

# **GLOBAL GOALS CONFERENCE 2023**



## **BACKGROUND GUIDE**

### **Responsible Consumption & Production - Goal #12**

## 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, giving credit to the sources used in the 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 chairs or director. Send your position paper to [ben.rogers@brentwood.ca](mailto:ben.rogers@brentwood.ca) and [gaeun.lee@brentwood.ca](mailto:gaeun.lee@brentwood.ca)

All position papers may be no longer than one page in length. Please put annotated citations on a second page. You may bring your position paper to the conference.

## LETTERS TO DELEGATES

**Dear Delegates,**

My name is Ben Rogers and I am honored to be one of your directors for the responsible consumption and production committee at ShawMUN 2023.

I am a grade 12 student who has been attending Brentwood since grade 9. This will be my third year in the Brentwood model UN program, and my second time directing a committee. Ever since I joined Model UN it has been my favorite class. I relish in the heated debates, passionate speeches, and great friends made along the way. I have participated in many model UN's so far, such as SHAWMUN, VMUN and BMUN, I have even won outstanding delegate awards. I hope you all have as much fun participating in this committee as I had making it!

Sincerely, Ben Rogers

Co-Director of responsible consumption and production committee, ShawMUN 2023.

[ben.rogers@brentwood.ca](mailto:ben.rogers@brentwood.ca)

Hello, Delegates!

My name is Emily Lee and I feel pleased to be a co-director for the responsible consumption and production committee at ShawMUN 2023.

I am a current grade 12 student at Brentwood. It is my third year participating in Model UN and my second time serving as a director. I remember the first year of my experience in Model UN, being nerve-wracked to go up on the podium and speak, but always in the end, I enjoyed every impassioned discussion and was absolutely thrilled. I loved the friendship forged and walking lighthearted out of the conference room. I sincerely hope your experience at this conference becomes a meaningful memory, and I hope you enjoy every moment.

Best wishes to you, Emily Lee

Co-Director of responsible consumption and production committee, ShawMUN 2023.

[gaeun.lee@brentwood.ca](mailto:gaeun.lee@brentwood.ca)

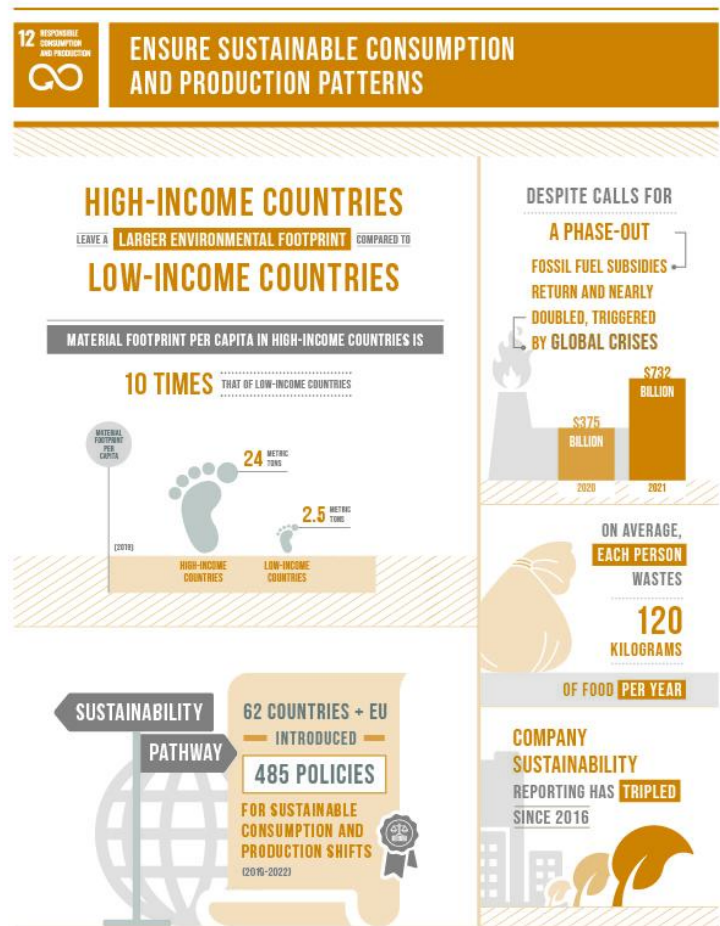
## TOPIC OVERVIEW

### 12.6

Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

### 12.A

Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production



THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2023: SPECIAL EDITION- UNSTATS.UN.ORG/SDGS/REPORT/2023/

## 12.6 - Sustainable business practices

### Current Situation

Over the past 100 years global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have risen from 3.09 billion tons to 37.12 billion tonnes (Our World in Data writers, 2023). This is in no small part a consequence of immense multinational corporations expanding industry, resource extraction and inefficient business practices. According to a study performed by the Carbon Disclosure Project, just 100 companies have been responsible for 71% of global GHG emissions since 1998 (Activesustainability.com writers, 2015). If we could encourage these megaliths of industry to adopt more sustainable, and clean business practices we could save our planet millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, and create an economy not so reliant on finite resources, in the event of a resource depression. Already efforts have been made to encourage more transparent sustainability reports from companies, though these even, can often be misleading. As seen by the left graphic below, open corporate sustainability reports do not correlate to decreased emissions.

Corporate social responsibility reports using Global Reporting Initiative standards

5,000 reports

4,000

3,000

2,000

1,000

0

2000

'05

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Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

40 billion tons

35

30

25

20

15

10

5

0

2000

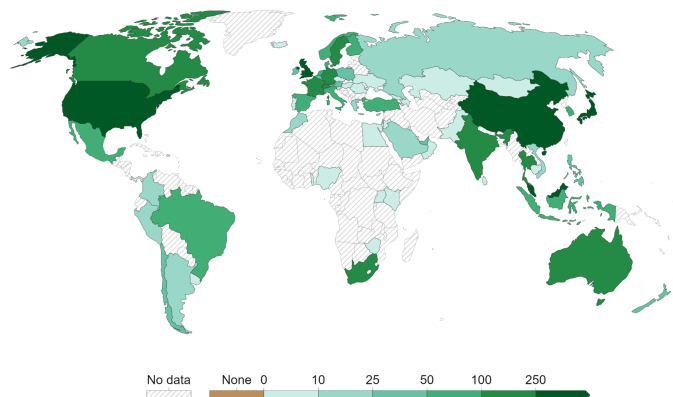
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Number of companies publishing sustainability reports that meet the minimum reporting requirements, 2021

To meet the minimum requirements a company must have published information on a set of key disclosure elements the company's governance practices as well as economic, social and environment impacts.



(United Nations, 2015)

(Our World in Data, 2021)

There is hope, however, for a positive and lasting change. As shown by the graphic from Our World in Data on the right, many countries are reporting their sustainability figures. More importantly, though, recent companies have emerged such as Tesla, who have been able to compete with their competition while reducing emissions. Reporting is one step in solving the coming climate catastrophe, but that alone will not end the problem. Real changes need to be made to the way we do business, trade, and extract resources if we want to see a visible change.

## **Bloc Positions**

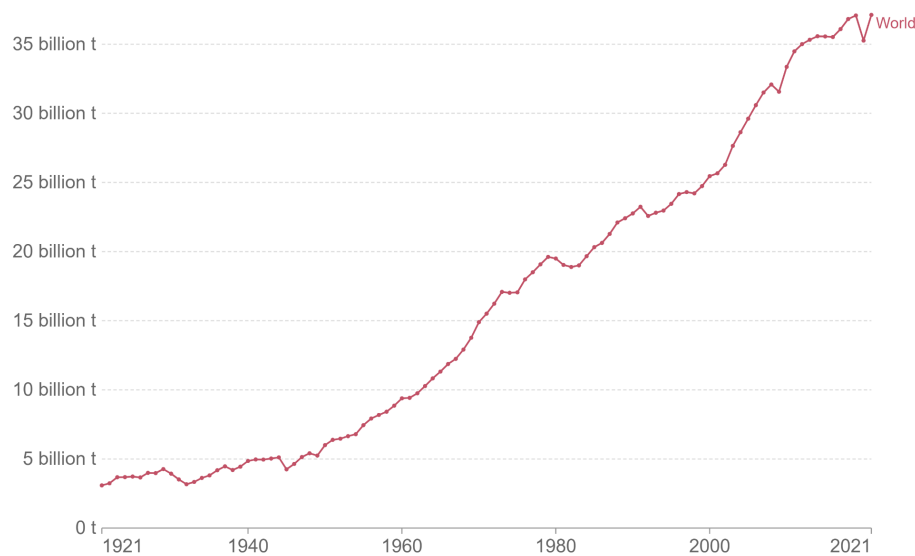
Most developed countries are in support of industry regulation in order to promote cleaner business practices. From the EU banning pesticides that harm bees, to many countries banning single-use plastics, particularly bags. On the other hand, many developing countries, and certain other economies such as China and India have not put environmentalism as a priority in their development, favoring short-term raw economic growth, which can be more tangible and benefit the everyday lives of their citizens. While it is understandable for an economy to prioritize the prosperity of its people, environmental sustainability should be considered as an important auxiliary goal, as preserving the environment ensures a world for the next generation to live in. Many countries who are developing would like to encourage environmental sustainability, but they are not able to, either due to the power and wealth of the state, or the need to get their people out of poverty. This is where more developed countries can help foster a focus on sustainability and environmentalism abroad, both through social initiatives and economic investments. Throughout this committee delegates will have to manage the dilemma between improving the short term quality of life for their people, and ensuring long term sustainability.

## **Possible Solutions**

While it is an immense task to overcome, there are many tangible solutions that, if put in place, could drastically reduce the environmental impact of corporations. A more regulated and enforced industry sustainability report system could clear up confusion, spark industry change through social pressure, and depict a more clear view of which companies create the most emissions. However, above all a solution of some sort must be reached, as time is running out. As the graph below shows, annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are climbing at a rapid rate, and if consensus is not reached, our future may become apocalyptic.

### **Annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from fossil fuels and industry<sup>1</sup>. Land use change is not included.



Source: Global Carbon Budget (2022)

OurWorldInData.org/co2-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions • CC BY

<sup>1</sup> **Fossil emissions:** Fossil emissions measure the quantity of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitted from the burning of fossil fuels, and directly from industrial processes such as cement and steel production. Fossil CO<sub>2</sub> includes emissions from coal, oil, gas, flaring, cement, steel, and other industrial processes. Fossil emissions do not include land use change, deforestation, soils, or vegetation.

While the main objective is reducing  $\text{CO}_2$  emissions, there are other possible benefits from industry regulation, if implemented the right way. While excessive business regulation will stagnate the global economy, limited government oversight could help encourage companies to look further into their industries global and regional impact, both environmentally and in other ways. Once corporations start monitoring and caring about their environmental footprint, they might be encouraged to also look at their impact on their local community, and economy.

## **Guiding Questions**

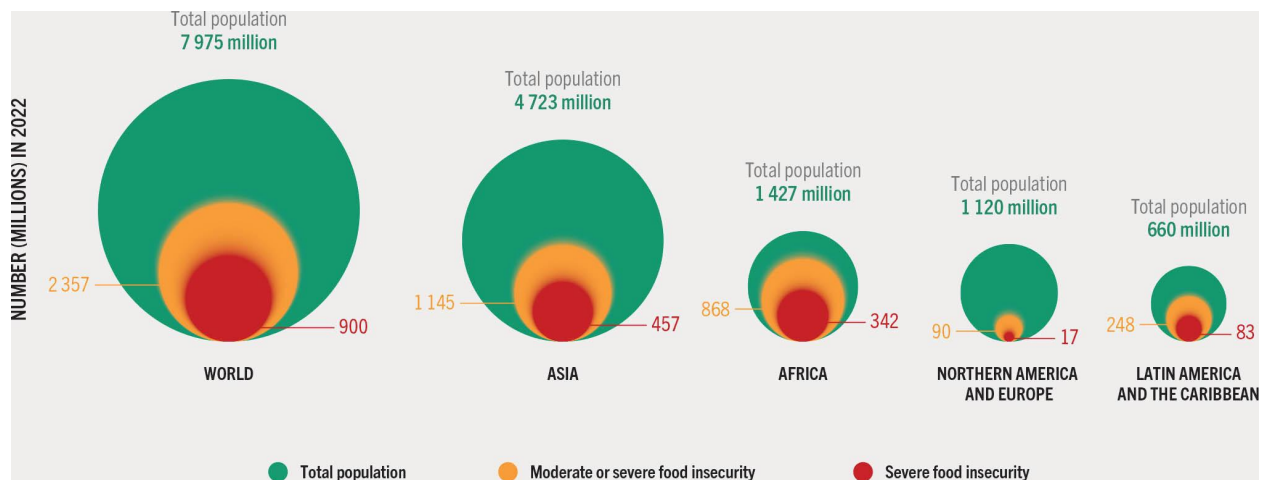
While preparing for your committee and writing your background guide, delegates should consider the following.

- How can a country balance the need to improve short-term standard of living while also ensuring future sustainability?
- How much international oversight and regulation should be allowed in an economy?
- How can international business regulation and oversight be enforced on sovereign countries?
- Who/what countries should pay for and operate the regulatory bodies that govern international business?
- What are the possible negative effects of increased regulation and bureaucracy on businesses?

## 12.A - Sustainable Technology

### Current Situation

Due to the climate crisis and scarcity of technological development- expertise and infrastructure- sustainability in food production has been negatively impacted. Being devoid of natural resources, overpopulation, and food waste became the major issues of unsustainability. However, the crucially influential conflict is food insecurity. According to the World Bank, food production has been flourishing with 600 million producers and 8 million consumers at a worldwide level. Ironically, the “global prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity has been increasing” (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2021). We recognize that the rate is rapidly increasing as “the increase was as much as the previous five years combined” (Lampietti, 2022). The reason is availability. Due to the inadequate supply of food and distribution, many experience substandard nourishment and face starvation. In particular, underdeveloped countries have become the most vulnerable to food supply-chain inefficiency in the food industry. Since supply chains are highly concentrated, production and consumption are fragile to disruptions. Food insecurity in underdeveloped countries is endangered by inactive and unhealthy lifestyles. As of today, the number of people undernourished is about 735.1 million (source).

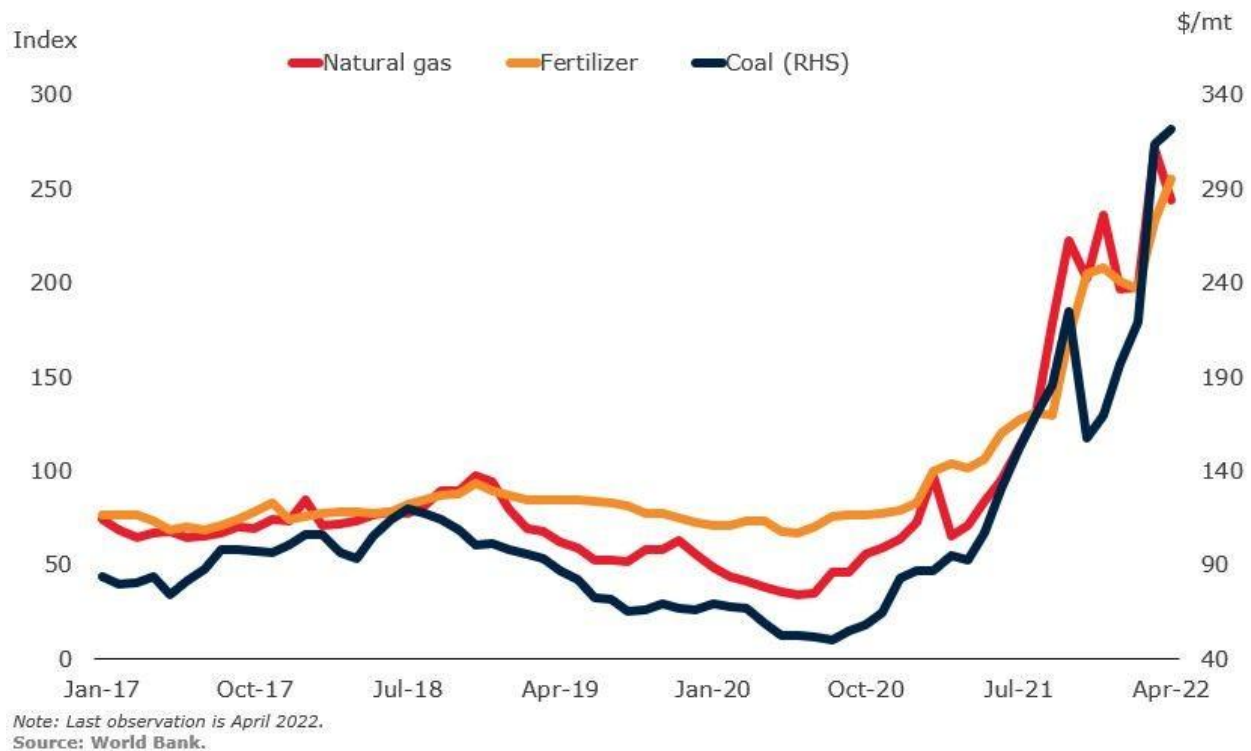


FAO. 2023 The concentration and distribution of food insecurity by severity differ greatly across the regions of the world

Not only do the food supply chains result in tragedy, but also the agricultural price index rise has been significant. As prices of agricultural inputs rapidly increased, the farmers' incentives to manufacture decreased; for example, fertilizer prices went up by three times higher than in 2021.



## Agriculture input prices



To counteract the complications that our society faces, there is a need for unity. A new initiative of the partnership was launched in July 2020, with an agreement under the auspices of the United Nations Commissions on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD). One example of the programme this commission established is ‘CropWatch Innovation Cooperation’: it aims to enhance “capacities for food security” using an “Earth observation satellite system”. Participants highlighted the role of this project in helping countries to be climate resilient by adopting innovative technologies (Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute in Mauritius).

## Bloc Positions

### European Union

Most European countries have better environmental efficiency and higher environmental sustainability in food production and consumption. France, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Malta, and the Netherlands have made the largest reduction in food waste. Another developed technological system is the European Bioeconomy Strategy: an EU-wide monitoring programme for tracking the balancing of bioeconomic contributions to food and other outputs.

### Technologically underdeveloped Nations

Despite the abundant resources, countries such as Zambia, Tanzania, Georgia, Benin, Jordan, and Pakistan need technological development. The affordable technologies that can be adopted by small-scale farmers and rural communities are required. This block can focus on promoting sustainable farming practices,

improving access to agricultural information and resources through implementing low-cost irrigation systems.

### **Technologically Developed Nations**

Developed countries- the United States, Denmark, China, and South Korea, with their advanced technological capabilities and resources, are at the forefront of promoting sustainable food consumption and production through the use of technologies. They have made significant progress in implementing innovative solutions to address the challenges of current food systems. These countries prioritize the development and adoption of cutting-edge technologies, such as precision agriculture, vertical farming, and advanced monitoring systems, to optimize resource utilization, reduce waste, and ensure efficient and sustainable food production.

### **Possible Solutions**

A key aspect of looking for success in unsustainability is technological advancements. Many countries are aiming to solve unattainable food consumption and unsustainable production by integrating agricultural and digital technology. There has been a technological breakthrough that has helped food production over the past years. A major current challenge for food processing technologies in developing countries is the overwhelming price of production and the logistics of transporting food. Nations can integrate to increase supply chain efficiency and prevent a shortage of agricultural inputs. Corresponding to the World Bank's responses, G7 and like-minded countries are needed to support a global effort, and agritech investment roles significantly in this solution. Domestically, expanding social safety nets should be considered to avoid malnutrition and secure access to food. A plan to find products that countries can rely less heavily on imports and more on locally grown ingredients is an alternative to be considered.

### **Guiding Questions**

- What are the past examples of legislation or practice that led to success?
- What are the current policies and systems your country has?
- What challenges and opportunities exist in implementing technology-driven solutions for sustainable food systems?
- What are the incentives for the countries to integrate financial support?

## REFERENCES PAGE

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