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Study Guide

East Asia Summit
Enhancing economic cooperation and trade relations between Member States with a special focus on SDG 17
Introduction

Sustainable Development Goals are an accumulation of 17 international goals to be reached by 2030. These goals are 1. No Poverty 2. Zero Hunger 3. Good Health and Well-being 4. Quality Education 5. Gender Equality 6. Clean Water and Sanitation 7. Affordable and Clean Energy 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth 9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure 10. Reduced Inequality 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities 12. Responsible Consumption and Production 13. Climate Action 14. Life Below Water 15. Life of Land 16. Peace and Justice Institutions 17. Partnerships to achieve the goal. Used together, these general and beneficial goals present an important core for policy introduction for the following 15 years. In the deficiency of fresh global economic pledges, trade—and, more broadly, policies that influence commerce directions—will have a notable part to play in the implementation method. Based on a study of novel progressions in the global commerce policy scene, this study guide escorts the delegates to feasible directions for controlling the potential of commerce policies to accomplish these Sustainable Development Goals. In preparing, it concentrates on three sections where commerce’s benefaction will be especially critical—namely, food security, sustainable energy, and oceans. In those sections, it highlights present weaknesses in global commerce governance structures and evaluates feasible directions for marking them through multilateral negotiations and regional agreements.
**Definition of Key Terms**

**Development:** It is a continuum which creates advancement, process, chancing positively, or the increase of economic, environmental and democratic fragment.

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):** Also known as the Global Goals, is an invitation to act against poverty, preserve the world. There are seventeen goals build on the goals of Millennium Development Goals as well as adding new points including: climate change, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, economic inequality.

**Trade:** An economic word consists of buying and selling assets and facility with a determined price paid by the buyer to the seller.

**Economic Cooperation:** It is a concept that mostly being used as a representation for entrepreneurial, industrial, economic or a fertile cooperation between two or more governments.

**Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN):** It is an association that promotes economic and financial growth of 10 countries mostly located in South East Asia.

**General Overview**

The stance to commerce across the 2030 Agenda displays the viewpoint that commerce can, when well-regulated, give to the revampment and sustainable development. The SDGs, accordingly, hold numerous points connected to a variety of commerce-related policy reformations. As delegates, drivers of sustainable economic growth, many of your positions and resolutions could, in fact, commit to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals—in particular, Goal 1, which concentrates on eradicating poverty in all its applications. The outcome of previously made trade agreements mirrors many promising solutions to address some of the issues at hand, but updates to them with references to recent WTO and EAS decisions are crucial for the application of the policies with commitments around other important and unmentioned issues, including regional trade agreements and integration. In the enlightenment of the extremely sluggish progress of negotiations to revise multilateral
trade practices, these relatively more active measures of trade policy should stage significant opportunities for governments and their citizens to utilize and benefit from commerce policy to promote globally the Sustainable Development Goals for the short term and long term. Shortly, commerce-related targets and commitments can be arranged as follows:

Cross-cutting objectives associated with multilateral business practices. These incorporate references to multiplying the number of exports of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) of the Eastern Asian Countries, creating a duty-free quota-free (DFQF) market admittance for LDC exports, or executing the new Agreement on Trade Facilitation, talked and written at the 2013 WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali.

Promoting regional trade and regional integration. The outcomes of previously done trade agreements emphasize the value of local synthesis for advancing comprehensive commercial growth and commits nations to stimulate regional trade deals. It records, however, that the purpose of encouraging investment should be adjusted to the pursuit of other public policy purposes, and that both commerce and investment agreements should introduce comprehensive and effective protections so as not to overly necessitate regulations.

Objectives aimed at eliminating specific commerce deformities. These include goal-specific objectives directed at excluding agricultural trading subsidies and measures with comparable effect, forbidding specific kinds of fisheries subsidies that add to overcapacity and over-fishing or rationalizing wasteful fossil fuel subsidies that promote reckless waste.

Business access-related objectives. Attributing to business access include objectives such as multiplying the productivity and profits of modest food producers, among others, by widening access to exchanges, and—more broadly—promoting the alliance of developing countries into international value concatenations to foster sustainable development.
Technological distribution. Various objectives in the recommended framework by the ESA—for instance under Goal 6 on water and Goal 7 on sustainable energy—relate to the consequence of access to, and collaboration in the field of technology in order to attain Sustainable Development Goals.

Trade-related compensations. These incorporate goal-specific objectives related to capacity-building and technical support, such as the need to improve support for Aid for Trade under goal 8 on sustainable financial completion and commissioning.

Illegal extraction and trade in actual resources. SDGs encompass manifold objectives related to illegal extraction and trade in actual resources including preserved species, whereas the outcomes of previous agreements and meetings call for greater support for efforts that address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, trafficking in dangerous waste and protected species, and illegal trade in minerals.

Crucially, the financing issue underlines that harvesting the benefits of international commerce and external investment demands not only appropriate trade laws but also an intelligible structure of policies that constitute enabling conditions at the national level.

**Previous Attempts to Solve This Issue**

Establishment of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

On 8 August 1967, Foreign Ministers of Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines came together in the Department of Foreign Affairs building in Bankok/Thailand, where they came to an agreement and signed a declaration by that, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was born. The primary purpose of this declaration is: to expedite the financial growth, social development and cultural evolution amongst the region
via collective strenuousness for justice and cooperation in order for strengthening the association for welfare and peaceful union of South East Asian nations.

Proposal of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership for East Asia (CEPEA)

It is a partnership that is led by Japan, which contains a proposal for trade cooperation, a free trade agreement between 16 member states of the Asia Summit. The idea of this partnership has been discussing since 2006, yet, it gained major importance particularly 2008 and 2009 when ASEAN and India; ASEAN and New Zealand signed a free trade agreement. And a research group was set up and start working in June 2007, and this group submitted a report to foreign ministers and economic ministers of ASEAN in August 2008. To achieve economic growth, the researching group came with a the program, that includes CEPEA, on their significant themes: economic cooperation, trade facilitation, and trade liberalization. With the help of an economic model, the expected economic impacts of CEPEA were examined. According to these reports, all CEPEA countries will benefit from this establishment as they will have their GDP increased by 2.11 percent.

Possible Solutions

The trade-related objectives showcased in the 2030 Development Agenda are not essentially unique and many, particularly those in the SDGs, favor to replicate initial commitments included in WTO agreements. As authorities start implementing the 2030 Development Agenda, the significance of these objectives must be evaluated in light of novel developments in trade laws being applied in some relatively larger economies. These policy revisions have exhibited decisive loopholes in international commercial governance structures or at least areas where current rules would demand additional discussion and updating by the delegates. The 2006–2011 food crisis revealed the vulnerabilities of existing WTO regulations in shielding underprivileged consumers against unilateral export constraints commanded by developing countries worsening price fluctuations. Solid increases in trade-distorting aid administered by large developing economies and the resurgence of such implements in the EU
and the US have highlighted the necessity to modernize agriculture subsidy practices. The spate of trade relief conflicts around renewable energies such as wind and solar has provoked conservationists and environmentalists to challenge the competence of existing regulations on subsidies and anti-dumping measures. In a comparable vein, the greatness of resource-depleting subsidies for fisheries and fossil fuels has shown the boundaries of current international subsidy exercises.

In the last 15 years, global acknowledgments to these challenges have largely remained obscure, not least because of steadfast discrepancies among industrialized countries and developing economies. As governments strive to establish new terms of engagement in a multipolar world, reaching a WTO settlement on these matters, for instance, only seems plausible at the expense of significantly lessening the level of enthusiasm formerly envisaged—a position that opposes starkly with the aggressive ambitions of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda. The degree to which the political responsibilities sanctified in the SDGs will commit to reviving the WTO and EAS discussions are still unclear, but ultimately several, if not all, of the issues, described here—including agricultural subsidies, for instance—will expect global and regional resolutions.

In the meantime, developing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda might need studying alternative approaches that are not just regional to the Eastern Asian nations. Disappointed by the current stalemate in the WTO, some nations have already shifted towards plurilateral arrangements as evidenced by the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA), which comprises of 50 countries and incorporates about 70 percent of the global commerce in services. At the same time, regional commerce agreements that you should discuss during the committee have propagated with several large-scale consultations currently undertaken such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the EU and the US, or the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in Asia. These mega-regionals consist of extensive alliances involving countries that
determine the largest share of world commerce and control nuclear positions in international product webs.

While some worry that such arrangements might distort the worldwide and regional commerce systems and segregate against non-parties, such alternative strategies allow chances to discuss some of the difficulties described here. The plurilateral Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA), while currently confined in scope, could cover the pathway for future collaborative settlements in the field of clean energy. The TPP meetings present a promising way for crafting special methods and rules on a subset of fisheries subsidies, which could, later on, be utilized by a broader set of countries, not just limited to Eastern Asian nations. Other RTAs include reformative procedures to illegal trade, local content fundamental provisions, or export restrictions. The G20 and EAS can offer a forum for commitments to diminishing fossil fuel subsidies among relatively bigger economies, guiding the way for other nations to follow. If these leadership activities are devised in an including manner, they could establish the basis for future agreements and collaborations by a greater quantity of nations. The regional and global systems could ultimately provide a panel to globalize these reforms once a significant mass of nations has contributed to them. In the lack of progress on the global front, taking account of these different sectors and markets while opening new ones could already improve the likelihood of achieving the formidable goals envisioned under the 2030 Agenda.

Further Reading and Useful Links


Bibliography

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg17


http://www.acup.cat/sites/default/files/2018-06/Higher%20Education%27s%20Role.pdf