

Royal Russell Model United Nations 2017

Committee: Special Conference on the Sustainable Development Goals (SpecSDG)

Topic: The Question of Methods to Revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (Goal 17)

Background

Sustainable Development Goal 17 states: “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.”

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of global goals that set out to ensure we fight poverty, climate change and inequality to bring about a brighter future of equal opportunity. Agreed in September 2015 by the UN, the 17 goals can fit onto a single side of A4, and this one piece of paper may well represent the only way to ensure the survival of our planet and the creation of a fairer society. However, it is all too easy for world leaders to write down these goals without recognising that without work and global partnership, they are totally meaningless. They tell us ‘what’ to do, and not ‘how’. Guaranteeing education and reduced inequalities for all obviously sounds great, but it requires More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) to help Less Economically developed Countries (LEDCs) to make it happen.

The UN website says, “While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals.” The goals may be great, but this approach is too inward looking. Nations should not be solely responsible for achieving the SDGs. It requires global partnership and that is what goal 17 is all about. It is quite easily the most important SDG. Without it, the goals would not truly be an international effort.

Unlike the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); which focused on government collaboration, the SDGs have economic and consumption issues at their very heart, and they therefore require full private sector collaboration as well. The firms of our global economy have immense resources which can be deployed for social, economic and environmental development. It would be difficult to achieve the goals without the private sector. The trouble is that ‘for-profit’ organisations see little incentive to work with the poorest of the poor, who are ultimately those who need the greatest help to achieve the SDGs. Solutions must be thought of to make sure international companies with huge value chains, such as Unilever, are committed to the SDGs.

We need to recognise that we will all be poorer if the developed world does not help the developing world. These are not goals for each country, but goals for one unified world to enact together.

There are five key elements to goal 17:

- Finance
- Capacity Building
- Systemic Issues
- Technology
- Trade

Ideas for solutions

- Sharing eco-friendly development technologies with LEDCs to prevent high polluting and unsustainable development. Typically, the early stages of economic development cause high environmental damage, like in China, while later on nations develop greener technologies. Our world cannot support any more damage, so MEDCs should share their green energy and manufacturing technologies with LEDCs.
- A minimum contribution as a proportion of GDP could be legally required of economically developed members of the UN to transfer to developing countries. A 2009 UN report argued that both groups will grow richer and reduce global carbon emissions if MEDCs help developing nations.
- Implementing international schemes in businesses to ensure the gender pay gap is kept under control in business across the globe, including LEDCs, with the requirement of firms to publish their pay gap figures.
- Incentivise global private investment in developing nations to avoid slow development using limited public finances available through creating attractive investment opportunities. Fixed-broadband service providers should be incentivised to penetrate further into the developing world to allow for quicker economic growth in these areas, and citizens could receive basic IT training through educational knowledge sharing between schools in MEDCs and LEDCs.
- Official Development Assistance (ODA) is still required by many countries around the globe, and all nations should increase their levels of ODA. This would help nations with civil engineering projects and supplies to accelerate sustainable development in countries without the resources to develop.

- Ensuring that all UN and national initiatives to implement the SDGs have global partnerships at the centre. The implementation of Goal 17 is paramount to the effective execution of all the other SDGs.
- Creating incentives, frameworks and a more binding agreement for nations to stick to their minimum aid contributions, as the majority of developed countries are not fulfilling the agreed 0.7% of GNI aid contribution to developing nations, which was agreed by the UN in 1970 (Resolution 25/2625). This requirement could also be increased if necessary to achieve the targets of the SDGs.
- Commissioning a 'crisis report' into the importance of helping developing nations to achieve the SDGs, which could be considered necessary given the state our world is currently in. Large, global partnerships would be a huge boon to the SDGs.
- Promoting rule-based, open, equitable and non-discriminatory trade under the WTO.
- Improve global policy coordination to ensure macroeconomic stability.
- Ensuring there are effective and reliable ways to collect and monitor data to guarantee that all nations are making appropriate and proportionate contributions to the SDGs.

Nations currently involved

Germany and United Kingdom ranked in the top 10 for their progress in implementing the SDGs, while economic powerhouses like the USA and China ranked 25th and a shocking 76th respectively. India ranked 110th and Japan 18th. Some of the world's richest nations are failing to end global inequalities and fight climate change.

One specific example of how charitable work for sustainable development can work is the UNESCO Enhancement of Literacy in Afghanistan programme. This involves work in local communities to empower citizens with the skills they need, namely literacy and numeracy, to ensure a brighter future for themselves and the wider community. It is significantly and commendably funded by the governments of Japan and Sweden. These 2 nations are making an exemplary contribution to achieving the SDGs and should be followed closely by other nations that are perhaps falling short of what is required of them.

Sweden is leading the way with the SDGs and is 84.5% of the way to achieving the goals for 2030. Fellow Scandinavian nations Denmark and Norway are following closely behind, and these three nations contribute some of the highest levels of overseas development assistance as a proportion of Gross National Income (GNI). Nations such as the USA, France

and Canada may contribute a nominally large amount, but in proportion to their respective wealth, one could argue that they are not being generous enough.

Additional Resources

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

<http://effectivecooperation.org/about/supporting-the-sdgs/>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/united-nations-ranking-global-goals-poverty-inequality_us_57879fece4b03fc3ee4f7307