

Innovation to Action: Global Health Challenge

Prompt:

You are now one of the 193 United Nations delegates that sit in the UN General Assembly Hall. As an expert in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), you are assigned to address a global health issue within the country of your choosing. You and your team will come up with ideas to influence the direction of policies for a particular issue pertaining to human health. In order to address this issue, you must focus on only one or two of the SDGs and propose a new and innovative way to tackle this issue.

Bonita Sharma, your peer across the hall representing Nepal, has decided to address food insecurity issues in her home country through the use of [Nutribeads](#), which is a bracelet containing different colored beads with symbols that indicate the proper timing of nutrition for a mother's newborn babies (SDG 1 & 2). Her innovative solution paved the way for addressing issues of malnourishment within the rural communities of Nepal.

Earlier in the day, you heard from Joel Gibbard, co-founder of the UK startup [Open Bionics](#). Open Bionics works with patients in need of prosthesis (artificial limbs) who cannot afford the typically exorbitant costs associated with prosthetics. Through Open Bionics, Gibbard was able to provide 3D printed prosthetics that are remarkably 30x cheaper than its competitors on the market, improving accessibility to rehabilitative care (SDG3).

Sitting beside you is environmental engineer Dr. Arun Deb, whose passion for community development inspired him to invent a [water filter that removes arsenic](#) from local water wells in Kolkata, India. His solution directly addresses SDG 6 by improving the quality of major water sources, and protecting residents from further illness and disease due to heavy metal poisoning.

Now it is your turn to take initiative on a global issue that directly affects human health. **The UN requests that your proposal is centred upon one or two of the following SDGs:**

- SDG 1:** No Poverty
- SDG 2:** Zero Hunger
- SDG 3:** Good Health and Wellbeing
- SDG 5:** Gender Equality
- SDG 6:** Clean Water and Sanitation

The deadline given to you by the UN for submitting your proposal is 15 April 2021, as that allows for it to be distributed amongst delegates at the UN World Conference on Health. .

Best of luck.

Please answer the following questions thoroughly in either a 2-5 page written proposal (not including references), 1-5 minute video presentation, or a 5-15 slide powerpoint presentation:

1. Which one or two SDGs did your team choose to focus on? Why is this global issue(s) a top priority for your country?
2. What are the current ways your country is addressing your chosen SDGs?
3. How can your team address the chosen SDGs from an innovative standpoint that would advance development in your country?

Explicit instructions/Rubric:

A panel of judges will be assessing your performance based on the following criteria

<p>1. Problem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The problem is thoroughly explained and demonstrates the need for a solution
<p>2. Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cite at least 5 academic sources (Preferably using either APA7 or Harvard referencing format. Although, formatting is not a focus of this competition)- Whenever information is used from another source, it is cited
<p>3. Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The proposed solution advances at least one of the SDGs. There are sufficient descriptions for the reader to understand both the issue at hand and the solution being provided.- <i>Note: Figures, charts, etc. are welcomed if they aid in illustrating your point</i>
<p>4. Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- You may choose between a 2-5 page written proposal (not including references), 1-5 minute video presentation, or a 5-15 slide powerpoint presentation
<p>5. Formatting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- For a written proposal, the desired format is either Times New Roman with a font size of 12 or Arial with a font size of 11, double spaced, with clearly defined sections, and a references page- Define the problem, explain the background, specifics of the tangible product (solution), and how this solves the problem

The challenge is open to all students, professionals, and change-makers and you will be randomly paired in groups of 3-5 with other participants around the world. After registering for the conference, you will receive an email within a week with your randomized group members. Please contact us at contact@innovationtoaction.org if the process takes longer than a week.

Prize: \$500 USD

The top 3 teams will be given 5 minutes to present their proposals in front of a panel of judges. At the end of the conference, the winner will be announced and receive a price of \$500 USD. *Please note that the prize will be split evenly amongst the team members.*

Good luck with the competition and may your solution be the most innovative!