

Committee: United Nations General Assembly

Agenda: Closing Financial Gaps to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Country: United Kingdom

I. Topic Background

The Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) were created by the United Nations to make the world safer, fairer, and greener by 2030, but many countries don't have enough money to reach these goals. This problem is called a financial gap. Issues like poverty, education, and clean energy need funding, but not all nations can afford it. The UN and other global partners are trying to help by finding new ways to raise money, share resources, and spend funds more effectively. Working together is key to closing the financial gap and achieving the SDGs

II. Past International Action

The United Kingdom has taken important steps to help close financial gaps and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2021, the United Kingdom published its Integrated Review of foreign, development, and security policy, which focused on using aid more effectively to support climate action, health systems, and education in developing countries. Although the United Kingdom temporarily reduced its aid budget from 0.7% to 0.5% of Gross National Income due to COVID-19, it's still ranked among the world's top aid donors. In 2022, the United Kingdom pledged £11.6 billion in International Climate Finance(ICF) to support SDG 13 (Climate Action) and assist developing countries in building resilience and reducing emissions. Additionally, the United Kingdom worked with the United Nations and World Bank to develop blended finance strategies that attract private sector investment in clean energy and infrastructure, key to achieving SDG 17(Partnership for the Goals). In June 2023, the United Kingdom co-hosted the global Summit on Financing for Development with Kenya, focusing on innovative funding models to support African nations.

These actions show the United Kingdom's ongoing SDGs advancement through strong international partnerships, innovation, and responsible aid strategies.

III. Country Policy

In 2021, the United Kingdom reduced its foreign aid budget from 0.7% to 0.5% of its Gross National Income due to economic challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. This decision led to the cancellation or delay of development projects related to education, healthcare, and climate resilience. For example, some United Kingdom-funded UNICEF projects for children's education and nutrition were paused or reduced, leaving local communities uncertain and under-supported. While the government claimed the cut was temporary, the full 0.7% level has not yet been restored as of 2024. Many charities and international partners have criticised the United Kingdom's policy shift, saying it damaged trust and slowed progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. Although the United Kingdom later pledged £11.6 billion in climate finance, some nations still await earlier promised funds. This shows the impact of shifting priorities and highlights how important stable financial support is in global development.

IV. Resoultion

The United Kingdom proposes starting a new program called the Global SDG Recovery Accelerator(GSRA). This program would help countries that had paused or cancelled important projects to achieve SDGs, like schools, hospitals, and or climate efforts, because of unexpected problems like the COVID-19 pandemic. The GSRA will quickly provide funding to get these support reaches the people who need it. It will bring in both public and private investment, so more support reaches the people who need it. The United Kingdom will work

closely with the UN, UNICEF, and other UN organisations to make sure the help is fair, transparent, and actually reaches local communities. We believe this is a smart, fast, and fair way to keep the world moving towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sources used:-

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