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (the Global Fund) and, in the United States, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, are now being consulted more frequently by international organizations and, in cases like the Global Fund, actively participate in decision-making processes.¹⁰⁴ In Kenya, the NGO "Keeping Alive Societies Hope" organized an advocacy meeting that brought together representatives from marginalized groups and the Kenyan police, resulting in reduced stigma in the community.¹⁰⁵ The Churches Health Grants Association of Zambia is a key distributor of Global Fund commodities, including HIV/AIDS treatments, having placed over 40,000 people in Zambia on life-saving antiretroviral therapy.¹⁰⁶ In Mumbai, India, the NGO "Doctors for You" conducted a study uncovering how slum rehousing projects contribute to the spread of TB.¹⁰⁷

One of the main barriers to strengthening civil society's role in development is lack of funding, with CSOs facing resource limitations and reliance on donor organizations often receiving minimal direct funding.¹⁰⁸ Additionally, CSOs may lack the necessary skills in areas like fundraising and advocacy, hindering effective operation.¹⁰⁹ Government threats pose significant challenges, with legal constraints, political pressures, and economic hardships impeding autonomy and operational effectiveness.¹¹⁰ These threats create a hostile environment for civil society, hampering its potential contribution to democratic progress and social equity.¹¹¹

To strengthen civil society, the international community can provide financial and technical support to CSOs, enhancing their capacity, sustainability, and advocacy skills; engage in dialogue and partnership with CSOs to amplify their voice and influence in policymaking and implementation; promote an enabling legal and regulatory environment for CSOs to operate freely and independently; protect and defend CSOs

⁹⁸ International Recovery Committee. *The IRC's Impact at a Glance*. N.d.

⁹⁹ International Recovery Committee. *Economic Wellbeing*. N.d.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ International Recovery Committee. *Economic recovery and development at the International Rescue Committee: enterprise development and employment*. 2016.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Doyle. Social Science and Medicine. *Civil society organisations and global health initiatives: Problems of legitimacy*. 2008.

¹⁰⁴ Friends of the Global Fight. *Backing Civil Society to End the AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Epidemics*. 2019.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ The Borgen Project. *Strengthening Civil Society Through Bottom-Up Development*. 2023.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ Ibid.



from harassment, intimidation, and violence by governments or other actors; and raise awareness and mobilize public support for the role and value of civil society in development and democracy.¹¹²

The Triple Nexus for Health Systems

In recent years, emergencies have become more complex and prolonged, affecting a larger population and demanding increased resources.¹¹³ These emergencies directly impact health through injuries, illnesses, psychological trauma, and fatalities, while also indirectly increasing susceptibility to disease and poor health.¹¹⁴ Furthermore, crises often reveal underlying causes of conflict, such as weak health systems, prompting the need for durable solutions.¹¹⁵ Recognizing this, the international community has pledged to enhance the links between humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts.¹¹⁶ Using the triple nexus approach can reduce service delivery gaps and duplication of efforts, address emergency drivers, enable an orderly transition from humanitarian response to recovery, and guide the maintenance of assets and infrastructure.¹¹⁷ It can also facilitate practical solutions in political institutions, ownership, and governance to oversee transitions and prevent gaps between humanitarian response, investment, and development agendas.¹¹⁸ This approach holds the potential to maintain the infrastructure that gives continuity to the delivery of essential services to affected and local communities, thereby shifting from immediate relief efforts to sustainable, long-lasting development.¹¹⁹

To operationalize the triple nexus for health, all interested actors are encouraged to prioritize immediate lifesaving activities, reconcile tensions between humanitarian and aid principles, integrate nexus approaches from the outset, work with the local community, and ensure conflict sensitivity and peace responsiveness.¹²⁰ Before initiating the process, it is useful to have political will from donors to adopt and fund the nexus approach, commitment from health sector partners to implement it, and willingness from governments to engage with and facilitate its implementation alongside humanitarian, development, and peace partners.¹²¹ This can be achieved following ECOSOC's mandate of coordinating the activities of its subsidiary bodies and other United Nations specialized agencies, such as IOM, the World Health Organization, and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.¹²² ECOSOC may also call for or convene high-level meetings, panels, or conferences on enhancing humanitarian-development cooperation, humanitarian health response, and related topics.¹²³

In Myanmar's Rakhine State, accessing basic services has long been a challenge for both Rohingya and Rakhine populations, exacerbated in recent years for Muslim communities, especially in healthcare access due to barriers compounded by the August 2017 security incident and subsequent conflicts.¹²⁴ In response, IOM implements a whole-of-community approach to strengthen health systems, prioritizing healthcare access for both Rohingya and Rakhine populations.¹²⁵ This involves supporting health facilities

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ World Health Organization. Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. *Bridging the Divide: A Guide to Implementing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus for Health*. 2021. p. IV.

¹¹⁴ Ibid. p. IV.

¹¹⁵ Ibid. p. IV.

¹¹⁶ Ibid. p. IV.

¹¹⁷ Talisuna. British Medical Journal Global Health. *The Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus (HDPN) in Africa: the Urgent Need for a Coherent Framework for Health*. 2023. pp. 1-2.

¹¹⁸ Ibid. pp. 1-2.

¹¹⁹ Ibid. pp. 1-2.

¹²⁰ Ibid. p. 4.

¹²¹ Ibid. p. 4.

¹²² United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *The United Nations System*. 2023; United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Brochure*. 2024.

¹²³ United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *2016 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment Synthesis*. 2016.

¹²⁴ Broman. Migration Health Division. *Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus in Health*. 2021. p. 3.

¹²⁵ Ibid. p. 3.



at various levels, including those in conflict-affected and remote areas, with material and human resources.¹²⁶ Activities are adaptable to evolving humanitarian needs and aligned with recommendations from the Rakhine Advisory Commission's final report, the Ministry of Health and Sports' National Health Plan, and other long-term development objectives.¹²⁷

Numerous obstacles hinder the effective implementation of the triple nexus, such as limited understanding of this approach and its practical application, inadequate commitment and leadership from key actors, and the perceived competition between humanitarian and development resources.¹²⁸ Although challenges continue, opportunities to advance nexus implementation exist.¹²⁹ These include a growing global commitment to the New Way of Working as well as a deeper recognition that complex crises require collaborative efforts between different actors at all levels.¹³⁰ Current collaborations between humanitarian and development actors can aid in implementing the nexus approach.¹³¹ These encompass intra- and intersectoral partnerships, strong ties between humanitarian and Resident Coordinators, and informal collaborations between individuals across organizations.¹³²

Conclusion

Since 1998, ECOSOC has committed to strengthening the coordination and effectiveness of the humanitarian assistance of the United Nations through HAS and via its annual meeting on transitioning from relief to development.¹³³ Various international organizations, notably RET International, and United Nations bodies have also pledged to better coordinate relief, rehabilitation, and development efforts through the New Way of Working approach.¹³⁴ Integrating humanitarian, development, and peace efforts offers a promising framework for addressing the root causes of crises and promoting sustainable development.¹³⁵ Governments, civil society, and international organizations can advance holistic solutions to complex humanitarian challenges through the prioritization of immediate lifesaving activities, the reconciliation of tensions between humanitarian and aid principles, and the assurance of conflict sensitivity and peace responsiveness.¹³⁶ By continuing to not only deliver humanitarian assistance but also cultivate an environment that enables recovery and long-term development in Member States and communities facing emergencies, it will be possible to overcome crises and build a sustainable future for all.¹³⁷

Further Research

As delegates conduct further research and consider how to address this topic, they should think about the following questions: What are the benefits of combining relief efforts with long-term development strategies? How can emergency aid strategies be formulated to ensure both short-term recovery and long-term sustainable development, aligning with the principles established in resolution 46/182 (1991) and subsequent ECOSOC resolutions? How can the United Nations and other international organizations

¹²⁶ Ibid. p. 3.

¹²⁷ Ibid. p. 3.

¹²⁸ World Health Organization. Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. *Bridging the Divide: A Guide to Implementing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus for Health*. 2021. p. 2.

¹²⁹ Ibid. p. 2.

¹³⁰ Ibid. p. 2.

¹³¹ Ibid. p. 2.

¹³² Ibid. p. 2.

¹³³ Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. *The ECOSOC Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations Economic and Social Council*. 2021. pp. 91, 93.

¹³⁴ Inter-Agency Standing Committee. *With us & for us: Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises*, UNICEF and NRC for the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action. 2020. p. 187.

¹³⁵ Ibid. p. 103.

¹³⁶ Ibid. p. 103.

¹³⁷ Guterres. United Nations. *Building back better requires transforming the development model of Latin America and the Caribbean*. N.d.



enhance coordination and partnership with civil society actors to ensure effective humanitarian and development efforts? What are the implications of civil society organizations' involvement in humanitarian and development efforts, particularly in addressing barriers to civil society development such as funding limitations, skill gaps, and government threats?



Bibliography

- Bidder. *United Nations Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia*. 1994. Retrieved 2 March 2024 from: https://www.africa.upenn.edu/eue_web/ctinum.htm
- Broman. Migration Health Division. *Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus in Health*. 2021. Retrieved 15 March 2024 from: <https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl486/files/documents/HDPN-in-Health-External.pdf>
- Doyle. Social Science and Medicine. *Civil Society Organisations and Global Health Initiatives: Problems of Legitimacy*. 2008. Retrieved 15 March 2024 from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0277953607006879>
- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. *The ECOSOC Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations Economic and Social Council*. 2021. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from: https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/mission-new-york/en/documents/ECOSOC_LayoutwithPhotos_FINAL_wLinks.pdf
- Friends of the Global Fight. *Backing Civil Society to End the AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Epidemics*. 2019. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from: https://www.theglobalfight.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/190111-Civil-Society-Issue-Brief_digital.pdf
- Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction & Resilience in the Education Sector. *Comprehensive School Safety Framework (CSSF) 2022-2030*. 2022. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from: https://gadrrres.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/CSSF_2022-2030_EN.pdf
- Griffiths. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Global Humanitarian Overview 2024 – Doha Launch “Putting People First: Humanitarian Diplomacy in a Challenging World”*. 2023. Retrieved 2 March 2024 from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/mr-martin-griffiths-under-secretary-general-humanitarian-affairs-and-emergency-relief-coordinator-global-humanitarian-overview-2024-doha-launch-putting-people-first-humanitarian-diplomacy-challenging-world-11-december-2023>
- Guterres. United Nations. *Building Back Better Requires Transforming the Development Model of Latin America and the Caribbean*. N.d. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/building-back-better-requires-transforming-development-model-latin-america-and-caribbean>
- Humanitarian Coalition. *From Humanitarian to Development Aid*. 2021. Retrieved 2 March 2024 from: <https://www.humanitariancoalition.ca/from-humanitarian-to-development-aid>
- Ingram. The Brookings Institution. *Civil Society: An Essential Ingredient of Development*. 2020. Retrieved 2 March 2024 from: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/civil-society-an-essential-ingredient-of-development>
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee. *With Us & for Us: Working With and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises, UNICEF and NRC for the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action*. 2020. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from: https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/sites/default/files/migrated/2021-02/IASC%20Guidelines%20on%20Working%20with%20and%20for%20Young%20People%20in%20Humanitarian%20and%20Protracted%20Crises_0.pdf
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee. *ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2022*. 2022. Retrieved 15 March 2024 from:



<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/about-inter-agency-standing-committee/ecosoc-humanitarian-affairs-segment-2022>

International Recovery Committee. *Economic Wellbeing*. N.d. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from: <https://www.rescue.org/outcome/economic-wellbeing>

International Recovery Committee. *The IRC's Impact at a Glance*. N.d. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from: <https://www.rescue.org/page/ircs-impact-glance>

International Recovery Committee. *Economic Recovery and Development at the International Rescue Committee: Enterprise Development and Employment*. 2016. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from: <https://www.rescue.org/resource/economic-recovery-and-development-international-rescue-committee-enterprise-development>

Mandela. United Nations Information Centers. *Mandela SDGs Quote Book*. 2023. Retrieved 2 March 2024 from: https://southafrica.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/NMF%20UNIC%20WEB_1.pdf

Oxfam International. *Oxfam's Conceptual Framework on Women's Economic Empowerment*. 2017. Retrieved 2 March 2024 from: <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620269/gt-framework-womens-economic-empowerment-180118-en.pdf;jsessionid=075BF60D8932381A4BBF7D893304FDDC?sequence=7>

RET International. *About RET*. N.d. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from: <https://theret.org/about-ret>

RET International. *Bridging the Gaps*. N.d. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from: <https://theret.org/bridging-the-gaps>

Talisuna. British Medical Journal Global Health. *The Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus (HDPN) in Africa: the Urgent Need for a Coherent Framework for Health*. 2023. Retrieved 15 March 2024 from: <https://gh.bmj.com/content/bmjgh/8/10/e013880.full.pdf>

Terre des Hommes. *Safe, inclusive and digital innovation spaces*. N.d. Retrieved 1 May 2024 from: <https://www.tdh.org/en/projects/fablabrif>

The Borgen Project. *Strengthening Civil Society Through Bottom-Up Development*. 2023. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from: <https://borgenproject.org/bottom-up-development>

The World Bank in Africa. *Engaging Civil Society for Better Development Impact*. 2019. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2019/08/20/engaging-civil-society-for-better-development-impact>

United Nations Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs. Audiovisual Library of International Law. *Declaration on the Right to Development*. N.d. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from: <https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/drd/drd.html>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus*. N.d. Retrieved 2 March 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/humanitarian-development-and-peace-nexus>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration*. N.d. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/jsc/content/joint-steering-committee>



United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *The United Nations System*. 2023. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from:

<https://www.un.org/en/delegate/page/un-system-chart>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Search ECOSOC Documents*. N.d. Retrieved 2 March 2024 from: <https://ecosoc.un.org/en/documents/search-documents?search=>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Working Arrangements for the 2024 Session of the Economic and Social Council (E/2024/L.1)*. 2023. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from:

https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4016153/files/E_2024_L.1-EN.pdf

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Brochure*. 2024. Retrieved 15 March 2024 from:

https://ecosoc.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/ECOSOC_Brochure.pdf

United Nations, General Assembly. *Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations (A/RES/46/182)*. 1991. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from:

<https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/46/182>

United Nations, International Organization for Migration. *Save Lives and Respond to Humanitarian Needs*. 2024. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from:

<https://www.iom.int/save-lives-and-respond-humanitarian-needs>

United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *OCHA on Message: General Assembly resolution 46/182 [EN/AR]*. 2012. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from:

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/ocha-message-general-assembly-resolution-46182-enar>

United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *2016 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment Synthesis*. 2016. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from:

<https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/ECOSOC%20HAS%202016%20Synthesis%20%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Global Humanitarian Overview 2024*. 2023. Retrieved 2 March 2024 from:

<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/global-humanitarian-overview-2024-enarfrsp>

United Nations Human Rights Council. *Cluster Approach*. 2023. Retrieved 2 March 2024 from:

<https://emergency.unhcr.org/coordination-and-communication/cluster-system/cluster-approach>

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Global Humanitarian Overview 2019*. 2019. Retrieved 29 May 2024 from:

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-humanitarian-overview-2019-enaresfrzh>

United Nations Peacebuilding. *United Nations Community Engagement Guidelines on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace*. 2020. Retrieved 10 March 2024 from:

https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/un_community_engagement_guidelines.august_2020.pdf

United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *United Nations Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies*. 2020. Retrieved 15 March 2024 from:

<https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/UN-Resilience-Guidance-Final-Sept.pdf#:~:text=The%20UN%20Resilience%20Guidance%20offers.UN%20Sustainable%20Development%20Cooperation%20Frameworks>



WeWorld. *The Triple Nexus: Questions and Answers on Integrating Humanitarian, Development and Peace Actions in Protracted Crises*. 2020. Retrieved 20 April 2024 from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/triple-nexus-questions-and-answers-integrating-humanitarian-development-and-peace>

World Health Organization. Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. *Bridging the Divide: A Guide to Implementing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus for Health*. 2021. Retrieved 15 March 2024 from: <https://applications.emro.who.int/docs/9789290227502-eng.pdf?ua=1>



2. Promoting Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Achieve the 2030 Agenda

Introduction

The United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is a branch of the United Nations Secretariat that supports the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in its global discussions and forums.¹³⁸ According to their 2016 report, *Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in the 2030 Agenda Implementation: A Review of Voluntary National Review Reports (2016-2019)*, a stakeholder is anyone with a mutual interest in collaborating towards a certain goal that all interested groups are trying to achieve.¹³⁹ Stakeholders represent any individual with an interest in change outside of a governing body and can be citizens, municipalities, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).¹⁴⁰ The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 70/1 (2015), “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” recalling the work accomplished by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (2000), but recognizing the vast number of global inequalities, which led to the creation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).¹⁴¹ SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals) recognizes the importance of multistakeholder and stakeholder partnerships in knowledge-sharing, financial resources, and technology to further the implementation of the SDGs on an international level.¹⁴² Multi-stakeholders are a group of individuals who work alongside members of civil society, the private sector, regional groups, and others who promote policy sharing, knowledge, community projects, and gathering resources.¹⁴³ Members of civil society are community members like labor unions, foundations, indigenous groups, associations, and more, who work alongside governing bodies and political leaders.¹⁴⁴

According to *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition, Towards a Rescue Plan for the People and the Planet*, out of the 140 different targets for the 17 SDGs, half of the targets are severely behind, and 30% of all targets have not made progress since 2015, with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stating that the world is “woefully off track” to accomplish all SDGs by the 2030 deadline.¹⁴⁵ According to reports from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR), the COVID-19 pandemic inhibited the progress made toward achieving the 2030 Agenda.¹⁴⁶ In 2020, 124 million people were pushed back under the poverty line, and over 2.38 billion people were food insecure.¹⁴⁷ The pandemic saw a rise in global inflation, with over 90% of all Least Developed Countries (LDCs), landlocked countries, and Small Island States (SIDS) experiencing food prices rise over 5%.¹⁴⁸ A lack of funding has also slowed progress toward the 2030 Agenda, as

¹³⁸ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Who we are*. N.d.

¹³⁹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in 2030 Agenda Implementation: A Review of National Voluntary Review Reports (2016-2019)*. 2019. p. 10.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The 17 Goals*. N.d.

¹⁴² United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships*. N.d.

¹⁴³ International Labour Organization. *Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships*. N.d.; The Global Business Initiative. *Multi Stakeholder collaboration*. N.d.

¹⁴⁴ Jezard. *Who and What is ‘Civil Society’?*. 2018.

¹⁴⁵ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition, Towards a Rescue Plan for People and the Planet*. 2023. p. 4; United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Halfway to 2030, world ‘nowhere near’ reaching Global Goals, UN warns*. 2023.

¹⁴⁶ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *The Magnitude and Scope of Inequalities Created and Exacerbated by COVID-19 Is Truly Shocking, High Commissioner Tells Human Rights Council*. 2021.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ United Nations, Department for Economic and Social Affairs. *Times of Crisis, Times of Change: Science for Accelerating Transformations to Sustainable Development*. 2023. p. 39.



funding SDG development rose to over \$4.5 trillion after the COVID-19 pandemic, with a projected annual \$6.9 trillion to \$7.6 trillion needed to protect against climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.¹⁴⁹

International and Regional Framework

Agenda 21 was adopted in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro and called to action the protection of the environment from human activity on an international level.¹⁵⁰ *Agenda 21* was one of the first key international documents to recognize the need for international cooperation in building and achieving sustainable development.¹⁵¹ The MDGs were adopted in 2000 at the Millennium Summit, setting standards and milestones for global cooperation to work on the eradication of poverty, illness prevention, and environmental protection.¹⁵² The international community sought to achieve the eight MDGs by 2015 and succeeded in reducing inequalities, improving water sanitation and healthcare, and reducing poverty, demonstrating the effectiveness of goal-setting and ultimately leading to future sustainable development initiatives.¹⁵³ The *Johannesburg Declaration* was adopted in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and includes measures such as setting timelines to address key issues such as water usage and biodiversity loss, and underscores the commitment to attain sustainable development at the local and national levels.¹⁵⁴ The Declaration recognized the important role of stakeholder inclusion for sustainable development to help expedite progress towards providing clean water, energy, healthcare, and biodiversity protection, along with finding ways to finance these initiatives.¹⁵⁵ The 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro further expanded on the MDGs.¹⁵⁶ The 2012 outcome document *Future We Want* vowed to continue the progress and goals that had been previously accomplished and serve as the framework for the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).¹⁵⁷

In 2013, United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/290 (2013), “Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development”, led to the creation of the HLPF, under the auspices of ECOSOC, to allow global leaders to gather and discuss solutions and provide recommendations on sustainable development initiatives.¹⁵⁸ This was followed by General Assembly resolution 70/299 (2016), “Follow up and Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the Global Level”, affirming the actions of General Assembly resolution 67/290 (2013), and implementing thematic progress reviews on the 2030 Agenda to assess developments made on the 17 SDGs.¹⁵⁹ The resolution also called for stakeholder involvement with their participation in voluntary national reviews (VNRs).¹⁶⁰ As indicated in General Assembly resolution 70/299 (2016), VNRs are submitted by willing

¹⁴⁹ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *UNCTAD Counts the Costs of Achieving Sustainable Development Goals*. 2023; United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Halfway to 2030, world ‘nowhere near’ reaching Global Goals, UN warns*. 2023.

¹⁵⁰ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development. *Agenda 21*. N.d.

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

¹⁵² United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Category: Millennium Development Goals*. N.d.

¹⁵³ United Nations Development Programme. *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015*. 2017.

¹⁵⁴ International Institute For Sustainable Development. *World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002)- WSSD*. N.d.

¹⁵⁵ United Nations, World Summit on Sustainable Development. *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. (A/CONF.199/20)*. 2002. Ch. 1, resolution 1.

¹⁵⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *The future we want. (A/RES/66/288)*. 2012.

¹⁵⁷ United Nations, High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. *High Level Political Forum*. N.d.

¹⁵⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. (A/RES/67/290)*. 2013.

¹⁵⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the Global Level. (A/RES/70/299)*. 2015.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.



Member States and used to show work on sustainable development on both national and regional levels and are presented at the HLPF.¹⁶¹ Stakeholders and government systems voluntarily participate in VNRs to not only track SDG attainment but to also increase the support of multi-stakeholders for the completion of the 2030 Agenda.¹⁶² VNRs track progress and identify setbacks made towards achieving the SDGs, and allow for Member States to gain different perspectives on how to address similar future challenges.¹⁶³ VNRs are drafted from input from members of civil society, youth, indigenous groups, policymakers, the private sector, and other stakeholders.¹⁶⁴ India's 2020 VNR highlights progress on all SDGs, particularly SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 17.¹⁶⁵

In 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/1 (2015), "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" emphasizing the importance of international cooperation for sustainable development achievement and eliminating inequalities by 2030.¹⁶⁶ SDG 16 (peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) focuses on the promotion of inclusive, safe, societies where everyone is equal and lives without fear of prosecution.¹⁶⁷ SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals) focuses on international cooperation to help achieve the SDGs and also acknowledges the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships advancing sustainable development on a global scale through knowledge sharing, technology, and financial practices.¹⁶⁸

ECOSOC adopted resolution 2016/26 (2016), "Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fifteenth session," highlighting the importance of the public and government administrations in SDG implementation.¹⁶⁹ The document additionally calls for public participation in making policies for sustainable development and emphasizes the need for transparency and accountability.¹⁷⁰ The resolution also outlines the role of technology in SDG application.¹⁷¹

General Assembly resolution 72/279 (2018), "Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system" created the *United Nations Development Assistance Framework* (UNDAF), later renamed to the *United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework*.¹⁷² The framework provides Member States with a comprehensive outline for the development, integration, and implementation of the SDGs, as well as guides Member States on how to work with stakeholders, and how to report progress made on the 2030 Agenda.¹⁷³

¹⁶¹ United Nations, High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. *Voluntary National Reviews*. N.d.

¹⁶² Ibid.

¹⁶³ United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. *2023 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report*. 2023.

¹⁶⁴ Ibid.

¹⁶⁵ United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. *Voluntary National Review 2020*. 2020.

¹⁶⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. (A/RES/70/1). 2015.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

¹⁶⁸ Ibid; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships*. N.d.

¹⁶⁹ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fifteenth session*. (E/RES/2016/26). 2016.

¹⁷⁰ Ibid.

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

¹⁷² United Nations, General Assembly. *Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system*. (A/RES/72/279). 2018.

¹⁷³ United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework-Internal Guidance*. 2019.



In 2020, the United Nations Sustainable Development Group created the *Common Minimum Standards for Stakeholder Engagement* for United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) to shape core areas within stakeholder engagement through information collection, engagement promotion, and best practice sharing.¹⁷⁴ UNCTs have been making strides globally by combatting droughts in Zambia, responding to natural disasters in Bolivia, and working with the government, civil society members, and other stakeholders in Mozambique to find solutions for internally displaced refugees.¹⁷⁵ UNCTs are also working with stakeholders towards passing legislation, as exemplified by Chile's Law on a Women's Right to a Life Free of Violence, which aims to protect women and girls from abuse, strengthen punishments, and apply prevention measures as well as information systems, and calls for a new national government plan on addressing women's violence.¹⁷⁶

Role of the International System

ECOSOC hosts several forums for global information-sharing with leaders, NGOs, stakeholders, youth groups, businesses, policymakers, and others to promote public participation and dialogue to attain sustainable development.¹⁷⁷ These forums include the Development Cooperation Forum, the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the SDGs, the Youth Forum, the Partnership Forum, and the Forum on Financing for Development follow-up.¹⁷⁸ These forums allow for participants to draft and provide meaningful recommendations to enhance equity in decision-making and monitor progress on the 2030 Agenda.¹⁷⁹ These platforms have expanded participation and have brought together youth, political leaders, and other stakeholders to provide different perspectives and solutions toward the SDGs.¹⁸⁰

ECOSOC annually hosts the HLPF, serving as a hub for information sharing between global leaders to review and monitor SDG progress, along with sharing recommendations and assessing current commitments and previous multi-stakeholder pledges.¹⁸¹ The HLPF allows input from ECOSOC functional commissions, government bodies, and other groups.¹⁸² It also brings stakeholders together to discuss VNRs and allows for members to provide feedback to each other, participate in workshops, and discuss areas of success and areas of improvement to reach the 2030 Agenda.¹⁸³ HLPF 2024 is scheduled for 8 June 2024 to 17 June 2024, with the theme "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and Eradicating Poverty in Multiple Times of Crisis: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions," particularly focusing on SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (no hunger), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions), and SDG 17.¹⁸⁴

UN DESA's 2016 SDG Actions Platform acts as a virtual global data registry for policies, actions, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and commitments made by stakeholders, NGOs, and United Nations

¹⁷⁴ United Nations, Sustainable Development Group. *Common Minimum Standards for Multi-Stakeholder Engagement In the UN Development Assistance Framework*. 2020. p. 3., pp. 7-8.

¹⁷⁵ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Around the World: Daily Updates from UN Country Teams-March 2024*. 2024.

¹⁷⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷⁷ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Promoting Sustainable Development*. N.d.

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

¹⁷⁹ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. *Conclusions on the Youth Forum (4 2 C/INF.13)*. 2023.

¹⁸⁰ United Nations Development Programme. *UNDP at the UN ECOSOC Youth Forum 2024*. 2024.

¹⁸¹ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC At a Glance*. N.d.

¹⁸² United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Inputs to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*. N.d.

¹⁸³ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council at its 2023 session (E/HLPF/2023/7)*. 2023; United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *Introduction to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*. N.d. pp. 8-9.

¹⁸⁴ United Nations High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development. *High-Level Political Forum 2024*. N.d.



agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization (UNESCO), among others, for SDG progress.¹⁸⁵ The platform encourages all entities to voluntarily report the work, progress, and initiatives on sustainable development, and are published to their database for multi-stakeholders to view.¹⁸⁶ Currently, the SDG Actions Platform has 8,050 publicized efforts made by different United Nations agencies, government entities, and stakeholders, with progress made towards all of the 17 SDGs in the reported projects and partnerships.¹⁸⁷

The Partnership Accelerator for the SDGs is another program that promotes multi-stakeholder partnerships for the goals.¹⁸⁸ The Partnership Accelerator is partnered with UN DESA and the Partnering Initiative and is in collaboration with the United Nations Global Compact, the United Nations Development Coordination Office, and the United Nations Office for Partnerships, and focuses on building stakeholder connections and engagement for the SDGs.¹⁸⁹ The Partnership Accelerator has three main objectives, including building partnerships and platforms, partnership skills and competencies, and enhancing the collaboration between both the public and private sectors and stakeholders for achieving the 2030 agenda.¹⁹⁰ The program offers direct partnership initiatives with stakeholders, Member States, entities, and United Nations Resident Coordinators, who implement community and regional projects, to help better complete the SDGs.¹⁹¹ The Partnership Accelerator provides tailored reports and virtual training to help better expand on sustainable development, as well as supplies a list of stakeholders who can assist with SDG projects regionally and nationally.¹⁹²

Using Technology to Enhance Public Participation in the 2030 Agenda

Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, emphasizes the profound impact that public participation holds on the post-2015 development agenda and leaving nobody behind, as public participation allows for community members to share thoughts, opinions, and ideas with the government while holding these entities accountable and strengthen commitments to the SDGs.¹⁹³ Public participation emphasizes that everyone be involved in decision-making to draft meaningful policies for sustainable development.¹⁹⁴ Increasing public participation also brings awareness towards the SDGs and facilitates championing solutions for the environment, equality, improving education, and more.¹⁹⁵ Different technologies can be used to increase public participation, as they enable engagement, quick information dissemination and allow tracking and recording of input.¹⁹⁶ For example, social media platforms allow the

¹⁸⁵ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *SDG Actions Platform*. N.d.

¹⁸⁶ Ibid.

¹⁸⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸⁸ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Partnership Accelerator for the 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development*. N.d.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.

¹⁹¹ Ibid.

¹⁹² Ibid; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Partnership Accelerator Network*. N.d.

¹⁹³ Mohammed. *Participation, Consultation and Engagement: Critical Elements for an Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda*. 2018.

¹⁹⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Sustainable Development. *Information for integrated Decision-Making and Participation*. N.d.

¹⁹⁵ Mohammed. *Participation, Consultation and Engagement: Critical Elements for an Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda*. 2018.

¹⁹⁶ Nyberg et al. *Mixed Reality for public participation in urban and public space design: Towards a new way of crowdsourcing for more inclusive smart cities*. 2019. p. 25.



public to share thoughts and opinions with the world, along with projects and goals.¹⁹⁷ Technology in public participation also allows for more youth involvement in improving their community.¹⁹⁸

Technology can strengthen global inclusion but limits public participation for those who do not have internet access or those who do not have technology literacy.¹⁹⁹ As seen in the World Bank's Report, *Digital Progress and Trends Report 2023*, while internet use is growing globally, an internet divide is increasing, as internet use in the global south is falling behind, with one in four individuals online in the global south in 2022.²⁰⁰ The International Telecommunications Union states that 2.9 billion people, or 37% of the world's population, have never used the internet, and out of those individuals, 96% of those live in the global south.²⁰¹ The internet divide extends to urban and rural communities, as 76% of those who live in urban areas have internet access, in comparison to 39% of those in rural areas.²⁰² The digital divide restricts economic growth, access to education, stronger healthcare, and more.²⁰³

The Digital Inclusion Navigator is an online platform created by the World Economic Forum, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Boston Consulting Group, and a collaboration of 45 other stakeholders that allows individuals to share best practices, policies, and expand internet programs.²⁰⁴ The Digital Inclusion Navigator aims to close the digital divide with its framework of increasing digital access, improving digital literacy, and lowering the costs of internet services to make technology affordable for all.²⁰⁵ The Digital Inclusion Navigator has reached 784 million people through 320 initiatives in over 127 Member States providing technological resources.²⁰⁶ The group also created the Lighthouse Countries Network which focuses on knowledge-sharing and improving communications technology (ICT) policies to share data and best practices for national ICT inclusion with over 1,000 case studies for review.²⁰⁷ The Digital Inclusion Navigator advances SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8, SDG 10, and SDG 17.²⁰⁸ The Digital Inclusion Navigator connects more communities online, as it reduces inequalities associated with the digital divide, such as access to education, quality healthcare, and economic opportunities.²⁰⁹

Block by Block is a multi-stakeholder non-profit organization that partners with Mojang Studios, Microsoft, and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and uses the game Minecraft to help with digital public participation.²¹⁰ Users can participate in community development by utilizing technology to help design resilient, public spaces in a user-friendly format.²¹¹ Block by Block helps ensure all can participate, particularly women, youth, disabled, and elderly populations.²¹² Block for Block enhances public participation by allowing those with all levels of technological knowledge to gather and

¹⁹⁷ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Participation, Consultation and Engagement: Critical Elements for an Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda*. 2018.

¹⁹⁸ Nyberg et al. *Mixed Reality for public participation in urban and public space design: Towards a new way of crowdsourcing for more inclusive smart cities*. 2019. p. 25.

¹⁹⁹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions: Catching the Deliberative Wave*. 2020. p. 3.

²⁰⁰ The World Bank. *Digital Progress and Trends Report 2023*. 2024. p. XVII.

²⁰¹ International Telecommunication Union. *Facts and Figures 2021: 2.9 Billion people still offline*. 2021.

²⁰² Ibid.

²⁰³ The World Bank. *Digital Progress and Trends Report 2023*. 2024. p. 14. pp. 93-94.

²⁰⁴ Opp. *Digital Inclusion Navigator: A platform to help bridge the digital divide for billions*. 2022.

²⁰⁵ Edison Alliance. *Impact Report January 2024*. 2024. p. 6.

²⁰⁶ Ibid. p. 4.

²⁰⁷ Ibid. p. 28; Edison Alliance. *Lighthouse Countries Network*. N.d.

²⁰⁸ Edison Alliance. *Impact Report January 2024*. 2024. p. 4.

²⁰⁹ Ibid. p. 19.

²¹⁰ Nyberg et al. *Mixed Reality for public participation in urban and public space design: Towards a new way of crowdsourcing for more inclusive smart cities*. 2019. p. 26.

²¹¹ Block by Block. *About by Block*. N.d.

²¹² Ibid.



attend workshops on the importance of public space, how to utilize the platform, working together to create public space ideas, and present them to the local community, policymakers, and other relevant stakeholders, and then to build the designed public space.²¹³ Block by Block is used globally in over 55 different Member States with over 30,000 participants to impact urban public space and develop more resilient, empowered communities.²¹⁴ Block by Block addresses SDG 4, SDG 11(sustainable cities and communities), SDG 16, and SDG 17.²¹⁵

Youth-Led Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for the Goals

The United Nations General Assembly defines youth as people between the ages of 15 to 24.²¹⁶ Youth currently represent 1.2 billion individuals, or 16% of the global population.²¹⁷ This figure is only expected to keep growing.²¹⁸ Youth are key assets in multi-stakeholder partnerships but are improperly represented due to a lack of financial and political support, and are excluded in decision-making and participation.²¹⁹ Youth are often underrepresented in a majority of political decision-making, as internationally, only 2% of the global population under 30 years of age hold a parliamentary or governmental position.²²⁰ According to the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, two out of three Member States do not include youth in decision-making on development plans or poverty reduction strategies.²²¹ However, per the One Planet Network, youth play an important role in multi-stakeholder partnerships, as they are strong negotiators, creative, and are activists in mobilization, and excel at reaching large audiences on social media.²²²

Youth play an important role in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, as they are engaged with its implementation and review, as the 2023 HLPF called for more youth representation, inclusion, and empowerment to address the SDGs.²²³ Youth in both Iceland and Ireland have drafted chapters for 2023 VNRs.²²⁴ The Youth2030 Initiative, also known as the Youth Strategy, helps United Nations agencies engage with youth-created projects for the achievement of the SDG's²²⁵ The Youth Strategy works with 131 UNCTs and is shared across 55 United Nations offices and agencies.²²⁶ According to the report from the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth: *Youth 2030 Global Progress Report 2023*, through the Youth2030 initiative, 56% of UNCTs have established multi-stakeholder partnerships for developing youth-led solutions.²²⁷

²¹³ Block by Block. *Our Approach: The Block by Block Methodology*. N.d.

²¹⁴ Block by Block. *Building Resilient Cities, Block by Block*. N.d.

²¹⁵ Nyberg et al. *Mixed Reality for public participation in urban and public space design: Towards a new way of crowdsourcing for more inclusive smart cities*. 2019. p. 26.

²¹⁶ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Youth*. N.d.

²¹⁷ Ibid.

²¹⁸ Ibid.

²¹⁹ One Planet Network. *The Youth4Climate Call for Solutions is now OPEN!*. 2024.

²²⁰ United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. *#YouthStats: Public and Civic Participation*. N.d.

²²¹ Ibid.

²²² One Planet Network. *Inspiring a Global Movement for Sustainable Consumption and Production*. N.d.; United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals. *Youth*. N.d.

²²³ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Youth*. N.d.; Fukuda. International Institute for Sustainable Development. *Engaging Youth in SDGs Through Representation, Inclusion, and Empowerment*. 2023.

²²⁴ Ibid.

²²⁵ United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. *Youth 2030 Global Progress Report 2023*. 2023.

²²⁶ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Youth*. N.d.; United Nations Youth Strategy. *Youth 2030: Working With and for Youth People*. N.d. pp. 5-6. p. 11.

²²⁷ United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. *Youth 2030 Global Progress Report 2023*. 2023. p. 34.



Youth4Climate (Y4C) is an initiative led by UNDP and the Government of Italy that provides youth with tools, networks, and resources while focusing on developing youth-led solutions.²²⁸ Y4C focuses on sharing knowledge, engagement, and idea creation, and looks for young people and youth-led organizations to generate ideas for SDG 2, SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13, SDG 14 (life below water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land) with the help of multi-stakeholders.²²⁹ Past Y4C Solution Awardees created projects such as “Dumpcrete” which repurposes industrial waste into construction blocks.²³⁰ Dumpcrete has turned 45 metric tons of waste into 12,000 bricks for new community buildings, with support from stakeholders such as the Saint Gobain Grants program and the Hawa Light Kar Challenge.²³¹ Dumpcrete efforts have helped make progress on SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), SDG 11, and SDG 12.²³²

The Global Youth Initiative (GYI), is a multi-stakeholder program focused on youth leadership for education policy.²³³ GYI priorities include empowerment, engagement and participation, and global education for all.²³⁴ GYI was recommended in the *Youth Declaration on Transforming Education* (2022), a landmark document that calls for changing education on an international level.²³⁵ The SDG4 Youth and Student Network, part of the GYI, has held talks with different multi-stakeholder groups such as Microsoft, Global Compact France, and the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation, among others, on the importance of working together to help solve climate change.²³⁶ These conversations unite youth and multi-stakeholders together toward strong engagement and legislation.²³⁷ The SDG4 Youth and Student Network is involved with ECOSOC’s 2024 Youth Forum, in which youth led the session “Digital Technology, Environment, and Gender Equality: Youth Shaping Transformative Human Rights Education,” the session co-hosted with representatives from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UNESCO.²³⁸ The session emphasized the importance of education and the role it plays in leaving nobody behind and the SDGs.²³⁹ Efforts made by GYI and the SDG4 Youth and Student Network address SDG 4, SDG 13, and SDG 16.²⁴⁰

Conclusion

Multi-stakeholder partnerships play a crucial role in achieving the SDGs as they bring groups together to create policies, frameworks, and programs that make the changes possible.²⁴¹ Policy frameworks, such as the *Youth Declaration* and the Youth2030 Initiative allow for young people to identify issues that need

²²⁸ Guzman. Youth4Climate. *Event Report Youth4Climate Powering Action Global Flagship Event*. 2022. p. 5.

²²⁹ Ibid; Youth4Climate. *What is the Youth4Climate Call for Solutions?*. N.d.

²³⁰ Talwar. Youth4Climate. *One Man’s Trash is Another Man’s Treasure: Turning Waste into Eco Friendly Construction Blocks*. N.d.

²³¹ Talwar. Youth4Climate. *One Man’s Trash is Another Man’s Treasure: Turning Waste into Eco Friendly Construction Blocks*. N.d.

²³² Ibid.

²³³ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. *Global Youth Initiative*. N.d.

²³⁴ Ibid.

²³⁵ Ibid.

²³⁶ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Youth lead the way to multi stakeholder partnerships for climate education and action*. 2023.

²³⁷ Ibid.

²³⁸ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Meaningful Youth Engagement at the 2024 ECOSOC Forum: On the Path Towards the Summit of the Future*. 2024.

²³⁹ Ibid.

²⁴⁰ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Youth lead the way to multi stakeholder partnerships for climate education and action*. 2023.

²⁴¹ International Institute For Sustainable Development. *Experts Discuss Effective Multi stakeholder partnerships ahead of SDG 17 review*. 2018; Mohammed. *Participation, Consultation and Engagement: Critical Elements for an Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda*. 2018; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships*. N.d.



improvement, share information on best practices, and work towards change.²⁴² Technology is useful in spreading awareness about the importance of the SDGs and increasing public participation in sharing new and unique solutions for the post-2015 development agenda.²⁴³ Stakeholder programs such as The Digital Inclusion Navigator and Block by Block expand internet access and literacy and are working to close the digital gap and leave nobody behind.²⁴⁴ The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) reflected on a 2018 SDG 17 preparatory meeting and discussed how multi-stakeholder partnerships and frameworks help champion inclusive, meaningful, and involved solutions to change.²⁴⁵

Further Research

As delegates conduct further research and consider how to address this topic, they should consider: What potential roles can multi-stakeholder partnerships fulfill when working to achieve sustainable development? What further steps can ECOSOC take to foster more youth-led initiatives for sustainable development? What other frameworks or outlines can be used to connect the youth and stakeholders within the international community? How can ECOSOC address the gaps in public participation, specifically by addressing the technology divide? Are there any frameworks that can help strengthen public participation with other stakeholders to help achieve the post-2015 development agenda?

²⁴² United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Youth*. N.d.; United Nations Youth Strategy. *Youth 2030: Working With and for Youth People*. N.d. pp. 5-6; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. *Global Youth Initiative*. N.d.

²⁴³ Mohammed. *Participation, Consultation and Engagement: Critical Elements for an Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda*. 2018.

²⁴⁴ Block by Block. *About by Block*. N.d.; Edison Alliance. *Impact Report January 2024*. 2024. p. 6.

²⁴⁵ International Institute For Sustainable Development. *Experts Discuss Effective Multi stakeholder partnerships ahead of SDG 17 review*. 2018.



Bibliography

- Block by Block. *About by Block*. N.d. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from: <https://www.blockbyblock.org/about>
- Block by Block. *Building Resilient Cities, Block by Block*. N.d. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from: <https://www.blockbyblock.org>
- Block by Block. *Our Approach: The Block by Block Methodology*. N.d. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from: <https://www.blockbyblock.org/our-approach>
- Edison Alliance. *Lighthouse Countries Network*. N.d. Retrieved 12 May 2024 from: <https://www.edisonalliance.org/lighthousecountries>
- Edison Alliance. *Impact Report January 2024*. 2024. Retrieved 12 May 2024 from: https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_EDISON_Alliance_Impact_Report_2024.pdf
- Fukuda. International Institute for Sustainable Development. *Engaging Youth in SDGs Through Representation, Inclusion, and Empowerment*. 2023. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from: <https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/quest-articles/engaging-youth-in-sdgs-through-representation-inclusivity-empowerment>
- Global Business Initiative. *Multi Stakeholder Collaboration*. N.d. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from: <https://gbibr.org/business-practice-portal/multistakeholder-engagement>
- Global Education Cooperation Mechanism. *Global Youth Initiative*. N.d. Retrieved 18 March 2024 from: <https://transformingeducationsummit.sdg4education2030.org/global-youth-initiative>
- Guzman. Youth4Climate. *Event Report Youth4Climate Powering Action Global Flagship Event*. 2022. Retrieved 12 May 2024 from: https://community.youth4climate.info/system/files/2022-11/Y4C%20Powering%20Action%20-%20Event%20report_final_0.pdf
- International Institute For Sustainable Development. *World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002)-WSSD*. N.d. Retrieved 9 May 2024 from: <https://enb.iisd.org/negotiations/world-summit-sustainable-development-2002-wssd>
- International Institute For Sustainable Development. *Experts Discuss Effective Multi stakeholder partnerships ahead of SDG 17 review*. 2018. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from: <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/experts-discusses-effective-multi-stakeholder-partnerships-ahead-of-sdg-17-review>
- International Labour Organization. *Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships*. N.d. Retrieved 12 May 2024 from: <https://www.ilo.org/partnering-development/partnerships/multi-stakeholder-partnerships-msps>
- International Telecommunication Union. *Facts and Figures 2021: 2.9 Billion people still offline*. 2021. Retrieved 19 March 2024 from: <https://www.itu.int/hub/2021/11/facts-and-figures-2021-2-9-billion-people-still-offline>
- Jeizard. *Who and What is 'Civil Society'?*. 2018. Retrieved 27 March 2024 from: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/04/what-is-civil-society>
- Mohammed. *Participation, Consultation and Engagement: Critical Elements for an Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda*. 2018. Retrieved 19 March 2024 from:



<https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/participation-consultation-and-engagement-critical-elements-effective-implementation-2030-agenda>

Nyberg et al. *Mixed Reality for public participation in urban and public space design: Towards a new way of crowdsourcing for more inclusive smart cities*. 2019. Retrieved 10 May 2024 from:

https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2019/06/mixed_reality_2019_0.pdf

One Planet Network. *Inspiring a Global Movement for Sustainable Consumption and Production*. N.d. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from: <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org>

One Planet Network. *The Youth4Climate Call for Solutions is now OPEN!*. 2024. Retrieved 12 May 2024 from: <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/news-and-events/events/youth4climate-call-solutions-now-open>

Opp. *Digital Inclusion Navigator: A platform to help bridge the digital divide for billions*. 2022. Retrieved 12 May 2024 from:

<https://www.undp.org/blog/digital-inclusion-navigator-platform-help-bridge-digital-divide-billions>

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions: Catching the Deliberative Wave*. 2020. Retrieved 10 May 2024 from: <https://www.oecd.org/gov/open-government/innovative-citizen-participation-new-democratic-institutions-catching-the-deliberative-wave-highlights.pdf>

Talwar. Youth4Climate. *One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure: Turning Waste into Eco Friendly Construction Blocks*. N.d. Retrieved 12 May 2024 from:

<https://community.youth4climate.info/sites/default/files/2024-02/One%20Man%E2%80%99s%20Trash%20is%20Another%20Man%E2%80%99s%20Treasure%20blogpost.pdf>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Inputs to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*. N.d. Retrieved 14 March 2024 from:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/inputs>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships*. N.d. Retrieved 13 March 2024 from:

<https://sdgs.un.org/topics/multi-stakeholder-partnerships#:~:text=Sustainable%20Development%20Goal%2017%2C%20which.financial%20resources%20to%20support%20the>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Partnership Accelerator for the 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development*. N.d. Retrieved 14 March 2024 from:

<https://partnershipaccelerator.netlify.app>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Partnership Accelerator Network*. N.d. Retrieved 14 March 2024 from: <https://partnershipaccelerator.netlify.app/network>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *SDG Actions Platform*. N.d. Retrieved 14 March 2024 from: <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/browse>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The 17 Goals*. N.d. Retrieved 15 March 2024 from: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Who we are*. N.d. Retrieved 9 June 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/about/who-we-are>



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in 2030 Agenda Implementation: A Review of National Voluntary Review Reports (2016-2019)*. 2019. Retrieved 13 March 2024 from: <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/26012VNRStakeholdersResearch.pdf>

United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition, Towards a Rescue Plan for People and the Planet*. 2023. Retrieved 13 March 2024 from: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2023.pdf>

United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs. *Times of Crisis, Times of Change: Science for Accelerating Transformations to Sustainable Development*. 2023. Retrieved 13 March 2024 from: https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/FINAL%20GSDR%202023-Digital%20-110923_1.pdf

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Category: Millennium Development Goals*. N.d. Retrieved 8 May 2024 from: <https://www.mdgmonitor.org/millennium-development-goals>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Youth*. N.d. Retrieved 18 March 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/youth/#:~:text=Innovators%3A%20In%20addition%20to%20b,ringing,new%20ideas%20and%20alternative%20solutions>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Youth*. N.d. Retrieved 18 March 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/youth>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *The Magnitude and Scope of Inequalities Created and Exacerbated by COVID-19 Is Truly Shocking, High Commissioner Tells Human Rights Council*. 2021. Retrieved 13 March 2024 from: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/2021/09/magnitude-and-scope-inequalities-created-and-exacerbated-covid-19-truly-shocking-high>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Halfway to 2030, world 'nowhere near' reaching Global Goals, UN warns*. 2023. Retrieved 13 March 2024 from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/07/1138777>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *UNCTAD Counts the Costs of Achieving Sustainable Development Goals*. 2023. Retrieved 13 March 2024 from: <https://unctad.org/news/unctad-counts-costs-achieving-sustainable-development-goals>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Youth lead the way to multi stakeholder partnerships for climate education and action*. 2023. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/youth-lead-way-multi-stakeholder-partnerships-climate-education-and-action>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Around the World: Daily Updates from UN Country Teams-March 2024*. 2024. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from: <https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/around-world-daily-updates-un-country-teams-march-2024>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Meaningful Youth Engagement at the 2024 ECOSOC Forum: On the Path Towards the Summit of the Future*. 2024. Retrieved 11 June 2024 from: <https://www.unesco.org/sdg4education2030/en/articles/meaningful-youth-engagement-2024-ecosoc-youth-forum-path-towards-summit-future>

United Nations Development Programme. *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015*. 2017. Retrieved 12 June 2024 from: <https://www.undp.org/publications/millennium-development-goals-report-2015>



United Nations Development Programme. *UNDP at the UN ECOSOC Youth Forum 2024*. 2024. Retrieved 9 May 2024 from: <https://www.undp.org/events/undp-un-ecosoc-youth-forum-2024>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC At a Glance*. N.d. Retrieved 14 March 2024 from: <https://ecosoc.un.org/en/about-us>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Youth Forum 2024*. N.d. Retrieved 16 March 2024 from: <https://ecosoc.un.org/en/what-we-do/ecosoc-youth-forum/about-youth-forum/ecosoc-youth-forum-2024>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Promoting Sustainable Development*. N.d. Retrieved 14 March 2024 from: <https://ecosoc.un.org/en/what-we-do/promoting-sustainable-development>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fifteenth session (E/RES/2016/26)*. 2016. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <http://undocs.org/en/E/RES/2016/26>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council at its 2023 session (E/HLPF/2023/7)*. 2023. Retrieved 12 May 2024 from: <http://undocs.org/en/E/HLPF/2023/7>

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. *Global Youth Initiative*. N.d. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from: <https://www.unesco.org/sdg4education2030/en/knowledge-hub/global-initiatives/global-youth-initiative>

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. *Conclusions on the Youth Forum (42 C/INF.13)*. 2023. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000387726>

United Nations, General Assembly. *The future we want (A/RES/66/288)*. 2012. Retrieved 8 May 2024 from: <http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/66/288>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (A/RES/67/290)*. 2013. Retrieved 27 April 2024 from: <http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/67/290>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the Global Level (A/RES/70/299)*. 2015. Retrieved 27 April 2024 from: <http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/299>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/72/279)*. 2018. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/72/279>

United Nations High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development. *High-Level Political Forum 2024*. N.d. Retrieved 12 June 2024 from: <https://hlpf.un.org/2024>

United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. *High-Level Political Forum*. N.d. Retrieved 14 March 2024 from: <https://hlpf.un.org>



United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. *Voluntary National Reviews*. N.d. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://hlpf.un.org/vnrs>

United Nations High-Level Political forum on Sustainable Development. *Voluntary National Review 2020*. 2020. Retrieved 11 June 2024 from: <https://hlpf.un.org/countries/india/voluntary-national-review-2020>

United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. *2023 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report*. 2023. Retrieved 12 June 2024 from: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/2023_VNR_Synthesis_Report.pdf

United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. *#YouthStats: Public and Civic Participation*. N.d. Retrieved 19 March 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/political-participation>

United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. *Youth 2030 Global Progress Report 2023*. 2023. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from: https://www.unyouth2030.com/files/ugd/b1d674_205ac859eed64ff7a35a8f02616e0b90.pdf

United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *Introduction to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*. N.d. Retrieved 12 June 2024 from: https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/documents/25372A_Introduction_to_the_HLPF.pdf

United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework-Internal Guidance*. 2019. Retrieved 12 March 2024 from: <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/UN%20Cooperation%20Framework%20Internal%20Guidance%20--%201%20June%202022.pdf>

United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *Common Minimum Standards for Multi-Stakeholder Engagement In the UN Development Assistance Framework*. 2020. Retrieved 17 March 2024 from: <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/UNSDG-Common-Minimum-Standards-for-Multi-Stakeholder.pdf>

United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development. *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/CONF.199/20)*. 2002. Retrieved 9 May 2024 from: <http://undocs.org/en/A/CONF.199/20>

United Nations Youth Strategy. *Youth 2030: Working With and for Youth People*. N.d. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from: https://www.unyouth2030.com/files/ugd/b1d674_9f63445fc59a41b6bb50cbd4f800922b.pdf

World Bank Group. *Digital Progress and Trends Report 2023*. 2024. Retrieved 11 May 2024 from: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/95fe55e9-f110-4ba8-933f-e65572e05395/content>

Youth4Climate. *What is the Youth4Climate Call for Solutions?*. N.d. Retrieved 12 May 2024 from: <https://community.youth4climate.info/callforsolutions2024/instructions>