



VMUN 2024

World Bank

BACKGROUND GUIDE



VANCOUVER MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The Twenty-Third Annual Session | January 26–28, 2024

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Dear Delegates,

My name is Amber Yang, and it is my utmost honour to serve as the Director of the World Bank at VMUN 2024. Along with your Chair, Lake Harris, and your Assistant Director, Oscar Li, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you.

Starting my MUN career in Grade 9 after being thrown into a conference unexpectedly, I have since developed a passion for the fast-paced debates and dramatic theatrics involved in solving simulated global crises. I have made some of my most treasured friends and memories through MUN, and I hope that the World Bank will be one of those thrilling experiences that you will always look back on.

The topics of discussion at this iteration of VMUN's World Bank will be the *Development of Rural Communities* and *Transitioning to Green Economies*. The first topic addresses the rift between the economic prosperities of countries and its relationship with social services, working conditions, and economic mobility. The latter topic discusses the future of the global economy and the world's progress towards sustainability, concerning reliance on carbon fuels, energy transitions, and the costs associated with it.

Both topics require extensive research to fully comprehend the extent of their impacts and potential, and I encourage you to seek out extensive historical and policy related information to flesh out your stance.

I hope you have an enlightening time of research, and please do not hesitate to reach out to me at wb@vmun.com if you have any questions or concerns. Along with the rest of your dais team, I eagerly await your arrival at VMUN 2024.

Best wishes,

Amber Yang
World Bank Director

Position Paper Policy

What is a Position Paper?

A position paper is a brief overview of a country's stance on the topics being discussed by a particular committee. Though there is no specific format the position paper must follow, it should include a description of your positions your country holds on the issues on the agenda, relevant actions that your country has taken, and potential solutions that your country would support.

At Vancouver Model United Nations, delegates should write a position paper for each of the committee's topics. Each position paper should not exceed one page and should all be combined into a single document per delegate.

For World Bank, position papers, although strongly recommended, are not required. However, delegates who wish to be considered for an award must submit position papers.

Formatting

Position papers should:

- Include the name of the delegate, their country, and the committee
- Be in a standard font (e.g. Times New Roman) with a 12-point font size and 1-inch document margins
- Not include illustrations, diagrams, decorations, national symbols, watermarks, or page borders
- Include citations and a bibliography, in any format, giving due credit to the sources used in research (not included in the 1-page limit)

Due Dates and Submission Procedure

Position papers for this committee must be submitted by **11:59 PM PT on January 22, 2024**. Once your position paper is complete, please save the file as your last name, your first name and send it as an attachment in an email to your committee's email address, with the subject heading as "[last name] [first name] — Position Paper". Please do not add any other attachments to the email.

Both your position papers should be combined into a single PDF or Word document file; position papers submitted in another format will not be accepted.

Each position paper will be manually reviewed and considered for the Best Researched award.

The email address for this committee is *wb@vmun.com*.

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Development of Rural Communities

Overview

Though inequalities between urban and rural areas have existed for centuries, vast urbanization, particularly migration, has been the central force in exacerbating these disparities.¹ Both youth and the employable population have increasingly moved from industrial and agricultural areas to metropolized cities with 56 percent of the global population residing in urban areas.² In order to address the rural-urban divide, solutions must further develop communities holistically with socioeconomic, environmental, political, and cultural reforms and policies.³

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defines communities where the population density is less than 150 residents per square kilometre as rural, and regions that are made up of predominantly rural communities as rural regions.⁴ These population categorizations help track human migration patterns, which allows for governments, researchers, and other economic bodies to find the relationship between the economic and labour market performances of a region. As an increasing number of inhabitants in rural areas relocate in pursuit of education and job opportunities, an increasing number of rural communities have gradually lost basic services, leading to decreasing economic diversity and sustainability. Aside from the depletion of personnel, rural communities face a wide variety of obstacles that hinder their development: losses in local foods due to crop abandonment and rural desertification, causing previously existing agricultural ecosystems to collapse; environmental degradation as foodstuffs that were previously locally sourced are imported instead; and losses in community and culture as populations age and decrease. Similarly, overpopulated cities face problems such as high costs of living, lacking infrastructure, heightened crime rates and civil unrest, and increased poverty. Both situations demand a balance in urban and rural communities to sustain a functional society.

Historically, rural development has been centred on the extraction of natural resources to achieve economic growth and engagement. However, recent shifts in production networks and global accessibility have allowed for recreation and tourism to become prominent industries as well. When education, infrastructure, community involvement, and policy amendments are recognized as critical components to promote the livelihood of rural communities, city planners often seek support from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other orders of government. Municipalities play a critical role in understanding the needs of local citizens and are oftentimes charged with attracting investors and initiating policy changes.⁵ Despite past efforts to achieve food security, promote sustainable agriculture, and procure provision of social services, the UN New World Social Report 2021

¹ Richard Rhoda, "Rural Development and Urban Migration: Can We Keep Them Down on the Farm?" *Sage Publications*, 1983, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2545923>.

² World Bank, "Rural Population," *World Bank*, 2018, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL>.

³ Karlyn Eckman, "Rural Households and Sustainability: Integrating Environmental and Gender Concerns into Home Economics," *Food and Agriculture Organization*, 1994, <https://www.fao.org/3/v5406e/v5406e02.htm>.

⁴ OECD, "OECD Regional Outlook 2016," *OECD Library*, 2016, <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/9789264260245-6-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/9789264260245-6-en>

⁵ Shauna Brail, "The Municipal Role in Economic Development," *Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance*, April 2022, <https://imfg.munkschool.utoronto.ca/report/economic-development/>.

states that 18 percent of people from rural communities still face extreme poverty.⁶ The introduction of industries, service networks, and public policies all have profound effects on how a community functions; they determine the employment opportunities available, quality of living, and interconnectivity with other communities.⁷ As such, delegates will need to consider economic and social ramifications of possible developmental mechanisms and suggest policies and projects accordingly in order to correctly appraise the situation and offer viable resolutions to the topic.⁸

Timeline

September 25, 1973 — After President Robert McNamara's speech at the 1973 Annual General Meeting in Nairobi Kenya, the World Bank officially becomes an organization dedicated to ending poverty and promoting sustainable prosperity instead of merely an international bank.^{9, 10}

December 10, 1999 — The Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) are released as a method of describing countries' economic structures and policies when addressing poverty reduction strategies.¹¹ These papers continue to be updated every three years.¹²

October 1983 — Starting as a research project in 1976, the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh is founded as the first successful bank that used micro-credit to reduce poverty and empower the marginalized.^{13, 14}

September 2000 — Eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are adopted by the United Nations (UNs). They are the first set of objectives dedicated to poverty eradication as a method of rural development.¹⁵

2003 — The Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) is started by the African Union with an objective to increase agricultural development.¹⁶

⁶ United Nations, "New World Social Report 2021: Reconsidering Rural Development, to be launched on 20 May 2021," *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, May 16, 2021, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/2021/05/wsr2021/>.

⁷ Zhang, Jing. "Multidimensional Evaluation of the Quality of Rural Life Use Big Data from the Perspective of Common Prosperity." *National Library of Medicine*, November 19, 2022, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9657861/>.

⁸ United Nations, "Social Protection in Rural Areas: Achieving Universal Access for All," *Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, May 21, 2021, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/2021/05/social-protection-in-rural-areas/>.

⁹ World Bank, "President McNamara 1973 Speech," *World Bank Archives*, September 24, 1973, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/archive/president-mcnamara-1973-nairobi-speech>.

¹⁰ United Nations, "The Nairobi Speech," *United Nations*, September 24, 1973, https://www.juerg-buergi.ch/resources/Archiv/Entwicklungspolitik-Archiv/Dokumente-zur-Entwicklungspolitik/McNamara_Nairobi_speech.pdf.

¹¹ Daniel Morrow, "Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and Sustainable Development," *International Institute for Sustainable Development*, January 23, 2001, https://www.iisd.org/system/files/publications/pe_morrow_presentation.pdf.

¹² International Monetary Fund, "Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP)," *International Monetary Fund*, December 28, 2016, <https://www.imf.org/external/np/prsp/prsp.aspx>.

¹³ Evaristus Mainsah, "Grameen Bank: Taking Capitalism to the Poor," *Columbia Business School*, 2004, https://www0.gsb.columbia.edu/mygsb/faculty/research/pubfiles/848/Grameen_Bank_v04.pdf.

¹⁴ Grameen Bank, "About Grameen Bank," *Grameen Bank*, May 2023, <https://grameenbank.org/>.

¹⁵ United Nations, "Millennium Development Goals," United Nations, 2000, <https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/bkgd.shtml>.

¹⁶ African Union, "The Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program," *African Union*, February 22, 2021, <https://au.int/en/articles/comprehensive-african-agricultural-development-programme>.

2013 — The Philippine's Rural Development Program (PRDP) is inaugurated by the Philippine's Department of Agriculture and funded by the World Bank and EU to develop rural fishery communities.^{17, 18}

2013 — The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is created by the Chinese government to improve regional integration and regional growth. The project is often accused of having exterior motives.¹⁹

September 2015 — UN Sustainable Development Goals are set as a successor of the UN Millennium Development Goals. 17 more goals are agreed upon to be reassessed in 2030.²⁰

June 23, 2017 — The CAADP and the East Africa Community (EAC) collaborate to form the AC CAADP Compact signed by all member states of the EAC, promising to allocate 10% of each nations' annual investment funds to agriculture.^{21, 22}

March 2018 — The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is adopted. It boosts intra-African trade and promotes rural development through increased market access.²³ This is the largest free trade area formed other than the World Trade Organization (WTO).²⁴

February 6, 2023 — The UN Commission for Development's 61st session addresses the mid-way point for the 2030 SDGs. It served to remind countries to take further steps in addressing the SDGs.²⁵

May 1, 2023 — The EU denounces tariff-free Ukrainian grain imports that were a result of the Russo-Ukrainian conflict. A targeted ban is extended until September under the context that locally produced grain prices were being reduced.²⁶

¹⁷ Jean Mangaluz, "DA Launches Agri-Fishery Development Project with World Bank," *Inquirer*, May 16, 2023, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1769919/fwd-da-launches-p65-3-billion-agri-fishery-development-projects-with-world-bank-un-agency>.

¹⁸ World Bank, "Philippine Rural Development Project," *The World Bank*, November 16, 2022, <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/procurement-detail/OP00205888>.

¹⁹ European Bank, "Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)," *European Bank*, 2013, <https://www.ebrd.com/what-we-do/belt-and-road/overview.html>.

²⁰ United Nations, "The 17 Goals," *United Nations*, 2015, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

²¹ EAC, "Overview of EAC," *East African Community*, August 1, 2023, <https://www.eac.int/overview-of-eac>.

²² Kilimo Kwanza, "EAC Countries Agriculture Status Scooping Studies," *Kilimo Kwanza*, December 13, 2016, <https://kilimokwanza.org/eac-countries-agriculture-status-scooping-studies-2018-and-the-level-of-realization-of-the-malabo-declarations-goals/>.

²³ African Union, "Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area," *African Union*, March 21, 2018, <https://au.int/en/treaties/agreement-establishing-african-continental-free-trade-area>.

²⁴ Charles Dietz, "What You Need to Know About the African Continental Free Trade Area," *African Business*, May 18, 2022, <https://african.business/2022/05/trade-investment/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-african-continental-free-trade-area>.

²⁵ OHCHR, "SDG Summit," *UN Human Rights Council*, 2023, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/sdgs/sdg-summit>.

²⁶ Jorge Liboreiro, "EU Extends Targeted Bans On Ukrainian Grain Until Mid-September," *Euronews*, May 6, 2023, <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2023/06/05/eu-extends-targeted-bans-on-ukrainian-grain-until-mid-september-despite-kyivs-objections>.

Historical Analysis

After World War II initiated a rebuilding period for major cities across the globe, governments began putting increased emphasis on economic development within rural areas in the 1950s, particularly on agricultural sectors.²⁷

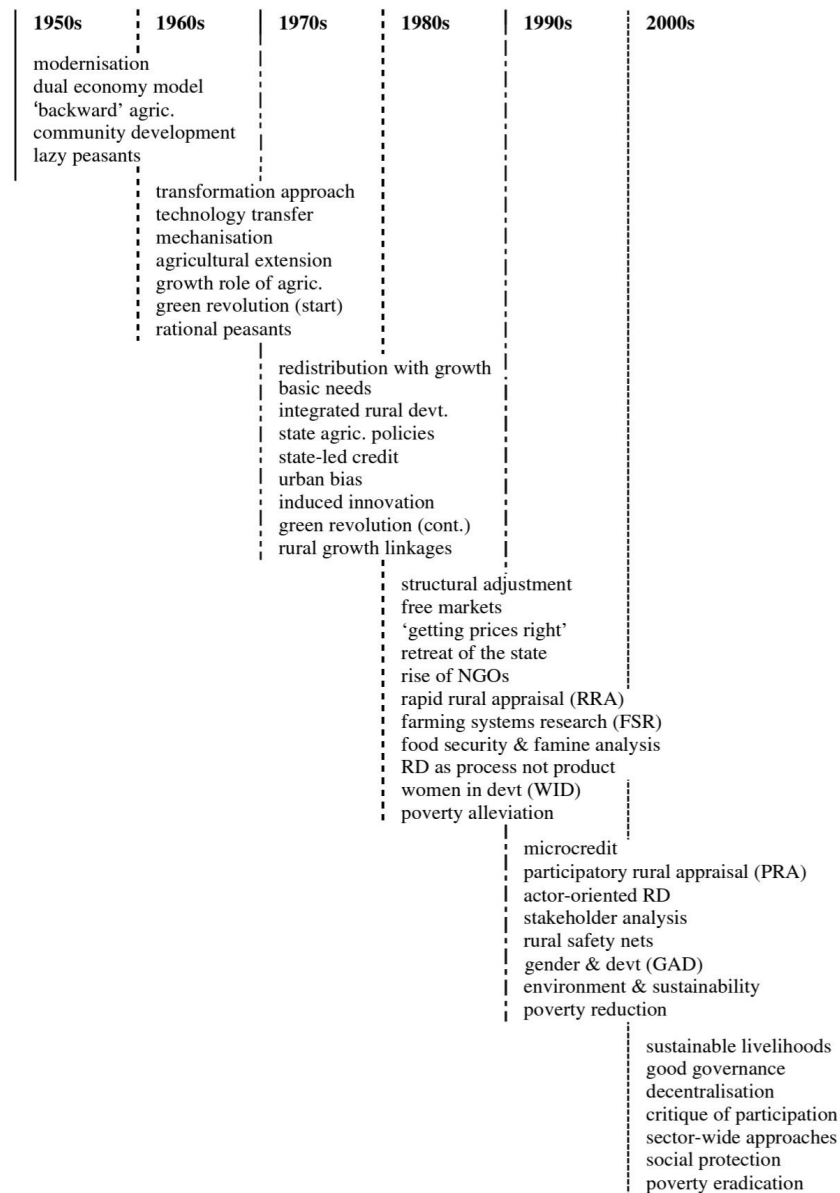


Figure 1: The rural development ideas timeline drafted by Frank Ellis and Stephen Biggs provides a brief overview of the transitions in rural development perspectives through the latter half of the twentieth century.²⁸

²⁷ United Nations, "Post-war Reconstruction and Development of the Golden Age of Capitalism," *United Nations*, 2017, https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/WESS_2017_ch2.pdf.

²⁸ Frank Ellis, "Evolving Themes in Rural Development 1950s-2000s," *Newcastle University*, 2001, <https://www.staff.ncl.ac.uk/david.harvey/AEF806/Ellis&Biggs2001.pdf>.

Large scale monocrop plantations began to replace small scale subsistence farms as their high profit yields attracted the attention of both the government and investors.²⁹ Small scale subsistence farming, on the other hand, was thought to limit capacity and potential for growth, and thus, these farms were slowly phased out.³⁰ This “paradigm shift” to mechanized farmsteads and factories replaced the peasant sector and championed efficiency and productivity.³¹ Modernization was the sole focal point of rural development as subsistence farming would not be recognized as instrumental until later years. Tradition farming, which was regarded as a backwards approach by peasants, was thought to obstruct that goal. Agricultural extension was popularized in the 1960s with the rise of technological advancement. As a result, local and Indigenous farming systems, tenure arrangements, and even gender roles, were discouraged. It was also during this period that the measurement for development became standardized through the endorsement of growth per capita or Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which continues to be the most accessible and relevant model of measurement.

Despite decades worth of progress, most rural development initiatives have been entirely agriculture based, seldom benefiting the poor and impoverished.³² This was partially due to reforms that occurred during the late twentieth century that were constrained by their invariable structure, and centralized policies that were implemented without taking note of characteristics or needs of the affected region. The World Bank Group (WBG) brought the topic of rural development to the forefront of the world when then president, Robert McNamara, addressed the importance of social equity in economic growth at the 1973 World Bank Board of Governors Annual General Meeting.³³ He emphasized the inadequacy of previous programs and devised a plan to enhance the societal and financial well-being of the less fortunate who depended on rural areas to sustain a livelihood, including local farmers, tenants, and the landless. In the following five years, rural development projects increased by 40 percent.³⁴ In the “Rural Development: Sector Policy Paper,” WBG aimed to direct 26 percent of its total investments—amounting up to USD 1 billion by 1979—with the goal of increasing economic productivity of rural communities by 5 percent annually.³⁵

In recent history, the trajectory of rural development has been constantly evolving. By the 1980s, decentralization and a free market were the newest philosophies to development.³⁶ However, accompanied by an international debt crisis, developing countries struggled to finance debt payments and import obligations simultaneously. This was exacerbated by the lack of government support in development, causing a decline most notable in many African countries.³⁷ WBG attempted to assist by urging investments of the private sector to fill the void left by

²⁹ Cesar Ayala, “The Decline of the Plantation Economy and the Puerto Rican Migration of the 1950s,” *Latino Studies Journal*, 1996, <https://lcw.lehman.edu/lehman/depts/latinampuertorican/latinoweb/PuertoRico/ayalamigration.pdf>.

³⁰ Mike Maketho, “Tracing the Origins of Rural Development,” *Medium*, February 25, 2019, <https://medium.com/@mikemaketho/rural-development-programs-have-been-around-since-the-1950s-but-the-concept-was-brought-to-the-701bd31360f8>

³¹ Lim Chang, “Climate Change and Food Systems Resilience Sub-Saharan Africa,” *Institute for Sustainable Development*, 2011, <https://www.fao.org/3/i2230e/i2230e.pdf>.

³² Peter Hazell, “Transformations in Agriculture and their Implications for Rural Development,” *London Imperial College*, 2007, <https://www.fao.org/3/ai191e/ai191e.pdf>.

³³ Verena Kröss, “The World Bank and Agricultural and Rural Development in the 1960s and 1970s,” *Jacobs University*, March 11, 2021, <https://opus.constructor.university/frontdoor/index/index/docId/961https://opus.constructor.university/frontdoor/index/index/docId/961>.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ William Robbins, “World Bank to Expand Aid for Poorest in Rural Areas,” *The New York Times*, March 9, 1975, <https://www.nytimes.com/1975/03/09/archives/world-bank-to-expand-aid-for-poorest-in-rural-areas-world-bank-maps.html>.

³⁶ Manfred Steger, “First-wave Neoliberalism in the 1980s,” *Oxford Academic*, January 2010, <https://academic.oup.com/book/705/chapter-abstract/135378613?redirectedFrom=fulltext&login=false>.

³⁷ Ernest Harsch, “Agriculture: Africa’s Engine for Growth,” *United Nations Economic Commission for Africa*, January 2004, <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/january-2004/agriculture-africas-engine-growth>

the government, but was met with little success.³⁸ Simultaneously, developed countries such as the United States experienced counterurbanization for the first time in over a century, with rural areas developing at a faster pace than cities.³⁹

These developments were succeeded by the creation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP), which were instituted by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to nurture accountability in poverty reduction efforts.⁴⁰ Through the PRSP, governments were urged to keep a long-term perspective in mind and take ownership of result-oriented initiatives that would benefit the poor.⁴¹ However, country participation was sparse and the project is often regarded as an instrument to continue debt and loan relationships between the World Bank and developing countries. It was only until the twenty-first century that poverty eradication surfaced as a priority of rural development.⁴²

Past UN/International Involvement

United Nations Millennium Development Goals

Eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were set as time-bound targets by the Millennium Declaration in 2000.⁴³ They encompassed poverty and hunger reduction, child mortality, universal education and healthcare, and the promotion of human and environmental rights. Each goal was split into 21 sub-targets and supported by 60 indicators; they were chosen as realistic and simple goals that were easy to communicate. This was a revolutionary achievement that provided all 189 participating states a common medium to communicate and reach global agreements. In 2015, results from the eight MDGs were concluded. Those in poverty living off of less than USD 1.25 per day were decreased by 33 percent, and the proportion of undernourished people decreased by 10.4 percent; global primary school net enrolment increased by 8 percent; two-thirds of countries have achieved gender parity in primary education; child and maternal mortality rates have both been reduced by half; HIV and AIDs infections decreased by 40 percent; 2.5 billion people have access to improved drinking water; and global assistance between nations increased by 66 percent.⁴⁴ Evidently, the project saw great success, but only three MDG targets were reached.⁴⁵ The UN MDG Goals Report 2015 concluded that a remainder of 1.5 billion people living in extreme poverty remain marginalized.⁴⁶

³⁸ World Bank, "Sub-Saharan Africa From Crisis to Sustainable Growth," World Bank, November 1989, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/498241468742846138/pdf/multi0page.pdf>.

³⁹ John Herbes, "RURAL GROWTH: ISSUE OF 1980's; New Analysis," *The New York Times*, March 9, 1981, <https://www.nytimes.com/1981/03/09/us/rural-growth-issue-of-1980-s-news-analysis.html>.

⁴⁰ International Monetary Fund, "Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP)," *International Monetary Fund*, December 28, 2016, <https://www.imf.org/external/np/prsp/prsp.aspx>.

⁴¹ https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/gdsmdpbg2420032_en.pdf

⁴² Department of Social Affairs, "First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty," December 1995, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/socialperspectiveondevelopment/united-nations-decade-for-the-eradication-of-poverty/first-un-decade-for-the-eradication-of-poverty-1997-2006.html>

⁴³ SDG Fund, "From MDGs to SDGs," *SDG Fund*, 2018, <https://www.sdgfund.org/mdgs-sdgs>.

⁴⁴ Achilleas Galatsidas, "What Have the Millenium Development Goals Achieved?" *The Guardian*, July 6, 2015, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/datablog/2015/jul/06/what-millennium-development-goals-achieved-mdgs>.

⁴⁵ Maya Fehling, "Limitations of the Millennium Development Goals: A Literature Review," *PubMed Central*, November 25, 2013, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3877943/>.

⁴⁶ World Vision, "Were the Millenium Development Goals a Success? Yes! Sort of," *World Vision*, July 3, 2015, <https://www.wvi.org/united-nations-and-global-engagement/article/were-mdgs-success>

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Superseding the MDGs, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development instigated 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.⁴⁷ Like the MDGs, the SDGs are not legally binding. All developmental initiatives are voluntarily adopted by individual governments, and the goals only serve as an operational agenda. Covering a range of topics, an annual progress report is published to serve as a platform to hold countries accountable for their progress and actions. Goals listed in the MDG such as pursuing climate action, sustainable cities, and responsible consumption continue to be worked towards alongside SDGs.⁴⁸ The most recent report details a reversal of past development headway due to residual economic complications left by COVID-19, inflation, and international conflicts.⁴⁹ Moreover, as SDGs predict that by 2030, there will still be over 575 million people in extreme poverty, and 400 million will be illiterate, SDGs heavily emphasize the importance of dunning towards educational facilities and healthcare.^{50, 51} However, the 2023 SDG report found an increase in hunger and extreme poverty from 2019 to 2021, with the global GDP expected to decline in 2023.⁵² Global unemployment rates dropped 1.1 percent in 2022, and are predicted to increase only moderately at the expense of a decreased income. 23.5 percent of youth were not in education, employment, or training (NEET), and rural populace is being affected most heavily.⁵³ These statistics reflect the consequences of countries not committing to these goals and the drawbacks of setting goals that are not legally binding. Additionally, the pandemic has stalled SDG progress and emerging states do not have the capital to fund SDG activities.⁵⁴ The World Bank has noticed data gaps in assessing country-level progress—out of 231 indicators, no country reported to all the indicators, and 22 countries reported less than a quarter of these indicators.⁵⁵ Despite recognizing that insufficient data submission directly hinders the progress of the SDGs and may even result in increased inequality and poverty, the UN does not have the power to force any signatory to comply with the SDGs. As of 2023, none of the SDGs have fulfilled their midway checkpoint.⁵⁶

World Bank and the Philippines Rural Development Project

The Philippines Rural Development Project (PRDP) was implemented by the Philippine's Department of Agriculture in 2013.⁵⁷ It was a six-year program dedicated to reforming the agriculture and fishery sectors by expanding market access, promoting competitiveness, and improving equipment and infrastructure

⁴⁷ United Nations, "The 17 Goals," *United Nations*, 2015, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

⁴⁸ UN SDGs, "Take Action for the Sustainable Development Goals," United Nations, 2018, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>.

⁴⁹ United Nations, "The 17 Goals," *United Nations*, 2015, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ UNECE Statistics, "Halfway to 2030: UNECE Reports Shows We Must Accelerate Progress to Achieve SDGs in the Region," *UNSDGs*, March 22, 2022, <https://unece.org/statistics/press/halfway-2030-unece-report-shows-we-must-accelerate-progress-achieve-sdgs-region>.

⁵⁵ Lucas Kitzmueller, "Are We There Yet? Many Countries Don't Report Progress on All SDGs According to the World Bank's New Statistical Performance Indicators," *World Bank Blogs*, August 10, 2021, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/are-we-there-yet-many-countries-dont-report-progress-all-sdgs-according-world-banks-new>.

⁵⁶ UNECE Statistics, "Halfway to 2030: UNECE Reports Shows We Must Accelerate Progress to Achieve SDGs in the Region," *UNSDGs*, March 22, 2022, <https://unece.org/statistics/press/halfway-2030-unece-report-shows-we-must-accelerate-progress-achieve-sdgs-region>.

⁵⁷ World Bank, "Philippine Rural Development Project," *The World Bank*, November 16, 2022, <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/procurement-detail/OP00205888>.

availability.⁵⁸ With the agriculture sector accounting for nine percent of the Philippine's GDP and a quarter of employment for working Filipinos, increasing the productivity of fisheries and aquaculture was of utmost importance.⁵⁹ In 2014, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) approved a loan of USD 508 million, followed by two additional financings in 2018 and 2021 to fund the PRDP.⁶⁰ The European Union (EU) also co-financed this project by supplying a grant of EUR 20 million for pressing situations in Mindanao.⁶¹ Officially inaugurated in 2015, WBG has since aided in providing agricultural services and equipment to 372,000 beneficiaries in the Philippines.⁶² The PRDP launched sub-projects that plan on reconstructing pipelines and roads in 2022, which will enable 378,000 farmers and fishers to transport their goods more efficiently.⁶³ Furthermore, embracing initiatives such as the Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIPs) have prioritized investment in the agriculture sector. Policy alterations that leverage funds appropriately have also made advanced fishing equipment more accessible. Through international efforts, the project was considered a success—market output grew by 51 percent while local household real income experienced a 113 percent increase.⁶⁴

Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program

Although Africa is experiencing drastic urbanization—with 40 percent of all African populations residing in cities—agricultural sectors in rural areas still employ approximately 60 percent of the working population.⁶⁵ Despite this, locally produced crops are not enough to feed its expanding urban population, and African countries collectively import an additional USD 50 billion worth of food annually.⁶⁶ Historically, African governments have neglected the importance of funding their massive agricultural sectors, which has caused food production to have grown a mere 0.06 percent annually in comparison to a 2.6 percent growth in population.⁶⁷ The African Union launched the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) in 2003, an extension of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which was created in 2001 to combat poverty and promote sustainability.⁶⁸ The CAADP was a sub-program and policy framework that targeted agricultural economic development to increase food security, labour opportunities, and income. The program's

⁵⁸ Republic of the Philippines, "What is the Philippine Rural Development Program," *Republic of the Philippines National Economic and Development Authority*, June 24, 2015, <https://nro13.neda.gov.ph/what-is-the-philippine-rural-development-program>

⁵⁹ World Bank, "Reducing Poverty in Rural Areas: Increasing Productivity and Incomes of Farmers and Fisherfolk in the Philippines," *The World Bank*, March 31, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/03/31/reducing-poverty-in-rural-areas>.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² World Bank, "Philippines: Additional Funding and Grant for Rural Development to Benefit More Than 300 000 Residents," *World Bank Press Release*, June 17, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/06/17/philippines-additional-funding-and-grant-for-rural-development-to-benefit-more-than-300-000-residents>

⁶³ Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, "DA-BFAR's FishCoRe Project Gets World Bank Approval," *Republic of Philippines*, August 14, 2023, <https://www.bfar.da.gov.ph/2023/06/13/da-bfars-fishcore-project-gets-world-bank-approval-to-start-implementation-in-august/>.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Philippe Egger, "Employment in Africa: Think agriculture," *International Labour Organization*, January 29, 2013, https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_203469/lang-en/index.htm.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Development Incorporated Africa, "Africa—Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP)," *Development Incorporated Africa*, 2012, <https://www.dai.com/our-work/projects/africa-comprehensive-africa-agriculture-development-programme-caadp>

short term effects were disappointing. There was no reflection on the quality of investments for African countries that met the budgetary targets set by the CAADP, and it was thought that the program's implementation strategies lacked momentum and were hardly comprehensive.⁶⁹ Later on, the East African Community (EAC), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Alliance for a Green Revolution (AGRA) cooperated to redefine the CAADP agenda and to inaugurate the Malabo Declaration in June 2014. These two initiatives now aim to not only increase intra-African agricultural trade by three fold, but also to reduce poverty levels across the continent. Both of these goals were reported to be on track for their 2025 target in 2017.⁷⁰ In the same year, the EAC CAADP Compact was signed by all EAC partner states to effectively coordinate cross-country regional programs and collectively prioritize agricultural development. African governments have agreed to increase public investment in the agricultural sector to 10 percent of the annual national budget with the objective of raising annual growth in productivity by 6 percent.⁷¹ These have been one of the first steps that African governments have taken collectively to address increasing their agricultural production capacities.

Current Situation

Rural development continues to be a topic of significant discussion. As of 2022, 43.1 percent of the global population is considered to live in rural areas, and this number is expected to grow by 26.9 percent by 2050.⁷² Currently, in developing countries such as Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, and Uganda, over 70 percent of civilians reside in rural areas; in contrast, Singapore and Monaco are some of the only nations considered completely urbanized.⁷³ The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) estimated in 2023 that 84 percent of the impoverished in emerging and developing states lived in rural areas.⁷⁴ Different strategies have been employed to develop rural communities, combat poverty, and induce a financially active economy. Ranging from trade liberalization to social service facilitation, all of the induced causes have been supported by the WBG and other UN Bodies. However, due to the repercussions of COVID-19, global trade wars, and the ongoing war in Ukraine, rural development has seen a plateau or decline.

Rural Development in Africa and Latin America

Projects such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, established in March 2018 by the African Union, continue to produce significant results in 2023.⁷⁵ As the largest free trade area in the world,

⁶⁹ Lesley White, "After 10 years, Does CAADP Understand Political Economy?" *Future Agriculture*, April 2, 2014, <https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/after-10-years-does-caadp-understand-political-economy/>.

⁷⁰ Owora Othieno, "EAC Partner States Sign CAADP Compact to Transform Agriculture for Inclusive Economic Development," *East African Community*, June 23, 2017, <https://www.eac.int/press-releases/141-agriculture-food-security/803-eac-partner-states-sign-caadp-compact-to-transform-agriculture-for-inclusive-economic-development>.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "68% of the World Population Projected to Live in Urban Areas by 2050, Says UN," *United Nations*, 2018, <https://www.un.org/uk/desa/68-world-population-projected-live-urban-areas-2050-says-un>.

⁷³ The Global Economy, "Rural Population, Percent - Country Rankings," *The Global Economy*, 2021, https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/rural_population_percent/.

⁷⁴ UNDP, "25 Countries Halved Multidimensional Poverty Within 15 Years, But 1.1 Billion Remain Poor," *UNDP*, July 11, 2023, <https://www.undp.org/ghana/press-releases/25-countries-halved-multidimensional-poverty-within-15-years-11-billion-remain-poor>.

⁷⁵ Robert Echandi, "Free Trade Deal Boost Africa's Economic Development," *The World Bank*, June 30, 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/trade/publication/free-trade-deal-boosts-africa-economic-development>.

it has raised incomes by nine percent and lifted 50 million people out of poverty, particularly through further engaging 1.3 billion African rural residents in markets. Seeing the positive outcomes of creating a free trade zone, the World Bank highly encourages similar regional integration programs to be collaborated on in other regions with smaller developing countries.

Meanwhile, in Latin American and Caribbean states, approximately 77 million inhabitants of rural communities have inadequate access to functional internet services, as reported by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Inter-American Development Bank in 2020.^{76, 77} Not only is this a technological barrier, but it is also an obstacle to health, education, social services, employment, and the entirety of the Latin American economy. Data sources show that a 0.01 percent increase in broadband penetration would correspond to a 0.15 percent increase in GDP, but impediments including a lack of electrical infrastructure, device affordability, and geographic accessibility, impede connectivity.⁷⁸

Case Study: Tourism in Sri Lanka

Tourism has become a viable and frequently pursued method to stimulate rural development. With the potential of cultivating job opportunities, heightening economic circulation, and cultural promotion, it is a realistic way to involve foreign investors and bring more capital into local businesses and markets. Moreover, it is an easy industry to adopt as pre-existing amenities, materials, and skills can be used, including monetizing historical heritage sites, selling cultural foods and art pieces, and marketing scenic landscapes. The tourism sector generated USD 633 million in 2021, making it the third largest income generator in Sri Lanka.⁷⁹ Ranking 74th out of 141 countries in the Travels and Tourism Competitiveness Report issued by the World Economic Forum, it employs 11 percent of Sri Lankan people. To ensure that tourist conditions are safe and to incentivize future tourists, popular tourist destinations in local areas have built medical facilities, paved roads, industrial centres, and other infrastructure.⁸⁰ Despite its success, the Sri Lankan government holds USD 1.3 billion in outstanding debt in the hotel sector, and is seeking foreign investments through the creation of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA). The government is also looking into the establishment of local resorts to further incorporate rural communities into the sector.⁸¹ Moreover, the influx of tourists and investors contributes to the Sri Lankan agricultural sector, which makes up 8 percent of the country's GDP.⁸²

⁷⁶ Inter-American Development Bank, "At Least 77 Million Rural Inhabitants Have No Access to High-Quality Internet Services," *Inter-American Development Bank*, October 29, 2020, <https://www.iadb.org/en/news/least-77-million-rural-inhabitants-have-no-access-high-quality-internet-services>.

⁷⁷ IICA News, "Rural Connectivity in Latin America and the Caribbean," *Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture*, October 29, 2020, <https://iica.int/en/press/news/least-77-million-rural-inhabitants-latin-america-and-caribbean-have-no-access-high>.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ International Trade Administration, "Travel and Tourism," *International Trade Administration*, December 13, 2022, <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/sri-lanka-travel-and-tourism>.

⁸⁰ Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, "Strategic Plan for Sri Lanka Tourism," *SLTDA*, April 2022, https://www.sltlda.gov.lk/storage/common_media/Sri_Lanka-Final_V6_Edited850147500.pdf.

⁸¹ S.T. Seelan, "Strengthening Rural Destination Tourism in the Eastern Part of Sri Lanka," *LinkedIn*, December 16, 2022, <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/strengthening-rural-destination-tourism-eastern-part-sri-s-t-seelan/>.

⁸² Ibid.

Furthermore, the Integrated Road Investment Program (iRoad), dedicated to both transportation services in trade, tourism, and connectivity, has built 5,600 km of rural roads across nine provinces.⁸³ Funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the objective of this project is to provide rural communities the means to connect economically and socially on the national scale.⁸⁴ The Sri Lankan ADB Country Director, Sri Widowati, firmly believes that the construction of iRoad will aid in reducing acute poverty in rural geographies.⁸⁵ She states that not only would convenient road systems increase marketing opportunities by granting access to socioeconomic centres for rural communities and tourists to enjoy, but educational enrolment would increase without the deterrence of difficult transportation.⁸⁶ Healthcare facilities and other social service networks would also become more accessible and easier to implement.⁸⁷

Case Study: China's Rural Development Initiatives

With China outpacing the rest of the world in terms of economic development, it has implemented various successful, but also controversial rural expansion projects. There has been a significant reduction in the amount of people living in rural areas from 64.12 percent in 2000 to 37.49 percent in 2023.⁸⁸ China's extensive economic reforms, which are a part of President Xi Jinping introduced the Rural Revitalization Strategy in 2017, strongly emphasize strengthening agricultural sectors, improving the property rights of farmers, and protecting the environment.⁸⁹ In order to achieve those results, the focus of these policies included improving soil irrigation systems, encouraging the production of key crops, and implementing disaster response systems.⁹⁰ That being said, they have subjected rural communities to environmental degradation and income inequality. Since then, 98.99 million residents have been lifted out of the poverty line, and all 832 impoverished counties and 128,000 villages have been removed from the UN poverty list.⁹¹ This has made China the first developing nation to fulfill the UN SDG poverty eradication target.⁹² Aside from the Rural Revitalization strategy, numerous other policies have been implemented simultaneously: the 14th Five Year Plan (2021–2025), which aims to address innovative low-carbon agricultural development and rural-urban interaction;⁹³ the Rural Revitalization Promotion Law (RRPL), which stipulates protecting basic cropland and enforcing ecological compensation mechanisms;⁹⁴ and a

⁸³ Malik Fernando, "Road Ahead for Sri Lanka Tourism Recovery," *Travel World Economic Times*, September 5, 2022, <https://travel.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/destination/international/road-ahead-for-sri-lanka-tourism-recovery/94000313>.

⁸⁴ Asian Development Bank, "Sri Lanka: Integrated Road Investment Program-Tranche 2," ADB, 2022, <https://www.adb.org/projects/47273-004/main>.

⁸⁵ The Government of Official News Portal, "ADB's iRoad Project: Brings Multiple Benefits to Communities," *News.lk*, July 11, 2019, <https://www.news.lk/fetures/item/26381-adb-s-iroad-project-brings-multiple-benefits-to-communities>.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ World Bank, "Sri Lanka Rural Roads Link Villages to Cities Improving Rural Economy," *World Bank News*, January 27, 2014, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/01/27/sri-lanka-rural-roads-link-villages-to-cities-improving-rural-economy>.

⁸⁸ Macrotrends, "China Rural Population 1960-2023," *Macrotrends*, 2023, <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/CHN/china/rural-population>.

⁸⁹ Alexander Koty, "China's Revitalization Strategy: Opportunities for Investment," *China Briefing*, March 10, 2022, <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/chinas-rural-revitalization-strategy-opportunities-for-investment/>.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Genevieve Donnellon-May, "China's Push to Advance Rural Revitalization," *The Diplomat*, February 12, 2022, <https://thediplomat.com/2022/02/chinas-push-to-advance-rural-revitalization/>

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Rogier Creemers, "Translation: 14th Five Year Plan for National Informatization," *Stanford University*, January 24, 2022, <https://digichina.stanford.edu/work/translation-14th-five-year-plan-for-national-informatization-dec-2021/>.

⁹⁴ The National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, "China Adopts New Law to Promote Rural Vitalization," *Xinhua News Agency*, April 30, 2021, <http://www.npc.gov.cn/englishnpc/c23934/202104/ae7e6ca039cb46f4a9eb376efe9d1550.shtml>

new Common Prosperity Policy that is focused on alleviating systematic inequalities stemming from capitalism.⁹⁵ In particular, the 14th Five Year Plan has increased grain production by 650 millions tons by introducing modernized technologies.⁹⁶ The goal of granting urban residency to 100 million households without urban registration has also been met, and construction projects to develop those vacated pieces of land are being discussed.⁹⁷ On April 28, 2023, the World Bank approved a USD 345 million loan in support of the China Green Agricultural and Revitalization program, aiming to improve biodiversity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to eradicate poverty by instilling resilience in the sustainability of green farming projects.⁹⁸ Recognizing that the natural composition of local topography is a valuable asset to rural areas that rely on the environment to survive, the China Green Agricultural and Revitalization program has transformed 27,000 villages by incorporating water, waste, and recycling management systems.⁹⁹ Despite impressive progress in agricultural development and employment rates in China, urban communities still experience issues with the corruption of local governments and a lack of protection in farmers' rights. In 2022, the World Bank reported that 26 percent of China's population continues to be rural, and the Chinese government is striving to turn these rural communities into "future villages," as stated at the second China Agricultural Entrepreneurs Summit.^{100, 101} Currently, this ideal includes preserving the agricultural characteristics of a rural area, while also modernizing living conditions.¹⁰²

Possible Solutions and Controversies

Infrastructural Development

The enhancement of infrastructure in rural areas is necessary for further economic development and can significantly advance the quality of life for civilians.¹⁰³ Oftentimes, rural communities lack basic infrastructure such as paved roads, railroads, bridges, schools, and sewage systems. Without the support of proper infrastructure, which comes hand-in-hand with social services, it is impossible for communities in rural areas to engage in rural development.¹⁰⁴ Instead, it incentivizes migration to larger cities, resulting in an increase in both

⁹⁵ David Bulman, "Xi Jinping Says He Wants to Spread China's Wealth More Equitably. How Likely is that to Actually Happen," *ChinaFile*, March 3, 2023, <https://www.chinafile.com/conversation/common-prosperity-China-wealth-redistribution>.

⁹⁶ Government of China, "Outline of the 14th Five Year Plan," *Government of China*, August 9, 2021, https://www.fujian.gov.cn/english/news/202108/t20210809_5665713.html

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Mara Warwick, "New Program Promotes Green Agriculture and Rural Development in China," *The World Bank*, April 28, 2023, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2023/04/28/new-program-promotes-green-agriculture-and-rural-development-in-china>.

⁹⁹ Genevieve Donnellon-May, "China's Push to Advance Rural Revitalization," *The Diplomat*, February 12, 2022, <https://thediplomat.com/2022/02/chinas-push-to-advance-rural-revitalization>

¹⁰⁰ Trading Economics, "China-Rural Population," *Trading Economics*, 2022, <https://tradingeconomics.com/china/rural-population-percent-of-total-population-wb-data.html>

¹⁰¹ Houkai Wei, "Future Development Trends in Rural Areas," *China-CEE Institute*, May 19, 2023, <https://china-cee.eu/2023/05/19/future-development-trends-in-rural-areas/>.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Paulo Santos, "Assessing the Socio-Economic Impacts of Rural Infrastructure Projects on Community Development," *Academic Open Access Publishing*, July 3, 2022, <https://www.mdpi.com/2075-5309/12/7/947>.

¹⁰⁴ ILO, "Infrastructure, Poverty Reduction, and Jobs," *International Labour Organization*, 2023, https://www.ilo.org/global/docs/WCMS_099513/lang--en/index.htm.

urban and rural poverty rates.¹⁰⁵ In order to facilitate infrastructural development, local governments must first identify the demands of the rural area. Existing land geography and infrastructure must be evaluated, and developing governments will need to prioritize which construction projects come first. For example, the construction of a hospital may be a more urgent project than the construction of a school. In addition to the physical construction of infrastructure, infrastructural development also includes recruiting human capital. Skilled workers and expertised individuals will often need to be outsourced, but without an incentive to relocate to rural areas, most will likely be reluctant to move. The World Bank can help create programs to engage this human capital, whether it is funding local governments to increase the wages of skilled workers such as doctors and teachers who decide to relocate or providing free housing. For the past thirty years, the ILO has also contributed immensely in rural development, offering central governments in the Asia Pacific region guidance in securing appropriate policy framework adaptations and helping with city planning, design, and implementation of development projects.¹⁰⁶ This is a model that can continue to be followed when addressing developing countries that lack the personnel to effectively analyze and draft proper development plans, and the UN may dispatch advisory committees to countries that request assistance. These advisory committees would inspect the region and guide local governments on proper next steps. Strategies to implement rural infrastructure programs have been adopted by international development agencies and governments, resulting in many documented cases of implementations.¹⁰⁷ These pieces of documentation can act as examples that developing governments can learn from and the UN can create a platform where similar pieces of information can be easily accessed.

Encouraging Economic Diversification

Economic diversification refers to the process of shifting a regional economy away from a singular source of income or GDP and broadening the spectrum of industries and professions available.¹⁰⁸ Depending on a region's culture, environment, topography, and pre-existing industries, diversified sectors can range from manufacturing, to tourism and resource extraction. For example, if the predominant sector in an area is agriculture, then a flexible industry such as tourism may be a more realistic option than manufacturing, which may disrupt other existing sectors when there becomes competition for labourers.¹⁰⁹ Developing a diversified economy not only fosters additional training and job opportunities, but it also creates a sustainable economy that is less vulnerable to economic volatility and is conducive to economic growth.¹¹⁰ Chile is an excellent example of a developing nation with a diverse rural economy, exporting over 2,800 unique products to over 120 nations globally despite its remote location.¹¹¹ However, a complex set of policies and regulations are necessary

¹⁰⁵ Danny Gavin, "The Rural Migration Trend: What to Make of It, Why It's Happening, and Where It's Headed," *Association of Equipment Manufacturers*, February 16, 2023, <https://www.aem.org/news/the-rural-migration-trend-what-to-make-of-it-why-its-happening-and-where-its-headed>.

¹⁰⁶ International Labour Organization, "Developing Rural Infrastructure," *International Labour Organization*, 2019, https://www.ilo.org/asia/WCMS_099466/lang--en/index.htm

¹⁰⁷ OECD, "Implementing the Rural Well-being Policy Framework," *OECD Library*, 2022, <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/9f760bc0-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/9f760bc0-en>.

¹⁰⁸ World Bank Group, "Economic Diversification: Lessons from Practice," *World Trade Organization*, 2019, https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/aid4trade19_chap5_e.pdf.

¹⁰⁹ Aamena Alshamsi, "What is the Optimal Way to Diversify an Economy," *MIT Media Lab*, 2018, <https://www.media.mit.edu/projects/strategic-diffusion/overview/>.

¹¹⁰ Gonzalos Salinas, "How Countries Can Diversify Their Exports," *IMF Blog*, September 22, 2021, <https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2021/09/22/how-countries-can-diversify-their-exports>.

¹¹¹ Cecile Fruman, "Economic Diversification: A Priority for Action, Now More Than Ever," *World Bank Blogs*, March 1, 2017, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/psd/economic-diversification-priority-action-now-more-ever>

to moderate a functional diverse economy; by introducing new industries, policies must be prepared to address trade costs, foreign investment, and business competition. For example, by involving the manufacturing industry, governments will need to decide how to communicate with manufacturing businesses, set guidelines for working conditions, and determine policies on tariffs.¹¹² In addition, governments must consider the different types of diversification—either the expansion of pre-existing sectors or the endorsement of new sectors—and evaluate which fiscal diversification method best fits their rural economy’s current status.¹¹³

Promoting Microfinance Initiatives and Entrepreneurship

A lack of access to the global market, credit, and exclusion from other financial systems is regarded as a major obstacle in the rural poor’s attempt to develop.¹¹⁴ According to a study conducted by the World Bank, 1.4 billion adults across the globe, with the majority of this populace residing in emerging states, had no access to a bank account or financial institutions.¹¹⁵ In particular, small businesses are crucial components to economic growth as they connect rural communities to outside markets. However, small businesses heavily rely on banks for loans and funding, indicating that without access to a local financial institution, communities are less likely to grow economically without the assistance of these businesses.¹¹⁶ These regions are perfect contenders for utilizing microfinance institutions. Microfinance institutions are designed to save funds, supply loans, and impart insurance in smaller amounts in comparison to large-scale commercial banks. This suggests that rural communities with low-income populations can adopt microfinance institutions as an alternative when no national or global financial institution is available.¹¹⁷ Furthermore, small-sized businesses can utilize microfinance institutions for entrepreneurship initiatives to increase job opportunities and possibilities of income.¹¹⁸ Although somewhat experimental, by introducing microfinance institutions, or similar projects, entrepreneurs and businesses can operate within rural communities without being forced to relocate to urbanized cities, promoting competitiveness and helping communities reach and expand local markets. What makes this plan difficult is that private investors must be involved and its novelty suggests plenty of risks.¹¹⁹ Thus, before introducing a microfinance institution to a region, the authority implementing the project, usually a government, must provide a structured blueprint, including formal policies on loans, confidentiality and transparency rules, and a clear code of conduct. Information such as the types of banking available, interest rates on loans, the amount of money that can be loaned, and other financial services must be specified, especially for a population that is not accustomed to banking. This aims to prevent any disputes about money in the future.

¹¹² World Bank Group, “Economic Diversification: Lessons from Practice,” *World Trade Organization*, 2019, https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/aid4trade19_chap5_e.pdf.

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Liliana Rojas-Suarez, “Access to Financial Services in Emerging Powers,” *OECD Development Centre*, March 2010, <https://www.oecd.org/dev/pgd/45965165.pdf>.

¹¹⁵ World Bank, “COVID-19 Boosted the Adoption of Digital Financial Services,” *World Bank Feature Stores*, July 21, 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2022/07/21/covid-19-boosted-the-adoption-of-digital-financial-services>.

¹¹⁶ Banking Strategist, “Banks as Vital Infrastructure for Rural Communities,” *Banking Strategist*, December 10, 2018, <https://www.bankingstrategist.com/commentaries/2018/12/6/banks-as-vital-infrastructure-for-rural-communities>.

¹¹⁷ Andréé Simon, “Microfinance,” *Foundation for International Community Assistance*, 2016, <https://finca.org/our-work/microfinance>

¹¹⁸ Andrew Lacey, “What is Microfinance and Why Does it Matter for Investors,” *Schroders*, November 1, 2019, <https://www.schroders.com/en/global/individual/insights/what-is-microfinance-and-why-does-it-matter-for-investors/>. Andrew Lacey, “What is Microfinance and Why Does it Matter for Investors,” *Schroders*, November 1, 2019, <https://www.schroders.com/en/global/individual/insights/what-is-microfinance-and-why-does-it-matter-for-investors/>.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

Bloc Positions

Africa

African nations have taken a proactive role in developing rural economies as 80 percent of its population resides and works in the rural sector.¹²⁰ Many local governments and NGOs have supported and created development initiatives that have continued for decades. Thanks to the AfCFTA, African countries now have a platform for trade and it has provided many opportunities for employment by expanding the agricultural, transportation, and manufacturing sectors. Despite exceptional growth in rural development, Africa still struggles with mobilizing adequate resources to fund its initiatives that were often initially funded through loans from official development assistance and foreign direct investment from the World Bank, IMF, and other countries. This is not sustainable, and in the foreseeable future, African countries will need to focus on their own agricultural reforms, with an emphasis on sourcing funding for these projects by growing local markets. China has been a long-term partner of African development and primarily invests in African rural development through the BRI. That being said, it also has other projects such as Utilizing the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) initiated by the African Union and EAC. This project has allowed for the construction of thousands of kilometers of roads, railways, and bridges between 2000 and 2020, supplying better infrastructure and work opportunities across the continent.¹²¹ The African Development Bank stated that the improved facilities will allow for improved domestic and international trade, and thirteen African countries—notably Nigeria and Angola—continue to be large importers.¹²² Intra-African trade is largely resource oriented; petroleum in Egypt and Algeria; iron and copper in Liberia and Zambia; cotton in Chad; sugar in Ethiopia and Madagascar, and more.¹²³ While Africa is one of the largest suppliers of minerals to the world, growing their domestic and international market reach could increase rural incomes and employment opportunities.

Asia

Most developed countries in Asia have small and well-regulated rural economies that do not require further development. For example, Japan has a rural population accounting for 8 percent of its population.¹²⁴ Already a small number, Japan's countryside is a renowned tourist destination and poverty is nearly unseen. Singapore is fully urbanized, and relies heavily on imports from rural communities elsewhere to obtain produce and other products. Larger developing nations such as India and China have implemented respective measures to tackle poverty and utilize their initiatives to bolster their economies. Other nations in central Asia, such as Tajikistan, emphasize the importance of their agricultural sectors, and many have reached out to global organizations such as the World Bank to request assistance.¹²⁵ In 2019, the World Bank approved a USD 30 million project to assist

¹²⁰ Isaac Ogunkola, "Rural Community in Africa Should Not Be Forgotten in Responses to COVID-19," *PubMed Central*, August 13, 2020, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7436649/>.

¹²¹ Liu Chang, "Cooperation with China Brings Better Infrastructure, More Jobs, Sustainable Development to Africa," *Xinhua News Agency*, December 13, 2022, <https://english.news.cn/20221213/f6993d13f1914b97a4bdd07989b0ea90/c.html>.

¹²² Robert Bociaga, "China-Africa Trade Soars on Spike in Commodity Prices," *Nikkei Asia*, January 27, 2023, <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/China-Africa-trade-soars-on-spike-in-commodity-prices>

¹²³ Robert Gardiner, "Trade of Africa," *Britannica*, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Africa/Trade>.

¹²⁴ Trading Economics, "Japan Rural Population," *Trading Economics*, 2023, <https://tradingeconomics.com/japan/rural-population-percent-of-total-population-wb-data.html>

¹²⁵ World Bank, "World Bank in Central Asia," *World Bank*, 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/eca/brief/central-asia>.

Tajikistan in developing rural populations through tourism and agricultural development.¹²⁶ Since the majority of rural central Asia relies heavily on agriculture, these countries share Tajikistan's stance in development. These two sectors are often the first to be approached to better the general welfare of rural communities and to increase income for developing countries because they require less initial investment. Despite numerous advancements, there is still an increasing gap between the rich and poor in Asian nations, and the top 1% of households are responsible for 10% of total market consumption.¹²⁷

Europe

Rural development in countries in Europe functions off of a decentralized basis conducted by the main administrative regions of the country instead of the government itself. Germany, for example, has adopted 13 Rural Development Programs that are approached differently depending on the region that they target.¹²⁸ Similarly, France utilizes the same system but with 27 Rural Development Programs funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.¹²⁹ Most developing countries in Europe, such as Moldova, also share a large agriculturally based community and employ systems that promote agricultural development and diversification. This is similar to the United Kingdom (UK), which supports the Rural Development program for England (RDPE) that is targeted in increasing competitiveness in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

Countries in eastern Europe are the most affected by the ramifications of the Russo-Ukrainian war due to geographical proximity and trade partnerships.¹³⁰ Many able citizens have fled to other countries for asylum, but those who remain are often from rural communities. The war has impacted economic and production systems negatively, disrupting supply chains, price volatility, and reducing rural agriculture independence, but neither Russia and Ukraine can direct their attention to mediating these issues before the conflict is resolved. Simultaneously, neighbouring countries such as Poland, Romania, and Slovakia are debating the effects of tariff-free grain imports from Ukraine, which are plummeting prices and endangering the incomes of local farmers.

North America

Approximately one in five Americans live in rural communities, but nearly 97 percent of the country's land mass is considered rural.¹³¹ Similarly, only 17.8 percent of Canadians reside in rural areas that attribute to an even larger land mass.¹³² This large portion of land hosts the majority of resource-based industries such as agriculture, recreation, mining, and forestry, which are some of the largest industries in the United States and Canada. The United States' Rural Development program supervised by the Department of Agriculture effectively addresses

¹²⁶ David Theis, "World Bank Announces Planned Actions for Global Food Crisis Response," *World Bank Press Release*, May 18, 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/05/18/world-bank-announces-planned-actions-for-global-food-crisis-response>.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ European Union, "Germany," *EU Network for Rural Development*, 2016, https://ec.europa.eu/enrd/country/germany_en.html.

¹²⁹ European Union, "France," *EU Network for Rural Development*, 2017, https://ec.europa.eu/enrd/country/france_en.html

¹³⁰ Ryszard Smolarek, "Role of Interregional Co-operation for Agricultural and Rural Development," *Committee on the Environment and Agriculture*, August 31, 2001, <https://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/X2H-Xref-ViewHTML.asp?FileID=9460&lang=EN>.

¹³¹ Olugbenga Ajilore, "Redefining Rural America," *Center For American Progress*, July 17, 2019, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/redefining-rural-america/>.

¹³² Statistics Canada, "Population Growth in Canada's Rural Areas," *Government of Canada*, February 9, 2022, <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/98-200-x/2021002/98-200-x2021002-eng.cfm>.

many basic aspects of rural development. However, poverty rates in rural areas were still 3.5 percent higher than in urban areas.¹³³ Unlike the US, 30 percent of Canada's GDP is generated by rural and remote communities of the coastal and northern regions.¹³⁴ Due to sufficient funding and well-organized municipalities, most rural areas in developed North America have similar amenities to cities—schools, hospitals, shops, internet access, and more. This indicates that unlike developing countries, further objectives no longer prioritize lifting rural citizens out of poverty, but strengthening pre-existing industries. However, Canada's vast mountain regions and severe climate in the Northern provinces make it difficult to reach some more remote communities. Conditions in remote Indigenous communities and reserves are also often derelict. Contrary to its neighbours, Mexico shares the same ratio of urban to rural citizenry, but has a poverty rate of 40% in rural areas.¹³⁵ Its future goals include prioritizing policies in poverty alleviation, provision of basic services, and preservation of natural resources.

Discussion Questions

1. How can rural communities retain skilled professionals and businesses?
2. Assessing your country's past involvement in developing rural communities, which strategies were successful and why?
3. How does your country's rural poverty rate reflect on your country's economy?
4. How can governments and external organizations effectively collaborate with local community leaders and stakeholders to drive development?
5. What are the primary sectors of your country's rural areas and to what extent do they contribute to the total GDP of your country?
6. What are some key challenges faced by rural communities in terms of development?
7. Which communities are also impacted by rural development, and why? How can both parties be included in the development process?

¹³³ Economic Research Service, "Data Show U.S. Poverty Rates in 2019 Higher in Rural Areas than in Urban for Racial/Ethnic Groups," U.S. Department of Agriculture, August 23, 2021, [tps://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/chart-gallery/gallery/chart-detail/?chartId=101903](https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/chart-gallery/gallery/chart-detail/?chartId=101903)

¹³⁴ Gudie Hutchings, "Rural Economic Development," *Government of Canada*, June 15, 2023, <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/rural/en>.

¹³⁵ Swarnali Hannan, "Fostering Inclusion in Mexico," *IMF News*, January 24, 2022, <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2022/01/24/cf-fostering-inclusion-in-mexico>

Additional Resources

United Nations Meetings Coverage:

<https://press.un.org/en/2019/gaef3521.doc.htm>

Economic Issues No.26: Rural Poverty in Developing Countries

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/issues/issues26/>

IMF Seminar: Macroeconomic Developments and Prospects in Low Income Countries

<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/low-income-countries/LIC-Series/lics-developing-economies-seminar-series>

Development Ideas and the World Bank: 1950-1970:

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Transitioning to Green Economies

Overview

Defined as a sustainable economy that is “low carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive,” a green economy efficiently allocates resources with the support of public and private investors.¹³⁶ It also creates inclusive economic systems that generate wealth and alleviate poverty through general well-being and heightened equity. As a result of the international community’s improving understanding of green economies and growing focus on sustainability, economic frameworks and structures of green economies have become increasingly accepted and common in developed countries. Contrary to common belief, transitioning to a green economy is not limited to adopting low-carbon alternatives. Instead, it requires a combination of environmental awareness, political reforms, and global cooperation between central authorities and businesses.¹³⁷

However, few governments are prepared or have the political will to commit to drastic changes to reform their economies. Therefore, governments continue to follow conventional economic frameworks that prioritize corporate profit and gross domestic product (GDP) growth to avoid high initial investment expenses, consumer price increases, and the slower GDP growth associated with green economies. Legislation reforms such as carbon taxes have been a topic of controversy, with economists advocating for their use and global citizens dissatisfied with additional expenditures. For developing nations, green growth and environmental protection are not priorities when necessities for survival have not been met amidst growing populations. Governments cannot afford to adopt expensive technologies and establish new infrastructure networks.

The lack of momentum for green economies is particularly concerning given that global scientists have warned that excess resource consumption levels in foods, energy, water, and other natural resources risk exhausting Earth’s resources. This indicates that the rate of human consumption and alteration of natural resources both exceeds the supply available, and produces emissions at a faster rate than the earth is able to repair itself. To resolve this dilemma, international organizations such as the UN have proposed overarching green growth initiatives, such as the Sustainable Development Plans (SDGs). These proposals aim to propel countries into adopting more environmentally friendly agricultural, industrial, and service sector systems in hopes of generating a more sustainable society. In 2012, The World Bank Group contributed to the Environmental Strategy Agenda, detailing directions for hand-in-hand poverty reduction and ecological stability.¹³⁸ Following a “green, clean, resilient” motto, the WB encourages governments and corporations to forfeit the “grow dirty and clean up later” mindset and limit the effects of industry-caused pollution.

¹³⁶ UNEP, “Green Economy,” *UN Environment Program*, 2023, <https://www.unep.org/regions/asia-and-pacific/regional-initiatives/supporting-resource-efficiency/green-economy>.

¹³⁷ Partha Dsagupta, “Setting a Stage for a Green Economy Transition,” *UNEP*, February 11, 2021, https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22005/1.0_introduction.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

¹³⁸ World Bank, “Toward a Green, Clean, and Resilient World for All: A World Bank Group Environment Strategy 2012 - 2022,” *World Bank Group*, 2012, <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/23746>.

Timeline

1989 — A report entitled *Blueprint for a Green Economy* is commissioned by the United Kingdom. This report paved the way for discussion of sustainable policies and its relationship with the economy.¹³⁹

June 3, 1992 — The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit, takes place in Brazil. The summit results in the adoption of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to combat climate change and the Rio Declaration and its twenty-seven principles of environment and development sustainability.¹⁴⁰

December 11, 1997 — The Kyoto Protocol is adopted at the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the UNFCCC. Although its success was limited, it was the first convention that established legally binding emission reduction targets for developed countries.¹⁴¹

February 16, 2005 — The Kyoto Protocol is brought into force seven years after its adoption through Russia's ratification, committing industrialized countries and economies in transition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The US Congress refuses to ratify the protocol, citing that it is ineffective by exempting 80% of states from participation, and will damage the US economy.¹⁴²

2007 — The African Union (AU) launches the Great Green Wall initiative in North Africa. The project is a response to the environmental degradation of the sub-Saharan region and aims to restore the amount of arable land in the Sahel by planting trees. Its goal is to restore 247 million acres of degraded land and to sequester 250 metric tonnes worth of carbon dioxide.¹⁴³

October 2008 — The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) launches its Green Economy Initiative (GEI) to provide policy analysis for green sector investment.¹⁴⁴ The initiative encouraged collaboration between individual countries and the UNEP, with the UNEP providing global research and personalized country-level advice to guide authorities in investing in sustainable policies. Within a decade, 65 countries have begun transitioning to green alternatives.¹⁴⁵

May 2012 — The World Bank issues an Environmental Strategy Agenda that encourages a “green, clean, and resilient economy” for developing countries.¹⁴⁶

¹³⁹ David Pearce, “Blueprint to a Green Economy,” *ResearchGate*, January 1989, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/39015804_Blueprint_for_a_Green_Economy.

¹⁴⁰ United Nations, “United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,” *United Nations*, June 3, 1992, <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/rio1992>

¹⁴¹ UNFCCC, “What is the Kyoto Protocol?” *United Nations Climate Change*, 2015, https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol

¹⁴² Cambridge University Press, “U.S. rejection of Kyoto Protocol Processes,” *Cambridge University*, June 6, 2017, <https://doi.org/10.2307/2668508>.

¹⁴³ Spoorthy Raman, “Progress is Slow on Africa’s Great Green Wall, but Some Bright Spots Bloom,” *Mongabay*, August 3, 2023, <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/08/progress-is-slow-on-africas-great-green-wall-but-some-bright-spots-bloom/>.

¹⁴⁴ Steven Stone, “The Green Economy Tracker,” *Green Economy Coalition*, 2023, <https://www.greeneconomycoalition.org/members/un-environment-programme-gei>.

¹⁴⁵ UNEP, “Why Does Green Economy Matter,” *UNEP*, 2012, <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/green-economy/why-does-green-economy-matter/what-inclusive-green-economy>.

¹⁴⁶ World Bank, “Toward a Clean, Green, Resilient World for All,” *World Bank Publications*, 2016, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/publication/environment-strategy-toward-clean-green-resilient-world>.

December 2, 2014 — The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) releases its Fifth Assessment Report that emphasizes the economic risks of climate change and the benefits of transitioning to a low-carbon economy.^{147, 148}

December 15, 2015 — The Paris Agreement is adopted by 196 countries as a legally binding framework for countries to develop national climate action plans, signaling a shift towards greener policies and investments.¹⁴⁹ The agreement continues to guide countries towards a carbon neutral economy today.¹⁵⁰

December 2019 — The European Commission proposes the European Green Deal, a massively ambitious project that aims for Europe to become the first fossil fuel-free continent.¹⁵¹

November 17, 2020 — The World Trade Organization (WTO) begins hosting Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSDs) with the purpose of devising a global trade network that preserves the environment.¹⁵² Regular “structured discussion” sessions are held between interested WTO members, academic institutions, civil societies, international organizations to support transparency and dialogue.¹⁵³ The Ministerial Statement was later issued in 2021 with next-steps summarized from prior discussions.¹⁵⁴

Historical Analysis

Since the mid-20th century, global economic growth has expanded significantly with increased globalization, industrialization, capital goods distribution, human capital, and technological advancements. However, this rapid economic growth resulted in insignificant environmental degradation. Between 1955 and 2015, the global GDP grew from USD 12 trillion to USD 108 trillion.¹⁵⁵ As a consequence of the post war economic upturn, atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have grown proportionately, increasing from over 100 parts per million (ppm) to 417 ppm in 2022 within half a century.¹⁵⁶

The study of these alarming trends and the environmentalism movement is not new. Since the early 20th century, environmentalist movements and groups have existed, but were not studied in the context of economics until

¹⁴⁷ United Nations Climate Change, “The Fifth Assessment,” *United Nations*, 2014, <https://unfccc.int/topics/science/workstreams/cooperation-with-the-ipcc/the-fifth-assessment-report-of-the-ipcc>.

¹⁴⁸ IPCC, “AR5 Synthese Report: Climate Change 2014,” *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, 2014, <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/>.

¹⁴⁹ United Nations Climate Change, “The Paris Agreement,” *United Nations*, November 2016, <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>.

¹⁵⁰ UNFCCC, “The Paris Agreement,” *United Nations Climate Change*, 2019, <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>.

¹⁵¹ Anne Lapierre, “The EU Green Deal Explained,” *Norton Rose Fulbright*, April 2021, <https://www.nortonrosefulbright.com/en/knowledge/publications/c50c4cd9/the-eu-green-deal-explained>.

¹⁵² World Trade Organization, “Trade and Environmental Sustainability,” *WTO*, 2021, https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tessd_e/tessd_e.htm.

¹⁵³ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁴ IISD, “Trade and Sustainability Discussions at WTO Approaching Next Milestone,” *SDG Knowledge Hub*, October 12, 2022, <https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/policy-briefs/trade-and-sustainability-discussions-at-wto-approaching-next-milestone/>.

¹⁵⁵ World Bank, “World GDP Over the Last Two Millennia,” *Our World in Data*, 2017, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/world-gdp-over-the-last-two-millennia>.

¹⁵⁶ Rebecca Lindsey, “Climate Change: Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide,” *Climate*, May 12, 2023, <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-atmospheric-carbon-dioxide>.

the 1980s.¹⁵⁷ Decades after the introduction of environmentalist groups into society and irreversible damage to nature, discussions of climate change, industrial pollution, and the exhaustion of natural resources became prevalent in political and social spheres.¹⁵⁸

The first report to explore green economies on a political scale was published in 1989. Titled the Blueprint for a Green Economy, the report was commissioned by the Government of the United Kingdom with the aim to define sustainable development and evaluate the effects of climate change policy on growing economies. Although the report detailed minimal information on what a green economy entails, it was followed by the publication of sequels in 1991 and 1994 that developed the idea that economics should aid environmental policy.¹⁵⁹ The ideas that stemmed from this report began the onset of green discussions globally and resulted in the UN's institution of various efforts to quell the effect of industrialization on climate change from that point on.

In the beginning, the exploration of green economies focused less on a balanced transition to more sustainable economies. Instead, it focused on the pursuit of certain environmental results, such as decreasing fossil fuel use, without consideration of the economy holistically. Other times, countries found themselves pressured to diversify their energy sources due to the turbulence of the late twentieth century. Denmark's changeover to green energy was prompted by the 1973 oil crisis, when Saudi Arabia and other Arab Petroleum Exporting countries announced an oil embargo for countries supporting Israel which included Denmark.¹⁶⁰ Comparable to other countries during the first decades of the cold war, Denmark was reliant on coal and oil exports from the Middle East and could not sustain their economy without it.¹⁶¹ During this time, Denmark struggled to import sufficient amounts of fossil fuels and was forced to consider diversifying their fuel source.¹⁶² The same oil crisis was the impetus for why the United States began seriously contemplating the use of green energy.¹⁶³ Despite the instigation of green energy conversions being preempted early on, it wasn't until the 1990s that developed countries officially began investing in forms of renewable energies in mass, and action from developing countries would only come in the late 2000s.¹⁶⁴

Case Study: Morocco and Green Energy

Morocco's economy is the fifth largest in Africa, with a GDP of USD 124 billion, despite being situated in one of the most arid regions in the world.¹⁶⁵ With rich mineral reserves, manufacturing industries, and limited agriculture contributing to 41% of the Moroccan GDP, many of these industries are unsustainable, unethical,

¹⁵⁷ Michael Colby, "The Evolution of Paradigms of Environmental Management in Development," *World Bank*, October 1989, <https://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/552371468913746182/pdf/multi-page.pdf>.

¹⁵⁸ Peter Jackson, "From Stockholm to Kyoto: A Brief History of Climate Change," *UN Chronicle*, June 2007, <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/stockholm-kyoto-brief-history-climate-change>.

¹⁵⁹ United Nations, "Green Economy," *Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform*, December 2022, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1446>.

¹⁶⁰ Mogens Rüdiger, "From Import Dependence to Self-Sufficiency in Denmark, 1945-2000," *Science Direct*, November 2, 2008, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0301421518307043>.

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁶² Ibid.

¹⁶³ Institute For Transportation, "Going Green: the History of Renewable Energy," *Iowa State University*, May 26, 2015, <https://intrans.iastate.edu/news/going-green-the-history-of-renewable-energy/>.

¹⁶⁴ OLIS, "Green Growth and Developing Countries Consultant Draft," *OECD*, June 2012, <https://www.oecd.org/dac/environment-development/50559116.pdf>.

¹⁶⁵ Toms Dumpis, "Forbes Ranks Morocco as Fifth Strongest Economy in Africa," *Morocco World News*, May 26, 2021, <https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2021/05/342605/forbes-ranks-morocco-as-fifth-strongest-economy-in-africa>.

and unstable given resource depletion, low labour costs, and weather conditions.¹⁶⁶ Morocco's energy sector is highly dependent on imported hydrocarbons and fossil fuels, with imported energy making up 90 percent of the country's energy usage. This makes the nation exceptionally vulnerable to price fluctuations and inflation in the international energy market since the country has no sustainable energy source of its own. For instance, in April 2022, Morocco's energy imports cost USD 4.3 billion and were only projected to increase as its population grows.¹⁶⁷

To combat the spiraling costs of imported fossil fuels, the Moroccan government became one of the first authorities to adopt green energy protocols. It began implementing policies focused on foreign energy source reduction in 2009, aiming to expand local energy access at ecologically friendly prices.¹⁶⁸ In May 2013, the Moroccan Agency for Solar Energy (MASEN) commissioned the Noor Ouarzazate Solar Power Stations, the world's largest concentrated solar power plant. Taking advantage of Morocco's sunny climate, the solar station now outputs 1470 gigawatt hours worth of electricity annually.¹⁶⁹ A total of USD 9 billion has since been invested in other solar energy related projects and by the end of 2021, 37% of Morocco's electricity was provided by renewable sources.¹⁷⁰ Despite not reaching the agreed target of 42% renewable energy set during the Paris Agreement, government officials see the possibility of a self-sustaining energy sector with the progress being made and are enthusiastic about future renewable energy and decarbonization plans.¹⁷¹ The World Bank's 2022 Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) predicts that following current trends, 85% of Moroccan energy will be renewable by 2050, and a net gain of 28,000 jobs per year will be supplied by the energy sector, greatly benefiting Morocco's youth unemployment dilemma.¹⁷²

Case Study: China

Since 2005, China has been the largest carbon dioxide emitter, surpassing the United States.¹⁷³ By 2021, China contributed nearly 30% of global emissions, double the emissions of the next largest emitter.¹⁷⁴ In recent decades, mass industrialization, urbanization, and agricultural cultivation have fueled a rapidly growing economy, lifting over 800 million people out of poverty and improving services such as education and healthcare.¹⁷⁵ However, due to China's reliance on coal for energy, economic and infrastructural progress came at the expense of

¹⁶⁶ Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco, "Morocco's Economy and Main Industries," *Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco*, 2021, <https://in.diplomatie.ma/en/moroccos-economy-main-industries>.

¹⁶⁷ ITA, "Morocco - Country Commercial Guide," *International Trade Administration*, November 29, 2022, <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/morocco-energy>.

¹⁶⁸ Aya Benazizi, "Morocco, A Success Story in Sustainable Development," *Morocco World News*, June 26, 2022, <https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2022/06/349926/morocco-a-success-story-in-sustainable-development>.

¹⁶⁹ Adam Jezard, "Morocco is Building a Gigantic Thermosolar Farm in the Sahara Desert," *World Economic Forum*, May 1, 2018, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/05/morocco-is-building-a-solar-farm-as-big-as-paris-in-the-sahara-desert/>.

¹⁷⁰ Ibid.

¹⁷¹ IEA, "Climate Resilience for Energy Transition in Morocco," *International Energy Agency*, July 2023, <https://www.iea.org/reports/climate-resilience-for-energy-transition-in-morocco>.

¹⁷² World Bank, "Morocco Country Climate and Development Plan," *World Bank Publications*, November 3, 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/morocco/publication/morocco-country-climate-and-development-report>.

¹⁷³ Reuters Staff, "China Overtakes U.S. As Top CO2 Emitter," *Reuters*, June 20, 2007, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-climate-china-idUSL2080219120070620>.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ World Bank, "Lifting 800 Million People Out of Poverty," *World Bank Press Release*, April 1, 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/04/01/lifting-800-million-people-out-of-poverty-new-report-looks-at-lessons-from-china-s-experience>.

environmental challenges, including air pollution, water contamination, and biodiversity loss.¹⁷⁶ Although the Chinese government banned the construction of new coal-fired power plants in 2016, coal energy consumption resumed after the ban expired in 2018.¹⁷⁷

The 11th Five Year Plan inaugurated in 2006 was one of the government's first attempts at environmental recovery.¹⁷⁸ Intending to increase renewable energy usage, total investments dedicated to environmental damage treatment increased 15% annually, and other investments concerning environmental protection reached 1.33% of the country's GDP.¹⁷⁹ This project was succeeded by the 12th Five Year Plan, which continued to target areas such as hazardous and chemical pollutant emissions, drinking water quality, environmental infrastructure, and ecological regulations.¹⁸⁰ Although China still produces a third of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, its green transition efforts have been successful through explicit objectives and successful environmental regulations.¹⁸¹ This progress is demonstrated clearly when comparing the state of the country's environmental well-being now to the past: in 2021, Beijing's particle pollution concentration (PM2.5) dropped 63% from its initial value in 2013.¹⁸² Moreover, China's GDP has been increasing by 10% annually for over a decade, indicating that sustainability reforms and economic growth can occur simultaneously.¹⁸³ Due to the country's extended efforts, over 54 million green job opportunities were generated in 2022.¹⁸⁴ China's future decarbonization commitments to reach carbon neutrality by 2060 also continue to be cemented through various policies and projected initiatives such as the Action Plan for Reaching Carbon Dioxide Peak.¹⁸⁵

Past UN/International Involvement

Kyoto Protocol

Adopted on December 11, 1997 and ratified on February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol was one of the first green initiatives to be inaugurated internationally. Different from usual treaties, the Kyoto Protocol is only binding to developed countries and acts as a supervisor to ensure that operations proposed by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate are followed through. This holds wealthier countries responsible for their

¹⁷⁶ Zhenhua Xie, "China's historical evolution of environmental protection along with the forty years' reform and opening-up," *Science Direct*, January 16, 2020, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666498419300018?via%3Dihub>.

¹⁷⁷ Brian Spegele, "China bans Some New Coal Power Plants," *The Wall Street Journal*, April 26, 2016, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-bans-some-new-coal-power-plants-1461645403>.

¹⁷⁸ OECD, "Green Growth in Action: China," *Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development*, 2015, <https://www.oecd.org/china/greengrowthinactionchina.htm>.

¹⁷⁹ Ibid.

¹⁸⁰ Ibid.

¹⁸¹ UNDP China, "China's Green Development," *UNDP*, 2021, <https://undp-asia-pacific.shorthandstories.com/china-green-development/>.

¹⁸² Wenxing Zhong, "China's War Against Pollution Extraordinarily Successful," *Air Quality Life Index*, March 25, 2022, <https://aqli.epic.uchicago.edu/news/chinas-war-against-pollution-extraordinarily-successful-university-of-chicago-researcher/>.

¹⁸³ Lindsay Maizland, "China's Fight Against Climate Change and Environmental Degradation," *Council on Foreign Relations*, May 19, 2021, <https://www.cfr.org/background/china-climate-change-policies-environmental-degradation>.

¹⁸⁴ World Bank, "China's Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy and CLimate Resilience Needs Shifts in Resources and Technologies," *World Bank Press Release*, October 12, 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/10/12/china-s-transition-to-a-low-carbon-economy-and-climate-resilience-needs-shifts-in-resources-and-technologies>.

¹⁸⁵ Qian Zhou, "What is China's Green and Low-Carbon Plan and Why is it Relevant to Foreign Investors," *China Briefing*, June 6, 2022, <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/what-is-chinas-green-and-low-carbon-plan-and-why-is-it-relevant-to-foreign-investors/>.

emissions and pushes them to change, while giving developing countries more time to industrialize and access support for more expensive, green options. After setting a five percent carbon emissions reduction goal in its first commitment period from 2008 to 2012, industrialized economies were encouraged to bring down greenhouse gas emissions in any way possible.¹⁸⁶ However, the tangible effects of the Kyoto Protocol have been called into question as the 12.7% decrease in global carbon emissions often credited to the Protocol occurred even before the enactment of the agreement.¹⁸⁷ Instead, the decrease can be attributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union, as its dissolution left Russian and other ex-Soviet economies in shambles, leading to the collapse of companies and industries that were major emitters.¹⁸⁸ In fact, out of the major carbon emission contributors, only Japan, Canada, Russia, and the EU ratified the agreement; China and the United States decided to sign, but abstain from participation, noting that adhering to the protocol would ruin their economies.¹⁸⁹ Later on, Canada, Japan, and Russia would all proceed to withdraw their ratifications and not accept further commitments in 2010.¹⁹⁰ This marked the end of the Kyoto Protocol as it failed to maintain ratification, less enforce any legitimate action. Although a commendable first effort, it was suspended and superseded by the Paris Agreement in 2015.

Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement entered into force on December 15, 2015, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21), setting overarching long-term goals and guidelines to all nations, including reducing global carbon-emissions to limit the twenty-first century's global temperature increase to two degrees celsius and promising to provide financial aid in assisting developing countries in promoting climate change mitigation. It is a legally binding treaty signed by the 193 UN member states and intends to provide a platform for countries to strengthen their commitments to green and sustainable economies. In addition to all-encompassing goals, the agreement functions in five-year intervals, requesting individual nations to devise increasingly ambitious environmental goals to submit to the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Since its inception, various countries have achieved significant ecological, social, and economic transformations.

Consequently, global prevention efforts have succeeded in reducing the predicted severity of climate change in the future. Initially, experts predicted the world to increase 3.5 degrees Celsius by 2100, but that number has since declined to 2.9 degrees Celsius. Despite significant headway being made, none of the Group of 20 (G20) countries are projected to fulfill their obligations under the Paris Agreement, and other nations such as Russia and Brazil have largely ignored their sustainability plans despite ratifying the agreement as well. This raises doubt on the sustainability of the changes that have been made, and the lack of action of certain countries prevents further progress from being made. Iran, Eritrea, Libya and Yemen, on the other hand, account for 2% of the world's carbon emissions and are the only four countries in the UN who have yet to ratify the Agreement.¹⁹¹ Iran's reluctance stems largely from its economy's dependence on oil, and ratifying the Paris Agreement indicates

¹⁸⁶ Ibid.

¹⁸⁷ Circular Ecology, "The Kyoto Protocol: Climate Change Success or Global Warming Failure," *Circular Ecology*, February 4, 2015, <https://circularecology.com/news/the-kyoto-protocol-climate-change-success-or-global-warming-failure>.

¹⁸⁸ Catherine Rechert, "Robinson Claims the Fall of USSR Meant Big Drop in Greenhouse Gas Emissions," *PolitiFact*, December 9, 2009, <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2009/dec/09/eugene-robinson/robinson-claims-fall-ussr-meant-big-drop-greenhouse/>.

¹⁸⁹ The Associated Press, "Bush: Kyoto Treat Would Have Hurt Economy," *NBC News*, June 30, 2005, <https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna8422343>.

¹⁹⁰ The Guardian, "Canada Pulls Out of Kyoto Protocol," *The Guardian*, December 13, 2011, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2011/dec/13/canada-pulls-out-kyoto-protocol>

¹⁹¹ Climate Home News, "Which Countries Have Not Ratified the Paris Agreement," *Climate Home News*, August 13, 2020, <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/08/13/countries-yet-ratify-paris-agreement/>.

forfeiting their largest source of income in search of a more environmentally friendly source of energy and income, risking that economic security.¹⁹² Nevertheless, a sufficient number of countries are being held accountable for their actions and all ratified countries are required to exhibit some form of attempt at reducing carbon emissions.

United Nations Environment Program

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) was established on June 5, 1972 as a leading environmental authority responsible for setting environmental standards and helping countries meet their obligations.¹⁹³ Various collaborative projects have been formulated to impose that responsibility as a guide. In 2008, the UNEP launched its Green Economy Initiative (GEI), encouraging policy-makers to support sustainable investments while using the GEI as a working guideline for aid.¹⁹⁴ In late 2019, the UNEP and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) collaborated in introducing a green economy and trade E-learning course for developing governments, businesses, researchers, and interested individuals to build on approaches and opportunities regarding sustainable trade.¹⁹⁵ Designed to help developing countries seize opportunities in trade, the course acts as an accessible platform that teaches policymakers how to assess current development and trends to drive economic development, and to preserve natural capital and social welfare.¹⁹⁶ This later developed into individual Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) projects, with beneficiary countries including Guyana, Mongolia, and China.¹⁹⁷ Between 2012 and 2016, the UNEP produced the Green Economy and Trade Opportunity Project (GE-TOP).¹⁹⁸ Modeled to aid in green transitions by providing cutting-edge research, analysis services, and policy advice specific to each country's situation, opportunities to make their economies more green were identified and created for governments.¹⁹⁹ Funded by the European Commission, the first phase generated research-based frameworks on the interlinks and benefits between trade and a green economy, while the second phase involved five national-level projects in Chile, Ghana, Peru, South Africa, and Vietnam.²⁰⁰ The UNEP continues to coordinate developing countries in ameliorating their economic environments and strives to allocate resources available by supervising policy-making processes.

The European Green Deal

Recently approved in 2020, the European Green Deal was proposed by the European Commission to strive for the EU to become the first carbon-neutral bloc in the world. The plan is more ambitious and controlling in comparison to other cooperative measures and past international agreements. It reviews individual legislatures

¹⁹² Ibid.

¹⁹³ UNEP, "50 Years of Environmental Milestones," *UNEP*, 2022, <https://www.unep.org/environmental-moments-unep50-timeline>

¹⁹⁴ UNEP, "What is an Inclusive Green Economy?" *UN Environment Program*, 2019, <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/green-economy/why-does-green-economy-matter/what-inclusive-green-economy>.

¹⁹⁵ UNEP, "Green Economy and Trade," *UN Environment Program*, 2023, <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/green-economy/what-we-do/environment-and-trade-hub/our-work/green-economy-and-trade>.

¹⁹⁶ UNEP, "New e-Learning Course on Green Economy and Trade," *UNEP*, 2022, <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/news/new-e-learning-course-green-economy-trade-0>.

¹⁹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁹⁸ UNEP, "Green Economy and Trade Opportunities Project (GTOP)," *UN Environment Program*, 2023, <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/green-economy/what-we-do/environment-and-trade-hub/green-economy-and-trade>

¹⁹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰⁰ Ibid.

based on their economic and environmental merits and introduces new laws with a focus in pursuing a circular economy, infrastructural renovation, and other innovative passages. Specifically, a circular economy is considered to be the ideal system of pursuit that reduces resource usage by considering “waste” a resource: existing materials will be recycled, reused, refurbished, and repaired for as long as possible. In 2021, the European Climate Law was passed and the new legislature expected a 55% decrease in carbon emissions by 2030 in comparison to 1990.²⁰¹ The European Green Deal helps the EU prioritize the transition to a green society while ensuring that economic growth can be sustained without fossil fuels and other environmentally exploitative expenditures. Countries’ whose economies are dependent on fossil fuels follow adjusted laws and agreements to ensure the stability of their industries and economy. Since its enactment, a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) has been adopted, a system which uses carbon tariffs to prevent countries from avoiding carbon emission responsibilities.²⁰² Countries that import cheaper goods produced with larger carbon footprints in countries with looser legislations will have to report the volume and carbon emission levels of the goods imported.²⁰³ The EU will then equalize the price of carbon between domestic and imported products to be taxed.²⁰⁴ Introduced in March 2020, the Circular Economy Industrial policy aims to reduce material waste and prioritize recycling process reinforcement particularly in manufacturing and construction sectors.²⁰⁵ The new action plan also targets product design and focuses on sectors with the highest resource consumption and modification potential, such as electronics, packaging, and textiles. As of 2023, EUR 528 billion have been invested in the Green Deal, which is over half of its principal budget of EUR 1 trillion funded by the EU Emissions Trading System.²⁰⁶ Massive costs were expected, yet the EU finds it difficult to sustain its endeavors during an inflationary pandemic, and is thus redirecting its vision upon private investors to aid in Europe's green transition.

Current Situation

Effects of Climate Change

Weather disasters caused by climate change endangers entire national economies, damaging farmland, oceans, forests, and marine life, jeopardizing corresponding industries.²⁰⁷ Prolonged environmental degradation undermines natural services provided by our ecosystem, including flood protection, pollination, carbon dioxide sequestration, and wastewater treatments. Once destroyed, these processes will need to be replaced artificially, creating extra costs. Extreme weather and climate disasters have increased by a factor of five over the past 50

²⁰¹ European Commission, “European Climate Law,” *European Commission*, 2021, https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/european-green-deal/european-climate-law_en.

²⁰² Press Release, “The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism Starts to Apply in its Transitional Phase,” *EU*, September 29, 2023, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_4685.

²⁰³ Ibid.

²⁰⁴ Rebecca Pehlivan, “EU Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM),” *Deloitte*, October 1, 2023, <https://www2.deloitte.com/nl/nl/pages/tax/articles/eu-carbon-border-adjustment-mechanism-cbam.html>.

²⁰⁵ European Commission, “Circular Economy Action Plan,” *European Commission*, March 22, 2023, https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan_en.

²⁰⁶ Anne Lapierre, “The EU Green Deal Explained,” *Norton Rose Fulbright*, April 2021, <https://www.nortonrosefulbright.com/en/knowledge/publications/c50c4cd9/the-eu-green-deal-explained>.

²⁰⁷ USGS, “How Can Climate Change Affect Natural Disasters,” US Government, 2018, <https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/how-can-climate-change-affect-natural-disasters>.

years.²⁰⁸ A total of 11,000 reported disasters, 2 million deaths, and USD 3.64 trillion worth of losses have been documented between 1970–2019.²⁰⁹ The rising cost of climate change indicates the alarming rate in which governments are allocating funds and resources to structural and economic reparation instead of growth, impeding advancements and displacing populations.

The agricultural sector is exceptionally vulnerable to climate change. Employing 27% of the world's population and contributing 4% of the global GDP, marginal variations in precipitation, land composition, and climate can impact the output of produce.²¹⁰ The US alone observed a 29% decrease in crops able to be planted due to flooding, and increased heat and drought will further reduce yields.²¹¹ An additional 5–15% decrease in overall crop production for every celsius temperature rise has also been observed by the US National Academy of Sciences report in 2011. Already detrimental to farmers and the agricultural sector in developed countries, the same circumstances are exacerbated in developing countries where both the nation and its citizens rely on agriculture as their primary source of income.

Fossil Fuel and Green Energy Consumption

The UNEP predicts that if current resource usage trends continue, global per capita natural resource consumption will increase by 70% by 2050, and fossil fuels may become exhausted by 2100.²¹² As of 2022, China was the largest consumer of fossil fuels, utilizing 50,000 terawatt-hours (TWh) worth of fossil fuel generated energy in the year. However, when analyzing fossil fuel consumption per capita, the average American consumes the most, nearly 64,000 kWh non-renewable energy, annually, followed by Australia and Europe.²¹³ Although none of these statistics invalidate global efforts that have been made to strive towards a carbon neutral society, it also indicates that many of these initiatives were unsuccessful in producing tangible impacts on a broader scale.

Coal is currently the largest source of electricity globally—with China, India, the US, and Japan contributing to 76% of that consumption—producing 34% of the world's electricity.²¹⁴ Many countries have pledged to phase out coal-powered electricity by 2030, 2040, or beyond, with many North and Central African countries having already eliminated coal from their energy sources.²¹⁵ Oil and gas, on the other hand, have been more sensitive topics for countries reliant on its production and support the majority of transportation services.

Renewable energy use is gradually increasing, but is limited to domestic electricity generation and supplies approximately 29% of the world's electricity.²¹⁶ Additionally, there are twenty-five countries, including the

²⁰⁸ WMO, “Weather Related Disasters Increase Over Past 50 Years,” *World Meteorological Organization*, August 31, 2021, <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/weather-related-disasters-increase-over-past-50-years-causing-more-damage-fewer>.

²⁰⁹ Ibid.

²¹⁰ Renee Cho, “How Climate Change Impacts the Economy,” *Columbia Climate School*, June 20, 2019, <https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2019/06/20/climate-change-economy-impacts/>.

²¹¹ Ibid.

²¹² UNEP, “Decoupling Natural Resource Use and Environmental Impacts,” *UNEP Reports*, 2020, <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/decoupling-natural-resource-use-and-environmental-impacts-economic-growth-summary>.

²¹³ Hanna Ritchie, “Fossil Fuels,” *Our World in Data*, October 2, 2022, <https://ourworldindata.org/fossil-fuels>.

²¹⁴ Ibid.

²¹⁵ Ibid.

²¹⁶ UN, “Renewable Energy - Powering a Safer Future,” *UN*, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/raising-ambition/renewable-energy>

United Arab Emirates, Libya, and Saudi Arabia, that use non-renewable resources and have no action plans to do so in the near future.²¹⁷

Deterrents and Government Inaction

Despite the impacts climate change has on the economy, many government authorities disregard its threats, and other emerging nations are incapable of responding to the crisis.²¹⁸ The economic deterrent of developing a green economy is two fold: environmentally exploitative activities are financially rewarding and renewable energy sources are less accessible and often require high start-up costs.²¹⁹ Although economists have stated these green activities to be more sustainable and rewarding in the future, these statements are often perceived as theoretical and unreliable as some studies demonstrate negative economic effects and some display otherwise.²²⁰ These ambiguous promises instill skepticism in governments, and many would rather maintain the existing state of affairs until a shortage of fossil fuels forces them to transition.²²¹ Additionally, although renewable energies are easy to introduce, the renovation of entire social and industrial systems to incorporate green measures is not.²²² Implementing renewable energy into fields such as manufacturing and transportation would require significant investment and technological advancements.²²³ Without an improvement in the quantity and capacity of renewable energy production, countries find it difficult to justify dedicating the federal budget to research and the capital costs of installing renewable energy equipment.²²⁴

Case Study: Sustainable Living in Sweden

Renowned as the world's most sustainable country, Sweden was the first nation to pass an environmental protection act in 1967 and continues to lead in environmental research and carbon emission reduction.²²⁵ The Swedish economy is often referred to as the "Swedish green model" and prioritizes the integration of businesses and sustainability. This economic model allowed for a carbon tax to be introduced in 1995, an electrical vehicle subsidization in 2006, and a conversion to 50% renewable energies in 2020.²²⁶ This legislation and Sweden's early endorsement of green initiatives forged the nation's low carbon reliance. In 2012, Sweden's environmental tax revenue was 2.52% of the country's GDP.²²⁷ Credited to low population density, concise policy decisions, rich resources, and high citizen engagement, air pollution in Sweden is measured at 10.2 micrograms per cubic meter,

²¹⁷Jessica Dillinger, "Which Country Uses the Least Alternative Energy," *World Atlas*, April 25, 2017, <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/countries-with-the-lowest-levels-of-alternative-energy.html>.

²¹⁸Michael Howes, "After 25 Years of Training, Why Aren't We Environmentally Sustainable Yet?" *The Conversation*, April 2, 2017, <https://theconversation.com/after-25-years-of-trying-why-arent-we-environmentally-sustainable-yet-73911>.

²¹⁹James Cust, "Unburnable Wealth of Nations," *IMF*, March 2017, <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2017/03/cust.htm>.

²²⁰Doris Fuchs, "Is Green Growth Possible?" *Ecologic*, February 25, 2022, <https://www.ecologic.eu/18514>.

²²¹Explainer, "Barriers to Renewable Energy Technologies," *Union of Concerned Scientists*, June 6, 2014, <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/barriers-renewable-energy-technologies>.

²²²Ibid.

²²³Ibid.

²²⁴Ibid.

²²⁵Green Economy Tracker, "Sweden," *Green Economy Coalition*, 2020, <https://greeneconomytracker.org/country/sweden>.

²²⁶OECD, "Boosting Workforce Participation and Better Facilitating Green Transition Key Priorities for Sweden," *Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development*, June 13, 2023, <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/boosting-workforce-participation-and-better-facilitating-green-transition-key-priorities-for-sweden.htm>.

²²⁷Ibid.

which is half of the OECD average.²²⁸ Domestic policies such as the electrical bus premium implemented by the Swedish Energy Agency in 2016, regulations on the disposal of organic materials, and heavy investments in renewable energy sources form the groundwork of its low air pollution levels. The Swedish government is continuing to diversify its economic pool by drafting the first hydrogen powered steelworks station, which will further progress Sweden's goal in becoming a fossil-fuel free nation, while also supplying over 100,000 job opportunities.²²⁹ In an attempt to lead other countries down the same green economic path, Sweden founded the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) in 2012.²³⁰ The Coalition serves as a platform to incentivize other developing countries to implement similar legislation that Sweden has and for countries to communicate plausible clean policies. However, despite establishing a CCAC Trust Fund, few CCAC projects have followed through due to unstable economic and social conditions.

Case Study: The African Great Green Wall

In 2007, the AU and Pan-African Agency of the Great Green launched a colossal environmental recovery initiative. The goal was to restore 100 million hectares of land across 11 African countries to recuperate degraded land, impede desertification, and to prevent further damage from pollution and climate change.²³¹ The 8,000-kilometer-long project plans to plant a wall of forest and natural vegetation directly across the African continent. Not only would the project itself provide job opportunities for local communities, but the long term increase in fertile land will decrease poverty and famine through agriculture.²³² As of 2023, 18 hectares of land have been restored, and the initiative is projected to sequester 250 million tonnes of carbon emissions and create 10 million job opportunities, benefiting local and rural communities.²³³ With the return of the region's natural habitat, previously barren land is now arable and can be used for agricultural production and agroforestry. This allows for an increase in household income in a continent where 70% of the population is employed in agriculture.²³⁴ USD 20 billion have been invested into the Great Green Wall funded by the WB and the AU, and results show that every dollar invested into the cause has seen an average of 1.2 dollars in gains.^{235, 236} The project has only completed 18% of its target length and its continuation in the future relies on USD 33 billion worth of funding, which it struggles to secure.²³⁷ Many financial partners and countries have promised to fund the initiative, with most withdrawing or disbursing their investments later on for miscellaneous reasons.

²²⁸ Ben Wilde, "How Sweden Became the World's Most Sustainable Country," *ADEC ESG*, January 12, 2016, <https://www.adecesg.com/resources/blog/how-sweden-became-the-world%E2%80%99s-most-sustainable-country-top-5-reasons/>

²²⁹ Per Liljas, "The Green Revolution Sweeping Sweden," *The Washington Post*, June 29, 2022, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/interactive/2022/sweden-green-revolution-steel-climate-change/>.

²³⁰ CCAC, "Sweden," *UNEP*, 2022, <https://www.ccacoalition.org/partners/sweden>

²³¹ United Nations, "Great Green Wall Initiative," *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification*, 2010, <https://www.unccd.int/our-work/ggwi>.

²³² UNCCD, "Great Green Wall Initiative," *UN*, 2020, <https://www.unccd.int/our-work/ggwi>.

²³³ UNEP, "A Green Wall to Promote Peace and Restore Nature in Africa's Sahel Region," *UN Environment Program*, February 22, 2023, <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/green-wall-promote-peace-and-restore-nature-africas-sahel-region>

²³⁴ World Bank, "Unlocking Africa's Agricultural Potential," *World Bank*, April 2013, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/3cbc1ec4-8400-5971-8b0b-6ada9679cec5/content>.

²³⁵ Emanuele Isonio, "Africa, the Great Green Wall is an Excellent Economic Investment," *Re Soil Foundations*, December 30, 2021, <https://resoilfoundation.org/en/economics-and-finance/africa-great-green-wall-economic-return/>

²³⁶ A. Mirzabaev, "Economic Efficiency and Targeting of the African Great Green Wall," *Nature*, November 15, 2021, <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-021-00801-8>.

²³⁷ Spoorthy Raman, "Progress is Slow on Africa's Great Green Wall, but Some Bright Spots Bloom," *Mongabay*, August 3, 2023, <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/08/progress-is-slow-on-africas-great-green-wall-but-some-bright-spots-bloom/>.

Case Study: India

India has one of the fastest growing economies and populations in the world, leading to rapid urbanization. The World Economic forum predicts that, if India's path to decarbonization is successful, an estimated USD 1 trillion and USD 15 trillion can be achieved in 2030 and 2070 respectively.²³⁸ At the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), India pledged to limit global warming levels to 1.5 degrees Celsius. They also promised to conduct other initiatives, including Sashakt Bharat (Empowered and Resilient India), Swachh Bharat (Clean India Mission), and Samridh Bharat (Prosperous and Vibrant India). Despite the environmental projects proposed, most were never executed. Businesses prioritized profits, the public valued their pre-existing sources of income, and the Indian government was relaxed in implementing their array of proposals.²³⁹ As a result, India ranked last in environmental sustainability in a study recorded by the Yale Center of Environmental Law and Policy with an Environmental Performance Index (EPI) of 18.9 in 2022, in comparison to Denmark's 77.9.²⁴⁰ The Indian government has made significant efforts towards the 2030 Sustainability Goals (SDGs) proposed by the UN; however, it is estimated that an additional USD 2.64 trillion worth of investments are needed for SDG standards to be met.²⁴¹ Despite struggling with their own transition, India insists on providing financial aid to other developing countries to meet their sustainability goals through the USD 150 million India-UN Development Partnership Fund.²⁴²

Possible Solutions and Controversies

Mandating International Economic Sustainability Progress Reports

Communication is critical when addressing a fluid crisis where nations make independent decisions that impact the entire world. By mandating annual economic sustainability progress reports from all member states and making them available to the public, the World Bank can foster a transparent and informed environment where countries are held accountable of their actions by peer pressure from other states and global citizens, compelling nations to follow through with their promised commitments.²⁴³ Reports should contain detailed documentation of all information and progress made in various industrial sectors, including statistics, complications encountered, budget, and planned next-steps. Governments should consider collecting this data through recording governmental meetings, monitoring the progress of established initiatives, conducting censuses, and mandating regular assessment reports from industries. This transparency generates a platform where successful initiatives can be shared and learned from. The publicity derived from these reports would also attract the attention of private investors and trading partners, supplying countries with the funds necessary to proceed with

²³⁸ World Economic Forum, "India's Transition to a Green Economy," *World Economic Forum*, November 8, 2021, <https://www.weforum.org/press/2021/11/india-s-transition-to-a-green-economy-presents-a-1-trillion-opportunity/>.

²³⁹ Aparna Sawhney, "Compliance Dilemmas in Indian Environmental Policy," *East Asia Forum*, October 10, 2018, <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2018/10/10/compliance-dilemmas-in-indian-environmental-policy/>.

²⁴⁰ Environmental Performance Index, "Results Overview," *EPI*, 2022, <https://epi.yale.edu/epi-results/2022/component/epi>.

²⁴¹ The Economic Times, "India Needs \$2.64 in Investment to Meet SDGs by 2030," *The Economic Times*, January 21, 2020, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-needs-2-64-tn-investment-to-meet-sdgs-by-2030-report/articleshow/73492931.cms>.

²⁴² UN, "India-UN Fund," *UN*, 2023, <https://unsouthsouth.org/category/india-un-fund/>.

²⁴³ NGFS, "Enhancing Market Transparency in Green and Transition Finance," *NGFS*, April 2022, https://www.ngfs.net/sites/default/files/medias/documents/enhancing_market_transparency_in_green_and_transition_finance.pdf.

their green transition. Citizens will become more aware of the path their country is taking, and hence motivated to accept, support, and abide by new economic guidelines. This encourages public participation in sustainability initiatives, magnifying its potential to succeed. Following thorough appraisal of reports, the WB can analyze the current situation of each country to recapitulate the growth, struggles, and needs of each nation. This will permit the WB to accurately deduce possible methods to evaluate the needs of nations and to prioritize funding for specific states.

However, most regulatory reports are not legally binding, indicating countries will receive no legal penalty if they refuse to follow guidelines. Thus, the completion of the report is reliant on peer pressure rather than the sentiment of ethical duty held by the country. Additionally, differences between data collection, reporting, and verification processes could lead to data inaccuracy, making comparing the accomplishments and non fulfillment of countries difficult. Smaller or less developed countries may find it challenging to fund and staff similar reports without the assistance of a third-party, which will become a deterrent in the submission of reports from developing countries. Thus, the underlying challenge of collecting reports will prove a larger concern than its utilization.

Promoting Green Energy Use

One of the most important components of transitioning to a green economy is replacing traditional fossil fuels with renewable and green energy sources, whether that may be in the industrial sector, transportation, or domestic life. Currently, fossil fuels and other extracted resources supply 80% of the world's energy, with most of this usage concentrated in developing countries and industrial countries due to the accessibility and cost efficiency of fossil fuels.²⁴⁴ Green energy alternatives are being developed by most countries; however, few incorporate them within their energy systems. Arguing that green energy transitions inhibit real GDP growth, countries who cannot afford to adopt green energy systems are unwilling to sacrifice their economies, and thus continue to utilize inexpensive fossil fuels. However, in the long term, green energy sources will prove to be more sustainable than fossil fuels when earth's supply eventually runs out, which makes them a worthy investment. It is therefore important for the World Bank to make prospective risks and benefits of green energy sources clear to countries, while specifying energy forms befitting each region. Additionally, by diversifying a country's energy sources, developing countries can prevent external shocks from volatile oil and gas prices from affecting their growing economies. Many developed European countries are making significant headway in harvesting green energy, which has directly impacted their economies, with the green economy's market capitalization growing from USD 2 trillion in 2009 to USD 7 trillion in 2021.²⁴⁵ These case studies can be used as model examples to persuade developed countries in pursuing similar projects. Similarly, case studies of developing countries leading in green energy, such as Kenya and their solar power plants, can act as a similar example for developing countries. It is crucial for the WB to cater to the needs of specific groups when promoting the usage of green energies: more developed countries may be interested in developing novel technology, while poorer countries would prioritize decreasing their vulnerability to gas market volatility. The WB could also consider shifting energy subsidies from fossil fuels to renewable energy to restructure the energy system entirely.²⁴⁶ Despite endorsing green energy

²⁴⁴ EESI, "Fossil Fuels," *Environmental and Energy Study Institute*, July 22, 2021, <https://www.eesi.org/topics/fossil-fuels/description>

²⁴⁵ Maeve Campbell, "Which Country is the World Leader in Renewable Energy in 2021," *Euronews*, August 16, 2021, <https://www.euronews.com/green/2021/08/02/which-country-is-the-world-leader-in-renewable-energy-in-2021>.

²⁴⁶ UN Climate Action, "5 Ways to Jump Start The Renewable Energy Transition Now," *UN*, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/raising-ambition/renewable-energy-transition>.

measures accounting as one of the first steps towards reaching a green economy, it is important to understand that utilizing green energy and having a green economy are not necessarily reciprocal.

Creating Policy Advisory Frameworks

No country has officially been recognized to have a fully green economy. Countries are constantly altering their economic, political, infrastructural, and social systems to adjust to mistakes and criticism. The same applies for transitions to green economies, and it is critical that there is a standardized framework or goal for governments to reference and build off of.²⁴⁷ This consistency ensures that nations are using a common set of rules and metrics when implementing policies and carrying out initiatives, which makes comparing and assessing progress in various continents and nations a simpler process. To improve their relevance, these frameworks should be revised regularly after a certain interval of years to ensure they are up to date. The most complicated portion of this solution is the formulation of the framework. The WB and its member states must first discuss what they perceive as the ideal transition to a green economy. Different perspectives from countries in different stages of growth must be taken into account: this includes variables such as projected population, pre-existing resources, dominant industries, and other prominent factors that will affect the creation and use of the economy. Predetermined variables will also fluctuate depending on the location of the country, its climate, and other unpredictable factors. Thus, the framework should contain separate sections dedicated to each possible situation and should take into account past projects and their successes and oversights. Project exemplars will be referenced throughout the framework to recommend possible solutions to specific situations, while unsuccessful initiatives will also be dissected and have the reasons behind why they were unsuccessful analyzed. Economic principles, such as shifts to circular economies, carbon taxing, and the diversification of industries, will be explained in detail while referencing under which situations they will be useful. Thus, the framework will supply the basic skeleton for countries to transition to a green economy, while governments are given the liberty to discuss what advice they take.

Bloc Positions

EU, United Kingdom and Nordic Countries

The European Union and the Nordic countries are frontrunners of the transition to green economies. In 2020, the EU announced that renewable energy represented 22.1% of the EU's total energy consumption and the share of renewable energy sources used in the transportation sector reached 10.3%, with much of this energy coming from solar and wind sources.²⁴⁸ As a continent that has the largest green economy collectively, its success can be attributed to the collaboration and consensus agreement of all member states that the EU should accelerate its passage to a more sustainable economy, its favourable geographic location, and its large population of developed countries capable of reforming city structures and funding renewable energy projects.²⁴⁹ The few Nordic

²⁴⁷ OPSI, "Innovative Capacity of Governments: A Systemic Framework," *OECD*, September 19, 2022, <https://oecd-opsi.org/publications/innovative-capacity-framework/>.

²⁴⁸ Eurostat, "Renewable Energy Statistics," *Eurostat*, January 2023, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Renewable_energy_statistics.

²⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

countries who are not a part of the EU have a history of conducting their own green initiatives, with Iceland, Norway, and Switzerland ranking as some of the most environmentally sustainable economies in the world.

Although Europe hosts some of the world's most green economies, oil and gas usage is still prominent. After the Russo-Ukrainian war destabilized oil supplies in the region, EU countries are especially keen to address their reliance on non-renewable energy. As the war was expected to affect Europe's integrated energy market severely, with the EU importing 40% of their energy from Russian liquefied gas.²⁵⁰ In response, European countries began seeking fuels from sources such as the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and the European Commission proposed in 2022 that all countries should reduce energy use by 15% to prepare and conserve energy in the winter, which was reluctantly agreed upon.²⁵¹ In addition to planning out their green economies, the Nordic countries are also keen on communicating their experiences with other countries through programs such as the CCAC to promote global green growth.²⁵²

Highly Industrial Countries

Highly industrialized countries include, but are not limited to the US, China, India, and Germany.²⁵³ These countries prioritize their growing or matured economies and national GDP over striving for a green economy. Although they construct their own sustainable development goals, few are upheld to the extent that they neutralize heavy industrial emissions. Responsible for over 60% of the world's total carbon emissions, highly industrialized countries are unlikely to change their policies or make any revolutionary legislature alterations that would risk defiling their economies. Since the Paris Agreement, UN SDGs, and other global agreements cannot be made possible without the cooperation of highly industrialized countries, other blocs such as the EU and Nordic countries may be incentivized to collaborate with high emission countries to mitigate the dilemma. This in no way implies that no action has been taken in the past. President Biden has pledged through the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate that the US hopes to achieve a net zero emissions economy by no later than 2050. China has also demonstrated sentiments to detach its economy from coal power and instead transition to more sustainable energies. Germany, on the other hand, is fighting to keep its automotive industry afloat. As an EU member and Europe's largest economy, Germany disagrees with the European Commission's proposal to ban the sale of new polluting vehicles in 2035, standing directly against the EU's green initiatives.²⁵⁴ Industrialized countries as a whole are less interested in the employment aspect of a green economy, and are rather pressured by society to commit to a more sustainable future—even though their actions do not necessarily equate to results.

²⁵⁰ James Pendlington, "Will Europe's Green Future Survive Russia's War in Ukraine?" *Oxford Economics*, September 27, 2022, <https://www.oxfordeconomics.com/resource/will-europes-green-future-survive-russias-war-in-ukraine/>.

²⁵¹ Jozef Sikela, "Member States Commit to Reducing Gas Demand by 15% Next Winter," *European Council*, July 26, 2022, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/07/26/member-states-commit-to-reducing-gas-demand-by-15-next-winter/>.

²⁵² UNEP, "Climate and Clean Air Coalition," *UNEP*, 2023, <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/climate-action/what-we-do/climate-and-clean-air-coalition-ccac>.

²⁵³ Michael Boyle, "Top 25 Developed and Developing Countries," *Investopedia*, April 25, 2023, <https://www.investopedia.com/updates/top-developing-countries/>.

²⁵⁴ Joshua Posaner, "Germany's Not-So-Green fix to Save the Car Engine," *Politico*, March 9, 2023, <https://www.politico.eu/article/how-germany-e-fuel-push-save-combustion-engine-car/>.

Africa

African countries have been benefited by continuous environmental projects, such as the Great Green Wall; however, it relies on external funding from third-party organizations such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and other countries in order to sustain its development. As a continent, Africa has achieved near zero coal consumption. The notable exception is South Africa, which consumes and produces 87% of the continent's entire coal emissions.²⁵⁵ However, Africa is still heavily reliant on oil and gas: Nigeria and Angola are major oil producers, while Senegal and Mozambique are expanding their gas industries. Simultaneously, one-third of Africa's energy resources were met through renewable sources. President Adesina of the African Development Bank states that “[they] are going to use all the renewable resources we have” but that “gas is a very critical part of the energy mix.”²⁵⁶ This creates an anomaly where Africa is growing both their renewable and nonrenewable sectors, but this is sustainable only if electricity demands remain as low as they currently are.²⁵⁷ The UNEP predicts that countries such as Kenya will experience a 12% GDP increase under green investment scenarios, and other countries such as Nigeria have been able to utilize green and sustainable bond markets to raise finance, which is only possible under direct policy measures.²⁵⁸ Despite financial burdens, African countries have adopted various sustainable development projects that present an opportunity for investors to partner with them to fund future projects. Countries like Namibia have created roadmaps to sustainable green hydrogen policies, while Mauritius is preparing to adopt a circular economy to reduce waste generation.²⁵⁹ The job opportunities projected to be created through green initiatives are also incentives for Africa's large youth population.²⁶⁰

OPEC and Other Producers of Fossil Fuels

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries represent approximately 60% of the total petroleum traded internationally.²⁶¹ Saudi Arabia is a prime example of the attitude OPEC countries hold towards the notion of a green economy. Having consistently ranked as the world's top oil exporter with the world's largest reserves and production, Saudi Arabia accounts for a third of the world's oil supply.²⁶² Previous initiatives announced by Saudi Arabia included a net zero greenhouse gas emissions pledge by 2060 and planting 50 billion trees in the Middle East.²⁶³ However, the UN and other critics have pointed out that abysmal action has been executed in Saudi's climate plans, stating that all intentions to execute articles of the Middle East Green Initiative were pretenses to the country's target to increase crude oil production from 12 million barrels a day to 13 million barrels a day in 2027.²⁶⁴ Saudi Arabia substantiates their contradictory actions with an absurd, envisioned

²⁵⁵ Ember, “Africa Electricity Transition,” *Ember*, March 2022, <https://ember-climate.org/countries-and-regions/regions/africa/>.

²⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁷ Ember, “Africa Electricity Transition,” *Ember*, March 2022, <https://ember-climate.org/countries-and-regions/regions/africa/>.

²⁵⁸ Soumik Biswas, “Blog: Why Transitioning to an Inclusive Green Economy is Vital to Fulfilling Climate Goals in Africa,” *The Commonwealth*, November 8, 2022, <https://thecommonwealth.org/news/blog-why-transitioning-inclusive-green-economy-vital-fulfilling-climate-goals-africa>.

²⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁶¹ US Energy Information Administration, “What Drives Crude Oil Prices,” *EIA*, September 12, 2023, <https://www.eia.gov/finance/markets/crudeoil/supply-opec.php>.

²⁶² Seair Exim Solutions, “Top 10 Oil Exporting Countries,” *Seair Exim Solutions*, March 31, 2023, <https://www.seair.co.in/blog/top-10-oil-exporting-countries-in-2023.aspx>.

²⁶³ Robert Kennedy, “Danger and Delusional: Critics Denounce Saudi Climate Plan,” *Aljazeera*, October 26, 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/26/green-or-greenwashing-saudi-arabias-climate-change-pledges>.

²⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

“circular carbon economy,” citing a plan to employ new technologies to recycle carbon.²⁶⁵ Regardless of the criticism the Middle East has received for refusing to comply with global green efforts, most acknowledge the absurdity of demanding entire economies based on the extraction and combustion of fossil fuels to forfeit their wealth.²⁶⁶ Members of the OPEC are unlikely to follow through with any green initiatives in the future unless the globe no longer consumes fossil fuels as a whole.

Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia is considered one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change, with its coastal geographic location subjecting it to natural disasters such as typhoons and. Climate change is creating a trend of increased heat waves, floods, droughts, and other abnormal weather events both in frequency and severity. These abnormal weather patterns are unpredictable and difficult to prevent, thus setting heavy burdens on local governments to afford recovery expenses. Coastal governments, particularly Vietnam, risk abandoning the living standards that were achieved through decades of trade and export based growth if immediate action is taken. Already focusing on investment in renewable energy, Southeast Asian countries must also consider previously ignored sectors to develop forest conservation, sustainable farming, and clean construction practices.²⁶⁷

Discussion Questions

1. What are the disadvantages that come with balancing a growing economy with green initiatives?
2. How have citizens responded to your country’s sustainable development policies?
3. In developing countries with limited resources and capacity, what strategies can be employed to overcome financial, infrastructural, and technological barriers?
4. Does your country have a sustainable economy? What steps were taken to reach this point?
5. How do fossil fuels and green energy sources play a role in your economy?
6. What are the similarities and differences between green transitions of separate countries? How can you reference those examples?
7. How do private sectors, corporations, and other third-party contributors play a role in the green economy?

²⁶⁵ Ibid.

²⁶⁶ Ibid.

²⁶⁷ Gunung Capital, “Southeast Asia’s Green Economy Journey: Challenges and Opportunities,” *LinkedIn*, November 15, 2022, <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/southeast-asias-green-economy-journey-challenges-opportunities-/>.

Additional Resources

UNECE Green Economy Seminar:

<https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/events/349637>

Blueprint for a Green Economy:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/39015804_Blueprint_for_a_Green_Economy

Energy Sector Strategies to Support Green Growth:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/olc/course/37937>

South Asia Economic Policy Conference on Green Growth:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2023/10/30/the-12th-south-asia-economic-policy-network-conference-on-green-growth-in-south-asia>

Employment Implications of Green Growth:

<https://www.oecd.org/environment/Employment-Implications-of-Green-Growth-OECD-Report-G7-Environment-Ministers.pdf>

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