# UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

## AGENDAS

Addressing the effect of foreign investments in Africa with special emphasis on its political implications.

Accomplishment of the SDGs and focusing on Public-Private Partnerships for inclusive development.


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# Letter from the Executive Board

Dear delegates,

We welcome you to the simulation of the Economic and Social Committee at the fifth edition of WELMUN. This year we aim to make this simulation different from the previous ones, moving away from the conventional topics of discussion and widening the spectrum for debate. Our agendas being:-

**Primary agenda-**Addressing the effect of foreign investments in Africa with special emphasis on its political implications.

**Secondary Agenda-**Accomplishment of the SDGs and focusing on Public-Private Partnerships for inclusive development.

During committee sessions we encourage constructive debate and analysed argumentation. It is important to focus on certain issues and go into the depth rather than trying to put to tick mark on a checklist. Such analysis is what comes under proper solutions and research skills. Our agenda offers various facets but the committee needs to prioritize and try cover all facets in depth in the assigned committee time. Though the committee is an UN committee but a lot of time doesn't need to spent on establishing the need for the agenda. The agendas invite a lot of debate on political, social and economic fronts with a major focus on the continent Africa. However, debate should also revolve around other countries where sustainable development levels are failing.

We understand that it can de a little difficult for the first timers as they have not been introduced to the concept yet but we expect a happening and a fast committee. However If you feel stuck at any point during research, try to think basic things you require in your everyday life and then the people who lack those things in the context of sustainable development goals If you still feel like you need more help, feel free to reach out to us for further clarifications.

See you this August!

Sincerely,

The Executive Board

| **Aryan Garg** | **Tanish Shukla** | **Viraj Lohia** |
|---|---|---|
| (Chairperson) | (Director) | (Rapporteur) |

# Agenda 1

## *Addressing the effect of foreign investments in Africa with special emphasis on its political implications.*

## Introduction

THE FIRST great surge of foreign interest in Africa coincided with Germany's sudden emergence as an imperial power. The Berlin Conference of 1884–85, also known as the Congo Conference or West Africa Conference regulated European colonisation and trade in Africa during the New Imperialism period was dubbed as the first scramble for Africa. The interest was largely based on the potential natural resources that the continent held. The second was during the cold war when East and West vied for the allegiance of newly independent African states; The Soviet Union backed nations with a leftist and communist ideology while the United States of America favoured capitalistic rulers (right side of the spectrum). The third Surge is kinder, it does not only target the natural resources of Africa, but also its population. The new scramblers want more than just a share of what Africa has; they want a stake in what it is now trying to build—in the economies and growing global stature of the world's second-most-populous continent, poised between two of its three great oceans.

This surge is consumeristic in nature as outsiders have noticed that the continent is important because of its growing share in the global population (by 2025 the UN predicts that there will be more Africans than Chinese people). Governments and businesses from all around the world arerushing to strengthen diplomatic, strategic and commercial ties. This creates vast opportunities served to them on a silver platter. It is upon them to negotiate deals for themselves, as there is no dearth of lenders.

In 1954 Arthur Lewis, a Nobel prize-winning economist, argued that development occurs as labour shifts from an unproductive "traditional" sector—activities such as subsistence farming, or petty trade—into modern, capitalist activities. Such activities allow individuals to become economically stable, have a larger income and reduces their vulnerability. That is how Africa has been able to progress at a very fast rate, in the past two decades. Various countries like China, India, Japan, Russia etc. have increased trade relations with African nations exponentially. They have been investing in infrastructure in various African countries, building factories and creating new markets. In the process allowing African economies to grow. For instance, the Ethiopian economy, the GDP grew by an average of 10% for 10-15 years( the figure might be overstated by the EPDRF, still the economy grew very quickly from a low base). However, all the growth was based on international loans.

***China-Backed Ports*** ***China has helped finance at least 35 ports around the world in the past decade, according to a Times analysis of construction projects.***

Some economists call this a debt-trap, the creditors intentionally give loans which the indebted countries cannot give back. For example, let us take the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka. Chinese state-owned giant, China Harbour Engineering Company, was into contraction and renegotiation of the Hambantota Port Development Project. Sri Lanka struggled with paying the loan back, so instead, the government handed over the port and 15,000 acres of land around it for 99 years. Though China did not get a lot of revenue, it got a port of strategic value, as it connects various trans Indian Ocean routes.

Over 320 embassies have opened in Africa between 2010 and 2016, this being the largest industrial boom ever seen. Countries like China have deals with 45 African nations out of the 54 countries. France and USA are helping to fight terrorism in the Sahel region, Djibouti's capital has become an international centre, Russia has employed various military advisors in the Sahel. All the nations are lobbying for the African vote, to push personal agendas.

# Diplomatic Implications

Africa has 54 nations, which make up more than a quarter of the UN General Assembly and by custom, it always has three of the 15 non-permanent seats on the Security Council. These votes have drawn various visits from national leaders and financial aid for the African nations. Since 2008 Turkey's leader, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has paid more than 30 visits to African countries, most of them sub-Saharan. Emmanuel Macron has visited the continent nine times since becoming president of France in 2017; Narendra Modi has visited eight African countries during his tenure in India. Chinese Officials have orchestrated about 79 visits to African nations till 2018.

Africa has also seen the largest embassy boom in its history, 320 embassies sprang up between 2010 and 2016. 26 of them were Turkish. The boom continues, last year India announced it would open 18 more. Various summits and gathering have occurred which draw the attention of African leaders. Moscow plans to host the first Russia-Africa Summit this year, in light of the triennial Forum on

Africa-China Cooperation (FOCAC), in Beijing. Hosted by President Xi Jinping, last year's FOCAC attracted more African leaders than the annual meeting of the UN General Assembly. Japan and Britain are also hosting gatherings in the coming months.

IN 2010 Yang Jiechi, then China's foreign minister, visited Yoni, a village in Sierra Leone. To hand over a lavish new school to the local authorities built on Chinese expenses. Yoni also happens to be the birthplace of Ernest Bai Koroma, Sierra Leone's president. This is not a cherry-picked example, confirmed by AidData, a research lab based at the College of William and Mary in America has scanned through media reports to categorise Chinese giving. It geolocated more than 2,000 Chinese projects in 50 African countries between 2000 and 2013. In a working paper, it has been shown that China's official transfers to a leader's birth region is nearly triple after he or she assumes power. Implicitly showing how A country like China has been trying to stay in the good books of African leaders.

Various other countries have also lobbied for the African vote. China has persuaded nearly every African state to ditch diplomatic recognition of Taiwan; only eSwatini (formerly Swaziland) remains to be swayed. Russia has petitioned African politicians over its claims to Crimea; 28 African countries abstained on a General Assembly motion condemning the annexation. Israel has sought recognition of Jerusalem as its capital and now has Togo on its side.

A political outburst in Africa marks This suggests that the continent will increasingly be a place where international rivalries play out. Various countries are lobbying for the African vote, from a continent which was just valued for its natural resources it has come a long way, now it has become the centre of attraction for the world.

# Transparency and unfit rulers

Africa can only emerge victorious from this scramble if the right deals are negotiated. Right now there is no shortage of lenders, as various countries have joined the African band-wagon. The counties are now independent are in better shape to discuss a settlement which would benefit them. the reason behind Africans being two-fifths richer than they were in 2000(other factors being fewer wars and better macroeconomic policies).

However, such a large amount of suitors also brings in scope for corruption. Some deals might be better for the leaders of the nations but not as good for the people they lead. For example, the Russian doings in the Central African Republic When Central African Republic (CAR) pleaded for help in 2017 to fight marauding militias, there was recognition that a spike in ethnic fighting could turn into a far larger conflict and that its security forces were too weak to tackle myriad armed groups. Private firms are protecting diamond mines and the president of the country, due to the presence of marauding militias. for many people, this was reminiscent of what happened in the 19th century at the height of imperialism. Transparency and democracy are the antidotes to these problems, if the people are aware the deals and their benefits shay contracts can be avoided, for example, Recently in Kenya and Ghana, for example, local media, civil society and opposition parties have been able to scrutinise dodgy deals signed by their governments. Africa needs to preserve ideals like democracy and transparency because if they keep on brokering deals with foreigners behind closed doors it will pose a big problem. , Russia and China do not care about African democracy. They may claim that their policy is not to interfere. But their propping up of

autocrats—China's support for Denis Sassou Nguesso of Congo-Brazzaville, Russia's for Faustin-Archange Touadéra of the CAR.

Secondly, Africa can exploit these deals very well if a free trade area is formed clubbing the African nations. Infrastructure projects will still span across borders but deals and agreements will be homogeneous. These nations cannot be expected to integrate together like Europe but still require some level of homogeneity. Right now China has deals with 45 African nations, Russia has military deals with 19 of them. All these deals are made individually, and because of that, there is a huge power imbalance, for instance, China and Uganda. It could be reduced somewhat with a free-trade area or if African regional blocs clubbed together. After all, all the benefice will be shared by all the African nations.

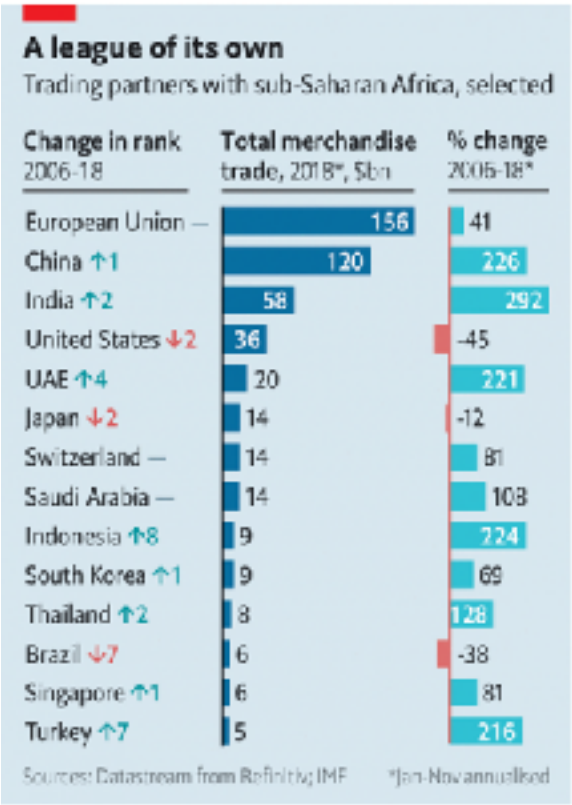
# China's Involvement In Africa

## Belt And Road Initiative

Xi Jinping 21st century reincarnation of the Silk route has been named the Belt and Road initiative. It touches over three continents and affects a high percentage of the world population. China has been heavily investing in infrastructure, factories, refineries, ports etc. in various countries. it has been giving loans to less reliable and non- democratic countries like Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Kazakhstan and various African countries. These countries might not be able to pay these loans back, but China does not hesitate. The only condition is the Chinese involvement in these protects. Instead of the money, China has been securing ports, factories in other countries, for example, the Gwadar port in Pakistan, the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka, territories in South Africa. With this China has been able to establish control over trade routes over the world and dominate world trade.

## In the context of Africa

From 2006 to 2018 Chinese trade increased by 226%, in Africa. For illustration China, which has run up huge stockpiles, sold more than 781,000 tonnes of rice to African countries in 2017, more than ten times the amount in 2016, with Ivory Coast overtaking South Korea as the biggest importer. its three largest debtors are Congo-Brazzaville, Djibouti and Zambia. It also lends to other African nations like South Africa, Ethiopia, CAR etc. Chinese factories already hum in Ethiopia and Rwanda. According to McKinsey, a management consultancy, there are now 10,000 Chinese businesses on the African continent. China sells more weapons in sub-Saharan Africa than any other nation. It accounted for 27% of the region's arms imports in 2013-17, compared with 16% in 2008-12, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. It also claims military ties, some of them simply co-operative rather than commercial, with 45 African governments.



The Economist

At the close of the 2018 China-Africa Forum for Cooperation (FOCAC) summit held in Beijing, the world's second-biggest economy announced that it had set up a new /$60 billion fund meant for Africa's development as part of a raft of new measures to strengthen Sino-Africa ties. Along with trade China has been heavily investing in infrastructure and providing loans. It is investing in railway lines, ports, factories, mines etc. Railway lines between Nairobi and Mombasa, another railway line between Djibouti and Ethiopia. Chinese State-owned companies have helped set up "special economic zones" in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Rwanda and Djibouti. They aim to build factories here and have built a naval base in Djibouti also.

Some question the Chinese policy, as some of their loans do look very generous but China has a lot to gain from them. In Kenya, local journalists have been probing the terms of the $3.2bn railway between Nairobi and Mombasa, with worries that Mombasa's port may be pledged as collateral. The question is that, are such hefty loans good for Africa and are the African rulers thinking from the point of view of their people when they sign such large contracts behind closed doors?

## India And Japan

## Asia-Africa Growth Corridor

India's non-prescriptive and non-interfering development partnership model is fast finding favour in resource-rich Africa, where China's push, ostensibly for capacity building, is receiving bad press for being hard and exploitative, according to experts on Indo-African partnership. The Asia Africa growth corridor is the result of co-operation between PM

Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart, Shinzo Abe, which sprang up in November 2016. The initiative is being widely seen as an attempt to balance Beijing's efforts to expand its geopolitical influence in Asia and Africa, particularly through OBOR cross-continental connectivity initiative. The AAGC focuses on the goodwill India bores for Africa and Japan's financial resources. It stands on four major pillars, development and cooperation projects, quality infrastructure and institutional connectivity, capacity and skill enhancement and people-to-people partnerships. AAGC aims to be an efficient mechanism for linking

economies, industries and institutions, ideas and people between Africa and Asia in an inclusive fashion.

There is scope for Asia to share its experiences in development with Africa and use digital platforms to promote connectivity. It also aims to invest in infrastructure to increase connectivity between towns, regions and countries and helps unleash their potential for growth. The quality infrastructure as envisaged by the AAGC "would remain in harmony with the local environment, community, and people's livelihoods". China has often been accused, particularly in Africa, of imposing and executing projects ignoring local sentiments.

This approach sounds much friendlier. However, it has been unable to serve its purpose, to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative. Simply because of lack of resources, China's investments in BRI clearly outweigh that of India and Japan in AAGC. Moreover, India's bureaucracy has been unwelcoming to Japan's approach.

## India's investment in Africa

From 2008 to 2018, India's trade increased by 292%. From the Indian perspective, the key sectors are agriculture, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, textiles, automobiles, banking and financial services, information technology, energy and infrastructure. India today is the fifth largest investor in Africa. According to estimates by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Indian investment in Africa, in less than a decade, rose from US$9.2 billion to US$14.1 billion in 2011, which accounts for 22.5 per cent of Indian outward foreign direct investment flows. With a sudden rise of insecurity across the Indian Ocean, due to China's String of Pearls theory. India surged into Africa, to try to maintain the power balance between the two Asian Economies. However, India's approach is more liberal in nature and aims for inclusive development. While China wants involvement and dominance in every project and has major a say, which has become possible because all deals are made individually, i.e. China deals with one African country at a time. This leads to huge power imbalance as China is the major player in the room and can assert its agendas better than the African.

## Japan involvement in Africa

Japan first came to Africa in 2004, with a plan of helping the continent with education, health and social development. The initiative required financing worth 90 billion yen to extend aid to 15 million people. Since then Japan's involvement in Africa has changed exponentially.

Then over the years, Japanese realised that Chinese leaders had made "strategic gains" in Africa by fostering "resource centres, political allies" and "centres for economic growth," says Stephen Nagy, senior associate professor of politics and international studies at International Christian University in Tokyo.

Japan has been slowly crawling up China's spine, trying to balance its power and influence in Africa. Back in 2016, Shinzo Abe committed to pouring $30 billion in Africa over a time span of three years for an African infrastructure plan for advances in farming, energy, roads and ports. He also said, over the same time span the private sector will also come up with another $20 billion for Africa.

Investments from Japan now fund infrastructure such as a $270 million expansion of Mombasa Port in Kenya and power projects that would send electricity into three million African homes by 2022. Japan's investments perform better and come with higher "social standards" than Chinese equivalents, says Yun Sun, East Asia Program senior associate at the Stimson Centre think tank in the United States

## Russia's Involvement In Africa

Rather than the other countries, Russia's approach is more military based in nature. Their goals are not just to hold a strategic trading position, Moscow's involvement comes at a time when the United States takes a back seat (During the rise of nationalism under Mr Trump's presidency.) and when the defence ministry's influence over Kremlin foreign policy is growing against a backdrop of heightened tension with the West.

Moscow's major goal is Crimea. Since the west sanctioned Russia for annexing Crimea in 2014. Russia's focus as moved, Moscow has signed 19 military cooperation deals in sub-Saharan Africa, including with Ethiopia, Nigeria and Zimbabwe, according to its foreign and defence ministries and state media. Russia realises the fact out of the fifteen seats in the Security Council, three of them are held by Africa. They also happen to be the largest voting bloc and one of its most coherent, making them attractive allies for Russia.

Russia has signed various other deals. Russian firms have signed mineral deals in Sudan, which cooperates with Moscow in defence technology, and Russia is looking at diamond and platinum projects in Zimbabwe as well as energy projects in Chad.

Over the past decade, Russian trade with sub-Saharan Africa has increased fast, albeit from a low base. From 2010-2017, total trade rose to $4.2 billion a year from $1.6 billion, according to the Centre for Strategic & International Studies www.csis.org.

## The United States' Involvement in Africa

The United States has stepped away from Africa during a very integral time. Their exit was perfectly coordinated with the new scramble for Africa. Their trade with the continent has halved in the past decade. Many diplomatic offices have been left unfilled. Moreover, a task force based in CAR tracking warlord Joseph Kony left in 2017

The US has also tried to sugarcoat their stance and withdrawal of support from Africa various times.U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Tibor Nagy said Washington's commitment to Africa was unwavering but, "there is space for other countries to play a positive role in the region". However, the US's exit has left a void in the field of foreign influence in the continent. Various countries like China and Russia have started to carve the continent, in the context of the creation of markets and diplomatic support. It has been the perfect setting for a power struggle.

There aren't even enough connections between the United States' diplomatic stance and the message they are sending out. Something which has been very well captured by a statement, by Donald Bolduc, who commanded U.S. special forces across the continent until 2017. He said, "Our actions on the diplomatic and military side have sent a huge signal to our partners that we're not interested in Africa."


This period might be time for a change, as the general elections for the United States are next year. It depends on the USA if it wants to stay out of the third scramble. This scramble is neo-imperialism being exercised by foreign countries. They aim to invest in African countries and strike deals, which might be good for their economies, gets them better trading conditions and sometimes trap the country in debt. A similar mixture of nationalism and imperialism was one of the causes of World War I.

# The European Union's Involvement in Africa

The European Union looks at Africa as an opportunity for inclusive development. They suggest homogeneity in the continent in terms of trade, customs and industrial policies, laws, regulations and procedures. Like other economic bodies, they believe that Africa should increase its productive capacity, move away from raw material centred production and simple processed products. Something that can threaten Africa production is automation, which is waiting for Africa just around the corner, The EU also proposes Africa to enter the global supply chain rather than looking at itself as a single manufacturing unit.

The EU proposes to achieve all of this through intricate policy change. They propose that Africa and the EU will also, together with other international partners, work to promote fair trade. In order to achieve this, the key goals which will be pursued by Africa-EU cooperation on trade and regional integration will be:
(i) private sector development, supported by foreign investments, to strengthen the supply side of African economies;
(ii) the development and strengthening of physical infrastructure networks and related services, which are needed for the movement of persons, goods, information; and
(iii) trade integration, which is essential to increase both South-South and North-South trade flows.

The EU also talks about: -cooperation between Africa and the EU will aim to promote stable, efficient and harmonised legal frameworks for business, free of unnecessary administrative red tape, as well as to promote Corporate Social Responsibility. They also talk about the importance if of e African economic growth strategies aiming at maintaining macroeconomic stability, promoting regulatory reform and harmonisation, protecting intellectual property rights and standards, promoting investment codes, and establishing credible laws and guarantee systems. In this context, it will also be necessary to address key investment disincentives such as fraud, corruption, money laundering and organised crime.

Even though they have a very well outlined policy for development in Africa, their trade with the Continent has only increased by a decent 41% from 2008 to 2018(from a very high base). Which is nowhere compared to countries like India, Japan and China? Moreover, countries like Italy have already signed off on China's belt and road initiative. To some extent, it might question the homogeneity in Europe in turbulent times of the Brexit. Djibouti - As An Affected Party

Djibouti is a country smaller than Andhra Pradesh and has a smaller coastline but it still handles way more shipping. A third of global shipping steams by this little bit of north-east Africa. All the foreign parties moved in when Djibouti opened the floodgates to its capital.
Now, all the world, it seems, is crammed together in its capital. French, Italian and Japanese military bases jostle each other near the shore. Indian and British embassies will soon open.

Paris is already worried about its influence in Djibouti. It believes that Beijing has been giving it tough competition since it began with The Belt and Road initiative. Paris has been neglecting its former colony, which gained independence in 1977. Those comments echoed President Ismail Omar Guelleh's public criticism in 2015 accusing France - from which it gained independence in 1977 - of abandoning Djibouti and investing very little. Moreover, Emmanuel Macron is the second French President to visit East Africa in 20 years. - Djibouti also commissioned a $3.5 billion, Chinese-built free trade zone. The country looks at it as an opportunity to create thousands of jobs for youth in the horn of Africa.

Ethiopia and Djibouti have signed a deal to build a pipeline to transport Ethiopian gas to an export terminal in the Red Sea state, officials said. Ethiopia had been held back since it found extensive gas deposits in its eastern Ogaden Basin in the 1970s. China's POLY-GCL Petroleum Investments has been developing the Calub and Hilala fields there since signing a production sharing deal with Ethiopia in 2013.

Djibouti has made it very clear that it will not be grounds for a proxy war between the foreign powers. However, there already exists very high military presence, 3 out of the P5 members of the security council already have military bases there. The question is, will Djibouti be able to control its own growth after such amounts of foreign investment, or will it caught in the crosshairs it there is a conflict which the country was not a part of?

# Conclusion

This new wave of neo-imperialism has hit Africa at a time of population growth. Foreign powers aim to extend the reach of their products, get cheaper labour and win trust. As mentioned above, Countries are becoming very assertive when it comes to diplomacy and political ties. They look at Africa as a vote back. This has also led to a sort of bandwagon, many countries are now extending aid to African. Now there is no dearth of lenders, it is upon Africa to weigh the odds and negotiate a good deal for themselves. They can be more successful if they integrate themselves with each other, leading to a balance in power between the creditors and debtors.

Infrastructural development, digital connectivity, employment and interconnectivity between the countries has increased, but at a price. Most of the African countries for eg. South Africa, Ethiopia, Djibouti have a load of foreign debt. The question is that, will the amount of development be enough for Africa to pay the loans? It is important to understand the implications of such investment in the long run, on the African people, their governance and world peace. Constructive debate on solutions to help Africa emerge victoriously is required. Lastly, it is essential to question the motives of foreign powers when they invest in Africa.

## Questions To Consider

- What are the social implications of such neo-imperialism?( in the context of human rights, jobs and dependency on the other countries)
- Will a free trade zone in Africa be ethical?
- What are the economic implications of the actions of the third scramble on world trade and economy?
- What kind of private companies are making deal in African countries, for example Uber's deal with Suzuki
- What kind of regulations can be suggested and imposed, to better the market?
- Will this help Africa become a part of the global supply chain?

## Links for Further Research

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/25/world/asia/china-sri-lanka-port.html

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/india-japan-come-up-with-aagc-to-counter-chinas-obor/articleshow/58846673.cms

https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2017/08/17/why-africas-development-model-puzzles-economists?zid=304&ah=e5690753dc78ce91909083042ad12e30

https://www.economist.com/briefing/2019/03/07/africa-is-attracting-ever-more-interest-from-powers-elsewhere

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-africa-russia-insight/how-russia-moved-into-central-africa-idUSKCN1MR0KA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvXROXiIpvQ&t=270s

https://in.reuters.com/article/africa-autos/focus-carmakers-lure-ride-hailer-delivery-drivers-in-africa-idINKCN1NE0FD

https://in.reuters.com/article/africa-russia/insight-how-russia-moved-into-central-africa-idINKCN1MR0L3

https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-africa/

https://www.africa-eu-partnership.org//sites/default/files/documents/eas2007_joint_strategy_en.pdf

https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/pharmaceuticals-and-medical-products/our-insights/africa-a-continent-of-opportunity-for-pharma-and-patients

https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-sector/our-insights/should-sub-saharan-africa-make-its-own-drugs

# Agenda 2

**Accomplishment of the SDGs and focusing on Public-Private Partnerships for inclusive development.**

## Introduction

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a universal plan for all countries to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. They are a set of 17 goals which include 169 targets.

They provide a focus for the international community's development efforts until 2030 and are the yardstick by which progress will be measured. They are intended to be tackled as a group rather than individually - the 17 goals are interlinked.

The 2012 Rio Summit led to the creation of a UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, established in January 2013. The group involved members from 70 countries and published its final draft in July 2014.

Alongside these discussions, there had been 11 thematic and 83 national consultations. The general public was also asked to share their views on what the goal priorities should be through the online My World Survey and a door-to-door survey.

Member state negotiations followed the July 2014 publication of the final draft. The final wording of the goals and targets were agreed in August 2015.

The 17 SDGS form a cohesive and integrated package of global aspirations the world commits to achieving by 2030. Building on the accomplishments of their predecessors the MDGs, the SDGs address the most pressing global challenges of our time calling upon collaborative partnerships across global challenges of our time calling upon collaborative partnerships across and between countries to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development- economic growth, environmental sustainability and social inclusion

# How are the SDGs different from the MDGs?

The lives and livelihoods of millions of people improved under the MDGs, but many have been "left behind" - they are marginalised and living in poverty. This is particularly true for vulnerable groups such as refugees, people with disabilities, indigenous people, the elderly and women.

Some entire countries are also left behind. Challenges that can make them especially at risk range from having weak governance structures and a history of conflict to being landlocked and susceptibility to climate shocks."Leave no one behind" - and reach the furthest behind first - has become the rallying cry of the SDGs. This is not only reflected in the goals; it is also emphasised in the vision of a "just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met" and "a world in which every country enjoys sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all".These principles led to some important changes in the way the SDGs have been formulated when compared to the MDGs. The differences include:

A global focus. Inequalities are overlooked when progress is measured using national averages. Unlike the MDGs, which focused primarily on lower and middle-income countries, the SDGs include every country - which means also reaching those who are not benefitting from the economic prosperity of wealthier countries.

A holistic approach. The SDGs cover a range of topics. They are interconnected and should be tackled simultaneously rather than individually.

A greater focus on inclusion. The MDGs and other development policies have failed to address systematic patterns of discrimination – the SDGs aim to change this. Seven SDG targets focus on people with disabilities, for example, and six refer to people in vulnerable situations.

Emphasis on three dimensions of sustainability. The SDGs define sustainability as having three components – social, economic and environmental. These are interlinked, with one leading to the others, and should be addressed simultaneously.
The incorporation of both systems and lifestyles. Successfully achieving targets on climate change, for example, does not only include policies at the international, regional or national levels; it also requires that our lifestyles, thought processes and behaviour changes.

# Sustainable Development Goals

## Sustainable Development Goal-3
## Good Health and Well Being

In a world of wide social and economic inequalities, rapid urbanisation, human activity threatening the environment and infectious diseases, cancer and diseases like HIV are tearing the world apart. Health care is essential for the strata of society. However, some of these strata have healthcare available to them and afford it, some do have it available but it is not affordable and in some countries quality and necessary healthcare is not even available. Universal health coverage will be integral to achieving SDG 3, ending poverty and reducing inequalities.
But the world is off-track to achieve the health-related SDGs. Progress has been uneven, both between and within countries. There's a 31-year gap between the countries with the shortest and longest life expectancies. And while some countries have made impressive gains, national averages hide that many are being left behind. Multisectoral, rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches are essential to address inequalities and to build good health for all.

Refer to this link for shaping policy( goals for Good Health and Well Being)- ***https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-3-good-health-and-well-being.html#targets***

## Sustainable Development Goal-4

### Quality Education

Education is one of the major aspects of training a person to be ready for life. Education instils skills in a human being to secure employment and to be economically stable. It is necessary for growth and stability for an individual and the state at large.

since 2000, there has been enormous progress in achieving the target of universal primary education. The total enrolment rate in developing regions reached 91 per cent in 2015, and the worldwide number of children out of school has dropped by almost half. There has also been a dramatic increase in literacy rates, and many more girls are in school than ever before. These are all remarkable successes. However, large disparities still exist. In war-torn countries in the Middle-Eastern Countries and North Africa, armed conflicts hamper enrollment. Even extreme poverty and lack of education it itself leads to low enrollments.

When we discuss education we need to go beyond providing education universally we need to think long term and think about why do we educate? The purpose of education is to condition students to face the outside world. In a world with changing mega-trends, like automation, climate change and changing demographics jobs prospects are going to change. Modelling education to suit a world with job-prospects is very important.

Goals for quality education(under SDG-4)- ***https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-4-quality-education.html#targets***

# Sustainable Development Goal-8

**Decent Work and Economic Growth**

Over the past 25 years, the number of workers living in extreme poverty has declined dramatically, despite the lasting impact of the 2008 economic crisis and global recession. In developing countries, the middle class now makes up more than 34 percent of total employment – a number that has almost tripled between 1991 and 2015.

However, as the global economy continues to recover we are seeing slower growth, widening inequalities, and not enough jobs to keep up with a growing labour force. According to the International Labour Organization, more than 204 million people were unemployed in 2015.
The SDGs promote sustained economic growth, higher levels of productivity and technological innovation. Encouraging entrepreneurship and job creation are key to this, as are effective measures to eradicate forced labour, slavery and human trafficking. With these targets in mind, the goal is to achieve full and productive employment, and decent work, for all women and men by 2030.

Now more then ever job prospects are changing. When various countries are exporting their manufacturing to Africa and automation threatens such jobs at large. Economists are promoting change like the Fourth Industrial Revolution, where they propose to combine Automation with various fields of the economy. Tackling the unemployment in the oil and fossil fuel sector due to a rise in the investment in the renewable energy sector and the rise in employment there.

Goals under SDG-8
***https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-8-decent-work-and-economic-growth.html#targets***

# Modelling education in a manner to facilitate jobs in context to AI

As robots, automation and artificial intelligence perform more tasks and there is a massive disruption of jobs, experts say a wider array of education and skills-building programs will be created to meet new demands.

Machines are eating humans' jobs talents. And it's not just about jobs that are repetitive and low-skill. Automation, robotics, algorithms and artificial intelligence (AI) in recent times have shown they can do equal or sometimes even better work than humans who are dermatologists, insurance claims adjusters, lawyers, seismic testers in oil fields, sports journalists and financial reporters, crew members on guided-missile destroyers, hiring managers, psychological testers, retail salespeople, and border patrol agents Multiple studies have documented that massive numbers of jobs are at risk as programmed devices – many of them smart, autonomous systems – continue their march into workplaces. A recent study by labor economists found that "one more robot per thousand workers reduces the employment to population ratio by about 0.18-0.34 percentage points and wages by 0.25-0.5 per cent." When Pew Research Center and Elon University's Imagining the Internet Center asked experts in 2014 whether AI and robotics would create more jobs than they would destroy, the verdict was evenly split: 48% of the respondents envisioned a future where more jobs are lost than created, while 52% said more jobs would be created than lost. Since that expert canvassing, the future of jobs has been at the top of the agenda at many major conferences globally.

As Artificial Intelligence revolutions, various jobs are going to become redundant as machines will soon be able to perform mundane jobs better than human beings. Various white collars and blue collars might be unemployment as technology developments on the near horizon will crush the jobs of the millions who drive cars and trucks, analyze medical tests and data, perform middle management chores, dispense medicine, trade stocks and evaluate markets, fight on battlefields, perform government functions, and even replace those who program software – that is, the creators of algorithms. The fact is Artificial Intelligence will not destroy jobs, though job prospects will surely change. However, such jobs will require even higher educational qualification A study by the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI)said that that between 75 million and 375 million people around the world may need to change occupational categories and acquire new skills by the year 2030. The study also identified certain fields that will require human labor:-

Rising incomes or rising prosperity around the world. We'll have another one billion people entering the consuming class during the next couple of decades.

Aging around the world. This drives the need for additional labor in healthcare, for instance.
The need to develop and deploy technologies. Digitization, automation, robotics, and artificial intelligence—these actually require people.

Renewable energy is a sector which is coming up, it has created millions of jobs in the past few years. As the investment continues more jobs are going to demand human activity.

Research by the World Economic Forum estimates that 65% of children entering primary school will find themselves in occupations that today do not exist. By 2020 it's estimated there will be 1.5 million new digitised jobs across the globe. At the same time, 90% of organisations currently have an IT skills shortage, while 75% of educators and students feel there is a gap in their ability to meet the skills needs of the IT workforce. To prepare the talent needed for the digital economy, education must adapt as fast as the demand for IT skills is growing and evolving. As the world grows so must our education system. The education system in various countries is textbook based, it teaches us content which has to reproduced when we are tested. However, with changing times problem-solving skill, creativity and ability to create your content have taken precedence. Students need to be pushed beyond their comfort zone as current employment will drastically change.As we embark on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, it's clear that technology will play a central role in nearly all aspects of our lives.

As automation takes over, educational requirement will increase, we need to find feasible ways to make higher education available to everybody. Otherwise, we will be facing unemployment on a very large scale. The number of dependent citizens in every economy will increase economy, which will be bad for every economy. The economy might grow with the help of automation but we have a duty to the citizens. It is also one of ECOSOC's major functions to provide primary, tertiary and higher education to its citizens. Thus now the committee needs to come up with a policy to provide education in context to AI so the job prospect for an individual remain stable.

# Focusing on Providing Healthcare in War-Torn Countries

More than 1.6 billion people live in fragile settings where protracted crises, combined with weak national capacity to deliver basic health services, present a significant challenge to global health.

Robin Coupland knows what it's like to get caught up in conflicts. In Somalia, in the early 1990s, the former war surgeon was in the operating theatre when a colleague standing next to him was shot. "There were no sandbags so we had to pile boxes of intravenous fluids against the windows," he recalls. Moreover, various hospitals also come in the line of fire as most of wars fought today are involved in civil wars, where citizens don't know hot to treat prisoners of war and people on both sides face major medical problems. Due to that hospitals end up treating people on different sides of the conflict, putting them in the line of fire.War torn countries require the maximum amount of healthcare, as there is maximum risk to health in those countries, both mental physical. As there is lack of provision of basic healthcare and it is dangerous to deploy humanitarian aid in those countries, for example Yemen where UN provided medics and running hospitals were bombed. However to achieve this goal it is necessary as one fifth of the population of the world which cannot get proper health care lives in such conditions. As established it is dangerous to send aid to these countries we need to find more efficient ways to accompany the traditional means of providing healthcare. Various companies are engaging into provision of healthcare in such countries, for example Clinton Health Access Initiative which partners with smaller companies to provide funds so they can finance their healthcare projects.

This is a problem which needs to tackled so medical officers can be safe. Various statements have been made, for example World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, in her opening speech, called on "all parties to ensure the protection of health workers and health facilities in conflict situations, to enable them to provide care for the sick and injured". WHO has also taken some initiative when it comes to solving the problem, WHO can make an important contribution by bringing together adversarial groups to remind them of their legal obligations, as demonstrated by its recent intervention in Yemen, where the WHO Representative to the country Ghulam Popal pushed for "the continuous delivery of health services to all [the] affected population without discrimination". After extensive negotiations, a meeting was held last April at the WHO Country Office in the capital Sana'a attended by the ministry of health and opposition representatives. At the end of the meeting, a memorandum of understanding was signed by both sides on the provision of "impartial and neutral health services" to all those in need.

The committee can also come up with solutions where we partner with different private companies with innovative models and strategies to provide healthcare in these regions.

# Drug Markets In Africa

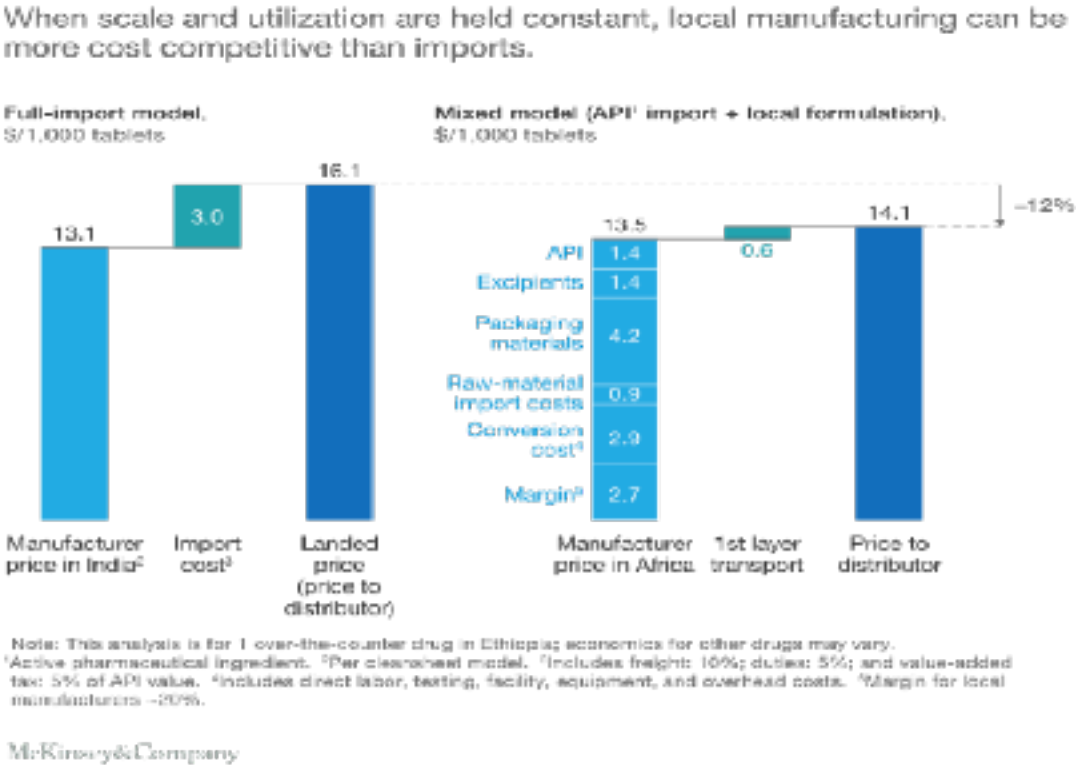

The African Drug market has been growing rapidly, the value jumped to $20.8 billion in 2013 from just $4.7 billion a decade earlier. That growth is continuing at a rapid pace: we predict the market will be worth $40 billion to $65 billion by 2020. It has become possible as Africa is one of the only frontiers where the markets have not stagnated, making it a target for various multinational corporations. This growth has been driven by urbanisation, growing medical capacity(from a low base) and the changing business environment.

Use Link: https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/pharmaceuticals-and-medical-products/our-insights/africa-a-continent-of-opportunity-for-pharma-and-patients

Sub Saharan countries import 80% to 90% of the drugs consumed, many governments are considering whether it's time to promote more local production. Drug imports, including both over-the-counter and prescription drugs, exceed those into China and India—where comparable populations import around 5 percent and 20 percent, respectively. And it does put strain on government and household budgets and already limited foreign exchanges.

Though some say that costs would be lower if drugs are locally manufactured. With bettered facilities some drugs tomorrow could compete with costs or even be cheaper than imports from India. This is more likely true of basic oral solids than more

advanced and larger-molecule drugs. Considering the fact that medicines are imported after being completely manufactured, their value increases thus have higher import duties but if raw materials are imported then the import duties would decrease exponentially. Adding the local conversion cost due to lower manufacturing efficiency and the producer margin to the total leads to a price that is higher than in India, but the lower transport cost to reach the distributor means that the locally manufactured product is still more affordable at the point of entry into the local supply chain. In fact, for a range of products, including tablets, capsules, and creams,




costs for most drugs produced in Ethiopia and Nigeria tend to be about 5 to 15 percent lower than the landed price of imports from India.

However the problem in the current scenario are, production companies having less capacity lower utilization rates(billable hours), low talent base and local supply chains.Another problem is less regulations in the African markets, the prices of drugs float as pharmacies do not face price regulations and various informal stores also spring up. Moreover if is difficult to supply drugs to countries in the horn of Africa and other countries where armed militias exist.

refer to link: https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-sector/our-insights/should-sub-saharan-africa-make-its-own-drugs

# THE SDG INDEX

The SDG Index measures 149 countries, comparing their current progress with a baseline measurement taken in 2015. Across all 17 goals, Sweden tops the list of countries surveyed. It is, on average, 84.5% of the way to achieving the targets envisaged for 2030. With its Scandinavian neighbors tailing it. Moreover, European countries dominate the top ten list. These country also have their work cut out for them but we need to focus on other countries, which lie at the bottom of the chart.

| Rank | Country | Score |
|---|---|---|
| 130 | Benin | 40.0 |
| 131 | Malawi | 39.8 |
| 132 | Mauritania | 39.6 |
| 133 | Mozambique | 39.5 |
| 134 | Zambia | 38.4 |
| 135 | Mali | 38.2 |
| 136 | Gambia, The | 37.8 |
| 137 | Yemen, Rep. | 37.3 |
| 138 | Sierra Leone | 36.9 |
| 139 | Afghanistan | 36.5 |
| 140 | Madagascar | 36.2 |
| 141 | Nigeria | 36.1 |
| 142 | Guinea | 35.9 |
| 143 | Burkina Faso | 35.6 |
| 144 | Haiti | 34.4 |
| 145 | Chad | 31.8 |
| 146 | Niger | 31.4 |
| 147 | Congo, Dem. Rep. | 31.3 |
| 148 | Liberia | 30.5 |
| 149 | Central African Republic | 26.1 |

Referring to the rankings is us clear that middle eastern and African countries are in the need of the most amount of aid. The other thing that is common among these countries is that they are all poor and most of them faced war in the past few decades or are facing one now. They have a lack of resources and governance. In various countries there aren't reliable leaders and a stable economy. Sometimes direct aid to the government doesn't reach the the citizens in need. for e.g. Yemen where only 10 percent of the aid given to government by the UK reaches the citizens.

Various of these countries have a very low per capita income as well. Thus these are majorly the countries which need to be focused upon. We need to find ways to help these countries grow.

As the ECOSOC we need to find better technology to help achieve the SDGs, unlike the UNDP we are not directly roped into the process of organising projects or campaigns to help achieve these goal. The need already exists and it is out job to come up with sustainable solutions and policies(economic in nature) to solve the problem.

# Regional Analysis

## Asia

Various countries in Asia face internal military conflict for example Afghanistan and Myanmar. Due to such a large landmasses and populations, the implementation of SDGs in Asia faces various blockades. Due to large landmasses the distribution of resources is uneven because of which to that certain regions remain underdeveloped, for example regions in Nepal, Ladhak and northern parts of Russia and Mongolia. Even though we have very large economies, populations are so large that the Per Capita Income sinks. Due to this basic amenities are unavailable and unaffordable

The long-lasting armed conflict in countries is has been weakening government institutions and decreasing economic performances, reducing the total employment, increasing inequality and disparity as the rebels grow at the cost of the citizens and increasing strain on public services and distribution systems. Conflict also tends to increase the gap between the people and government institutions; Therefore there is more scope for radicalisation when it comes to the youth and they are drawn to joining anti-government elements and to fighting against the government, escalating violence in the whole of the country. The vicious cycle of conflict intensifies poverty, which further feeds conflict and insecurity.

In countries like Myanmar, the ethnic divide runs deep that the legitimate governments have established majoritarian rule and the Rohingyas are systematically suppressed Due to which they cannot access resources. They also face a migration crisis and put more pressure on the neighbouring, which are underdeveloped too.

## Africa

This continent harbors the lowest SDG scores. It has various issues creating problems for it, for example poverty, hunger and lack of employment. Various countries face armed military conflicts and terrorist militant groups, especially the Sahel region. Reducing security and stability of the countries because of that provision of aid becomes a daunting task. In the Saharan region, extreme desertification and low fertility of soil, make production of food very difficult. Hunger and poverty plague these regions. The economies of these countries are also not very strong and they are

unable to provide basic standards of living. The presence of unfit rulers is another cause.

In Central African Republic(lowest SDG index), an emergency food security assessment by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and its partners has revealed that half the population of the Central African Republic (CAR) – nearly 2.5 million people – faces hunger. Moreover poverty plagues the country. This adds problems like lack of healthcare and education

## Middle East

The region faces concentration of extremists from various groups, like the Houthis in Yemen, ISIS, Al Qaeda and ISIL etc. This is the center for proxy wars in the world and has the maximum deployment of troops from the USA. Due to internal conflicts in multiple countries it becomes extremely dangerous to provide aid to citizens, who have been roped into the folds of the conflicts. Moreover, the religious divide in the Islamic countries and the extremist groups also fuel the conflict. The youth are heavily radicalized in the name of religion and they are drawn to joining anti-government elements and to fighting against the government, escalating violence in the whole of the country. The government institutions and their control over their control is very weak. Countries are trying to focus on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14. They also face various challenges like:-

- The availability of indicators for monitoring the SDGs and the question of their disaggregation; The growth and implementation of the SDGs has been very slow in this country thus there are not enough indicators in the workings of the country and the lifestyle of the citizens to guarantee the progress the country has made.

- The problem of financing the SDGs; the country like all its neighbouring countries has a weak economy and the SDGs require expensive technology for implementation.

- Adaptation of the planning system to the requirement of results in the context of the SDGs.

It requires changing the very way the country creates every implementation plan and the implementation.

**Note:** Delegates this is to bring to your notice that the Executive Board will be looking forward to discuss those countries in the second agenda that have not yet been discussed by the ECOSOC from the aspect of implementation of SDGs.

## Questions To Consider

- ***When renewable energy comes what will happen to jobs in oil and natural gas sector?***
- ***Is will well-prepared workers be able to keep up in the race with AI tools? And will market capitalism survive?***
- ***How to incorporate technology into the provision of healthcare in such countries?***
- ***How to secure passage for medical officers in war torn such countries?***
- ***How to better the ratio between medical staff and citizens in war torn countries and developing countries?***
- ***What kind of private public partnerships can be created to help better provision of healthcare?(reference to the company 'Zipline')***

## Links for Further Research:

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/03/countries-achieving-un-sustainable-development-goals-fastest/
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/05/science-of-learning/
https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-sector/our-insights/should-sub-saharan-africa-make-its-own-drugs
https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/pharmaceuticals-and-medical-products/our-insights/africa-a-continent-of-opportunity-for-pharma-and-patients
https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/90/1/12-030112/en/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnKnMgWy_tM ***(important to watch)***
https://stories.undp.org/solar-for-health
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16277Afghanistan.pdf
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/centralafricanrepublic
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/benin