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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are part of a development plan called the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015 by the 193 member countries of the United Nations. Over the last few decades, intergovernmental agendas and recommendations on global development have changed dramatically. They have moved from a fragmented approach to a more integrated and coherent strategy, as can be seen in the shift between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), planned for 2000-2015, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), planned for 2015-2030. The SDGs are unique in their universality, complexity and vision for bringing about positive change in the world. Universality means that the SDGs apply to all countries and that all countries that have signed the agreement are obliged to contribute to the achievement of the goals. The motto is "leaving no one behind" and means that the SDGs will contribute to achieving prosperity for all people, especially those living in hardship and deprivation. The agenda is also based on the interconnectedness and indivisibility of the 17 SDGs - achieving one goal often requires tackling problems that are linked to other goals, and it is important to consider the goals as a whole. The 2030 Agenda encourages countries, businesses, organisations and all citizens of the world to work together to achieve these goals, and in so doing, to do our part to preserve the environment and make life better for all the people of this world and for future generations.

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Source: SDGs, Grafik: UN

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The short titles of THE SDGs are:

SDG 1 - No poverty
SDG 2 - Zero hunger
SDG 3 - Good health and well-being
SDG 4 - Quality education
SDG 5 - Gender equality
SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation
SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy
SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth
SDG 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
SDG 10 - Reduced inequalities
SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production
SDG 13 - Climate action
SDG 14 - Life below water
SDG 15 - Life on land
SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
SDG 17 - Partnerships for the goals

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GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION (GCE)

SDGs are closely related to Global Citizenship Education (GCE) as they are addressing the global challenges related to all of us. GCE is an educational framework that aims to empower learners to engage with and address global challenges, promote respect for diversity, and foster a sense of belonging to a broader global community. It goes beyond traditional academic subjects to encompass a range of knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes necessary for individuals to become responsible and active global citizens. GCE can be integrated into various educational settings, including formal schooling, non-formal education programs, and community-based initiatives. It equips participants with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to navigate an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, fostering a sense of shared responsibility for creating a more just, peaceful, and sustainable global society.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION (GCE)

SDG4 focuses on education and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. More specifically, Goal 4.7 promotes Global Citizenship Education: “By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development ”.

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Key elements of **GCE** include:

GLOBAL AWARENESS: Emphasising the understanding of interconnectedness of the world and the impact of global challenges, such as social injustice, intercultural dialogue, climate change, discrimination, sustainable development, human rights, migration, etc.

CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM-SOLVING: Participants are encouraged to critically analyse complex global challenges, consider multiple perspectives, and develop innovative solutions to address them.

CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT: Promotion of respect for cultural diversity and encouragement of participants to appreciate different cultural perspectives, beliefs, and practices.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS: Emphasising the importance of promoting social justice, equality, and human rights both locally and globally.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: Highlighting the importance of environmental sustainability and encouragement of participants to take action in protection of the planet and its resources.

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY: Promotion of ethical behaviour and responsible decision-making, encouragement of the participants to consider the impact of their actions on others and the planet.

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: Empowering (young) people to actively participate in their communities and to advocate for positive social change and environmental sustainability at local, national, and global levels.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR FACILITATORS

When you want to address SDGs-related topics with young people, you can ask them the following questions:

- What are the biggest global challenges the world is facing today?
- What are the biggest global challenges the world is going to face in the coming years/centuries?
- Which SDGs are most important to you? Why?
- How can you/your family/your community contribute to achieving each SDG?
- What can we do to think beyond the year 2030? What goals should we set for the future?

However, it is crucial to emphasise that we are significantly behind schedule in achieving the SDGs, with 2030 rapidly approaching and none of the goals having been fully achieved. Hence, it is crucial to innovate and strategise new approaches to advance towards these goals, while also fostering a forward-thinking mind-set. Young people can make a significant impact in demanding the necessary changes in society and can use their voices to call on their governments to take concrete action and implement the commitments they have made at national and, by extension, international level.

If you have more time and want to go deeper into the issues related to the SDGs, you can ask the participants more complex questions:

- Are any of the SDGs contradictory to sustainable development, which and why?
- How could these goals be reformulated?

A CRITICAL LOOK AT GREENWASHING

The practice of greenwashing by attaching SDGs labels to less sustainable activities raises serious concerns. Companies and organisations that label their products or services as "sustainable" or "environmentally friendly" by invoking the SDGs without actually taking significant action to promote these goals undermine the credibility and purpose of the SDGs. This practice can lead to the public being misled into believing that purchasing such products or supporting such organisations is contributing to real positive change, when in reality minimal or no real progress is being made towards sustainability. A critical look at greenwashing is crucial to ensure that efforts to achieve the SDGs are authentic and have real impact, rather than merely serving as a marketing strategy.

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