



Geopolitics and Challenges: An International Perspective for Sustainable Development

¹Jamshid Kazimi, ²Dr. Harshita Thalwal

¹Ph.D. Candidate, University Institute of Legal Studies (UILS), Chandigarh University, Punjab, India

²Assistant Prof, University Institute of Legal Studies (UILS), Chandigarh University, Punjab, India

Abstract: Environmental deterioration and natural resource scarcity jeopardize our capacity to address some of the world's most pressing concerns. Conflict around the globe takes the lives of thousands and millions displaced worldwide. The US and particularly the NATO future relationship with Russia and China, the withdrawal of the US from Afghanistan, the Yemen, Syria civil war, and most significantly, the invasion of Russia to Ukraine are the latest geopolitics challenge that jeopardizes sustainable development goals. The new geopolitical challenge will push international relations in a direction in which the prominent actors, instead of cooperation to obtain sustainable development goals, pave the way for a contest. Such evidence has been appearing in the Ukraine war, and the world has not yet overcome the Covid-19 pandemic challenge; we are witnessing new geopolitical challenges that can cause more displaced refugees and face the world in a dire famine.

Purpose: The objective of this paper is to evaluate the geopolitics and challenges' effect on sustainable development from an international perspective.

Methodology: For the present paper, doctrinal research methodology is adopted, the approach intended to focus on geopolitics and challenges which affect sustainable development goals from an international perspective.

Keywords: Geopolitics; Challenges; environmental; Sustainable Development; Principles; UN

I. INTRODUCTION

The trend toward sustainable development started with United Nations' "World Commission on Environment and Development" in 1987 reports. According to this report, the word Sustainable Development denotes "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"¹. Also known as the Brundtland Commission envisages strategies for preserving the environment, promoting sustainable development, and emphasizing interconnectivity among environmental protection and economic development and energy production crises². The Brundtland Commission was not the first UN conference regarding environmental matters. The "World Commission on Environment and Development" was not the first time the United Nations convened a meeting to discuss environmental challenges³. In 1972, the UN conference on the "Human environment" in Stockholm also marked the talk between industrialized countries regarding economic growth, water pollution and oceans, and the well-being of people around the globe. The creation of "The United Nations Environment Program" was one of the outcomes of this meeting⁴. Sustainable development is also the core aim of this conference; for instance, principle 1-4 acknowledge the need for maintenance of natural resource use to meet the welfare of present and future generation⁵. After "Our Common Future," every UN environmental convention has accepted the idea of sustainable development

¹ World Commission on Environment, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*, 1987.

² Joseph P Hyder, "United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) Our Common Future Report (1987) | Encyclopedia.com" *Encyclopedia.com*.

³ *Ibid*.

⁴ UN, "United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm 1972" United Nation, available at: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/stockholm1972> (last visited April 22, 2022).

⁵ Günther Handl, "Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Declaration), 1972 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992" *United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law* 1–11 (2012).

as an essential environmental policy. The ideals of “Our Common Future” were used in the “Earth Conference” 1992 and 2000 on sustainable development.

The Earth Summit 1992 resulted in the Rio Declaration on “Environment and Development and Agenda 21” held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Rio Declaration provides a comprehensive action plan for UN organizations and governments in which humans affect the environment. The “Commission on Sustainable Development” (CSD) was created in December 1992 to implement the agreement at the national and international levels⁶. Moreover, Earth Summit 2002 resulted in the “Johannesburg Declaration on sustainable development,” which repeated numerous points in the Rio Declaration. In terms of the political commitment of parties, this was more a general statement than the Rio Declaration. The Johannesburg declaration focuses on “the indivisibility of human dignity and is resolved, through decisions on targets, timetables, and partnerships, to speedily increase access to such basic requirements as clean water, sanitation, adequate shelter, energy, health care, food security and the protection of biodiversity” . In 2009 General assembly decided to organize the UN conference on sustainable development, which was eventually held in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, entitled “The Future We Want,” and the participant renewed their commitment to sustainable development. The “Future We Want” points out poverty as a global challenge and emphasizes eradicating poverty⁷. The Johannesburg declaration focuses on “the indivisibility of human dignity and is resolved, through decisions on targets, timetables, and partnerships, to speedily increase access to such basic requirements as clean water, sanitation, adequate shelter, energy, health care, food security and the protection of biodiversity”⁸. In 2009 General assembly decided to organize the UN conference on sustainable development, which was eventually held in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, entitled “The Future We Want,” and the participant renewed their commitment to sustainable development. The “Future We Want” points out poverty as a global challenge and emphasizes eradicating poverty⁹.

Another essential step in 2014 to support Small Islands in line with the goals of sustainable development is the “SAMOA Pathway”. The SAMOA conference acknowledged that “sustainable tourism, climate change, sustainable energy, disaster risk reduction, food security, sustainable transportation, health, and non-communicable c.tc.” are the essential points to take into account¹⁰. To boost sustainable development, General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2015 entitled “Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)”. The aim was to eradicate famine and hunger and attain long-term outreach by supporting economic growth, environmental protection, and social inclusion¹¹. Meanwhile, another agenda was proposed by the general assembly entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” these agendas specifies 17 sustainable development goals for the next 15 years that are essential for humanity and the planet¹².

⁶ United Nations, “Agenda 21” *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform* available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/outcomedocuments/agenda21> (last visited April 22, 2022).

⁷ Cultural Rights, “Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, 2002,” 2010 available at: <https://culturalrights.net/en/documentos.php?c=18&p=196> (last visited September 4, 2022).

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ UN General Assembly, The future we want, GA RES/66/288, GAOR, UN Doc A/RES/66/288 (September 11, 2012).

¹⁰ UN General Assembly, SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, GA A/RES/69/15, GAOR, UN Doc RES/69/15 (December 14, 2014).

¹¹ General Assembly, “Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda),” 2015.

¹² UN General Assembly, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, GA RES/70/1, GAOR, UN Doc A/RES/70/1 (October 21, 2015).

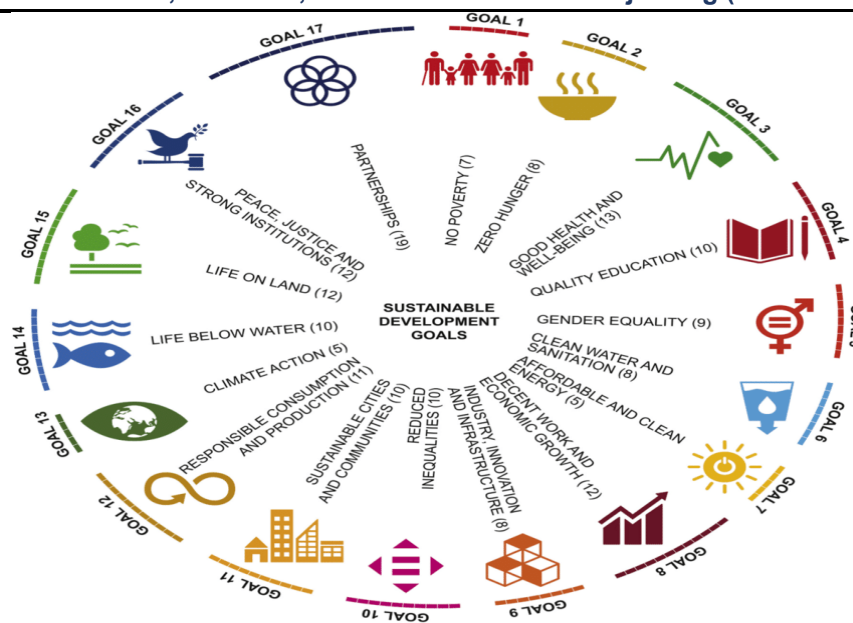


Figure 1. The 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals¹³.

There has been some development in agreements and treaties on sustainable development. This little movement is just a governmental declaration and good intentions; environmental degradation primarily affects those who depend on natural resources for their life and have fewer substitutes to change it, with geopolitics and challenge for sustainable development outlook seem ambiguous.

II. GEOPOLITICS CHALLENGES AND THEIR IMPACT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Globalization for Sustainable development, despite opportunities offered for capital flow and investment, faces serious challenges such as poverty, insecurity, financial crises, deprivation, and inequality within and between societies. At the same time, globalization should be inclusive and equitable¹⁴. The geopolitics challenges have widened the gap between society as well as countries. Recent geopolitics shifts can cause problems and challenges for sustainable development, and we can see the geopolitics effect on sustainable development in the following geographical area of the world:

2.1. Geopolitics and Challenges for Sustainable Development in Latin America

The geopolitics traditionally in the 1960 and 1970 were influenced by the bipolarity structural frameset during Cold War, in which ideology and power structure had the upper hand. During Cold War, the US and USSR managed the geopolitics in Latin America. After the 1990s, the main factor that influenced geopolitics in Latin America to become less isolated in international politics, the concept of geopolitics moved from national to regional and global. South America has become a new geopolitical region, and the US has lost centrality to the new player such as China and Latin America due to its independent position inter to interregional dialogue forums with "Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Arab countries"¹⁵. From an environmental perspective, there are no apparent signs of development towards sustainable development either. Environmental degradation is getting worse, which affects urbanization patterns, unsustainable production, and consumption, resulting in poverty, economic insecurity, and undermining sustainability, especially for island States¹⁶. The most important conclusion to be drawn from the impact of geopolitics challenge on sustainable development in Latin America is that progress toward sustainable development has not been made, as well as the unilateral sanction of the United States on some of these countries pushed these countries to the brink of states failed.

¹³ "Anticipated impacts of achieving SDG targets on forests - a review - Scientific Figure on ResearchGate," available at: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-17-UN-Sustainable-Development-Goals-SDGs-Numbers-following-goal-names-indicate_fig1_349054310 (last visited April 23, 2022).

¹⁴ United Nations, "Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development" *United Nations* available at: https://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/WSSD_PlanImpl.pdf (last visited April 23, 2022).

¹⁵ Leslie E. Wehner Detlef Nolte, "Theoretical approaches to security in Latin America" *Geopolitics in Latin America, Old and New* from 35–6 (Routledge, 2015).

¹⁶ Julia Carabias Lillo, Fernando Tudela Abad and et. al., *The Sustainability of Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges and Opportunities 200-201* (United Nations Publication, Mexico City, 2000).

2.2. Geopolitics and Challenges for Sustainable Development in Asia

China and India are the two key players in the Asia geopolitics context, which directly or indirectly affect Sustainable development. In some cases, the geopolitics and challenges for sustainable development function as a claymore. China's political and economic footprint has become larger rapidly in so many countries, which has attracted the attention of most advanced industrial democracies such as the United States, Japan, and Western Europe. However, "vulnerable" nations where the gap between the area and strength of Chinese involvement and domestic valence to manage and reduce political and economic peril is a big challenge. The method, strategies, and influence efforts of China are understood by local specialists and elites in these states. However, Western policies and remedies are ineffectively suited to local realities within and outside these states. This is true particularly in two important regions: South-eastern, Central, and Eastern Europe, and also South Asia, which have seen an increase in China's political and economic profile. Many nations lack a strong bench of knowledgeable people who can complement the analysis of the national implications of Chinese political engagement to policy recommendations that represent domestic political and economic factual data. China's geopolitics goal is to assist in the construction of massive "infrastructure projects" in every nation in the area, in most cases lent, such as Sri Lanka (\$4.6 billion) and Maldives (\$1.1-1.4 billion); these are all happening in a place where consider the India strategic backyard¹⁷. If the region nations do not fill the gap of lack of domestic capacity along with China's geopolitics policy, it becomes a challenge rather than an improvement of sustainable development.

On the other hand, India has risen as a prominent global player. As it tries to navigate its place in the evolving regional and global order, it is experiencing geopolitical repositioning. India, the world's second-most populated country, is caught among old geopolitical challenges and rising regional and global trends. When coping with the consequences of the US-China rivalry, India must also keep an eye on long-standing border concerns, new regional geopolitics, and its relations with China. India, in terms of shifting alliance trying to reframe the future of the Indo-Pacific region in the context of security and economics to strengthen its position as a trade hub for regional and international commerce as well as prepare for post-Covid-19 recovery for sustainable development and tackling climate changes¹⁸. These two important players' competition in Asia will shape the region's geopolitics and directly affect sustainable development. The future cooperation of these two leading players will determine the policy regarding environmental degradation toward sustainable development.

2.3. Geopolitics and Challenges for Sustainable Development in the West Asia Region

This region is oil-rich but water-scarce and sits at the crossroads of three continents, making it an important geopolitical location. These and other causes have sparked disputes and rivalries that have had significant consequences for people and the environment¹⁹. This year, Afghanistan commemorates the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist assault in "New York and Washington, DC," which transformed "global geopolitics" instantly. These terrorist attacks against the U. S. labeled the dawn of a new period, guided by a political concept known as the "War on Terror," which saw the most extensive mobilization of a strong Western military, undoubtedly since the Second World War, with military interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq, pursued by secret wars against terrorist organizations around the world²⁰. In the last two decades, eliminating the Islamist terrorist organization al-Qaeda and the 9/11 masterminds has been viewed as the most effective way to "win" the US-led war on terrorism. In 2011, much of this thinking ended when the US killed Osama Bin Laden, Al-Qaeda Chief in Abbottabad, Pakistan, at the core military system, following an 11-year hunt²¹. The withdrawal of the last group of US forces from Afghanistan has raised various worries about the South Asian nation's foreign policy decisions. New geopolitical reality imposes three main concerns: regional stability, connectivity, and security²². The new geopolitics shift has impacted the "sustainable development" of Afghanistan, and the growth

¹⁷ Deep Pal, "China's Influence in South Asia: Vulnerabilities and Resilience in Four Countries" *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace* (Elsevier Ltd) available at: <https://carnegieendowment.org/2021/10/13/china-s-influence-in-south-asia-vulnerabilities-and-resilience-in-four-countries-pub-85552> (last visited April 26, 2022).

¹⁸ Friedrich-Ebert, "India in the New Geopolitics of Asia" available at: <https://asia.fes.de/news/india-geopolitics-national-lab> (last visited April 25, 2022).

¹⁹ UN Environment Programme, "West Asia" available at: <https://www.unep.org/regions/west-asia> (last visited April 26, 2022).

²⁰ Kabir Taneja, "20 years since 9/11: Transnational jihadist threat remains constant" *ORF*, 2021 available at: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/20-years-since-911-transnational-jihadist-threat-remains-constant/> (last visited April 27, 2022).

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² Nahian Reza Sabriet, "The Taliban takeover: Afghanistan-Bangladesh relations during this period of transition | ORF" *ORF*, 2021 available at: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-taliban-takeover-afghanistan-bangladesh-relations-during-this-period-of-transition/> (last visited April 27, 2022).

perspective of this country is in the ambiguity; the International Rescue Committee (IRC) predicts that famine might kill more Afghans than in the previous 20 years of conflict, with 97 percent of the people living in poverty²³. The World Bank reports state the aftermath of last's political crisis risks removing advancement gains made over the previous two decades, posing severe "poverty, displacement, fragility, and extremism threats to Afghanistan, the region, and the world"²⁴.

2.4. New Geopolitics of the Middle East and sustainable development

As the world is transformed by technological development, climate, and the need for equitable economic and social systems. Given the current geopolitical uncertainty in the area, many in the Middle East believe that the Arab revolutions have transformed the political structures of Arab governments and communities. The region's geopolitics are likewise changing dramatically. New alliances and relationships are being forged, and new regional powers are emerging²⁵. Since the Arab Spring erupted in 2011 throughout West Asia and North Africa, the regional geopolitical situation appears to be increasingly complicated. The long-awaited shift from autocracy to democracy has been painful and convulsive, and there is still a long way to go. Other Arab Spring-affected nations, aside from Tunisia, have failed to develop a credible future political roadmap. The deterioration of the situation in Syria poses a geopolitical danger to regional peace and security. The sectarian politics in the region has also aided the spread of radical beliefs among the populace. Iran has been the most influential actor in the region by supporting different Shia organizations. The Salafists are backed by Saudi Arabia, whereas Qatar is the Muslim Brotherhood; this conflict seriously affects West Asia's regional stability²⁶. In the past, the region has been subjected to outsider influence and even intervention. According to several stakeholders, the United States continues to be the most potent power in the area, and its regional allies have criticized it for its response to the Arab Spring and its strategy of rebalancing toward the Asia Pacific. At the same time, Russia, with its support for Iran and its stance on Syria, has altered West Asia's regional geopolitics²⁷. Yemen is another country that has been affected by the new geopolitics shift in west Asia, which has severely affected the sustainable development of Yemen. The seven-year war between the Saudi-led coalition and Houthi, which Iran supported, has been experiencing the worst humanitarian crisis in the world due to widespread famine, disease, and targeting of a civilian by the Saudi-led coalition²⁸. The new geopolitics challenge side effect in west Asia for sustainable development of the region is profound, and it will take much time to fulfill the 17 sustainable development goals. The devastated nations in this conflict are Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and Afghanistan. These three countries have the most refugee and internally displaced, and most of the population lives under the poverty line. However, the outlook of the region is unclear.

2.5. Geopolitics and Challenges for Sustainable Development in the Europe Region

Ending the Covid-19 epidemic worldwide is necessary for resuming and speeding up sustainable development goals (SDG) in Europe and worldwide. In many countries, the pandemic stalled development toward meeting the SDG targets by 2020, lowering life expectancy and raising poverty and unemployment levels²⁹. The epidemic is a setback for Europe's long-term growth, but the SDGs should remain the guiding principles. The EU's average SDG Index score did not grow in 2020 for the first time since the SDGs were adopted in 2015; it slightly decreased in the EU27 on average, owing to the pandemic's negative impact on life expectancy, poverty, and unemployment. Notwithstanding geopolitical conflicts and attempts to cut back SDG objectives, the SDGs remain the only comprehensive framework for economic, social, and environmental development that all UN member States have endorsed³⁰. On February 21, 2021, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the "Special Military Operation" in Ukraine, which constitutes the most significant threat after the end of the Cold War to peace and security in Europe³¹. The Russian invasion

²³ IRC, "Afghanistan," 2022 available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/six-months-change-power-irc-warns-starvation-could-kill-more-afghans-last-twenty> (last visited April 27, 2022).

²⁴ The World Bank, "World Bank: Urgent Action Required to Stabilize Afghanistan's Economy" *World Bank*, 2022 available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/04/13/world-bank-urgent-action-required-to-stabilize-afghanistan-s-economy> (last visited April 27, 2022).

²⁵ Helle Malmvig, "THE ARAB UPRISINGS AND THE NEW GEOPOLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST," 33 *EuroMesco* 1 (2012).

²⁶ Prasanta Kumar Pradhan, *Geopolitical Shifts in West Asia*, in P. K. Pradhan (ed.), 3 (Pentagon Press, New Delhi, 2016).

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ Council on Foreign Relations, "Yemen's Tragedy: War, Stalemate, and Suffering" available at: <https://www.cfr.org/background/yemen-crisis#chapter-title-0-3> (last visited April 27, 2022).

²⁹ Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Institute for European Environmental Policy, *Europe Sustainable Development Report 2021*, 2021.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ Jeffrey Mankoff, *Russia War in Ukraine*, 2022.

considers a geopolitical awakening and reshaping the European security order to take control of their political and energy future. The EU intends to influence its total economic weight as a compulsory tool against Russia to prevent further escalation³². However, Russia is one of the biggest natural gas exporters and second exporter of crude oil and the third producer of crude oil in the world. Russia, before the invasion, supplied 60% and 20% of oil to China and the EU and 40% of gas to the European Union. Due to the Russian invasion, the crude oil price and gas pushed to a 14-year high in Europe³³.

The escalation of the situation in the European region further weakens Europe's geopolitics and sustainable development outlook. Ukraine and Russia are significant exporters of essential agricultural goods and possess a substantial global market share (30% of world wheat). The Food exports disrupting economies and prices soaring may bring back memories of the global food price of 2008 and 2009³⁴. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, supply shortfalls between Ukraine and Russia might cause eight to 13 million more people to go hungry in 2022–23. The Asia-Pacific region would probably have the largest increase, followed by sub-Saharan Africa, the Near East, and North Africa. The food shortages would effects more widely and indirectly due to an increase in global food and feed prices of 8 to 22% above existing high levels in 2021³⁵.

III. FINDING

Following the Coronavirus pandemic, many nations had already concluded that they needed to decrease their companies' reliance on international supply chains. The geopolitics and challenges have increased nations' vulnerability in the case of sustainable development. This paper has found the following point as a significant peril for the world sustainability imposed by geopolitics challenge:

- **Migration issue**

Due to the lack of access to food and energy, there will be a political reaction to these economic and social pressures, which is expected to enhance and accelerate migration from Africa and Asia into Europe. Because of conflict and environmental degradation. As well as the geopolitical change with the withdrawal of the US from Afghanistan, without the success of the peace process and more focus on the Ukraine conflict, remained future of peace, justices unclear.

- **Food crises**

Since no poverty and zero hunger are the two primary goals of sustainable development, geopolitical challenges have severely affected these goals with the Russia and Ukraine war outbreak. At the same time, these two countries are the world's biggest wheat suppliers. If this situation prolongs for a long time, the world will face another food crisis like in 2008 and 2009. As we see in most African and Asian countries, food prices are increasing alongside climate change, and many countries have already severely flooded, which causes damage to cities and communities, which shows the lack of a comprehensive climate action plan.

- **Energy crisis**

Another threat imposed by the geopolitical challenge to sustainable development is the impact on affordable and clean energy. As Europe geopolitics suggested confronting the Russian invasion, they sanctioned Russia's oil and gas, and the US banned and sanctioned Russia's energy in the global market, which heated the energy crisis. The sustainable development goal is to promote clean energy, but due to geopolitics challenges, most countries now use coal for energy.

³² Alexandra Hoop Scheffer, "Russia's War on Ukraine: the EU's Geopolitical Awakening" *The German Marshall Fund of the United States*, available at: <https://www.gmfus.org/news/russias-war-ukraine-eus-geopolitical-awakening> (last visited April 28, 2022).

³³ Thomas Reilly, "The Geopolitical Implications of the Russian-Ukraine Crisis" *Global Policy Watch* available at: <https://www.globalpolicywatch.com/2022/04/the-geopolitical-implications-of-the-russian-ukraine-crisis/> (last visited April 28, 2022).

³⁴ Richard Florizone, "What the Invasion of Ukraine Means for Sustainable Development" *International Institute for Sustainable Development* available at: <https://www.iisd.org/articles/insight/invasion-ukraine-sustainable-development> (last visited April 28, 2022).

³⁵ Richard King, "Exploring the cascading impacts from climate shocks to chokepoints in global food trade" *Resource Trade Earth* available at: <https://resourcetrade.earth/publications/cascading-impacts-from-climate-shocks-to-food-trade-chokepoints> (last visited September 5, 2022).

• Security issues

The geopolitics challenge has directly impacted the implication of sustainable development goals in a different geographical area. In Latin America, geopolitics is no anymore like the cold war period. New emerging powers will influence through investment like China as it is honest in Asia as well it seems pretty suitable for improvement of sustainability. However, the concern arises when the emerging nation cannot repay its debt, which confuses the host nation, like Sri Lanka. Another example of a geopolitics challenge that imposes a security threat to sustainable development is the irresponsible withdrawal of NATO and the US from the West Asia region (Afghanistan), increasing the possibility of the reemergence of Al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations, which makes dark the outlook of sustainable development in the regions.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The Sustainable development trend for the upheld of life standards was started by the world commission on environmental protection in 1997 and followed by many other international conventions and agreements. The international community targets 17 sustainable development goals and annually evaluates all UN members' profiles on realizing these goals. Despite environmental degradation, which highly affected the world's sustainability, geopolitics challenges also significantly impacted it. Geopolitics challenge impact on SDGs in Latin America in 1960 and 1970 were influenced by the bipolarity system of the Cold War; after that, environmental degradation and climate change were affected. In Asia or indo-pacific, China and India are two traditional rivals, one by investment in the mega project in regional countries.

Moreover, the others are trying to strengthen their position as trade hotspots for regional and international purposes; West Asia is another geopolitics and geo-economics region which has affected sustainable development. Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, and Iraq are the devastated countries affected by regional and international players. Recent incidents between Russia and Ukraine in the European region heavily impacted sustainable development alongside the Covid-19 impact on SDGs.

V. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express my deep gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Harshita Thalwal, for their patient guidance and enthusiastic encouragement of this research work. Moreover, the University Institute of Legal Studies of Chandigarh University for their help in offering the Fellowship to run the research.

REFERENCES

- [1] "Anticipated impacts of achieving SDG targets on forests - a review - Scientific Figure on ResearchGate," available at: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-17-UN-Sustainable-Development-Goals-SDGs-Numbers-following-goal-names-indicate_fig1_349054310 (last visited April 23, 2022).
- [2] Alexandra Hoop Scheffer, "Russia's War on Ukraine: the EU's Geopolitical Awakening" *The German Marshall Fund of the United States*, available at: <https://www.gmfus.org/news/russias-war-ukraine-eus-geopolitical-awakening> (last visited April 28, 2022).
- [3] Council on Foreign Relations, "Yemen's Tragedy: War, Stalemate, and Suffering" available at: <https://www.cfr.org/background/yemen-crisis#chapter-title-0-3> (last visited April 27, 2022).
- [4] Cultural Rights, "Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, 2002," 2010 available at: <https://culturalrights.net/en/documentos.php?c=18&p=196> (last visited September 4, 2022).
- [5] General Assembly, "Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)," 2015.
- [6] Günther Handl, "Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Declaration), 1972 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992" *United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law* 1–11 (2012).
- [7] Helle Malmvig, "THE ARAB UPRISINGS AND THE NEW GEOPOLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST," 33 *EuroMesco* 1 (2012).
- [8] IRC, "Afghanistan," 2022 available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/six-months-change-power-irc-warns-8-starvation-could-kill-more-afghans-last-twenty> (last visited April 27, 2022).
- [9] Jeffrey Mankoff, *Russia War in Ukraine*, 2022.
- [10] Joseph P Hyder, "United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) Our Common Future Report (1987) | Encyclopedia.com" *Encyclopedia.com*.
- [11] Julia Carabias Lillo, Fernando Tudela Abad and et. al., *The Sustainability of Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges and Opportunities 200-201* (United Nations Publication, Mexico City, 2000).
- [12] Leslie E. Wehner Detlef Nolte, "Theoretical approaches to security in Latin America" *Geopolitics in Latin America, Old and New from* 35–6 (Routledge, 2015).
- [13] Leslie E. Wehner Detlef Nolte, "Theoretical approaches to security in Latin America" *Geopolitics in Latin America, Old and New from* 35–6 (Routledge, 2015).

- [14] Nahian Reza Sabriet, "The Taliban takeover: Afghanistan-Bangladesh relations during this period of transition | ORF" *ORF*, 2021 available at: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-taliban-takeover-afghanistan-bangladesh-relations-during-this-period-of-transition/> (last visited April 27, 2022).
- [15] Prasanta Kumar Pradhan, *Geopolitical Shifts in West Asia*, in P. K. Pradhan (ed.), 3 (Pentagon Press, New Delhi, 2016).
- [16] Richard Florizone, "What the Invasion of Ukraine Means for Sustainable Development" *International Institute for Sustainable Development* available at: <https://www.iisd.org/articles/insight/invasion-ukraine-sustainable-development> (last visited April 28, 2022).
- [17] Richard King, "Exploring the cascading impacts from climate shocks to chokepoints in global food trade" *Resource Trade Earth* available at: <https://resourcetrade.earth/publications/cascading-impacts-from-climate-shocks-to-food-trade-chokepoints> (last visited September 5, 2022).
- [18] Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Institute for European Environmental Policy, *Europe Sustainable Development Report 2021*, 2021.
- [19] The World Bank, "World Bank: Urgent Action Required to Stabilize Afghanistan's Economy" *World Bank*, 2022 available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/04/13/world-bank-urgent-action-required-to-stabilize-afghanistan-s-economy> (last visited April 27, 2022).
- [20] Thomas Reilly, "The Geopolitical Implications of the Russian-Ukraine Crisis" *Global Policy Watch* available at: <https://www.globalpolicywatch.com/2022/04/the-geopolitical-implications-of-the-russian-ukraine-crisis/> (last visited April 28, 2022).
- [21] UN General Assembly, SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, GA A/RES/69/15, GAOR, UN Doc RES/69/15 (December 14, 2014).
- [22] UN General Assembly, The future we want, GA RES/66/288, GAOR, UN Doc A/RES/66/288 (September 11, 2012).
- [23] UN General Assembly, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, GA RES/70/1, GAOR, UN Doc A/RES/70/1 (October 21, 2015).
- [24] UN, "United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm 1972" United Nation, available at: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/stockholm1972> (last visited April 22, 2022).
- [25] United Nations, "Agenda 21" *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform* available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/outcomedocuments/agenda21> (last visited April 22, 2022).
- [26] United Nations, "Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development" *United Nations* available at: https://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/WSSD_PlanImpl.pdf (last visited April 23, 2022).
- [27] United Nations, "Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development" *United Nations* available at: https://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/WSSD_PlanImpl.pdf (last visited April 23, 2022).
- [28] World Commission on Environment, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*, 1987.