UNGA | APEX UNIVERSITY MODEL UN 2024

United Nations

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

At the outset on behalf of the Executive Board, we extend a warm welcome to all of you and congratulate you on being a part of the The United Nations General Assembly simulation at **APEX University Model United Nations 2024**.

We believe that 'study guides' are detrimental to the individual growth of the members since they overlook a very important aspect of this activity, which is - Research. We are sure however that this background guide gives you a perfect launching pad to start with your research. The Background guide would be as abstract as possible, and would just give you a basic perspective on what the executive board believes you should know before you commence your research.

This being clear, kindly do not limit your research to the areas highlighted, further but ensure that you logically deduce and push your research to areas associated with the issues mentioned.

The objective of this background guide is to provide you with a 'background' of the issue at hand and therefore it might seem to some as not being comprehensive enough. We are not looking for existing solutions, or strategies that would be a copy paste of what countries you are representing have already stated; instead we seek an out of the box solution from you, while knowing and understanding your impending practical and ideological limitations.

The onus is on you, members, to formulate a resolution which gives a fair attempt and frames practical solutions for impairment of treaties, failing and showing no progress, crippled by political interest pushing humanity towards the brim of war for health and wellness within the nations.

Wishing you all a very warm good luck and hoping to see you all at this conference discussing imperative issues of international interest and we look forward to meeting you all at **APEX University Model United Nations 2024**

Warm Regards,

Vedansh Bhardwaj **(Chairperson)** : Vedansh Bhardwaj

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Research Guide for Beginners

Research is possibly the most intimidating yet most important part of preparing for any Model United Nations conference. Without proper preparation, not only are representatives unable to accurately represent their country's position in a global scenario but they also restrict themselves from gaining the most out of the memorable MUN learning experience.

A delegate's aim at a MUN conference is to most faithfully represent their country's stand on a certain issue being debated, and to do this, thorough research is needed. It goes beyond retelling speeches of national leaders and requires a genuine understanding of national policy, as only this can provide the basic foundation of role-playing at the MUN.

Here you will learn methods and tips for researching, understanding your country's perspective and policies and writing your position paper using critical information

Three Levels of Research:

For any Model United Nations conference, your research should focus on a **top-down approach** on three levels which goes from the general to the specific, although the areas will naturally overlap on several occasions. The idea is to research each area thoroughly in order to develop a proper understanding of your country and the issues that will be discussed.

The three levels are:

1. The UN system;

2. Country Information and;

3. The Assisted Agenda.

1.   The United Nations System

It is interesting that this is an area which is often overlooked when researching for a MUN conference. MUNs aim to recreate the United Nations and so it is absolutely imperative that to do so, you know what the UN is, what it does and how it functions. Successful and proactive participation in the simulation requires a level of understanding of the United Nations organisation itself, regarding structures, functions and protocols. The more conferences you attend, the less time you will find yourself spending on this aspect, since the only new research required is if you are going to a committee, you've never been in before.

It is important for delegates to familiarise themselves with:

The UN Charter: https://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/index.html

The history of United Nations

The main bodies and committees of UN

The functioning of your own committee

Your country's history within the UN, its role and reputation. Information on this can be found on the websites of the permanent mission of the UN to your country.

Recent UN actions pertaining to your country or the agenda – including statements,press releases, publications, resolutions etc.

Although there are countless publications and documents on the United Nations, The best source to study about the United Nations is the UN itself.

Below are a further collection of useful links

 -www.un.org

- http://www.un.org/en/members/index.shtml

- www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/online.html

- http://www.icj-cij.org/

- http://treaties.un.org/Home.aspx

2. Country Information

Build a knowledge base of your country - delegates must be aware of their assigned country's historical, geographical, political, economic, social and environmental aspects. Build a country profile on your government – what systems, ideologies, political parties and leaders represent your country? What is your country's foreign policy and how is this affected by important historical and domestic aspects? Who are your allies and your adversaries? What other bilateral, regional and international organisations is your country a part of.

After building a basic profile, you must study your country's broad stand on global issues, particularly at the UN. Develop a basic understanding of your country's voting pattern, its involvement in the UN – speeches given by leaders and delegates of your country at the UN and resolutions/treaties it has been a part of.

- http://www.countryreports.org/

- http://www.un.org/esa/national.htm

- http://countrystudies.us/

- www.un.org/popin/data.html

- www.unausa.org

- http://www.un.org/en/members/

- http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en/

- **3. The Assisted Agenda**

This will form the bulk of your research – it will be what is used directly in committee sessions. You will be informed of the agenda of issues to be discussed at the MUN by your organisers before the conference.

A thorough study of the tabled topic for debate and discussion with respect to your country, UN and the world as a whole will aid you to properly represent your country and actively participate in the simulation. You will be provided a study guide for your assigned agenda by your MUN committee, which you should use as your starting point.

Within your agenda topic, the three areas that must be covered are:

a) A background and overview of the agenda topic and your country's policy on it

b) Detailed information on important aspects of the topic and broad information of blocs.

Points to Remember

A few aspects that delegates should keep in mind while preparing:

Procedure: The purpose of putting in procedural rules in any committee is to ensure a more organised and efficient debate. The committee will follow the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure. Although the Executive Board shall be fairly strict with the Rules of Procedure, the discussion of the agenda will be the main priority. So, delegates are advised not to restrict their statements due to hesitation regarding procedure.

Foreign Policy: Following the foreign policy of one's country is the most important aspect of a Model UN Conference. This is what essentially differentiates a Model UN from other debating formats. To violate one's foreign policy without adequate reason is one of the worst mistakes a delegate can make.

Role of the Executive Board: The Executive Board is appointed to facilitate debate. The committee shall decide the direction and flow of debate. The delegates are the ones who constitute the committee and hence must be uninhibited while presenting their opinions/stance on any issue. However, the Executive Board may put forward

questions and/or ask for clarifications at all points of time to further debate and test participants.

Nature of Source/Evidence: This Background Guide is meant solely for research purposes and must not be cited as evidence to substantiate statements made during the conference. Evidence or proof for substantiating statements made during formal debate is acceptable from the following sources:

1. United Nations: Documents and findings by the United Nations or any related UN body is held as credible proof to support a claim or argument. Multilateral Organisations: Documents from international organisations like OIC, NAFTA, SAARC, BRICS, EU, ASEAN, the International Criminal Court, etc. may also be presented as credible sources of information.

2. Government Reports: These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country.

3. News Sources:

(a) Reuters: Any Reuters article that clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in council.

(b) State operated News Agencies: These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any country as such but in that situation, may be denied byany other country in the council. Some examples are – RIA Novosti (Russian Federation), Xinhua News Agency (People's Republic of China), etc.

Please Note- Reports from NGOs working with UNESCO, UNICEF and other UN bodies will be accepted.

Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia, or newspapers like the Guardian, Times of India, etc. be accepted.

However, notwithstanding the criteria for acceptance of sources and evidence, delegates are still free to quote/cite from any source as they deem fit as a part of their statements.**UNA-USA Procedure**

Start of Committee:

● Dias (Chairs) begins with roll call

● Delegates may respond "present" or "present and voting"

● Next, the Dias asks to hear any points or motions

● If there are no points or motions on the floor, the Dias will recognise the next speaker on the Speakers' List from the previous session

● In the first committee session, a delegate must move to open the Speakers' List

● During the first committee session, the agenda must also be set (choose topic 1 or 2)

Speakers' List:

● The Speakers' List is the default format of committee, if there are no points or motions

● A country may only appear on the list once at any given time

● A delegate can be added by raising their placard when the Dias asks or by sending note to the Dias

● The speaking time will be set by the delegate who moves to open the Speakers' List, but a delegate may move to change the speaking time

● If the Speakers' List is exhausted and no other delegates wish to be added, committee moves immediately into voting procedure on any draft resolutions that have been introduced

● If there is still time remaining when a delegate concludes his or her speech, he or she must yield his or her time (to the Dias, to another delegate, or to questions, by saying either "I yield my time to …")

● Yielding to Dias ends the speech, yielding to another delegate allocates the remainder of the time to that delegate (the second delegate may not yield to a third delegate), and yielding to questions allows for feedback from other delegates

Moderated Caucus:

● When the Speakers' List is open, a delegate may introduce a motion for a moderated caucus, which is a less formal debate format to debate a specific subset of the topic

● No set speaking order; each new speaker is chosen after the previous speaker concludes

● A delegate may not yield her or his time; if delegate finishes early, move to next speaker

● Must have a set topic, duration, and speaking time (which will be voted on)

Unmoderated Caucus:

● When the Speakers' List is open, a delegate may introduce a motion for an unmoderated caucus, the least formal debate format

● Delegates may move around the room and speak freely to one another to draft resolutions

● Delegate may not leave the room without permission from the committee director

Points and Motions:

● Points and motions are tools for delegates to ask questions about committee

and its proceedings, rather than the content of debate

○ Motions change what the committee is *doing* and generally require a *vote*

○ Points do not require a vote

● Delegates may only introduce motions while the Speakers' List is open and between speakers, When motions require a vote, the vote may be either substantive or procedural ○

Some votes require a two-thirds majority to pass, while others require a simple majority.

● Points may be raised during caucuses, and some points may be used to interrupt a speaker

● There are four common points, as follow:

○ 1) Point of Inquiry - used to ask a question about parliamentary procedure

○ 2) Point of Order - used when a delegate believes the Dias has made a procedural error

○ 3) Point of Personal Privilege - used to express concerns about comfort such as the temperature of the room or the ability to hear a speaker

○ 4) Point of Information - used to ask a clarifying question about the content of a speech or statement (only during the speakers list)

● Only a point of order and a point of personal privilege may be used to interrupt a speaker.

The rules of procedures will be explained in the training session as well but it would be better if you go through these basics first so it's easier to understand during the session and ask your doubts if any.
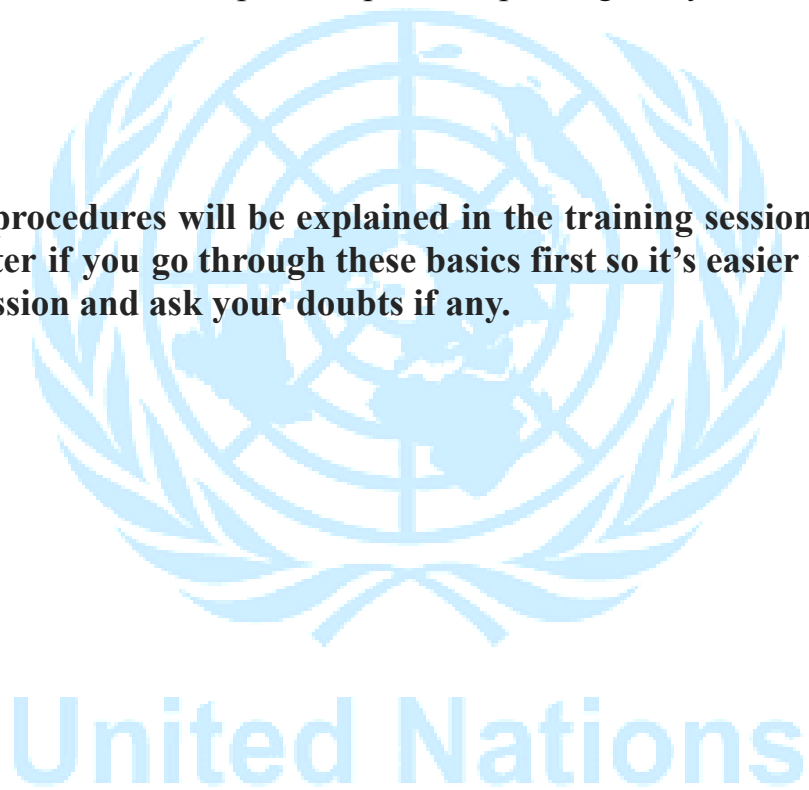
Agenda - The importance of digital transformation in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Introduction

Most countries in the Global South are in the early or middle of their Digital transformation journey. A strategic approach to digital transformation requires an institutional, organisational, and transformational framework that establishes practical and dynamic steps towards the diffusion of open data, access to digital technologies for all, and more collaborative, innovative, and open governments. Digital government implementation and digital transformation strategies must prioritise effectiveness and efficiency. The sustainable development goals are often related to second-level objectives in the digital transformation strategy. While inclusiveness, social and economic equity, accountability, transparency, and a citizen oriented perspective where everyone is included should be the priority of the Government. The challenges that the public sector has been facing to achieve digital transformation impact the performance of the SDGs and vice versa. According to the SDG 2022 Gender Index, one in three countries has made no progress in ensuring the well-being of girls and women and achieving gender equity.

The low performance of the strategies for infrastructure, interoperability, data access; strategic alignment, managerial andorganisational resources; ethical and legal approaches, and investments limit the availability of data and its use to improve public services. Certain social segments marked by systemic exclusion related to income, race, ethnicity, language, geographic location, and gender have limited resources to access the internet and, therefore, to use online data generation systems. The Electronic Government Development Index 2022 points out the risk of social invisibility resulting in denying fundamental rights. Digital transformation in its various aspects depends on data, interactions, and policies to facilitate innovation and developmentwith inclusion. With the increasing use of data worldwide, the Government is a data provider for businesses, academics, civil society, and other critical societal stakeholders.

In the Global South, countries are opening their data. However, it is not made accessible more broadly. Furthermore, for open data to be valuable and exploitable, it must be presented readable and understandable to meet different users' and stakeholders' needs. Digital transformation should include strategies not only to open the data but also to engage with the users and support with policy and regulatory framework for the use and the properties of the data. Furthermore, the digital transformation will require investing beyond data search tools and data visualisation and adopting APIs to contribute to the SDG. Creating a data culture where everyone feels safe and confident to share and use data is critical. Data remained a protected domain of experts and data scientists. Cultural change is essential to foster and improve data sharing, remove silos, and facilitate democratising data inside and outside the Government for better decision-making.

Harnessing open Data through emerging technologies to support SDG

Emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence can analyse datasets, identifying patterns and insights for decision-making and service delivery. Real-time and multisource data can be collected and transmitted through IoT devices. Blockchain ledgers enable the sharing and use of tamper-proof data. Data storage and processing in public sector organisations are facilitated by cloud computing. Technologies based on augmented or virtual reality can support the public sector in new ways of visualising. The development of these technologies depends on large volumes of data, including open data, so that they can be applied and enable these new modes of knowledge and business models.

With the heavy use of emerging technologies in the public sector, analysts need to pay more attention to harnessing open data through these technologies to contribute to the SDGs. Adopting emerging technologies and new data sources for the public good is not without risk. It raises various institutional issues, such as merging new data sources with traditional ones. It will necessitate building data governance frameworks or renewing them to ensure national ownership and the establishment of transparent mechanisms. Such mechanisms allow the private

sector, academia, and civil society partners to contribute their data, expertise, and technology to achieve the SDGs.

The state of the data could play a critical role in the SDGs. The rapid pace of innovation of emerging technologies – AI, IoT, Blockchain, and others, present additional challenges for governments as technologies generate consequences and new ways of generating risk. Emerging technologies require qualified data to impact any initiatives related to the SDGs. Collecting, storing, processing, and sharing data between different actors depends on the governance architecture connected to regulatory policies.

The complexity of the digital transformation and the deployment of emerging technologies requires that governments guarantee fundamental rights, including data protection, and promote adaptive and flexible governance related to technological development. For instance, governance to deal with artificial intelligence must pay attention to the problems of algorithms, bias, and data quality problems. Governance for the Internet of Things must deal with data collection and sharing challenges. Thus, as emerging technologies encapsulate data of different shapes and scales, new governance dilemmas must be discussed with a focus on the public sector.

The risks of exclusion, the concentration of power, misuse, and data abuse are challenging, especially in governments with limited administrative and democratic capacity, low digital literacy rates, and weak enforcement and corrective measures. Many questions about the value of open data have been raised and are still being investigated.

Implications of data Governance for open Data in achieving the SDGs

Data play a critical role in the sustainable development agenda. Open data, in particular, measures the direction and progress of the SDGs. Decision-makers need data and statistics that are accurate, timely, sufficiently disaggregated, relevant, accessible, and easy to use. Although data availability and quality have improved over the years, Global South still deal with data unavailability and quality, which

tremendously reduces initiatives impact. On the other hand, open data needs to be trained, updated, and represented to avoid gaps and biases. The data governance that feeds these systems acts to ensure transparency, effectiveness, and sustainability. Data governance can also support emerging data structures like data-sharing pools, cooperatives, and public data trusts. Finally, data governance requires citizen consent so that the Government, and other potential actors, can process their data. Thus, consent is also an instrument of citizenship. While there is a growing movement towards open government data platforms, open data policies and plans, open-source data as a public good, sophisticated official statistics offices, data sharing, and data protection laws, more than these consent mechanisms are needed. Data and data governance need to improve.

Data governance shapes data policy by allocating resources and norms, creating accountability, principles, and norms, with the support of the Government, industry, the market, academia, and citizens. Contributions from different areas and actors promote the adaptive capacity of governance to match the range of innovations arising from emerging technologies.

Therefore, it is necessary to inform the state and scope of the data encapsulated by the technological tools and methods that operate on the data. As a good practice, governance should be based on a flexible model, such as formal and informal arrangements to direct, evaluate and monitor the management and delivery of policies and public services through relationships inside and outside the Government. In this scenario, data governance is a principle that must come first.

Data governance can complement data policy gaps by combining designs to protect citizens' data and privacy through consensus among multiple actors.

Therefore, the adaptive capacity of governance enables stakeholders to address compliance, provide information, change processes, and contribute their share to achieve the SDGs. Meeting target 17.18 is related to strengthening the data infrastructure, as decision-makers and public managers use key indicators to inform and formulate public policies. Ownership of indicators is critical to solidify sustainable data governance. More Benefits can be associated with digital transformation strategies, stimulating innovation centred on people and offering

services adapted to the needs of marginalised and minorities, specifically in the global south.

Thus, a data governance structure must, at a minimum: connect to the institutional system that promotes forms of interaction, collaboration, and coordination networks; institute monitoring and evaluation processes with the parties, preferably through the critical indicators of the SGDs; and manage the organisational, managerial processes that through sound practices of integrity, transparency, and accountability.

How tech can help achieve each SDG:
Digital technologies can contribute significantly to the fulfilment of every SDG:

- SDG 1: No poverty. More than 2 billion people in the world don't have bank accounts, while access to digital financial services has been proven to help lift people out of poverty. The Financial Inclusion Global Initiative (FIGI), begun in 2017 by ITU, the World Bank and the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures (CPMI), with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, expands digital financial inclusion in developing countries.

- SDG 2: Zero hunger. By making agricultural practices more data-driven and efficient, ICT-enabled solutions can help farmers increase crop yields while reducing their use of energy. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has worked closely with ITU since 2017 to bolster ICT innovation in agriculture.

- SDG 3: Good health and well-being. Direct patient interaction, health informatics and telemedicine can be improved through better connectivity. The "Digital Health for Africa" partnership launched by ITU and the World Health Organization in 2017, has delivered digital health leadership capacity development for more than 15 countries in Africa. Be He@lthy, Be Mobile, another ITU-WHO collaboration, is carrying out projects in several

countries on mHealth, in addition to maintaining the mHealth Knowledge and Innovation Hub in Europe (mhealth-hub.org). Current and forthcoming ITU standards for multimedia systems, developed in collaboration with other organizations, will support the widespread deployment of digital health applications, including telemedicine and remote medical imaging.

- SDG 4: Quality education. ITU and the International Labour Organization (ILO) are leading the Digital Skills for Decent Jobs Campaign, which aims to equip 5 million young men and women with job-ready digital skills by 2030 in support of the first-ever, comprehensive UN system-wide effort for the promotion of youth employment worldwide. The Giga Initiative founded by ITU and UNICEF monitors and promotes connectivity in schools.

- SDG 5: Gender equality. According to ITU statistics, 250 million fewer women were online than men in 2017. Globally, 62% of men use the Internet compared with 57% of women. Although the digital gender divide has been narrowing in all world regions and virtually eliminated in the developed world, wide gaps persist in LDCs (where 31% of men are online, compared to just 19% of women) and in Landlocked Developing Countries (where 38% of men compared to 27% of women). To close the digital gender gap, ITU members organize the annual International Girls in ICT Day to encourage more women and girls to pursue science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers. Gender equality initiatives where ITU is directly engaged include EQUALS, a ground-breaking global network to build an evidence base and improve women's access to technology, build relevant digital and other skills, and promote female leadership in the tech sector.

- SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation. New and emerging digital technologies facilitate smart water and sanitation management. The ITU Focus Group on Smart Sustainable Cities follows key trends in urban smart water management, including ICTs for wastewater management.

- SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy. Rising tech use contributes to emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. But the industry is exploring ways to use greener energy, make devices more energy efficient, and incorporate solar, wind and other renewable sources into the value chain. At the same time, cutting-edge tech will be essential to cut global emissions, build smart grids and cities, electrify transport, and build sustainable economies and societies. ITU has helped set more stringent energy efficiency and emission control standards for ICTs and has outlined how smart grids can help to build more controllable and efficient energy systems and reduce carbon emissions.

- SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth. Technology creates new jobs, enables resilient work and commerce, and stimulates wider social and economic development. ITU's Digital Innovation Framework helps countries, cities and other communities and systems accelerate their digital transformation, stimulate ICT-centric innovative entrepreneurship, and foster vibrant small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

- SDG 9: Improved Infrastructure: Much of ITU's work directly aims to improve the extent and quality of ICT infrastructure of radiocommunication and backbone networks and to extend networks into underserved remote and rural areas. ITU's standards are improving the energy efficiency and performance of ICT networks, in backhaul, wireline and radiocommunication networks.

- SDG 10: Reduced inequalities. ITU works to reduce inequality within and between countries, communities, and populations by extending access to technologies and knowledge to disadvantaged segments of society.

- SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities. "United for Smart Sustainable Cities" (U4SSC), begun by ITU and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in 2016, helps cities take key steps to become smart and sustainable. Fifty cities from a number of countries worldwide have now joined this project.

- SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production. E-Waste, including waste created by ICTs, is increasing all over the world. ITU has launched a coalition to produce the Global E-waste Monitor and strengthen collaboration to address the global challenge of waste from electrical and electronic equipment. ITU is also developing global strategies, standards and policies that offer guidelines for the sustainable management of e-waste.

- SDG 13: Climate change action. Digital tools allow increasingly sophisticated climate modelling. ITU facilities international cooperation on policies and standards to help reduce energy consumption for ICT products and services. Key ITU standards promote green data centres and green power feeding systems. ITU is carrying out a joint project to model cities using digital twin modelling.

- SDG 14: Life below water. ICTs are being extensively used to monitor the changing marine environment (e.g. the movement of ice flows and glacial movements). Buoys can be equipped with remote monitoring to monitor changing conditions at sea (e.g. salinity levels of water via buoys). Sensor networks and RFID chips can be used to protect endangered animals (e.g. whales and dolphins) to learn about their migratory patterns and needs.

- SDG 15: Life on Land. ICTs can be used to identify, monitor, photograph and track wildlife populations. Sensor networks and RFID chips can be used to protect endangered animals (e.g. lions, elephants and tigers) to learn more about their migratory patterns and needs for protection.

- SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions. E-government services are helping improve the relationship of citizens and state and improving the efficiency of delivery of government services. ITU helps to drive citizen empowerment through its work on smart sustainable cities and key performance indicators (KPIs) that measure social inclusion, such as voter participation or the number of government services delivered through electronic means.

- SDG 17: The power of partnerships. Public-private partnerships are key to bringing ICTs to all nations, peoples, and communities. Partnerships are particularly needed to build the physical infrastructure required to deliver Internet services in hard-to-reach areas and to currently disadvantaged populations, as well as to facilitate the investment, inclusion and innovation required for SDG fulfilment across the board.

The 2030 deadline for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is fast approaching, demanding fresh and bold ideas to achieve sustainable development for all. It is evident that a "business as usual" approach is no longer effective, and urgent action is required as time is running out.

Digital tools offer immense potential to accelerate human progress, but those without access to the internet remain at the greatest risk of exclusion. Until these individuals are connected, they cannot participate in today's digital and knowledge-based society. According to the latest data from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), while 5.4 billion people worldwide now use the internet, 2.6 billion remain offline, unable to benefit from digital innovations. The rapid evolution of technology continues to widen the gap between the digitally connected and disconnected.

Innovative thinking is essential to unlock new possibilities, enable individuals and organizations to address complex challenges, and foster sustainable growth. Digital innovation, in particular, plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable development, especially in regions where the digital divide is most severe.

One of the most effective ways to bridge this divide is through the creation of low-cost technologies and devices accessible to all, which can significantly advance both sustainable development and digital transformation. Many human-centered digital solutions are already transforming communities around the world.

For example, in a remote village in Pakistan, the "Smart Village" project—implemented by ITU—has enabled a ninth-grade student to study science subjects through online classes, an opportunity previously unavailable. Similarly, the "Be He@lthy, Be Mobile" initiative, led by ITU and the World Health Organization, uses digital messaging to raise awareness about myopia, a vision impairment projected to affect 3.36 billion people by 2030.

In Papua New Guinea, Joseph, a farmer and teacher, benefited from ITU-led digital skills and e-commerce training, inspiring him to launch an e-marketplace to sell turmeric. In countries such as Burundi, Ethiopia, and Haiti, a collaborative initiative by ITU and the Enhanced Integrated Framework has strengthened digital

ecosystems and developed skills for women's economic empowerment. A young entrepreneur from the program, whose business was digitalized through the project, reported participating in both the New York and Cape Town fashion fairs, with her business thriving as a result.

The ITU is committed to closing the digital innovation divide, where technology evolves faster than policy can keep pace, by helping nations transition into competitive digital economies. This mission is achieved in partnership with ITU's 193 member states, over 1,000 companies, research institutions, and various stakeholders. Collaboration lies at the heart of the organization's efforts.

The importance of digital entrepreneurship is reflected in the adoption of Resolution 90 during the 2022 World Telecommunication Development Conference. This resolution emphasizes the need to foster tech-focused entrepreneurship and digital innovation ecosystems to support sustainable development and advance progress toward all 17 SDGs.

In line with these goals, ITU develops policy recommendations for national strategies on digital innovation, supports start-ups, and offers capacity-building programs through the ITU Academy, the organization's primary online gateway for training and development activities.

In January 2023, as part of a strategic initiative, the Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau launched the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development. The Alliance aims to bridge the digital innovation divide, enhance innovation capacity, and promote forward-thinking solutions to scale up digital innovation for sustainable development.

The Innovation Alliance plays a key role in strengthening international knowledge exchange, enabling South-South and North-South cooperation, and fostering digital entrepreneurship globally. As part of these efforts, 17 ITU Acceleration Centres have been established to serve countries by providing platforms for policy experimentation, research, and open technology innovation. These centers aim to scale up digital entrepreneurship, boost economic growth, and unlock creativity and talent worldwide.

United Nations