



BACKGROUND GUIDE

CHANGE THE WORLD

EMIRATES 2025

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

UNEP

CHANGE
— THE —
WORLD
ACADEMY

POWERED
BY



Diplomatici

Distinguished Delegates,

Welcome to the 2025 Change the World Model United Nations (CWMUN).

As your committee Dais, we are looking forward to meet you and to hear your ideas about how to solve international problems.

The United Nations (UN) depends on the cooperation and goodwill of its 193 Member States. Because each State has unique interests and concerns, it is challenging to write, negotiate and pass resolutions. Every stage of the process demands creativity and diplomacy.

You will be discussing this topic:

The expansion of green industrial policies and their implications for global trade and environmental justice.

While we may all lead different lives and face different struggles, we have to bear in mind that we all share the same world and the same resources. Whether it is environmental problems or political unrest, what is happening in the world concerns all of us. Only through mutual understanding, unity, and collaboration we can lay the foundations of a worthier world.

As your committee Dais, we will work to keep the committees running smoothly. We will do our best to help you understand the procedures and to ensure that the perspectives of all delegates are heard and respected.

Sincerely,

The CWMUN



What should you do now?

The Change the World Model United Nations is a role-playing game. Your task is to impersonate a diplomat of the assigned Country and present the perspective of this Country's current government.

What should you do now?

Before the Simulation, you should write down and bring with you:

- Handbook, a collection of relevant UN resolutions, reports, academic studies, and news from reliable media.
- Write the Position Paper, describing the position of your country on the topic you have been assigned to.
- Some topics for Moderated Caucus debates, i.e. for short formal debates which should cover narrow aspects of each topic. For example, within the topic "Violence against women"; delegates can hold a caucus with the subtopic "Ways of preventing genital mutilation".
- Ideas for the Resolution, id est, at least two or three paragraphs that your State would like to include in the preamble and/or in the main body of the Resolution.
- You should also learn the Rules of procedure.

What will you do during the Simulation?

In the Moderated Caucus you will hold short formal debates on details of each topic. Delegates will present the policy and solutions of the represented States in very short (usually one minute) speeches. In the Unmoderated Caucus, you will informally engage with other Delegates to agree on your policies and solutions and to write draft resolutions together as a Coalition. Working Papers will be checked and possibly edited by Chair and Director to conform to all formal requirements and be described as Draft Resolutions. Eventually, Coalitions will present their Draft Resolutions to the whole Committee. Other Delegates will debate and then vote for or against. The scope for the Committee as a whole is to produce one or more Resolutions.

What is a Resolution?

A Resolution is a very specific document, built of Preambulatory and Operative clauses, expressing the will of a particular UN Committee agreed upon by its Member States. Resolutions are central to the UN and thus CWMUN gives all participants the opportunity to understand the process of creating them. Please seize this opportunity and prepare in advance at least one or two paragraphs per each topic! Sample resolution: [Resolution 2349 \(2017\)](#)¹

Tips (!)

Learn about your Country from the [CIA World Factbook](#)², from the official website of your State's permanent mission to the United Nations, and from other government websites (for example the website and social media profiles of the Royal Family or President, Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs...). Make sure to know as much as possible about the foreign relations of your Country! Consider that at the United Nations, Countries generally lean towards their own geopolitical blocks: Western, Former Soviet, African, Middle Eastern, Asian, Latin American... Consider also organisations such as the European Union (EU), African Union, Arab League, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), The Union of South American Nations (USAN)...

¹ UN General Assembly, 2017 ([https://undocs.org/S/RES/2349\(2017\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2349(2017)))

² CIA, 2022 (<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>)

REMEMBER!

Your task is to present the official position of your assigned Country. Misrepresenting this position and/or representing your private views is against the rules, even if you do not agree with your Country's position. In any case, you must not hyperbolize nor satirise the position of your Country. Humour, and especially sarcasm, is generally not typical for formal writing nor formal debates. Although MUN welcomes wit and smart puns, please always be extremely considerate when using humour.

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME

1. *Establishment of the United Nations Environmental Programme:*

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a specialised program that coordinates activities at both an international and local level to promote and protect international cooperation in the environmental field.

Its establishment was recommended at the UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden, in June 1972 by the General Assembly, which consequently adopted resolution 2997 (XXVII)³ on 15 December 1972, declaring UNEP as the main environmental body of the UN.

As this resolution affirms, it's UNEP's duty to guide the creation of environmental policies, monitor the global environment in order to outline the issues it's facing, pass on scientific knowledge in determined fields, assist developing countries with any aid they might require and approve the annual program on the allocation of the Environment Fund, that constitutes the main source of funding for UNEP.

Its structure is made up of:

- United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (previously called Governing Council);
- Secretariat;
- Environment Fund (voluntary⁴);
- Committee of Permanent Representatives.

When originally created, UNEP was managed by the Governing Council, which consisted of 58 members. In 2012, however, the Governing Council was expanded to include all Member States. The organisation, in fact, works closely with its 193 Member States and representatives from civil society, businesses, and other major groups and stakeholders to address environmental challenges.

The Governing Council's first universal session was held in February 2013: afterwards the General Assembly was invited to consider renaming the Governing Council as the "United Nations Environment Assembly of the UNEP" (UNEA). This was approved through the adoption of the resolution 67/251 of 13 March 2013⁵

³ resolution 2997 (XXVII) [https://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?OpenAgent&DS=A/RES/2997\(XXVII\)&Lang=E](https://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?OpenAgent&DS=A/RES/2997(XXVII)&Lang=E)

⁴ The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) depends on voluntary contributions for 95 per cent of the income

⁵ resolution 67/251 of 13 March 2013, General Assembly <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N12/493/66/PDF/N1249366.pdf?OpenElement>

Beginning in 2014, UNEA has started to meet biennially to set the global environment agenda, provide policy guidance on emerging challenges, and set the tone for the future of UNEP. Therefore, the UNEA can be considered as responsible for logistics, as well as the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment.

UNEP action is divided into six thematic sub-programs:

- Climate Change
- Disasters and Conflicts
- Ecosystem Management
- Environmental Governance
- Harmful Substances
- Resource Efficiency.

UNEP headquarters have been established in Nairobi, Kenya, since 1972, where the Secretariat gained a prime understanding of the difficult nature of environmental issues facing developing countries.

Since its creation, its mandate has been revisited, reaffirmed, and amended several times. The most significant of these changes to the mandate come from Agenda 21, adopted in 1992 by the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and from the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted by the UNEP Governing Council in its decision 19/1. The Agenda 21 outlines strategies for incorporating sustainable development into the twenty-first century, which is of significance to UNEP's mandate, as it ensured an environmental conscience associated with social and economic developments worldwide. Despite this particular adjustment, UNEP still lacked clarity as to what role the programme played in the global environmental field. There only had been, in fact, few successful operations and the committee was not strong.

This resulted in the Nairobi Declaration⁶, which redefined and strengthened UNEP's role and mandate. One of the most important outcomes of the Declaration is the confirmation of its position as the principal UN body with global environmental authority. Hence the Declaration expanded the mandate, emphasising the promotion of international cooperation and coordination through sharing scientific knowledge and further developing international law. Given this mandate, UNEP's current mission has been enlarged to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

⁶ Nairobi Declaration <https://sustainableinsurancedeclaration.org/>

UNEP is funded from a range of voluntary sources, including the UN Regular Budget, the Environment Fund⁷, the Technical Cooperation Trust Funds⁸, the General Trust Fund Earmarked (Counterpart) Contributions (CPL)⁹, other Earmarked Contributions and Other Trust Funds¹⁰. Non-governmental donors including individuals and the private sector also play an important role in financially supporting UNEP.

2. Functions and objectives of the United Nations Environmental Programme:

UNEP accomplishes its mission through the promotion of international cooperation and by recommending appropriate environmental policies. Part of this is done by monitoring the status of the global environment, recognizing emerging trends, and coordinating UN bodies and other environmental ministries to find appropriate solutions for the issues.

The Programme re-organised its work into six strategic areas as part of its move to results based management:

1. CLIMATE CHANGE:

UNEP main aim in this field is to strengthen countries' ability to increase climate change response on an international level, by providing leadership in adaptation, mitigation, technology and finance. Another significant focus is on facilitating the transition to low-carbon societies, improving the understanding of climate science, facilitating the development of renewable energy and raising public awareness on the topic.

2. POST-CONFLICT AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT:

UNEP cares to conduct environmental assessments in crisis-affected countries and to provide guidance for implementing legislative and institutional frameworks for improved environmental management. Activities undertaken by UNEP's Post-Conflict & Disaster Management Branch (PCDMB)¹¹ include, amongst others, post-conflict environmental assessment in countries such as Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, Lebanon, Nigeria and Sudan.

⁷ *Environment Fund. (n.d.). UNEP - UN Environment Programme.*

<https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment-programme/funding-and-partnerships/environment-fund>

⁸ OHCHR. (n.d.). *OHCHR | Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.* <https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/funding-and-budget/trust-funds/voluntary-fund-technical-cooperation-field-human-rights>

⁹ *General Trust Fund Earmarked (Counterpart) Contributions (CPL)*
https://www2.ohchr.org/english/ohchrreport2019/documents/Funding_compressed.pdf

¹⁰ *Earmarked Contributions and Other Trust Funds* <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-topics/Multilateral-development-finance-brief-2020.pdf>

¹¹ *UNEP's Post-Conflict & Disaster Management Branch*
https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22130/DC_factsheet.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

3. ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT:

UNEP aims at managing and restoring ecosystems consistently with sustainable development, as well as at promoting the use of ecosystem services. For example, one of the various programmes involved in this field is the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities¹².

4. ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE:

UNEP supports governments in establishing, implementing and strengthening the necessary processes, institutions, laws, policies and programs to achieve sustainable development at the national, regional and global levels, through the mainstreaming of the environment in development planning.

5. HARMFUL SUBSTANCES:

UNEP strives to minimise the impact of harmful substances and hazardous waste on the environment and human beings. UNEP has launched negotiations for a global agreement on mercury, and implements projects on mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)¹³, to reduce risks to human health and the environment.

6. RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION:

UNEP focuses on regional and global efforts to ensure natural resources are produced, processed and consumed in a more environmentally friendly way. For example, the Marrakech Process¹⁴ is a global strategy to support the elaboration of a 10-Year Framework of Programs on sustainable consumption and production.

3. Important actions or projects in the past:

During its 50 years of life, the UNEP has placed various milestones, taking on some of the world's most pressing environmental issues, from climate change to species loss, to pollution.

First of all, UNEP and its partners have supported the global effort to protect worldwide forests, many of which are under threat because of farming, mining and illegal logging.

¹² *Governing the Global Programme of Action*. (n.d.). UNEP - UN Environment Programme. <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/oceans-seas/what-we-do/addressing-land-based-pollution/governing-global-programme>

¹³ *The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)*. (n.d.). UNEP - UN Environment Programme. <https://www.unep.org/resources/factsheet/strategic-approach-international-chemicals-management-saicm>

¹⁴ *Marrakech Process* https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27886/SAICM-Marrakech_process.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

More than 100 world leaders recently promised to end deforestation by 2030, vowing to devolve almost \$20 billion in public and private funding to support the cause¹⁵.

Secondly, UNEP brought global attention to the seriously damaging hole in the ozone layer, whose repair is essential to save the planet's primary protection from the sun. Today, the ozone layer is slowly mending: the breach is expected to close by the 2060s.

Furthermore, with pollution threatening the future of the world's oceans, UNEP launched its Regional Seas Programme¹⁶ in 1974, in order to safeguard oceans and seas. Today, 150 countries are part of the programme, which is helping to prevent pollution, protect marine animals, and chart the effects of climate change on the oceans.

Additionally, considering how climate change makes many places hotter and drier, and how greenspaces are descending into desert, UNEP has undertaken a real battle against desertification. About 3.2 billion people are affected by land degradation, and many of them are already poor and marginalised¹⁷. UNEP and partners have spent decades working to revive fertile land overtaken by the sands, including an ambitious effort to build a "green wall" across Africa.

4. Challenges and important future projects:

First of all, UNEP promotes international cooperation in order to facilitate low-emission development and to boost countries' capacity to adapt and be resilient to climate heating through nature-based solutions. Also, this Programme aims to implement the Paris Agreement for Climate Change¹⁸, by ensuring that countries in developing national plans cut greenhouse gas emissions and accelerate the transition to a green economy. Another relevant project is the improvement of air quality and the reduction of emissions of climate pollutants. As a matter of fact, the organisation already works with stakeholders to protect and restore natural ecosystems such as forests, coral reefs and peatlands while fighting different sources of degradation. One of UNEP's goals is also to gain benefits from integrating natural systems into concrete climate action, as well as taking further steps towards climate resilience and low-emissions through:

- Adaptation and mitigation techniques

¹⁵ UNEP celebrates 50 years of solving the world's environmental challenges. (2022, April 1). Africa Renewal. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/march-2022/looking-back-50-years-unep>

¹⁶ Regional Seas Programme. (n.d.). UNEP - UN Environment Programme. <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/oceans-seas/what-we-do/regional-seas-programme>

¹⁷ UNEP celebrates 50 years of solving the world's environmental challenges. (2022, April 1). Africa Renewal. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/march-2022/looking-back-50-years-unep>

¹⁸ Paris Agreement for Climate Change <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

- The UN-REDD Programme¹⁹ (Reducing Emission from Deforestation and forest Degradation)
- Climate finance
- Early warning and disaster preparedness systems

UNEP, moreover, will continue to work along with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²⁰ and the Rio+20 outcome document, “[The future we want](#)”²¹, which aims at ensuring global cooperation in order to achieve full international commitment to sustainable development.

¹⁹ UN-REDD Programme (n.d-b) <https://www.un-redd.org>

²⁰ *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* | Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

²¹ UN. *Outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 20–22 June 2012* <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/733FutureWeWant.pdf>

The expansion of green industrial policies and their implications for global trade and environmental justice

1. *Greening Industry, Rethinking Justice: The Global Impact of Modern Industry Policy.*

The world is undergoing a structural transformation where environmental imperatives, economic competitiveness and social justice converge. Green industrial policy (GIP)—defined as state-led strategies that restructure industrial development around environmentally sustainable sectors—has become central to this transformation. Through subsidies, regulations, public investment and innovation incentives, GIP aims to accelerate the green transition and reshape global trade dynamics.²²

However, this industrial transition doesn't occur in a political, or economic vacuum—GIP policies risk reinforcing global inequalities, especially when deployed without concern for distributive justice, international trade rules, or the developmental needs of the Global South²³. There's a growing tension between environmental ambition and economic fairness: who gains from these transitions and who's excluded?

These challenges place institutions like UNEP at the heart of global industrial restructuring. UNEP's task is not only to promote sustainability, but also to ensure that the green transformation doesn't reinforce protectionism, or marginalize low-income countries and vulnerable communities. Environmental goals must be pursued alongside trade justice, technology access and inclusive development.

2. *Defining Green Industrial Policy and its Evolution.*

Green industrial policy is distinguished not merely by its instruments, but by its transformative intent: to restructure the economy around low-carbon, resource-efficient and socially just systems. This represents a break from traditional industrial policy, which was largely focused on competitiveness and employment. In the 21st century the rationale for intervention now includes planetary boundaries, intergenerational equity and climate risk mitigation.

The recent wave of GIP initiatives, including the EU “Green Deal”, the US Inflation Reduction Act and China's renewable technology subsidies, highlights this shift. These policies use tools such as local content requirements, feed-in tariffs, tax incentives and

²² IPCC, “Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change”.
<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/>

²³ UNEP, “Our Planet Magazine”.
<https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/our-planet>

public R&D to develop domestic green sectors²⁴. Yet, they also raise critical issues of market distortion, policy fragmentation and compliance with WTO rules.²⁵

At the heart of GIP lies a series of economic challenges: market failures in clean technology sectors (such as externalities and uncertain returns on innovation), the problem of first-mover disadvantage and the need for large-scale public-private coordination. These factors justify state intervention, but also demand strong safeguards to avoid rent-seeking inefficiency, or trade discrimination.

3. *Green Trade Regimes and Environmental Justice.*

The international trade dimension of green industrial policy has become increasingly fraught. As more countries deploy GIP strategies, trade disputes have escalated²⁶. Local content requirements (LCRs) have drawn legal challenges at the WTO for violating principles of non-discrimination and market access.²⁷

A broader issue lies in the narrowness of WTO jurisprudence, which was not designed to accommodate climate-aligned industrial policy. Recent ruling (EU's palm oil-related restrictions under RED II) show some flexibility for environmental objectives, but the green policy space remains ambiguous and often inaccessible for developing countries.

This legal and economic uncertainty exacerbates global asymmetries. Developing countries, lacking fiscal resources and institutional capacity, risk being excluded from green value chains, or penalized in trade disputes. Moreover, green industrialization could deepen environmental injustice if it shifts pollution and extraction burdens to the South while concentrating clean production and innovation in the North.

Hence, GIP must be reframed as not only an environmental, but also a social justice agenda. Policies must ensure fair access to green technologies, participation in global supply chains and protection of marginalized communities from extractive impacts. This demands an integrated approach.

4. *UNEP Initiatives: Charting a Green and Just Industrial Future.*

UNEP plays a leading role in advancing a green industrial transition that's environmentally sound, economically inclusive and socially just. Its initiatives operate across policy, finance, capacity-building and trade.

²⁴ European Commission, "European Green Deal".

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

²⁵ WTO, "Trade and Environment Committee Reports".

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/wrk_committee_e.htm

²⁶ UNCTAD, "Trade and Development Report".

<https://unctad.org/topic/macroeconomics/trade-development-report>

²⁷ WTO Dispute DS600 (EU Palm Oil Case Under RED II)

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds600_e.htm

- Policy Development and Capacity Building: through the Green Industrial Policy Trilogy, developed under the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, UNEP offers conceptual frameworks, case studies and practical tools for designing GIP that aligns with social equity and environmental targets. UNEP has also created open-access educational platforms such as the “Green Industrial Policy Course”, hosted by UNITAR, helping train public officials in policy design and structural transformation strategies.²⁸
- Trade and Environmental Coherence: the “UNEP Environmental and Trade Hub”²⁹ serves as a technical assistance platform for countries seeking to align trade regulation with environmental objectives. It helps governments integrate GIP with international trade commitments, promoting regulatory coherence and access to sustainable markets. The “2021 Greening International Trade Report” reframes trade-environment narratives, advocating for equitable access to green value chains and clearer integration of social justice principles in trade architecture.
- Finance and Legal Instruments³⁰: “UNEP’s Finance Initiative” works with over 400 financial institutions to integrate sustainability into banking and investment systems. Through the “Principles for Responsible Banking” and “Net-Zero Alliances” UNEP encourages capital flows toward green, inclusive development. The “Montevideo Environmental Law Programme”³¹ strengthens environmental justice through legal capacity building, public participation and inclusive policy frameworks, ensuring that GIP respects community rights and transparency. Together, these efforts represent a comprehensive strategy that blends legal-financial, educational and diplomatic tools to support a fair and sustainable industrial transition worldwide.

5. Future challenges and possible solutions

As green industrial policies become more widespread, their implementation reveals a set of complex global challenges. These concern trade tensions, development disparities, environmental justice, access to technology and fragmented governance.

There’s growing friction between green subsidies and existing WTO rules. While environmental exceptions exist, they remain limited and vague. Without reform,

²⁸ UNEP-PAGE, “Green Industrial Policy Trilogy”.

<https://www.un-page.org/event/green-industrial-policy-for-transformative-change/>

²⁹ UNEP, “Greening International Trade Report” (2021)

<https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/greening-international-trade>

³⁰ UNEP, “Finance Initiative, Principles for Responsible Banking”.

<https://www.unepfi.org/banking/bankingprinciples/>

³¹ UNEP, “Montevideo Environmental Law Programme Materials”.

<https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/environmental-rights-and-governance/what-we-do/promoting-environmental-rule-law-1>

there's a risk that trade disputes will undermine both climate cooperation and economic openness. The legal framework must evolve to accommodate climate-related industrial measures more explicitly.

Many developing countries face structural barriers, limited financial resources, restricting access to technology and marginal participation in green value chains. Addressing these gaps requires not just risk management, but real structural transformation. Financing mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility must be scaled up and made more accessible.

A just transition also depends on how we manage resource extraction. The demand for critical minerals risks deepening environmental harm and social injustice, especially in the Global South. Respect for community rights, democratic participation and environmental safeguards must be central to green policy design.

These tensions reveal a fundamental paradox: the transition to a green economy, if not properly governed, risks reinforcing the very inequalities it aims to resolve. A model of sustainable development that's both environmental and socially just, requires moving beyond narrow efficiency goals toward a more inclusive and ethical framework³². Only by ensuring that communities at the front lines of extraction, climate risk and exclusion are heard and empowered can the green transition succeed in building resilience rather than replicating historical imbalances.

³² *Proposed frameworks in UNEP reports (2023) and G20 communiqués.*
<https://g7g20-documents.org/database/document/2024-g7-italy-ministerial-meetings-environment-ministers-ministers-language-climate-energy-and-environment-ministers-meeting-communicue>

ANNOTATED BIOGRAPHY

- The more inspiring and complete website when talking about the UN is their own: <https://www.un.org/>. Especially useful is their Official Document System (ODS) <https://documents.un.org/prod/ods/nsf/home.xsp>.
- The website of your committee is always a good place where to start, in the case of UNEP it is the following: <https://www.unep.org>
- The <https://securitycouncilreport.org> provides independent, in-depth analyses of the work of the UN Security Council, including background briefings, resolution tracking and forecasts on upcoming decisions.
- The <https://unctad.org> website gives key resources on trade, development, investment and the green economy, especially in the context of Global South challenges.
- The <https://www.oecd.org/greengrowth> publishes policy reports and data tools related to sustainable industry, environmental regulation and green innovation.
- Finally, joint website of WTO-UN, <https://intracen.or>, offers support to developing countries on sustainable trade, green value chains and inclusive economic growth.



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