

2023 ICM

Problem D: Prioritizing the UN Sustainability Goals



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Background

The **United Nations (UN)** has set 17 **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Achieving these goals would ultimately lead to an improved life for many people around the world. These goals are not independent of each other. So, often positive gains in some goals have an impact (positive or negative and sometimes both) on other goals. This interconnectedness makes the achievement of all goals a fluid process where funding limitations and other national and international priorities may take precedence. Additionally, the impact of technological advances, global pandemics, climate change, regional wars, and refugee movements have had serious implications on many of the goals.

Requirement

To explore the relationships between the goals:

- Create a network of the relationships between the 17 SDGs.
- Use the individual SDGs, as well as the structure of your network, to set priorities that can most efficiently move the work of the UN forward. How did you evaluate the effectiveness of each priority? What could be reasonable to achieve in the next 10 years if your priorities are initiated?
- If one of the SDGs is achieved (for example, there is no poverty or no hunger), what would be the structure of the resulting network? How would this achievement impact your team's priorities? Are there other goals that should be included or proposed to the UN for inclusion?
- Discuss the impact of technological advances, global pandemics, climate change, regional wars, and refugee movements, or other international crises on your team's network and your team's choice of priorities. What are the significant effects on the progress of the UN from a network perspective?
- Discuss how your network approach may help other companies and organizations set priorities of their goals.

UN Sustainable Development Goals^[1]

GOAL 1: No Poverty

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

GOAL 4: Quality Education

GOAL 5: Gender Equality

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality

GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

GOAL 13: Climate Action

GOAL 14: Life Below Water

GOAL 15: Life on Land

GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

Your PDF solution of no more than 25 total pages should include:

- One-page Summary Sheet.
- Table of Contents.
- Your complete solution.
- Reference List.

Note: The ICM has a 25-page limit. All aspects of your submission count toward the 25-page limit (Summary Sheet, Table of Contents, Reference List, and any Appendices). You must cite the sources for your ideas, images, and any other materials used in your report.

Glossary

United Nations (UN) - The United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organization whose stated purposes are to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation, and be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked objectives designed to serve as a “shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet now and into the future”.

References

[1] *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. UN General Assembly, A/RES/70/1, 2015.