

The Goals Behind the Challenges

World Series of Innovation 2018-2019

Every year, NFTE invites students ages 13–24 to practice thinking of original business ideas to address challenges faced by real organizations. In addition to solving 21st Century business challenges, some of our challenges ask students to put on their creative thinking caps to help solve global goals that the United Nations has identified as the largest and most serious challenges to humanity.

Why Set Global Goals?

90% of countries have more women in government than they did just one generation ago – in 46 countries, women now hold more than 30% of seats in national government.

This is a big deal. For a woman to be in a position of power – either in government or in business – she had to be able to travel to school without being harassed. She needed to be allowed to learn to read, write, and express herself. There had to be a system in place that allowed her to move up to a leadership role.

In 2000, the United Nations created eight global Millennium Development Goals that helped to address some of the most serious challenges to humanity, with a deadline of 2015. One of these goals was “Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women.” While there is still progress to be made, setting the eight goals and rallying people to do something about them had significant results.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals

United Nations then went one step further, creating 17 Sustainable Development Goals for all people to work on together and solve by the year 2030. With the technological and educational tools widely available today, we are in a better position than any generation before us to solve these problems.

The 17 Goals



The Goals Behind the Challenges, cont'd.

Let's Solve A Few! The Innovation Challenges in this year's World Series of Innovation will center on four Sustainable Development Goals.



Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and more
- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, etc.
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

- Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
- Double the rate of global improvement in energy efficiency
- Enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean technology
- Expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- Promote decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation
- Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation
- Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- Halve per capita global food waste and reduce food losses along production and supply chains
- Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption
- Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts

Thanks for helping to change the world!