

MEF SCHOOLS MODEL

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*“Achieving SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) in
line with the 2030 United Nations agenda.”*



Committee: Advisory Panel (APQ)

Agenda Item: Strengthening global partnerships for green infrastructure development in least developed countries

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Introduction

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) face significant challenges in building and maintaining infrastructure. Economic constraints and weak institutional capacity make it difficult to establish essential services such as reliable energy systems and access to clean water.

Transportation networks are often inefficient, while urban areas may lack proper planning and safety measures. These limitations negatively affect economic productivity and public health, while also deepening social and economic inequalities compared to more developed regions. Environmental factors further intensify these challenges. LDCs are disproportionately affected by climate change, experiencing more severe weather events and having limited capacity to adapt. Issues such as water scarcity and pollution place additional pressure on already fragile systems. As a result, continued reliance on traditional infrastructure models, particularly those based on fossil fuels, is increasingly unsustainable.

Green infrastructure offers a potential solution to many of these interconnected problems. It emphasizes renewable energy, sustainable water management, environmentally friendly transportation, and urban planning approaches that minimize ecological damage. Such strategies reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve natural resources, while also generating co-benefits such as job creation, improved public health, and expanded access to basic services. In this way, green infrastructure supports both environmental sustainability and socio-economic development.

However, LDCs face substantial barriers in implementing green infrastructure independently. High upfront costs, limited technical expertise, and weak regulatory frameworks restrict their ability to invest in long-term sustainable projects. In addition, limited access to global markets often forces governments to prioritize short-term solutions over structural reforms. Without external support, many LDCs risk falling behind in the global transition toward sustainability.

This is why global partnerships are critically important. Cooperation among governments, international financial institutions, private sector actors, and civil society organizations can help address gaps in financing, technology, and institutional capacity. Through knowledge sharing, technology transfer, and policy support tailored to local contexts, these partnerships create a more enabling environment for sustainable infrastructure development. While green infrastructure is sometimes viewed primarily as an environmental issue, it is closely linked to inclusive economic growth and climate resilience. Coordinated international action is therefore essential to ensure that LDCs are not excluded from the global shift toward greener development pathways.

Definition of Significant Terms

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructures are strategically planned networks of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, while also enhancing biodiversity. Examples include, water purification,

improving air quality, providing space for recreation, as well as helping with climate mitigation and adaptation.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Least developed countries (LDCs) are low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development. They are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and have low levels of human assets. LDCs can be found throughout the globe but the most amount of LDCs are in the African continent. In fact, there are currently 46 LDCs as classified by the United Nations, 33 of which are in Africa.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is a way of growing and improving society while protecting the environment and natural resources. It means meeting the needs of people today without causing problems for future generations and protecting the faith of humanity long-term.

Climate Change

Climate change is the long-term change in Earth's temperature and weather patterns, mainly caused by human activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial pollution, which release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These gases trap heat and lead to global warming, causing issues such as melting ice caps, rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and damage to ecosystems. Climate change affects human health, food and water security, and economies, especially in vulnerable communities, making it a global issue that requires reducing emissions, using renewable energy, and international cooperation to protect the planet for future generations.

Clean Energy

Clean energy is the type of energy produced from sources that do not negatively affect the environment or produce harmful greenhouse gases, such as solar, wind, hydroelectric,

geothermal, and biomass energy. It helps reduce climate change, improves air quality, and protects natural resources while providing a sustainable and reliable way to meet the world's energy needs for the future.

International Support

International support is when countries and global organizations come together to help each other. It involves pooling resources, expertise, and funds to address global issues like poverty, natural catastrophes, health crises, and climate change. In order to create a more secure and sustainable future for all, nations collaborate and stand together rather than confronting problems alone.

Long-Term Investment

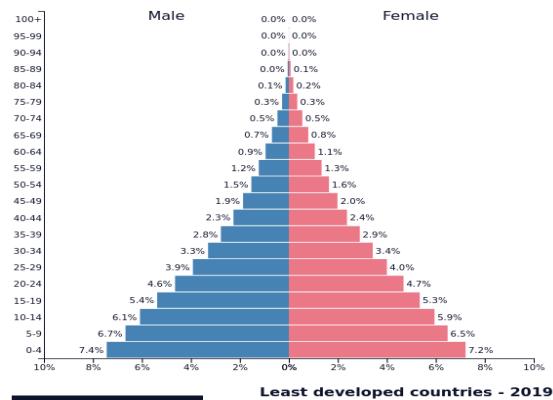
Long-term investments are assets that an individual or company plans to hold for more than three years in order to achieve future financial growth and stability. These investments are usually made with the expectation that their value will increase over time, rather than providing quick or short-term profits. Examples include stocks, bonds, real estate, or business investments. Long-term investments often involve careful planning, patience, and a willingness to accept short-term risks in exchange for potential long-term returns and financial security.

Fair Development

Fair development is a type of development where the benefits of economic growth and progress are shared equally among all people in a society. It focuses on reducing inequality and making sure that everyone has access to basic needs such as education, healthcare, jobs, and a decent standard of living. Fair development also respects human rights, promotes equal opportunities, and supports vulnerable groups so that no one is left behind while a country or community grows and improves.

Detailed Background of the Issue

Population pyramid of LDCs from 2019



The United Nations designates certain nations as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) due to their severe economic and social challenges. These countries are characterized by extremely low incomes, fragile economies, and limited access

to essential services such as quality healthcare and education. Additionally, they are disproportionately impacted by external shocks and crises. Currently, approximately 880 million people reside in 46 LDCs. Many of these countries experience chronic energy shortages, insufficient transportation infrastructure, limited access to clean water and sanitation, and underdeveloped industrial sectors. Although LDCs contribute minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions, they are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Without substantial international support, it is unlikely that LDCs will achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, given the depth and complexity of the issues they face.

The implementation of green infrastructure has the potential to significantly improve conditions in LDCs. Green infrastructure refers to the development of systems and technologies that support economic growth while minimizing environmental degradation. This includes investments in renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower, as well as the development of energy-efficient public transportation. Additionally, resilient water and waste management systems, sustainable waste practices, and the conservation of natural habitats are integral components. For LDCs, investing in green infrastructure enables sustainable economic growth without reliance on environmentally damaging fossil fuels.

However, these countries often lack the financial resources, technological capacity, and skilled workforce necessary to independently implement such projects.

International teamwork steps in as a must. The gap in money, expertise and necessary items is huge, so alliance is necessary in this matter. Sustainable Development Goal 17 talks about partnerships, pushing for more help between countries, big organizations, businesses, and regular people. That includes sharing money, tech, training, and mixing public and private efforts to get vulnerable spots on track for better development.

Over the years, the world has set up some programs to boost infrastructure in LDCs. Take the Enhanced Integrated Framework, or EIF. It brings together donors and groups like the World Bank, IMF, WTO, and UN to focus on trade and building things up. It demonstrates how alliances can bring together the resources, expertise, and capacities of different actors to collectively advance sustainable development in these contexts.

Another global organization is the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries. It tries to get these places more into science, new ideas, and tech. Helps them use modern stuff for green projects, like sustainable building. And cooperation keeps expanding, with things like investment setups between public and private sides, deals on climate, or regional plans to raise funds and skills for eco-friendly work. But even with all these efforts going on, there are still a lot of problems that LDCs have to deal with. As some of these countries start getting more economically stable, they end up losing out on that special help. The cheap loans and technical stuff that make things easier. It just makes it harder to keep up with green projects or grow them at all.

New initiatives are popping up, too, such as the European Union's Global Gateway initiative, which shows that people are starting to realize how important sustainable infrastructure is

around the globe. Such strategies are meant to push for development that's green and tough against problems, and inclusive, especially where it's needed most in rough areas.

Strengthening global partnerships isn't only about financially strengthening it. It's more about getting international policies to work together better, sharing knowledge in a real way, transferring technology effectively, and having everyone involved, from governments and big institutions to private companies and even local communities. Some people might see it as simple funding, but others do not. Overall, these developments indicate an international consensus that equitable and long-term partnerships are essential for least developed countries to overcome financial and technological constraints. Such partnerships are widely viewed as a necessary foundation for enabling sustainable infrastructure development, supporting low-carbon transitions, and promoting long-term economic and environmental stability. In this context, strengthened global cooperation is considered a key pathway toward a more resilient and sustainable future for LDCs.

Timeline of Key Events

Date	Description of Event

05.06.1972	The 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment also known as the Stockholm conference was the first major global event linking development with environmental protection, laying the foundation for international cooperation on sustainable infrastructure.
03.06.1992	The 1992 Earth Summit (Rio de Janeiro) is crucial because it formally introduced global partnerships for sustainable development through Agenda 21, directly linking environment, infrastructure, and development.
11.12.1997	The 1997 Kyoto protocol created practical partnership mechanisms (like the Clean Development Mechanism) allowing developed countries to finance green projects in developing and least developed countries.
11.12.2010	The establishment of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) provided a long-term, institutionalized financing partnership specifically benefiting LDCs for green and climate-resilient infrastructure. The fund was formally established during the 2010 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun as a fund within the UNFCCC framework. Its governing instrument was adopted at the 2011 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 17) in Durban, South Africa.
25.09.2015	The adaptation of UN sustainability goals unified countries under clear goals (especially SDG 9, 13, and 17), making global cooperation for green infrastructure a shared international priority.
21.09.2019	The 2019 UN Climate Action Summit (New York) accelerated partnerships between governments, development banks, and the private sector to mobilize funding for sustainable infrastructure.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Germany

Germany is one of the world's biggest contributors to international climate finance, aligning with the goals of the Paris Agreement by providing significant funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support climate adaptation in vulnerable nations. In 2024, Germany committed approximately *€11.8 billion* to international climate financing, demonstrating leadership in mobilizing resources for renewable energy expansion, climate resilience, and sustainable infrastructure objectives that benefit least developed countries.

United States of America

The United States plays a two sided role as both a supplier and policy influencer in global infrastructure initiatives. Through its engagement in the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) — a G7-led initiative aiming to mobilize up to USD 600 billion by 2027 for sustainable, resilient infrastructure — the U.S. seeks to foster public and private investment in climate-aligned infrastructure projects. The PGII emphasizes transparency, environmental standards, and inclusive growth in low- and middle-income countries, providing an alternative coordinated route for financing sustainable development.

Japan

Japan is a member of the Group of Seven (G7) and an important partner in international development. Japan supports green infrastructure in developing and least developed countries through institutions. By taking part in initiatives such as the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) and making commitments at international forums, Japan aims to help partner countries develop climate-resilient energy systems, transportation networks, and city infrastructure. Through this approach, Japan seeks to contribute to both climate change reduction and adaptation while supporting long-term sustainable development in economical and diplomatic ways.

India

India, while itself a developing country, increasingly supports fair climate finance for LDCs ahead of international negotiations, such as at the SB62 Bonn climate conference, where it led coalitions pushing for accountability and enhanced financial support from developed nations. India's position shows us the collective voice of developing countries that stresses fairness and access to climate investment to close infrastructure gaps associated with

Senegal

Senegal is an example of how developing and least developed countries engage with global partnerships to secure climate finance. Under the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) framework, Senegal secured a *2.8 billion USD* package from partner member states including France, Germany, the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Canada to expand renewable energy capacity and reduce harmful gas emissions, pointing out how multilateral support translates into infrastructure development.

World Wide Fund(WWF)

WWF is an international non governmental organization(NGO) that works to protect the environment and promote sustainable development. In least developed countries(LDCs), WWF supports green infrastructure by promoting renewable energy, sustainable water management, and nature-based solutions. The organization often works in partnership with governments, local communities, and international institutions to ensure that infrastructure projects reduce environmental damage while also supporting economic development and climate stability.

Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

The Global Green Growth Institute is an international organization that supports developing and least developed countries in planning and financing green infrastructure projects. GGGI provides technical help, policy advice, and support in attracting climate finance for renewable energy, sustainable transport, and resilient urban development. Its approach focuses on helping countries grow economically while reducing emissions and protecting the environment through strong international partnerships.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Previous attempts to address the issue of strengthening global partnerships for green infrastructure development in least developed countries have largely taken place through international agreements, global conferences, and multilateral financing frameworks. A major milestone was the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015), adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which underlined the need to mobilize international public and private finance for sustainable development, including infrastructure in developing and least developed countries. In the same year, the Paris Agreement (COP21, 2015) established a global framework for climate action and strengthened the responsibility of developed countries to provide climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building support to vulnerable countries, which are essential components for green infrastructure development. More efforts were made later on through initiatives.

The Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), under the Global Environment Facility was created to help LDCs plan and implement climate adaptation strategies, many of which involve resilient infrastructure such as water systems, energy access, and disaster preparedness. More recently, the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (2022–2031), adopted at the Fifth UN Conference on LDCs, explicitly called for stronger global partnerships, increased access to climate finance, and enhanced international support for sustainable and resilient infrastructure. Additionally, initiatives such as the Global Gateway (2021) and the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) represent attempts by major economies to coordinate public and private investment in high-quality, climate-friendly infrastructure in developing regions.

Together, these previous attempts show a slow change from short-term aid toward structured, long-term partnerships that combine finance, technology, and policy cooperation. While challenges remain in implementation and funding gaps continue, these frameworks show a

sustained international effort to create the conditions necessary for green infrastructure development in least developed countries through collective global action.

Alternative Solutions

Several alternative solutions can be considered in order to strengthen global partnerships for green infrastructure development in least developed countries beyond traditional aid-based approaches. One important option is the expanded use of blended finance and risk-sharing mechanisms, which combine public funding, concessional loans, and private investment to reduce financial risks and attract long-term capital to green infrastructure projects. In addition, increasing technology transfer and local capacity building can help LDCs reduce dependence on external actors by strengthening domestic skills, institutions, and technical expertise needed to plan, build, and maintain sustainable infrastructure. Another alternative solution is to promote regional cooperation among developing and least developed countries through partnerships, which allow countries facing similar challenges to share knowledge, experience, and find solutions faster. Strengthening local and community-based approaches also offers a viable solution, as involving local governments and communities in infrastructure planning can improve project relevance, social acceptance, and long-term sustainability. Finally, aligning green infrastructure projects more closely with national development strategies and climate commitments, such as Nationally Determined Contributions, can improve coordination among international partners and ensure that investments support long-term, low-carbon, and resilient development goals in least developed countries.

Useful Links

An introductory video about renewable energy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfowJHJz6-s>

An introductory video about Least Developed Countries

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hFOIVZD0dM>

Partnerships for LDC Climate Resilience

[countries-side-event-cop29](#)

International Climate Investment Platform Launch

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/international-partners-launch-platform-to-accelerate-climate-investment-in-ldcs/>

Least Developed Countries Fund Overview

<https://www.thegef.org/what-we-do/topics/least-developed-countries-fund-ldcf>

Aligning Climate Finance and Aid

<https://www.un.org/ldcportal/content/aligning-climate-finance-and-aid-trade-new-agenda-ldc-negotiators>

GEF-UNIDO Climate Adaptation Programme

<https://www.unido.org/news/gef-unido-programme-climate-adaptation-resilience>

Nature-based Climate Resilience Facility

<https://www.unido.org/projects/private-investment-facility-nature-based-coastal-climate-resilience-least-developed-countries-ldc>

Supporting Climate-Resilient Recovery Statement

<https://www.greenclimate.fund/statement/supporting-developing-countries-road-climate-resilient-recovery-covid-19-pandemic>

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PopulationPyramid.net. “Population of Least Developed Countries 2019.” *PopulationPyramid.net*, <https://www.populationpyramid.net/least-developed-countries/2019/>.

