

# GLOBAL GOALS CONFERENCE 2023



## BACKGROUND GUIDE No Poverty - Goal #1

## What is a position paper?

A position paper is a brief overview of a country's stance on the topics being discussed by a particular committee. Although there are several formats, the most simple one includes the following:

- A. Statement of the problem
- B. Past Actions (or lack of action)
- C. Proposed solutions

## Formatting

Position papers should:

- Include the name of the delegate and his/her country, and the committee
- Be in a standard font (Times New Roman) with a 12 point font size, 1.15-1.5 spacing, and 1-inch document margins - It should not include illustrations, diagrams, national symbols, watermarks, or page borders
- Your position paper should not exceed a page (if it must, try not to extend past a page too far)
- Include citations and a bibliography, in APA format, on a separate page and give credit to the sources used in research

## Due Dates and Submission

Please submit your position paper to your committee director by midnight, **Wednesday, October 18th, 2023** or earlier if you would like to get some feedback from your chair or directors.

Once your position paper is complete, please save the file as "Last Name, First Name - Position Paper" (for example Ignatovsky, Kate - Position Paper) in .pdf form and send it as an attachment in an email with the subject heading the same as your file name. Please send your position paper to [kihnatovska@shawnigan.ca](mailto:kihnatovska@shawnigan.ca) **and** [dpaquette@shawnigan.ca](mailto:dpaquette@shawnigan.ca). Each position paper will be individually reviewed and considered for the Best Position Paper award. Furthermore, your position paper must be submitted in order for you to be considered for any other award.

## LETTER TO DELEGATES

**Dear honourable delegates,**

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2023 Shawnigan Global Goals Conference.

My name is Kate Ignatovsky, and I will be your director for the No Poverty committee at this year's Global Goals conference. I am in grade 11 at Shawnigan Lake School, and I have a special passion for Model UN. For me it is a way to explore my area of interest, Humanities, while also building up my knowledge of the world's current issues. For many of you this will be the first Model United Nations conference you attend, and I imagine the worries you might be having in this regard. However, I encourage each of you to step forward and speak at least once. I guarantee that engaging in discussion during committee sessions will make your conference experience much more enjoyable. With the help of my co-director and chair, I hope to work with and inspire our delegates to cooperate and learn from each other, while also advancing their country's stance on the issue of poverty, in order to make the Global Goals experience rewarding for everyone involved.

Your co-director, Dave Paquette, has the honor of serving you during this year's No Poverty committee. He is a grade 12 student at Shawnigan Lake School, has been involved in Model UN for several years, and has attended multiple conferences around Canada and the US. He'd be happy to provide you with assistance during committee sessions and, as your co-director, he highly encourages you to ask questions if needed, and be confident in defending your country's position. He will be there to support you. Best of luck in your preparation weeks, and he looks forward to working with all of you.

Finally, the chair for this year's committee is Sorath Rakhra, a grade 11 student at Shawnigan Lake and currently involved in the Model UN extracurricular and is one of the student leaders for it. She is looking forward to meeting all of you and hearing all of your ideas on how to address the world's issue of poverty. She will be providing you with assistance during the conference, while also helping you moderate the discussion, and hopes that you will have a genuinely enjoyable Model UN experience. One piece of advice that Sorath would like to give to the delegates is that moderation is key, and making sure that you are listening to your fellow delegates and making room for others to take the stage while also affirming yourself and your position will help you to succeed at Model UN.

Please feel free to reach out to your director and co-director for any questions or help. We are here for you, and will be guiding you through the conference. Looking forward to meeting all of you!

Warmest Regards,

Kate, Dave, and Sorath

## **TOPIC OVERVIEW**

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #1, "No Poverty," is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This addresses the urgent need to eradicate extreme poverty and reduce overall poverty rates worldwide. This goal is grounded in the belief that poverty is not only a moral imperative but also a fundamental prerequisite for achieving sustainable development, peace, and social justice (UN 2030 Agenda).

The United Nations, through SDG #1, seeks to end poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030 (UNDP Goal 1). This includes eradicating extreme poverty, defined as living on less than \$1.90 per day, and ensuring that all individuals have access to the basic necessities of life, such as food, clean water, education, healthcare, and social protection (UN 2030 Agenda).

With less than 10 years remaining till the set deadline, humanity is off track. The rationale behind this goal is deeply rooted in the understanding that poverty is a multidimensional issue that not only affects an individual's standard of living but also contributes to social inequality, economic instability, and a lack of access to basic human rights. Current issues, such as inner and international armed conflicts, economic shocks, and lack of social security revert the world from achieving total poverty elimination. Poverty is often interconnected with other global challenges, such as hunger, gender inequality, lack of education, and inadequate healthcare.

In Model UN committee discussions, it is crucial to emphasize the interconnected nature of poverty with other global issues and the importance of collaborative, cross-border solutions to achieve a world without poverty by 2030.



## **TARGETS**

### **1.3 IMPLEMENT SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

#### **INDICATOR:**

1.3.1

Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable

### **1.6 MOBILIZE RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO END POVERTY (also known as 1.a)**

Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

#### **INDICATOR:**

1.6.1

Total official development assistance grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income

1.6.2

Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)

## 1.3 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS



### CURRENT SITUATION

The "No Poverty" SDG is critical, focusing on improving social systems for vulnerable populations, including mothers with newborns, persons with disabilities, those facing poverty, unemployment, or old age (ILO, 2017).

Established in 2012 with the goal of reaching its objectives by 2030, SDG 1.3 has made progress, covering approximately 45% of the global population with some form of social protection benefit (see FIG 1.1). However, challenges persist. In some regions, such as Central Asia, there is a distinct issue tied to rapid aging. In these areas, social benefits for the elderly were established during or before the advent of advanced healthcare technology. This has led to a significant portion of the workforce retiring earlier than expected, resulting in labor shortages and difficulties in meeting the needs of an aging population. In response to such challenges, the One UN and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have taken the lead in documenting deviations from expected progress in countries and providing assistance.

In conclusion, addressing SDG 1.3 within the "No Poverty" framework is a complex endeavor. While international efforts are underway, unique challenges in each region, such as the rapid aging issue in Central Asia, demand tailored solutions and a sustained commitment to global poverty reduction.

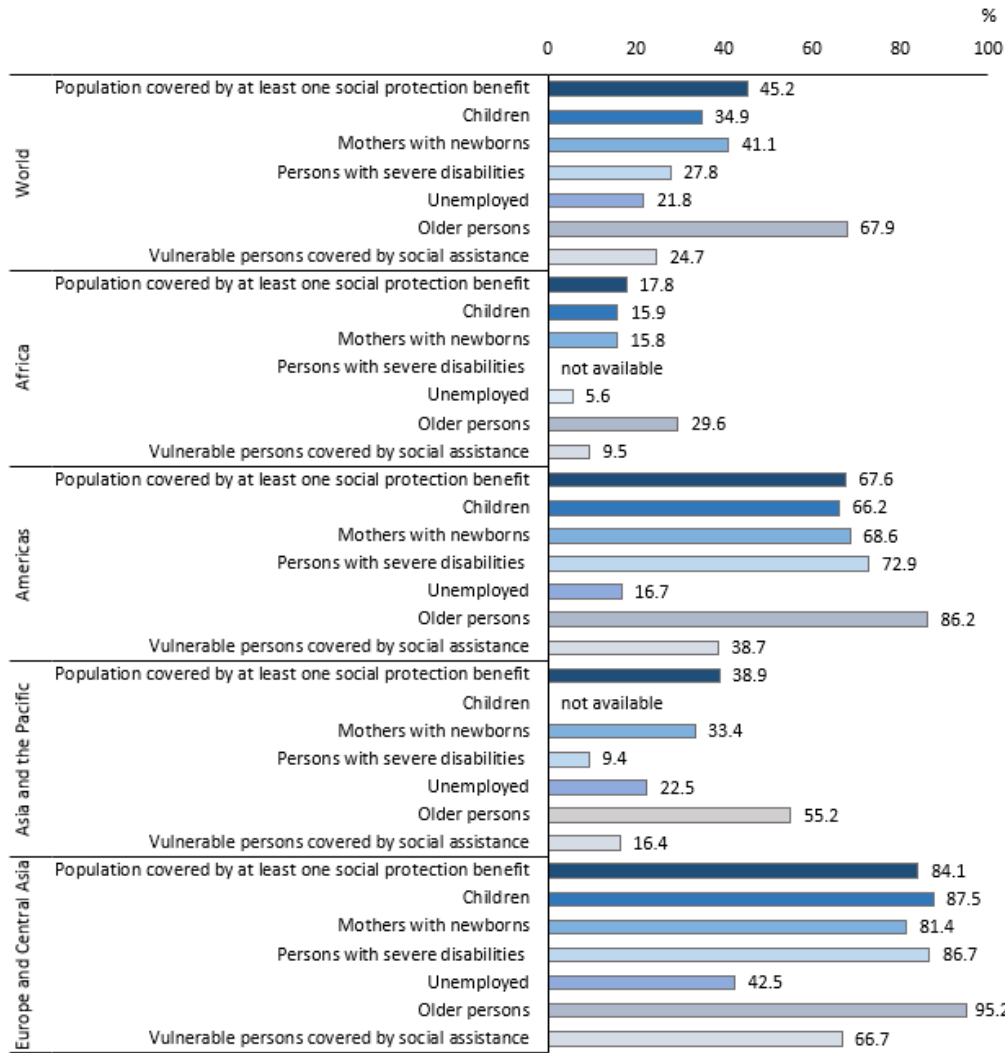


FIG. 1.1 - 2017

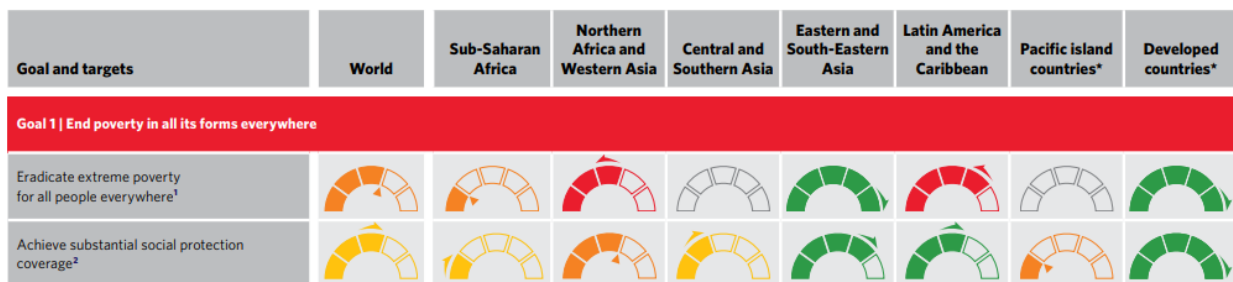


FIG. 1.4 - 2020

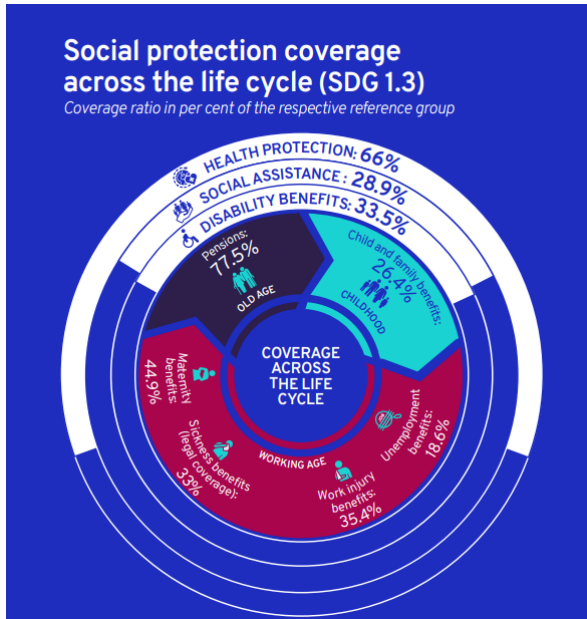


FIG. 1.2 - 2020

► Figure 4.19 SDG indicator 1.3.1 on effective coverage for employment injury protection: Percentage of labour force aged 15+ years covered by cash benefits in case of employment injury (active contributors), by region, subregion and income level, 2020 or latest available year

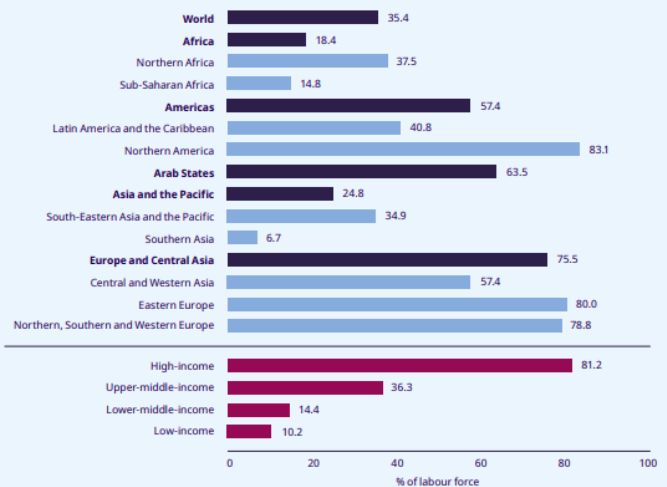


FIG. 1.3 - 2021

More statistical data regarding international poverty rates can be found on the United Nations official website: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/sle>

Here are some notable plans put forth by past global organizations and operations that have sought to address the SDG 1.3

1. ILO “Global Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All” utilises support from development partners by incorporating social protection benefits within preexisting social protection systems. (ILO, 2020)
2. Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B), an indirect but autonomous subsidiary of the ILO, operates on direct requests from the G20 in response to their “Development Working Group”. They are composed of “representatives of international organizations to enhance global coordination and advocacy on social protection issues and to coordinate international cooperation in demand-driven actions.”(ILO, 2017)

Current challenges to the aforementioned operations include but are not limited to;

1. The current debilitating force for the more eastern Asian countries is the prevalence of a unique problem known as “Rapid Ageing ”. Rapid Ageing is an unintended consequence of new technologies in the medical space being presented to nations that lack them, this in turn increases the national life expectancy dramatically shifting the population dynamic into a more senior dominated system in which the working class and the nation is general is unable to provide funding or facilitate the influx of eligible persons to fill gaps in the work force and take care of the ageing population.(ILO, 2017)
2. Covid-19: During the course of the pandemic the abrupt ceasement of economic progress across the globe and pandemic lockdowns have severely affected the progress that was made prior to the



outbreak of Covid-19, it is highly probable that it has not only slowed down progress but may even have reversed certain systems previously in place.(ILO, 2022)

3. **Workers in the informal economy:** The informal economy refers to workers who are not employed, and as such, not covered by formal arrangements. This situation is highly prevalent in context of high employment and dangerous work, it is also aggravated in situations in which there is no better option than to work in an informal economy, this deprives over 2 billion workers the rights to sickness and unemployment benefits as well as barring those employed under these contracts from access to the services provided by SDG 1.3. (ILO, 2015)

As such, SDG 1.3 is the foundation needed to guarantee success in other aspects of SDG 1, “No Poverty”. Not only will the proper implementation of counter measures to address these challenges allow a more streamlined process for development but the accomplishment of this aspect of “No Poverty” will also allow any nation to successfully and aspire toward its goal in 2030.

## **BLOC POSITIONS**

### **Sub-Saharan Africa**

Eradicating poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa is particularly difficult as it is an area that finds itself in conflict, this dramatically slows down progress in achieving the implementation of plans that are and have been in place as they are unable to be distributed and maintained.

### **Central and Southern Asia**

While the region has advanced toward poverty reduction, many people are not covered by social protection programs and have no access to basic services. This is due in part to the increased government spending on the more prevalent climate related disasters that have wreaked havoc on these nations, reducing the amount of resources allocated to fully implementing SDG 1.3.

### **Latin American and the Caribbean**

The impact of poverty is more prevalent in the child, adolescent and youth population as it is a key element to prevent intergenerational reproduction of poverty and inequality. These nations are struggling to provide adequate social services and protections especially since the impact of COVID -19 still weakens infrastructures across these nations.

### **European Union (EU)**

The EU is among the most advanced social protection and universal health coverage systems. Unfortunately they are suffering from multiple crises that have impacted vulnerable groups and have even increased poverty in certain countries within the EU, the return of high inflation in the economy being the largest issue currently deprecating all pre-existing systems.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

Achieving Target 1.3 under Global Goal #1, "No Poverty," also demands a multifaceted approach that involves various stakeholders and strategies. Here are potential solutions from different angles:

1. Government Initiatives:
  - Social Assistance Programs: Governments can bolster existing social assistance programs or establish new ones to provide financial aid to impoverished individuals and families, ensuring they have access to basic necessities.
  - Labor Market Reforms: Implement labor market reforms that promote fair wages, job security, and decent working conditions, reducing income inequality and poverty.
  
2. International Cooperation:
  - Global Fund for Social Protection: Establish a global fund dedicated to supporting the implementation of social protection systems in developing countries, ensuring financial sustainability and technical assistance.
  - Debt Relief and Aid: Developed nations can extend debt relief and increase foreign aid to support poverty reduction efforts in less developed countries.
  
3. Civil Society Engagement:
  - Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns: Civil society organizations can raise awareness about the importance of social protection systems and advocate for government policies that prioritize poverty reduction.
  - Community-Based Initiatives: Engage communities in poverty alleviation efforts by supporting local initiatives, such as vocational training, small business development, and community-driven projects.
  
4. Financial Inclusion:
  - Microfinance Programs: Facilitate access to microloans and financial services, enabling impoverished individuals to start businesses and improve their financial well-being.
  - Savings and Insurance: Promote savings and insurance options for low-income individuals to protect against unexpected expenses and build assets.
  
5. Data and Monitoring:
  - Robust Data Collection: Invest in comprehensive data collection and monitoring systems to track the effectiveness of social protection programs, ensuring evidence-based decision-making.
  - Policy Evaluation: Continuously assess and evaluate social protection policies to identify areas for improvement and optimization.
  
6. Private Sector Collaboration:
  - Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Encourage businesses to engage in CSR activities that support social protection initiatives, such as investing in education and healthcare.
  - Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Foster partnerships between governments and the private sector to create innovative solutions for implementing and sustaining social protection systems.
  
7. Education and Skill Development:
  - Education for All: Ensure that quality education is accessible to all, empowering individuals to escape poverty through improved skills and opportunities.

- Skills Training Programs: Develop vocational training programs that equip marginalized individuals with practical skills for employment and entrepreneurship.

The goal of achieving Target 1.3 of Global Goal #1, "No Poverty," necessitates a coordinated and collaborative effort from various stakeholders. Governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector must work together to establish and sustain effective social protection systems. These systems can serve as a critical safety net for vulnerable populations, ultimately leading to poverty reduction and improved well-being on a global scale.

## 1.6 MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO END POVERTY

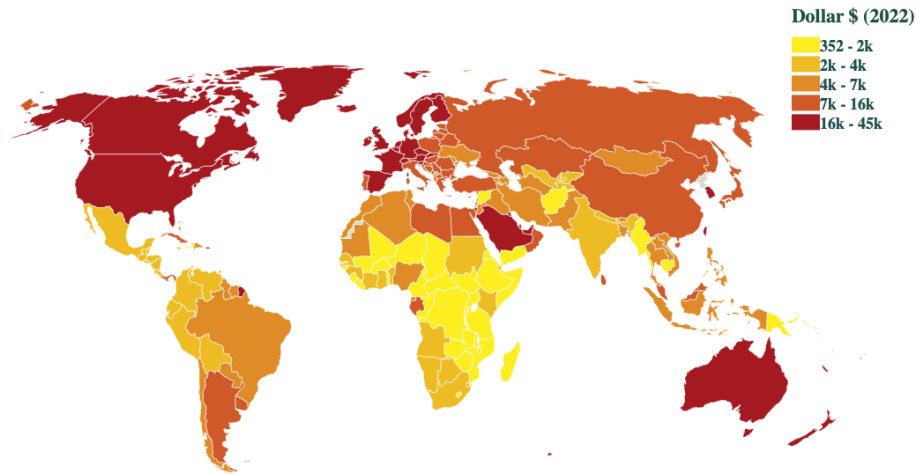


### CURRENT SITUATION

Sustainable Development Goal #1, "No Poverty," remains a significant global challenge, with numerous issues hampering progress towards Target 1.6, which focuses on mobilizing resources to implement policies to end poverty. According to the United Nations, as of 2020, only 45% of countries had adequate budget allocations to support social protection systems, a key component of poverty reduction. (UN SDG Database, 2020) Income inequality is another critical issue. Data from the World Inequality Database indicates that the top 1% of income earners in some countries now capture a disproportionate share of national income, exacerbating poverty for the rest of the population. (UN World Inequality Database)

For instance, Brazil serves as a stark example of income inequality. In 2021, the country ranked among the top nations with the highest income inequality levels, according to the World Bank's GINI index, despite being one of the world's largest economies. (World Bank, GINI Index)

### Bottom 50% average national income

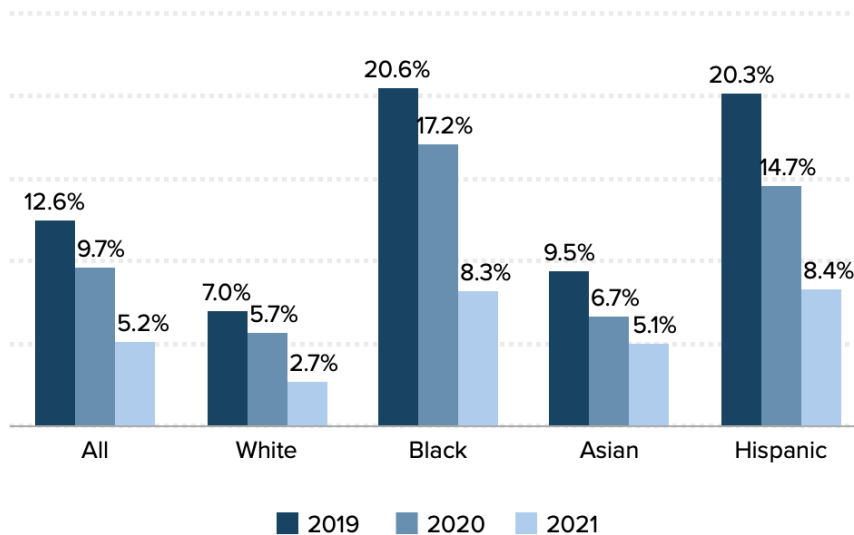


Graph provided by www.wid.world

World Inequality Database, 2022

### Public policy helps reduce child poverty

Supplemental child poverty rates by race and ethnicity, 2019–2021



Economic Policy Institute, 2023

Several past global actions have sought to address poverty mobilization:

1. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): The MDGs, which preceded the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), included poverty reduction as a central goal. They achieved some success in reducing extreme poverty, but gaps remained, leading to the more comprehensive SDG #1. (UNDP, 2015)
2. International Aid and Assistance: Various international organizations, including the United Nations and the World Bank, have provided financial and technical assistance to countries to support poverty reduction efforts. (UNDP, 2019)

Despite past actions, several obstacles prevent the achievement of Target 1.6 and SDG #1:

1. Economic Shocks: The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the vulnerability of many economies to economic shocks, pushing millions back into poverty due to job losses and disruptions to social protection systems. (UN, Policy Brief, 2020)
2. Conflict and Instability: Ongoing conflicts and political instability in several regions hinder progress in poverty reduction. For instance, countries like Afghanistan and Syria continue to grapple with extreme poverty due to protracted conflicts. (UNDP, 2021)
3. Inequitable Resource Distribution: Inadequate distribution of resources and benefits within countries exacerbates poverty, as marginalized populations struggle to access basic services and economic opportunities. (UNDP, 2020)
4. Climate Change: Climate-related challenges, such as natural disasters and environmental degradation, disproportionately affect impoverished communities, undermining efforts to lift them out of poverty. (UN Climate Change, 2021)

In conclusion, addressing these challenges requires renewed global commitment, innovative policies, and collaborative efforts to ensure that resources are effectively mobilized to implement poverty-reduction strategies and achieve SDG #1 by 2030, as outlined by the United Nations and supported by various reports and databases.

## **BLOC POSITIONS**

Addressing Target 1.6 under SDG #1, "No Poverty," is a collective endeavor that requires the commitment and coordinated efforts of various regional blocs and international organizations. Below is an overview of the positions and actions taken by several significant blocs and organizations in this regard:

### **European Union (EU):**

The European Union has demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing poverty and mobilizing resources for poverty reduction. The EU emphasizes the importance of social protection systems and has implemented comprehensive policies to reduce income inequality within its member states. Additionally, the EU supports external aid programs targeting poverty reduction in partner countries, particularly in regions such as Africa.

### **East Asia:**

East Asian countries, including China, Japan, and South Korea, have made remarkable progress in poverty reduction over the past few decades. These nations prioritize economic growth and poverty alleviation, with a focus on inclusive development policies. East Asia has been a key patron of global poverty reduction, contributing significantly to the achievement of poverty eradication.

#### **North America:**

While the United States and Canada are part of the North American region, their approaches to poverty reduction and resource mobilization differ. The United States emphasizes a mix of public and private initiatives, while Canada places greater emphasis on social safety nets and income redistribution. Both nations, however, support international efforts to address poverty and provide aid to developing countries.

#### **Middle East:**

The Middle East faces unique challenges in poverty reduction due to its regional conflicts and instability. While some countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have low levels of poverty, others, particularly those affected by conflict, have struggled to implement policies for poverty eradication. The Middle East, in cooperation with international organizations, seeks to address those disparities.

#### **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD):**

The OECD plays a vital role in promoting policies that support poverty reduction and resource mobilization. It conducts research, provides policy recommendations, and facilitates cooperation among member countries to combat poverty. The OECD also monitors global progress on poverty-related SDGs, including Target 1.6.

In summary, regional blocs and organizations such as the European Union, East Asia, North America, the Middle East, and the OECD are committed to achieving Target 1.6 under SDG #1. While their approaches may differ, the overarching goal remains the same: to mobilize resources effectively and implement policies that lead to the end of poverty, both within their regions and globally. Collaboration among these entities is essential to ensuring a more equitable and poverty-free world.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

Achieving Target 1.6 under SDG #1, "No Poverty," requires a multi-dimensional approach that involves international cooperation, policies at various levels, and the engagement of multiple stakeholders. Here are possible solutions from different perspectives:

1. International Conventions:
  - Promote Fair Trade Agreements: International conventions can encourage fair trade practices, ensuring that producers in developing countries receive fair compensation for their goods. This can reduce poverty among vulnerable communities.
  - Debt Relief: Debt relief initiatives for low-income countries can free up financial resources that can be redirected towards poverty alleviation programs.
  
2. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):

- Microfinance and Skills Training: NGOs can provide microloans and skills training to impoverished communities, enabling individuals to start small businesses and generate income.
  - Community Development Projects: NGOs can facilitate community-based projects, such as building infrastructure, providing clean water, and improving healthcare, to directly impact poverty reduction.
3. Public Policies:
- Social Safety Nets: Governments can establish and expand social safety net programs to provide financial support to vulnerable populations, ensuring access to basic necessities.
  - Progressive Taxation: Implementing progressive tax policies can help reduce income inequality by taxing the wealthy at higher rates and redistributing resources to the poor.
4. International Financing Mechanisms:
- Official Development Assistance (ODA): Countries can meet their commitments to allocate a portion of their GDP to ODA to provide financial support to developing nations for poverty reduction projects.
  - Global Funds: The establishment and funding of global funds, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, can address specific poverty-related issues.
5. Locally Available Resource Utilization:
- Agricultural Development: Promoting sustainable agricultural practices and improving access to markets can help rural communities utilize their local resources for economic growth and poverty reduction.
  - Renewable Energy: Encouraging the use of renewable energy sources can reduce energy costs, create jobs, and stimulate local economies.
6. Incentives for the Private Sector:
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Encouraging businesses to engage in CSR activities that focus on poverty alleviation, such as investing in local communities, can make a significant impact.
  - Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Governments can partner with the private sector to develop infrastructure and services that benefit marginalized communities.
7. Accessible Education and Raising Awareness:
- Education Programs: Accessible and quality education can empower individuals to escape poverty. Governments and organizations can invest in education infrastructure and scholarships.
  - Awareness Campaigns: Raising awareness about poverty-related issues can mobilize communities and garner support for poverty reduction efforts.

In summary, achieving Target 1.6 requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach. International conventions, NGOs, public policies, international financing mechanisms, resource utilization, private sector engagement, education, and awareness all play crucial roles in mobilizing resources and implementing effective policies to end poverty. Combining these solutions from various perspectives can create a synergistic effect, leading to more impactful poverty reduction efforts globally.



Delegates may also access more detailed information about possible solutions for Target 1.6 through the *Our World in Data* website:

<https://ourworldindata.org/sdgs/no-poverty#:~:text=Target%3A%20The%20SDG%20target%20is,the%20poor%20and%20the%20vulnerable.>”

## **GUIDING QUESTIONS**

1. What is the current situation in your country?
2. What is your country’s standpoint on this issue?
3. What past actions did your country take to address the issues?
4. How can the international community assist your country to improve?
5. How can your country contribute to the global community?
6. How may your country further its efforts addressing the dilemmas in the future?
7. What are some of the challenges your country is facing regarding reducing poverty rates?
8. What is your country’s strategy and future plans to help them achieve the goal?
9. What solutions are the most effective from your country’s standpoint? Explain.

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