

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A020
Title: Support Decade of Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals
Proposer: Standing Commission on World Mission
Topic: Mission Strategy

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-B026 Endorse the UN Sustainable Development Goals as the Basis for Policy and Action
2018-B027 Encourage Gender-Inclusive Responses to Climate Change
2015-A021 Continue the Financial Commitment to International Development Programs

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2012-A011 Reaffirm Commitment to Millennium Development Goals
2009-D019 Recommit to the MDGs as a Mission Priority
2006-D022 Establish the Millennium Development Goals as a Mission Priority
2006-A010 Pursue Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
2003-D006 Endorse UN Millennium Development Goals

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#) or call 800-525-9329.

A020 - Support Decade of Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Standing Commission on World Mission

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 20 - Environmental Stewardship & Care of Creation

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention express continued support for the ways in which the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become the cornerstone of development policy and action of the Episcopal Church's institutions, agencies, dioceses, and congregations and provided a framework for approaching the Church's call to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention encourage all parishes, dioceses, and jurisdictions to support the UN's Decade of Action (2020-30) to achieve the SDGs by (1) educating themselves about the SDGs using United Nations, Anglican Communion and Episcopal Church resources; (2) developing their own educational resources to translate the core Christian values and imperatives of the SDGs in ways that can be easily grasped, shared, and put into action; (3) undertaking self-audits to assess how their existing mission work and ministries already address the SDGs; and (4) sharing stories about how they are working toward the SDGs and furthering the work that Jesus calls all of us to do; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commend and acknowledge Episcopalians who are already working towards the SDGs, including the Episcopal presence at the annual UN High-Level Political Forum on the SDGs and Episcopal Relief & Development which continues to educate the Church about the SDGs and work toward the SDGs through its programs and priorities.

Explanation

General Convention and Executive Council have previously affirmed the United Nations' Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through 2015-A021 Continue the Financial Commitment to International Development Programs (affirmed by Executive Council in October 2015), 2018-B026 Endorse the UN Sustainable Development Goals as the Basis for Policy and Action, and 2018-B027 Encourage Gender-Inclusive Responses to Climate Change. These resolutions have established the Church's endorsement of the overall goals of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the principle of using the SDG framework, as well as linking that support to concrete financial commitments of 0.7% of operating budgets. Episcopal Relief & Development has taken the lead in educating the Church about the SDGs, in addition to contributing to the Goals through its projects.

In September 2019, the UN Secretary-General called for a Decade of Action to advance achievement of the SDGs and acknowledge the need for action on global, local, and individual levels. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all 17 SDGs and shown that what began as a health crisis has quickly become a human and socio-economic crisis. As the pandemic continues to impede progress towards the SDGs, it also makes their achievement all the more urgent and necessary.

In response, the Church needs to expand its focus beyond funding to education at the parish and diocesan level so that all Episcopal faith communities can understand the Christian values and imperatives at the root of the SDGs. Existing UN, Anglican and Episcopal resources can be adapted to speak prophetically within local contexts. Similarly, the resolution seeks through self-audits to reveal existing ministries, local and global, which further the work that Jesus has called us to do as well as contribute to achievement of the SDGs. Reports on these self-audits would provide valuable input to the Church's representatives to the United Nations, enabling them to accurately map and lift up the Church's work to achieve the SDGs in the UN context.



Resolution Number: 2018-B026
Title: Endorse the UN Sustainable Development Goals as the Basis for Policy and Action
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church embrace the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as the successor to the Millennium Development Goals; and be it further

Resolved, That the Sustainable Development Goals become the basis of development policy and action of the Episcopal Church in its institutions, dioceses, and congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That 0.7% of the budget for the Episcopal Church adopted at the 79th General Convention be devoted to development projects shaped by the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals, during the triennium 2019 – 2021.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 1056.



Resolution Number: 2018-B027
Title: Encourage Gender-Inclusive Responses to Climate Change
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church call on our Office of Government Relations to support international and domestic efforts to encourage and advocate for gender inclusive approaches within climate change disaster response and management, recognizing that climate change profoundly and differently impacts people according to their gender; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention urge congregations and dioceses of The Episcopal Church to act in their own contexts in recognition that women are at the front line of climate impact and need to be involved in decisions affecting their lives, and those of their families and communities in response to disasters and humanitarian emergencies; and be it further

Resolved, That institutions and providers in The Episcopal Church, such as Episcopal Relief and Development, whose ministries are associated with disasters, climate refugees, maternal health, poverty alleviation, and addressing inequalities be urged to continue to lift up and advocate for women's leadership on climate justice, support gender inclusive approaches to climate resilience and make themselves available as resources to congregations and dioceses for this work; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church 1) commit to the revision of previous materials, development and circulation of educational resources to be used in both diocesan and congregational formation and 2) encourage faith communities and dioceses to recommit to allocating 0.7% of their operating budgets in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 675-676.



Resolution Number: 2015-A021
Title: Continue the Financial Commitment to International Development Programs
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church rejoices in the progress made on the Millennium Development Goals during the past three triennia, but recognizing that much remains to be done, continues our commitment of 0.7% of the Church-wide budget to investment in similar programs throughout the 2016-2018 triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention, recognizing that funding for nutrition, education, health care, gender equality and sustainable development programs is essential to achieve not only the Millennium Development Goals, but also to ensure respect for the dignity of all human beings, urges all dioceses and congregations to continue to contribute 0.7% of their annual budgets to fund appropriate international development programs; and be it further

Resolved, That funds in the General Convention budget for the 2016-2018 triennium specified for MDGs be allotted for a grants program that supports congregational and diocesan efforts in international development programs.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 676.