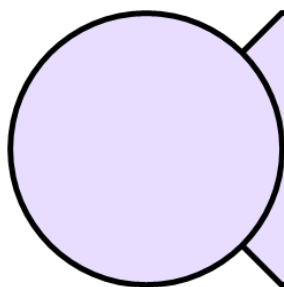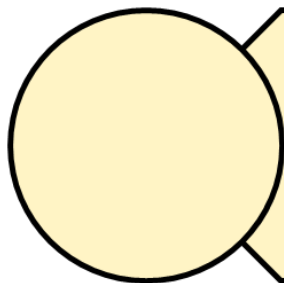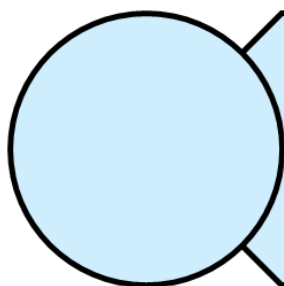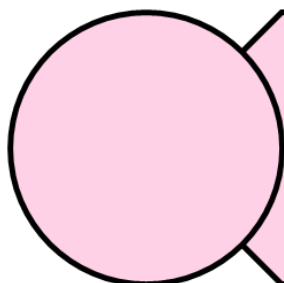# Guide to annotations
What do the colours mean?

Shows the general purpose related to the whole annotated text-type and that of entire sections. Titles of sections or headings are defined in terms of purpose and content.
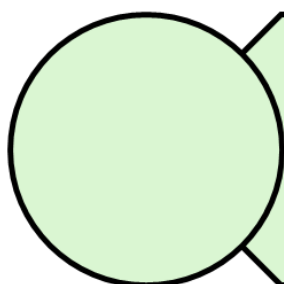
Indicates the function of a paragraph or of group of sentences in terms of content and relation to the whole text

Key-words and terms related to the general content and concepts and main themes.

Grammar features or discourse markers that are important to the annotated text-type.

In-text citations and general reference to papers and books within the annotated text

Note: 'Discourse markers' refers to words used to start and end conversations and topics.

Examples: also, therefore, thus, similarly, however, for instance, in conclusion, besides

Note: The reference style for this text follows the CDU APA 7th referencing format. Please check with your lecturers if there are different referencing requirements for your unit.

The critical review asks you to summarize and evaluate a text. It can be of a book, an article, report or other document which is analysed through relevant criteria in relation to its intended aim. The critique may include recommendations

Page number in top right corner

Title of critique/ critical review

Critique of the General Assembly Resolution 70/1 -25 September 2015:

"Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

Marie Mango (s123321)

Student name/number

Affiliation (faculty, university)

Faculty of Arts and Society, Charles Darwin University

ABC123 Exploring Sustainable Approaches

Unit code and name

Lecturer/supervisor name

Dr. Lavender Fields

August 11, 2023

Date of submission

Shows the general purpose in relation to the text-type. Section titles/headings are defined by purpose and content.

Indicates the function of a paragraph or of group of sentences in terms of content and relation to the whole text

Key-words and terms related to the general content and concepts and main themes.

Grammar features or discourse markers that are important to the annotated text-type.

Referencing elements. Format requirements, in-text citations and references to relevant theories/research.

Headings are optional for a short critical review

Heading Level 1 - centred and bold

Introduction

The Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, also known as "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," is the object of the present critique (United Nations [UN], 2015). This is the document adopted by the Assembly following the drafting of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015. Its purpose is not only to reiterate the goals as articulated in the Agenda itself but to legally ratify the subscriptions to the accords by all countries and stakeholders involved. This document represents another historical milestone towards the eradication of 'inequity, 'poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions, in order to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment' (UN, 2015). However, a number of studies have conducted a critical analysis of the Resolution and suggested that there exist evident inconsistencies both in the conception and articulation of the SDGs and in the wording of several sections of the document. Following the study by (Swain, 2018), the present paper

Annotations:

- Introduces document: what it is, its background and the purpose
- Parenthetical citation: organisation as author. First citation, include full name + abbreviation
- Parenthetical citation: organisation as author. Second citation, you can use the abbreviation alone
- Descriptive language and use of present tense
- Significance of the document
- Parenthetical citation: one author.

Legend:

- Shows the general purpose in relation to the text-type. Section titles/headings are defined by purpose and content.
- Indicates the function of a paragraph or of group of sentences in terms of content and relation to the whole text
- Key-words and terms related to the general content and concepts and main themes.
- Grammar features or discourse markers that are important to the annotated text-type.
- Referencing elements. Format requirements, in-text citations and references to relevant theories/research.

aims at analysing the document and evaluate its effectiveness in terms of clarity of message and comprehensiveness of intent. In view of the significance of the text for the global mission it represents, some alternative ways of expressing content and intent of the text will also be provided. In particular, a critical analysis of the draft will focus on the following points:

- the Agenda's scope
- the implementation staging and monitoring
- accountability measures
- political and economic constraints

Summary of content and structure

Summary

The document opens with a preamble outlining the intent of the Agenda which is followed by three parts. The first part addresses the areas of intervention, target of the Committee, the second is divided into 2 sections: a) a formal declaration in the form of memorandum by all the nation members by which they restate their commitment to achieve the 17 goals and the significance of such commitment (from Point 1 to 59) ; b) a section (placed after the third part

Use of present tense for descriptions

Description of document: content and structure

Shows the general purpose in relation to the text-type. Section titles/headings are defined by purpose and content.

Indicates the function of a paragraph or of group of sentences in terms of content and relation to the whole text

Key-words and terms related to the general content and concepts and main themes.

Grammar features or discourse markers that are important to the annotated text-type.

Referencing elements. Format requirements, in-text citations and references to relevant theories/research.

reproposes the 17 SDGs and associated targets to focus on. Despite the comprehensiveness of the document, a closer analysis reveals that the underpinning sustainability principles, as formulated by the Resolution itself, could not be considered realistic expectations (Swain, 2018). As a whole, there seems to be a clash of intents among scope, concrete implementation strategies and economical and environmental aims. A clear plan of the staging and monitoring of implementation interventions as well as accountability policies are not included.

Critique

Broadness and indefiniteness of scope

The first observation regards the formulation of the scope in the document. Despite the comprehensive identification of the issues afflicting the globe due to ineffective sustainable practices, the scope of the agenda, is ambiguous and lacking clearly recognizable milestones ultimately appearing overly ambitious. In fact, while the extensive range of the objectives with its 17 SDGs and 169 targets, testifies to the awareness and commitment of all stakeholders, the

breadth and complexity of its formulation indicates that effective implementation and prioritization of these interventions can be challenging. The overly broad scope may hinder the ability of member states to allocate adequate resources towards the desired outcomes (Gavin & Czelusta, 2002). This lack of focus, in particular, can hinder the special attention needed in the most critical areas and potentially weaken the efforts required in developing countries.

Lack of concrete implementation strategies' formulation

The ambitious goals set forth in the Resolution, do not include clear and practical implementation strategies. The absence of specific action plans, timelines, and measurable targets undermines the resolution's effectiveness. Indeed, the last section of the document identifies the necessity of a review plan and the extra support needed by some countries to fulfill their commitment to the SDGs. However, without well-defined guidelines and a defined framework for implementation, member states may struggle to translate the goals into tangible actions. This shortcoming can potentially affect less financially viable countries for which the lack

---

Annotations (margin notes):

- Modal verbs and modulating adverbs indicate how likely something is to happen. In a critique, identified shortcomings often have a rationale/justification that uses modality to talk about how likely they are to occur

- Parenthetical citation: two authors. Separate using '&' not 'and'

- Indication of what is lacking and appraisal

- 2nd focus and identification of flaw

- Potential consequence due to the shortcoming

- More examples of modulation expressing the possibility of consequences

---

Legend:

- Shows the general purpose in relation to the text-type. Section titles/headings are defined by purpose and content.
- Indicates the function of a paragraph or of group of sentences in terms of content and relation to the whole text
- Key-words and terms related to the general content and concepts and main themes.
- Grammar features or discourse markers that are important to the annotated text-type.
- Referencing elements. Format requirements, in-text citations and references to relevant theories/research.

of targeted interventions would most likely become consequential in their endeavour to meet the mark of sustainability standards. The missed opportunities for these regions may likely exacerbate power imbalances in term of resources and technology necessary to initiate sustainable practices.

Lack of accountability measures   3rd focus

This is a significant weakness in the Resolution 70/1 and a noticeable shortcoming in view of the level of effort conveyed by the Committee members' 'declaration of commitment'. While the resolution emphasizes the importance of monitoring progress, it does not establish effective mechanisms for tracking and evaluating member states' capabilities and intentions to fulfill the obligation itself. The absence of consequences or enforcement mechanisms would likely undermines the incentive for states to adopt full responsibility in case of failure to deliver effective contribution towards the Goals. The Resolution, at present, does not explicitly indicate that measures would be in place to avoid defaults of this kind. Although its conception may have been founded on compelling

---

Indicates possible consequences

Intro to section. Identifies what is lacking

Modals and modulation express a possibility

Shows the general purpose in relation to the text-type. Section titles/headings are defined by purpose and content.

Indicates the function of a paragraph or of group of sentences in terms of content and relation to the whole text

Key-words and terms related to the general content and concepts and main themes.

Grammar features or discourse markers that are important to the annotated text-type.

Referencing elements. Format requirements, in-text citations and references to relevant theories/research.

needs in view of a common good, a binding commitment among nations should be ratified to ensure the pursue of common interests in order to avoid that economically stronger countries may have the opportunities of sustainable initiatives at the expenses of weaker member countries.

4th focus

Financial and Economic Challenges

Introduces the shortcoming and deepen the analysis

Despite the 2030 Agenda's requirement of substantial financial resources to be effectively implemented, the Resolution fails to provide a clear roadmap for the provision of these resources. Indeed, the role of developed countries in providing financial assistance to developing nations, is not sufficiently outlined nor are specific strategies to ensure equitable distribution and access to financial resources (Gavin & Czelusta, 2002). This lack of clarity raises concerns about the effectiveness of facilitation procedures towards the attainment of funds and feasibility of access to tangible monetary provisions to implement the goals, particularly for countries with limited resources and capacity.

Parenthetical citation: two authors. Separate using '&' not 'and'

Consequences

Shows the general purpose in relation to the text-type. Section titles/headings are defined by purpose and content.

Indicates the function of a paragraph or of group of sentences in terms of content and relation to the whole text

Key-words and terms related to the general content and concepts and main themes.

Grammar features or discourse markers that are important to the annotated text-type.

Referencing elements. Format requirements, in-text citations and references to relevant theories/research.

5th focus

Power and political imbalances

Shortcoming

The very realistic possibility of some nations exerting pressure on weaker neighbours or worse taking advantage of resources in an unequitable way is not explicitly addressed in the document. Given the diversity of member states of the United Nations, there is a risk that the 2030 Agenda could be influenced by political agendas and priorities. In particular, this risk regards the special agreements among parties as result of negotiations and oftentimes compromises. These agreements may have been reached for veiled interests which could lead to a weakened overall commitment to sustainability relevant to the common good. This scenario is also likely to eventuate when developing countries are pressured to comply with agreements with no actual operational capacity to implement them in exchange for short-term economic solutions bearing long term negative consequences. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2021) found an example of this is the acceptance of financial benefits in exchange of the management of waste on their land or the provision of raw materials with often

Expressing possibility, not proven outcomes

Examples of plausible consequences

Narrative citation: Organisation as author

Shows the general purpose in relation to the text-type. Section titles/headings are defined by purpose and content.

Indicates the function of a paragraph or of group of sentences in terms of content and relation to the whole text

Key-words and terms related to the general content and concepts and main themes.

Grammar features or discourse markers that are important to the annotated text-type.

Referencing elements. Format requirements, in-text citations and references to relevant theories/research.

irreversible damages to local ecological systems. The tacit

acceptance by the Resolution's signatories, of long standing disputes

between neighbouring countries is another example of how the

weaker nations may suffer disadvantages by a lack of clear guidelines

regarding specific and context-bound accords among nations.

Conclusion

The General Assembly Resolution 70/1, "Transforming our

world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," has been a

milestone towards the common welfare of all future populations

across the globe in view of the increasing burden on our planet in

terms of resources, liveability, and economical and political inequity.

Notwithstanding the global achievement of the Document, a

number of points have been identified which may be worth of

revision and extension by the parties involved. These points are:

- the scope of the Resolution would benefit by more defined

  objectives in relation to the peculiar roles each country

  should play in regards to geographical contexts and

  undertakings. To this aim, also the operational strategies of

---

Reiterates significance

Recommendations

Shows the general purpose in relation to the text-type. Section titles/headings are defined by purpose and content.

Indicates the function of a paragraph or of group of sentences in terms of content and relation to the whole text

Key-words and terms related to the general content and concepts and main themes.

Grammar features or discourse markers that are important to the annotated text-type.

Referencing elements. Format requirements, in-text citations and references to relevant theories/research.

- interventions should be clearly outlined and planned in a concerted effort.

- Clear policies and procedures should be included to ensure accountability in relation to each country's commitment and compliance to planned and monitorable actions.

- Pre-emptive measures to prevent or mitigate political and financial imbalances among countries to the detriment of weaker nations should be explicitly ratified through planned interventions in order to discourage political and financial manipulation.

In conclusion, the points addressed in this critique confirm the analysis carried out in much literature which indicate that there exists a potential discrepancy in the SDGs Resolution, particularly between the socio-economic development and the environmental sustainability goals. It would be crucial to further address these points in research in order to ensure that the Resolution's implementation remains focused on sustainable development rather than being undermined by geopolitical interests.

Summarizes analysis

Closes with a concluding recommendation

Shows the general purpose in relation to the text-type. Section titles/headings are defined by purpose and content.

Indicates the function of a paragraph or of group of sentences in terms of content and relation to the whole text

Key-words and terms related to the general content and concepts and main themes.

Grammar features or discourse markers that are important to the annotated text-type.

Referencing elements. Format requirements, in-text citations and references to relevant theories/research.

References

Chapter in an edited book

Gavin, W., & Czelusta, J. (2006). Resource-based growth, past and present. In D. Lederman, & W. F. Maloney (Eds.), *Natural resources, neither curse nor destiny* (pp. 224-253). World Bank Publications.

Book/eBook

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2021). *Climate change 2021: The physical science basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.* Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009157896

Journal article

Kopnina, H. (2016). The victims of unsustainability: A challenge to sustainable development goals. *International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology, 23*(2), 113-121. https://doi.org/10.1080/13504509.2015.1111269

If the full reference will not fit on the page, start next reference on a new page. Do not split a single reference entry across two pages.

Shows the general purpose in relation to the text-type. Section titles/headings are defined by purpose and content.

Indicates the function of a paragraph or of group of sentences in terms of content and relation to the whole text

Key-words and terms related to the general content and concepts and main themes.

Grammar features or discourse markers that are important to the annotated text-type.

Referencing elements. Format requirements, in-text citations and references to relevant theories/research.

Journal article

Spaiser, V., Ranganathan, S., Swain, R. B. & Sumpter, J. T. (2017). The sustainable development oxymoron: Quantifying and modelling the incompatibility of sustainable development goals. *International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology*, *24*(6), 457-470. https://doi.org10.1080/13504509.2016.1235624

Chapter in an edited book

Swain, R. B. (2018). A critical analysis of the sustainable development goals. In W. Leal Filho (Ed.), *Handbook of Sustainability Science and Research* (pp. 341-355). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-63007-6_20

Document from a website

United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. https://sdgs.un.org/ publications/transforming-our-world-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-17981

For reference examples and more information check out the CDU APA 7th referencing guide: https://libguides.cdu.edu.au/cdureferencing

Shows the general purpose in relation to the text-type. Section titles/headings are defined by purpose and content.

Indicates the function of a paragraph or of group of sentences in terms of content and relation to the whole text

Key-words and terms related to the general content and concepts and main themes.

Grammar features or discourse markers that are important to the annotated text-type.

Referencing elements. Format requirements, in-text citations and references to relevant theories/research.