DISMUN 2026-2027 | UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECOND COMMITTEE ECOFIN

STUDY GUIDE 2026-2027

ECOFIN

United Nations | General Assembly of the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS General Assembly Second Committee BACKGROUND GUIDE 2026-2027

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2026-27 Diyafah International School Model United Nations Conference (DISMUN-Abu Dhabi)! We are pleased to welcome you to the General Assembly Second Committee (ECOFIN). This year's Chair is Sameer Salman, who is currently in Year 12 and this year's Deputy-Chair is Eshita Pradeep, who is currently in Year 11.

The topic under discussion for the General Assembly Second Committee (ECOFIN) is:

- *One World, One Goal: Sustainable Development as a Path to Lasting Peace*

The Economic and Financial Committee is one of the six committees within the General Assembly, responsible for addressing global economic, financial, and development issues, with its first formal proceedings beginning in 1946. ECOFIN consists of all 193 Member States, each of which holds equal voting power.

We hope our delegates can utilise this background guide, as it introduces the topics for this committee. We urge you all to recognise that this guide is not meant to replace further research. We highly encourage in-depth research into your member state's policies and the use of the annotations to further your knowledge on these topics.

On the DISMUN webpage, you will find resources that are essential to your preparation for the conference and as a reference during committee sessions. The HANDBOOK explains each step in the delegation process from pre-conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Delegates should not discuss the topics or agenda with other members of their committee until the first committee session. We urge our delegates to be respectful of this request.

In addition, please review the mandatory DISMUN Conduct Expectations and the DISMUN Procedure on the DISMUN website. DIS wants to emphasise that any instances of discrimination based on race, gender, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, please contact Communications.DISMUN@diyafahinternationalschool.com

Sameer Salman

Eshita Pradeep

Committee History

"Addresses global economic, financial, and sustainable development issues while promoting international cooperation and equitable economic growth"

Introduction:

The General Assembly Second Committee, commonly known as the Economic and Financial Committee (ECOFIN), is one of the six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly. Established in 1945 under the UN Charter and beginning its formal proceedings in 1946, ECOFIN serves as the principal forum for discussing global economic, financial, and sustainable development issues. The committee addresses a wide range of topics including poverty eradication, economic growth, sustainable development, financing for development, globalization, debt sustainability, climate-related economic challenges, and international economic cooperation.

ECOFIN plays a vital role in advancing the objectives of the United Nations by encouraging dialogue and cooperation among Member States on matters that affect global prosperity and stability. Through debates, resolutions, and policy recommendations, the committee contributes to international efforts aimed at creating a more equitable and sustainable world. ECOFIN's work is closely linked to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Governance and Structure:

As one of the six committees of the United Nations General Assembly, ECOFIN operates under the authority of the General Assembly and reports directly to it. The committee examines economic and financial issues placed on the agenda by the General Assembly and prepares draft resolutions and recommendations for adoption.

ECOFIN works closely with various UN bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Environment Programme, and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The committee also considers reports from international financial institutions and other organizations involved in development and economic cooperation.

During each session, delegates debate agenda items, negotiate policy proposals, and draft resolutions that are later submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and adoption.

Membership:

Membership in ECOFIN consists of all 193 Member States of the United Nations. Unlike councils with limited membership, every UN Member State has the right to participate in committee discussions, submit resolutions, propose amendments, and vote on substantive matters.

This universal membership ensures that both developed and developing countries can contribute to discussions on global economic and financial challenges, promoting inclusive decision-making and international cooperation.

Presidency:

he leadership of ECOFIN is provided by a Bureau elected at the beginning of each General Assembly session. The Bureau is typically made up of a Chair and Vice-Chairs who oversee the committee's proceedings and help ensure that discussions run smoothly.

The Chair is responsible for maintaining order during debates, enforcing the Rules of Procedure, recognizing speakers, and facilitating negotiations between Member States. The Bureau also helps organize the committee's work, manage the flow of debate, and ensure that all delegates have the opportunity to participate effectively in discussions.

Participation:

All United Nations Member States may participate fully in ECOFIN's activities. In addition, representatives from UN specialized agencies, observer states, intergovernmental organizations, and accredited non-governmental organizations may contribute expertise and information relevant to discussions.

Participation in ECOFIN provides Member States with an opportunity to present national perspectives, negotiate international solutions, and collaborate on policies that address global economic and development challenges. Through speeches, moderated caucuses, unmoderated caucuses, and resolution drafting, delegates work together to develop consensus-based solutions.

Voting:

Each Member State in ECOFIN has one vote. Decisions are usually made by a simple majority of members present and voting, unless stated otherwise in the Rules of Procedure.

Before a vote takes place, delegates discuss and debate draft resolutions and amendments. Member States may vote in favour, against, or abstain. Although voting is an important part of the committee's decision-making process, delegates are encouraged to work together and reach consensus through negotiation and cooperation whenever possible.

Once adopted by the committee, resolutions are forwarded to the General Assembly for further consideration.

Conclusion:

The General Assembly Second Committee (ECOFIN) remains one of the most important forums for addressing global economic and financial challenges. By promoting international cooperation, sustainable development, poverty reduction, and economic stability, the committee plays a critical role in advancing the goals and principles of the United Nations. Through dialogue, negotiation, and collective action, ECOFIN helps Member States develop solutions to complex global issues and supports efforts to build a more prosperous, equitable, and peaceful world for present and future generations.

As the world faces rising inequality, climate instability, resource scarcity, and geopolitical tensions, sustainable development has emerged as a critical pathway to achieving long-term peace and stability. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes that there can be no peace without development, and no development without peace.

Conversely, most regions globally continue to struggle with poverty, food insecurity, environmental degradation, and inefficient institutions. Such conditions fuel conflict and instability. ECOFIN plays a central role in shaping global economic policies, mobilizing resources, and promoting international cooperation to ensure that sustainable development becomes a foundation for lasting peace.

This study guide explores how sustainable development contributes to peace-building, the challenges that hinder progress, and real-world case studies that illustrate the link between development and stability.

One World, One Goal: Sustainable Development as a Path to Lasting Peace

Introduction

Sustainable development has emerged as a critical priority for the global community in the 21st century. Characterized as progress that satisfies current requirements without undermining future generations' capacity to fulfill their own, it seeks to harmonize economic advancement, social development, and ecological conservation. The United Nations has prioritized sustainable development in its agenda via the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The connection between sustainable development and peace is becoming more acknowledged by governments and global institutions. Poverty, inequality, lack of resources, environmental damage, and weak institutions may lead to instability and conflict, whereas sustainable development can generate opportunities, enhance living conditions, and bolster social unity. Consequently, numerous policymakers consider sustainable development a crucial basis for attaining enduring peace and stability.

Understanding Sustainable Development and Peace

Sustainable development signifies environmental responsibility in economic and social advancement that is inclusive. It aims to guarantee that everyone has access to fundamental necessities like education, health services, jobs, clean water, and a secure environment.
Peace goes beyond merely lacking conflict. Enduring peace necessitates reliable institutions, economic prospects, social fairness, and availability of vital resources.

When communities experience severe poverty, joblessness, food shortages, or environmental pressures, tensions may rise and lead to conflict. On the other hand, sustainable development can tackle these underlying issues by fostering economic growth, decreasing inequality, and enhances the quality of life for all.

Sustainable Development as a Path to Lasting Peace

Sustainable development plays a crucial role in creating conditions that support peace. Investments in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and employment opportunities can reduce poverty and improve social stability. Efforts to combat climate change and protect natural resources can help prevent disputes over land, water, and other essential resources.

However, countries continue to face financial constraints, political instability, and growing inequality. These obstacles can slow progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals and make it more difficult to achieve lasting peace. As a result, international cooperation and effective policymaking remain essential in ensuring that sustainable development becomes a reality for all.

Understanding the Issue:

1. ***The Development–Peace Nexus***

United Nations Economic and Financial Affairs Committee mainly deals with global economic and social issues such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, sustainable development, healthcare, and international cooperation. Within these issues, there is a strong connection known as the development–peace nexus, meaning peace and development are closely linked.

Nations experiencing peace and political stability are more likely to achieve economic growth, improve education and healthcare, and reduce poverty. At the same time, higher levels of development can reduce conflict by creating jobs, improving living standards, and increasing social stability. Therefore, peace supports development, while development helps maintain long-term peace.

2. Barriers to Sustainable Development

- ***Limited financial resources*** restrict investment in key areas such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure.
- ***Political instability*** and conflict further slow progress by discouraging investment and weakening government services.
- ***Climate-related disasters*** damage economies and increase vulnerability, especially in developing states.
- ***Weak institutions,*** including corruption and ineffective governance, reduce policy efficiency and public trust.
- ***Unequal access to technology*** leaves many countries unable to benefit from innovation and modern economic growth.
- ***High external debt*** limits sustainable development as governments are forced to spend large portions of their budget on repayments instead of investing in development expenses

These challenges hinder progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and increase the risk of conflict.

3. The Role of ECOFIN

Given the barriers to sustainable development, ECOFIN plays a key role in addressing these challenges. It promotes fair trade and international economic cooperation, supports development financing through aid, investment, and debt relief, and works to reduce climate-related economic risks. ECOFIN also encourages inclusive economic policies, and aims to strengthen global financial stability in order to support sustainable development and long-term peace

Case Studies:

Case Study 1: Rwanda — Development as a Tool for Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

Official Title: Evaluating Rwanda's Sustainable Development Strategy as a Foundation for Long-Term Peace

After the 1994 genocide, Rwanda emerged from one of the darkest chapters in modern history facing near-total institutional collapse, deep social fragmentation, and a devastated economy. Over the past three decades, the country has undertaken an ambitious and comprehensive development agenda aimed at rebuilding its society and preventing a return to conflict. Rwanda's national strategy has focused on poverty reduction, infrastructure expansion, gender equality, and technological innovation—transforming the nation into one of Africa's most notable examples of post-conflict recovery. Economic reforms, combined with targeted investments in agriculture and digital technology, have significantly reduced poverty and improved livelihoods across both rural and urban communities. Strong governance frameworks and anti-corruption measures have helped restore public trust in state institutions, while community-based reconciliation programs, such as *Gacaca* courts and local dialogue initiatives, have played a crucial role in healing social divisions and promoting unity.

Rwanda has also prioritized human development, investing heavily in education, healthcare, and social services to strengthen human capital and create long-term stability. These efforts have contributed to rising literacy rates, improved health outcomes, and increased participation of women in leadership roles. However, despite these achievements, concerns remain regarding political freedoms, limited political pluralism, and the long-term sustainability of Rwanda's centralized governance model. While the country's development trajectory demonstrates how economic growth and social cohesion can reinforce peace, it also highlights the importance of balancing stability with democratic openness. Rwanda's experience ultimately illustrates how sustained, inclusive development can serve as a powerful foundation for lasting peace—while reminding the international community that peace building is an ongoing process requiring both economic progress and political resilience.

Insight:

Rwanda demonstrates how sustained development policies can rebuild a nation after conflict, showing that economic growth, social inclusion, and strong institutions are essential pillars of lasting peace.

Case Study 2: Greece: Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development After the Debt Crisis

Official Title: Assessing Greece's Post-Crisis Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development as a Foundation for Long-Term Stability

Following the 2008 global financial crisis, Greece experienced one of the most severe economic collapses in modern European history. Years of recession, soaring unemployment, and public debt exceeding 180% of GDP left the country struggling to maintain social stability and essential public services. The crisis exposed deep structural weaknesses in Greece's economy, including limited industrial diversification, tax evasion, and inefficient public administration. In response, Greece—supported by the European Union, the European Central Bank, and the International Monetary Fund implemented a series of ambitious reforms aimed at restoring economic stability and laying the foundation for sustainable development. These reforms included fiscal restructuring, modernization of tax systems, investment in renewable energy, and digital transformation of public services. Over time, Greece began to recover: unemployment gradually declined, foreign investment increased, and the country expanded its renewable energy capacity, becoming a regional leader in solar and wind power. Social programs targeting youth employment and small businesses helped rebuild livelihoods and reduce inequality, while tourism and technology sectors emerged as engines of growth.

Despite these gains, challenges remain. Many communities continue to face high living costs, limited job opportunities, and slow wage growth. Concerns persist about long-term debt sustainability and the vulnerability of Greece's economy to external shocks, such as global inflation or energy crises. Nonetheless, Greece's experience demonstrates how sustainable development—through green investment, institutional reform, and social inclusion—can support long-term peace and resilience.

Insight:

Greece's experience demonstrates how sustained economic reform, social investment, and regional cooperation can transform a nation recovering from severe financial crisis into one pursuing long-term stability and resilience.

Challenges to Achieving Sustainable Development for Peace:

Insufficient funding for the SDGs, meaning governments face budget constraints that limit public spending on merit goods such as education and healthcare, as well as infrastructure development. This leads to slower economic growth and higher levels of absolute poverty, making long-term development harder to achieve.

Climate-related disasters, which damage physical capital, disrupt production, and reduce agricultural output. Governments often have to divert scarce resources away from capital investment towards emergency relief, causing a fall in productive capacity and long-term growth potential.

Inequality within and between countries, where income and wealth distribution is highly unequal. This reduces equity and can lead to market failure through social unrest, lower human capital development, and reduced economic mobility, increasing the risk of instability.

Weak governance and corruption, which results in government failure. Public funds are misallocated or lost through inefficiency, reducing the effectiveness of fiscal policy and lowering the provision of public goods, which weakens economic development.

Global economic shocks such as pandemics and inflation, which cause demand and supply-side disruptions. These shocks lead to higher unemployment, reduced aggregate demand, and volatility in trade flows, with developing economies facing lower resilience and slower recovery.

Lack of technology transfer to developing countries, which limits productivity growth and slows improvements in the total factor productivity. Without access to modern capital and innovation, developing economies remain less competitive in global markets.

Policy Recommendations:

When it comes to drafting resolutions, these policy recommendations are highly appreciated as they provide practical and effective solutions to address key challenges in achieving sustainable development and peace:

1. Strengthen financing for sustainable development

Enhance funding for sustainable development by increasing access to concessional loans and grants for developing nations experiencing budget limitations. Endorsing debt relief can enhance fiscal capacity, enabling governments to boost public expenditure in essential sectors. Moreover, attracting private sector funding for SDG-aligned initiatives can help bridge the investment gap and enhance economic expansion.

2. Promote inclusive economic growth

Foster inclusive economic development by investing in human resources via education, healthcare, and social welfare systems. Assisting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) fosters job creation and boosts productivity within the economy. Guaranteeing equal access to economic opportunities aids in decreasing income inequality and fosters more equitable growth.

3. Enhance climate resilience

Boost climate resilience by financing adaptation and mitigation initiatives that minimize economic damages from climate disturbances. Improving early-warning systems aids in minimizing the financial effects of natural disasters. Advancing sustainable farming and effective water usage enhances food security and safeguards long-term productivity.

4. Improve governance and institutional capacity

Enhance governance and institutional capability by bolstering anti-corruption initiatives and increasing transparency in the management of public finances. Improved public service provision enhances allocative efficiency, guaranteeing that resources are utilized effectively. More robust institutions enhance investor trust and general economic stability.

5. Foster international cooperation

Encourage global collaboration by advancing fair trade and technology exchange to bridge development disparities between nations. Promoting regional integration and multilateral collaborations enhances market access, boosts efficiency, and fosters enduring peace and sustainable development.

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