PremiaMUN 2024

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

(UNICEF) Letter from the Executive Board (EB)

Greetings Delegates!

We feel privileged and honoured to welcome you to this simulation of UNICEF at Premia MUN 2024. We hope that this simulation proves fruitful to you and you take something valuable back from it. We also hope that by the end of the conference, you will have a better understanding of different views, current affairs, and various other aspects of the agenda that has been selected for this conference and we hope that you will be willing to participate in more such conferences.

The Executive Board has collectively designed a Background Guide for you to start your research process. The Background Guide will help you get familiar with the agenda and its background but for the committee to progress as someone who is going to enact as the representative of a nation you must carry forward external research, and as the name suggests, will provide you with very basic and guiding insights. The Background Guide is a major resource for you but should not provide a hindrance in your external research.

For your external research and background research on your portfolio, you are advised to research like there's no tomorrow! This Background Guide will only scratch the surface of the agenda that we are currently dealing with. We urge all members of the committee to take the time to read the background guide and use it as a starting point for their preparation. You are to come to the conference with an open mind, ready to meet and work with new people, actively participate in the debate in the committee, debate and argue solutions and problems, and hopefully reach a consensus. The Executive Board looks forward to your presence at IAMUN 2024.

Mohd Ataur Rahman (Zeeshaan) Sanjuktha Naidu
(Chairperson) (Vice Chair)

Agenda: "Formulating a Plan of Action to accelerate progress towards Child Related SDGs."

About the Committee:

The UNICEF Committee is a vital body within the United Nations system, dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights of children globally. Established in 1946, UNICEF works in over 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, defend their rights, and help them fulfill their potential from early childhood through adolescence. Guided by the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), UNICEF's mission includes ensuring child survival and development, providing basic education and promoting gender equality, protecting children from violence and exploitation, and addressing social inclusion barriers. UNICEF operates through its headquarters in New York City, regional and country offices worldwide, and is governed by an Executive Board comprising representatives from 36 countries. The organization collaborates with governments, NGOs, civil society, the private sector, and other UN agencies to mobilize resources and expertise. UNICEF's key focus areas include child survival and health, education, child protection, and humanitarian response. Despite challenges such as resource constraints, conflict, and climate change, UNICEF continues to leverage innovation, strengthen partnerships, and advocate for child-friendly policies to create a world where every child can thrive.

Mandate of the Committee:

The UNICEF Committee is tasked with advocating for and implementing strategies to promote and protect the rights and well-being of children worldwide, guided by the principles set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The committee's work covers several critical areas, including child survival and development, basic education and gender equality, child protection, social inclusion, and humanitarian response. In terms of child survival and development, the committee focuses on ensuring access to essential healthcare services, including immunization, maternal and newborn care, and nutrition programs to combat malnutrition and infectious diseases. Discussions often revolve around improving healthcare infrastructure, expanding vaccination programs, and addressing nutritional deficiencies.

The committee also prioritizes basic education and gender equality by promoting quality education for all children, especially girls and marginalized groups, and ensuring access to early childhood care and education programs. Topics of discussion include improving teacher training, enhancing educational infrastructure, and developing inclusive curricula. Child protection is another key area, where the committee works to prevent violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect, including eliminating harmful practices like child marriage and female genital mutilation. Social inclusion efforts focus on addressing barriers that prevent marginalized children from enjoying their rights, including ensuring birth registration and legal identity for all children. In humanitarian response, the committee provides immediate assistance and supports long-term recovery for children and families affected by natural

disasters, conflicts, and other emergencies.
UNICEF collaborates with governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, the private sector, and other United Nations agencies to mobilize resources, share expertise, and implement effective programs. By addressing the complex and interrelated challenges facing children globally, the committee aims to create a world where every child can thrive and reach their full potential. Discussions often focus on innovative solutions, best practices, and strategies to ensure the safety, education, and well-being of children, particularly in crisis situations.

Overview:

The agenda focuses on accelerating progress towards the child-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically targeting those that directly impact the well-being, development, and rights of children. These include SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 5 (Gender Equality), among others. The goal is to create a comprehensive plan of action that addresses the critical challenges children face worldwide, such as poverty, malnutrition, lack of access to quality education and healthcare, and gender-based disparities.
The committee will discuss strategies to enhance global and local efforts in improving child health and nutrition, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, and protecting children from violence, exploitation, and discrimination. Emphasis will be placed on innovative solutions, cross-sector partnerships, and mobilizing resources to support sustainable and scalable interventions. The agenda also includes promoting social inclusion and equity, ensuring that the most marginalized and vulnerable children are not left behind.
Additionally, the agenda will explore mechanisms for effective monitoring, evaluation, and accountability to track progress and ensure the implementation of child-focused policies and programs. By formulating a robust plan of action, the committee aims to
accelerate the achievement of child-related SDGs, contributing to a future where every child can thrive, learn, and grow in a safe and supportive environment.
RoP:
Rules Of Procedure: The MUN Rules of Procedure (RoP) are established to maintain decorum and ensure order throughout a Model United Nations conference. These guidelines are essential for facilitating an effective and organized debate.

Attendance and Roll Call:
1. Be present at all sessions.
2. Respond with "Present" or "Present and Voting" during roll call. 3. Roll call is conducted at the beginning of each session to ensure quorum.

Quorum:
1. At least one-third of the delegates must be present to start the session. 2. A simple majority (more than half) is needed to pass a draft resolution.

Debate:
Speakers' List
1. The primary method for delegates to speak.
2. Delegates speak in the order they are listed.

Formal Debate
1. Follow the speakers' list.
2. Set time limits for speeches.

Moderated Caucus
1. A more flexible debate format.
2. Set time limits for the caucus and individual speeches.

Unmoderated Caucus
1. Informal discussion without a structured order.
2. Set a time limit for the caucus.

Point of Order
1. Used if procedural rules are violated.
2. Chair decides on the issue.

Point of Personal Privilege
1. Used to address personal discomfort.
2. Chair responds immediately.

Point of Inquiry
1. Used to ask procedural questions.
Motions:

Motion to Set the Agenda
1. Determines the order of topics.
2. Needs a majority vote to pass.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting
1. Ends the meeting until the next session.
2. Needs a majority vote to pass.

Motion to Suspend the Meeting
1. Pauses the meeting for a break.
2. Needs a majority vote to pass.

Motion to Close Debate
1. Ends discussion and moves to voting.
2. Needs a two-thirds majority to pass.

Resolutions:
Draft Resolutions
1. Written proposals for committee action.
2. Require sponsors and signatories to be considered.

Amendments
1. Changes to the draft resolution.
2. Require discussion and a vote to be adopted.

Voting on Resolutions and Amendments
1. Usually requires a simple majority to pass.
2. Voting can be done by roll call or show of hands.

Conduct:
Respectful Behavior:
1. Be respectful and diplomatic.
2. Use polite and professional language.

Yielding Time:
1. Delegates may give their remaining speaking time to the Chair, another delegate, or for questions.

Key Terms:
1. Motion: A proposal for action or discussion within the committee session.
2. Clause: A specific section within a working paper or draft resolution. 3. Simple Majority: More than half of the members must agree. 4. Special Majority: Two-thirds of the members must agree.
5. Working Paper: A document containing policy proposals from delegates. 6. Draft Resolution: A formal document outlining proposed actions and solutions.
7. Bloc: A group of countries or political parties with shared interests and goals.

What are Sustainable Development Goals?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 interlinked global objectives established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These goals represent a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030. The SDGs address a broad range of global challenges, including inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice. Each goal has specific targets and indicators to measure progress, and they are designed to be integrated and indivisible, emphasizing the interconnected nature of social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

The importance of the SDGs lies in their comprehensive approach to addressing the world's most pressing issues. By setting clear, measurable targets and fostering global partnerships, the SDGs provide a framework for countries to align their policies and actions with shared objectives. This collective effort aims to create a more equitable and sustainable world, where no one is left behind. The goals promote inclusivity, ensuring that advancements in areas such as health, education, and economic development benefit all individuals, particularly those who are marginalized or disadvantaged. As global challenges such as climate change and inequality intensify, the SDGs serve as a critical roadmap for guiding national and international efforts towards achieving a more just and sustainable future.

What are Child Related SDGs?

The child-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of globally agreed objectives specifically aimed at addressing the needs, rights, and well-being of children. These goals are critical components of the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is a comprehensive framework established by the United Nations in 2015 to address the world's most pressing challenges and promote equitable and sustainable development.

The child-related SDGs encompass several areas, each targeting fundamental aspects of childhood development. These include the eradication of poverty, elimination of hunger, promotion of health and well-being, provision of quality education, and advancement of gender equality. By focusing on these areas, the SDGs seek to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive and reach their
full potential, recognizing that children's well-being is a cornerstone for societal progress and stability.

The child-related SDGs are integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, serving as a vital framework for ensuring that children worldwide have the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive. By focusing on poverty reduction, health, education, and gender equality, these goals address fundamental aspects of

childhood development and contribute to the overall prosperity and stability of societies. Their successful implementation requires a coordinated global effort, robust monitoring, and local adaptation to ensure that every child can benefit from the rights and opportunities they deserve.

Importance of Child Related SDGs:

The Child Related Sustainable Development Goals, integral to the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, address critical areas such as health, education, and protection. By focusing on these aspects, the SDGs aim to lay a strong foundation for individual and societal progress. Investing in children's health, education, and overall development not only nurtures human capital but also drives economic growth and innovation. Children who receive quality education, proper nutrition, and access to healthcare are more likely to become productive and skilled adults, contributing positively to their communities and economies. Addressing child-related SDGs is crucial for breaking cycles of disadvantage and reducing inequalities. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds often face barriers that limit their opportunities, perpetuating a cycle of poverty. By targeting extreme poverty and improving food security, the SDGs work to provide children with the resources they need to succeed and escape the cycle of poverty. This approach not only benefits individuals but also strengthens social stability and cohesion, reducing the risk of societal disruption. Ensuring that children have access to essential services and opportunities helps prevent intergenerational poverty and promotes sustainable development by creating healthy, supportive environments for future generations. The impact of child-related SDGs extends beyond the immediate generation, fostering resilience and adaptability in children. Well-nourished, educated, and healthy children are better equipped to face future challenges, contributing to a more stable and prosperous world. Educating children about their rights and global responsibilities fosters a sense of global citizenship and encourages them to contribute positively to their communities and the world. By achieving these goals, societies work towards intergenerational equity, ensuring that future generations inherit a world where their needs are met and their rights are upheld. In essence, the child-related SDGs are essential for creating a just and sustainable future, benefiting both current and future generations.

Present Situation of Child Related SDGs:
The present situation concerning the child-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reveals a mixed picture of progress and ongoing challenges. While significant strides have been made in various areas, several critical issues persist, exacerbated by recent global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Understanding the current state involves examining key aspects like poverty, hunger, health, education, and gender equality.

Poverty and Inequality
Childhood poverty remains a significant concern, affecting millions of children

worldwide. Despite global efforts to reduce poverty, approximately 385 million children live in extreme poverty, lacking access to basic necessities such as clean water, adequate nutrition, and quality education. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened these conditions by disrupting economic activities, leading to increased unemployment and economic instability. As a result, more families have fallen into poverty, and many children face heightened risks of deprivation and neglect. Efforts to address child poverty must include targeted social protection programs, economic support for families, and improved access to essential services.

Hunger and Malnutrition

Malnutrition continues to be a pressing issue affecting millions of children globally. Although there have been improvements in some regions, nearly 149 million children under the age of five suffer from stunted growth due to chronic malnutrition, while around 45 million are affected by wasting, a severe form of acute malnutrition. The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified food insecurity, disrupting supply chains and increasing food prices. Conflict, climate change, and economic instability also contribute to food insecurity, making it challenging to achieve SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). Addressing malnutrition requires a multifaceted approach, including enhancing agricultural productivity, improving food distribution systems, and providing targeted nutritional interventions.

Health and Well-being

Significant progress has been made in improving child health, yet challenges remain. Child mortality rates have decreased globally, but approximately 5.2 million children under the age of five still die each year from preventable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria. The pandemic has disrupted essential health services, including routine immunization programs and maternal health services, exacerbating health risks for children. Access to healthcare remains uneven, particularly in low-resource settings, where many children lack essential medical services. Strengthening healthcare systems, increasing vaccination coverage, and addressing health inequities are critical for improving child health outcomes.

Education

Education has seen substantial progress, with increased enrollment rates and improvements in literacy. However, significant disparities persist. Approximately 258 million children and youth are out of school, and many who are enrolled face barriers such as inadequate infrastructure, teacher shortages, and economic constraints. The pandemic has further disrupted education systems, with school closures affecting millions of students and exacerbating educational inequalities. Additionally, children in conflict-affected regions and marginalized communities face heightened educational challenges. Ensuring quality education for all children requires addressing these barriers, investing in educational infrastructure, and supporting marginalized groups to prevent learning losses and educational disparities.

Gender Equality

Gender inequality continues to impact children's opportunities and well-being, particularly for girls. Despite progress in promoting gender equality, many girls face challenges such as early marriage, gender-based violence, and limited access to education and economic opportunities. The pandemic has also intensified these issues, with disruptions to education and increased domestic responsibilities for girls. Achieving gender equality involves addressing harmful practices, ensuring equal access to education and economic opportunities, and promoting policies that protect and empower girls. Efforts must focus on eliminating barriers and creating supportive environments that allow all children to reach their full potential.

SDG 1: No Poverty

SDG 1, No Poverty aims to eradicate poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030. This goal recognizes that poverty is a multifaceted issue that encompasses lack of income, inadequate access to basic services, social exclusion, and vulnerability to economic, social, and environmental shocks. SDG 1 encompasses several specific targets aimed at addressing these dimensions of poverty:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.90 a day.

2. Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions. 3. Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

4. Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions. 5. Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional, and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.

Present Situation of SDG 1

1. Global Poverty Trends: While there has been significant progress in reducing global poverty over the past few decades, challenges remain. According to the World Bank, the global extreme poverty rate fell from 10.1% in 2015 to 9.2% in 2017, and projections before the COVID-19 pandemic suggested that the world was on track to further reduce this rate. However, the pandemic has had a severe impact on poverty reduction efforts, reversing years of progress.

2. Impact of COVID-19: The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically increased poverty rates, pushing millions of people back into extreme poverty. The World Bank estimates that the pandemic has added between 88 million and 115 million people to the ranks of the extreme poor in 2020, with the total rising to between 119 million and

124 million in 2021. This setback has highlighted the vulnerability of those living on the edge of poverty and the need for robust social protection systems. 3. Regional Disparities: Poverty remains unevenly distributed, with Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia being the most affected regions. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the extreme poverty rate was nearly 40% in 2018, and the region is home to more than half of the world's extremely poor. South Asia, while having made significant progress, still faces substantial poverty rates, particularly in rural areas. 4. Social Protection and Economic Inclusion: Many countries have made strides in expanding social protection systems, but gaps remain. Social protection coverage is often limited, and many of the poorest and most vulnerable populations are excluded from such programs. Additionally, economic inequalities have been exacerbated by the pandemic, with the poorest segments of the population bearing the brunt of the economic downturn.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger
SDG 2, Zero Hunger aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030. This goal addresses the critical need to ensure that everyone has access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food all year round, particularly in the context of growing populations and changing climate conditions. SDG 2 encompasses several specific targets aimed at addressing various dimensions of hunger and food security:

1. End hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food all year round.
2. End all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons.
3. Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists, and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.
4. Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding, and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
5. Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.
Present Situation of SDG 2
1. Global Hunger Trends: Despite efforts to reduce hunger, the number of

undernourished people globally has been on the rise in recent years. As of 2020, nearly 690 million people were undernourished, up by 60 million from five years earlier. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated this issue, disrupting food supply chains and increasing food insecurity.

2. Malnutrition: Malnutrition remains a severe issue, particularly in developing countries. Around 149 million children under five are stunted (too short for their age), 45 million are wasted (too thin for their height), and 38 million are overweight. These forms of malnutrition have long-term impacts on health, cognitive development, and productivity. Addressing malnutrition requires a comprehensive approach, including improving maternal nutrition, promoting breastfeeding, and ensuring access to diverse and nutritious foods.

3. Sustainable Agriculture: Agricultural productivity has improved, but many challenges remain. Small-scale farmers, who produce a significant portion of the world's food, often lack access to resources such as land, finance, and technology. Climate change poses additional risks, with extreme weather events threatening agricultural output. Promoting sustainable agricultural practices is essential for enhancing food security and resilience.

4. Food Production Systems: Food production systems face numerous challenges, including land degradation, water scarcity, and loss of biodiversity. The overuse of chemical inputs and unsustainable farming practices contribute to environmental degradation. Implementing resilient agricultural practices and maintaining genetic diversity are crucial for sustainable food production.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

SDG 3, Good Health and Well-Being aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages by 2030. This goal focuses on addressing a wide range of global health challenges, including maternal and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, mental health, and access to quality healthcare services. SDG 3 encompasses several specific targets aimed at improving health outcomes and access to healthcare:

1. Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.

2. End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.

3. End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases.

4. Reduce by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention, treatment, and the promotion of mental health and well-being. 5. Achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

6. Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination.

Present Situation of SDG 3

1. Global Health Trends: Significant progress has been made in improving global health, particularly in reducing child and maternal mortality rates and increasing life expectancy. However, major health challenges persist, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

2. Maternal and Child Health: While maternal mortality rates have declined by about 38% since 2000, approximately 295,000 women died during pregnancy and childbirth in 2017, most of them in Sub-Saharan Africa. Child mortality rates have also fallen, with the global under-5 mortality rate dropping by 59% from 1990 to 2019. Nevertheless, many children continue to die from preventable diseases. 3. Communicable Diseases: Efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria have yielded substantial results, but these diseases remain significant public health issues. In 2019, there were 38 million people living with HIV, and malaria caused an estimated 409,000 deaths, primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the ongoing threat of infectious diseases and the need for robust health systems.

4. Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health: Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are responsible for 71% of all deaths globally. Mental health disorders, including depression and anxiety, are also major contributors to the global disease burden. Addressing NCDs and promoting mental health requires integrated strategies, including lifestyle changes, early diagnosis, and effective treatment.

5. Universal Health Coverage (UHC): Achieving UHC is critical for improving health outcomes. As of 2017, approximately half of the world's population lacked access to essential health services, and about 100 million people were pushed into extreme poverty each year due to out-of-pocket health expenses. Expanding UHC and ensuring financial risk protection are essential for achieving SDG 3.

SDG 4: Quality Education

SDG 4, Quality Education aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030. This goal recognizes that education is a fundamental human right and a critical driver of sustainable development. Quality education empowers individuals, contributes to economic growth, reduces inequalities, and fosters peace and prosperity. SDG 4 encompasses several specific targets aimed at addressing various dimensions of education: 1. Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

2. Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care, and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

3. Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical,

vocational, and tertiary education, including university. 4. Increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship. 5. Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations. 6. 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. 7. Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability, and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all.

Present Situation of SDG 4
1. Global Education Trends: Significant progress has been made in expanding access to education, particularly at the primary level, with enrollment rates in primary education reaching over 90% globally. However, substantial challenges remain in ensuring quality education and addressing disparities.
2. Primary and Secondary Education: While primary school enrollment has increased, around 258 million children and youth were still out of school in 2018, including 59 million of primary school age. Many children who do attend school do not acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills. Secondary education faces similar challenges, with many adolescents not completing lower secondary education. 3. Early Childhood Education: Access to quality early childhood education remains limited in many regions, particularly in low-income countries. Early childhood education is crucial for cognitive and social development, laying the foundation for lifelong learning and success.
4. Technical, Vocational, and Tertiary Education: Enrollment in technical, vocational, and tertiary education has expanded, but disparities persist. Access to higher education remains limited for women, individuals from low-income backgrounds, and marginalized groups. Quality and relevance of education are also significant concerns, with many graduates lacking the skills needed for the labor market. 5. Gender and Inclusion: Gender disparities in education have narrowed, but girls still face significant barriers, particularly in secondary and higher education. Children with disabilities, indigenous children, and children in conflict zones also face substantial challenges in accessing quality education.
6. Literacy and Lifelong Learning: Global literacy rates have improved, but about 773 million adults, two-thirds of whom are women, remain illiterate. Promoting lifelong learning and adult education is essential for achieving SDG 4 and addressing the evolving needs of the labor market and society.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

SDG 5, Gender Equality aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030. This goal recognizes that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. Gender equality is critical for economic growth and social development, ensuring that everyone has equal opportunities to succeed. SDG 5 encompasses several specific targets aimed at addressing various dimensions of gender inequality:

1. End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. 2. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

3. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early, and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

4. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family.

5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life. 6. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

7. Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

Present Situation of SDG 5

1. Global Gender Trends: Significant progress has been made in advancing gender equality over the past decades, with more girls attending school, fewer girls being subjected to harmful practices, and more women serving in leadership roles. However, gender inequality persists worldwide, with women and girls continuing to face significant challenges in various aspects of life.

2. Violence Against Women and Girls: Despite global efforts, violence against women and girls remains a pervasive issue. One in three women has experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, often at the hands of an intimate partner. During the COVID-19 pandemic, reports of domestic violence have increased, highlighting the ongoing threat to women's safety.

3. Economic Empowerment and Unpaid Care Work: Women continue to face economic disadvantages, earning less than men for similar work and being overrepresented in low-paying and insecure jobs. Women also bear a disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work, which limits their opportunities for economic and social advancement.

4. Leadership and Political Participation: While women's representation in political and economic leadership roles has increased, it remains insufficient. As of 2020, women held only 25% of parliamentary seats globally and occupied fewer than 30%

of managerial positions. Ensuring equal participation and leadership opportunities is crucial for achieving gender equality.

5. Education and Health: Access to education for girls has improved significantly, with gender parity achieved in primary education in many regions. However, disparities remain in secondary and higher education, particularly in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Women and girls also face challenges in accessing quality health services, including sexual and reproductive health care.

6. Legal Rights and Reforms: Many countries have enacted laws to promote gender equality and protect women's rights. However, gaps in legal frameworks and enforcement persist, preventing women from fully exercising their rights. Legal reforms and effective implementation of existing laws are essential for achieving SDG 5.

Questions to ponder upon:
- How do the child-related SDGs intersect with broader goals of sustainable development?
- What are the primary barriers hindering progress towards child-related SDGs globally?
- How do regional differences impact the achievement of child-related SDGs? - What specific measures can be taken to reduce child poverty in both urban and rural settings?
- How can social protection systems be strengthened to better support children and families in poverty?
- What role can education and vocational training play in breaking the cycle of poverty for children?
- What strategies can be implemented to ensure that all children have access to nutritious food?
- How can agricultural policies be aligned to support food security for children and their families?
- What innovations in food distribution and storage can help reduce child malnutrition, especially in conflict or disaster-prone areas?
- What are the most effective interventions to reduce child mortality rates in low-income countries?
- How can healthcare systems be improved to ensure universal access to essential services for children?
- What policies can be enacted to ensure that all children, including those in marginalized communities, have access to quality education?
- How can the global community address the digital divide to ensure equitable access to educational resources?
- What role do teachers and educational infrastructure play in achieving quality education, and how can these be improved?
- How can we eliminate harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation?

- What steps can be taken to ensure equal access to education for girls and boys?
- What are the most effective methods for monitoring progress towards child-related SDGs?
- How can international cooperation be strengthened to support child-related SDGs?
- What innovative technologies and approaches can be used to accelerate progress towards child-related SDGs?

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