



High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)



Topic: Addressing the Impact of Global Supply Chains on Sustainable Development and SDG Integration

Committee: High-Level Political Forum

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I. Quorum

- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- China
- Colombia
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- India
- Indonesia
- Italy
- Japan
- Kenya
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- Nigeria
- Philippines
- Singapore
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Syria
- Slovakia
- United Kingdom
- United States

II. Committee Background

The HLPF committee is composed of UN Member States. The UN High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF committee) was the central intergovernmental forum for global follow-up and review of the 2030 agenda and its 17 SDGs.

“This was established in 2012 through the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The Future We Want". The Forum meets annually under the sponsorships of the Economic and Social Council for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the sponsorship- of the General Assembly for two days” (OHCHR). Since 2016, this committee has normally submitted contributions to the 2030 SDGs as a response to the call for proposals by the HLPF on sustainable development.



The High-level Political forum on sustainable development is one of the central platforms of the UN for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals. These goals tend to help people all around the world, including Indigenous People. They have been actively occupied to ensure that the voices and contributions of indigenous people are heard at the high-level political forum.

Also, the UN's commission on sustainable development was established by the UN General Assembly in December of 1992 to make sure that the constructive follow-ups of the UN's conference on the environment and the development, known as the Earth Summit. The UN's first body on sustainable development, and very important role, is to keep sustainable development high on the international agenda.

III. History of Topic

Making supply chains more sustainable and being responsible about what companies buy is super important for turning global goals into local business. This way, a company's stuff can help the planet and be better for customers now and in the future. But, supply chains are huge and complicated these days. Companies can get materials and have stuff made in developing countries, thanks to open markets. If they do it right, this can save money and boost profits, which is great for everyone. Plus, it can help improve lives for tons of people.

On the other side, if companies mess up and don't think about how their suppliers affect the environment and communities, they could face big problems and get a bad reputation. The harm to people and the planet can be really serious. Check out the Roadmap for Integrated Sustainability if you want to know more about how different parts of a company can work together to create and carry out sustainability plans. In today's world, companies know that outsourcing work doesn't mean they can ignore their responsibilities and risks. Smart businesses understand that they must take steps to address the environmental, social, and economic impacts of their supply networks. But making the whole supply chain sustainable is one of the hardest parts of improving a company's overall sustainability.



Right now, companies are trying different ways to tackle these problems. Using creative solutions not only minimizes risks within supply chains but it also enhances productivity, lowers expenses, conserves resources, and increases operational efficiency. This allows them keep up with changing customer needs and adapt to the market.

Key strategies and emerging practices for tackling supply chain challenges, which are often interrelated, include fostering cooperative partnerships, particularly with suppliers and industry collaborations.

- See how to collaborate successfully [SDG 17], and how collaboration can help tackle climate change [SDG 13],
- transform labor conditions [SDG 8], and help make supply chains more sustainable [SDG 15].
- Learn more about the world's first guide on traceability and how traceability can be used for sustainable fishing [SDG 14] and to solve deforestation concerns in the palm oil and paper industries [SDG 15]
- Having more inclusive supply chains by gaining from previously underconsumption.
- Suppliers such as SMEs, minorities, women-owned businesses, indigenous peoples, etc.

Supplier diversity enhances resilient, sustainable, and adaptive supply chains [SDG 12], improving the competitive advantage of your company and adding to the bottom line [SDG 17].

- Enhancing readiness to tackle pressing challenges like forced labor and child exploitation while aligning with evolving regulations and standards.
 - Read more about the role of emerging legislation in stopping human trafficking and forced labor [SDG 12].
- Digitization of supply chain processes.
 - Digitization can enhance performance, tackle potential risks, and



increase transparency
[SDG 9].

IV. Topic Information

The order of SCM with the SDGs is not only a strategic imperative for businesses but also a moral and social responsibility. By embedding sustainable practices into their supply chain operations, businesses can make substantial advancements toward realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2015, countries in the United Nations created a plan called the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This plan includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) designed to make the world better and more sustainable. One of these goals, Goal 13, is about Climate Action and focuses on fighting climate change. Greenhouse gases and CO₂ emissions are higher than ever before, so this goal is especially important to help protect our planet's future.

An entire supply chain of a company can make a significant impact for promoting human rights, fair work actions, ecological progress, and anti-corruption plans. Nevertheless, UN Global Compact members rank supply chain practices as the greatest challenges to improving sustainability production. Integrating the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles into the distribution chains could become difficult because of the scale and complications of many distribution channels. The UN Global Compact motivates companies to make sustainability a priority from the highest level of the organization.

If the operator of the supply chain sees an extension of their manpower and group, the company can anticipate best practices beyond its supply chain. These can include important areas such as selection, training, auditioning, and improvement. A sustainable supply chain makes sure every step of production is good for both people and the environment. This means that companies follow environmental and social rules in their work and make sure their suppliers do too. Environmental rules focus on problems like pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and keeping water sources clean. Social rules are more about fair treatment of workers, like having safe working conditions, no forced labor, and good health and safety standards.



Many people think “sustainability” only means being good for the environment, but it also includes treating people fairly. A product that’s great for the planet but harms workers or communities isn’t truly sustainable. The 2024 Sustainable Development Goals Report shows that progress on many goals has either slowed down or even gone backward, even though countries promised to keep working on them. The effects of COVID-19, along with conflicts, climate disasters, and economic problems, have made inequalities worse.

V. Current Issues

Central African Republic:

To make a real difference in the Central African Republic (CAR) using global supply chains, a bunch of solutions need to work together. CAR has valuable natural resources like diamonds, gold, and timber that are important for global trade. But instead of bringing stability and growth, these resources often lead to conflict, exploitation, and environmental damage. If CAR could make its role in supply chains more responsible and sustainable, it would help reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improve people’s lives.

Here’s how global supply chains impact CAR and some ideas for making things better: Helping the Economy and Reducing Poverty (SDG 1 & SDG 8), Encouraging Responsible Use and Production (SDG 12,) and Building Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16)

Syria

Fixing global supply chains in Syria to help with sustainable development is tough but important. Here's a quick breakdown:

Economic Impact: Supply chains could help Syria’s economy by creating jobs in industries like farming and textiles, but problems such as political issues, sanctions, and destroyed infrastructure make trade hard and increase poverty.

Social Impact: There are many human rights problems, like child labor and bad working conditions. Improving supply chains could help protect workers’ rights and improve access to food and medicine, helping with hunger and health issues.



Environmental Impact: Syria relies

on imports for energy and materials, which hurts the environment. Local industries also pollute a lot. By using cleaner energy and more eco-friendly methods, Syria could help the environment and fight climate change. Overall, making Syria's supply chains more sustainable would improve life, create jobs, protect workers, and be better for the environment.

Sweden:

Sweden is good at sustainability, and it's important to think about how global supply chains affect its goals for a better world (SDGs). Sweden has a strong economy and does a lot of international trade, which gives it both advantages and challenges in making sure its supply chains are sustainable.

For the economy, Sweden benefits from getting materials from other countries and selling high-quality products, which helps create jobs. But relying on imports and trying to keep costs low can sometimes cause problems, especially in areas like electronics, clothing, and farming, which can hurt the environment.

Denmark:

Denmark is focused on making its supply chains more sustainable, connecting its economy, society, and the environment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The country wants to make sure that businesses are environmentally responsible and treat workers fairly.

For the environment, Denmark is all about cutting down on pollution and using green energy. It's also pushing global supply chains to go green and lower their carbon footprints. When it comes to social issues, Denmark cares about human rights and fair labor, making sure that no one is exploited or working in bad conditions. It wants to promote peace and justice around the world.

Economically, Denmark benefits from global supply chains by supporting industries like tech and farming while making sure they grow in a way that creates good jobs and helps the world.



VI. UN Actions

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is a key committee set up by the UN General Assembly back in 2012 to promote the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It's the main platform for tracking and reviewing how countries are doing with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The High-Level political forum helps bring together the members of states, world communities, and other important groups that help discuss and progress, addressing the issue, and share what's working concerning the reaching these global goals. Each year, they take a deep dive into a few specific goals to see where things stand and what can be improved.

At the same time, the UN is putting a lot of effort into making global supply chains more sustainable. They're encouraging companies to treat workers fairly, produce goods in an environmentally friendly way, and reduce their carbon footprint. This all connects back to their big 2030 vision with the SDGs, which are all about creating decent jobs, using resources wisely, protecting the planet, and building strong partnerships to make the world a better place.

VII. Conclusion

Companies are increasingly focusing on sustainable supply chains to align with global sustainability goals. By embracing environmental-friendly and socially responsible practices, this can reduce costs, gain profits, and make a good impact on communities and in the environment. However, ignoring the social and environmental impact of its supply chains can damage its reputation. To address these challenges, businesses are working closely with suppliers, improving traceability, promoting diversity, and using digital tools for greater transparency and efficiency. These efforts support global goals like combating climate change, encouraging responsible consumption, and ensuring fair working conditions.



The United Nations urges businesses to extend sustainability across their entire supply chain by reducing emissions, preventing deforestation, and ensuring fair labor practices. Despite some progress, the 2024 Sustainable Development Goals Report

shows that many targets are lagging, especially due to setbacks like COVID-19, conflicts, and economic challenges.

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) continues to monitor global progress and emphasizes the need for stronger collaboration between governments, companies, and civil society to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

VIII. Guiding Questions

1. How have historical events like the Earth Summit and Rio+20 shaped the development of global sustainability efforts?
2. What economic challenges do developing countries face in making their supply chains more sustainable?
3. How do political instability and conflicts in resource-rich regions like the Central African Republic affect global supply chains?
4. How do unsustainable supply chains impact marginalized groups such as Indigenous Peoples and women-owned businesses?
5. In what ways can sustainable supply chains promote economic development and reduce poverty in conflict-affected countries like Syria?
6. How effective has the UN's High-Level Political Forum been in advancing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs through its global reviews?
7. How do countries like Sweden and Denmark balance global trade demands while maintaining sustainable supply chains?
8. What role can digital technologies play in enhancing transparency and reducing risks in global supply chains?
9. How can businesses improve supplier diversity to create more resilient and adaptive supply chains?
10. What innovative strategies could companies adopt to address environmental challenges like deforestation and carbon emissions in their supply chains?



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