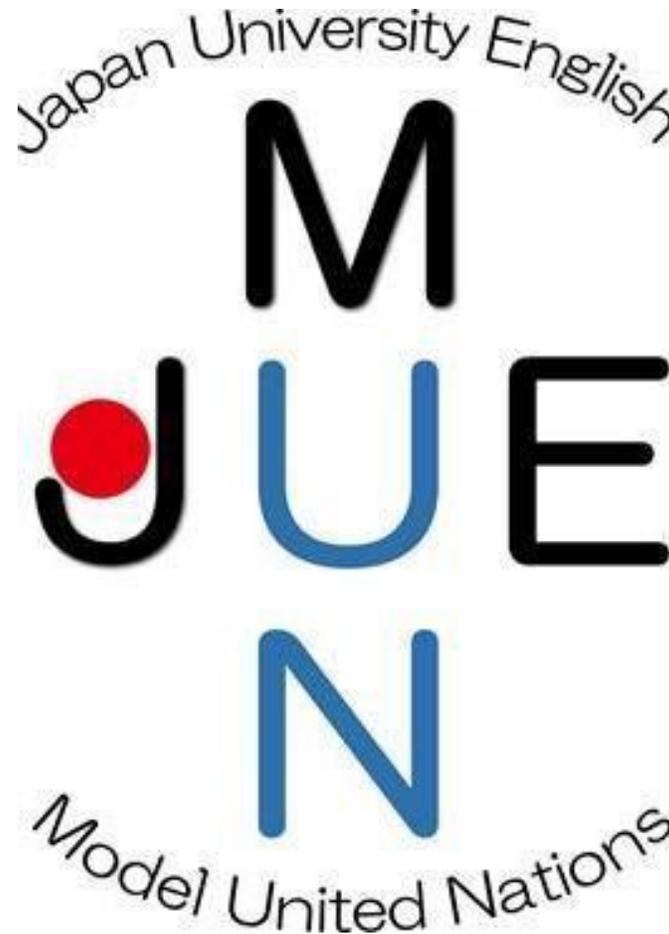


# Japanese University English Model United Nations 2021

## Appropriate and Resilient Development for Environmental Sustainability



### Background Guide for Meeting 2: Reasonable Consumption and Production for a Sustainable Economy

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
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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.

<b>JUEMUN 2021 56 Member States</b>	<b>Africa (14)</b>	<b>Asia-Pacific (14)</b>	<b>European and other States (14)</b>	<b>Latin America and the Caribbean (14)</b>
<b>Committee A (14)</b>	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
<b>Committee B (14)</b>	Angola Botswana Egypt Mozambique	Japan Jordan Philippines	Latvia Netherlands Switzerland United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Cuba Panama Venezuela
<b>Committee C (14)</b>	Ethiopia Mali South Africa	China Fiji Republic of Korea Sri Lanka	Finland France Serbia	Chile El Salvador Haiti Mexico
<b>Committee D (14)</b>	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, 42<sup>nd</sup> 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 2, the Chair of Meeting 2 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 2 Regional Bloc Informal Consultations, there will be representatives of each Committee so that regional issues related to each Committee's topic can be discussed. In Committee discussions, 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 2. If the Chairs accept it, it is called a Draft Resolution (DR). If the DR is agreed upon by a majority of the Meeting 2 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 12 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 12?
- 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 12 - on the websites of UN organizations;
2. UN Resolutions and actions related to SDG 12;
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 2, 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 2 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 2**

### **4.1 Agenda & Committee Topics**

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

### **4.2 Targets of SDG 12**

12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries;

12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources;

12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses;

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment;

12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse;

12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle;

12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities;

12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature;

12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production;

12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products;

12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities.

Find the SDG 12 Targets and Indicators here:

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal12>

### **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 on the JUEMUN website: [juemun.org](http://juemun.org)

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 proposed actions?

#### **4.4 Committee Suggestions for Meeting 2**

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: Reasonable consumption and production of clean energy***

##### **Definitions:**

The United Nations (UN) defines ‘renewable energy source’ as “primary energy such as earth thermal energy, energy from the sun, wind, biomass, river flow, tides, waves, which is available for extraction of Renewable Energy Products.” Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is defined as “the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of further generations”. While Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 aims to achieve, “affordable and clean energy”, reasonable production and consumption of clean energy must also be considered from the perspective of SDG 12, that is, “responsible consumption and production” For instance, SDG 12.C notes the need to address inefficient practices regarding fossil fuels. To this end, SDG 12.2 on managing the efficient use of natural resources provides a clear resolution for Member States as to their aims of transitioning into clean energy.

##### **The Facts and Effects:**

‘Clean energy’ and its reasonable and sustainable consumption and production is a rising global

concern, especially through the COVID-19 outbreak and lockdowns, which subsequently built a global urgency on building sustainable lifestyles relying on affordable, clean, and sustainable energy.

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), technology has boosted the development of societies in ways that has never been seen since the industrial revolution. Today, 80% of energy consumed all over the world is non-renewable energy such as oil, coal, and gas. Another 20% of energy sources are hydropower, wind, solar or other renewables. Globally, the combustion of fossil fuels, such as petrol, coal, or gas, releases millions of tons of carbon gasses into the atmosphere. Oceans and forests reabsorb a part of these greenhouse gas emissions, but this drastic increase in carbon gas emissions over the past 50 years is to be noted as one of the causes of global warming.

Unsustainable consumption and production patterns, caused by the lack of policy implementation or public-private partnerships, contribute greatly to such phenomena, and if this pattern does not stop, the earth is anticipated to be 3°C to 5°C warmer by 2100 resulting in catastrophic environmental damage. Vulnerable populations, such as women, children, the elderly, or indigenous peoples will be adversely affected by unsustainable consumption and production patterns. To avoid this, 195 State Parties signed the Paris Agreement in 2015, which aims to accelerate global efforts in tackling climate change. Cleaner production has been seen as an important means to achieve the goals. However, the situation is that very few Member States have shown commitment to this issue. Reasonable production and consumption of clean energy requires policy implementation as well as public-private partnerships, as industries are largely responsible for unsustainable and wasteful production. To slow down climate change and create a sustainable economic system, it is integral that Member States transition into clean energy while paying close attention to the methods of production, consumption, and effects on health and the economy (SDG 12).

**Action that has been taken or is being taken:**

**Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy:** In 2012, the General Assembly adopted resolution 67/215 “Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy”. This resolution promotes the sharing and development of environment-friendly, new and renewable sources of energy worldwide to improve the quality of life, reduce inequality, save lives, and help provide for basic human needs. As an example, the renewable energy industry has provided a large number of jobs such as engineers, technical instructors and analysts worldwide assisting countries economically and environmentally.

**The Paris Agreement and energy SCP:** The Paris Agreement (2015) is a legally binding treaty signed by parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Paris Agreement addresses climate change problems by setting out a global framework to mitigate climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and with future targets limiting it to 1.5°C, and required states to submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2020 on taking “climate actions” such as decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. Though the agreement takes the shape of a treaty to climate change and builds resilience to it, national efforts aiming for SCP of clean energy is also a key component. 90% of the total 190 NDCs mention renewables; 134 mention renewable energy targets for electricity; and only 56 mention renewable energy through heat and transport.

**Climate summit in Madrid (UNDP and IRENA):** UNDP and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) focus on shifting to renewable energy to cut emissions and as such support the move to the safer production and consumption of energy as well as assisting economies to become more resourceful and energy efficient. Indeed, the UNDP launched “the Climate Promise” initiative to support Member States to revise and submit climate pledges, which are referred to as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Climate change is of course a consequence of ineffective energy usage and production methods. Working with the NDC partnership and others, the UNDP supported 100 countries to enhance national climate pledges by 2020. Energy is one of the keys to this work, and IRENA provides the knowledge and support to countries to accelerate energy transitions to renewables. To date, almost 80 countries are drawing upon UNDP’s experience in disaster risk reduction, gender, health, and nature-based solutions.

**Renewable energy is more sustainable than ever:** The report “Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2020” is a report published when the world faced the scourge of the coronavirus and the lockdown in 2020. Written by UNEP and the Frankfurt School-UNEP Collaborating BloombergNEF, the report defines that renewable energy consumption is best to invest in. The COVID-19 pandemic lockdown is an interim to move towards the Paris Agreement.

### **Further Research:**

To achieve a reasonable SCP of energy for states, delegates should understand the changing social dynamics from the shift to clean energy. How can states shift to the adoption of renewable energy? What are borders that hinder the international community as a whole to adopt renewable energy practices?

## **Important Research Links for Committee (Country databases, Resolutions)**

[UNDP: Sustainable Energy](#)

[SDGs: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy](#)

[UNDP: SDG Goal 7 Affordable and clean energy](#)

[UN General Assembly resolution “Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy”  
A/RES/67/215](#)

[IRENA’s summary on the 2020 NDC](#)

[UNEP “Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2019”](#)

[Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report \(2020\)](#)

### ***Committee B: Reduction of Food Waste***

#### **Definition:**

Food waste is defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as “the decrease in the quantity or quality of food resulting from decisions and actions by retailers, food service providers, and consumers”. Empirically, it refers to any food that is discarded, incinerated or otherwise disposed of along the food supply chain from harvest or slaughter, but excluding the retail level, and does not re-enter in any other productive utilization.

#### **Examples of how food waste is created:**

- Some products are removed from the supply chain because they are not optimal in terms of size, colour, or shape, even if they are fresh enough for consumption.
- The best-before date provides a foundational piece of information to both retailers and consumers on the treatment of food products. It often leads to food being discarded when food or drink products are close to, at or beyond the date, although they are still consumable.
- Edible food products are often discarded from households and restaurants due to overstocking

#### **Facts about the problems and effects:**

In 2011, the FAO reported that around 1/3 of food was lost or wasted every year, and the situation has not changed today. Economically, \$1 trillion worth of food is wasted globally with a total economic impact of about \$3 trillion each year. Food waste includes a waste of resources, including water, energy, labour, land, and capital as well. Food waste can also be one of the triggers of the loss of biodiversity through environmental degradation, deforestation, and climate change due to the large emission of greenhouse gasses from those wastes.

Food waste occurs at different stages, depending on country conditions and regional situations affected by the choice and style of production, infrastructure, capacity and marketing chain, and its distribution and consumption. In developing countries, food waste occurs mainly at the early stages of the food chain because of a lack of harvesting techniques, as well as storage and cooling facilities against bad climatic conditions. In particular, 630 million tons of food, equivalent to \$310 billion, is lost in these early stages. Moreover, COVID-19 has had a significant impact on this stage as well. Due to border closures, workers are unable to enter countries to help harvest or package food. This issue resulted in more food being wasted.

In developed countries, food waste mainly occurs at later stages in the supply chain. Such issues have been recognized in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12, specifically Target 3 which aims to reduce food waste by 50%. SDG 12.3 refers to “production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses” in particular as processes relevant to the reduction of food waste. Moreover, SDG 12.3 aims to achieve a 50% reduction at both consumer and retail levels. Food waste occurs with retailers as they strive to meet the aesthetic standards regarding shape, size and colour. This is still practised even in the situation of a pandemic where consumers are the ones spurring the issue of food waste during the quarantine. Due to COVID-19, numerous countries and territories around the world have implemented curfews and quarantines. These curfews pressured consumers to purchase oversize and larger portioning products, however, most of them were discarded as food waste because of a misunderstanding of date making and improper storage of food items.

Unlike the situation in developing countries, consumer behaviour is one of the biggest causes of food waste in developed countries. Indeed, 40% of food waste in developed countries occurs at the retailer and consumer stage, with the same amount of food waste in developing countries occurring at the harvesting and processing stage. COVID-19 has given a significant challenge to food security and waste in many countries. Disruption of supply chains, quarantine and closure of hospitality industries and restaurants from national lockdowns has resulted in a larger amount of food to be disposed of.

**Action that has been taken or is being taken:**

**The FLW Standard:** In 2016, the Food Loss and Waste Accounting and Reporting Standard (FLW Standard) was implemented by a joint effort of UN agencies and international organizations to systematically and credibly calculate, track, and monitor food loss and waste at the Global Green Group Summit. This new standard for measuring food loss and waste, will not only help the Member States understand how much food is not being consumed, but will also help set a baseline for behaviour. The United Nations Environment Programme has welcomed the new FLW standard and called on governments and businesses to use it to start measuring and reporting on food loss and waste, in parallel with taking steps to achieve SDG 12. The FLW Standard will also help reduce food loss and waste within the private sector.

**Education:** The FAO published a teaching guide for children and young students, which is an educational package designed to educate young people to value food and its loss. The goal is to raise awareness of networks dealing with food loss and waste for children, teachers, staff, and their families. Besides, it introduces good practices that help reduce food loss and waste, with an expected long-term impact.

**International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste:** In 2015, the Consumer Goods Forum, a gathering of more than 400 of the world's largest retailers and manufacturers in 70 countries, adopted a resolution to reduce food waste from operations by 50% by 2025. Furthermore, the General Assembly adopted resolution 74/209 (2019), which set the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste on 29 September every year to encourage the states to reduce food waste and to promote further progress to realize sustainable development.

**Important Resolutions/Conventions/Treaties**

- [The FLW Standard](#)
- [International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste \(A/RES/74/209\)](#), adopted by General Assembly, 2019

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

[Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste](#)

[Food and food waste](#)

[Preventing waste, a recipe for food security](#)

[The UN Sustainable Development Goals set food waste reduction target](#)

[Stop the waste: UN food agencies call for action to reduce global hunger](#)

[Food Loss and Waste Reduction | United Nations](#)

[Food Loss and Waste Database | FAO](#)

[Minimizing food waste | North America](#)

[Story Why sustainable food systems are needed in a post-COVID world](#)

### ***Committee C: Reduction of Industrial Waste***

#### **Definition:**

The United Nations (UN) defines ‘industrial waste’ as “liquid, solid and gaseous wastes originating from the manufacture of specific products,” including plastic waste and electronic waste (e-waste), such as computers, displays, mobile phones, and other e-disposals. Industrial waste is produced from the manufacturing of products and the loss in product quantity or quality, which arise from manufacturers’ and customers’ decision-making processes and practices respectively.

#### **The Facts and Effects:**

As the global industry and economy have grown over the last decades, the amount of industrial waste has increased and negatively affected the environment. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), there are about 11.2 billion tons of solid waste produced every year, and about 5% of the global greenhouse gas emission from those wastes are attributing to organic decay. Additionally, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) reported that the amount of produced e-waste has increased by almost 25% from 2010 to 2014. Insufficient e-waste management causes significant depletion of precious and useful resources, such as gold, silver, cobalt, and rare earth elements.

The bulk of conventional hazardous waste is generated in manufacturing operations, while large quantities are also created in non-industrial sectors, such as wastewater treatment system sludges,

waste oils, and waste batteries. Uncontrolled waste intake, harmful or not, can contribute to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) damaging the environment and human health.

The COVID-19 outbreak posts a challenging waste management task to the world more than ever. Waste generated through healthcare facilities is hazardous and increases the risk of infection, and disposal systems have a significant impact on public health and the environment. With limited technical options and capacities, COVID-19 increases in the volume of healthcare waste generation created additional burdens for both local and national governments. Apart from waste from healthcare facilities, waste generated from households is increasing because of quarantines. The amount of plastic waste is increasing and dumped together with other material from households and restaurants. These situations are more severe in developing countries because of inadequate waste management and poor access to managed waste due to technical, operational and financial constraints. The UNEP is stressing governance as policy-makers have an important role throughout the emergency management cycle of preparedness and readiness to respond to eventual evidence-based recovery from COVID-19. To respond to this emergency adequately, each government needs to develop a contingency plan based on the waste hierarchy and 3R principles.

Waste management is becoming the fastest-growing problem in both developing and developed countries, the lack of financing in the implementation of waste control policies still remains an obstacle. According to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, municipalities in many lower-income states often invest between 20 and 50% of their expenditures on solid waste, but facilities are available for less than half of their residents only. The long-term sustainability of the sector, demanding intensified efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle to avoid pollution is all related and significantly concerned.

#### **Action that Has Been Taken or Is Being Taken:**

**Basel Convention:** The UNEP is the most active UN organisation that works on industrial waste management, implementation of waste reduction guidelines, and data collection. In 1989, the UNEP led the adoption of the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention)* to restrict the flow of hazardous waste by limiting the export of hazardous wastes to least developed countries. 187 states have signed the *Basel Convention* thus far.

**The UNEA in 2019:** The UN has been putting more of its effort into reducing, reusing, and recycling industrial waste to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Taking heavy pollution by plastic waste into consideration, the UNEP has been promoting the reduction and

reuse of plastic waste. In 2019, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted a series of resolutions for aquatic plastic litter and microplastics. The resolutions include a pledge within the United Nations framework to establish a multi-stakeholder forum to take immediate steps on the long-term reduction of litter and microplastics. Furthermore, these resolutions discussed the use of economic incentives to encourage sustainable consumption. The resolutions however also urged the Member States, where necessary, to avoid providing economic incentives for industries to resort to wasteful consumption and production.

**The UN E-waste Coalition:** Additionally, on the matter of e-waste, the UN has focused on strengthening the collaborations between international organizations and relevant UN bodies. In 2001, seven UN bodies and Specialized Agencies, including the UNEP, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the Basel Convention's Implementation & Compliance Committee, formed the UN E-waste Coalition to promote information sharing, raise awareness of e-waste, and educate and provide a guideline on efficient e-waste management solutions. The coalition started working along with the World Economic Forum, the Global Environment Facility, and the Sustainable Development World Business Council in 2019 and called for the redesign of the global electronics program. This has been implemented on the ground most notably under the collaboration with the Nigerian government, where the Global Environment Facility and UNEP announced a \$2 million investment to implement the formal e-waste recycling industry in Nigeria in 2019.

### **Important Resolutions/Conventions/Treaties**

- [\*Institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation\*](#) (A/RES/2997(XXVII), adopted by General Assembly, 1972, Nairobi).
- [\*Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal\*](#) (*Basel Convention*), adopted on 22 March 1989, Basel.
- [\*Marine plastic litter and microplastics\*](#) (UNEP/EA.4/Res.6), adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly, 2019, Nairobi.
- [\*Environmentally Sound Management of Waste\*](#) (UNEP/EA.4/RES.7), adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly, 2019, Nairobi.
- [\*Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste\*](#) (UNEP/EA.4/RES.8), adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly, 2019, Nairobi.
- [\*Addressing Single-use Plastic Products Pollution\*](#) (UNEP/EA.4/RES.9), adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly, 2019, Nairobi.

### **Important Research Links for Committee (Country databases, Resolutions)**

[OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms - Industrial wastes Definition](#)

[A New Circular Vision for Electronics Time for a Global Reboot](#)

[#BeatPlasticPollution This World Environment Day](#)

[Chemicals and waste management](#)

[Fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly](#)

[UN report: Time to seize opportunity, tackle challenge of e-waste](#)

[United Nations Treaty Collection website “Basel Convention”](#)

[Solid waste management](#)

[Waste Management during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

***Committee D: Supporting economic opportunities and job creation by promoting local culture and products through sustainable tourism***

**Definition:**

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) defines ‘tourism’ as “the activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business, and other purposes.” Additionally, the UNWTO defines ‘sustainable tourism’ as tourism that “takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment, and host communities.” For example, a tour of historic cityscapes and buildings which mitigates harmful environmental and sociocultural impacts is one of the realizations of sustainable tourism.

**The Facts and Effects:**

Tourism has continued to grow and become one of the fastest-growing industries worldwide with broad diversification that promotes international development, creates numerous jobs, affecting the lives of many. Tourism plays an essential role in foreign trade and has especially become a critical source of income for developing countries.

The number of international tourists has rapidly increased from 25 million international arrivals in 1950 to over 1.3 billion in 2017, and the UNWTO predicts that the number of tourists will continue to grow 3.3% per year by 2030. As the scale of the tourism industry continues to be expanded, overcrowding, noise, and other nuisances attributed to tourists have become prominent. This is especially noteworthy in tourist spots in urban areas, exacerbated by rapid urbanization and population concentration. The UNWTO has labeled this negative phenomenon as “overtourism,” as opposed to responsible tourism, which applies practices to make better living conditions and tourist sights.

In 2001, the UNWTO warned that there is a lack of trained and skilled workforces in some regions, although human capital is regarded as one of tourism’s pillars of development. A 2001 UNWTO report identified government laxity, business-informed attitudes towards tourism education and training, and the absence of educators and teaching staff in the Asia and Pacific region as some factors responsible for inappropriate professionalism in its tourism sector. Additionally, tourism linkages are weak, under-resourced, and under-utilized in many developing countries. Subsequently, much of the added value in the tourism industry has continued to be absorbed by international investors, tour operators and multinational airlines, and few profits go to the underprivileged.

To this end, there is a need to strengthen weak intersectoral links and reduce their national economies’ excessive revenue leakage. Leakage is a process in which part of the foreign exchange revenues, generated by tourism, is either kept by tourist-generating countries or by other foreign firms, rather than reaching or staying in tourist receiving countries. In 2010, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recognized that in most industrialized and more complex developing countries, total leakages varied from 10-50% of the aggregate tourist revenue. In order to mitigate the effects of issues surrounding the tourism industry to promote further economic development, ensuring the implementation of measures to establish sustainable tourism is needed.

### **Action that Has Been Taken or is Being Taken:**

#### **UNWTO**

Since 1975, the UNWTO has been at the center of the implementation of sustainable tourism. It has provided guidelines for the harmonious, balanced, and equitable development of national and international tourism, while increasing collaborations with the Member States and other UN bodies. Particularly, the UNWTO has been a driving force for economic growth, inclusive development, and environmental sustainability by generating knowledge of the market, promoting

competitive and sustainable tourism policies and tools, and encouraging national progress through technical support projects.

## **10YFP&SDG12**

The *10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production* (10YFP) refers to the needs of present tourists and host countries in the region while protecting and enhancing opportunities for a sustainable future. The conference resulted in the outcome document, *The Future We Want* (2012), which illustrates the need for the Member States to endorse sustainable tourism and capacity-building efforts that foster the understanding of the climate, preserve biodiversity, maintain the diversity of culture, and enhance local communities. Furthermore, in 2015, the General Assembly (GA) established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and featured tourism as targets in Goal 8 on inclusive and sustainable economic growth; Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production (SCP); and Goal 14 on the sustainable use of oceans and marine resources. Additionally, to promote the implementation of sustainable tourism, General Assembly resolution 70/193 was adopted in 2015 and declared 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. The resolution requested the UNWTO to inform the GA on the implementation of measures outlined in resolution 70/193, elaborating on the 2017 yearly evaluation.

## **COVID19 and Sustainable Tourism:**

After the COVID-19 pandemic, along with its socio-economic impacts, led to the limitations of travel, tourism has been struck the hardest. With a decline in about half to three quarters of international tourists, 100 to 120 million tourism related jobs were estimated to be put at risk. While the sector is expected to regain tourist numbers in 2021, the pandemic has aroused clarity on the interconnectedness of various stakeholders, governmental and non governmental bodies, gateway communities, and countless factors to assess when both bringing back and improving sustainable tourism.

## **Further research:**

With the pandemic hitting but expanding the diversity of sustainable tourism, delegates ought to assess social, geographical, cultural, and economical aspects also. What does sustainable tourism mean to tourists and locals? How can cultures be preserved while promoting tourism, with an already effective global market at reach anytime?

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

[International Institute for Sustainable Development \(IISD\) article “UNWTO, UNDP Report Explores Role of Tourism in SDG Implementation” \(2018\)](#)

[UNCTAD report “Report of the Expert Meeting on Tourism’s Contribution to Sustainable Development” \(TD/B/C.I/EM.5/3\) \(2013\)](#)

[UNCTAD report “The contribution of tourism to trade and development” \(TD/B/C.I/8\) \(2010\)](#)

[UNEP website “Sustainable Tourism”](#)

[UNEP website “10YFP - 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns”](#)

[UNWTO & UNDP report “Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals – Journey to 2030” \(2017\)](#)

[UNWTO report “`Overtourism`?: Understanding and Managing Urban Tourism Growth beyond Perceptions - Executive Summary” \(2018\)](#)

[UNWTO report “Tourism Challenges in the 21st Century - Human Resource Development in Asia and the Pacific \(English version\)” \(2001\)](#)

[UNWTO website “Sustainable Development”](#)

[UNWTO website “Sustainable Tourism”](#)

[UNWTO website “Tourism – an economic and social phenomenon”](#)

[The Manila Declaration on World Tourism by General Assembly \(1980\)](#)

[The 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns \(10YFP\), at the Rio+20\(2012\)](#)

[“International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development” \(2017\)](#)

[One Planet Vision for a Responsible Recovery from COVID-19](#)

## [Sustainable tourism in protected areas : guidelines for planning and management](#)

### **4.6 Your Country**

CIA World Factbook - Country Profiles. (2021c).

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

Countries & Regions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. (2021c).

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/index.html>

## **Part 5 - Acknowledgments**

As a result of last year's changes to the JUEMUN agenda, the Committee background information for JUEMUN 2021 was written as a joint effort between the Substantive Staff of JUEMUN 2020 and JUEMUN 2021. We would

like to express our sincere gratitude to all those involved in the writing process.

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