CANMUN

Canada Model United Nations

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

www.canmun.com

Diplomacy for Democracy | Diplomatie pour la Démocratie

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CANMUN Code of Conduct

Introduction

The conduct of attending delegates at the 2024 Canadian Model United Nations (hereby referred to as "CANMUN 2024" or "the conference") reflects on their institution and the conference. To ensure a safe, professional and fun conference for all those in attendance, including but not limited to delegates, faculty advisors, conference staff and hotel staff, the following Code of Conduct has been formulated. Please ensure that you thoroughly read through this document, as all attendees are expected to abide by these policies during the duration of the conference (including but not limited to committee sessions, conference socials, committee breaks, and the opening and closing ceremonies) and, by extension, during any events or activities organized in the context of the conference. All delegates have indicated their acceptance of, and agreement to abide by, the terms of the Code of Conduct in their completion of registration at CANMUN 2024.

Harassment and Discrimination

1. All conference participants are expected to be respectful of each other. Harassment of any form will not be tolerated, which includes, but is not limited to, discrimination based on ethnicity, national origin, race, colour, religion, age, mental and physical disability, socio-economic status, gender identity, gender expression, sex and sexual orientation.
2. Harassment and Discrimination through any medium must be refrained from by participants, which includes but is not limited to:
    a. In-person harassment, such as speech, gestures, sounds, phrases, touching etc.,
    b. Digital mediums such as social media, text messages, email, phone calls, etc.,
    c. Written mediums such as notes, written speeches, directives, etc.,
3. The secretariat of CANMUN 2024 reserves the right to determine what constitutes bullying and other inappropriate behaviour towards any individual and/or group.
4. The engagement of behaviour that constitutes physical violence and/or the threat of violence against any individual and/or group, including sexual violence and harassment is strictly forbidden, and may include, but is not limited to, the following:
    a. Indecent and/or unwelcome suggestive comments about one's appearance,
    b. Nonconsensual sexual contact and/or behaviour among individuals or a group of individuals,
    c. The sexual contact or behaviour between delegates and staff is strictly forbidden;
5. Cultural appropriation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, attire, accents, etc. that belong to a certain cultural, religious, or ethnic community.
6. Reported actions of harassment will thoroughly be investigated and the Secretariat reserves the right to take action (if deemed necessary).

Responsibilities and Liabilities

1. The valuables and possessions of delegates, and the safeguarding thereof, falls under the responsibility of the delegates. Neither Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel nor CANMUN 2024 and its staff shall be held liable for losses arising due to theft or negligence.
2. Delegates are responsible for the damages they cause to Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel or its property, the possessions of other delegates, staff, faculty advisors, or other hotel guests.
3. CANMUN 2024, Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, and their respective staffs, shall not be liable towards any injury to persons, or damages or losses to property that may occur during the conference or due to a failure to comply to the rules governing said conference, including but not limited to, this Code of Conduct, Hotel rules and applicable laws, statutes and regulations.
4. Delegates are expected to present Conference identification upon request to Hotel and Conference staff.
5. Delegates must abide by Hotel rules while on Hotel premises. In particular, delegates are to refrain from the harassment of Hotel staff and other guests.

Abiding to the Laws of the City of Toronto, Province of Ontario, and Canada

1. Delegates, staff and other participants are required to abide by Ontario and Canadian laws, as well as Toronto by-laws at all times. Of particular note are laws referring to:
    a. Theft;
    b. Sexual Violence;
    c. Possession of firearms and other weapons;
    d. Trafficking and use of illegal drugs;
    e. Public disturbances or nuisance alarms, ex. The triggering of an alarm when an emergency does not exist;
2. The legal drinking age in Ontario is 19 years of age. All participants found engaging in illegal activities may be expelled from the Conference and held criminally liable, regardless of legal drinking age of the delegate's residence.
3. All conference venues are non-smoking facilities (including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and vapes).

Dress Code

1. All participants of CANMUN 2024 are expected to wear western business attire. Delegates, staff and other participants not maintaining an appropriate standard of dress will be asked to change their clothing to fit the dress code. If you need any exceptions to be made, or have questions about the dress code, please contact the Equity team via email, canmunequity@gmail.com.

Illness Policy

1. In light of the recent pandemic, we ask that delegates displaying symptoms of COVID-19, RSV, the Flu, or any other infectious illness to stay home, as to maintain the wellbeing and health of delegates, staff and guests.

2. In the event that you have recently (within one week of the first day of the conference) been in close contact with a positive case of COVID-19 and are not displaying COVID-19 symptoms, please use a rapid test and self-monitor for symptoms before and during the conference.
3. If at any time during the conference you begin to experience symptoms of any illness or feel unwell, **please inform your faculty advisor or a staff member, utilise personal protective gear (such as wearing a mask), and use a rapid test where possible.**
4. If you feel that your wellbeing is threatened/if you are concerned or uncomfortable, please inform a staff member or contact the Equity team via email, canmunequity@gmail.com.
5. CANMUN 2024 nor its agents accept responsibility for the effects of any illness contracted during the conference. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the individual to monitor the health and wellbeing of themselves, despite the measures put in place.

2SLGBTQIA+ Protection Policy

1. Any homophobia and/or transphobia will not be tolerated. This includes purposeful misgendering, discrimination, outing and/or use of transphobic /homophobic hate speech. All delegates are expected to treat other delegates with respect and refer to them with their preferred pronouns. If you personally feel uncomfortable as a result of the listed events above or due to similar events, please let us know in the form below.

How to Report

If you have a violation of the Code of Conduct to report, here are the following resources/procedures you can use to get in contact with a committee staff/secretariat member.

1. Communicate with a staff member responsible for you/your delegate's committee. They can be contacted via email.
2. Email the equity team at canmunequity@gmail.com. The equity team will get back to delegates in 1-3 business days for concerns before the event takes place, and will respond to delegates on the day of receipt during the conference.

Additionally, if you have any questions about the code of conduct before or during the conference, please email canmunequity@gmail.com. The Secretariat reserves the right to discipline attendees for not adhering to/violating any of the above stipulations. Disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to, suspension or expulsion from committee, removal from the conference/conference venue, disqualification from awards and/or disqualification from future events.

Director's Letter

Delegates of UNCTAD,

Welcome to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development! My name is Catherine Li, and it is my pleasure to be serving as your director for UNCTAD. As a student at King's Christian Collegiate, I joined my school's Model United Nations club during Grade 9 and since then have been attending various conferences as well as helping organize our own conference, King's MUN. My experience with MUN began during middle school when my mother tried using it as a way to train my public speaking skills. Though it was not a definitive success, I discovered the satisfaction and enjoyment that MUN can bring and learned to take it as an opportunity to learn, grow, and connect with other students around the world. Today, I'm sure many of you are here for the same reasons, and I encourage you to be brave and enjoy this special experience. For seasoned MUN delegates, I am excited to see what innovative resolutions you will bring to UNCTAD as we try to navigate the difficulties of building a better future.

In this committee, I hope to see delegates address the critical issues surrounding Trade Imbalances, Protectionism, and the Green Tech Gap. The committee's purpose is to deliberate on strategies that foster global cooperation and policy action to bridge the disparities in trade between developing and developed countries. Our primary goals are to explore innovative solutions, propose policies, and facilitate international collaboration–through heated debate, of course.

I encourage all delegates to research their nation deeply and get a good grasp of the topics at hand. Not only will this make for better debate and more innovative solutions, but it will also foster a worldly understanding of prominent issues in our real world. I encourage you to make the most of Model United Nations, not only by creating amazing new experiences and meeting new friends but by learning a lot as well.

While CANMUN is a beginner-friendly conference and we welcome delegates of all experience levels with open arms, our Dais emphasizes a commitment to upholding procedural rigor throughout the conference. While we are always ready to assist and clarify any uncertainties, we encourage all delegates to actively engage with and grasp the intricacies of MUN debate, contributing to a more

enriching experience for everyone involved. Delegates are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the rules of procedure prior to the conference, and not to hesitate to ask questions during committee (we really mean this!).

Delegates are reminded that position papers are mandatory to be considered for awards. Our resolution paper submission deadlines will be decided during committee sessions. Our Dais strongly prohibits pre-writing for resolution papers, as the whole point of MUN is to encourage collaboration and strategic diplomacy. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at ikongscene0606@gmail.com

Lastly and most importantly, embrace the learning process, connect with fellow delegates, and remember that your unique perspectives contribute to the richness of our discussions. In the spirit of UNCTAD's commitment to inclusive development, let us inspire positive change and collectively work towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

Looking forward to meeting you all soon,

Catherine Li

Introduction

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is a permanent intergovernmental organization founded in Switzerland, in 1964. With more than 190 member States, its purpose is to promote trade and development, especially within developing countries. UNCTAD also acts as a think tank, producing reports, policy reviews, and insights, and it carries out economic research and analysis published in several flagship reports.[1] Additionally, the Conference emphasizes the need for a more development-oriented "international financial architecture" and provides technical assistance to developing countries.[2]

A major achievement of UNCTAD is the development and implementation of the Generalized System of Preferences, to "promote productivity capacity development and increased trade"[3] in developing/transitioning countries. In the sphere of trade and development within the UN, UNCTAD remains the main authority of the General Assembly, encompassing topics relating to all aspects of development, including trade, aid, transport, finance, and technology. It is foretold that the organization will continue to devote itself to creating an enabling and supportive trading environment for developing countries.[4]

The main topics of UNCTAD will be addressing issues of trade imbalances and protectionism, as well as mitigating the steadily increasing green tech gap amongst developing countries. These challenges, while multifaceted, are met with the spirit of collaboration and cooperation that defines UNCTAD's approach to problem-solving on a multinational scale.When dealing with problems on a multinational scale, UNCTAD Delegates are encouraged to take inspiration from past UN successes such as establishing the World Trade Organization and Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries. By studying these achievements, UNCTAD delegates can gain valuable insights and strategies to address contemporary issues related to trade and development. Moreover, delegates are urged to devote attention to promoting South-South cooperation, combating growing economic disparities, and effectively utilizing historical milestones to pioneer the future of trade As UNCTAD continues to navigate the complexities of global trade and development, it remains committed to fostering a more inclusive and sustainable future for all, guided by the principles of cooperation, solidarity, and shared prosperity.

[1] https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/UNCTAD-at-a-glance_en.pdf
[2] https://unctad.org/about/history
[3] https://unctad.org/topic/trade-agreements/generalized-system-of-preferences
[4] https://www.enterprise-development.org/agency-strategies-and-coordination

Definitions and Abbreviations

Balance of Trade (BOT):

The difference between the value of a country's exports and the value of a country's imports for a given period.

Trade surplus:

An economic measure of a positive balance of trade, where a country's exports exceed its imports.

Trade deficit:

A country's imports exceed its exports during a given time period. It is also referred to as a negative balance of trade (BOT).

Trade imbalances:

Trade imbalances occur when a country's imports and exports are not equal, leading to either a trade surplus or a trade deficit.

Green Technology (Green Tech):

The use of science and technology to develop eco-friendly products and services that protect the environment. It is often also referred to as green technology, cleantech, or environmental technology. For the purposes of this conference, we will use all of these terms interchangeably.

Supply Chain:

The sequence of processes involved in the production and distribution of a commodity.

Topic A: Trade Imbalances and Protectionism

Historical Overview

The issue of trade imbalances and protectionism has deep historical roots, shaping economic policies and international relations for centuries. The aftermath of World War II, when the Bretton Woods Agreement[5] created a new international economic order, is one important time frame to take into account. The goal of the 1947 establishment of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)[6] was to lessen protectionist policies and advance global trade. The GATT evolved into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995[7], reflecting a commitment to providing a more comprehensive and enforceable framework for international commerce. The WTO's role extended beyond GATT's focus on goods, encompassing services and intellectual property. The establishment of the WTO signaled a continued commitment to fostering global trade and resolving trade disputes through a rules-based system. An example of rule-based economic policy can be seen in how the Bank of England targets inflation. It has a ground policy of maintaining inflation within a specific target range (usually around 2%) by adjusting its policy interest rate according to the deviations of the actual inflation from the target rate. This approach aims to "manage inflation effectively and provides a clear anchor for policy decisions."[8] As nations struggled with economic uncertainty, the 2008 financial crisis[9] fueled a rise in protectionist sentiment. Protectionism enhances a better balance of trade and the protection of emerging domestic industries, but it lacks economic efficiency and choice for consumers. Free trade enhances economic opportunity and enables countries to accumulate foreign wealth, however, can also destroy jobs and create strong outward economic dependence.[10] Protectionism and free trade stand on opposite sides of international trade, and each creates a distinct economy that responds to the world at large.

[5] https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/brettonwoodsagreement.asp
[6] https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/gatt47_01_e.htm
[7] https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/history_e
[8] https://www.federalreservehistory.org/essays/great-recession-and-its-aftermath
[9] https://www.studysmarter.co.uk/explanations/macroeconomics/economics-of-money/rule-based-monetary-policy
[10] https://study.com/academy/lesson/avantages-and-disadvantages-of-trade-protectionism.html

Past UN Action

Protectionism and trade imbalances have been frequent topics of discussion at the United Nations in a number of contexts, including the General Assembly and specialized organizations like UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)[11]. Resolutions have been passed to redress trade imbalances, promote fair and open trade, and oppose protectionist policies. In order to overcome these obstacles, international cooperation is greatly aided by the United Nations. The UN's facilitation of international collaboration is still essential for resolving trade imbalances[12] and protectionism challenges. The UN offers a forum for countries to converse, exchange best practices, and negotiate answers to shared problems. UN initiatives foster collaboration among nations in devising solutions aimed at tackling the underlying causes of trade imbalances and advancing a sustainable and inclusive global economy.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization working closely with the UN to address global rules of trade. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably, and freely as possible.[13] In the past 29 years since its establishment, the WTO has accomplished various achievements regarding the topic of trade imbalances and protectionism.

Trade Imbalances

The WTO has played a crucial role in promoting trade liberalization by negotiating and implementing trade agreements aimed at reducing tariffs, quotas, and other trade barriers. The Uruguay Round negotiations (1986-1994) resulted in the creation of the WTO and the signing of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Uruguay Round Agreements, which significantly reduced tariffs, inclined the creation of free-trade policies, and expanded the coverage of trade rules.[14]

Dispute Settlement Mechanism

The WTO's dispute settlement mechanism is considered one of its most significant accomplishments. It provides a forum for resolving trade disputes among member countries fairly and transparently. The mechanism has helped to resolve numerous disputes and enforce WTO rules, thereby enhancing the stability and predictability of the multilateral trading system.[15]

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[11] https://unctad.org/
[12] https://www.tutor2u.net/economics/topics/trade-imbalances
[13]https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/inbrief_e/inbr_e.htm#:~:text=In%20brief%2C%20the%20World%20Trade,predictably%20and%20freely%20as%20possible.
[14]https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/special_studies7_e.htm
[15]https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/dispu_e.htm

Market Access

The WTO has facilitated improved market access for goods and services through various trade agreements and negotiations. For example, the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) has helped to establish international standards for intellectual property protection, thereby facilitating trade in knowledge-based goods and services. [16]

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has been a key platform for addressing trade-related issues, particularly those affecting developing nations. UNCTAD's mandate includes promoting international trade, addressing trade imbalances, and ensuring that the benefits of global trade are shared more equitably. Through research, policy analysis, and capacity-building initiatives, UNCTAD contributes to the development of strategies that can redress trade imbalances and foster inclusive economic growth.

Topics to Consider

The expansion of protectionist measures and economic nationalism in the modern period is a challenge to the multilateral trading system. Trade disputes have gotten worse between large economies like China and the United States. The COVID-19 [17]epidemic has brought attention to weaknesses in international supply systems, sparking fresh discussions about self-sufficiency and reshoring. The effects of technology breakthroughs on trade dynamics, such as automation and artificial intelligence, should be taken into account by delegates.

Collective Action of the General Assembly: As the main UN body, the General Assembly[18] offers a platform for free discussion on global issues among all of its members. The General Assembly talks about trade imbalances and protectionism encouraging the sharing of ideas and the search for cooperative solutions. Adopted resolutions demonstrate a shared commitment to defending free-market ideals and opposing protectionism. Furthermore, trade policies are beginning to take climate change and sustainability more seriously.

Nations, international organizations, and other stakeholders can collaborate on projects using the platform that the UN offers. These programs could consist of task forces, working groups, and joint research projects with the goal of coming up with creative ways to deal with trade imbalances. The UN

[16]https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/markacc_e/markacc_e.htm#:~:text=Market%20access%20for%20goods%20in,schedules%20of%20concessions%20on%20goods.
[17] https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html
[18] https://www.un.org/en/ga/

promotes the creation of comprehensive policies that transcend specific national interests by encouraging cooperation. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [19]further underscore the connection between trade and broader development objectives. SDG 17, in particular, emphasizes the importance of global partnerships for sustainable development. Trade is recognized as a means of achieving several SDGs, including poverty reduction, job creation, and economic growth. The UN's holistic approach integrates trade into the broader agenda of building a more sustainable and inclusive world.

Case Study

The European Union (EU)[20] stands as a prominent example of how regional cooperation can effectively address trade imbalances and promote economic integration. The journey began with the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)[21] in 1951. In the aftermath of World War II, the founders of the ECSC, including France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, sought to prevent another catastrophic conflict by fostering economic and political ties. The ECSC had a specific focus on the coal and steel industries, as these were considered crucial for both economic development and military production. By creating a common market for coal and steel, the ECSC aimed to eliminate barriers and promote cooperation among its member nations, laying the foundation for a more integrated European economy. The progression from the ECSC to the EEC and ultimately the European Union reflects a gradual and purposeful evolution. Over time, additional treaties and agreements were signed, further deepening integration. The Single European Act of 1986[22] aimed at creating a single market by removing internal barriers to trade. The Maastricht Treaty of 1992[23] laid the groundwork for the Euro and enhanced cooperation in foreign and security policy. Subsequent treaties, such as the Treaty of Amsterdam, the Treaty of Nice, and the Treaty of Lisbon, continued to refine and strengthen the integration process.

The EU's journey provides valuable lessons for other regions considering collaborative approaches to address trade imbalances. The phased approach, beginning with focused economic cooperation on

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[19] https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/1-no-poverty/?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA_OetBhAtEiwAPTeQZ9tykM_rM4oMKBAFKPZYEnYUoBsyzrEycWBDmiFPZNWVZlxWPYOBJxoCNCcQAvD_BwE

[20] https://european-union.europa.eu/index_en

[21] https://www.britannica.com/topic/European-Coal-and-Steel-Community

[22] https://www.europarl.europa.eu/about-parliament/en/in-the-past/the-parliament-and-the-treaties/single-european-act#:~:text=Single%20European%20Act%20(SEA),-Signature%20page%20of&text=The%20Single%20European%20Act%20brought,since%201962)%20was%20made%20official.

[23] https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/maastricht-treaty/#:~:text=The%20Maastricht%20Treaty%20established%20the,profound%20impact%20on%20European%20integration.

specific industries and gradually expanding to a comprehensive economic community, demonstrates the importance of building trust, establishing common goals, and fostering a sense of shared identity among member states. In the context of current global challenges, the EU's experience showcases the potential benefits of regional cooperation in addressing economic imbalances and fostering integration. As nations around the world grapple with trade tensions and protectionist measures, the EU model offers insights into how cooperative efforts can lead to shared prosperity and stability. In conclusion, the European Union's transition from the ECSC to the present-day EU illustrates the transformative power of regional cooperation in addressing trade imbalances and promoting economic integration. The success of the EU model lies in its commitment to gradual integration, the removal of trade barriers, and the establishment of common policies, providing a blueprint for other regions seeking to overcome economic challenges through collaborative efforts.

Conclusion

The historical backdrop of trade imbalances and protectionism, rooted deeply in economic policies and international relations, unveils a narrative that spans centuries, influencing the trajectory of nations and shaping the dynamics of global commerce. The aftermath of World War II, marked by the establishment of the Bretton Woods Agreement and the inception of GATT, signaled a collective resolve to foster international cooperation and advance global trade. The subsequent evolution of GATT into the World Trade Organization (WTO) solidified a commitment to a rules-based system encompassing not only goods but also services and intellectual property. Within the United Nations, the General Assembly and specialized organizations (such as UNCTAD) have been pivotal forums for deliberating on protectionism and trade imbalances. Resolutions passed within the UN framework demonstrate a collective determination to redress imbalances, advocate for fair trade, and resist protectionist policies. The UN's role as a facilitator of international cooperation remains paramount, providing a platform for dialogue, the exchange of best practices, and negotiations aimed at finding collaborative solutions to shared challenges.

The 2008 financial crisis[24] underscored the fragility of the global economic system, leading to a resurgence of protectionist sentiments. In the contemporary context, the rise of protectionist measures and economic nationalism poses challenges to the multilateral trading system. Trade tensions between major economies and the vulnerabilities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic have fueled discussions about reshoring and self-sufficiency. The transformative effects of technological breakthroughs, such as automation and artificial intelligence, further complicate the landscape. The General Assembly's collective action and adopted resolutions showcase a commitment to defending free-market ideals, opposing protectionism, and acknowledging the growing importance of climate change and

[24] https://www.britannica.com/money/topic/financial-crisis-of-2007-2008

sustainability in trade policies. The UN's role as a promoter of collaborative initiatives, including task forces and working groups, provides a framework for nations and stakeholders to address the root causes of trade imbalances comprehensively. The case study of the European Union (EU) serves as a beacon of success in regional cooperation to alleviate trade imbalances and promote economic integration. The phased approach from the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) to the European Economic Community (EEC)[25] and, ultimately, the European Union highlights the importance of building trust, common goals, and shared identity among member states. The EU's journey offers valuable lessons for regions considering collaborative approaches, demonstrating the potential benefits of gradual integration, the removal of trade barriers, and the establishment of common policies.

In conclusion, the intricate tapestry of historical events, past UN actions, current challenges, and regional case studies collectively underscores the enduring importance of international cooperation in addressing trade imbalances and protectionism. The United Nations, as a linchpin of global governance[26], plays a crucial role in fostering dialogue, cooperation, and the formulation of comprehensive policies that transcend individual national interests. The path forward requires a continuous commitment to the principles of fairness, openness, and sustainability, with regional cooperation serving as a shining beacon of hope for a more inclusive and interconnected global economy.

Questions to Consider

1. In what manner does protectionism impact the competitiveness of domestic industries in your nations?
2. How have global trade imbalances affected the formation and sustenance of trade alliances among nations?
3. What role does the political climate play in shaping a nation's approach to protectionist policies and trade agreements?
4. In the context of trade disputes between major economies, how do nations navigate diplomatic relations and negotiate solutions to promote fair trade?
5. To what extent do technological advancements, such as automation and artificial intelligence, impact the trade strategies of different nations?
6. How can nations collaborate to address common challenges arising from protectionist measures and promote a more open and interconnected global trade system?
7. What are the potential consequences for developing nations when major economies engage in protectionism, and how can they mitigate these impacts?

[25] https://www.eecdebate.com/
[26] https://foreignpolicy.com/2013/12/04/the-linchpin/

8. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, how have nations reevaluated their supply chain strategies and resilience in the face of disruptions?
9. How do nations balance the pursuit of economic self-sufficiency with the benefits of participating in a globalized and interdependent trade environment?

Topic B: The Green Tech Gap

The green tech gap refers to the disparity in the adoption and development of green technologies, particularly between developed and developing countries. This gap encompasses various aspects, including access to and investment in green technologies, as well as the ability to harness their economic and environmental benefits. As the world advances towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, developing countries are at risk of being left behind in the green tech revolution due to this gap, which can hinder their ability to transition to more sustainable and environmentally friendly production methods. The UNCTAD has highlighted the need for coherent policy action and international cooperation to address this gap and ensure that developing countries can fully benefit from green technologies.[27] [28]

Defining Green Tech

Green technology is an umbrella term for technology and science that creates products and services that are environmentally friendly. It encompasses a wide range of scientific research areas, including energy, agriculture, material science, atmospheric science, and hydrology. Examples of green tech include renewable energy sources like solar and wind power, sustainable transportation, waste management and recycling, and technologies that aim to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The goal of green tech is to protect the environment, repair damage done to the environment in the past, and conserve the Earth's natural resources. Green tech has also become a burgeoning industry that has attracted enormous amounts of investment capital in the last few decades.

Types of Green Technology

Green technology is a broad category encompassing all kinds of technologies that can benefit the environment, whether that means reducing carbon emissions, addressing environmental hazards, using energy more efficiently, and beyond. While these categories will not be an exhaustive list, they will provide a more comprehensive understanding of green technology.

[27] https://unctad.org/news/green-technologies-coherent-policy-action-needed-developing-countries-reap-benefits
[28]https://www.computerweekly.com/news/365532698/Developing-countries-risk-being-left-behind-by-green-tech-revolution-warns-UN-development-body

Alternative Energy

To offer a practical substitute for fossil fuels, numerous companies are working on creating alternative energy sources that don't produce carbon emissions into the atmosphere. This includes solar power, wind energy, hydropower, geothermal energy, biomass, and biofuels.[29] Currently, solar, wind energy and hydropower stand out as cost-effective energy options. However, other alternatives like geothermal and biomass have not been widely implemented on a large scale yet. It is also worth mentioning that green energy development has been observed to have a negative impact on the environment. Hydropower, in particular, can degrade many biologically rich habitats and impact downstream water quality.[30]

Electric Vehicles

Numerous manufacturers are investigating strategies to decrease emissions from vehicles, either by creating more fuel-efficient engines or transitioning to electric power. Nevertheless, the adoption of electric vehicles comes with its own set of challenges, including the need for advancements in high-capacity rechargeable batteries and the development of robust charging infrastructure. In fact, electric vehicle manufacturing involves many processes that reduce its sustainable qualities. The water-intensive process of battery production releases many toxic fumes during the mining process for lithium, cobalt, and nickel, which greatly harms nearby river ecosystems. Despite this, only 5% of the world's total batteries are currently recycled. This is mainly because of the cost and the rather long process required to recycle batteries.[31] Nevertheless, the advantages of electric vehicles are still being explored as technology advances and more innovative solutions arise.

Sustainable Agriculture

Agriculture and livestock practices contribute significantly to the environment, encompassing extensive land and water usage costs, as well as ecological impacts from pesticides, fertilizers, and animal waste. Consequently, the agricultural sector presents ample possibilities for integrating green technology. For instance, adopting organic farming methods can mitigate soil exhaustion, advancements in cattle feed can diminish methane emissions, and the development of meat substitutes offers a means to decrease reliance on traditional livestock farming.[32] Other potential solutions may include vertical farming and precision agriculture techniques, which optimize resource use and minimize environmental impact.[33]

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[29] https://www.netguru.com/blog/what-is-greentech

[30]https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/10/171025103148.htm

[31] https://earth.org/environmental-impact-of-battery-production/

[32] https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/green_tech.asp#:~:text=Key%20Takeaways,%2C%20material%20science%2C%20and%20hydrology.

[33] https://www.intelligentgrowthsolutions.com/blog/farming-and-its-environmental-impacts-is-vertical-farming-the-solution

Recycling

Recycling aims to preserve finite resources by repurposing materials or identifying sustainable alternatives. While commonly associated with the recycling of plastic, glass, paper, and metal waste, more advanced processes can be employed to recover valuable raw materials from electronic waste (e-waste) or components of automobiles.[34]

Carbon Capture

Carbon capture encompasses a set of innovative technologies aiming to extract and store greenhouse gases, either during combustion or directly from the atmosphere. While championed by the fossil fuel industry, the technology has not lived up to its anticipated impact.[35] The most extensive carbon capture facility, for instance, can only absorb 4,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually, a relatively tiny quantity when compared to the vast scale of annual emissions.[36]

Evolution of Green Technology

While green tech has seen a boom in popularity in recent years, elements of it have actually been developing since the Industrial Revolution. Beginning in the early 1800s, scientists began to observe the ecological impacts of coal-burning industrial plants, and manufacturers aimed to reduce their negative environmental externalities by altering production processes to produce less soot or waste byproducts.[37]

By the Second World War, the United States had begun encouraging their citizens to collect metal, paper, rubber, and other materials, speeding up efforts to improve recycling processes.[38] After the war, figures such as Rachel Carson started cautioning about the impacts of chemical pesticides, and other doctors reported unexplained illnesses linked to nuclear radiation. This period is often considered the starting point of the environmental movement, aiming to safeguard ecosystems and resources while bringing attention to the repercussions of unchecked technological advancements.[39]

The 1970s were the catalyst for green tech development. In 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in the USA, setting regulations on pollution and waste, and setting a new agenda

[34]https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/green_tech.asp#:~:text=Key%20Takeaways,%2C%20material%20science%2C%20and%20hydrology.
[35]https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-07-19/chevron-s-carbon-capture-struggle-shows-big-oil-s-climate-hurdle
[36]https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/sep/09/worlds-biggest-plant-to-turn-carbon-dioxide-into-rock-opens-in-iceland-orca
[37]https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/green_tech.asp#:~:text=Key%20Takeaways,%2C%20material%20science%2C%20and%20hydrology.
[38]https://nerc.org/news-and-updates/blog/nerc-blog/2019/11/19/a-brief-history-of-recycling?gclid=CjwKCAjwp_GJBhBmEiwALWBQk5z9Ra0iMcoibd5__zP5jIp65px9FdnuSXFhwSXIYBYu75DbFaJFahoCzZ0QAvD_BwE
[39]https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/green_tech.asp#:~:text=Key%20Takeaways,%2C%20material%20science%2C%20and%20hydrology.

for green technology.[40] Similarly, in 1972, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established, with the goal of managing environmental issues.[41]

The 21st century has marked a significant shift in focus on green technology. The 2000s have witnessed a surge in investment and innovation in green technology, with a particular emphasis on clean energy production, energy-efficient technologies, waste management, and sustainable agriculture. The evolution of green technology in this century has been characterized by the widespread adoption of renewable energy sources such as solar power, wind energy, and biofuels, as well as the development of energy-efficient solutions and sustainable agricultural practices.[42] Several nations have launched initiatives to eliminate single-use plastics, while others, like Singapore, have pledged to reach 70% recycling by 2030.[43] Worldwide, global investment in all renewable energy sources exceeded $300 billion in 2020.[44]

Current Status on the Green Tech Gap

Green-tech development is crucial because it concerns industries spanning from the environment to the economy, from agriculture to health. It is essential for protecting the environment, repairing environmental harm from the past, and preserving the natural resources of the planet.[45] Green tech is also closely related to fighting climate change, as it is vital in curbing global emissions and promoting sustainable development. It offers solutions to reduce the deterioration of natural resources and minimize the adverse effects of other technologies on the environment.[46] It also helps in unlocking better energy sources and mitigating environmental harm, leading to reduced utility bills in residential and business buildings.[47] Furthermore, the development and accessibility of green technology can create economic opportunities, drive innovation, and support job creation in various sectors, contributing to sustainable economic growth.[48] Overall, making green technology accessible to every nation is crucial for achieving global goals, such as the SDGs, and ensuring that all countries can participate in the transition to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future.[49]

However, despite the pressing importance of international collaboration and development, Developing countries have been struggling to keep up. For example, while Developed countries' exports for green

[40] https://www.epa.gov/history/milestones-epa-and-environmental-history
[41] https://www.unep.org/who-we-are/frequently-asked-questions#:~:text=UNEP%20was%20founded%20in%201972,the%20world's%20greatest%20environmental%20challenges.
[42] https://therenewables.org/history-of-green-technology-journey-through-time/
[43] https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/35109/ASUP.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y
[44] https://about.bnef.com/blog/energy-transition-investment-hit-500-billion-in-2020-for-first-time/
[45] https://www.arenasolutions.com/resources/glossary/green-tech/
[46] https://www.mvpmatch.co/blog/measuring-impact-green-tech
[47] https://www.mvpmatch.co/blog/measuring-impact-green-tech
[48] https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/green_tech.asp
[49] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/307967579_Opportunities_Challenges_for_Green_Technology_in_21st_Century

tech – including renewables and electric vehicles – more than doubled between 2018 and 2021, Developed countries only saw 32% growth over the same period.[50] In three years, developing countries' share of global exports has fallen from over 48% to under 33%.

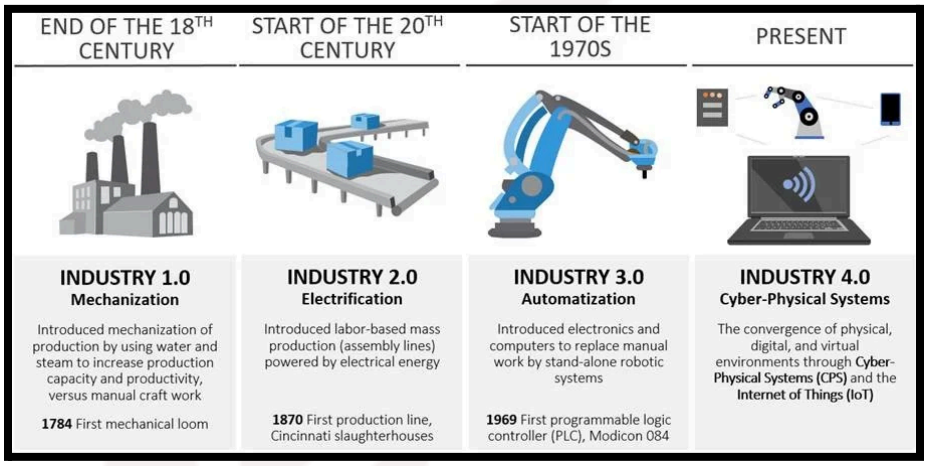
The issues extend beyond trade as well. Developing countries are also staggering behind on publishing research and registering patents, and seldom make the list of top suppliers of frontier technologies.[51] In fact, the United States and China hold significant dominance in global publications and patents, accounting for 30% and 70% of the global totals, respectively.[52]

The green tech gap is made fully apparent by UNCTAD's Frontier Technology Readiness Index, which combines ICT, skills, research and development, industrial capacity, and finance indicators to measure the preparedness of countries to use, adopt, and adapt frontier technologies. According to the report, only Developed countries are considered the most prepared economies, while countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, and sub-Saharan Africa have the lowest readiness levels.[53] The nations most prepared for this advancement are usually high-income economies, with notable examples including the United States, Sweden, Singapore, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. Among the developing countries, China is the most prepared, ranked 35, followed by Brazil (40), India (46), and South Africa (56).[54]

The 17 frontier technologies analyzed in the report – including the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and green hydrogen – currently represent a $1.5 trillion market, which could grow to over $9.5 trillion by 2030 – about three times the current size of the Indian economy. The value of these frontier technologies is expected to boom by 2030,[55] highlighting the importance of making sure developing nations have a chance to reap the benefits.

As the world enters the fourth industrial revolution – Industry 4.0, with a heavy focus on digitalization – it is crucial for developing countries to catch the wave early. As shown in previous technological revolutions, early adopters can move ahead quicker and reap the advantages longer.[56]

[50] https://unctad.org/news/blog-developing-countries-cannot-afford-miss-out-green-tech-revolution
[51] https://unctad.org/news/blog-developing-countries-cannot-afford-miss-out-green-tech-revolution
[52] https://unctad.org/news/blog-developing-countries-cannot-afford-miss-out-green-tech-revolution
[53] https://unctad.org/news/blog-developing-countries-cannot-afford-miss-out-green-tech-revolution
[54] https://unctad.org/tir2023
[55] https://unctad.org/tir2023
[56] https://unctad.org/tir2023



(Figure 1.0, Industrial Revolutions)

Frontier technologies can increase productivity and improve livelihoods, as well as have a profound impact on the environment. However, a limited number of developing nations possess the capabilities required to leverage frontier technologies, which rely on digitalization and connectivity.[57]

Causes for the Green Tech Gap

Understanding the root causes behind the Green Tech Gap is essential for crafting effective solutions. This subsection delves into the multifaceted reasons contributing to the disparity in the adoption and development of green technologies between developed and developing countries. By examining economic, infrastructural, and institutional challenges, we aim to shed light on the underlying factors that hinder the widespread integration of sustainable technologies in less economically advanced regions. This exploration sets the stage for comprehensive discussions on how to bridge the gap and foster global collaboration for a more inclusive and sustainable technological landscape. Please note that this list of causes is *not exhaustive,* and Delegates are encouraged to do further research on this topic.

One prominent cause contributing to the Green Tech Gap lies in the intricate interplay between technological advancements and the broader socio-technical and institutional landscape. While addressing climate and environmental challenges necessitates scientific and engineering expertise, the transition toward sustainable technological change entails substantial non-technical challenges as well.

Sectors like energy generation and water supply are conceptualized as socio-technical systems, involving networks of diverse actors, their knowledge, and relevant institutions. The development and implementation of new technologies often require both technical innovation and bringing together actors who may not have interacted previously. Achieving sustainable technological change involves a lengthy

[57] https://unctad.org/tir2023

process, influencing society through legal amendments, altered consumer behavior, distributional effects, infrastructure development, and novel business models.

For example, take the integration of electric power during the 19th and 20th centuries. While electricity was discovered in the 1870s, still less than 5% of mechanical power in American factories was supplied by electric motors by 1900. It took another 20 years before the factories' productivity soared due to the electricity integration.[58] An important reason for the slow diffusion of electric power was that existing factories needed systemic changes (surrounding production processes, architecture, logistics, and workforce dynamics) in order to take full advantage of the new technology.[59]

Moreover, most developing countries heavily lack knowledge creation and innovation. Most top suppliers of green technologies are firms from the United States, a few other developed countries, and China. China and the United States dominate knowledge creation, accounting for about 30% of global publications and almost 70% of patents. This disparity in knowledge creation and innovation has contributed to the widening green tech gap, as developing countries lag further behind in these areas.[60]

Adding on, some sustainable technologies require significant upfront investments, limiting adoption, especially in developing regions. Additionally, while progress is rapid, some green technologies still face technical challenges that need to be overcome. These technological and economic challenges have hindered the widespread adoption of green technologies in developing countries.[61]There is an underinvestment in green tech SMEs and startups due to their high-risk profiles, capital intensity, lack of collateral, and long-term financing needs. This underinvestment has created a financing gap, making it challenging for innovative green tech startups and SMEs to scale up.[62]

In its essence, developing countries face policy and regulatory barriers that hinder the adoption and implementation of green technologies. Inconsistent or non-existent regulations in certain regions can hinder the growth and implementation of green technologies. Conversely, over-regulation can stifle innovation.[63] To make matters worse, the markets for green technologies have been expanding at unequal rates worldwide, with disadvantages for developing countries. For example, between 2018 and 2021, while developed countries' exports for green tech, including renewables and electric vehicles,

[58] David P. The computer and the dynamo: an historical perspective. Am Econ Rev. 1990;80:355–61.
[59] https://sustainableearthreviews.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s42055-020-00029-y
[60] https://unctad.org/news/blog-developing-countries-cannot-afford-miss-out-green-tech-revolution
[61] https://www.futurize.studio/blog/what-is-green-technology
[62] https://unctad.org/news/green-technologies-coherent-policy-action-needed-developing-countries-reap-benefits
[63] https://unctad.org/news/green-technologies-coherent-policy-action-needed-developing-countries-reap-benefits

more than doubled, developing countries only saw 32% growth over the same period. This unequal growth poses challenges for developing nations in catching up with the green technological revolution.[64]

Consequences of the Green Tech Gap

The widening green tech gap has significant economic and environmental implications, with potential consequences for sustainable development. Some of the key implications include economic disparities, missed economic opportunities, environmental impact, and socio-economic inequalities. It is the job of delegates to find ways to best address these growing inequalities in committee.

1. The unequal growth in green technology exports has led to a significant economic disparity between developed and developing countries. This can further widen the gap between the economic capabilities of these nations, potentially hindering the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustainable economic growth.[65]
2. Missed Economic Opportunities: Developing countries risk missing out on the economic opportunities presented by the green tech revolution. The lack of decisive action to address the green tech gap could result in these nations being left behind in a rapidly expanding market, limiting their ability to benefit from the economic potential of green industries..[66]
3. Environmental Impact: The slow adoption of green technologies in developing countries can have adverse environmental consequences. Without access to and investment in green technologies, these nations may continue to rely on traditional, less sustainable technologies, leading to increased environmental degradation and contributing to global climate challenges.[67]
4. Socio-Economic Inequalities: The green tech gap has the potential to exacerbate existing socio-economic inequalities, as developing countries may struggle to keep pace with the economic and technological advancements of developed nations. This could further marginalize these nations in the global economy and hinder their efforts to achieve sustainable development.[68]

In summary, the widening green tech gap has significant implications for sustainable development, including economic disparities, missed economic opportunities, adverse environmental impact, and potential exacerbation of socio-economic inequalities. Urgent action is needed to address this gap and ensure that all nations can benefit from the opportunities presented by green technology.

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[64] https://unctad.org/news/blog-developing-countries-cannot-afford-miss-out-green-tech-revolution
[65] https://unctad.org/news/blog-developing-countries-cannot-afford-miss-out-green-tech-revolution
[66] https://unctad.org/news/green-technologies-coherent-policy-action-needed-developing-countries-reap-benefits
[67]https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2023/06/intersecting-paths-caroline-freund
[68]https://unctad.org/news/blog-developing-countries-cannot-afford-miss-out-green-tech-revolution

Past UN Action

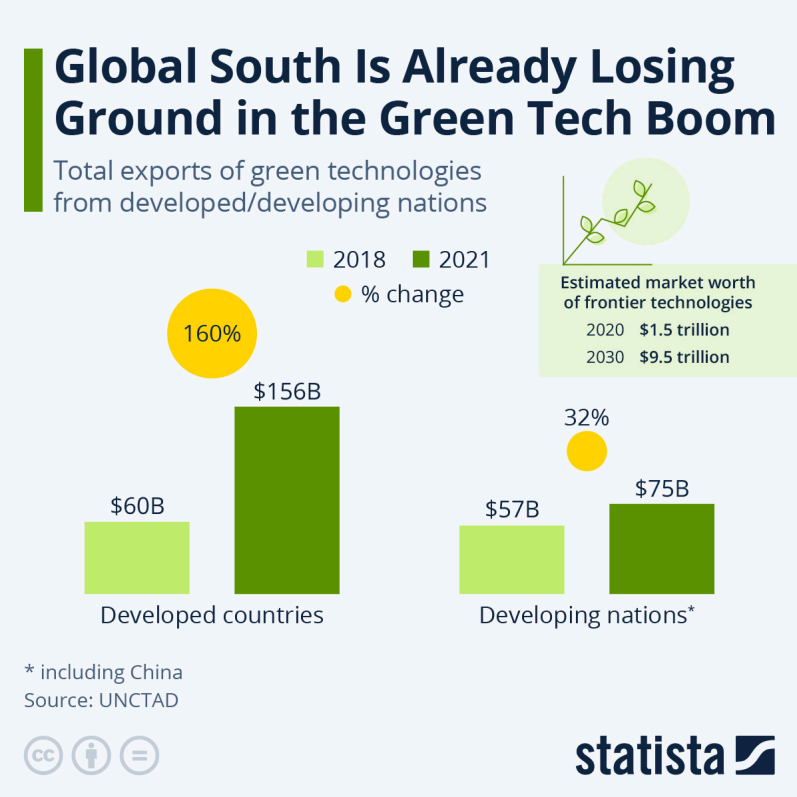
Since green tech is a relatively new sector of development, the UN and UNCTAD are following intently with new global progressions on the matter. In the past, the United Nations has supported the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) through the global "tech gap" by establishing a new UN entity, "the Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries." It began operations in 2017, aiming to "support LDCs in building their Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) capacity; foster national and regional innovation ecosystems; support homegrown research and development; facilitate market access; build capacity in the area of intellectual property rights; and assist with the transfer of appropriate technologies." Its formation marks the achievement of SDG target 17.8 (STIs for LDCs), the first SDG target to be met. Since then, the Technology Bank has brought together UN agencies, 180 international publishers, universities, and other organizations to provide the developing world with online access to international academic and professional databases and information resources.[69]

The success of the Technology Bank serves as a successful example and milestone in the UN's history of supporting emergent countries in global development trends. Regarding the topic of green tech gaps, similar resolutions can be reached to provide nations with adequate resources and shorten economic disparities.

Topics to Consider

The Green Tech Gap is a steadily increasing concern amongst members of the "Global South," including countries like China, India, Indonesia, Brazil, and Pakistan.[70]According to UN reports, underdeveloped/economically disadvantaged nations are set to miss a majority of the economic benefits of booming green technologies, which will slow down progress toward their climate goals and widen the inequality gap between rich and poor countries. In continuation, the UN predicts that unless the international community and national governments actively tend to green tech industries in developing countries, the associated with lower-emission technologies will be near inaccessible for many poorer nations, particularly in Latin America, the Caribbean, and sub-Saharan Africa.[71] For members of developed nations, ibenefitst's essential to acknowledge that Green Technology has the potential to advance a nation's economy towards a future of sustainable production, but it may have adverse effects if underdeveloped nations are overlooked in the larger context.

[69]https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/closing-technology-gap-least-developed-countries
[70]https://globalsouthstudies.as.virginia.edu/what-is-global-south
[71]https://apnews.com/article/united-nations-green-technology-developing-countries-2c93dd632677f0aa013edbb7c85cd64b



(Figure 1.1, Global South and Green Tech Gap)

In Figure 1.1, comparisons of the total exports of green technologies from developed/developing countries clearly demonstrate a notable difference in the percentage increase across 3 years. While developed countries doubled in total exports, developing nations only increased 32%.[72] As the Green Technology industry continues to increase in global awareness and production, it's of utmost importance that undeveloped/economically disadvantaged nations devote more attention and resources to capture the value being created in this technological revolution.

Case Study

Brazil, part of the "Global South," is on the steady increase for biofuel development in the global green industries. In the past, Brazil ranked seventh as the largest Green greenhouse gas (GHG) emitter in the world, producing almost 2.2 gigatons of carbon dioxide per year.[73] Deforestation, transportation, and industrial waste are all uncontrollable factors that contribute to global warming on a massive scale. However, Brazil's huge potential in the transition to green energy is recently recognized. The country has an abundance of renewable energy sources, including hydro, biomass, wind, solar, and ethanol. As an agricultural powerhouse, Brazil has long been a prominent player in the global production of sugar.

[72]https://www.statista.com/chart/29790/total-exports-of-green-technologies-from-developed-and-developing-nations/

[73]https://www.mckinsey.com/br/en/our-insights/all-insights/the-green-hidden-gem-brazils-opportunity-to-become-a-sustainability-powerhouse

This industry is now closely intertwined with ethanol, an alcohol that can be found in drinks, soaps, and above all, biofuels. Ethanol can be added to petrol for it to be burned more cleanly because its chemical compounds release only half of conventional fossil fuel carbon emissions during combustion.[74] The bioethanol industry is not without concerns, as problems arise when plantations are not managed sustainably, leading to deforestation and the destruction of land.[75] However, it is certain that Bazil's bioethanol industry will continue to play an important role in the global transition to green technologies.

Conclusion

The green tech gap presents a critical challenge to global sustainability and economic equity. Defined by the disparity in the adoption and development of green technologies between developed and developing nations, this gap threatens to deepen existing economic inequalities and hinder progress towards achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. As the world recognizes the urgency of transitioning to sustainable production methods, it is imperative to address this gap comprehensively and collaboratively. Green technology, encompassing innovations across various sectors such as energy, transportation, agriculture, and waste management, holds immense potential to mitigate environmental degradation and foster economic growth. However, without efforts to bridge the green tech gap, the benefits of these technologies may remain out of reach for many developing countries. The UNCTAD has emphasized the importance of coherent policy action and international cooperation to ensure that all nations can harness the economic and environmental benefits of green technologies. The causes of the green tech gap are multifaceted, spanning institutional, technological, economic, and regulatory challenges. Addressing these root causes requires an active approach that includes promoting knowledge creation and innovation, increasing investment in green tech startups and SMEs, addressing policy and regulatory barriers, and fostering international collaboration.

The consequences of the green tech gap are far-reaching, affecting not only economic disparities but also environmental sustainability and socio-economic inequalities. Urgent action is needed to mitigate these consequences and ensure that all nations can participate in and benefit from the green tech revolution. The UN's past actions regarding global advancement gaps, such as the establishment of the Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, provide a framework for addressing similar challenges in the green tech sector. Moving forward, it is essential for all members of UNCTAD to continue supporting initiatives that promote technology transfer, capacity building, and innovation in developing countries. In conclusion, closing the green tech gap is essential for achieving global sustainability and advancing society as a whole. By addressing the root causes of the gap and promoting transnational collaboration,

[74]https://www.energy-observer.org/resources/bioethnaol-brazilian-success-story

[75]https://earth.org/bioethanol-in-brazil/

it can be ensured that all nations have the opportunity to transition to more sustainable and environmentally friendly production methods.

Questions to Consider

1. How might the unequal growth in green technology exports impact the economic capabilities and sustainability efforts of your country?
2. What policies and mechanisms can facilitate the transfer of green technologies to developing countries?
3. How can the adoption of green technologies be promoted while considering the economic development needs of developing countries?
4. How do policy and regulatory barriers contribute to the disparities in the adoption and implementation of green technologies among nations?
5. What are the potential environmental consequences of the slow adoption of green technologies in developing countries, and how might these be mitigated?
6. In what ways can knowledge creation and innovation be promoted in developing countries to facilitate their participation in the green tech revolution?
7. What can be done between developing countries to further cooperate and assist one another in the production/distribution of green tech?
8. How might the green tech revolution impact existing socio-economic inequalities within and between nations?
9. What strategies can be employed to encourage investment in green tech startups and small businesses in developing countries?
10. How can international collaboration be enhanced to ensure that all nations have equitable access to the benefits of green technologies?

Key Resources

World Trade Organization - https://www.wto.org/
International Monetary Fund - https://www.imf.org/en/Home
The Economist - https://www.economist.com/
World Bank - https://www.worldbank.org/en/home
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development - https://www.oecd.org/
United Nations Environmental Programme - https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/green-economy
OECD Trade - https://www.oecd.org/trade/
Environmental Defense Fund - https://www.edf.org/
Internation Trade Center - https://intracen.org/
Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries - https://www.un.org/technologybank/