



# LMUN Idea Fair 2024 [5th Edition]

**TOPIC GUIDE**



LMUN  
Idea  
Fair

## Topic Guide

The Lagos Model United Nations 23/24 conference is thrilled to present the 5th edition of the Idea Fair. The program seeks to help delegates hone diplomatic and oratory skills while contributing to the promotion of Sustainable Development Goals. The 5th edition of the idea fair aims to enhance the critical thinking of delegates by providing innovative and practical solutions to recurring world and societal issues. Thus, delegates are expected to come up with ways private stakeholders can partner with the government to ensure a more Sustainable Education system for underprivileged individuals, Promoting Decent Work and Economic growth, and improving the healthcare system. In this regard, the 23/24 LMUN Conference theme is **“Enhancing Global Prosperity Through Shared Commitments: Dialogue and Inclusivity as Key Tools for the Achievement of the SDGs”**.

This conference aims to explore a critical realm, focusing on how participants can collaboratively generate innovative and feasible strategies to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through meaningful dialogue and inclusiveness. Emphasizing the importance of creativity, viability, and sustainability, the conference will recognize and reward the most outstanding project proposal. Moreover, there is an exciting opportunity for the winning project to be adopted by a partnering organization or non-governmental entity, potentially catalyzing the initiation of the proposed project on a broader scale. This initiative underscores the commitment to fostering impactful and scalable solutions that contribute significantly to the attainment of the SDGs.

## Project Topics

Taking into consideration the wide range of global issues, the 5th edition of the idea fair has been streamlined into (3) main issues, one of which MUST serve as the basis for the project plans by delegates. These issues are as follows:

Creating a Sustainable education system for underprivileged individuals, emphasizing vital soft skills to achieve **SDG 1**.

Revitalizing Primary Health Care Centers in Nigeria: Cornerstones for Advancing **Sustainable Development Goal 3**.

Empowering workers in challenging job settings to achieve **SDG 8** through improved social protection and personal growth opportunities.

### **Creating a sustainable education system for underprivileged individuals, emphasizing vital soft skills to achieve success and support SDG 1.**

Lack of education has profound and far-reaching consequences, affecting not only the individuals who are directly undereducated but also the broader society as a whole. The ramifications extend across various aspects of life, encompassing health, socio-economic status, employment opportunities, vulnerability to exploitation, and even contributing to gender inequality. The multifaceted nature of these effects underscores the urgency of addressing educational disparities for the overall well-being of communities.

Poverty and limited education share a complex and interconnected relationship, forming a vicious cycle that traps individuals and communities in a cycle of disadvantage. The lack of access to quality education significantly contributes to the perpetuation of poverty, creating a formidable barrier to social and economic mobility. In impoverished regions, educational opportunities are often scarce, and the quality of available schooling may be subpar. Families grappling with economic hardships may be forced to prioritize immediate needs over investing in education, leading to high dropout rates and limited academic achievement. Inadequate education restricts individuals from acquiring the skills and knowledge needed to secure well-paying jobs, perpetuating a cycle of low-income jobs and financial instability. This, in turn, affects the overall development of the community, hindering its ability to break free from the shackles of poverty.

This limited education as a result of poverty has various consequences such as its impact on health outcomes: Individuals with lower levels of education often face barriers in accessing healthcare services and may lack essential knowledge about preventive health measures; it robs individuals of a voice in society: Those with limited education may find it challenging to actively participate in civic processes, advocate for their rights, or engage in meaningful discourse. This lack of participation can hinder the democratic ideals of a society, as diverse voices and perspectives are essential for the functioning of a robust and inclusive democracy; Individuals with limited education often find themselves restricted to low-paying and unstable jobs, perpetuating the cycle of poverty. The inability to secure gainful employment not only affects the economic well-being of individuals but also impacts the overall productivity and prosperity of the community; Exploitation is another stark reality faced by those with limited education. The lack of awareness about legal rights, financial literacy, and other crucial aspects makes these individuals vulnerable to various forms of exploitation. Whether in the workplace, financial transactions, or other aspects of life, the uneducated are more susceptible to manipulation and abuse, further exacerbating their socio-economic challenges; Gender inequality is also perpetuated by the lack of education. Women, in particular, face compounded challenges when denied

access to education. Lack of education limits their economic opportunities, reinforces traditional gender roles, and contributes to a cycle of discrimination that transcends generations.

Addressing poverty through an education-focused approach involves not only improving access to schools but also enhancing the quality of education provided. It requires targeted efforts to break down barriers and empower individuals to acquire skills that enhance employability, breaking the cycle of poverty for future generations.

In recent years, a growing body of evidence has highlighted the critical importance of soft skills and financial literacy as key tools for individuals in underprivileged communities to break free from the cycle of poverty. While traditional education and vocational training remain fundamental, these two additional skill sets are increasingly recognized as essential drivers of individual empowerment and economic mobility. Historically, academic qualifications and technical skills were considered the primary determinants of employability and economic success. However, the modern workplace increasingly demands a broader range of competencies. Soft skills, such as communication, teamwork, critical thinking, problem-solving, and adaptability, are now recognized as valuable assets across diverse fields and industries.

Underprivileged individuals often lack access to opportunities to develop these essential soft skills. This puts them at a significant disadvantage in the job market, limiting their potential for career advancement and economic stability.

The benefits of acquiring soft skills for individuals from underprivileged communities are numerous and far-reaching: Individuals with strong soft skills are better equipped to navigate the job market, impress potential employers, and secure higher-paying jobs; Soft skills enable individuals to collaborate effectively, manage tasks efficiently, and adapt to changing work environments, leading to increased productivity and career success.

Developing soft skills fosters a sense of self-efficacy and empowerment, enabling individuals to take charge of their lives and pursue their goals with greater confidence and strong soft skills facilitate effective communication, build positive relationships, and foster a sense of belonging within communities, reducing social isolation and exclusion.

Financial literacy equips individuals with the knowledge and skills to manage their finances effectively. This includes understanding budgeting, saving, investing, and making informed financial decisions. Lack of financial literacy often leads to overspending, debt accumulation, and financial insecurity, further perpetuating the cycle of poverty. Financial literacy empowers individuals from underprivileged communities to break the cycle of poverty by promoting financial security, facilitating long-term investments, breaking dependence on debt, and building assets and wealth.

The combined impact of acquiring both soft skills and financial literacy can significantly improve the lives of individuals in underprivileged communities, leading to a reduction in poverty. By enhancing their employability, earning potential, and financial security, individuals are empowered to break free from the cycle of poverty and create a better future for themselves and their families.

This SDG 1, aligns with many other aspects such as improving the soft skills of underprivileged people which add to the growing industry, innovation, and infrastructure in SDG 9, ensuring that not only traditional educational concepts are used but modern skill sets are growing in number and profit in achieving SDG 4, Quality Education and ensuring the acquisition of these soft skill sets and financial literacy bridges the gap caused by the disparities between poor people and people with higher standards of living in order to achieve SDG 10, which is reduced inequalities.

On this note, delegates should proffer practical solutions to addressing this SDG, bearing in mind the following issues:

- Lack of contingency and sustenance with the normal educational system.
- Increasing cases of fraud and online money laundering.
- Need for underprivileged individuals to adapt to the changing world of work.
- Measures to be taken regarding improving the soft skills and financial literacy of individuals in underprivileged communities.

### **Revitalizing Primary Health Care Centers in Nigeria: Cornerstones for Advancing Sustainable Development Goal 3.**

Nigeria, as Africa's most populous country, faces significant health-related issues, ranging from infectious diseases to inadequate healthcare infrastructure. The existing healthcare disparities are exacerbated by factors such as insufficient funding, a shortage of skilled healthcare professionals, and a lack of accessible services in rural and underserved areas. PHCs, designed to be the frontline of healthcare delivery, have faced systemic neglect, leading to a diminished capacity to fulfill their intended role.

The historical significance of PHCs in Nigeria lies in their potential to provide essential healthcare services, emphasizing preventive care, community health education, and basic medical interventions. However, over time, these centers have encountered challenges that compromise their effectiveness, leaving many communities without timely access to quality healthcare.

In summary, the revitalization of PHCs in Nigeria is not only a response to immediate healthcare needs but a strategic and holistic approach to advancing SDG 3. By addressing the root causes of health disparities and enhancing the capacity of PHCs, this initiative aspires to create a healthcare system that is accessible, preventive, and capable of ensuring the well-being of all Nigerians.

On this note, delegates should proffer practical solutions to addressing this SDG, bearing in mind the following issues:

- Inadequate infrastructure of Primary Health Centers in Nigeria
- Shortage of qualified personnel in Primary Health Centers
- Lack of technical support
- The imperative for regular training of medical personnel

## **Empowering workers in challenging job settings to achieve SDG 8 through improved social protection and personal growth opportunities.**

Decent work goes beyond just having a job. It's about having a job that respects your dignity, provides for your well-being, and empowers you to reach your full potential. It's about creating a society where work is not just a means to an end, but a source of meaning and contribution.

SDG 8 aims to promote decent work and economic growth and one major issue prohibiting the achievement of this goal is the negligence on the part of industrial giants and governmental institutions to properly care for and protect its workers.

Shein, a China-based fast-fashion retailer that produces garments and accessories, adds up to 10,000 new items to its app every day; the brand's low prices, and fast production have made it one of the biggest fast-fashion companies in the world with a valuation of \$66 billion, greater than that of Zara and H&M combined. Shein has repeatedly come under fire for poor working conditions, high levels of toxic chemicals in its clothing, copying independent designers' items, and mishandling customer data.

In one of their subsidiary factories, Channel 4 TV found that workers receive a base salary of 4,000 yuan per month — roughly \$556 — to make 500 pieces of clothing per day and that their first month's pay is withheld from them; in another factory, workers received the equivalent of four cents per item. Workers in both factories were working up to 18-hour days and given only one day off a month. The reported hours and working conditions violate China's labour laws.



Another company that has been under fire is Chevron, who paid \$21.4 Million in damages to families of brothers who died from cancer after daily exposure to VOCs, a judge in Northern California ordered so after concluding that the company failed to properly warn the men about the dangers of toxic solvents they worked with at a company tire factory. Asia's Number One Tech Company, Samsung, also came under fire for the same issue and paid an estimated \$15.3 Million and apologised to workers who developed cancer after exposure to VOCs after years of denying responsibility. The Korean smartphone giant promised to offer adequate compensation for employees who died of or developed leukaemia from working at the company's semiconductor plants. Under the agreement, Samsung agreed to compensate any employee who became sick from working in the company's semiconductor and LCD lines from May 1984 onwards – when Samsung built its first chip line at Giheung.

Also about governmental institutions, as of 2015, as many as 23 of Nigeria's 36 states left their civil servants unpaid for months on end and the situation isn't any better now. Currently, there is still a vast population of workers in governmental institutions who are owed salaries, strikes in their various trade unions and associations have halted the country temporarily, school students are out of school and victims of gruesome accidents have nowhere to go due to doctors and nurses going on strike. The unpaid school teachers, nurses, and other civil servants turn to anything from taxi driving to petty trading to survive.

This situation above goes to show that companies and government agencies are not fulfilling their duties to their workers. The workers are not afforded good pay for their efforts, reasonable and needed vacations, good working conditions, and great working hours. It needs to be understood that being a worker shouldn't be selling your soul to the devil or condemning you to a life of servitude. Workers deserve the utmost best working conditions to further promote economic growth.

**SDG 8** does not stand alone but supports and aligns with other SDGs, such as:

- **SDG 1 and 2** indicate No Poverty and Zero Hunger, the workers having been deprived of their pay or given salaries below the minimum wage will eventually go from eating hand-to-mouth to not being able to afford anything, especially in the current economic situation of the world where common Bottled water is 150 naira, increasing electricity bills, TV subscriptions, health bills, taxes, and other basic amenities. These companies and governmental institutions are condemning them to a damned future.
- **SDG 9** which stands for Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure is being prohibited when companies with poor working conditions and no means of providing opportunities for personal growth of their workers, which is essential in this modern world. Workers should be allowed to grow themselves in their various organisations.
- **SDG 13** is also hindered when harmful and unsafe exposure to fumes like VOCs prohibits the achievement of better climate action. These companies and their practices should be curtailed and sustainable systems should be created in this regard.

On this note, delegates should proffer practical solutions to addressing this SDG, bearing in mind the following issues:

- The poor working conditions of workers in the third world/developing countries.
- Low opportunity for personal growth and development in the workplace.
- Poor air quality and conduct in the work environment.
- Poor social protection for low-income workers and lack of benefits from working long hours and in strenuous conditions.
- The neglect and lower salary paid to workers in third world countries.
- Measures to enhance social protection and foster personal growth for workers in low-wage, benefit-lacking, and hazardous job environments.