



**NHSMUN**

**HLPF**

**UPDATE PAPER**

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Dear Delegates,

I welcome you to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)! My name is Shane Maher, and I will be your Assistant Director for session 1 for NHSMUN 2025! This is my first year on staff and my first year ever involved with NHSMUN, but I have adored every second of my time working here. I am a sophomore at Fordham University, which is just up the road in the Bronx. I am a political science major with a minor in sociology. I grew up in New York City, and my favorite thing about this city is the food. Feel free to reach out for any recommendations. I am fascinated by politics at the local and national levels and love to see how people come together to devise solutions for unique community problems. Besides studying, I enjoy intramural tennis, sailing, and playing My Perfect Hotel.

This is my fourth year doing MUN, but I loved it so much in high school that I could not help but join Fordham's MUN team. I've had the joy of meeting some of my closest friends through MUN, and I could not recommend it anymore at the college level. In addition to expanding my social circle, it has improved my public speaking skills and networking abilities and has allowed me to travel to many places. It has also allowed me to learn more about the issues our world faces through substantive, well-researched debates with other delegates worldwide. I have gained so much knowledge that I use it daily.

I am eager to see more nuanced discussions in our committee on the High-Level Political Forum. It is a highly relevant topic, and I hope to see you all express yourself to the best of your abilities. Whether you are new to MUN or this is your 20th conference, I hope to see delegates push themselves slightly outside their comfort zone. Whether it's a catchy one-liner or the use of a prop, I hope to see what all delegates can contribute to our discussion. I am very much looking forward to meeting you all! Best of luck, and enjoy NHSMUN 2025!

Best,

Shane Maher  
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Hello Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) for NHSMUN 2025! My name is Tanvi Sood, and I will be your Assistant Director for Session II. This will be my first year as a member of NHSMUN staff, but it will be my second year attending the conference. In my junior year of high school, I attended NHSMUN 2023 and represented Mexico at the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization. It was one of my favorite conferences as a delegate.

I am a first-year American University student in Washington, D.C., studying communications, law, economics, and government (CLEG) and data science in political science. After I graduate, I plan to spend a few years abroad, learning about different cultures worldwide. I am a member of my university's collegiate Model UN team a member of my school's traditional Indian dance team, and enjoy reading, crocheting, and baking in my free time.

In my sophomore year of high school, I decided to participate in my high school's MUN team, and I can confidently say I have never once regretted it. Even though MUN may seem really challenging, it has helped me define what kind of change I want to make in my country and community. It became a lightbulb moment in my career when I joined Model UN and, more specifically, attended this conference. NHSMUN is an amazing experience that will make you want to shine and show your hard work, and even if something is stressful, remember to keep your head up and keep smiling. This conference has so much to offer you - most importantly, it'll hand you the experience of a lifetime, as long as you have fun with it!

Now, it's all up to you! This Update Paper will help you dive deeper into the HLPF's topic of Creating the 2045 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and guide your research as you prepare for debate. Even though the Background Guide and this Update Paper may present much necessary information, I encourage you never to settle! Keep looking for information, stay updated, and do not be afraid to give your work a last push. It is your job to evaluate previous actions taken, study their movements, and propose new alternatives to these issues. As the conference date gets nearer and you find yourself asking any sort of question, feel free to contact me with anything you need. I look forward to meeting you all - see you in New York!

Best wishes,

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# TOPIC A: SETTING THE 2045 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Photo Credit: Jessica Lea/DFID

## Introduction

The status of the High-Level Political Forum's 17 standard development goals is constantly changing. Recently, climate change has advanced significantly. In the past six months, millions of dollars have been spent trying to fight the ramifications of climate change.<sup>1</sup> New technologies have been developed. Carbon capture and alternative fuel technologies have been at the forefront of fighting climate change. Additionally, a significant amount of effort has also been put towards achieving global peace.<sup>2</sup> The past few years have seen lots of diplomatic activity as countries try to prevent escalation. However, it has not always been successful in the case of Ukraine and Russia. It is essential to constantly track the advancements and actions toward completing SDGs to understand how global agendas work in the context of the state of the international system and how to build a stronger agenda towards 2045.

Regarding climate change, scientists have stressed their fear regarding the future of the planet due to rising global temperatures and their impact.<sup>3</sup> Climate scientists are especially worried about hitting the threshold of a 1.5-degree Celsius increase. Carbon emissions in 2024 trended heavily in that direction and have a tremendous financial cost on the global economy.<sup>4</sup> On the global conflict stage, recent developments have engaged only worsened conditions. Currently, over 122 million people have been displaced as of 2024, compared to 50 million in 2017.<sup>5</sup> More conflicts are occurring around the world. Additionally, escalating rhetoric between countries has increased the risk of conflict significantly. Global dynamics, especially regarding the HLPF, are always changing, and as these dynamics between countries and different groups change, so does the commitment to the 2030 Agenda. However, if not addressed through an effective agenda, the state of the world will only worsen without effective action and commitment. The HLPF must adapt appropriately to these crises, acknowledging the evolution of the global stage, understanding the interconnectedness between climate change and international conflicts, and how these hinder the progress of SDGs. To do this, the HLPF must understand

today's biggest challenges to create a solid, accountable, and ambitious agenda toward 2045. The world's foreign policy leaders must remain focused on how these issues will affect global stability.

## Climate Change and SDGs

The climate crisis poses a great challenge for the completion of the Sustainable Development Goals. Considering climate change and its spillover effects in other global issues is fundamental while creating the 2045 agenda. Recent evidence shows that adverse climate effects are moving faster than expected.<sup>6</sup> From the standard baseline temperature of the 1850s-1900s, scientists see a roughly 1.3 Celsius increase in global temperatures.<sup>7</sup> This increase is only 0.2 Celsius lower than the 1.5 Celsius increase figure, which is the most fearful figure for the scientific community. Additionally, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are projected to reach a new high in global history.<sup>8</sup> These developments also pose a significant danger to the advancement of sustainable well-being in the future. The World Economic Forum already states that climate change is costing the globe a staggering USD 16 million per

1 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Climate Change, December 21, 2024. <https://unctad.org/sdg-costing/climate-change>.

2 Vision of Humanity. "Rise in Military Spending Adds to Economic Impact of Violence." December 21, 2024. <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/rise-in-military-spending-adds-to-economic-impact-of-violence/>.

3 Poynting, Mark and Georgina Rannard. "How is the World Doing On Tackling Climate Change?" BBC, November 18, 2024. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy9dwg7rpeo?utm>

4 DeSmith, Christy. "Revising the Cost of Climate Change," *Harvard Gazette*, (August 26, 2024), <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2024/08/revising-the-cost-of-climate-change/>.

5 UNHCR. "Mid-Year Report 2024," October 14, 2024. <https://www.unhcr.org/bg/18727-mid-year-report-2024.html>.

6 Dickie, Gloria. "What is the Latest on Climate Change?" Reuters. December 17, 2024. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/what-is-latest-science-climate-change-2024-12-17/?utm>.

7 Dickie, Gloria, "What is the Latest on Climate Change?"

8 Poynting, Mark and Georgina Rannard, "How is the World Doing On Tackling Climate Change?"

hour.<sup>9</sup> Increased climate change will only worsen this figure and will require more financial resources in its direction in the future. This projection is in large part due to the failure to meet key climate initiatives by Western countries, such as the use of fossil fuels, as well as an increase of carbon emissions from eastern countries like China.<sup>10</sup> The United Nations has recently reported that with current actions and processes, such as fossil fuel usage, there could be as high as a three-degree Celsius global temperature increase by the year 2100.<sup>11</sup> If not thoroughly addressed and negotiated, the negative implications for the 2045 agenda could be massive.

A clear example of this was Hurricane Milton, a massive hurricane that damaged Florida's Tampa Bay area in the United States.<sup>12</sup> Wreckage from the hurricane has been projected to cost over 190 million dollars, with some estimates predicting as much as 643 million.<sup>13</sup> The state of Florida has also issued

<sup>9</sup> World Economic Forum, "Climate Loss and Damage Costs \$16 Million per Hour," October 12, 2023, <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2023/10/climate-loss-and-damage-cost-16-million-per-hour/>.

<sup>10</sup> Poynting, Mark and Georgina Rannard, "How is the World Doing On Tackling Climate Change?"

<sup>11</sup> Poynting, Mark, and Georgina Rannard, "How is the World Doing On Tackling Climate Change?"

<sup>12</sup> Belles, Jonathan, Chris Dolce, Caitlin Kaiser, Sara Tonks, "Hurricane Milton Brought Devastation Across Central Florida (RECAP)", The Weather Channel, October 24, 2024 <https://weather.com/storms/hurricane/news/2024-10-09-hurricane-milton-forecast-landfall-florida-storm-surge-wind>.

<sup>13</sup> Long: Winslow, Megan, "UF Economists Estimate Florida Agricultural Production From Hurricane Milton Top \$190M", The Gainesville Sun, <https://www.gainesville.com/story/news/2024/12/20/hurricane-milton-causes-more-than-190m-in-damages-to-florida-ag/77101576007/>.

<sup>14</sup> Belles, Jonathan, Chris Dolce, Caitlin Kaiser, Sara Tonks, "Hurricane Milton Brought Devastation Across Central Florida (RECAP)".

<sup>15</sup> Surfrider Foundation, "A Perfect Storm: Hurricane Milton's Impacts Across the Sunshine State," October 24, 2024, <https://www.surfrider.org/news/a-perfect-storm-hurricane-miltons-impacts-across-the-sunshine-state>.

<sup>16</sup> Surfrider Foundation, "A Perfect Storm."

<sup>17</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), South Sudan Floods Snapshot: November 29, 2024, <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-floods-snapshot-29-november-2024>.

at least 126 tornado warnings and has cited 46 confirmed tornadoes.<sup>14</sup> The catastrophic natural and economic impacts point to the drastically negative implications of climate change in places including Florida. Such tremendous wreckage fuels further climate change discussions and shifts in policy. Furthermore, Hurricane Milton has caused tremendous damage to people's ability to live safely in the affected regions. The storm has impacted sewage systems, resulting in contamination of clean drinking water.<sup>15</sup> Factors such as water quality and direct storm damage have displaced over 3.5 million people.<sup>16</sup> Hurricane Milton, in terms of the 2045 agenda, displays the far-reaching effects of climate change.

In recent years, South Sudan has been host to some of the worst flooding on the planet. As of November 29, 2024, over 1.4 million people have been affected by flooding in the region.<sup>17</sup> Heavy rainfall has gone into the Nile River, setting

Hurricane Milton Blasts Florida Coast, Causing Massive Floodings

Credit: U.S. Space Force



off massive floods which have destroyed storm barriers.<sup>18</sup> The flooding has displaced over 300,000, most of them being from the Jonglei and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states.<sup>19</sup> The impact of the flooding has also affected more than just people. Crops and livestock have been devastated as a result of the flooding, amounting to significant economic losses.<sup>20</sup> Furthermore, the impact of the flooding has tremendously damaged people's homes. The World Food Program has launched emergency response efforts to help people in South Sudan face hunger. As of November 30th, they have assisted 1.2 million people in hunger relief projects.<sup>21</sup> This shows the power the United Nations organization can have. Their direct response to this crisis has made the SDGs more prepared for future disasters similar to this. Still, many question the amount needed to fund sufficient climate efforts. COP29 recently acknowledged a need for 1.3 trillion USD needed to fund the climate crisis.<sup>22</sup> However, only 300 billion USD is currently set aside.<sup>23</sup> This is reflected in less wealthy countries, like South Sudan, which have low levels of preparedness. Given this pattern, countries that do not have adequate resources to fight climate change will have little help at the international level.

In many Latin American countries, the fall's wildfires have harmed much. Bolivia is undergoing its worst forest fire season in 20 years, reporting 29,000 wildfires since the beginning of the year.<sup>24</sup> In Brazil, which holds 60 percent of the Amazon rainforest, where 20 percent of global oxygen derives, there have been 47,000 wildfire reports.<sup>25</sup> Likewise, most of them have appeared in the summer and fall months of 2024. Brazil's government has estimated that the economic damage of these fires will amass to USD 3.2 billion and a total of 15.4 million affected.<sup>26</sup> Across the border in Peru, there have been 450 alerts, which is double the amount authorities are used to in

mid-September.<sup>27</sup> The impact of forest fires in South America is widespread and felt throughout the continent financially, personally by many, and the world through its climate impact.

Events such as these tremendously damage the HLFP's ability to accomplish the SDGs and the 2045 Agenda. Whether it be economic hardships, lower availability of resources, or damaging natural disasters brought on by climate change, climate committees and the HLFP should be able to adapt and reduce the impacts of these events. To do this, the root of the problem must first be addressed. The drive behind climate change is the incentive to continue to produce fossil fuels. Successfully incentivizing a green transition towards sustainable processes and renewable energy will be a central theme in the 2045 Agenda. This will include ensuring countries comply with climate commitments, localizing the national agendas so local governments can adapt the 2045 Agenda to their own, and ensuring financing is sufficient to tackle the challenges ahead.

Global development cannot be achieved without getting to the root causes of the climate crisis and other global issues haunting the world. Mass weather events, such as the flooding in Florida and South Sudan or the wildfires in the Amazon, directly result from for-profit carbon emissions that benefit economic growth. The latter shows how advancing one SDG (i.e., SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth) can conflict with climate action goals. Economic growth often relies on industrial activities and energy consumption that increase greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, a solution must be found to balance these factors. The past five months have shown that climate change comes fast-paced on a destructive scale, primarily affecting developing countries. The HLFP

18 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), "South Sudan Floods", December 21, 2024, <https://www.ifrc.org/emergency/south-sudan-floods-0>.

19 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), "South Sudan Floods".

20 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), "South Sudan Floods".

21 ReliefWeb, "South Sudan Key Message Update: Persistent Floods and Returnee Burden Sustain Emergency (IPC Phase 4 or Worse) Outcomes," ReliefWeb, November 2024, <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-key-message-update-persistent-floods-and-returnee-burden-sustain-emergency-ipc-phase-4-or-worse-outcomes-november-2024>.

22 International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), "COP29 Talks End with Utterly Inadequate Deal," November 26 2024, <https://www.ituc-csi.org/COP29-Talks-end-with-utterly-inadequate-deal>.

23 ITUC, "COP29 Talks End."

24 World Resources Institute (WRI), "Amazon Forest Fires 2024", December 21, 2024, <https://www.wri.org/insights/amazon-forest-fires-2024>.

25 World Resources Institute (WRI), "Amazon Forest Fires", December 21, 2024.

26 Long: DevelopmentAid, Wildfires in Brazil Destroy Forests, December 21, 2024, <https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/186886/wildfires-in-brazil-destroy-forests>.

27 World Resources Institute (WRI), "Amazon Forest Fires 2024", December 21, 2024.

should delicately craft the 2045 Agenda so the objectives can complement each other, the countries are held accountable, and financing is available to properly and ambitiously implement the agenda.

## Global Conflicts and SDGs

Global conflicts are extremely detrimental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), affecting millions and destabilizing regions around the world.<sup>28</sup> Contemporary conflicts have become unprecedentedly large. The UNHCR reported that over 122.6 million people have been forcibly displaced as of 2024, a 22 percent increase from 2022.<sup>29</sup> Displacement at this scale strips people of their fundamental human rights, undermining access to resources like education, healthcare, and stable livelihoods.<sup>30</sup> Addressing these evolving threats and their impacts without wasting limited materials is critical. Making the 2045 Agenda conflict-resilient and establishing deep and concise frameworks to avoid them is key to ensuring an ambitious yet possible set of goals. The implementation of SDGs regarding global conflicts has its own set of interesting challenges and opportunities. The interconnected nature between SDGs and global conflicts requires unified forces at the local, national, and international levels, alongside innovative, multifaceted approaches to solving issues related to any SDG.<sup>31</sup> Most directly, it is related to reducing inequality within and among nations (SDG 10) and maintaining peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16). It is also tangentially related to reducing poverty (SDG

1), reducing hunger (SDG 2), protecting good health and well-being (SDG 3), quality education (SDG 4), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), protecting industry, innovation, and infrastructure (SDG 9), and climate action (SDG 13).<sup>32</sup> Data collection remains a crucial, holistic approach to addressing such global inequalities, providing the necessary information to identify where disparities exist, to understand the root causes of such inequality, and then accurately pinpoint where resources need to be allocated to deal with said issue.<sup>#</sup> effectively

The humanitarian toll of global conflicts has reached staggering proportions, with conflict zones displaying the severe human cost. In Yemen alone, over half its population (amounting to 18.5 million people) requires humanitarian assistance due to its long-lasting civil war.<sup>33</sup> 17 million Yemenis face extensive and acute food insecurity.<sup>34</sup> In South Sudan, 7.8 million face the same issue, with conflict - the ongoing Sudanese civil war - being the driving factor.<sup>35</sup> Naval blockades prevent food imports and access to humanitarian aid, and continuous airstrikes destroy food storage facilities - a phenomenon seen across regions and multiple types of infrastructure. In Syria, the deliberate targeting of hospitals has led to almost 48 percent of primary healthcare facilities being considered partially or wholly not functional.<sup>36</sup> This type of destruction has been determined to be intentional.<sup>37</sup> First, the remaining facilities become overwhelmed. Power outages then prevent proper operation of medical equipment, supply chain disruptions prevent restocking, and medical personnel flee due to security

28 United Nations. "A New Era of Conflict and Violence", <https://www.un.org/en/un75/new-era-conflict-and-violence>.

29 UNHCR, "Figures at a Glance", <https://www.unhcr.org/us/about-unhcr/who-we-are/figures-glance>.

30 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, "The Impacts of Displacement on Economic and Social Well-Being: A Literature Review" (October 2018), <https://api.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/201810-literature-review-exec-sum-en.pdf>.

31 United States Institute of Peace. "Amid Alarming Rise in Conflict, Multilateralism Is the Only Answer". September 2023, <https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/09/amid-alarming-rise-conflict-multilateralism-only-answer>.

32 Debapriya Bhattacharya, Towfiqul Islam Khan, and Umme Salma, "A Commentary on the Final Outcome Document of the Open Working Group on SDGs," *The SAIS Review of International Affairs* 34, no. 2 (January 1, 2014): 165–77, <https://doi.org/10.1353/sais.2014.0034>.

33 UNFPA. "Yemen: After Nine Years of War". <https://www.unfpa.org/yemen#:~:text=After%20nine%20years%20of%20war,some%20form%20of%20humanitarian%20assistance>.

34 Action Against Hunger. "Food Security Continues to Deteriorate", <https://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/en/press/food-security-continues-to-deteriorate/>.

35 Al Jazeera, "Acute Food Insecurity to Hit Most People in South Sudan Next Year, Says UN." November 18, 2024. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/11/18/acute-food-insecurity-to-hit-most-people-in-south-sudan-next-year-says-un>.

36 Ali, Obai Kurd and Mai El-Sadany, "Left in Limbo: Uncertainty for Europe's Syrian Refugees Post-Assad," *TIMEP*, December 18, 2024, <https://timep.org/2024/12/18/left-in-limbo-uncertainty-for-europes-syrian-refugees-post-assad/>.

37 Brown University Public Health Journal. "Healthcare Systems During Wartimes." February 6, 2024. <https://sites.brown.edu/publichealthjournal/2024/02/06/healthcare-systems-during-wartimes/#:~:text=The%20number%20of%20lives%20affected,to%20services%20for%20entire%20populations>.





Destroyed Ukrainian home after overhead missile strikes sent from Russia

Credit: Kisnaak

threats - leaving civilians to suffer with little to no consistent medical attention.<sup>38</sup> In Tigray, Ethiopia, 80 percent of hospitals are fully destroyed, with the remaining lacking the necessary utilities and staff to work at full capacity.<sup>39</sup> Rebuilding these systems requires many years and leaves entire populations without access to necessary care. This demonstrates the effect of global conflicts in hindering the progress of the SDGs and should be considered in constructing a new agenda. Aggressor countries and groups have also escalated to targeting supplies, electricity, water, and transportation.<sup>40</sup> Water security and public health in conflict zones present particularly urgent challenges, given high mortality rates due to disease, lack of clean water, and unhygienic sanitation practices. Currently, around half of the world's population does not have proper sanitation.<sup>41</sup> Simultaneously, because water scarcity makes agriculture much more difficult, it compounds the issue and "threatens a community's access to food."<sup>42</sup> Children under

five in these regions are 20 times more likely to die from water-related diseases than from direct violence from a local or international conflict.<sup>43</sup>

The economic devastation brought by these conflicts is equally as severe. Direct military action serves as a trigger, destroying productive assets and infrastructure that immediately cripples economic activity. Due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Ukraine has suffered infrastructure damage exceeding USD 152 billion as of October 2024. Ukraine's "total losses, including current and projected losses in revenue, are estimated at USD 1.164 trillion," a sum of losses across sectors and economic markets.<sup>44</sup> This loss resulted from systematically targeting industrial facilities, transportation networks, and energy systems, creating a domino effect of economic failures. This economic downturn was only further exemplified in targeting Ukraine's agricultural sector. The Center for Strategic and International Studies

<sup>38</sup> Brown University Public Health Journal. "Healthcare Systems During Wartimes."

<sup>39</sup> Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. "The Vulnerability of Health Care in Conflict: Ukraine and Beyond." April 14, 2022. <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2022/the-vulnerability-of-health-care-in-conflict-ukraine-and-beyond>

<sup>40</sup> World Health Organization. "WHO Records 1,000th Attack on Health Care in Ukraine Over the Past 15 Months of Full-Scale War." May 30, 2023. <https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/30-05-2023-who-records-1-000th-attack-on-health-care-in-ukraine-over-the-past-15-months-of-full-scale-war>.

<sup>41</sup> Council on Foreign Relations. "Water Stress: A Global Problem That's Getting Worse." <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/water-stress-global-problem-thats-getting-worse>.

<sup>42</sup> Council on Foreign Relations. "Water Stress: A Global Problem That's Getting Worse."

<sup>43</sup> UNICEF USA. "4 Things You Should Know About Water and Famine." March 10, 2023. <https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/4-things-you-should-know-about-water-and-famine#:~:text=In%20protracted%20conflicts%2C%20children%20under,sanitation%20than%20violence%20in%20conflict>.

<sup>44</sup> Kyiv School of Economics. "Losses of Ukraine's Economy Exceed \$1.164 Trillion in Lost Revenue: KSE Estimate" July 2024. <https://kse.ua/about-the-school/news/losses-of-ukraine-s-economy-exceed-1-164-trillion-in-lost-revenue-kse-estimate-as-of-july-2024/>.

(CSIS) reports that Russian forces weaponized food supply chains by destroying cropland and disrupting export routes.<sup>45</sup> Due to Russian-occupied territories accounting for almost 72 percent of Ukraine's total cropland, food insecurity increased in the region, adding another layer of economic insecurity to Ukraine's toppling infrastructure.<sup>46</sup> Unemployment also rose sharply, which reduced consumer spending and tax revenue, which in turn limited the government's ability to maintain existing infrastructure and provide essential services.<sup>47</sup> Due to this self-reinforcing cycle, government spending in Ukraine continued to grow, now amounting to about 10 billion USD.<sup>48</sup> This initial destruction triggers a secondary wave of economic decline, as skilled workers and businesses flee from violent areas even as money is being printed into the economy, creating a talent vacuum that can persist for generations. The estimated cost to attempt to reconstruct Ukraine is now calculated to be worth around 486 billion USD, should recovery be attempted over a ten-year-long period.<sup>49</sup>

The mechanisms used to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) need to be changed to improve the efficiency and efficacy of lent resources. It is important to remember that the existing systems of the HLPF do well to be a place for international cooperation and improvement. In a recent July 2024 session, the HLPF convened under the theme, "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions."<sup>50</sup> During the session, the HLPF emphasized the importance of international cooperation, highlighted initiatives where countries of the Global South have driven progress in areas

such as poverty reduction, healthcare, and climate resilience, and also placed a significant focus on gender equality.<sup>51</sup> The session highlighted the alarming reality: only 17 percent of SDG targets will be met by 2030. Nearly 50 percent "have moderate to severe deviations," and 18 percent have fallen past a recoverable state.<sup>52</sup> Despite these challenges, the HLPF emphasized expanding funding for developing countries. Some actions include agreements to initiate important transitions to sustainable energy and food systems. This will be with Member States promising to mobilize extra resources and strengthen multilateral development banks that provide risk capital for economic development. Obtaining long-term funding and ensuring accountability across government systems remain difficult challenges.<sup>53</sup> Achieving the SDGs will necessitate big investments and large-scale changes to how organizations collect and take action on data. Thus, these elements remain essential to consider while creating the 2045 Agenda, the funding to prevent conflict and reconstruct areas under conflict remains essential as global conflicts continue to grow.

Understanding the relationship between global conflicts and the progress of achieving the SDGs is essential. As well as how these interact with how peace and strong institutions on the international stage are relevant to correctly coordinate and accomplish the agendas, and further take it into account while forming new ones to create strong objectives with resilient solutions in the context of war. Having strong accountability systems under the HLPF that ensure countries adapt and complete the 2045 Agenda is essential for bettering the state of the world.

45 Center for Strategic and International Studies, "Food as a Silent Weapon: Russia's Gains and Ukraine's Losses", October 2024, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/food-silent-weapon-russias-gains-and-ukraines-losses#:~:text=The%20Impact%20of%20the%20War%20on%20Ukraine%27s%20Crop%20Production&text=Analysis%20by%20NASA%20Harvest%2C%20NASA%27s,total%20cropland%20in%20the%20country.>

46 Center for Strategic and International Studies, "Food as a Silent Weapon: Russia's Gains and Ukraine's Losses"

47 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, "The Impacts of Displacement on Economic and Social Well-Being: A Literature Review."

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## Conclusion

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) carry heavy implications for the world's future, which most likely will be passed onto the 2045 Agenda. Issues like climate change and global conflicts significantly threaten the safety, prosperity, and happiness of all. Climate change exacerbates environmental destruction, devastating ecosystems and aggravating food and water insecurity. Global conflicts, such as the ongoing wars in Yemen and Ukraine, amplify these issues by displacing millions and dismantling critical infrastructure, from hospitals to agricultural systems. Internally, both are also connected. Climate change can act as a “conflict multiplier” by creating stress on essential resources and livelihoods. The 2007-2010 drought in Syria is recorded to be one of the worst environmental droughts in history. This drought was seen to have been a major factor in migration flows and increased refugees in the region. It is clear that this drought led to heavy stress on local economies and governments.<sup>54</sup>

Continuing research, data collection, and accountability measures to ensure commitment to the SDGs are a positive step forward in the right direction. Great initiatives like gender-responsive budgeting in Indonesia, a strategy that ensures a fair distribution of resources across genders, have strengthened gender-based data analysis for women and girls regarding workplace and educational absenteeism. Indonesia believes this program has the potential to significantly benefit its economy. Estimates show that a 25 percent increase in female workers will lead to USD 62 billion in economic activity.<sup>55</sup> That would be a 2.9 percent increase in the country's population alone. Such measures should be taken to enforce the completion of the 2045 Agenda and aim to prevent global conflicts and protect the population from climate change. The latter can only be accomplished with functional, consistent, and sufficient funding.

It is also important to consider the significance of transparency in large and long-term solutions when crafting the 2045 Agenda.

Additionally, considering the impacts of global conflicts and climate change in the short term is equally as vital. It is critical to understand that the HLPF is a center for improvement and conflict resolution and a stage to highlight important issues that harm the international community. Understanding the interconnectedness between the completion and the obstacles that hinder the achievement of the SDGs is crucial for crafting the 2045 agenda because it enables the international community to prioritize systematic resilience and equity across all SDGs. The HLPF must effectively address the inequalities prevalent worldwide, considering the distinct circumstances in which member states find themselves. A core principle of the HLPF is to ensure all countries can develop and work towards an equitable future.<sup>56</sup> Therefore; the HLPF must adapt the 2045 Agenda to provide free and fair opportunities to everyone through constructive and long-lasting change.

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