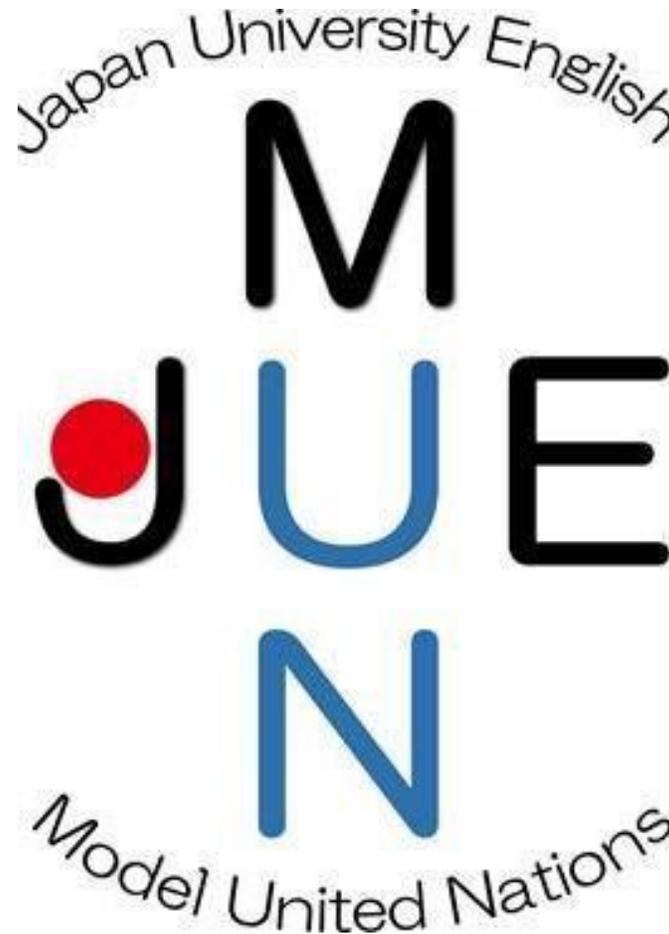


Japanese University English Model United Nations 2021

Appropriate and Resilient Development for Environmental Sustainability



Background Guide for Meeting 1: Appropriate Infrastructure Innovation and Industry for Sustainable Development

Written and updated by: **JUEMUN Substantive Staff, 2020 & 2021**

JUEMUN 2021: Appropriate and Resilient Development for Environmental Sustainability

Meeting 1: Appropriate Infrastructure Innovation and Industry for Sustainable Development (SDG9)

- Committee A: Increase access and use of communication technologies for sustainable development
- Committee B: Develop sustainable and resilient infrastructure
- Committee C: Strengthen small scale enterprises in developing countries
- Committee D: Facilitate financial support to least developed countries and small island states

Meeting 2: Reasonable Consumption and Production for a Sustainable Economy (SDG12)

- Committee A: Reasonable consumption and production of clean energy
- Committee B: Reduction of food waste
- Committee C: Reduction of industrial waste
- Committee D: Supporting economic opportunities and job creation by promoting local culture and products through sustainable tourism

Meeting 3: Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts (SDG13)

- Committee A: Strengthening resilience to climate related natural disasters
- Committee B: Integrating climate change measures into policies and planning
- Committee C: Building knowledge and capacity to address climate change
- Committee D: Managing climate action programmes for least developed countries and small island states

Members of the JUEMUN 2021 Secretariat that serve as the “Bureau” in each Meeting:

JUEMUN 2021	Meeting 1	Meeting 2	Meeting 3
Secretary Generals	Niklaus Weigelt (KUFS), Hibiki Maeda (KUFS)		
Under Secretary Generals	Chiaki Tsujikoa (KCUFS)	Maya Fujii (NDSU)	Keisha Loraine Hikita (KCUFS)
Chairs	Naru Kosugi (KUFS)	Momoka Kirihata (KUFS)	Maho Kawai (NDSU)
Chairs	Mami Kumei (NDSU)	Hoki Matsuo (KCUFS)	Takeo Hagi (KCUFS)
Assistant Chairs	Hiroko Ozaki (KCUFS)	Miho Kaizaki (NDSU)	Ayane Maekawa (KUFS)

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Part 1 - The Guiding Structure for our JUEMUN 2021 Meetings

1.1 The JUEMUN 2021 Theme and Sustainable Development Goals

This year’s agenda, Appropriate and Resilient Development for Environmental Sustainability, includes many, if not all, Sustainable Development Goals to some extent. The three SDGs chosen for JUEMUN 2021 are fundamental areas that need to be addressed to make significant progress towards the 2030 goals. The themes of each meeting and the topics of each committee are important aspects of these three SDGs.

The three meetings of JUEMUN 2021 each focus on a different SDG:

Meeting 1: SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation And Infrastructure

Meeting 2: SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption And Production

Meeting 3: SDG 13 - Climate Action

1.2 Number of Delegates

We will hold 3 Meeting Rooms of approximately 56 delegates in JUEMUN 2021. Each Meeting Room consists of 4 Committees and 4 Regional Blocs.

1.3 JUEMUN 2021 Member States

JUEMUN 2021 simulates the United Nations General Assembly. Out of the 193 Member States, 56 have been selected for JUEMUN 2021. A fair selection of Member States for the representation of each region has been taken into consideration.

The delegates of Meeting 1 to 3 represent the following Member States:

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, Fiji, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of

America, Vanuatu, and Venezuela.

JUEMUN 2021 56 Member States	Africa (14)	Asia-Pacific (14)	European and other States (14)	Latin America and the Caribbean (14)
Committee A (14)	Chad Democratic Republic of the Congo Morocco Nigeria	Australia Nepal Papua New Guinea	Portugal Republic of Moldova Slovakia United States of America	Brazil Ecuador Trinidad and Tobago
Committee B (14)	Angola Botswana Egypt Mozambique	Japan Jordan Philippines	Latvia Netherlands Switzerland United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Cuba Panama Venezuela
Committee C (14)	Ethiopia Mali South Africa	China Fiji Republic of Korea Sri Lanka	Finland France Serbia	Chile El Salvador Haiti Mexico
Committee D (14)	Equatorial Guinea Kenya Mauritius	Cambodia Malaysia Mongolia Vanuatu	Canada Iceland Russian Federation	Antigua and Barbuda Argentina Guatemala Jamaica

1.4 The United Nations General Assembly - Functions

Established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly is the chief deliberative, policy making and representative organ of the United Nations. It is composed of representatives of all 193 member states, each of which has one vote. The GA provides a forum for multilateral discussion on important questions regarding international issues covered by the United Nations Charter.

The General Assembly meets from September to December each year (main part), and thereafter, from January to September (resumed part). During the resumed part of the session, the Assembly considers current issues of critical importance to the international community in the form of high-level thematic debates organized by the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with

the membership. During that period, the Assembly traditionally also conducts informal consultations on a wide range of substantive topics as mandated by its resolutions.

The General Assembly is empowered to make recommendations to States on international issues within its competence. It has also initiated actions – political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal – which have benefited the lives of millions of people throughout the world.

According to the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly may:

- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States;
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General;
- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament;
- Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it;
- Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields;
- Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among countries;
- Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs.

(source: Basic Facts about the United Nations, 42nd edition)

The United Nations General Assembly - Past Actions related to the agenda: Appropriate and Resilient Development for Environmental Sustainability

The landmark [Millennium Declaration](#), adopted in 2000, and the [2005 World Summit Outcome Document](#), reflect the commitment of Member States to reach specific goals to attain peace, security and disarmament, along with development and poverty eradication; to safeguard human rights and promote the rule of law; to protect our common environment; to meet the special needs of Africa; and to strengthen the United Nations. In September 2015, the Assembly agreed on a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals, ([resolution 70/1: “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”](#)).

The [Sustainable Development Goals](#) are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. More important than ever, the goals provide a critical framework for COVID-19 recovery.

In September 2019, the UN Secretary-General called on all sectors of society to mobilize for a [decade of action](#) on three levels: **global action** to secure greater leadership, more resources and smarter solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals; **local action** embedding the needed transitions in the policies, budgets, institutions and regulatory frameworks of governments, cities and local authorities; and **people action**, including by youth, civil society, the media, the private sector, unions, academia and other stakeholders, to generate an unstoppable movement pushing for the required transformations.

Only through appropriate and resilient development that considers the changing environment and the limits to the earth’s resources will it be possible to tackle the root causes of poverty and inequality in the long term, ensuring poverty eradication for current and future generations. The United Nations development framework provides an opportunity to ensure that all countries are set on a development path that guarantees a sustainable future for all.

(source: <https://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/promote-sustainable-development/>)

1.5 Tasks of the Committees and Regional Blocs

In Formal Sessions of Meeting 1, the Chair of Meeting 1 will give instructions and guidance, delegates will make short speeches, and vote on proposals for action which are called Motions - for example to suspend the Formal Session to have Regional Bloc or Committee discussions in 4 groups.

In Meeting 1 Regional Bloc Informal Informal Consultations, there will be representatives of each Committee so that regional issues related to each Committee's topic can be discussed. In Committee Informal Informal Consultations, the 4 Committees will talk about their Committee's topic, and gradually put their ideas into a written document called a Working Paper (WP). When the WP is completed, it is submitted to the Chairs of Meeting 1. If the Chairs accept it, it is called a Draft Resolution (DR). If the DR is agreed upon by a majority of the Meeting 1 Delegates, it becomes a Resolution.

A WP has two parts – 1. A statement of vision related to the committee topic which identifies problems in terms of SDG 9 and describes the background of UN efforts to solve the problems; and 2. A description of a plan of action.

You are not allowed to come to the conference with Resolutions or clauses already prepared. You need to know in advance what has been done before, and how Resolutions are written, but your main conference task is to create an original, innovative resolution in collaboration with your committee team.

The main task of the Regional Blocs is to advise each Committee, especially about ways to improve their WPs and DRs. Advice about WPs is informal. Suggestions for changes to DRs are called Amendments. This process is explained in detail in other JUEMUN documents. The Chairs of each of the 3 Meetings and the Faculty Advisors will help you. In your JUEMUN preparation, concentrate on your Committee topic so that you are prepared for discussion.

Part 2 - JUEMUN Guidelines

2.1 Guidelines for Committee and Regional Bloc Informal Informal Consultations

- Use English only.
- Place a priority on good communication. Include everyone. Be a good listener. Do not allow a few people to dominate in speaking roles. Make sure everyone understands what is going on.

- In discussions, search for innovative ideas. Try to find new answers to old problems.
- Write a Working Paper with plans that could actually be implemented. Make detailed action plans. Explain who will do what, and how they will do it. Are all the interested people – the stakeholders - at the local level involved in making and implementing plans? Where will the funding come from? How will the plans be evaluated as they are carried out? How will the plans be revised as needed, and sustained?
- Will your Committee’s work at JUEMUN come up with insights into why problems persist? Can your Committee’s Resolution offer practical ways to achieve the aim of SDG 9?
- In 2021 the world’s problems are formidable and pressing; on the other hand, the progress that has already been made gives us the courage we need to work to make problems of hunger and malnutrition unthinkable. What will our world be like in 2030? When we open the UN website, we read, “It’s Your World!” Keep this thought in your minds at all times.

2.2 The Global Citizenship Generation

The average age of JUEMUN delegates is about 20. The work towards the achievement of the SDGs will conclude when our delegates are in their early thirties. The SDGs aim to learn from the shortcomings, and build upon the successes, of the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDG plans were implemented from the year 2000, when our delegates were still very young children, until their target date of December 2015. The 30 year-span of these two global plans sets JUEMUN delegates’ lives apart from all previous generations. You are the ***Global Citizenship Generation!*** A goal which could define your generation is to make your acts of good local citizenship inseparable from your lives as constructive global citizens. Today’s problems are formidable. Your will to seek solutions with your JUEMUN friends is admirable!

Your natural instinct will be to act as friends of the people, protectors of our vulnerable brothers and sisters. We all hope the SDGs will be able to do this. However, the greatest challenge that JUEMUN delegates face is to act according to the policies of the governments of the nations you represent. This is the way we will find out why it has been so difficult for the UN to build global peace. And, at the same time, we will learn what a grand consensus created the MDGs, and today’s SDGs!

Part 3 - Your Research: Sharing Responsibility for JUEMUN Success

3.1 Research Areas

It is obviously very important for you to do your own research. This Study Guide is not a substitute for individual delegate research. The following section is an outline of key areas you should include in your research.

1. The SDGs - mainly SDG 9 - on the websites of UN organizations;
2. UN Resolutions and actions related to SDG 9;
3. Committee topics for your meeting;
4. The relevant information about the country you represent.

Which order should you do your research topics in? Make this decision yourself. Most delegates begin with country research, but it is the last on the list in this Study Guide. Why? It might be better to know *what* you are doing all together at JUEMUN 2021 Meeting 1, before you learn about which views you will express in discussions as a representative of your country's government. However, the order you choose for your research is entirely up to you.

Research is an essential first step but please remember JUEMUN is an intense, everyone-included, communication event. You will spend most of the conference time thinking out loud by talking to, and listening to your fellow delegates, and making plans for a WP which you hope will become a DR you can be proud of, and then, adopted as a Resolution by a majority of the Meeting 1 delegates.

3.2 Research Guidelines

Do all of your research before you arrive at JUEMUN. The meeting is a ***Think Tank***.

Check facts by reviewing more than one source of information. Look for different views on key issues. Use governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations and news media for research. You will speak with your own government's voice, but you must know about the range of perspectives from other points of view on your topic. Most of the advice on sources of information in the Background Guide are internet United Nations organizations because using the internet is the quickest way to do research for JUEMUN, if we take care to ensure the sources are reliable. United Nations websites are recommended as the first step in research, but we must remember that credible journalists and NGOs often provide us with the most accurate and most up-to-date local facts and viewpoints on global issues.

It will be difficult, at times, for you to speak as your country's Chief Diplomat at the UN for three reasons: (a) your own personal values may be different, (b) an analytical review of your research

from government and non-government sources may lead you to conclusions which differ from your government's statements and policies, (c) it may be difficult to get information on your government's views.

Do your best to accurately represent your country. Make 'educated guesses' if necessary about your country's likely policies. Base your 'educated guesses' on your research about your country's circumstances, the current government's political policies and its statements at the United Nations and relationships with other nations.

Do your research in many languages, whenever possible, if you are multilingual. Use your strongest language for the first step of your research. Use your other language for the second step. For example, if you are a native-speaker of Japanese and you represent Burkina Faso on your Committee, do your research on Burkina Faso's situation first in Japanese by using information from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Embassy of Burkina Faso in another country, and other websites. Then, look for the same type of information in English on the same websites, or use other sites that have similar information. This way you will have a clear understanding of the issue, and you will learn the English vocabulary to use at the meeting.

Please do not let your research overwhelm you. Focus your research. Become an expert in a few areas of your topic. You cannot learn everything there is to know about your role in JUEMUN. But you can learn something that will be useful. You can learn enough to make important contributions to JUEMUN's success.

JUEMUN with its delegate-friendly, learn-by-doing structure will support you as you build topic knowledge, communication skills, and self-confidence. Many JUEMUN people are delegates in 2 or 3, or even more MUNs. If this is your first time, the best advice is - *Don't give up during preparation. Find your own 'place' during the conference.*

3.3 JUEMUN Connections with your University Studies now, and with your Future

Use your JUEMUN 2021 research to make your academic life easier. In your university courses, if you have to make speeches and other types of presentations, write essays, or do short research reports, use the content of your JUEMUN 2021 research whenever possible.

Attend any JUEMUN 2021-related special guest lectures, film showings, and photo exhibitions on your campus, or elsewhere in your community.

Refer to JUEMUN experiences in essays and interviews for scholarships, study abroad applications, and in the job-search process. The JUEMUN work you do might be the beginning of your Graduation Thesis. Some undergraduate JUEMUN delegates have found their research helped them prepare for successful Graduate School applications in fields such as Development Studies. Other delegates have been inspired by JUEMUN experiences to seek jobs in International NGOs and UN organizations.

Part 4 - Sources of Information for Meeting 1

4.1 Agenda & Committee Topics

Meeting 1: Appropriate Infrastructure Innovation and Industry for Sustainable Development (SDG9)

Committee A: Increase access and use of communication technologies for sustainable development

Committee B: Develop sustainable and resilient infrastructure

Committee C: Strengthen small scale enterprises in developing countries

Committee D: Facilitate financial support to least developed countries and small island states

4.2 Targets of SDG 9

9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all;

9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries;

9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets;

9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound

technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities;

9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending;

9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities;

9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020.

Find the SDG 9 Targets and Indicators here:

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal9>

4.3 Committee Aims

Prepare for JUEMUN by getting ready to talk about the current situation related to your own Committee's topic, but you should also have a general understanding of the other 3 Committee's topics, your own country, and also general information about your region of the world. As you understand the situation and position of your country, all of you will submit Position Papers (maximum length - 2 A4 pages in Times Roman 12) by June 12th. See the handout for more detailed guides of the Position Paper.

Only UN Security Council Resolutions are binding on Member States. Other Resolutions of UN organizations are recommendations not laws. Thus, your Committee has to accept the reality that a Resolution that passes may not be fully implemented by the governments of some Member States. Can you include incentives in your Resolution to encourage governments to carry out your Resolutions?

4.4 Committee Suggestions for Meeting 1

Good advice for your committee work is to find one or two aspects within your broad topic so that you have a focus when you talk in discussions. Other delegates may be able to support you and put your interest into your WP. Then, listen carefully to other delegates and find ways to support them.

4.5 Committee Background Information

Committee A: Increase access and use of communication technologies for sustainable development

Definition:

The United Nations (UN), under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9, aims to “significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in the least developed countries by 2020.” In general, the access and use of information and communication technologies (ICT) can be defined as technologies, such as the Internet, cell phones, or other communication mediums, that provide access to information through telecommunications. Knowledge and information have taken a very significant role in modern life and are integral to achieving the SDGs.

Facts and Problems:

Access to mobile technology has spread rapidly around the world. By 2015, 69% of the world’s population had access to mobile networks. However, according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), more than 4 billion people still do not have access to ICT, and 90% of them are from the least developed countries (LDCs). Moreover, while over 80% of citizens living in developed countries have access to the Internet, in developing countries and LDCs, only 35% of citizens have access to the Internet. The gap in information and knowledge accessibility has contributed to the creation of the gap in development. Although the Internet has become accessible over the last few decades, some developing countries and the LDCs do not have the facilities and devices to connect with the Internet. This problem affects various aspects of people’s lives as well, such as education, government work, and other work.

According to eSkills4Girls, an initiative established under the Group of 20 (G20) and supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) improvement of the access to ICT can boost economic development as

it creates more job opportunities. Due to the spread of COVID-19, ICT has become a necessary facility for work, education, socialization, healthcare, and more aspects of daily lives. Hence, access to a wide range of broadband needs to be secured around the globe. According to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020, 93% of the population are within access to a mobile connection in 2019. The LDCs also have achieved significant growth in Internet access as 79% of them were in the range of broadband signals in 2019. However, the rate of people utilizing the existing network across the globe ends up at 54%. Most people not using the Internet are in LDCs where its rate is 19% while 80% of people living in the developed countries are using the Internet. The reasons behind the gap are the financial capacity to equip the Internet connection for citizens and the lack of knowledge and skills needed to fully utilize the Internet.

Regarding accessibility, another significant problem to tackle is that women are less likely to have access to the Internet compared to men. According to the ITU, approximately 250 million fewer women have Internet access compared to men, and the Internet user gender gap has expanded over the years. To increase employment and accelerate further economic development, achieving equal access to ICT among men and women is crucial.

Action that has been taken or is being taken:

The UN has reaffirmed the importance of ICT as an initial movement and tool to achieve the SDGs. Since then, the UN has revised its ICT strategy, created in 2014, for “establishing the unity of purpose for all ICT programs and represent(ing) an opportunity to establish the global ICT structures that will best support the core work of the UN. The strategy will harmonize ICT programs in the UN and ensure ICT act together with clear central control balanced with day-to-day operational freedom.”

Moreover, the UNDP has contributed to ICT development for the efficiency of government, job creation, trade, education, and training. Some of the UNDP countries, the Sustainable Development Network Program (SDNP), the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), and the Asia-Pacific Development Information Program (APDIP) have established Internet providers and other ICT infrastructure in developing countries such as Albania, Angola, Belarus, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, East Timor, Gambia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Swaziland, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan; projects for telecommunication modernization (including regulatory frameworks) projects have taken place in Bhutan, Brazil, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, and Nepal; networking initiatives have been undertaken by Bulgaria -for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - Cameroon, Honduras (for disaster relief), Mongolia, and by the Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSNET).

The UNDP has also launched initiatives that support e-commerce, trade, and other types of e-jobs. According to UNDP, the initiatives include “infrastructure and training support to the Government of Fiji to promote back-office remote telework in Fiji and Malaysia and the building of a competitive computer industry in Brazil; a Ukrainian telecentre with a focus on women farmers to improve agriculture and farm management; the Mongolian Application Grant Scheme to foster local ICT knowledge-based industries; the Lebanon program to establish the Trade Information Centre in the Ministry of Economy.” Additionally, the World Telecommunication Development Conference of 2017, hosted by the ITU, adopted a program to strengthen, modernize, and secure ICT service infrastructure.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ITU has launched the Connect2Recover, a digital reinforcement initiative aiming to strengthen and provide the digital infrastructure to support people’s lives during the pandemic and prepare for the post-pandemic era. Connect2Recover primarily focuses on Africa where the Internet is least connected and had less support during the COVID-19 pandemic, to prompt the development by reinforcing the digital transformation. Through the activities, the initiative seeks to stimulate the action for providing safe and affordable internet connection to strategize the recovery from COVID-19 damage of all Member States.

Important Resolutions/Conventions/Treaties:

Information and communications technology in the United Nations (A/69/517), adopted by the General Assembly, 2014

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security (A/RES/71/28), adopted by General Assembly, 9 December 2016

Information and communications technologies for development (A/RES/71/212), adopted by the General Assembly, 2017

Information and communications technologies for sustainable development (A/RES/74/197), adopted by the General Assembly, 10 January 2019

Important Research Links for Committee (Country databases, Resolutions):

Women's Rights Online Translating Access into Empowerment, World Wide Web Foundation:
http://webfoundation.org/docs/2015/10/womens-rights-online_Report.pdf

Mobile Technologies and Empowerment: Enhancing human development through participation and innovation

https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/access_to_informationand-governance/mobiletechnologiesprimer.html

#eSkills4Girls Facts and Figures

<https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/facts-figures-old/>

International Telecommunication Union website “Committed to connecting the world”

<https://www.itu.int/en/Pages/default.aspx>

ITU Development “Achieving universal and affordable Internet in the least developed countries”

https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/ldc/D-LDC-ICTLDC-2018-PDF-E.pdf

Role of UNDP in information and communication technology for development

<http://web.undp.org/execbrd/pdf/DP2001CRP8.PDF>

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2020.pdf>

ITU COVID-19 High-Level Messages

<https://www.itu.int/en/SiteAssets/COVID-19/ITU-COVID-19-High-Level-Messages.pdf>

Connect2Recover Initiative by ITU

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/connect-2-recover.aspx>

Committee B: Develop sustainable and resilient infrastructure

Definition:

The United Nations (UN) defines the key concept of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 Target 1 to “Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with focus on affordable and equitable access for all.” Infrastructure has created and enriched many citizens’ quality of living since the period of early industrialization and is the core part of achieving other SDGs. In any aspect of life, people are dependent on infrastructure. The most fundamental

infrastructures include telecommunication, roads, bridges, railways, sanitation, and water supplies. The advancement and levels of installation of infrastructure can be a measurement of how countries, cities, or villages have prospered. Investment in infrastructure helps lift citizens out of poverty and makes communities ever more sustainable because it creates more job opportunities and provides human security. Expanding and enabling capacities to install more infrastructure that can adapt to the bio-cultural uniqueness of communities will be crucial for sustainability and resilience.

Facts and Problems:

Because of the rapid population growth, delivering basic infrastructural services is becoming challenging. Particularly, the pressure on urban areas has been intensified due to an increase in inhabitants. Based on research by the World Bank, “Infrastructure investment of up to US\$3.2 trillion to US\$3.7 trillion per year is needed between 2019 and 2030.” Moreover, according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Member States, especially those in developing countries and the least developed countries (LDCs), still face a lack of basic infrastructures such as roads, advanced technologies, electrical power, information and communications technology (ICT), and sanitation. Some of the most notable areas that lack quality infrastructure are Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. According to statistics provided by the UNDP, about 2.5 billion people in the world do not have access to basic infrastructure and more than half of them reside in those regions. The World Bank states that “in Sub-Saharan Africa closing the infrastructure quantity and quality gap relative to the world’s best performers could raise GDP growth per head by 2.6% per year.” Investment in those areas could change their economy enormously; however, the amount has not increased enough to create quality infrastructure. Thus, investment by the developed Member States and investment in developing Member States can significantly boost developing countries’ growth and productivity. Moreover, Member States lacking quality infrastructure cannot design and create sustainable infrastructure. Therefore, skill development programmes can greatly improve developing Member States’ ability to address the lack of infrastructure. By promoting foreign direct investment (FDI) from developed countries to developing countries, the transfer of infrastructure can be smooth and the process will be protected by the International Investment Agreement (IIA). The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has highlighted the significance of the infrastructure of transportation, internet utilities, and more. According to a report published by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), despite economic growth around the globe before the pandemic, countries have not succeeded in building an adequate amount of quality infrastructure. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) mentions that building resilient infrastructure that can be sustained in the situation of

disasters or a pandemic, such as COVID-19, would require the additional US \$ 434 billion per year of investment.

Another point to be considered is to create sustainable infrastructure, Member States must be aware of environmental repercussions. Although the construction of infrastructure helps society and expands the ability of a country to perform well economically, unsustainable or irresponsible construction could damage the environment since it has the possibility of causing greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, toxic waste, and other serious environmental problems as well as being detrimental to the wellbeing of all humans and other species living in those areas.

Action that has been taken or is being taken:

In March 2019, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted a resolution on sustainable infrastructure that encourages Member States to consider the impacts of infrastructure-outlining and development. Additionally, the resolution highlighted the importance of infrastructure in the current era to achieve the SDGs. Although the resolution is designed only to consider SDG 9, which addresses resilient infrastructure regarding inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation, developing infrastructure also plays a huge role in helping to achieve the goals of other SDGs. Moreover, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), “UN Environment launched the Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership (SIP) in 2018 as a platform to promote and support integrated approaches to sustainable infrastructure planning and development.” The SIP was designed to achieve three objectives:

- Raise awareness about the centrality of infrastructure for the SDGs;
- Develop streamlined normative and technical guidance to scale up the application and the integration of existing tools and approaches in support of different SDG priorities;
- Strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of developing countries to adopt and apply upstream, macro-level, integrated approaches to infrastructure development.

Another approach to creating more infrastructure has been taken by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), established in 1966 to help developing countries and LDCs in the development of their economy. UNCDF launched the LDC Investment Platform to create new opportunities to extend its assistance for a country’s infrastructure and businesses. In 2017, UNCDF provided a concessional subordinated loan of US \$250,000 for the enhancement of agricultural businesses in Tanzania to enable them to strengthen productivity and build new infrastructures that bring profit to approximately 7,500 smallholder farmers.

Important Resolutions/Conventions/Treaties:

A resolution on sustainable infrastructure, passed by UN Environment Assembly (UNEA), 13 March 2019

Innovations for Infrastructure Development and Sustainable Industrialization, adopted by General Assembly, at the 2017 ECOSOC Special Meeting, 2017

Observer status for the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in the General Assembly (A/73/194), adopted by General Assembly, 22 August 2018

Important Research Links for Committee (Country databases, Resolutions):

Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership (SIP) website

<https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/green-economy/what-we-do/economic-and-fiscal-policy/sustainable-infrastructure>

The Economist “The critical role of infrastructure for the Sustainable Development Goals”

https://content.unops.org/publications/The-critical-role-of-infrastructure-for-the-SDGs_EN.pdf?mtime=20190314130614

UNCDF website “Unlocking Public and Private Finance for the Poor”

<https://www.unCDF.org/least-developed-countries-investment-platform>

World Wildlife Foundation Website “Sustainable infrastructure needs to look beyond climate change”

<https://medium.com/wwftogetherpossible/sustainable-infrastructure-and-nature-b86bae00a72b>

UNCTAD Infrastructure Report “Infrastructure as an Agent for Economic Development”

<http://www.oecd.org/sweden/2083051.pdf>

UNCTAD “The Role of International Investment Agreements in Attracting Foreign Direct Investment to Developing Countries”

https://unctad.org/en/Docs/diaeia20095_en.pdf

Committee C: Strengthen small scale enterprises in developing countries

Definition:

Small scale enterprises are included in the small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which are known as non-subsidiary independent firms. The number of employees in small-scale enterprises varies with no international standard; however, according to the International Finance Corporation (IFC),

small-scale enterprises are those with more than 10, but fewer than 50 employees. As for total assets as well as annual sales, small enterprises are expected to create between US\$100,000-\$3,000,000.

Regarding the definition of developing countries, there is no specific international definition, but low- and middle-income countries, which are defined by Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, are included in the developing countries.

Facts about the problems and effects:

Small-scale enterprises have a large potential to improve people's quality of life. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), over two-thirds of total jobs worldwide are provided by SMEs, and the majority of new jobs are also created by them. The World Bank estimates that formal SMEs' contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is almost 40% in developing countries. It is crucial but challenging for emerging markets to grow small businesses. One of the biggest barriers making SMEs in developing countries difficult is the lack of financial support not only within the country but also from outside. Approximately half of formal SMEs lack access to formal credit. The World Bank explains most SMEs are young, informal and unreliable initially, banks and investors tend to be unwilling to support them compared to large companies which are much less risky. The young especially face difficulties with starting enterprises because they are assumed as untrustworthy entrepreneurs. In developing countries, the lack of education available to them is prevalent, which also creates a big barrier. Another problem is that SMEs in developing countries cannot use enough money for training, equipment, higher wages and better working conditions, which results in low income generation and poor growth performance. Moreover, there is a significant problem with infrastructure in developing countries. Considering the recent global and mobile economy through the Internet, the lack of information infrastructure serves as an obstacle for the improvement of developing small scale enterprises.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic aggravated the condition, forcing a number of companies worldwide out of business. SMEs are especially vulnerable as ILO described that, "sustaining business operations will be particularly difficult for SMEs." Actually, more than 75% of them lost or are expected to lose revenue as of June 2020. At the same time, one-third of SMEs experienced a more than 50% decrease in customer orders. Cash flow shortages are also a big issue for them.

In the context of SDG 9, Target 3 discusses the need to "increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises", with a particular focus on developing countries. Also, Target 4 is aimed at having sustainable infrastructure and industry especially small-scale enterprises, which

cannot be achieved without any support from developed countries. In addition, COVID-19 is forcing SMEs to face more challenges and difficulties. International cooperation is essential to overcome these issues.

Action that has been taken or is being taken:

The United Nations Global Compact's governance framework was addressed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the World Economic Forum in 1999, which is one of the largest global networks of 12,600 companies in 160 countries at present. The United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) offers extensive tools, such as a principle-based framework, best practices, and networking events. UNGC has been trying to increase the number of engagements of SMEs to achieve SDGs. As an alternative institution that can offer financial support, Non-bank Financial Institutions (NBFIs) facilitate alternative financial support such as investment and risk pooling. Insurance firms, venture capitalists, and currency exchanges are examples of NBFIs and can provide services that are not necessarily suited to banks and are specialized in sectors or groups. However, NBFIs are still underdeveloped because many Member States do not have comprehensive regulatory and policy frameworks for NBFIs at a national level.

In order to support the youth entrepreneurs, United Nations (UN) bodies and Specialized Agencies have provided support from many aspects. For instance, the Entrepreneurship Curriculum Programme (ECP) is an action-oriented programme organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to develop entrepreneurial capacities for young people. Additionally, more than 50% of the programme time consists of practical research to identify business opportunities with potential growth and assessing resources for setting up and steering a business. Through this programme, UNIDO is assisting authorities in developing educational curriculums by providing curriculum syllabi, teacher's guides, monitoring, and evaluation tools. According to UNIDO, 11 countries have already implemented ECP, and more are in the preparation process.

The lack of infrastructure is also an issue tackled on various levels. For instance, the ILO is implementing the Environment for Sustainable Enterprises (EASE) to provide evidence-based recommendations to each government on how to improve its business-enabling environment, especially for SMEs. The EASE takes four steps: 1) access, 2) advocate, 3) reform, and 4) grow. Following the recommendation, the government can set up a better work-environment for enterprises. Montenegro, Honduras, Malawi and Cambodia are some of the countries which made progress by following the recommendations. One of the biggest achievements of this programme is the drastic reduction of the work registration cost, which can not only be applied to the

improvement of all workplaces but also focuses on a specific industrial sector. To tackle COVID-19, the EESE team in the SME unit has produced a policy brief and provided practical advice on how to make a more resilient and robust economy. Besides the improvement of workplaces of small scale enterprises in developing countries itself, they have to have a sustainable system for their continued economic development. The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Possibilities Programme helps SMEs in developing countries to strengthen national capacity by providing the information needed to help them succeed. In Myanmar, the possibilities forum was held in 2018 to support sustainable procurement on SMEs by collaborating with the United Kingdom. Through these opportunities, participants could learn key skills to enhance their economic success. During this COVID-19 pandemic, UNOPS has been helping Myanmar by managing the Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT) and supporting MFIs and small businesses affected by the pandemic.

Important Resolutions/Conventions/Treaties:

Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, adopted in 2019 by the General Assembly 73th session (A/RES/73/254)

Entrepreneurship for sustainable development, adapted in 2020 by the General Assembly 75th session (A/RES/75/211)

Resolution concerning small and medium-sized enterprises and decent and productive employment creation adopted in 2015 by the ILO 104th General Conference

Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day, adopted in 2017 at 71st session (A/RES/71/279)

Important Research Links for Committee (Country databases, Resolutions):

IFC website “Helping Small Businesses Navigate through COVID-19”

https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/news_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/news+and+events/news/insights/smes-covid-19

ILO report “An enabling environment for sustainable enterprises”

<https://www.cbd.int/financial/mainstream/ilo-privatenabling.pdf>

ILO website “The power of small: Unlocking the potential of SMEs”

<https://www.ilo.org/infostories/en-GB/Stories/Employment/SMEs#intro>

ILO website “Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprise”

<https://www.ilo.org/empent/units/boosting-employment-through-small-enterprise-development/eese/lang--en/index.htm>

ILO report (2019) “Small Matters: Global evidence on the contribution to employment by the self-employed, micro-enterprises and SMEs”

https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_723282/lang--en/index.htm

ILO website “What is ILOs SME unit working on related to COVID-19?”

https://www.ilo.org/empent/units/boosting-employment-through-small-enterprise-development/resilience/WCMS_745913/lang--en/index.htm

ITC report (2019) “SME Competitiveness Outlook 2019: Big Money for Small Business – Financing the Sustainable Development Goals”

<http://www.intracen.org/publication/smeco2019/>

OECD Issue Paper “Key Drivers of Green and Inclusive Growth”

https://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/GGSD_2018_SME%20Issue%20Paper_WEB.pdf

The World Bank SME Finance

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/smefinance>

The World Bank “Nonbanking Financial Institutions”

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/gfdr/gfdr-2016/background/nonbank-financial-institution>

The World Bank “Small and Medium Enterprises in the Pandemic”

<http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/729451600968236270/pdf/Small-and-Medium-Enterprises-in-the-Pandemic-Impact-Responses-and-the-Role-of-Development-Finance.pdf>

United Nation Global Compact Website

<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/>

UNIDO’s Entrepreneurial Curriculum Program “Fostering entrepreneurial youth” (2016)

https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/2016-06/ECP_brochure_FINAL_0.pdf

UNIDO Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development working paper series 2

“Inclusive Development and Entrepreneurship for All”

[https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/2016-](https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/2016-06/The_IDEA_Approach_to_Youth_Employment_and_Enterprise_Development_new_0.pdf)

[06/The IDEA Approach to Youth Employment and Enterprise Development new 0.pdf](https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/2016-06/The_IDEA_Approach_to_Youth_Employment_and_Enterprise_Development_new_0.pdf)

UNOPS “UNOPS and UK launched UNOPS possibilities forum in Myanmar” (2018)

<https://www.unops.org/news-and-stories/news/unops-possibilities-up-forum-launches-in-myanmar>

UN website “Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day”

<https://www.un.org/en/events/smallbusinessday/>

World Economic Forum website

<https://www.weforum.org/>

Committee D: Facilitate Financial Support to Least Developed Countries and Small Island States

Definition:

All countries experience different levels of development. The least developed countries (LDCs) and small island states are Member States that tend to be vulnerable groups lacking sustainable social, economic, and physical infrastructure. LDCs are designated by the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly on the basis of recommendations made by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), and LDCs are reviewed by CDP every three years. The aim of categorizing LDCs is to attract special international support for the vulnerable members of the UN family. Currently, there are 46 Member States on the list of LDCs, most of them located in Africa. Considering the income level, LDCs are included in low-income countries.

Small island developing states (SIDS) are a specific group of Member States that face social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities especially because of their unique geographical situation. 38 UN Member States and 20 non-UN Members or associate Members are included in SIDS. In 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), *Agenda 21* was adopted, and in chapter 17-G, SIDS is recognized as “a special case both for environment and development.”

To help these vulnerable Member States, Official Development Assistance (ODA) plays an important role. ODA is defined by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as “government aid that promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing countries.” ODA has been the global standard of foreign aid since 1969.

Facts about the problems and effects:

According to the United Nation Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), although 12% of the world’s total population live in LDCs, people there account for less than 2% of world Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and about 1% of the global trade in goods. UN-OHRLLS considers 3 reasons why the LDCs’ level of socio-economic development is low: 1) weak human and institutional capacities, 2) low and unequally distributed income, 3) scarcity of domestic financial resources. Their economies are often agrarian, illustrating why they are easily affected by a vicious cycle of low productivity and low investment. Moreover, they depend on a limited range of exports, often a few primary commodities. SIDS tend to suffer from similar kinds of problems due to characteristics such as limited land, remoteness from other states, limited types of commodities, and vulnerability to environmental threats. Because the COVID-19 pandemic caused travel restrictions, their tourism-dependent fragile economies are stagnant, which resulted in a 9% fall in real GDP for SIDS in 2020 according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). LDCs are also hit hard by the pandemic. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) shows that LDCs are likely to experience their worst economic performance in 30 years. This led to extreme poverty expanding by 32 million in 2020.

Furthermore, both LDCs and SIDS are Member States most vulnerable to natural disasters. Especially SIDS experience the highest frequency of natural disasters in the world. Leading to increasing debt. Although not all SIDS are heavily indebted, the IMF considers 17 of them as high-risk debt distress countries. For the sake of reference, one of the important frameworks related to natural disasters is *Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015-2030*, which represents clear targets and priorities for action to prevent new disasters and reduce existing disaster risks.

In the context of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Target A is specifically dedicated to LDCs and SIDS, calling upon “Enhanced financial, technological and technical support.” A strong and sustainable economy is needed, in addition to enhanced international cooperation, especially in this COVID-19 era, to make SDG 9

come to fruition.

Action that has been taken or is being taken:

A special and long-standing commitment has been made by developed countries for the purpose of supporting economies in LDCs. Because of the commitment, LDCs can receive the equivalent of 0.15 to 0.20 percent of Gross National Income (GNI) of developed countries from ODA. Another commitment that helps LDCs with grants and loans is the 1978 Recommendation on the Terms and Conditions of Aid, in which DAC members agreed to cooperate to support LDCs' finance either by increasing the share of grants or by reducing the interest rate or making the repayment period of loans longer. SIDS also receives financial assistance through ODA to make up for the high cost to sustain development. That is because SIDS are particularly vulnerable being prone to natural hazards exacerbated by climate change. Another institution supporting LDCs is the Committee for Development Policy (CDP). The committee responds to the COVID-19 crisis in LDCs by considering the possible negative impacts of the pandemic.

The main institution which has been supporting LDCs and SIDS in the UN is UN-OHRLLS. Since its establishment in 2001, it has been working hard through a dedicated LDCs and SIDS unit to mobilize and coordinate the UN system and other stakeholders to support implementation, coherent follow-up, and monitoring of many programmes at the country, regional and international level. In 2017, OHRLLS established the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) to support LDCs for their graduation. Recently, the IATF has been supporting Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and São Tomé and Príncipe from all parts of the international system in the wake of COVID-19, collaborating with the UN Resident Coordinations.

With regards to mitigating the impact of natural disasters, it is necessary for both LDCs and SIDS to know how to reconstruct their economy after disasters. To this end, a global partnership, the Global Facility for Disaster and Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) supports developing countries, including LDCs and SIDS, to learn disaster risk management projects worldwide. It provides grant financing, technical assistance training, and knowledge-sharing activities. As for economical support, it helps developing countries manage the cost of disasters and climate shocks.

Important Resolutions/Conventions/Treaties:

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, adopted in 2002 by General Assembly 56th session (A/RES/56/227)

SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, adopted in 2014 by General Assembly

69th session (A/RES/69/15)

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, adopted in 2011 by Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/CONF.219/3/Rev.1)

Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted in 2020 by General Assembly 75th session (A/RES/75/215)

Important Research Links for Committee (Country databases, Resolutions):

Department of Economic and Social Affairs website “LDC data”

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category/ldc-data-retrieval.html>

GFDRR “Who we are” website

<https://www.gfdr.org/en/who-we-are>

International Trade Center “Least Developed Countries”

<http://www.intracen.org/itc/about/priority-countries/least-developed-countries/>

SAMOA Pathway website

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids2014/samoapathway>

SIDS Global Business Network website “Who We Are”

<https://sidsgbn.org/who-we-are-3/>

Small Island Developing States Action Platform website

<https://sidspartnerships.un.org/partnerships>

UNCTAD (2014) “CLOSING THE DISTANCE Partnerships for sustainable and resilient transport systems in SIDS”

https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/dtl/tlb2014d2_en.pdf

UNCTAD Report (2019) “The LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REPORT 2019”
https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ldcr2019_en.pdf

UNCTAD Report (2020) “The LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REPORT 2020”
https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ldcr2020_en.pdf

UNDP Report (2016) “Financing the SDGs in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs):
Diversifying the Financing Tool-box and Managing Vulnerability”
<http://unohrlls.org/custom-content/uploads/2016/07/Financing-the-SDGs-in-the-Least-Developed-Countries-LDCs--Diversifying-the-Financing-Tool-box-and-Managing-Vulnerability-EN.pdf>

UNDRR “Disasters displace more people than conflict and violence “ news
https://www.undrr.org/news/disasters-displace-more-people-conflict-and-violence?utm_source=UNDRR&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=disaster_displacement&utm_content=header#_ftnref1

UN-OHRLLS website “About LDCs”
<http://unohrlls.org/about-ldcs/>

UN-OHRLLS website “Least Developed Countries”
<https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/least-developed-countries>

UN-OHRLLS website “Small Island Developing States”
<https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/small-island-developing-states>

4.6 Your Country

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Retrieved from <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/>

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Part 5 - Acknowledgments

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JUEMUN 2021 Substantive Staff

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