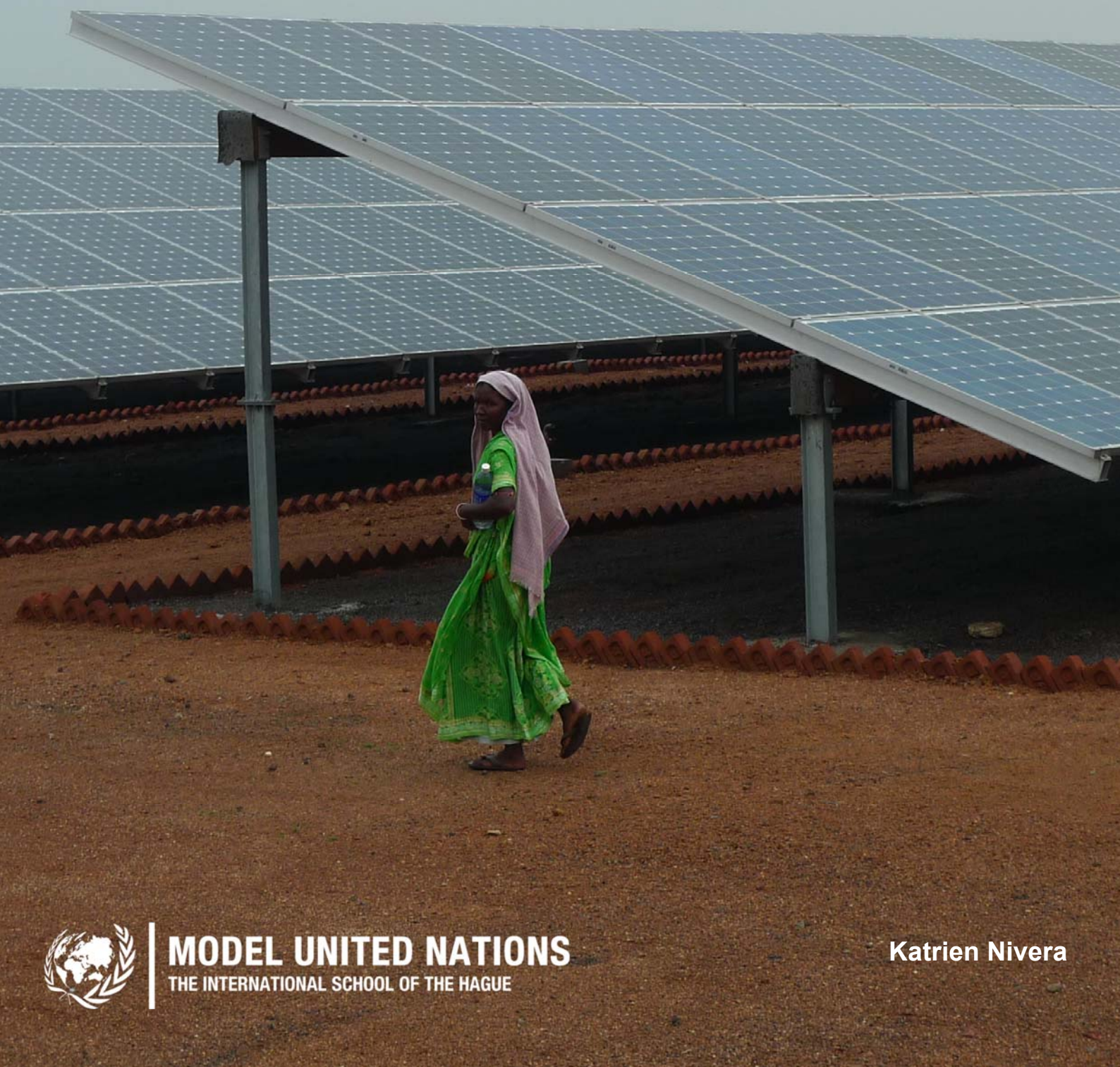


Special Conference I on Sustainable Growth Measures to promote the transition to Green Growth in developing countries



Forum	Special Conference 1
Issue:	Measures to promote the transition to Green Growth in developing countries
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Introduction

As the world population increases, the human race is demanding the use of energy for a wider range of activities. A main use of energy nowadays is for electricity, which we mainly derive from fossil fuels and non-renewable energy sources. This has two main issues, one being that we are slowly running out of fossil fuels which means we will not be able to produce enough energy for everyone to live. The other issue being that this it is not safe for the environment. We are polluting the Earth's atmosphere and disrupting the ecosystems through greenhouse gas emission, and we will not be able to continue living if we have destroyed the Earth's environment. It is incredibly important that we promote sustainable methods of producing energy and implementing green growth, especially in developing countries.

The term 'green growth' is used to describe a national/international policy wherein a country or region uses resources in an efficient manner, allowing us to live in a more sustainable environment while still remaining economically productive and growing as an economy. Countries have slowly been transferring to green growth as a substitute for industrial economic growth, which uses non-renewable and environmentally unfriendly resources.

The transition to green growth in developing countries would both benefit the environment as well as improve the economic well being of a country. By using these sustainable means to provide energy, we both increase this economic activity and use our resources in a more efficient way. Humans have been relying on fossil fuels (oil, gas, and coal) for hundreds of years, seeing as it is one of the easiest resources to mine for as well as being cheap and a very efficient energy source. Despite this, we have relied on non-renewable energy sources for too long and we must find a way to be efficient but sustainable.

Definitions of Key Terms

Carbon footprint

The carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases emitted directly and indirectly from an individual, event, organisation or product. There are three main types of greenhouse gas emission; direct emissions that result from the activities (emission of gasses during operation, production, manufacturing), emission from electrical usage (lighting, powering equipment) and indirect emission from products and services (transporting goods or raw materials).

Developed country

A developed country is defined as a country with a highly developed economy, and advanced technological infrastructure. They have a high gross domestic product (GDP), gross national product (GNP), and the level of industrialization, standard of living and quality of life. These countries typically have a low birth rate, a high life expectancy, and high education rate. Examples of a developed country include the United States of America, Australia, Germany, and Japan.

Developing countries

Developing countries are defined as a country with a low Human Development Index (HDI) and a less developed industrial structure. This means that they may have a high birth rate but a low life expectancy or a low education rate. A less developed industrial structure could mean they have less advanced technology compared to the most modern technology used in hospitals, schools or the military of a developed country. Examples of developing countries include the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, and Cambodia.

Green economy

Green economy means a sustainable economy and society with low to zero greenhouse gas emissions and one-planet footprint. All energy would come from renewable resources and the economy would apply the 'Triple Bottom Line' (social, economic and environmental aspects that can be applied nearly everywhere) on corporations and the entire economy (*a more detailed explanation can be found in Appendix 2*).

Green Growth

Green growth is one of the branches of green economy. It is a type of growth that focuses on economic growth as well as environmental sustainability and improving the eco-friendly efficiency of economic growth. This entails making sure natural resources are being used effectively and is a long-term investment in an economy.

Renewable energy

Renewable energy (also known as an infinite resource) is any energy source that is natural generated directly, indirectly by the sun (thermal, photochemical, wind, hydropower) or by natural movements of the environment (tidal, geothermal). Sources of energy such as fossil fuels or waste products are not considered renewable energy. Renewable energy is the newest alternative that scientists have been studying, seeing as it is more environmentally friendly and more beneficial in the long term.

Nonrenewable energy

Nonrenewable energy (also known as a finite resource) is any type of energy source that does not renew itself at an efficient rate and usually harmful towards the environment. Fossil fuels are non-renewable energy, consisting of coal, petroleum, and natural gas, which are all derived from fossils and leftovers of plants and animals from millennia ago.

Fossil fuels

Fossil fuels are defined as a natural fuel such as coal, gas or oil that was formed from the remains of living organisms. According to the United States Energy Information Administration, fossil fuels are the primary energy source of the Earth and we rely on it for 'at least 86% of the world's energy'. Fossil fuels are by far the most efficient energy source we have however it is a major air pollutant and it is also a non-renewable source. This means that the source of energy does not 'renew' itself and it would take a really long time to replenish this energy source.

Quality of life (QOL)

According to the Forbes website, Quality of Life is defined as "the general well-being of an individual or society". This addresses positive and negative aspects of life from things such as education, work quality and wealth to family, recreational opportunities, and the environment. QOL is typically more difficult to measure seeing as it is qualitatively based rather than quantitative and each person has a different way of assessing his or her QOL.

General Overview

Impacts of Green Growth

Social Impacts

Green growth aims to be inclusive as well as beneficial to the environment and the economy and so by extension, people will have a better social well-being through the implementation of green growth, such as cleaner environments and better work

opportunities where they live. Furthermore, more people will be able to live in better living conditions and will be open to more opportunities provided that they are comfortable and have a high QOL. An important factor of QOL is the environment a person is placed in, and if they are in a clean and sustainable environment they will be able to live more comfortably. For example, they will not have to worry about drinking water polluted by corporations' factories or polluted air that may prevent people from living with ease.

Environmental Impacts

One of green growth's main aims is to improve the environment's state and let people live sustainably while also allowing a country to be economically productive. Green growth will have an overall positive effect on the environment. Firstly, it will reduce the carbon footprint and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission of a country due to the reduction of non-renewable energy. This allows the environment to thrive and the decrease of GHG emission will prevent air pollution and global warming. Overall, green growth has a very positive impact on the environment and us.

Economic Impacts

Green growth will help improve economic growth but it will also contribute to emitting fewer greenhouse gasses and using resources in a more sustainable manner. Furthermore, implementing green growth plans within an economy could create jobs for those who are unemployed and help decrease unemployment rates in a country or region. Overall, green growth itself will be beneficial towards the economy and environment.

Importance of Green Growth

With the increase in population, it is slowly becoming more difficult to remain sustainable. We will need to use more resources to provide for everyone and with that, we will also be increasing the use of fossil fuels. As of 2015, global greenhouse gas emission has reached 33.5 metric tons while the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (*OECD*) has predicted greenhouse gas emission to be '39.5 metric tons in 2030'. Due to the increased greenhouse effect, the greenhouse gas emissions will contribute to global warming and could potentially cause a number of disasters that could destroy the Earth such as creating a hole in the ozone layer. This causes more UV rays of the sun to enter Earth's atmosphere, causing global warming and diseases like skin cancer. Without implementing sustainable measures within a country or region, these disasters would be more likely to happen. It is essential that while we are ensuring our economies grow, we

must make sure that we are maintaining a sustainable environment for all people. Green economy and green growth are a perfect balance for both aspects to work in harmony, and this is why it is so vital that we work towards it (*more can be seen on the importance of green growth in Appendix 1*).

Sustainable development will be very difficult without sustainable measures such as green growth and by implementing such measures in a developing country; it will help prevent environmental risks that will be harmful towards the people and the environment. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were created in 2015 to follow up the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 15 years prior, and one of their aims is to ensure the implementation of green growth. Green growth has been considered of the replacements of sustainable development, however, rather than using green growth as a replacement, they should work hand in hand to benefit those who work towards it.

Parties Involved and Their Views

China

According to U.S Energy Information Administration (EIA), China has the highest global consumption of coal using 4 billion tons of coal in 2011. Seeing as they consume the most fossil fuels, they emit the most greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. China could take measures to implement green growth seeing as it would benefit the country's environment as well as the economy.

United States of America

President Obama has also contributed to green growth strategies and stated that he believes that investment towards green growth will create jobs and a clean energy economy and reduce the dependency on foreign energy sources. He has taken several steps towards green growth, and his goal is to install 10 GW of renewable energy projects by 2020 and double the wind and solar electricity production by 2025. The United States has further to implementation of green growth worldwide, as an example to member nations and it has helped them by using cleaner forms of energy source while also increasing their economic productivity. One of the reasons the USA has been able to implement this is because they have the financial means to move to green growth.

Global Green Growth Institute

The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) is an international organisation founded during the Rio+20 United Nations Conference. Its aim is to promote and implement

sustainable growth in developing countries, and it has been working on implementing this plan throughout the world.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an organisation dedicated to improving the economic and social wellbeing of people all over the world. It published one report in 2006 about sustainable development strategies and another report in 2011 about green growth. As of May 2009, 34 countries signed the green growth declaration and the OECD has been working to achieve global green growth implementation.

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

According to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the definition of 'Green Economy' is "improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities." This entails that the green economy can be considered an economy that is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. In 2008, the UNEP launched its 'Green Economy Initiative' and is still working on this initiative today.

United Nations Economic Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

United Nations Economic Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is a regional branch of the UN in Asia and the Pacific that strives to be "the most comprehensive multilateral platform for promoting cooperation among member States to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific." They aim to adopt the green growth approach throughout Asia and the Pacific.

World Bank

The World Bank state on their website that "economic growth is necessary but in order of this to happen, it must be socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable." Inclusive green growth covers political, economic, social and environmental factors that also tackle social norms and institutional behaviour. In 2012, World Bank published a very detailed report titled 'Inclusive Green Growth: The Pathway to Sustainable Development.' This talks about how they would use the Green Growth approach within an economy, and countries such as those in Latin America and the Caribbean have adopted some measures into the national policies.

Greenpeace

Greenpeace is a nongovernmental organisation that focuses on all kinds of environmental issues around the world. It also has a consulting status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and oversees what it does.

Timeline of events

Date	Description of Event
1992	Earth Summit/United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Discussed several environmental issues such as replacement of fossil fuels, water supply and usage, and production of toxic components.
2002	World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was held in Johannesburg. Continued discussing environmental issues and lead to the Johannesburg Declaration that focused on any worldwide conditions that could threaten the sustainable development.
2008	UNEP leads the Green Economy Initiative, where their aim to help 'green' the economy. This refers to improving business infrastructure, using human and natural resources more efficiently while also making sure that we consume fewer fossil fuels, lessen GHG emissions, creating less waste and closing any social, economic and environmental disparities.
June 16, 2010	Global Green Growth Institute was funded by the United Kingdom in order to advocate green growth and sustainability. This was to help fund research and development of green economy.

2011	OECD publishes a strategy towards green growth that consists of how a country can foster green economy habits and what they can do to transition to a greener economy.
2012	The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) launched a global business Task Force on Green Economy, aimed towards implementing green growth. This resulted in the publishing of Green Economy roadmap, a guide for businesses, policymakers and society on the subject of green growth that was published in 2012.
January 2012	GGGI, OECD, UNEP and World Bank sign a Memorandum of Understanding to launch the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP). The GGKP's mission is to help countries with creating green growth policies and as well implementing this. It is vital that they help countries work towards a green economy, and that this organization gets the funding they need.
June 13 to June 22, 2012	'United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)' or 'Rio+20' was held in Rio de Janeiro. It was the third conference about sustainable development that aimed to address issues such as the political commitment to sustainable development (whether the government contributed to sustainable development) and assessing the progress and implementation of policies since previous commitments.
September 15, 2015	The United Nations created the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to succeed the Millennium Development Goals. Among the SDGs is Goal 8, targeted towards ensuring efficient resource use.

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

- Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session, December 18, 2007 **(A/RES/62/195)**
- Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control, December 5, 2007 **(A/RES/62/28)**
- Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, December 19, 2007 **(A/RES/62/197)**
- Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development **(A/RES/64/236)**
- Resolution on promoting the role of AIPA in response to challenges of ASEAN Economic Community and Supporting Green Growth **(RES. 34GA/2013/ECO/02)**

In December 2013 - The GGGI finally received a position in the United Nations General Assembly with observer status. This allows them to oversee what the UN does and they can give their input to resolutions.

September 15, 2015 - Sustainable Development Goals created. SDG8, Target 8.4 - Ensuring global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.

Evaluation of previous attempts to resolve the issue

There have been no specific resolutions or conferences aimed to implement green growth, however, there have been many conferences and resolutions that aim to solve environmental issues in general. For example, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (also known as Rio+20, Rio 2012 and Earth Summit 2012) hosted in Brazil, Rio de Janeiro. It was the third conference specifically for environmental issues and sustainable development, and twenty years prior to this conference, Rio de Janeiro also hosted the Earth Summit. Countries that took part include the United States, Germany, France, India and the United Kingdom. It was considered to be successful by those who were present as it provided time to discuss measures to solve this issue as well as giving them opportunities to create frameworks for future programs.

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) is a UN organisation focused on implementing environmentally friendly practices and policies. Covered issues on the topic of green economy as well as topics on marine and terrestrial ecosystems and the atmosphere. After being established in 1972, the organisation has always been working towards sustainable development and continues to work on this.

Possible solutions

It is understandable that green growth may be more difficult to implement in developing countries, as they do not always have the financial means to implement such measures. Furthermore, each country is different and has different policies that they must follow. It will not be possible to have one set program that will fit every country, seeing as each of them have unique needs and situations in which they can implement these measures. It could be possible, however, to offer financial aid to the countries in need and it's important to make sure that this money doesn't fall into the wrong hands and be used for corrupt reasons. It is important to think about where this funding would come from; perhaps each country can invest money towards green growth measures. As part of this initiative, a debt-for-nature could be used to compromise between developing and developed countries to reduce the debt. An example of this would be to conserve their natural resources in exchange for a certain debt (*more can be seen in Appendix 3 and 4*).

Perhaps, the most effective way to implement green growth is international cooperation from all member nations to collectively create a plan for each country that attends to all of the countries policies and what is available to each country. Partnerships between countries could be made in order to ensure this cooperation and the implementation of green growth will be more efficient.

Ultimately, the only way this problem can be solved is for every country to cooperate towards creating a global program that attends to each country's needs to carry out green growth measures in developing countries as well the globe. We cannot continue to live in an unsustainable environment and let our planet's resources be wasted while there are so many means that will let us be environmentally friendly while also being economically productive.

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Appendices

Below are some useful links regarding the topic of green growth; this may help with writing resolutions and for further research.

- I. Brochure titled regarding 'What is happening to the world?'. Regarding the importance of green growth:<http://www.melbourneanglican.org.au/ServingCommunity/src/Documents/Importance-of-green-growth.pdf>
- II. Green Economy Brochure by UNEP:
http://web.unep.org/greeneconomy/sites/unep.org.greeneconomy/files/ge_flyer_october27_web-ready.pdf
- III. Towards green growth: <http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/48012345.pdf>
- IV. Good practises in the national sustainable development strategies of OECD countries:<http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/36655769.pdf>