

# **Blue Bells Model UN 2022**

## **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**

### **AGENDA**

Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development

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## **LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

We take pleasure in welcoming all of you to the United Nations General Assembly (ECOFIN) being simulated at Blue Bells Model UN 2022. This letter from the Executive Board will help you get a clear direction about the committee, the agenda that is supposed to be discussed and the method of researching that has to be followed. It is, however, important that you read the entire background guide very carefully and after reading it, focus on the topics that have been suggested for research and the links to the articles that have been attached herewith. The way of approaching things and concepts in this background guide will be slightly different and it is preferred that you respect the way that has been suggested and then research in the manner so told in order to gain the maximum knowledge and also to get a clear direction of how United Nations General Assembly at this MUN will function this year.

**This background guide like other background guides in MUNs and other conferences will not run into a number of pages but will be a mere 11-page document consisting less of matter to learn about things but research links, sorted topic wise for you, which you are supposed to read, which most people generally do not do in MUN Conferences and/or simulations of the same sort. By reading these articles/news reports/documents attached with the research links you will be able to gain around 80% of the knowledge about the committee and the agenda and the only thing you would be required to do after reading the matter provided in this background guide is to work on the remaining 20% matter for your research from as many sources as you can find on the internet.**

Here are certain Rules for Researching that you must follow:

### **Rule Number 1:**

Read from as many sources as possible so as to get a wider angle of researching over things. Read a topic from at least 2-3 articles or sources and then prepare points on the same and not speeches.

### **Rule Number 2:**

Read from more and more authentic documents of sources for getting a genuine perspective about things. For example: Since this committee is the UNGA, sources like the official website

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of the United Nations and that of its agencies, or articles published on the official sources like new agencies including Reuters and the like shall be preferred over sources like Wikipedia and Quora. However, these sources like Wikipedia can be used to read about things but cannot be relied upon as definitive proof or source for your research. Expand the horizons of your research by reading from at least 2-3 sources about a particular topic and then make notes.

Kindly feel free to write to me or contact me for queries or clarifications, if any at the contact details provided below.

All the best!

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## **ABOUT THE COMMITTEE**

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/>

Established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Composed of all 193 Members of the United Nations, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter. It also plays a significant role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.

The Assembly is empowered to make recommendations to States on international issues within its competence. It has also initiated actions – political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal – which have benefited the lives of millions of people throughout the world.

The Assembly meets from September to December each year (main part), and thereafter, from January to September (resumed part), as required, including to take up outstanding reports from the Fourth and Fifth Committees. Also during the resumed part of the session, the Assembly considers current issues of critical importance to the international community in the form of high-level thematic debates organized by the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with the membership. During that period, the Assembly traditionally also conducts informal consultations on a wide range of substantive topics as mandated by its resolutions.

## **Introduction the Agenda**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which acts as the global framework for accomplishing the 17 SDGs, aims to put the world on a more sustainable course by 2030.

The COVID epidemic has had catastrophic human, economic, and societal consequences throughout the world. Increasing poverty, job losses, and demonstrated the diverse ramifications of health vulnerabilities among many other challenges, systems, and worsened inequities. The Covid-19 pandemic is an asymmetric shock, exacerbated by existing vulnerabilities related to uneven SDG development.

This might result in even greater disparities across countries. As the globe struggles to recover from COVID-19 in the middle of several crises, it is critical to consider how recovery strategies may address the pandemic's negative implications on the SDGs and put nations on track to meet the 2030 Agenda. It is also critical to thoroughly assess Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 5 on quality education, gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. The pandemic has impacted the whole food chain, exposing its vulnerability. Border closures, trade restrictions, and confinement measures have made it difficult for farmers to access markets, including to buy inputs and sell their produce, and for

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agricultural workers to harvest crops, disrupting domestic and international food supply chains and reducing access to healthy, safe, and diverse diets.

The epidemic has wrecked jobs and put millions of people's lives in jeopardy. As breadwinners lose their jobs, become ill, or die, millions of women and men's food security and nutrition are jeopardized, with those in low-income nations, notably the most marginalized groups, such as small-scale farmers and indigenous peoples, bearing the brunt of the burden. Millions of agricultural workers, both wage and self-employed, experience high levels of working poverty, hunger, and bad health, as well as a lack of safety and labor protection, as well as various forms of maltreatment, while feeding the globe.

With poor and irregular salaries and a lack of social assistance, many of them are compelled to continue working, frequently in hazardous situations, endangering themselves and their families. Furthermore, when faced with income loss, individuals may resort to negative coping techniques such as distressed asset sales, predatory lending, or child labour. Migrant agricultural labourers are particularly vulnerable because they encounter hazards in their transportation, working, and housing situations and struggle to get government-provided assistance.

- [https://www.un.org/ohrlls/sites/www.un.org.ohrlls/files/hlpf\\_non-paper-lllcs-2022-final.pdf](https://www.un.org/ohrlls/sites/www.un.org.ohrlls/files/hlpf_non-paper-lllcs-2022-final.pdf)

This document includes a non-paper for the 2022 HLPF. . Global progress on the implementation of the Agenda and of the SDGs is followed-up every year at the UN High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), which convenes under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Forum provides an important platform for landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) to share their specific challenges, and to highlight areas where they need the most support from the international community.

- <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognise that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The document provides for an extension to the idea of sustainable development goals (SDGs).

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### **Challenges that the Post-Pandemic world faces**

Even when some countries ease their restrictions, it is too early and too much is unknown to quantify the economic impact accurately. The ramifications of this catastrophe have been and will continue to be felt in all aspects of human life. Although many uncertainties remain, whether hygienic, economic, social, or political, we must make our best efforts to figure out and prepare for a post-crisis existence. A problem for both global and home institutions, the underlying concern is one of narrative, with COVID-19 being read as a globalization crisis rather than a domestic institution issue. While there is little question that hyper-globalization has aided the virus's capacity to spread so swiftly, it is not the WHO that supplies hospital beds, physicians, and nurses, nor the World Trade Organization (WTO) that purchases medications, ventilators, and personal protective equipment. These responsibilities fall to our own institutions.

- **Employment Loss**

The crisis's impact has been far-reaching, with underemployment skyrocketing as millions of workers are ordered to work less or no hours at all. Working hours in Asia and the Pacific are expected to fall by 15.2 percent in the second quarter and 10.7 percent in the third quarter of 2020, compared to pre-crisis levels.

- **Women and young people are disproportionately hit**

According to the survey, the majority of nations in the area reported a greater decrease in working hours and employment for women than males. In addition, women were more prone than males to become inactive. Working hours and job losses have also disproportionately impacted young people. The youth portion of overall job loss was three to eighteen times greater than their share of total employment. With growing unemployment, it is probable that young people may find it harder to compete for new positions. When they do find work, it may be in a field that does not match their interests. Millions of women have also paid a significant price, and those who have left the labour sector may take years to return to full employment.

- **Labour income as another crisis victim**

With fewer paid hours of work, median incomes are falling. Overall, labour income is estimated to have fallen by as much as 10 per cent in the Asia–Pacific region in the first three quarters of 2020, equivalent to a 3 per cent loss in gross domestic product. A further consequence is the increase in working poverty levels. As a result of fiscal expenditure gaps, the crisis is likely to exacerbate inequalities among countries in Asia and the Pacific.

- **The Chinese Dependency**

The COVID-19 epidemic has created an unprecedented global scenario. Aviation, pharmaceutical, and medical equipment supply lines, among others, have been interrupted. One reason for this is because China is a prominent hub in many sectors'

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worldwide value chains. The presence of China as the major hub in many global value chains has resulted in worldwide export losses of around \$50 billion. Many sectors that operate worldwide rely on Chinese suppliers. There is a scarcity of medical equipment such as N95 masks, personal protective equipment (PPE), medications, and so on since demand significantly out numbers supply.

- <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/themes/social-challenges>

This website contains the most recent OECD statistics, recommendations, and policy advice on the impact of COVID-19 on social protection, well-being, education, and skills, as well as a curated selection of previous OECD social material.

- [https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_Challenges\\_and\\_Opportunities\\_Post\\_COVID\\_19.pdf](https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Challenges_and_Opportunities_Post_COVID_19.pdf)

In this collection of essays, the Global Risks Advisory Board of the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Initiative provides for beyond the current crisis to the potential challenges and opportunities in the post-COVID-19 world.

### **Economic Reconstruction amidst the pandemic**

A substantial and improved economic recovery from the COVID-19 epidemic demands governments to prioritise the services sector in their policy mix. Services play a critical role in boosting overall productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness. Globally, services account for two-thirds of economic production, more than half of global employment, and around a quarter of direct exports. However, direct service exports are only the tip of the iceberg. Services are important inputs into all economic sectors. Services can contribute for about two-thirds of total export value-added through indirect contributions, including those created in-house by non-services enterprises. Furthermore, services account for two-thirds of overall productivity growth in emerging nations, making them a critical component of these countries' industrialisation strategy.

- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/01/1109702>

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) report 2022 World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) identifies a cocktail of concerns slowing the economy, including fresh waves of COVID-19 infections, persisting labour market and supply-chain challenges, and growing inflationary pressures shared within the document.

- <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2021/06/08/the-global-economy-on-track-for-strong-but-uneven-growth-as-covid-19-still-weighs>

The document provides for an addition to economic reconstruction mechanisms. It also includes links to further archives which can help a delegate to get an overview about the sub-topic.

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### **Turning the tide on COVID-19**

As countries grapple with the economic consequences of the epidemic, the services sector may assist turn the tide by providing chances for increased income, food security, productivity, employment, investment, and trade. **Servicification**, or putting a priority on the role of trade in services to fuel national economies, must be a significant component of nations' COVID-19 recovery policies. However, in order for services to benefit society and economies, countries must implement policies that are inclusive, logical, and appropriate. Developing and least developed nations, in particular, require assistance in strengthening and upgrading their services. The landscape is uneven, with poor nations relying more on conventional services and wealthy countries more on knowledge-intensive ones. Dealing with the epidemic has highlighted the importance of keeping the structural divide between industrialised and poor nations in mind. It is vital to boost key service inputs that alter emerging nations' economies and commerce. As a significant component of the policy agenda, this calls for international collaboration, notably South-South cooperation, on trade in services.

### **Digital services transform economies**

Services may be strategically leveraged to aid economic transition. These include telework-enabling ICT services, digital banking services, and e-commerce platforms, which have kept economies operating during COVID-19-induced lockdowns. ICT services that can boost efficiency and lower costs foster the digital transformation of agriculture, manufacturing, and other industries. This services-enabled digitalization boosts supply and export capability, boosting countries' economic resilience and recovery after the epidemic. As many creatives have resorted to digital platforms and technology to engage with audiences and customers, the digitization of services has helped the creative sectors cope with the pandemic. The potential of digitization is equally important in other services that have been severely affected by the pandemic, such as tourism, the world's third largest export sector (after fuels and chemicals).



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## TURNING AGENDA 2030 INTO REALITY



- 1. No Poverty** - End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- 2. Zero Hunger** - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- 3. Good Health and Well-being** - Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
- 4. Quality Education** - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- 5. Gender Equality** - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- 6. Clean Water and Sanitation** - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- 7. Affordable and Clean Energy** - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth** - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure** - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- 10. Reduced Inequalities** - Reduce income inequality within and among countries
- 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities** - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

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**12. Responsible Consumption and Production** - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**13. Climate Action** - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy

**14. Life Below Water** - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**15. Life on Land** - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

**16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

**17. Partnerships for the Goals** - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

### **Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

<https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognise that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path.

### **COVID-19 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The COVID-19 pandemic has undermined the progress made on sustainable development. It poses a significant challenge to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda as there has been a rise in extreme poverty, inequalities and injustice across the globe. In the context of the most wide-reaching and severe cascade of human rights setbacks in our lifetime, “the 2030 Agenda, underpinned by human rights, provides a comprehensive blueprint for sustainable recovery from the pandemic,” as stated in the UN Policy Brief on COVID-19 and Human Rights. Its human rights core can help ensure that people and their human rights are central to these efforts, that the needs of those most vulnerable are addressed, and that the structural and underlying causes of inequality and discrimination are tackled and addressed. Click here to read the guidance materials that OHCHR has produced concerning the response and recovery to COVID-19.

- <https://www.ohchr.org/en/covid-19/covid-19-guidance>

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The 2021 High-Level Political Forum under the auspices of ECOSOC discussed ways to ensure a sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19 that puts the United Nations on track to realize the 2030 Agenda. The theme was "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development".

- <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021>

The third intersessional meeting on human rights and the 2030 Agenda that took place on 14 January 2021 under the theme "Building back better: Integrating human rights in sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic" focused on the implementation of SDG 10 on reduced inequalities and SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, as countries aim to build back better from the pandemic.

- <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/intersessional-meeting2030-agenda3rd>