



THE IFSPD PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWSHIP 2022

**THE IMPACT OF UNITED
NATIONS SDGs ON
SUSTAINABILITY**



ABOUT IFSPD:

IFSPD is an international non-governmental non-profit organization, established in 2009 by the initiative of distinguished intellectuals, scientific and public figures, diplomats, and representatives of influential non-governmental organizations from across the world.

IFSPD represents a civil society initiative for launching common actions and strengthening peace, dialogue, harmony, and cooperation between the countries of the wider Black Sea – Caspian Sea region in the field of enhancing democratic process, consolidation of civil society, economic development, environment, science, education, innovative technology, cultural diversity, tolerance and dialogue among civilizations.

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IFSPD Presidential Fellows - an internship program for exceptional youth across the world - to drive projects that would promote peace, sustainability, and development.

To reinvigorate the youth & reinforce positivity in the world, we assembled together a handful of the best-talented youth from across the world.

During the course of a few months, these youth have been implementing projects of critical importance to help rebuild our world - under the umbrella of our esteemed foundation IFSPD.

We are happy to release the regular IFSPD project report - done by Tayyaba Fazal Masters in Management Sciences - Finance, with the project "The Impact of United Nations SDGs on Sustainability". I am sure you would find this report insightful, and keep our flag flying as we strive to build a Greater IFSPD.

Best Wishes,



THE IMPACT OF UNITED NATIONS SDGs ON SUSTAINABILITY





Author

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About Project

Project Name: "Impact of UN SDGs on Sustainability"

About: I have worked on the project of writing an Article for IFSPD. The Topic of the article is "Impact of UN SDGs on Sustainability". As we are aware that the United Nations has been working on different initiatives and launched projects in order to make the world a better place. That's why I highlighted that aspect in my article and shed light on the contributions of the United Nations.

This Project for IFSPD explored different domains of 17 SDGs and spread awareness that how these SDGs are positively impacting the environment and bringing Peace. The main objective behind this is a global partnership and improving the sustainability of this planet and so far these goals have been achieved.

The data for this research was collected from a literature review, secondary sources, internet surfing, and previous knowledge. The start date of this Project was 9 August 2022 which ended on 9 September 2022.

This article has highly impacted a large audience all across the world, especially in South Asia, the issues of the sub-continent were highlighted and some strategies and suggestions were provided so that the governments can take the initiative to improve the condition of their country.

September 10, 2022



Project

"Impact of UN SDGs on Sustainability".

The United Nations has taken the initiative of promoting peace, prosperity, and development around the world. For this purpose, 17 Sustainable Development Goals were established and adopted by member states in 2015. These SDGs cover all aspects which are required for making this world sustainable. The main objective behind this global partnership was to create a framework that is followed by all the member states of the United Nations and to help in building up a positive, sustainable environment across the globe. Due to its efforts and strategies, today the UN is considered a symbol of Peace and Prosperity. The agenda of UN SDGs 2030 is "Transforming the World", which revolves around the idea of "peace and prosperity for people and the planet", to deal with global Challenges.

After World War II, it was decided that a certain organization should be formed which will prevent such situations in the future and avoid war. The United Nations was developed in 1945 to achieve the goal of global prosperity. Initially, there were 50 member countries which today exceeded 193. The UN started different programs and projects which revolve around sustainability. A specific budget is allocated for the funds so that no project is affected financially. That's why in 2022 a budget of \$3.12 billion was allocated. To effectively address all issues different platforms were created by the UN, including;

- "General Assembly"
- "Security Council"
- "UN Secretariat"
- "Trusteeship Council"
- "Economic and Social Council"
- "The International Court of Justice"



INTRODUCTION

The UN is working on the empowerment of underdeveloped and developing countries. Their main goal is to make each country self-sufficient. The main focus is on global peace and security which is emphasized repeatedly. The importance of the United Nations is highlighted because of its initiatives, projects, and strategies. The working framework of the UN is very effective as focused on 5 main areas which cover all aspects, including;

- "Protect Human Rights"
- "Uphold International Law"
- "Deliver Humanitarian Aid"
- "Maintain International Peace and Security"
- "Support Sustainable Development and Climate Action"

Sustainable Development Goals were established to address the Global issues which are faced by all countries all across the world. The conflict between countries, poverty, health issues, etc these topics can't be addressed alone by just 1 country, due to which the intervention of a 3rd party is required. The reason why the UN focused on 17 main issues was that if these areas are neglected and issues are not resolved properly, then it can lead towards negatively affect the lives of billions of people. It is a common belief that if the UN didn't exist then WW-III would have broken out long ago. "The 17 sustainable development goals to transform the world," include;

- "GOAL 1: No Poverty"
- "GOAL 2: Zero Hunger"
- "GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being"
- "GOAL 4: Quality Education"
- "GOAL 5: Gender Equality"
- "GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation"
- "GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy"
- "GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth"
- "GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure"
- "GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality"
- "GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities"
- "GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production"
- "GOAL 13: Climate Action"
- "GOAL 14: Life Below Water"
- "GOAL 15: Life on Land"
- "GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions"
- "GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal"

The UN has worked tremendously in the area of SDG 4 "Quality Education". It also linked economic growth and women's empowerment with education. In developing countries of South Asia like Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh there is a high rate of male dominance, and gender equality was not encouraged. The females of the household were only considered to do the daily house chores. The education rate for females was very low, but after the implementation of SDG 4, SDG 5 & SDG 10, the government and different NGOs have taken an initiative for women's empowerment by educating them.



IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE IFSPD

International organizations like International Foundation for Sustainable Peace and Development (IFSPD) are working on UN 17 SDGs and prioritizing sustainability. This organization has an agenda that is working on a positive impact on the environment. It has effectively contributed to the United Nations, European Union, and other international organizations. IFSPD has notable contributions to maintaining peace, and human rights, Regarding infrastructure this organization has done extensive research on one of the largest transport corridors i.e. The Great Silk Road. During the Pandemic, different areas of this organization were devoted to controlling the situation and research was done in this regard as well. IFSPD is keeping an eye on different issues and highlighting different aspects like;

- Pandemic
- Diplomacy
- Technology
- Digitalization
- Demographic Crisis
- Macroeconomic & Microeconomic Environment

IFSPD is mainly concerned with the following areas;

- Pandemic
- Diplomacy
- Technology

- Digitalization
- Demographic Crisis
- Macroeconomic & Microeconomic Environment

IFSPD is mainly concerned with the following areas;

- Peace
- Politics
- COVID-19
- Leadership
- Globalization
- Infrastructure
- Sustainability

IFSPD has worked on different Projects to promote sustainability around the world, including;

- "Research Programs"
- "COVID-19 impact and challenges"
- "Human Rights issues"
- "The Challenges of the Black Sea"
- "The New NATO Strategic Concept"
- "Environment, Maritime Resources and Pollution"
- "Environmental Legislation, Safety Engineering, and Disaster Management"
- "Innovation and Human Capital Development - Euro-Atlantic, Black Sea, and Caspian "Sea Area Studies"
- "International Fund for Cooperation and Partnership of the Black Sea and the Caspian "Sea (BSCSIF)"



IIFSPD is working on the initiatives of Sustainability, Peace, and Development. This organization is focused on the future and is working as a philanthropist, without any limitation of borders. Their agenda revolves around the idea of;

"From the Seas to the Oceans, from the Regions to the Continents! Our paths unite us!"

SDGs & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

If we analyze the industrial area, then different organizations have taken an initiative to reduce the pollution from the environment and went for recycling along with reducing industrial waste. In this domain, Nestlé is considered to be the top Multinational company that has created a framework that includes the initiative of Sustainability. Nestlé is mainly working on SDG 1, SDG 2 & SDG 8. This has positively influenced the lives of millions of people and contributed to economic growth. Other than these 3, Nestlé is working on the remaining 14 SDGs as well. Nestlé is working on Creating Shared Value for Individuals, Communities, and Planet.

The only setback which was faced during the implementation of these goals was due to the pandemic COVID-19. SDG 3, Health & Wellbeing was affected most as people around the world were getting sick and the pandemic was expanding at a higher rate. Eventually, social distancing, quarantine, and SOPs helped in controlling this pandemic after 2 years and the UN can work on SDG 3 more effectively.

The pandemic has also negatively affected SDG 4, Education due to lockdowns across the world. This issue was resolved by introducing online education by using virtual platforms so that processes of knowledge do not stop. Due to Pandemic COVID-19, The Goals of No Poverty, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, and Life on Land. This was because of a lockdown that has equally affected all areas and industries.

DISCUSSION

ROLE OF SDG 1 IN SUSTAINABILITY

No Poverty is stated as the first sustainable goal because it is the priority of the UN to provide the necessities to the people who are living below the poverty line and suffering economically, financially, and socially. SDG 1, No Poverty is mainly targeted toward underdeveloped countries and often developing countries are neglected. A certain social group of the society is supported, whereas others spend their whole life waiting for aid. In developing countries like Pakistan, due to the influence of the UN, different organizations have started working on SDG 1 and are offering help to those people who are living below the poverty line. Due to mismanagement the people who need financial aid most of them are neglected and due to this reason those who are truly in need, lack even the necessities and live below the poverty line. Until or unless, the government is unable to set a benchmark and implement the strategies, the nation won't be able to thrive and our social groups will be neglected.



IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON SDG 1

Technology has made it very easy to target different groups and assess which group of people or which country requires basic help to achieve the agenda of no poverty and eventually will be able to eradicate it. From a technological point of view, the only negative impact is that the technology is not properly used and there is room for improvement to achieve the goal of no poverty. The technological aspect has made it easier for organizations to reach and access the UN and become able to highlight their issues on the International forum. In Pakistan, technological barriers still exist in remote areas and different organizations and aid are unable to reach people on time people suffer due to a lack of basic resources, so technological advancements are highly required to promote the digital world. This will help in reducing the poverty rate, especially in underdeveloped areas.

The goal of No Poverty has enough tendency to make the economy of a country strong and make it more economically stable. The economy of underdeveloped countries has reasonably improved. SDG 1 is even functional in those countries which are highly developed and economically stable. So no financial aid is required there, but the budget is still fixed for them. The UN goal of no poverty was on the agenda of Pakistani politicians, since the beginning. Still, they weren't able to achieve this target up to 100 percent due to the economic crisis. After the economic crisis of 2002, things were even more complicated and the situation was uncontrollable.

Due to SDG 2, the goal of Zero Hunger became the top priority of the world. The goal of Zero Hunger has reasonably reduced the suffering of the people. The negative impact revolves around the issue of malnutrition among children. Food supplements that are provided to the kids of Underdeveloped areas are often not according to their nutritional requirements. Due to the goal of Zero Hunger, the government has started taking initiatives to promote their agriculture sector and work for the betterment of the farmers. This has reasonably improved the quality of our crops. Different organizations collect donations on behalf of the people, but they don't spend it on them and are unable to provide the basic necessity of food to the people. Pakistan is an Agricultural country, so it should work on growing crops on a larger level even to increase exports.

IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY

The technological trends are helping the UN to provide the correct statistics to properly monitor and track the record. There are some glitches in the technology often and most of the areas go missing where aid is required and no proper initiative is taken in this regard. In Pakistan, technology has allowed people to access different platforms which are offering help and gain enough support. Due to a lack of technology, the remote areas of Pakistan suffer the most and often they are neglected because they are unable to raise their voice. The overall economic condition is linked to the Financial stability of the country. If there will be zero hunger then it reflects that the economy is strong and the country is thriving.



The negative impact of technology only reflects how just one aspect can alter and affect the whole economy of the country. If the economy is stable then it shows that the country has worked on reducing the poverty level. The positive effect in Pakistan is reflected as underdeveloped areas of Sindh and Balochistan are eventually getting into a much better position than in the past years. The mismanagement of organizations and government will always be an issue for Pakistan as the incompetent people are unable to keep a balance between the economic area and finances. Government should take serious steps to reduce poverty and initiate campaigns to achieve this goal.

The positive impact on the environment is reflected if there is zero hunger and people will go towards prosperity. The negative impact on the environment is the survival of the fittest. It is becoming a competition to survive in society. In Pakistan, SDG 2 has a positive impact on the people so eventually, it has created a positive environment which reflects that our people can give their best when they are living in a positive environment. The negative impact in Pakistan is only regarding the wastage of food no proper action has been taken to reduce the wastage of food and there is no recycling to save the resources.

INITIATIVES BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The government of Pakistan should take initiative in developing different apps which provide the best possible solution for reducing the wastage of food.

The political parties and tycoons existing around the world are working on this initiative. The President of the US and the Prime Minister of Canada are continuously working on this agenda. The political parties can use this agenda for their benefit and can negatively influence the people just to get selected as the government. Zero hunger has always been a Tagline for the political parties to influence the nation, that's why in recent years a strong development was observed. In the past, the political parties have used this agenda for their benefit and can manipulate the nation. The government should take sincere initiatives and all steps to ensure this goal's success. The legal aspects of the UN SDG 2 revolve around the idea of different litigations regarding this goal and different people along with different organizations can highlight this agenda in different forums.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is suggested that the government of developing countries implement these 17 SDGs and incorporate them in every sector if they want to strive for a better future and become economically stable to be known as developed countries.
- If any country fails to integrate all of these SDGs then it won't be able to achieve its goals. UN SDGs and Sustainability are like two sides of the same coin. If a country will be properly focused on development goals then it means that it'll ultimately lead toward



sustainability, especially in the industrial sector and it'll ultimately lead to economic growth and financial stability.

- The main objectives of every government are a strong Economy, Less Poverty, better Health care facilities, Youth and Women Empowerment, Peace, and Better Environment. This agenda can be fulfilled by any Nation by prioritizing; People, Planet, and Peace. That's how social, economic, and environmental sustainability can be achieved.
- The developing countries should take help from international forums and get guidelines from international organizations, including IFSPD.



Conclusion

The efforts of the UN can't be denied as this platform has helped many Nations in achieving their goals and prosper. The living standards of different communities are much better today only because of following sustainable development goals. The positive impact of these 17 SDGs can be observed in underdeveloped and developing countries. Compared to the past few decades, it can be said that life on the planet is much better now. Due to their achievements, a secure future can be expected. The maximum impact is observed in the areas of Peace & Security along with Environmental Sustainability. Due to this, different organizations in the industrial sector are going towards the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. This is also effective for creating a positive brand image. This improved the standard of living and quality of life. In the end, it can be concluded that, if the UN didn't exist and 17 SDGs were not developed and international organizations like IFSPD were not effectively working, then today's world would have been at loss.



Impact of UN SDGs on Sustainability"

Author: Tayyaba Fazal

**Produced for International Foundation for
Sustainable Peace and Development (IFSPD)
(10 September 2022)**