

Mohammed Shaikh
Prof. B
Sociology 1000C (Intro To Sociology)
22 February 2023

Global Social Action Report

1. Write a paragraph of the mission of the organization. Some questions to consider are: what are the organization's goals? What are their values? What do they do?

The [United Nations](#) was my choice among the many international organizations and agencies. The UN is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1945 after the end of World War II, which is responsible for the prevention of global war and conflict. Outside of its 15 agencies like the WHO (World Health Organization), which focus on other issues at hand, the UN generally focuses on ensuring the peace and security of all individuals, promoting cooperation and normalizing relations between nations, and coordinating national efforts. The United Nations headquarters is in Turtle Bay, Midtown Manhattan, on international territory, with offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna, and The Hague. A significant task the UN and its 193 member states have signed up for is achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 SDGs consist of 17 goals for each member state to accomplish, including objectives like No Poverty, No Hunger, Good Health & well-being, and Gender Equality.

2. Pick a 1) review an archived webinar, 2) a live virtual event, 3) listen to a podcast episode (if they have one) or 4) read a resource document or report (any type of written document regarding the organization's research/advocacy, etc) and write 2 or three sentences about what it was about

I decided to include a document that assesses the progress the UN member states have made during the last year, 2022, and what needs to be worked on both individually and as a global/regional collective, the [Secretary-General's report on work done by the UN](#). In the report, the head of the UN, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, signifies how the Coronavirus pandemic persists as only 20% of impoverished nations are vaccinated. Issues such as the war in Ukraine have increased the effects of global problems like climate change and inequalities within nations. Secretary Guterres reiterates that these challenges go beyond borders and can be solved only by collective action. In 2022, he said that the UN being a voice of international cooperation, led the way in reducing poverty, addressing climate change, digitalization, reforming food systems, mobilizing resources, and action coalitions to get countries back on the route to achieving the 2030 SDGs. Of this 67-page report, I read pages 5-10.

3. Relate what you learned from the webinar, event, podcast, or resource document or report from #2 back to course material. Make 3 separate connections. (1 paragraph)

From the objectives of the United Nations in the past year, I learned that many of the issues they have attempted to address and situate stem from problems from Colonialism and Neoliberalism. Their focus is on the regions that have developing nations. Many of these

countries struggle with their present-day issues because of the state they have been left in by their colonizers. Impoverished countries in the South (developing world) deal with debt left by their former colonizers or Neo-colonizers. The United Nations tries its best to get these countries on their feet as independent entities that do not rely on the support or debt-welcoming investments through encouraging South-South cooperation that work to assist each other in making development. I see the United Nations attempting to change many developing nations' ideologies and social structures. By saying this, you can say that the UN encourages nations structured around their culture to implement more liberal/democratic practices like equality, instilling a solid educational system, etc. As Professor B discussed in the Week 3 lecture, ideology and social structures are a significant part of life, and the UN makes the best of each, trying to keep them in line with where development can take place. With the United Nations insisting that nations should move towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, countries that might have corrupt leadership would look towards shortcuts in achieving those goals. In a sense, the SDGs state that its 193 countries should be transparent with each other in order to increase capital and prosperity. Hegemonic countries like China look at these goals and extend their hand to impoverished countries by offering investment and opening avenues for trade. As learned in class, globalization can be destructive when rushed and undertaken incorrectly, as many resource-rich countries might be open to world trade but need to report growth due to income inequality and false distribution, risks that should be addressed.

4. Indicate what you thought about the webinar/podcast/resource document. Tell me what you liked, what you think could be improved, and provide some suggestions on how they could have improved it. Your suggestions could be based on the content itself, delivery or presentation. (1 paragraph)

With the report, 67 pages was too much to read, so I only went with the Secretary-General's introduction. Most of the pages have illustrations and diagrams, which tells me that the report is resourceful and includes a good amount of data and analysis. With the UN's 17 specialized agencies conducting R&D (research and development), you can be confident that this report includes much factual information. The report was divided into eight chapters covering topics like disarmament, humanitarian assistance, and sustainable development. With the report being offered in multiple languages, the UN confirms itself as an International Organization that caters to all demographics without any barriers. A setback with this report was that I scoured the internet on platforms like YouTube to find a video of the Secretary-General looking back at the year similar to the report. With long format videos from the UN, whether it be leaders having long speeches at the General Assembly or the Secretary-General addressing the recent issues that need attention, there should have been a video about this report with the diagrams and illustrations that people can process better and can take clips from. For someone to assess the work of the UN, this report provides a good amount of the progress they have tried to achieve in the past year. A pdf might seem old-school to some, so being innovative and creating a video would pull in a younger demographic that believes in the principles of the UN.