

## **Letter from the Executive Board**

### **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) ODM Model United Nations 2025**

Dear Delegates,

It is with immense excitement and pride that we welcome you to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) at ODM MUN 2025. As members of the Executive Board, it is both an honour and a privilege to guide you through what we hope will be a stimulating, thought-provoking, and truly transformative experience.

The HLPF stands as the United Nations' central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In a time marked by climate urgency, widening inequalities, geopolitical disruptions, and global uncertainty, the Forum's relevance has only deepened. Here, dialogue becomes action, policy transforms into impact, and diplomacy finds its truest voice.

At ODM MUN 2025, you are not just delegates representing nations — you are catalysts of change, thinkers, reformers, and leaders in the making. As we deliberate on this year's pressing theme, we urge you to bring to the table not only your knowledge and policy understanding but also your empathy, creativity, and a collaborative spirit. This committee will test your research skills, negotiation tactics, and capacity to work towards actionable, inclusive, and sustainable solutions.

We understand the responsibility that comes with simulating such a vital global body, and we are committed to fostering a fair, respectful, and intellectually enriching space for all delegates. The background guide has been carefully curated to provide you with a solid foundation, but it is your initiative, insight, and imagination that will breathe life into the debates.

As the Executive Board, we promise to support you every step of the way — not just as adjudicators, but as mentors and fellow learners. We look forward to witnessing your diplomacy, resilience, and leadership throughout the conference.

Let us redefine global cooperation, rethink development, and reimagine the future — together.

Warm regards,

**Executive Board**

High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)  
**ODM Model United Nations 2025**

# Introduction to the committee

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development. It has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. The HLPF provides for the full and effective Participation of all Member States of the United Nations, Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, as well as civil society through the Major Groups and other Stakeholders' Coordination Mechanism. The Office for Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs serves as the Secretariat of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) acts as the Secretariat for the SDGs. The HLPF facilitates the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned and provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up. It promotes system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies. It ensures that the 2030 Agenda remains relevant and ambitious and focuses on the assessment of progress, achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries as well as new and emerging issues. Effective linkages are made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Developing Countries.

The HLPF meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for eight days in July, which includes a three-day ministerial segment. It also meets every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly for two days in September. The following Infographic demonstrates where the HLPF is positioned in the UN System:



The objectives of the HLPF were initially outlined in General Assembly resolution 66/288 and subsequently in the 'Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development' as Part of resolution 67/290:

- a) Provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development;
- b) Enhance integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels;
- c) Provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue and for stocktaking and agenda-setting to advance sustainable development;
- d) Have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges;
- e) Follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments contained in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and The Future We Want and, as appropriate, relevant outcomes of other United Nations summits and conferences, including the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries as well as their respective means of implementation;
- f) Encourage high-level system-wide participation of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and invite to participate, as appropriate, other relevant multilateral financial and trade institutions and treaty bodies, within their respective mandates and in accordance with United Nations rules and provisions;
- g) Improve cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on sustainable development programmes and policies;
- h) Promote transparency and implementation by further enhancing the consultative role and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to better make use of their expertise, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of discussions;
- i) Promote the sharing of best practices and experiences relating to the implementation of sustainable development and, on a voluntary basis, facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned;
- j) Strengthen the science-policy interface through review of documentation, bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including in the form of a global sustainable development report, building on existing assessments;
- k) Enhance evidence-based decision-making at all levels and contribute to strengthening ongoing capacity-building for data collection and analysis in developing countries; and
- l) Promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies.

# What is the history of the HLPF?

## United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 67/757

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development was established by the UN General Assembly In December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Earth Summit. This was the first UN body on sustainable development, and it played an important role in keeping sustainable development high on the international agenda. From its inception, the Commission on Sustainable Development was highly participatory in structure and outlook, by engaging in its formal proceedings a wide range of official stakeholders and partners through innovative formulae. The 2013 Report of the Secretary-General on 'Lessons learned from the Commission on Sustainable Development' identified that a high-level political forum was required to be able to review implementation of sustainable development and to respond with sufficient flexibility to new and emerging nations issues. UNGA Resolution 67/203 recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development hold its last session in 2013. The high-level political forum would soon replace the Commission on Sustainable Development.

## UNGA Resolution 66/288

The establishment of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio 20), titled 'The future we want'. The outcome document was endorsed by and annexed in UNGA Resolution 66/288. Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives met at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (Rio 20) with the full participation of civil society, in order to renew commitment to sustainable development and to ensure the promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for present and future generations. The decision was made to establish a universal, intergovernmental, high-level political forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development to follow up on the implementation of sustainable development. An intergovernmental negotiation process under the General Assembly was launched to define the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

## UNGA Resolution 67/290

Resolution 67/290 was adopted in 2013 and it outlined the 'Format and organizational aspects of the high-Level political forum on sustainable development'. The Resolution guides the HLPF:

- to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development,
- to follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments,
- to enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels; and
- to have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges the Resolution outlines that format of the meetings of the forum will differ under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and under the auspices of the General Assembly (UNGA) as outlined below. One factor remains the same between both meetings in that they both call for the full and effective participation of all Member States of the United Nations.

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## HLPF

- Under the auspices of ECOSOC.
- Involving ministerial & other high-level participants
- Convened every year
- 8-day meeting
- Chaired by the President of ECOSOC
- Shall result in a negotiated ministerial declaration

## SDG Summit

- Under the auspices of UNGA
- Convened at Heads of State level
- Convened every 4 years
- 2-day meeting
- Chaired by the President of the Assembly
- Shall result in a concise negotiated political declaration

The initial guidance for voluntary national reviews was outlined in Resolution 67/290. It was decided that the HLPF shall conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of Sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda. Furthermore, the meetings of the forum should devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries, in particular the least developed countries, Small island developing States, landlocked developing countries, African countries, as well as the challenges facing middle-income countries. Resolution 67/290 also highlights the necessity to further enhance the consultative role and participation of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to make better use of their expertise. Further information on the mandate of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders will be discussed in a separate section of this document.

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\*

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

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\* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

# **AGENDA: Accelerating Progress Towards SDG 13 and SDG 7: Addressing the Climate-Energy Nexus for a Just Transition**

## **Introduction**

SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) are deeply linked and both are central to achieving a sustainable, equitable future. As the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) considers their progress, the urgent need for an integrated response becomes even more obvious. A transition to sustainable energy must address climate risks while ensuring social fairness.

## **Understanding the Nexus: SDG 13 and SDG 7**

### **SDG 13: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change**

SDG 13 challenges all countries to confront climate change urgently. This involves strengthening how countries and communities cope with climate-related hazards and disasters, incorporating climate strategies into policies, improving awareness, and mobilizing substantial climate finance for vulnerable nations. It's not just about cutting emissions, but also preparing societies to be resilient and adaptive in the face of changing climates.

### **SDG 7: Clean and Affordable Energy**

SDG 7 aims to provide everyone with access to affordable, reliable, modern energy by 2030. Achieving this goal requires increasing the share of renewables in global energy use and doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency. Without significant investment and cooperation, especially in regions lagging behind, billions will remain without reliable energy for daily needs and economic growth.

# Unpacking the Climate-Energy Nexus and a Just Transition

The interaction between energy and climate is straightforward—most emissions that drive climate change come from the energy sector. A just transition means ensuring that as we shift away from fossil fuels toward renewables like wind, solar, and hydropower, the process is fair and inclusive.

This fairness is essential because entire communities, particularly those dependent on coal, oil, and gas, will be affected. These transitions could bring new jobs and opportunities but can also leave some people behind unless there's support for workers and vulnerable groups, such as job training and social safety nets.

A just transition seeks to address these potential hardships, making sure that clean energy expansion and climate actions benefit everyone and do not deepen economic and social inequalities.

## Achievements and Gaps

Notable progress has been made in recent years. Globally, hundreds of millions more people have gained access to electricity, and advanced renewable energy sources such as solar and wind are reaching record levels of deployment. Awareness of climate issues is at an all-time high, with many countries enacting climate adaptation and mitigation measures.

However, the gaps remain sobering. Over 660 million people still lack reliable electricity, and more than 2 billion people still rely on unsafe cooking fuels. Most of these populations live in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia, and progress in those areas is much slower. Meanwhile, despite pledges, global greenhouse gas emissions are still not declining rapidly enough to limit global warming to 1.5°C, as required to avoid catastrophic impacts.

Clean energy investment is failing to reach the countries that need it most, and policy progress often stalls due to economic, technical, and political barriers.



## Core Challenges in the Climate-Energy Nexus

**Energy Poverty:** Large disparities persist in energy access across and within countries, with rural, remote, and marginalized communities facing the brunt of limited or unreliable electricity supply. This energy poverty affects not only household lighting and heating, but also critical services like education, healthcare, and digital connectivity. Women and children are disproportionately affected, especially in areas where traditional biomass remains the primary energy source, leading to health issues and safety concerns. Bridging this energy divide is not just a matter of infrastructure, but of inclusive, rights-based development.

**Reliance on Fossil Fuels:** Despite global climate commitments, many governments continue to provide substantial subsidies for fossil fuels and prioritize coal power development under the guise of energy security or economic growth. This entrenched reliance distorts energy markets, disincentivizes investments in clean energy technologies, and locks countries into high-emission infrastructure. These policies often benefit politically influential sectors, making it harder to shift toward a genuinely sustainable and diversified energy mix.

**Inequities in Transition:** Without deliberate, inclusive policies, the shift to a green economy can deepen existing inequalities. Workers in carbon-intensive sectors like coal mining, oil refining, or thermal power face job losses and uncertain futures if transition plans exclude retraining or social safety nets. Women, Indigenous communities, and poorer regions often lack a seat at the table in shaping energy transition policies. Ensuring a just transition means placing equity at the center—so that the benefits of a greener economy are shared, not hoarded.

**Policy and Implementation Gaps:** While countries set ambitious targets for renewable energy and carbon neutrality, real progress is hampered by outdated legal frameworks, weak institutional capacity, and lack of financial mobilization. Moreover, climate and energy agendas are often developed in silos, leading to policy incoherence and inefficient use of resources. The absence of long-term planning, robust monitoring mechanisms, and inter-agency coordination undermines the effectiveness of climate action on the ground.

# **Strategies for an Accelerated, Just Transition**

## **Scaling Clean Energy Investment**

Massive increases in investment are needed globally for renewable energy like wind and solar, as well as for improving energy efficiency. Redirecting funds currently used for fossil fuel subsidies towards these areas, and prioritizing financial and technical support for least developed countries, will help close gaps in access and accelerate the global energy transition.

## **Inclusive Policy Approaches**

Policymaking must account for the socio-economic impacts of the energy transition. This means developing strategies that are region-specific, focusing on local needs, and incorporating input from affected communities. Accreditation systems for transition programs can ensure consistently high standards and meaningful outcomes.

A truly just transition is also gender-responsive and pays attention to employment, health, and the needs of younger and older generations.

## **Strengthening Partnerships and Global Cooperation**

No country can solve these challenges alone. International partnerships for financing, technology transfer, and knowledge sharing are critical. Cooperation between governments, the private sector, and civil society enables rapid adoption of clean technologies and the scaling up of successful practices. Joint tracking and reporting help align efforts and maximize impact.

## **Addressing Social and Economic Impacts**

Transitioning the workforce is vital. Adequate training and reskilling programs help workers adapt as industries change. Social protections must target those most at risk, ensuring vulnerable populations do not fall further behind. Gender-responsive approaches help empower women, who are often disproportionately impacted by climate change and the energy divide.

## Key Milestones for 2025

- 100% increase in modern renewable capacity globally.
- 30 million jobs created in renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Global annual greenhouse gas emissions reduced by at least one third.
- 50% of all new energy access investments directed to least developed countries.
- Universal energy access and improved energy-related health outcomes

## Recommendations

The way forward demands urgent, integrated action:

- Accelerate finance and investment flows to developing countries for clean technologies and climate resilience.
- Integrate energy, climate, social, and economic policies to maximize coherence and impact.
- Promote transparency and innovation in tracking progress towards SDG 7 and SDG 13.
- Keep equity and justice at the center—ensuring all communities and groups are supported through the changes, and that no one is left behind as the world moves towards its 2030 goals.

The just transition at the climate-energy nexus offers not only environmental benefits but major gains in social inclusion, economic opportunity, and global justice. As decisions made in the next few years will set a course for decades to come, prioritizing coordinated, inclusive, and ambitious action is more important than ever.

# **CASE STUDIES**

## **1.INDIA**

India's journey toward achieving both climate action and affordable, clean energy is marked by the diversity of its challenges and ambitions. As a rapidly developing country with a large population, India faces the dual pressure of supporting economic growth and providing energy access to all, while reducing its reliance on coal and other fossil fuels. The government has prioritized the expansion of renewable energy, particularly solar, enacting policies and investments to scale up infrastructure, drive down costs, and foster innovation. Initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance and targeted subsidies for solar rooftop installations have begun to transform the nation's energy landscape, bringing renewable power to millions.

However, this transformation is not without complications. India's traditional energy sector employs vast numbers, especially in coal mining and related industries. The prospect of transitioning away from coal raises concerns of job losses and economic disruption. Recognizing these risks, the country has started addressing the social dimensions of energy change through pathways such as social inclusion in project design and the gradual introduction of retraining and social safety net programs for at-risk workers and communities. While progress is evident in clean energy gains and emission reductions, balancing economic needs, social fairness, and environmental targets remains a complex and ongoing challenge for India's just transition.

## **2.GERMANY**

Germany offers an instructive example of how a highly industrialized nation manages the complexities of phasing out coal while upholding the principles of climate action and just transition. The government undertook extensive dialogues through a special "Coal Commission" that brought together labour unions, industry, communities, and policymakers to draft a plan for a gradual coal exit by 2038. This consensus-driven approach prioritized comprehensive support for impacted regions to ensure that the closure of coal plants would not devastate local economies or leave workers behind.

Financial mechanisms, such as investment in economic revitalization projects, retraining programs for displaced workers, and robust social dialogue, were established as central components of the transition. Germany's model highlights the importance of policy

coherence and strong governance in managing the energy transition at scale. Despite the ambitious targets and the social frameworks provided, challenges still arise—ensuring sustained employment, supporting innovation in local economies, and mitigating regional disparities in job opportunities. The German experience underscores that a just transition is both a long-term effort and a process of continuous adaptation.

### **3.SOUTH AFRICA**

South Africa's history and current energy matrix present unique obstacles on the path to SDG 13 and SDG 7. The economy has long been reliant on coal—a sector embedded not just in national energy supply, but in employment and local livelihoods, especially in mining communities. South Africa's government has sought to embed just transition principles in its national climate plans, including its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Policy efforts focus on ensuring that the move away from coal does not deepen existing inequalities or exacerbate unemployment.

The government has established supportive structures such as reskilling programs, economic diversification projects in coal-dependent regions, and channels for extensive consultation with labour unions and civil society. These policies aim to reduce the adverse impacts on workers, while preparing them for participation in renewable energy sectors. Nonetheless, obstacles persist. High national unemployment rates and entrenched structural disadvantages make it difficult to ensure that new opportunities in the clean energy economy are accessible and sufficient for all. South Africa's ongoing experience reveals both the possibilities and the profound social challenges inherent in equitable climate and energy transition strategies.

### **4.GHANA**

In Ghana, the interrelationship between advancing clean energy and delivering climate action is especially evident. The government has integrated renewable energy and climate initiatives into its broader national development framework, recognizing that improving access to modern energy is also fundamental to achieving emissions reductions and protecting public health. International partnerships and donor support play a significant role in expanding electrification—especially in rural areas, where energy poverty remains high.

Programs aimed at increasing household access to clean cooking fuels, in particular, have been prioritized in light of the strong climate, health, and gender dimensions

involved. In rural Ghana, only a small fraction of households use clean fuels, which has historically reinforced cycles of poverty, health risks, and environmental degradation. Efforts to expand access to clean energy are thus reducing reliance on traditional, polluting cooking methods, directly supporting climate mitigation efforts. Ghana's cross-sectoral strategies, combining education, infrastructure, and financial support, are producing meaningful change for vulnerable communities while demonstrating the broader development benefits of integrated action toward SDG 7 and SDG 13.

## RELEVANT QUESTIONS

1. How can countries harmonize climate action under SDG 13 with efforts to widen affordable clean energy access under SDG 7, especially in developing economies?
2. What policy innovations are most effective in promoting a just and inclusive transition away from fossil fuels, ensuring vulnerable communities are not left behind?
3. In what ways can national governments, the private sector, and civil society collaborate to accelerate investment in renewable energy and improve energy efficiency?
4. What mechanisms exist or are needed for the systematic transfer of clean energy technology and climate finance to least developed countries, and how can international cooperation in this area be improved?
5. How should social and economic impacts—such as job displacement and gender inequalities—be addressed during the energy transition to ensure fairness and equity?

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