

MARIMUN 2024



Sustainable Industrialisation & Workers Rights



UNITED NATIONS

Industrial Development Organization

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Land Acknowledgement.....3

Letter From The USG & Deputy USG GA/SA.....4

Topic Introduction.....7

Brief History.....7

Mandates and Issues..... 8

Topic 1 - Climate Effects..... 10

Historical Markers..... 10

Environmental Impact..... 10

Disaster Risk.....11

Case Study: Finland.....12

UNIDO’s Past Actions..... 13

Topic 2 - Sustainable Industrialization & Fast Fashion..... 14

Sustainable and Unsustainable Industrialization..... 14

Fast Fashion..... 16

Case Study - Zara and Fast Fashion.....17

UNIDO’s Past Actions..... 18

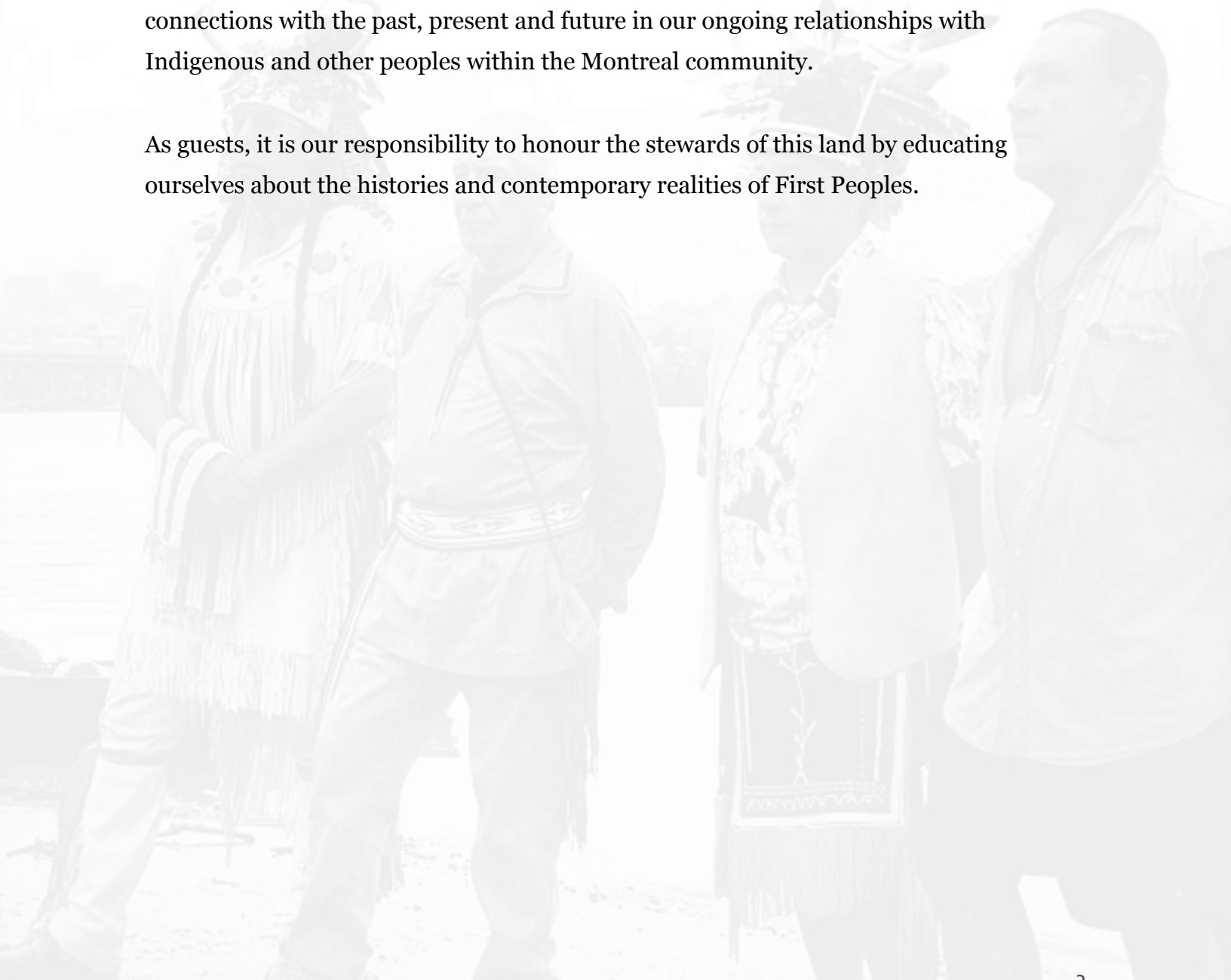
Guiding Questions..... 20

Bibliography.....21

Land Acknowledgement

Marianopolis College is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. Tiohtià:ke/Montréal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.

As guests, it is our responsibility to honour the stewards of this land by educating ourselves about the histories and contemporary realities of First Peoples.



Letter From The USG and Deputy USG of General Assemblies and Specialized Agencies

Dear Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 37th iteration of Marianopolis College's Model UN conference! Our names are Alyssa and Angie and we are this year's Under Secretary General and Deputy Under Secretary General of General Assemblies and Specialized Agencies. Joining the Model UN community has been one of the most immersive experiences we have had at the college. The rewarding feeling of having your resolution passed, as well as the life long friends you meet along the way make the MUN experience something that we will treasure forever. Through MariMUN, we have been introduced to a world of cooperation, diplomacy, and communication, which are skills that we will keep close to us forever.

Numerous members from the MariMUN team have spent countless hours working towards this conference hoping to provide you with a memorable weekend. We have had such a wonderful time brainstorming committee ideas and finalizing topic selections to hope that you have the most rewarding MariMUN experience possible. This committee will allow you to have enticing discussions surrounding the global impacts of the industrial industry.

We are so excited to be able to present to you our background guide for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on Sustainable Development! This document will provide you with an extensive overview of the topic, as well as any contextual information you need. Thank you for your participation, we are looking forward to meeting you all!

Best regards,

Alyssa Quaragna

USG GA and SA

Angie Xiong

Deputy USG GA and SA

INTRODUCTION: An Overview of UNIDO

A Brief History

On November 17th, 1966, a new resolution was passed in the UN General Assembly. Resolution 2152 (XXI) established the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as an autonomous body within the United Nations whose mission would be to promote and accelerate the industrialization of developing countries. Many of these countries were emerging from decolonization around that time, but had little to no industrial base; hence the reason for the creation of this new committee, whose first Executive Director was Ibrahim Helmi Abdel-Rahman.

Nearly a decade later, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation that UNIDO be converted into a specialized agency in resolution 3362 (S-VII). This new Constitution was adopted amidst the 1979 UN conference on the "Establishment of UNIDO as a specialized agency," at its second session in Vienna, Austria, where the succeeding Executive Director, Abd-El Rahman Khane, took office. On June 21st, 1985, the Constitution finally entered after numerous Member States ratified, accepted or approved the paper. The first session of the General Conference of UNIDO as a specialized agency met in August and elected Domingo L. Siazon Jr. as its Director General.¹

In 1997, Member States adopted a Business Plan for the Future Role and Functions of UNIDO whose role would be primordial for its overhaul. This reform's main purpose would be for UNIDO to better respond to the changing global economic

¹ UNIDO, "A Brief History | UNIDO," United Nations Industrial Development Organization, n.d., <https://www.unido.org/who-we-are/brief-history>

environment, which was applauded during the 2000 Millennium Conference at the UN headquarters in New York. ²

Mandates and Issues

Today, UNIDO still stands strong as a specialized agency among the UN, with Gerd Müller of Germany as the Organization's current Director General. The central topic of this committee is to promote, dynamize, and accelerate industrial development. It provides support to its 172 Member States by promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and by fostering innovation. ³

Many citizens of developing countries suffer from inhumane living conditions, be it famine, poor hygiene, or lack of access to education. By promoting the development of these nations' industries, they can help drive their country's economies, improving living standards and preserving the livable environment for present and future generations.

UNIDO has come a long way since its creation in 1966. Some of its biggest accomplishments are the implementation of National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) and the establishment of the IDDA III framework. However, old and modern issues alike continue to arise, and UNIDO has to find solutions to overcome them. Their work is mainly concentrated on two focus areas: stopping the degradation of the environment that industries massively contribute to by using renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting sustainable supply chains so that equality and equity is respected from producer to consumer.

Climate change continues to be a growing concern in our society. In 2021, the greenhouse gas emissions of industries alone accounted for 23% of the United States'

² UNIDO, "A Brief History | UNIDO," United Nations Industrial Development Organization, n.d., <https://www.unido.org/who-we-are/brief-history>

³ UNIDO, "Who We Are | UNIDO," United Nations Industrial Development Organization, n.d., <https://www.unido.org/about-us/who-we-are>.

total emissions.⁴ With the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, trying to limit these greenhouse gas emissions can be a challenge for developing countries who are looking for industrialization.

In order to pair development with climate conscientiousness, UNIDO has implemented renewable energy sources to replace traditional fossil energy, such as solar energy, wind energy, bioenergy, geothermal energy, and small hydropower. An example of the installation of solar technologies can be observed in Nicaragua, where UNIDO implemented a project to enhance the competitiveness and productivity of their industries. However, it is important to note that funding and executing these projects can be difficult. The installation of wind turbines, solar panels, and hydroelectricity plants is relatively expensive. These plants require upfront investments to build, which developing countries might not always have access to.

Furthermore, UNIDO supports sustainable supply chains so that developing country producers get a fair deal and scarce resources are preserved. Supply chains are essential for many industries, and rightly done, are an equitable and efficient system. However, the reality for most workers in these supply chains is long, harsh hours with little to no pay. In a world where fast fashion is ubiquitous, many workers of this industry face exploitation and poor working conditions.⁵

Delegates must find new and innovative solutions to encourage the industrialization of all nations, while also ensuring the preservation of the environment and sustainable development. They must consider how nations will work to create a common ground between all mandates of UNIDO to ensure equality and equity for all.

⁴ EPA, "Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions," United States Environmental Protection Agency, October 5th, 2023, <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions/>.

⁵ UNIDO, "Sustainable Supply Chains | UNIDO," United Nations Industrial Development Organization, n.d., <https://www.unido.org/our-priorities/sustainable-supply-chains>

1 – CLIMATE EFFECTS

The rapid development of technological tools to further industrialization and satisfy consumer culture has deeply affected the environment.

The Historical Markers

When industrialization first became prominent in the 19th century, the rapid growth of technology and urbanization ensued without knowledge of their steep environmental cost. The world saw deforestation, the combustion of fossil fuels, and other industrial processes multiply. Towards the end of the 20th century, scientists became aware of the rising CO₂ levels and their causes. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established in 1988 to assess scientific information related to climate change.⁶

The growing global knowledge of the cost of industrialization incentivized citizens or governments to participate in a wide range of initiatives, such as the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, which set goals to reduce carbon emissions.

Environmental Impact

Volatile oil prices, growing energy demand, and climate change issues shape today's global energy agenda. Industries worldwide are significant causes of the growing list of environmental issues. For instance, in 2019, they led 3.06 billion tons of total greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. Similarly, in 2021, 30% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the US were from industries. These gasses are the main cause of global

⁶ UNIDO, "UNIDO and Renewable Energy," UNIDO, n.d., https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/2009-04/UNIDO_and_renewable_energy_o.pdf

warming.⁷ The world's continued industrialization has increased the atmosphere's carbon dioxide levels in the past 800,000 years. Low and middle-income countries (LMIC), too, have started to see major growth in their industrial sector.

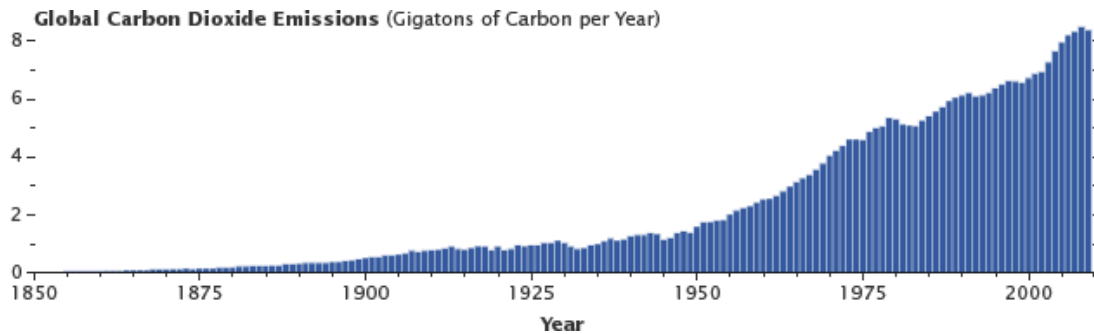


Figure 1: Increased Carbon Dioxide Emissions Graph⁸

Unfortunately, significant economic growth due to industrialization is more often than not synonymous with a great loss of resources and a contribution to climate change. For instance, in the Asia-Pacific region, nearly 50% of the global groundwater used by countries has been used to develop large-scale irrigation systems. Moreover, the close relationship between urbanization and the loss of natural resources causes countries to compete over said resources, furthering the States' desire to develop the industrial sector fast. This contributes to the environmental harm industrialization causes, such as high carbon dioxide emission, water wastage, drinking water pollution, deforestation, and climatic disasters.⁹

⁷ Hannah Ritchie, Pablo Rosado, "Greenhouse Gas Emissions," Our World in Data, June 10th 2020, <https://ourworldindata.org/greenhouse-gas-emissions>

⁸ N.d. Nasa.gov. Accessed January 29, 2024. https://assets.science.nasa.gov/content/dam/science/esd/eo/content-feature/carboncycle/images/global_carbon_dioxide_1850_2009.png.

⁹ Ahmed, F., I. Ali, S. Kousar, and S. Ahmed. "The Environmental Impact of Industrialization and Foreign Direct Investment: Empirical Evidence from the Asia-Pacific Region." [In eng]. *Environ Sci Pollut Res Int* 29, no. 20 (Apr 2022): 29778-92. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-021-17560-w>

It has also been seen that certain environmental stressors, carbon dioxide emissions and water pollution included, are rapidly causing the quality of life of populations to decrease.

Disaster Risk

The industrial sector is not only suffering in terms of climate conditions, but also because of the increased risk of natural disasters as a result of these changes. These disasters include “storms, droughts, wildfires”¹⁰, making the current state of industrialization tougher to navigate. Effects as a result of disasters could include loss of assets, disturbances in supply chains, as well as being unable to adjust or adapt to new market developments.¹¹

Managing and mitigating these risks is an important part of the industry. Using guiding policies such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, nations can ensure the prevention and resilience to these disasters should the situation arise.¹²

Finland Case Study

Although climate impacts affect numerous countries across the globe, Finland in particular is “heavily dependent on weather [. . .] changes”¹³ when considering the use of their raw materials. Industrial production is one of the top economic contributors in Finnish societies.

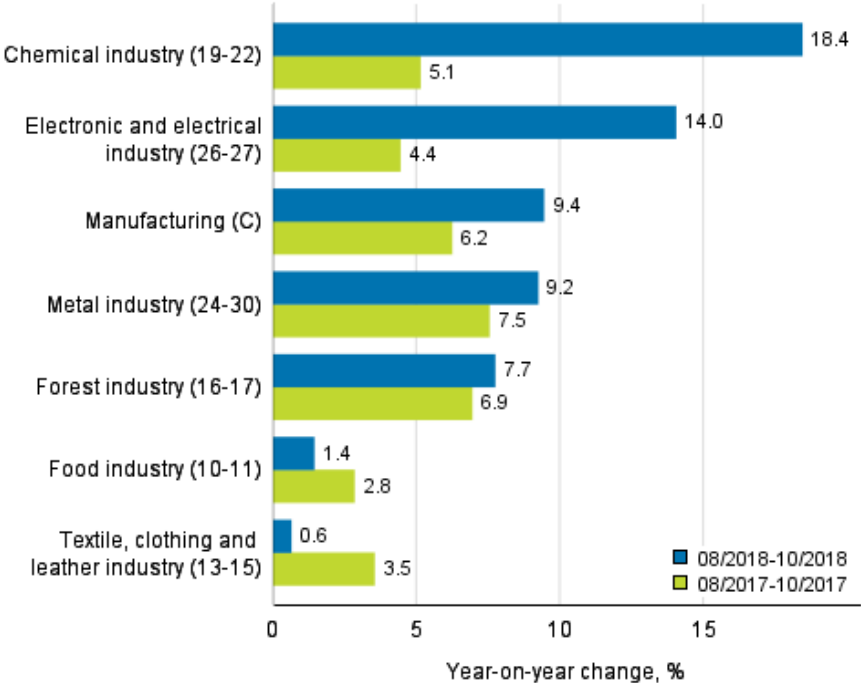
¹⁰ “Climate Risks in the Industrial Sector.” n.d. Unepfi.org. Accessed January 20, 2024. <https://www.unepfi.org/themes/climate-change/climate-risks-in-the-industrials-sector/>.

¹¹ López-Gómez, Carlos, and Fernando Santiago. n.d. “Does Disaster Risk Management Matter for Industrial Policy Design?” Industrial Analytics Platform. Accessed January 20, 2024. <https://iap.unido.org/articles/does-disaster-risk-management-matter-industrial-policy-design>.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ “Impacts of Climate Change on Industrial Production.” n.d. Climateguide.Fi. Accessed January 20, 2024. <https://www.climateguide.fi/articles/impacts-of-climate-change-on-industrial-production>

In earlier days, Finnish production was focused on wood and paper industries, thus very heavily reliant on the state of their raw materials. With the shift of the global climate, however, the nation has had to adjust accordingly. Their second highest developing industry now lies within the electronic equipment domain, ensuring that these materials are “less susceptible to the direct impacts of climate change”.¹⁴ Finland’s economic growth is seen mainly through the exportation of a wide variety of goods, thus clashing with the effects of weather conditions.



Source: Statistics Finland

Figure 2: Index of Fastest Growing Finnish Industries¹⁵

Despite being put on the back burner, food and forest industries are still highly relevant to the development and self-sufficiency of the nation. The forest industry is arguably one of the sectors that is the most highly affected by climate changes. In Finland, the warming state of the region, as well as increased rain levels will have an

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Sappinen, Maija. 2018. “Statistics Finland - Index of Turnover in Industry.” Statistics Finland. January 15, 2018. https://www.stat.fi/til/tlv/2018/10/tlv_2018_10_2019-01-15_tie_001_en.html.

influence on the speed at which plants grow and are cut down, as well as the change in tree species.¹⁶

It is curious to think about how these diverse domains are affected by global climate changes and how this will impact the international community of industrialization as a whole.

Today, all of our actions have some sort of impact on the environment and the Industrial Revolution, which has drastically shifted the economy and the use of resources worldwide, is arguably the main factor behind that reality. The goal to grow as much, and as fast as possible, all while neglecting the environmental effects of those practices, has led to a series of consequences that have started being addressed only fairly recently.

Four main impact points can be identified; air, water, soil, and habitat. Despite the EPA's regulations on more than 80 toxins that result from industrial waste, air pollution is still the sector that is most impacted when it comes to industrialization.¹⁷ Water pollution is also a source of concern, most notably in areas near polluting factories, or even landfills and other waste disposal zones. Soil contamination, usually from lead, and habitat destruction, such as deforestation, are also notable effects of industrialization on our surroundings.

It is important to denote that industrialization is often correlated with foreign direct investment (FDI), as the contribution of FDIs for the industrial development of developing countries cannot be neglected. Despite their economic benefits, however, they also have a considerable potential of harming the environment, and thus their adverse effects on climate change, food production, and human health.¹⁸

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Emily Folk, "The Environmental Impacts of Industrialization," EcoMENA, 2021, <https://www.ecomena.org/environmental-impacts-of-industrialization/>.

¹⁸ Eric Opoku, Micheal Boachie, "The environmental impact of industrialization and foreign direct investment," Science Direct, 2020, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0301421519307645>.

UNIDO's Past Actions

The UNIDO has affirmed that renewable energy, such as bioenergy, small hydropower, solar energy, and wind energy, is the most efficient at decreasing the harmful climate effects of industrialization. The committee, therefore, plans to ensure that clean fuels are affordable and reliable. If this goal is attained, poor communities could benefit from enhanced electrification. Thus, renewable energies could increase living standards, improve their health conditions, and reduce poverty.

In light of their conclusions, the UNIDO adopted The Renewable Energy Strategy. This resolution principally aims to aid in increasing the use of renewable energy in industrial applications in developing countries. This will permit small and medium-sized enterprises, widely known as SMEs, to reduce their need for fossil fuels. Additionally, by promoting renewable energy as a business sector, the resolution supports business development, and by reducing industrial energy intensity, it increases the competitiveness of their industries. With all elements of the resolution considered, the Renewable Energy Strategy aims to enhance access to modern energy services based on renewable energy for the poor. Furthermore, it reduces the negative impact on climate, decreasing their industries' carbon emissions and promoting renewable energy technologies.¹⁹



2 – SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION & FAST FASHION

¹⁹ UNIDO, “Renewable Energy | UNIDO,” UNIDO, n.d., <https://www.unido.org/our-focus/safeguarding-environment/clean-energy-access-productive-use/renewable-energy>.

Sustainable and Unsustainable Industrialization

Over the last century, industries and their methods have adapted to fit the demands of consumers. The global supply chain, more notably, has greatly evolved to become what we know today: a system that includes all the steps involved in the manufacturing of a product that takes place in more than one country. One of the biggest influences for the transformation and the creation of modern supply chains has been the explosion of manufacturing in Asia. With the decolonization of many countries and the globalization of goods, many developing nations, most notably with China, Japan and South Korea becoming major suppliers and exporters of goods.²⁰

Many of these industries today rely on supply chains to operate. A supply chain refers to the process of tracing each step in the manufacture of a good; they are essential to trade, and trade is essential to job creation. It is quite rare for raw materials to be grown, processed, sold, and delivered all in one location. There are an estimated 450 million people working in global supply chains. All these possibilities of jobs in the supply chain offer a promise of economic independence. However, the reality for many workers is excessive hours, often in difficult and unsafe working conditions, and low wages that are not enough to make ends meet.²¹

In a world of capitalism and consumerism, producers seek to create products at the lowest possible cost. This cost is paid by the long hours of underpaid labor from industry workers among the supply chain. This type of exploitation is deemed as unsustainable and takes advantage of millions of workers for the profit of others. Many industries are also deemed unsustainable in the sense where their activities are harmful to the environment. Industries that use large quantities of single-use plastic,

²⁰ Blume Global, “The History and Evolution of the Global Supply Chain,” Blume Global, 2022, <https://www.blumeglobal.com/learning/history-of-supply-chain/>.

²¹ UNIDO, “Sustainable Supply Chains | UNIDO,” United Nations Industrial Development Organization, n.d., <https://www.unido.org/our-priorities/sustainable-supply-chains>.

plastic-based textiles such as polyester, or that rely on natural resources to the point of depletion are classified as such.

Fast Fashion

A prime example of an unsustainable industry is that of fast fashion. This business model focuses on making cheap, trendy clothing fast that is disposable instead of durable. Though the term fast fashion was coined by the New York Times in the 1990s to describe Zara's goal of getting a garment from design to store in just two weeks, the practice of fast fashion actually roots back to the 18th century, at the dawn of the industrial revolution.

Before the industrial revolution, skilled artisans would make pieces of clothing and textile by hand, usually selling in their local communities. The sourcing of materials, fabric weaving, garment weaving, and sewing was hard work. Thus, individuals would own only a handful of outfits and would wear, reuse, and repurpose them until they were unusable. The fashion industry wasn't nearly as prominent as it is today.

In the 1700s, people would dress depending on their social classes. However, they were all pretty similar, roughly made from simple cuts and pieces of fabric. As technologies developed, many artisans were thus overshadowed by the industries who could replicate their work. The companies with these new technologies eventually took over the textile sector. In the late 1900s, as consumerism increased, companies began to outsource their production to other countries in Asia where labor was a lot cheaper. In fact, the US lost about 750,000 of its apparel manufacturing jobs as apparel companies increasingly outsourced production to low-income countries. ²²

²² Alma Rominger, "The History of Fast Fashion: From the 18th Century to Today," Grow Ensemble, July 20th, 2023, <https://www.blumeglobal.com/learning/history-of-supply-chain/>

Many of these workers today work in poor conditions. Garment workers are often forced to work 14-16 hours a day, 7 days a week. Their basic wage is so low that many can't afford not to work overtime.²³

Fast fashion also raises a number of environmental concerns. With the appeal of new designs coming out every few weeks, consumers send 85% of textiles to the dump every year in order to keep up with fashion trends. However, the materials used are cheap textiles that usually contain microplastics. The mass of fashion waste dumped around the world and the carbon emission resulting from making the materials makes the industry a major actor in the pollution and the degradation of the environment. The delivery aspect of the industry also adds itself to the total count. In fact, 10% of carbon emissions worldwide can be attributed to the fashion industry.²⁴

Case Study: Zara and Fast Fashion

During the industrial revolution, the fashion industry was the first to be mechanized because of the amount of labor that was needed to create clothes. Sewing machines, spinning wheels, and cotton gins were invented, which revolutionized the process of making garments. The mass production of clothing began, which allowed companies to come up with newer designs more frequently. This advancement led to large financial and economic success, but also in an increase of individuals expressing themselves through clothes. With social media and other communication outlets surging, people could also more easily see what was fashionable.

When companies started reproducing trendy outfits and clothing pieces that were seen in magazines and runways in the 1990s, fast fashion became the norm. The emergence of online shopping also contributed to this boom; consumers were now

²³ "Working Conditions," SustainYourStyle, 2017, <https://www.sustainyourstyle.org/en/working-conditions>

²⁴ Dennis Kamprad, "8 Worst Industries for the Environment and Pollution," Impactful Ninja, 2023, <https://impactful.ninja/worst-industries-for-the-environment-and-pollution>.

always a few clicks away from buying a new piece of clothing. Around 150 billion garments are now produced every year.²⁵

A fast fashion brand that has surged in recent years is Zara, a Spanish multinational that was founded in 1975. Its rapid production cycles, low prices, imitation of high-end fashion designs, and frequent inventory turnovers are typical aspects of a fast fashion brand. Zara owns more than 3,000 stores located in over 90 countries as of 2023.²⁶ However, despite its global success, it has received numerous critics concerning its social and environmental impacts.

Although the brand has introduced Zara Pre-Owned, a platform that offers repair services and a drop-off box for used clothing, in order to minimize its environmental footprint, little is actually done. It churns 450 million garments every year and comes up with approximately 65,000 new designs annually, which is almost 13 times more than a typical clothing brand.²⁷ The materials used are also cheap, synthetic materials that release harmful pollutants into the environment when produced and when thrown away, such as nylon, polyester, and acrylic. Synthetic fibers, in particular, release almost a quarter of a million tonnes of microplastics into the ocean every year. The brand also does not disclose any information about their waste management operations.

Zara has also been criticized for its harsh labor practices on its workers in a number of countries, such as Spain, Brazil, Argentina, and Myanmar. In Brazil, the Brazilian Labour Ministry found that garment employees were working in unsafe conditions, and they would work up to 16 hours a day with no days off.²⁸

²⁵ Youmna Abdhalla, "The Origins of Fast Fashion: From the Industrial Revolution to Zara," Impakter, 2021, <https://impakter.com/the-origins-of-fast-fashion-from-the-industrial-revolution-to-zara/>.

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Alyciah Beavers, "Is Zara Fast Fashion?," Green Hive, 2023, <https://www.greenhive.io/blog/is-zara-fast-fashion>.

UNIDO's Past Actions

UNIDO strives to install fairer global business practices to avoid having the exploitation of people and the environment be at the basis of the global economy. One solution is to have companies check human rights and environmental standards. They must identify, prevent, and bring to an end negative human rights and environmental impacts in the company's own operations, those of their subsidiaries and their supply chains. They must also ensure that their business strategy is compatible with limiting global warming to 1.5 °C in line with the Paris Agreement.

In 2013, members of UNIDO adopted the Lima Declaration, which presented a new vision of the committee for years to come. The key element of this Declaration was the mission to promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID).²⁹ More recently, UNIDO, together with the UN, adopted seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals, and touch on a variety of issues ranging from gender equality in countries' economic sectors to climate preservation and to industrial innovation.³⁰

However, it is important to note that the transparency and honesty of companies are two issues to this solution, and that UNIDO hasn't yet taken direct action to address the growing issue of fast fashion. Companies, such as H&M, have been deceitful about their practices in the past and have ignored work conditions and environmental issues.

Delegates will have to find solutions to encourage the development of industries while ensuring 1) to limit the negative effects of industrialization on the environment and 2) sustainable development, notably in the fashion industry.

²⁹ UNIDO, "Mission: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development | UNIDO," UNIDO, n.d., "Mission: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development | UNIDO." n.d. www.unido.org. Accessed November 19, 2023.

<https://www.unido.org/who-we-are/mission-towards-inclusive-and-sustainable-industrial-development>.

³⁰ UNIDO, "2023 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals | UNIDO," UNIDO, 2017, <https://www.unido.org/unido-sdgs>.

Guiding Questions

1. What are the major social, economic, and environmental challenges associated with current industrial practices?
2. Are there any cases of successful industrial development practices? And if so, how can we adapt?
3. What regulations are in place regarding industrial practices and sustainability? Is there a need for changes or amendments in these policies?
4. What emerging technologies can be useful in ensuring that industrial processes are becoming less harmful?
5. What can local communities do to be more involved in the industrial development decision-making process?
6. What initiatives need to be set out to ensure that communities and populations are protected through these times?
7. How can industries benefit the most from their raw materials? What effects do our changing climate have on them?
8. What changes can the workforce incorporate to be more sustainable in industrial practices?
9. How can collaborative efforts between communities, NGOs and potential government organizations encourage sustainable development?
10. What incentives can companies use to promote sustainable development?
11. What long term goals do we have for the future of sustainable development?

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