

# **BHIS Fairgaze Model United Nations**

## **United Nations Environment Programme**

**Agenda:** Promoting the Coherent Implementation of the Environmental Dimension of Sustainable Development

### **Letter From Executive Board**

It is an honor to preside over the UNEP at BHIS Fairgaze MUN '21. This letter shall also serve as a concept note for the committee and our expectations from the committee is to function. MUN's as a concept are designed to be a simulation more than a conference. This difference is inherent and more obvious in each country's representation through their delegation. The head of this delegation is usually a diplomat who is firstly representing the government and its goals and is hence tasked with the responsibility of indulging other countries into their own goals and using diplomacy effectively to achieve the aforementioned goals. The end of the simulation then is different for each diplomat, and it is the means to that end that shall define the quality of the simulation. Apart from the simulation part, it is important to remember the inherent limitations of every student in terms of using or applying international law or such. This then implies that it is not necessary to indulge in highly technical discussions that ensure no learning to the delegate, it is rather imperative that all discussions be integrated with logic that has graciously been gifted to mankind through our collective wisdom. It is thus expected that this concept note also serves as a very important start point to the simulation and the delegates are able to infer a lot more than what is shown as face value. The agenda has multiple facets and can take a national or international viewpoint. For the benefit of the delegates and the quality of the simulation, the background guide shall give small introductions and an important start-point to your research. It is important to remember although this has been emphasized all throughout your MUN careers, this is only a start point and this is just a

quick start to your research while the end awaits you all. Don't limit yourself to the material provided in this background guide, this is just to give you guys a gist of the agenda and about the committee's mandate. You guys are free to go beyond this and use that extra research during the conference.

All the Best Everyone!

Regards,  
Executive Board:

Tanvee Khanna (Chairperson)  
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Harsh Khatri (Vice chairperson)  
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## **COMMITTEE OVERVIEW:**

“We the peoples of the United Nations determined, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind...”

–UN Charter Preamble

### **Introduction:**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

Our mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, we work through our divisions as well as our regional, liaison and out-posted offices and a growing network of collaborating centres of excellence. We also host several environmental conventions, secretariats and inter-agency coordinating bodies. UN Environment is led by our Executive Director.

We categorize our work into seven broad thematic areas: climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, chemicals and waste, resource efficiency, and environment under review. In all of our work, we maintain our overarching commitment to sustainability.

Our work is made possible by partners who fund and champion our mission. We depend on voluntary contributions for 95 percent of our income.

Every year, we honour and celebrate individuals and institutions that are doing outstanding work on behalf of the environment.

## **Governance, Structure, and Membership:**

### **World Congress:**

- The rule of law at national and international levels can make a significant contribution toward forging an enduring partnership between the environment and development founded on ecological and social sustainability.
- Recognizing environmental law as a foundation for environmental sustainability and realizing its full potential is ever more urgent in our quest towards sustainable development and new economic growth, but also towards just and fair societies vis-à-vis growing environmental pressures.
- Through the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and UNEP's World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability, the rule of law in environmental matters has received new affirmation.
- Any diplomatic outcomes related to the environment and sustainable development will remain unimplemented without adherence to the rule of law, without open, just and dependable legal orders.
- The rule of law plays a central role on the path towards sustainable development and makes it a prerequisite for a successful transition to greener economies. National judiciaries have a crucial role to play in ensuring fairness and equity in the implementation of policies to further sustainable development.
- The UN General Assembly Resolution on the Rule of Law (A/RES/67/1) underlines the importance of fair, stable, and predictable legal frameworks for generating inclusive, sustainable and equitable development and maintaining peace and security.

## **The International Advisory Council for the Advancement of Justice, Governance and Law for Enforcement Sustainability:**

- The nine-member advisory council includes Chief Justices, senior judges, auditors and legal academics. Led by UNEP, it provides strategic guidance to the international community in improving the legal foundations for achieving international environmental goals, and overcoming legal barriers to inclusive sustainable development.
- The establishment of the International Advisory Council for the Advancement of Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability follows the World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability which saw representatives of over 60 countries calling for the creation of an international network to support efforts to achieve sustainability through stronger legal responses to environmental pressures.
- The new council aims to meet that request, and is tasked with engaging the legal and auditing community worldwide, supporting the development and implementation of environmental law at all levels, and encouraging the further expansion of environmental jurisprudence.
- The Council will also provide strategic advice on the provision of information, data and technical assistance to support governments and other bodies.

Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, UN Environment Programme is led by a Senior Management Team that's chaired by our Executive Director. We work through our divisions, regional, liaison and out-posted offices, plus a growing network of collaborating centres of excellence. UNEP also hosts several environmental conventions, secretariats and inter-agency coordinating bodies.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a Member State led organization. Our Member States approve our programme of work and our budget, and they are also important financial contributors, including to the Environment Fund, our core fund.

In 2012, at the Rio+20 UN Conference, the General Assembly adopted a resolution that reaffirmed and strengthened the governance and role of UNEP in the UN system. We went from having a Governing Council of 58 Member States to an Environment Assembly, with universal membership that encompasses all 193 UN Member States.

The Committee of Permanent Representatives with its current membership of 122, provides policy advice to the UN Environment Assembly (our main governing body), contributes to agenda preparation and oversees implementation of adopted decisions.

At the Rio+20 Conference, world leaders also committed to ensure secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources to UNEP. In 2020, 77\* of our 193 Member States contributed financially to our programme. All contributions from Member States can be found on our contributions page.

### **Mandate, Functions and Powers:**

The mission of the UN Environment Evaluation Office is to provide strategic information to Member States, UN Environment senior management and other UN Environment managerial and project staff to enable them to review progress made by the organization and to reflect critically on the constraints and challenges of delivering a quality global environmental programme.

The mandate for conducting evaluations in UN Environment derives from several UN General Assembly Resolutions, summarized in the regulations and “Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation” (ST/SGB/2000/8). The rules and regulations require all UN programme activities to be evaluated (regulation 7.2) and that evaluation findings are communicated to Member States through intergovernmental bodies (rule 107.1c). This mandate is further supported by a number of UN Environment Governing Council decisions (75(iv), 83, 6.13/1, 12/15 13/1 14/1, 23/3 – 11 and 27/13). These decisions authorize evaluation of UN Environment activities.

According to the Secretary General's bulletin on programme planning, monitoring and implementation (ST/SGB/2000/8), which consolidates the General Assembly decisions on the evaluation function, "the objective of evaluation is:

**(a)** To determine as systematically and objectively as possible the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the Organization's activities in relation to their objectives;

**(b)** To enable the Secretariat and Member States to engage in systematic reflection, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the main programmes of the Organization by altering their content and, if necessary, reviewing their objectives" and that the associated rules require all UN programme activities to be evaluated.

The United Nations Environment Assembly has recognized the importance of evaluation as an integral part of the programme planning cycle, and has requested the Executive Director to ensure that the evaluation unit be made more managerially independent of the programming and project implementation and that it continue to refine evaluation methodologies in collaboration with Governments and partners within the United Nations system. The mandate covers all programmes and projects of the Environment Fund, related trust funds, earmarked contributions and projects implemented by UN Environment under the Global Environment Facility and under partnership agreements. The Evaluation Office reports directly to the Executive Director, works independently from the substantive programmatic divisions and reports of evaluation activities are submitted to the governance function of the organization.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the voice for the environment in the UN system. UNEP is an advocate, educator, catalyst and facilitator, promoting the wise use of the planet's natural assets for sustainable development. It works with many partners, UN entities, international organizations, national Governments, non-governmental organizations, business, industry, the media and civil society. UNEP's work involves providing support for: environmental assessment and reporting; legal and institutional strengthening and environmental policy development; sustainable use and

management of natural resources; integration of economic development and environmental protection; and promoting public participation in environmental management.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

### **Promoting the Coherent Implementation of the Environmental Dimension of Sustainable Development:**

Over 86 SDG targets are related to environmental sustainability; including at least one in each of the 17 Goals. UN Environment with its global environmental mandate takes the lead in facilitating the monitoring and reporting for 26 environment related SDG indicators for which it is the custodian and also has a key role in promoting a coherent delivery on the environmental dimension of all 17 SDGs. This is reflected in the medium term strategy for 2018-21 and in its programme of work 2018-19.

**Sustainable development:** Sustainable development is the idea that human societies must live and meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Sustainable development goals:** The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

The 17 SDGs are integrated—they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Countries have committed to prioritize progress for those who're furthest behind. The SDGs are designed to end poverty, hunger, AIDS, and discrimination against women and girls.

UN Environment's challenge in the 2030 Agenda is to develop and enhance integrated approaches to sustainable development – approaches that will demonstrate how improving the health of the environment will bring social and



economic benefits. Aiming at reducing environmental risks and increasing the resilience of societies and the environment as a whole, UN Environment action fosters the environmental dimension of sustainable development and leads to socio-economic development

### **Environment Dimension of SDG's**

There are thirty (30) indicators that UN Environment is taking a lead on.

Unprecedented biodiversity loss, pollution, climate change and the rise of zoonotic diseases have showcased the symbiotic relationship between humans and nature. The human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, as well as other human rights, can only be realized where biodiversity thrives and ecosystems are healthy.

State obligations at the intersection of human rights and biodiversity come from international human rights laws, such as the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#) (ICCPR), the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) (ICESCR) and the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD). According to these commitments and the responsibilities they encompass, states are obliged to do 13 key things.

**<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/states-have-these-13-duties-when-it-comes-biodiversity-and-human-rights>**

*SDG's that are to be given special emphasis with regards to the agenda:*

**GOALS:** 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17.

The Environmental and social sustainability framework aims to strengthen the sustainability and accountability of UNEP work. This Framework enables UNEP effective and efficient management of environmental and social impacts throughout the life of a project.

The Framework serves four broad purposes:

- To enhance outcomes by systematically integrating environmental and social dimensions in UNEP-funded programmes and projects.
- To strengthen alignment of UNEP's work with the SDGs and other UN entities and partners in addressing the environmental and social sustainability of development efforts. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- To set standards of sustainability for UNEP's operations thereby confirming UNEP's accountability to its member States, and other funders. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- To enable UNEP to work in a safer and smarter manner, thereby minimizing potential risks and harm to intended beneficiaries while enhancing UNEP's capabilities and credibility. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

The Framework serves its broad purposes by employing guiding Principles--leave no one behind principle, human rights and gender equality-based approach, the sustainability and resilience principle and accountability--plus eight Safeguard Standards, which are:

- Biodiversity Conservation, Natural Habitats, and Sustainable Management of Living Resources
- Climate Change and Disaster Risks
- Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency
- Community Health, Safety and Security
- Cultural Heritage
- Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement
- Indigenous Peoples
- Labor and Working Conditions

## **GEO-6 Process**

The [sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook \(GEO-6\)](#) provides a clear assessment of the current state of the environment, the challenges that we face and how well we have dealt with them, with due consideration given to gender, indigenous knowledge and cultural dimensions. The assessment lays the foundation for continued socio-environmental assessments across relevant scales, with a thematic as well as an integrated focus, enabling and informing societal transitions and the tracking of Sustainable Development Goal targets and goals as well as previously agreed internationally environmental goals. The enhanced policy analysis in this sixth edition is aimed at assisting member states to position themselves on the most effective pathways for transformations toward a sustainable future. The preparation of the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook involved various activities to bring experts and stakeholders together as well as update the world on the process as well as the progress of the report.

## **Survival of the greenest: businesses must reduce their footprint**

Companies that ignore their impact on the environment don't just alienate customers and turn off investors. Ultimately, says a new business brief from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), they face “existential challenges”.

The *GEO for Business* brief, [Adapt to Survive: Business transformation in a time of uncertainty](#) calls on businesses to dramatically reduce their environmental footprints. Failure to make the transformation, it warns, is a risk to their survival.

A how-to guide for businesses looking to transition to more sustainable practices and operations, the brief, which is the first of a series, builds on UNEP's flagship report, the [Global Environment Outlook 6 \(GEO-6\)](#), a 2019 scientific study that examined the health of the planet. According to the brief, unless the world slashes the environmental degradation caused by energy, food and waste systems, many of the earth's natural systems will collapse.

“The private sector has the resources and ingenuity to steer us towards a greener future. This is the smart choice. This is the only choice. Business leaders that think long-term must act collaboratively, across sectors to embed sustainability into our definitions of success” she adds.

The *GEO for Business* inaugural brief calls for businesses to embrace a "nature-positive" economic model – one that reduces their carbon footprint, conserves natural resources and safeguards biodiversity while creating value for nature and people.

### **Building back better**

The pandemic has challenged us all. However, as economies begin to rev up again, the brief urges smart business leaders to re-evaluate how they operate. Its authors recommend they examine how to “break away from a locked-in, linear, extractive and fossil-fuel-based economy” towards investments, practices and job creation that bring value for nature and people.

“Business success is inextricably linked to healthy people and ecosystems,” says Denise Delaney, an author of the *GEO for Business* brief and a partner at Environmental Resources Management. “Yet, COVID-19 has exposed the fragility and vulnerability of our health and ecosystems. Now more than ever, we need global resilience and we hope that this brief offers business a pathway and the light at the end of the tunnel: a nature positive economy.”

If businesses are still waffling on whether to make the investments necessary to go green, Garza Santos has a message for them: “Bet on it. The consumer will be on your side. And it will pay for itself,” he says. “You will have the wind at your back.”

The way forward is clear, reiterates the *Geo for Business* brief. Forward-thinking businesses are already on the pathway to a green transformation, but more need to follow, or will find themselves left behind.

**Chemicals and waste:** Chemicals and waste are integral to our everyday life, but they also have major impacts on the environment and human health. As the world’s population approaches 8 billion, the sound management of chemicals and waste is becoming ever more important.

### **The Challenge**

By 2025, the world’s cities will produce 2.2 billion tonnes of waste every year, more than three times the amount produced in 2009. Countries continue to address challenges linked to air, soil and water pollution and exposure to toxic chemicals under the auspices of multilateral environmental agreements. But there is still much work to be done: From 2010 to 2014, only 57 per cent of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal had provided the requested data and information. The figure was 71 per cent for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and 51 per cent for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

### **Why do disasters and conflicts matter?**

Since the beginning of this century, the world has witnessed more than 2,500 disasters and 40 major conflicts.

These tragic events – which have affected more than two billion people – destroy infrastructure, displace populations, and fundamentally undermine human security. They also compound poverty and tear apart the fabric of sustainable development.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is working around the world to respond to natural disasters, industrial accidents, and human-induced crises. In the past two decades, they have supported dozens of crisis-affected countries and territories, including Afghanistan, Haiti, Iraq and Sierra Leone.

<https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/disasters-conflicts/why-do-disasters-and-conflicts-matter>

### **Climate change:**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide an objective source of scientific information on climate change. In 2013, the IPCC provided a globally peer-reviewed report about the role of human activities in climate change when it released its Fifth Assessment Report. The report was categorical in its conclusion: *climate change is real and human activities, largely the release of polluting gases from burning fossil fuel (coal, oil, gas), is the main cause.*

The science of climate change is well established:

- Climate change is real and human activities are the main cause. (IPCC)
- The concentration of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere is directly linked to the average global temperature on Earth. (IPCC)
- The concentration has been rising steadily, and mean global temperatures along with it, since the time of the Industrial Revolution. (IPCC)

- The most abundant greenhouse gas, accounting for about two-thirds of greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), is largely the product of burning fossil fuels. (IPCC)
- Methane, the primary component of natural gas, is responsible for more than 25 per cent of the warming we are experiencing today. It is a powerful pollutant with a global warming potential over 80 times greater than CO<sub>2</sub> during the 20 years after it is released into the atmosphere. (Methane Emissions fact sheet, UNEP).

### **Oceans and sea's:**

We live on a blue planet, with oceans and seas covering more than 70 per cent of the Earth's surface. Oceans feed us, regulate our climate, and generate most of the oxygen we breathe.

They also serve as the foundation for much of the world's economy, supporting sectors from tourism to fisheries to international shipping.

But despite their importance, oceans are facing unprecedented threats as a result of human activity. Every year, an estimated 8 million tonnes of plastic waste end up in the world's oceans. At the same time, climate change is damaging coral reefs and other key ecosystems; overfishing is threatening the stability of fish stocks; nutrient pollution is contributing to the creation of dead zones; and nearly 80 per cent of the world's wastewater is discharged without treatment.

**Questions to Consider:**

1) What do we need to do to limit global warming and act on the climate emergency?



2) Disaster and conflicts with regards to climate change, how does it impact our environment?

3) Why do chemical wastes matter ?

4) Past UN actions pertaining to SDG's and ecosystem.

5) Solutions for the agenda at hand.

6) Why do oceans and sea's matter?  
(More about marine biology)



