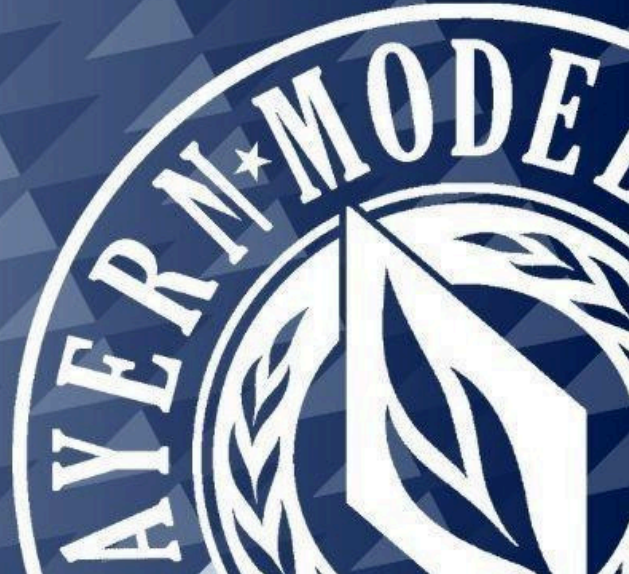


2025

BACKGROUND GUIDE



2025



BayernMUN2025

Updates to the NMUN Background Guide



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2025 Bayern Model United Nations! We are pleased to welcome you to the General Assembly. The topics on the agenda are:

- I. Supporting the Involvement of Women in Governance and Decision-Making
- II. Minimizing Economic Shock in a Globalized Economy

In adherence to the National Model UN rules, our BayernMUN conference utilizes former National Model UN Background Guides. To acknowledge and honor the effort invested by the National Model UN and its staff in creating these guides, as well as to respect their intellectual property, we strictly adhere to their updated guidelines for utilizing these background guides. Consequently, we are obligated to present the original background guides and the pertinent topics in their unaltered and raw format. The relevant background guides, along with the downloadable topics, can be found on our website. **Additionally, this document incorporates essential updates and amendments, a product of the BayernMUN staff, to the original background guides provided by NMUN.** Given that the NMUN guides, forming the basis of our topics, were introduced several years ago, we are presently revising them to align with the framework of our conference.

The BayernMUN General Assembly serves as the core forum for discussions on Security, Development and Human Rights topics affecting Member States. The international community has faced several dynamic changes over the past years; we hope to see the resolutions in this committee reflect an understanding of those changes.

This supplementary document will serve as an extension to the topics listed and represented in the original background guides. Accordingly, it is not meant to be used as an all-inclusive analysis for research, but rather the foundation for your own analysis and research. The references listed for each topic will provide you with the resources you need to start your own research. Each delegation is requested to submit a position paper, which reflects your research on the topics. Please take note of our BayernMUN policies on the website and in the delegates guide. This Background Guide was adapted and updated from previous guides written for NMUN New York and NMUN DC. Citations can be found at the end.

If you have any questions regarding your preparation for the committee and the conference itself, please feel free to contact any of the substantive staff of the 2030 BayernMUN.

We wish you all the best in your preparation for the conference and look forward to seeing you in February!

Sincerely,
Your BayernMUN staff

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A. Committee Overview

I. Introduction

In 1945, following the conclusion of the Second World War, the United Nations (UN) was founded to maintain international peace and security, foster diplomatic relations between states, achieve international cooperation in addressing global problems and promoting human rights, and harmonize state actions towards these ends.¹ Article 7 of the Charter of the United Nations (1945) establishes six principal organs: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat.² Of these, only the General Assembly has universal membership, rendering it a unique forum for discussion within the UN system.³ As the normative centre of the UN, the General Assembly is a generator of ideas, a place of international debate, and a hub for new concepts and practices in the political, economic, humanitarian, social, and legal spheres.⁴

II. Governance, Structure, and Membership

All 193 UN Member States are represented in the General Assembly, with each Member State having one vote.⁵ The General Assembly may grant Observer status to intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and non-Member States or entities, which allows them to participate in sessions but does not grant them voting rights.⁶ The General Assembly makes the majority of its decisions via consensus.⁷ When a vote is held, regular decisions require a simple majority of members present and voting, while important decisions require a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.⁸

The General Assembly has six Main Committees that are topically organized around the General Assembly's main fields of responsibility: the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee); the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee); the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee); the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee); the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee); and the Legal Committee (Sixth Committee).⁹ The Main Committees discuss agenda items assigned to them, adopt draft resolutions, and submit a report on their work to the Plenary.¹⁰ The Plenary then considers these reports and "proceeds without debate to the adoption of the recommended resolutions and decisions. If adopted by consensus in the committee, the Plenary decides by consensus as well; likewise, if adopted by a vote in the committee,

¹ *Charter of the United Nations, 1945*, Art. 1.

² *Ibid.*, Art. 7.

³ UN General Assembly, *General Assembly of the United Nations*.

⁴ Thakur, *The United Nations, Peace and Security*, 2006, pp. 91, 162; UN General Assembly, *Functions and powers of the General Assembly*

⁵ *Charter of the United Nations, 1945*, Art. 18.

⁶ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 30.

⁷ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2017-2018*, 2017, p. 12.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 18.

¹⁰ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2017-2018*, 2017, p. 23.

the Plenary votes on the resolution or decision in question.”¹¹ The Plenary may also decide to address an issue without prior reference to a committee.¹²

Each year, the General Assembly’s regular session begins on the Tuesday of the third week in September.¹³ Since its 44th session in 1989, the General Assembly has been considered in session throughout the year.¹⁴ The busiest period, otherwise known as the “main part of the General Assembly,” lasts from the start of the session in September until the end of December; it includes the general debate and most of the Main Committees’ work.¹⁵ The remainder of the year, or the “resumed part of the General Assembly,” involves thematic debates, consultation processes, and working group meetings.¹⁶ In addition to the regular session, the General Assembly may also hold special sessions on individual issues at the request of either the Security Council or a majority of Member States.¹⁷

The President of the General Assembly (PGA) is the largely ceremonial head of the General Assembly, elected each year by a simple majority of Member States to a non-renewable one-year term.¹⁸ The PGA’s duties are to facilitate Plenary sessions by directing discussion, managing the administration of meetings, and enforcing the General Assembly Rules of Procedure.¹⁹ The PGA does not preside over all six General Assembly committees separately; rather, Chairs and Vice Chairs are the facilitators of individual committees.²⁰ The PGA also performs executive duties, such as meeting regularly with the Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council, and the President of the Economic and Social Council; communicating with the press and the public; and organizing high-level meetings on certain thematic issues.²¹

As a main organ of the UN, the General Assembly does not report to any other organ.²² It receives substantive and organizational support from two important entities: the General Committee and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM).²³ The General Committee is composed of the PGA and the 21 Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, as well as the Chairpersons of the Main Committees; all position-holders are elected each session on a non-renewable basis.²⁴ The General Committee’s main duty, aside from making recommendations on organizational issues, is to allocate agenda items to the Plenary and the Main Committees from a preliminary list received from the UN Secretariat.²⁵ The DGACM acts as the intersection between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and provides valuable technical secretariat support, mainly through its General Assembly and ECOSOC Affairs Division.²⁶ Within the UN Secretariat, other departments and offices offer both substantive and technical support to each of the six Main Committees.²⁷

¹¹ Smith, *Politics and Process at the United Nations: The Global Dance*, 2006, p. 161; Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 62.

¹² New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2017-2018*, 2017, p. 23.

¹³ *Ibid.* p. 17.

¹⁴ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 14.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 15 & 18

²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 16-17.

²² *Charter of the United Nations, 1945*, Art. 98.

²³ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 17.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 18.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 17.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 24; UN DGACM, *Functions of the Department*.

²⁷ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, pp. 63-68.

III. Mandate, Functions, and Powers

The mandate of the General Assembly is defined in Chapter IV (Articles 10-22) of the Charter of the United Nations.²⁸ As stipulated by Article 10, the General Assembly is broadly tasked with discussing “any questions or any matters within the scope of the [Charter] or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the [Charter],” and it may make relevant recommendations to Member States or to the Security Council.²⁹

Functions and powers of the General Assembly include the following:

- While the General Assembly may address matters of international peace and security, any such matters requiring action must also be referred to the Security Council. Further, the General Assembly may not make recommendations related to any dispute or situation in respect of which the Security Council is exercising its functions.³⁰ The only exception is if the Security Council fails to reach a decision on an issue due to lack of consensus among its permanent members, at which point the General Assembly may convene an emergency special session within 24 hours to address the issue in question.³¹
- The General Assembly may initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international cooperation in the political, economic, social, cultural, educational, or health fields; the development and codification of international law; or the realization of fundamental human rights and freedoms.³²
- The General Assembly may make recommendations “for the peaceful adjustment of any situation, regardless of origin, which it deems likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations among nations.”³³
- The General Assembly may create subsidiary organs “as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.”³⁴ Main Committees are therefore capable of introducing resolutions that can lead to the creation and funding of agencies or meetings, as well as ad hoc committees or working groups, that consider a particular question with the purpose of reporting to the General Assembly.³⁵
- The General Assembly receives and considers regular reports from the Security Council and from other UN organs.³⁶
- The General Assembly considers and approves the UN’s budget and apportions expenses to be borne by individual Member States.³⁷
- The General Assembly “elects the 10 non-permanent members of the Security Council and the 54 members of the Economic and Social Council. Together with the Security Council, but voting independently, it elects the members of the International Court of Justice.”³⁸

²⁸ *Charter of the United Nations, 1945*, Ch. IV.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, Art. 10

³⁰ *Ibid.*, Art. 11-12.

³¹ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 15.

³² *Charter of the United Nations, 1945*, Art. 13; UN General Assembly, *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*.

³³ *Charter of the United Nations, 1945*, Art. 14.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, Art. 22.

³⁵ Weis, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, 2004, p. 161.

³⁶ *Charter of the United Nations, 1945*, Art. 15.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, Art. 17.

³⁸ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2017-2018*, 2017, p. 12.

- The General Assembly also elects the members of its subsidiary bodies, such as the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.³⁹
- Based on the recommendation of the Security Council, the General Assembly appoints the Secretary-General.⁴⁰

Only resolutions adopted by the Plenary are put into effect as official resolutions of the General Assembly.⁴¹ However, unlike Security Council resolutions enacted under Chapter VII of the Charter, General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding on Member States even after adoption by the Plenary.⁴² Nonetheless, General Assembly resolutions represent policy norms reached by consensus among Member States, and they often lead to concrete action by the international community.⁴³

IV. Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

The 77th session of the General Assembly (UNGA75) opened on the 13th of September 2022⁴⁴, with the General Debate opening on the 20th of September 2022.⁴⁵ It is presided over by M. Csaba Kőrösi (Hungary).⁴⁶ The priorities of the 77th session follow its motto, “A watershed moment: transformative solutions to interlocking challenges”⁴⁷, and are as follows:

- Upholding the UN Charter.
- Sustainability Transformation.
- Integrated, Systemic Solutions.
- Led by Science.
- Increasing Trust and Solidarity.⁴⁸

One of the high-level meetings that took place was the UNGA Platform of Women Leaders on the 20th of September 2022, with the theme “Transformative Solutions by Women Leaders to Today’s Interlinked Crises.” It gave female Heads of State and Government the opportunity to discuss their experience and to work on solutions to the ongoing problems women face when participating in politics.⁴⁹

UNGA77 is the first main session since the start of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Therefore, the regular plenary meetings were interrupted multiple times for the Eleventh Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly.⁵⁰ This resulted in two resolutions so far, A/RES/ES-11/4⁵¹ and A/RES/ES-11/5.⁵²

³⁹ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, pp. 72-73.

⁴⁰ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2017-2018*, 2017, p. 12.

⁴¹ UN General Assembly, *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ UN General Assembly, *Organization of the seventy-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (A/BUR/77/1*)*. p.4

⁴⁵ UN General Assembly, *Opening dates of forthcoming regular sessions of the General Assembly and of the general debate (A/INF/77/1)*, p. 1

⁴⁶ United Nations General Assembly, *President of the General Assembly*

⁴⁷ Federal Foreign Office Germany, *77th General Assembly of the United Nations: The world convenes for the summit*

⁴⁸ United Nations General Assembly, *President of the General Assembly*

⁴⁹ United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations General Assembly Platform of Women Leaders*

⁵⁰ UN General Assembly, *Schedule of General Assembly Plenary and Related Meetings - 77th Session*

⁵¹ UN General Assembly, *Territorial integrity of Ukraine: defending the principles of the Charter of the United Nations (A/RES/ES-11/4)*

⁵² UN General Assembly, *Furtherance of remedy and reparation for aggression against Ukraine (A/RES/ES-11/5)*

UNGA will hold 45 plenary meetings, as well as multiple informal meetings, until the end of the year.⁵³ In its 15th meeting, the General Assembly discussed strengthening the coordination of emergency

humanitarian assistance of the United Nations regarding the situation in Pakistan.⁵⁴ ⁵⁵ The 24th and 25th meetings offered a platform to discuss various Human Rights issues⁵⁶, resulting in the publication of multiple Human Rights Council resolutions since the beginning of UNGA77 ⁵⁷. In its 32nd meeting, the General Assembly endorsed the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) ⁵⁸, and President Kőrösi remarked on the dangers of the war in Ukraine for nuclear safety and energy security.⁵⁹ The situation in Afghanistan was the topic of the 33rd meeting. Delegates expressed their concerns about the repression and Human Rights violations the Afghan people are facing⁶⁰

The Leaders' Roundtable on Climate Action meeting during the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week 2022 gave those present the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the 1.5-degree goal. It also served to highlight the need for global action once again in fighting climate change and the need for firm decisions during the Conference of the Parties 27 (COP27) in Egypt in November 2023.⁶¹

The UN General Assembly will go into recess on the 12th of December 2022, concluding the main part of UNGA77.⁶² An informal plenary meeting to hear a briefing on solutions to internal displacement and a High-Level Event to launch the International Decade of Indigenous Languages will conclude this year's meetings.⁶³ Sessions will resume in January 2023.⁶⁴ Agenda items considered for the resumed part of the session are, among others, the role of diamonds in fuelling conflict, prevention of armed conflict, sexual exploitation and abuse and impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets.⁶⁵

V. Conclusion

As the “chief deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN,” the General Assembly plays a key role in the UN system as “a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of

⁵³ UN General Assembly, *Schedule of General Assembly Plenary and Related Meetings – 77th Session*, 2022.

⁵⁴ UN DPI, *Speakers Stress Key Role of Technical Support, Nuclear Safeguards, as General Assembly Considers International Atomic Energy Agency's Annual Report, Adopts Related Text*, 2022.

⁵⁵ UN DPI, *Voicing Full Solidarity with People, Government of Pakistan, General Assembly Adopts Resolution Urging Scaled-Up Assistance to Help Country Rebuild from Massive Floods*, 2022.

⁵⁶ United Nations General Assembly (2022) *Delegates in General Assembly Support Human Rights Council's Monitoring of Crises Worldwide, Yet Some Say Double Standards Ignore Impact on Developing Countries*, 2022.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸ UN DPI, *Speakers Stress Key Role of Technical Support, Nuclear Safeguards, as General Assembly Considers International Atomic Energy Agency's Annual Report*, (2022)

⁵⁹ Kőrösi, C., *PGA remarks at the General Assembly plenary meeting on the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)* (2022)

⁶⁰ UN DPI, *General Assembly Voices Deep Concern Over Volatility in Afghanistan since Taliban Takeover, Unflinching Commitment to Afghans, Adopting Resolution by Vote*. (2022)

⁶¹ UN, *Informal High-Level Meeting of Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (Chair's Summary)*, 2022

⁶² UN General Assembly, *Schedule of General Assembly Plenary and Related Meetings - 77th Session*

⁶³ *Ibid.*

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

international issues covered by the Charter.”⁶⁶ Outcomes reached by the General Assembly may define new norms that can promote peace, human rights, and development.⁶⁷ Going forward, the General Assembly will continue to be a cornerstone of international efforts towards a better world.⁶⁸

VI. Annotated Bibliography

New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2017). *United Nations Handbook 2017-2018. Miscellaneous.*

This handbook, published annually by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, is an effort to improve the information available to the international community on the UN system. It provides extensive information on the structure and membership as well the purpose of UN organs. As such, it represents the perfect introduction to the UN system as a whole for individuals less familiar with its complexity. Therefore, delegates should consider this a must-read during preparation for the conference.

Sciora, R., & A. Stevenson. (2009). *Planet UN: The United Nations Confronting the Challenges of the 21st Century. Editions du Tricorne.*

Inspired by the documentary Planet UN, this book offers an in-depth analysis of the role of the United Nations and its challenges for the 21st century. It gives special attention to three pillars: peace, development, and human rights. It also stresses the importance of the UN’s ability to adapt itself to our changing world and to react to new threats such as terrorism or nuclear risks. An account of the genesis of the UN also allows delegates to understand how the UN was started with the intent of creating a system to maintain peace and security and to become the organization it is today. Furthermore, this book contains a series of testimonies of important personalities such as the last five Secretaries-General of the UN.

Switzerland, Permanent Mission to the United Nations. (2011). *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly.*

This publication by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN is another contribution by a Member State of introductory information about the UN system. The General Assembly is a central focus of this handbook. A detailed description of its organization, structure, rules, and working methods can be found. Further providing information specific to all six Main Committees, this handbook offers a unique source of information to delegates to understand the work of the General Assembly and its place within the UN system.

Thakur, R. (2006). *The United Nations, Peace and Security.* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Ramesh Thakur, a renowned commentator on the UN, examines the UN from a contemporary perspective in the context of factors such as human security. The author focuses on questions related to international peace and security. By doing so, he critically analyzes the use of force by the UN with the intention of making it more effective in the light of today’s threats and with a particular focus on security and how it has evolved over the years and the role of the UN system including the General Assembly. His book is a valuable guide to the UN and offers an interesting perspective on international peace.

Weis, T., et al. (2004). *The United Nations and Changing World Politics.* Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

⁶⁶ UN General Assembly, Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.

⁶⁷ Thakur, *The United Nations, Peace and Security*, 2006, pp. 91, 162

⁶⁸ Sciora & Stevenson, *Planet UN: The United Nations Confronting the Challenges of the 21st Century*, 2009.

This book aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of international governance and the UN, human rights and humanitarian affairs, and building peace through sustainable development. While the authors outline the failures of collective security and the problems that the UN is facing when maintaining peace by military means, they address the role played by other UN entities such as the General Assembly in international security. As such, this book questions and analyses how the international community governs itself by outlining its successes and failures.

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B. Supporting the Involvement of Women in Governance and Decision-Making

Additions to Kelsea Gillespie, Mariam Bojang, Johanna Barton and Anisa Ricci written for NMUN New York 2019

I. Current Trends and Statistics

As of November 2024, women represent approximately 26.9 % of national parliamentarians worldwide⁶⁹, an increase of only 4.1 % since June 2016.⁷⁰ This slow progress suggests that achieving gender parity in political leadership will take longer than expected, with some reports predicting that it could take over 100 years at the current rate of change. This slower rate of change suggests that achieving gender parity in political leadership will take longer than previously expected. While Rwanda is in the lead globally with female representation at 63.8 % in the lower house, regions such as the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Pacific Islands still struggle with some of the lowest rates of women's political participation, with MENA averaging just 18.1 % in national parliaments and Pacific Island nations having only 7.1 %. A notable increase from 2019 can also be seen in Central Asia, where the number of female parliamentarians rose by 6.3 % to 27.4 % compared to January 2019.⁷¹

Of the 193 Member States, 27 are currently led by women (as of January 2024).⁷² However, this still reflects a stark underrepresentation compared to male leadership. Furthermore, progress toward achieving gender parity in leadership positions varies significantly by region, with some countries such as New Zealand, Finland, and Iceland making notable strides.

As of 2023, women held 35.5% of elected positions in local government. In terms of national legislatures, Oman and Yemen are now the only countries with no women representatives in their lower chambers, a decrease from five countries in 2015. The progress in female political representation is largely driven by the implementation of gender quotas.⁷³

Gender quotas have been widely implemented in many countries as a means of increasing women's participation in political leadership. Many nations have introduced temporary or permanent quotas for female representation in national parliaments or local government structures. Countries such as Mexico, France, and India have set national-level quotas that help to increase the number of women in leadership positions.⁷⁴ Rwanda changed its constitution to mandate that 30 % of their senators must be women.⁷⁵ They now have the highest percentage of women in any lower house world wide.⁷⁶

These reforms have proven effective in increasing the number of women in governance, though challenges remain in ensuring that women in positions of power are able to enact meaningful change. Women often

⁶⁹ Inter-Parliamentary Union, *Women in National Parliaments*, 2024.

⁷⁰ Inter-Parliamentary Union, *Women in National Parliaments*, 2018.

⁷¹ *ibid*

⁷² UN Women, *Women Political Leaders 2024*, 2024.

⁷³ UN, *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024*, 2024.

⁷⁴ International IDEA, *Gender Quotas Database*, 2024.

⁷⁵ Rwanda Constitution Article 80

⁷⁶ Inter-Parliamentary Union, *Women in National Parliaments*, 2018.

face opposition and underfunding of gender-focused policies, and gender quotas alone do not guarantee that women will be given the support they need to lead effectively.

II. International and Regional Framework

The 2023 review of SDG 5 highlighted the uneven progress towards gender equality, with some countries making significant advances in tracking women's political participation, while others continue to face substantial challenges.⁷⁷ Legal, cultural, and institutional barriers still limit women's involvement in governance. Harmful practices, such as child and early marriages, along with restricted reproductive rights, hinder women's autonomy and ability to engage fully in public life. Violence against women further undermines their participation in politics. The unequal burden of unpaid domestic and care work, combined with persistent gender bias, discriminatory laws, and harmful social norms, continues to restrict women's opportunities for leadership.⁷⁸ At the current pace, it will take over four decades to close the gender gap in national parliamentary representation and three decades at the local level.⁷⁹

III. Role of the International System

In 2021, UN Women published the new *Strategic Plan 2022–2025*. It focuses on advancing women's leadership and agency by creating a safe and enabling environment for women and girls to participate in decision-making at all levels. This includes supporting women's leadership in political processes, enhancing their representation in public life, and protecting their right to engage in political and social spheres. This not only focuses on general positions in government, but on allowing women in key decision-making areas, such as peace and security, humanitarian action, and disaster resilience, ensuring that their voices are heard in critical discussions.⁸⁰

A key aspect of the new *Strategic Plan 2022-2025* is to strengthen women's leadership through supporting women's organizations and civil society. The UN Women provides funding, technical assistance, and opportunities for capacity building, enabling women's organizations to empower women and girls to take leadership roles. UN-Women also ensures that women's political leaders, candidates, and appointed officials are supported and strengthened, fostering diverse leadership across all sectors.⁸¹

Moreover, UN-Women coordinates gender equality efforts across the UN system by ensuring gender mainstreaming in policies and programs and creating accountability frameworks to monitor the representation of women in leadership positions. Through its leadership, the agency advocates for gender parity within the UN system and across global institutions, driving systemic change to ensure that women are better represented in leadership and decision-making spaces.⁸²

⁷⁷ UN, The Sustainable Development Goals Report Special edition, 2023.

⁷⁸ UN, The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024, 2024.

⁷⁹ UN, The Sustainable Development Goals Report Special edition, 2023.

⁸⁰ UN Women, Strategic Plan 2022-2025, 2021.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

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C. Minimizing Economic Shock in a Globalized Economy

*Additions to Paul Gußmann, Eric Lowe, Clara Praschl, and Nicole Fett with contributions by Genevieve Verville
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I. Introduction

Recent assessments by UNCTAD and the World Economic Forum highlight the increasing vulnerability of the global economy to geopolitical tensions, misinformation, and climate change. UNCTAD's Trade and Development Report 2024 identifies the need for resilient supply chains, emphasizing the role of sustainable trade practices in reducing the severity of economic shocks. This report also underscores the importance of coordinated international policy responses to enhance global economic stability.⁸³ Similarly, the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2024 ranks misinformation as a critical short-term risk to economic systems, while placing climate-related threats at the forefront of long-term concerns. The report calls for immediate international cooperation to address these multifaceted challenges, advocating for a unified approach to mitigate economic disruptions effectively.⁸⁴

II. Lessons Learned from Covid-19 Pandemic

The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) recent analysis emphasizes that the vulnerabilities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic—such as supply chain fragility, unequal economic recovery, and the over-reliance on single markets—continue to pose significant risks to global stability. These challenges are now compounded by rising geopolitical tensions and accelerating environmental crises.⁸⁵ The IMF warns that a lack of diversification in supply chains could exacerbate disruptions caused by climate change, commodity price volatility, and geopolitical shifts.⁸⁶ To address these risks, the IMF advocates for enhanced international cooperation, targeted investments in resilient infrastructure, and the promotion of sustainable development practices.⁸⁷ These measures are seen as crucial to safeguarding global economic systems from future shocks and ensuring equitable recovery pathways.

III. Economic Impacts of Climate Change

Recent analyses have brought new urgency to discussions about minimizing economic shocks in a globalized economy. The World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2024 identifies climate-related threats, including extreme weather events and critical changes to Earth's systems, as the most significant long-term global risks.⁸⁸ The report ranks biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse among the top three risks projected over the next decade, emphasizing their cascading impacts on global economies⁸⁹.

⁸³ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), *Trade and Development Report 2024: Resilient Supply Chains for a Sustainable Future*, 2024, p. 15.

⁸⁴ World Economic Forum, *Global Risks Report 2024: Addressing Misinformation and Climate Risks*, 2024, p. 8.

⁸⁵ International Monetary Fund (IMF), *Economic Shocks and Stability: Adapting Global Systems*, 2024, p. 12.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.* p. 14

⁸⁷ *Ibid.* p. 20

⁸⁸ World Economic Forum, *Global Risks Report 2024*, 2024, p. 10.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.* p.14

It highlights the interconnectedness of these risks, with geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and environmental degradation creating compounding vulnerabilities.⁹⁰

To address these risks, the report advocates for the integration of sustainability into core business strategies and policy frameworks. This includes creating incentives for green technologies, advancing public-private partnerships, and strengthening multilateral agreements focused on climate resilience.⁹¹

IV. Role of the International System

The international system plays a critical role in minimizing economic shocks, particularly in an era of growing global interdependence. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) underscores the importance of resilient supply chains and sustainable trade practices in its Trade and Development Report 2024, noting that global economic growth is projected to slow to an average of 2.7% through 2025—below pre-pandemic levels.⁹² This slowdown disproportionately impacts developing economies, exacerbating inequalities and limiting recovery prospects.

UNCTAD emphasizes the need for rethinking development strategies, with a focus on equitable and sustainable growth through investments in green technologies, improved trade connectivity, and digitalization.⁹³ Strengthening multilateral cooperation and aligning efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 8 on inclusive economic growth, are central to these efforts. By prioritizing these measures, the international system can enhance resilience and ensure that global trade contributes meaningfully to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

⁹⁰ Ibid. p.16

⁹¹ Ibid. p.22

⁹² United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), *Trade and Development Report 2024: Resilient Supply Chains for a Sustainable Future*, 2024, p. 10.

⁹³ Ibid. p.15

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