

United Nations Conference on The Human Environment

- It was an **international conference convened under United Nations auspices.**
- It was held in **Stockholm, Sweden** in 1972.
- It was the **UN's first major conference on international environmental issues**, and marked a **turning point in the development of international environmental politics.**
- The meeting agreed upon a Declaration known as **Stockholm Declaration.**

Principles of Stockholm Declaration

1. **Human rights** must be asserted, **apartheid and colonialism** condemned.
2. **Natural resources** must be safeguarded.
3. The **Earth's capacity** to produce renewable resources must be maintained.
4. **Wildlife** must be safeguarded.
5. **Non-renewable resources** must be shared and not exhausted.
6. **Pollution** must not exceed the environment's capacity to clean itself
7. Damaging **oceanic pollution** must be prevented.
8. **Development** is needed to improve the environment.

World Commission on Environment and Development

- The UN General Assembly, through a resolution in 1983, welcomed the establishment of a special commission.
- This commission was to make available a **report on environment and the global problematique to the year 2000 and beyond**, including proposed strategies for sustainable development.
- The commission later adopted the name World Commission on Environment and Development.

- **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
or UN Environment**

- UNEP is an **agency of the United Nations**.
- It **coordinates the UN's environmental activities**.
- It assists developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.
- It was founded as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment 1972.
- It has overall responsibility for environmental problems among United Nations agencies.
- Addressing climate change or combating desertification, are overseen by other **UN organizations**, like the UNFCCC and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
- UNEP's activities cover a wide range of issues regarding the atmosphere, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, environmental governance and green economy.
- The **World Meteorological Organization** and **UN Environment** established the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** in 1988.

- UN Environment is also one of several **Implementing Agencies for the Global Environment Facility (GEF)** and the **Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol**.
- It is also a member of the **United Nations Development Group**.
- UNEP has registered several successes, such as the **1987 Montreal Protocol**, and the **2012 Minamata Convention, a treaty to limit toxic mercury**.
- UNEP has sponsored the development of solar loan programmes.

The solar loan programme sponsored by UN Environment helped finance solar power systems in India

- **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

- IPCC is a **scientific intergovernmental body** under the auspices of the **United Nations**.
- It was first established in 1988 by two United Nations organizations, the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** and the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- Membership of the IPCC is open to all members of the WMO and UNEP.
- The IPCC produces reports that support the UNFCCC.
- IPCC reports cover all relevant information to understand the risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation.
- The IPCC **does not carry out its own original research**.
- Thousands of scientists and other experts contribute on a **voluntary basis**.
- The 2007 Nobel Peace Prize was shared, in two equal parts, between the IPCC and an American Environmentalist.
 - **The aims of the IPCC are to assess scientific information relevant to:**
 - Human-induced climate change,
 - The impacts of human-induced climate change,
 - Options for adaptation and mitigation

- **Brundtland commission** - after the Chairperson of the Commission, Gro Harlem Brundtland, appointed by United Nations Secretary-General in December 1983.
- The mission of the Brundtland Commission is to **unite countries to pursue sustainable development together**.
- This commission was officially dissolved in 1987 after the release of the **Brundtland report, 'Our Common Future'**.
- The term '**sustainable development**' was popularised from this report.

- The report highlighted three fundamental components to sustainable development: environmental protection, economic growth and social equity.
- The commission was replaced with the **centre for our common future** in 1988.

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United Nations Conference On Environment And Development (UNCED)

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- UNCED is also known as the **Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, the Rio Summit, the Rio Conference, and the Earth Summit.**
- It was a major United Nations conference held in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992.
- 190 countries pledged their commitment to achieve by 2010, a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss at global, regional and local levels.
- As a follow-up, the **World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+10)** was held in **2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa.**
- In 2012, the **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** was also held in Rio and is also commonly called **Rio+20 or Rio Earth Summit 2012.**

Issues discussed and addressed in UNCED

- **Systematic scrutiny of patterns of production**— particularly the production of toxic components, such as lead in gasoline, or poisonous waste including radioactive chemicals.
- **Alternative sources of energy** to replace the use of fossil fuels which delegates linked to global climate change.
- **New reliance on public transportation systems** in order to reduce vehicle emissions, congestion in cities and the health problems caused by polluted air and smoke.
- The growing **usage and limited supply of water**.

Documents agreed upon at the UNCED

Legally binding agreements

- **CBD:** The Convention on Biological Diversity is a binding treaty requiring nations to take inventories of their plants and wild animals and protect their endangered species.
- **UNFCCC:** The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), or Global Warming Convention, requires nations to reduce their emission of carbon dioxide, methane, and other “greenhouse” gases.

Non-binding agreements

- **Rio declaration:** It contains a set of 27 principles for sustainable development throughout the world.
- **Agenda 21:** Agenda 21 is a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the United Nations System, Governments, and Major Groups in every area in which human impacts on the environment. It is related to sustainable development.
- **The Statement of Principles on Forests,** aimed at preserving the world's rapidly vanishing tropical rainforests, is a **non-binding** statement recommending that nations monitor and assess the impact of development on their forest resources and take steps to limit the damage done to them.

Agenda 21

- Agenda 21 is a **non-binding action plan of the United Nations** with regard to sustainable development.
- It is a **product of the Earth Summit** (UN Conference on Environment and Development).
- It is an **action agenda for all the stakeholders** that can be executed at local, national, and global levels.
- The "21" in Agenda 21 refers to the 21st Century.
- Its aim is achieving global sustainable development.

- One major objective of the agenda 21 is that **every local government should draw its own local agenda 21.**
- It has a **preamble, four sections and a total of 40 chapters.** It also includes a **Statement on Forest Principles.**

Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA)

- The Barbados Programme of Action, adopted during the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS held in Barbados in 1994, defines the priorities, the cross-sectoral areas as well as the actions and strategies to be undertaken at national, regional and global level to ensure the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States.

- **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**

- The Convention stemmed from a direct recommendation of the **Rio Conference's Agenda 21 in 1994**.
- UNCCD is a Convention to **combat desertification** and mitigate the effects of drought through national action programs (NAP).
- National action programs (NAP) incorporate long-term strategies supported by international cooperation.
- It is the only **internationally legally binding framework set up to address desertification**.
- It was adopted in Paris, France in 1994 and entered into force in 1996.
- It has 196 parties, making it truly global in reach.
- **2006 was declared "International Year of Deserts and Desertification"**.
- The UN Convention to Combat Desertification has established a Committee on Science and Technology (CST).
- CST is composed of government representatives competent in the fields of expertise relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.
- UNCCD collaborates closely with Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

- **Rio+5 (1997)**

- In 1997, the UN General Assembly held a special session to appraise the status of Agenda 21 (Rio +5).
- The Assembly recognized progress as "uneven" and identified key trends, including increasing globalization, widening inequalities in income, and continued deterioration of the global environment.

- **Rio+10 (2002) or Earth Summit 2002**

- **Rio+10 (2002) or Earth Summit 2002 or World Summit on Sustainable Development.**
- Took place in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002.
- Rio+10 affirmed UN commitment to Agenda 21, alongside the Millennium Development Goals.
- **Johannesburg Declaration:** committing the nations of the world to sustainable development.

- **Rio+20 (2012)**

- **Rio+20 (2012) or United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.**
- Rio+20 was a 20-year follow-up to the Earth Summit 1992 and 10-year follow-up to the Earth Summit 2002.
- It is also known as Rio 2012 or Earth Summit 2012.
- Hosted by Brazil in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.
- It reaffirmed the commitment to **Agenda 21**.
- It was the third international conference on **sustainable development**.

- ⇒ Earth Summit 1992 (Rio de Janeiro) = UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)
- ⇒ Earth Summit 2002 (Johannesburg) = World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)
- ⇒ Earth Summit 2012 (Rio de Janeiro) = UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)

- **Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)**

- PAGE, launched in 2013, is a direct response to the [Rio+20 Declaration](#), The Future We Want.
- Rio+20 Declaration called upon the UN system and the international community to aid interested countries in developing, adopting and implementing **green economy policies** and strategies.
- PAGE supports nations in reframing economic policies and practices around sustainability.
- PAGE seeks to assist countries in achieving **SDG (2030 Agenda)**, especially SDG 8: "**Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment.**"
- PAGE brings together the expertise of **five UN agencies – UNEP, ILO, UNIDO, UNDP and UNITAR.**

ILO: International Labour Organization

UNIDO: UN Industrial Development Organization

UNITAR: UN Institute for Training and Research.

• 2030 Agenda – Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- The UN 2030 Agenda for **Sustainable Development** was launched in **2015**.
- The UN 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) aim at **eradicating poverty in all forms** and "**seek to realize the human rights of all and achieve gender equality**".
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global goals, and their 169 targets, set by the United Nations General Assembly in **2015** for the year **2030** (UNGA resolution "2030 Agenda").



Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2: Zero Hunger

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

Goal 4: Quality education

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

Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

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

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11: Make cities 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

Goal 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

- **Goal 2: Zero hunger**

- "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture".

- This would be accomplished by
 - ✓ **doubling agricultural productivity and incomes** of small-scale food producers (women and indigenous peoples), by
 - ✓ ensuring **sustainable food production systems**, and by
 - ✓ progressively improving **land and soil quality**.
 - Other targets deal with maintaining genetic diversity of seeds, increasing access to land, preventing trade restriction and distortions in world agricultural markets, eliminating wastage and ending malnutrition.

- **Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation**

- **"Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all."**

- Safe drinking water and hygienic toilets.
 - Toilets in schools and work places.
 - **Equitable sanitation** for addressing the specific needs of women and girls, disabled, aged persons.

- **Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy**

- **"Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all."**

- 2030 target: access to affordable and reliable energy while increasing the share of renewable energy.

- **Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities**

- **"Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable."**

- 2030 target is to ensure access to safe and affordable housing

- **Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production**

- **"Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns."**

- The targets of Goal 12 include:
 - ✓ using eco-friendly production methods
 - ✓ reducing the amount of waste.
 - ✓ Increase national recycling rates.

- **Goal 13: Climate action**

- "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy."

- **Goal 14: Life below water**

- **"Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development."**

- The targets include
 - ✓ preventing and reducing marine pollution and acidification,
 - ✓ protecting marine and coastal ecosystems and regulating fishing.

- Microplastics come from a variety of sources, including from larger plastic debris.
- Microbeads, a type of microplastic (tiny pieces of polyethylene), are very tiny pieces of plastic that are added to health and beauty products, such as some cleansers and toothpastes.

- **Goal 15: Life on Land**

- **“Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.”**

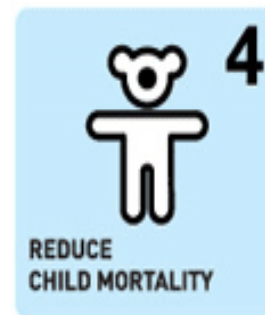
- Goal 15 calls for more attention to **preventing invasion of introduced species** and **more protection of endangered species**.

- **Millennium Development Goals**

- The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** replaced the MDGs in 2016.
- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were eight international development goals for the year 2015.
- MGDs had been established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000. **at the United Nations headquarters in New York**
- United Nations Millennium Declaration was adopted.

- **Millennium Development Goals by 2015**

1. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. To achieve universal primary education
3. To promote gender equality and empower women
4. To reduce child mortality
5. To improve maternal health
6. To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. To ensure environmental sustainability
8. To develop a global partnership for development



How are SDGs different from MDGs?

- The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 targets are broader in scope and go further than the MDGs by addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people.
- The goals cover the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.
- Building on the success and momentum of the MDGs, the new goals cover more ground, with ambitions to address inequalities, economic growth, decent jobs, cities and human settlements, industrialization, oceans, ecosystems, energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, peace and justice.

- The new Goals are universal and apply to all countries, whereas the MDGs were intended for action in developing countries only.
- A core feature of the SDGs is their strong focus on means of implementation—the mobilization of financial resources—capacity-building and technology, as well as data and institutions.
- The new Goals recognize that tackling climate change is essential for sustainable development and poverty eradication. SDG 13 aims to promote urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.