

Case Study 4: LSE Congress

In this simulation students are invited to explore how LSE's research can contribute to the progress towards the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The simulation culminates in the LSE Congress summit, which is an all-day event.

During the first two terms of the year, teams of students explore the research carried out within their departments and make links to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each team produces an 'advance submission' for the LSE Congress summit. The advance submissions consists of a research poster and a video explaining the contribution their department can make to the progress of two SDGs that they have selected.

When the students arrive at the summit they are presented with the following:

LSE was so impressed by the quality of your advance submissions that they would like to draw on your expertise to tackle an additional task....

The School would like to take the opportunity of attending the UN High Level Political Forum to start negotiations with some country delegations about potential partnerships. They have identified four countries - Austria, Belize, Nepal and Uganda - that they may want to work with and support their efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Your task is to decide which of those four countries would be the best potential partner for LSE.

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Students then work in coalitions to complete the two activities shown below.

Activity 1 - Decide (10:30 – 12:30)

1. Aim of this activity

When you have completed this activity, you will have decided which of the 4 countries you are recommending LSE should meet with to start partnership negotiations with their delegates.

To achieve this aim, you will:

- **Review** the country profiles of all 4 countries and decide which 2 countries to research further.
- **Analyse** the Voluntary National Reports for the chosen 2 countries and decide which country will be the focus of your presentation.

2. Review

1. Divide your coalition into four groups – one group for each country.

Each country group should then:

2. Search online for current news about the countries – are there any issues **emerging** that impact on the ability of LSE to work in partnership with this country e.g. political, armed conflict, environmental.

PLEASE NOTE: The country profiles and the voluntary national reports that you will review for the rest of this activity were produced last year and may not reflect any current emerging issues.

3. Look at the general notes relating to that country in the 'Country profiles' document.
4. Open the link to the country's SDG profile and review.
 - a. In the top left-hand side of each profile you will see details of Population and migration; National accounts and labour market; Trade and balance of payments and Environment. Have a look at this background information and make a note of anything you think might be useful.
 - b. Using the table of contents on the left-hand side of the profile page you could narrow your review to the SDGs that teams have linked to most in their advance submissions.
 - c. Look at the general trends and specific issues highlighted in relation to these SDGs and discuss any possible links to examples of research or broader topics highlighted in the advance submission.
 - d. Make notes as you work through the process so that you can explain your findings to the other members of your coalition.
 - e. Share your findings and decide which two countries to focus on in the next stage.

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3. Analyse

1. Divide into two groups – one group for each country.

Each group should then:

Access the Voluntary National Review 2023 (VNR) for their country.

The VNRs may vary in layout but they all contain information about certain key areas:

- Progress to date
- What the challenges have been
- The next steps
- What barriers they may face to achieving these next steps

2. Working individually:

- a. Look at the table of contents to get an overview of the report
- b. Scan read the report noting any areas that you need to return to examine in more depth
- c. Share the results of this first read within your group.

3. Allocate in-depth reading/research tasks to individuals or pairs within the group.

These tasks will include:

- a. In-depth reading
- b. Summarizing
- c. Suggesting possible links to LSE research.
- d. Come back together as a country group and decide how to share the outcomes of this research with the rest of the coalition

4. Working as a whole coalition group

- a. Share your findings.
- b. Decide which country you are going to recommend.
- c. List reasons for not choosing the other three countries.

When making this decision you should consider:

- In what ways can LSE research be of use to the country and its institutions?
- In what ways might partnership with the country bring other benefits to LSE?
- Bearing in mind the [LSE's Ethics Code](#) are there any ethical/political reasons that might make LSE cautious of forming a partnership with this country? If so, can these be mitigated in some way?
- Are there any ethical/political reasons that make this country a particularly good candidate for partnership?
- Any other issues that you have identified that you think are relevant.

Decision time! Which country will be the focus of your presentation?

Activity 2: Create (13:15 – 14:45)

Aim of this activity

The aim of this activity is to create and deliver a presentation that explains to the judging panel which country you have chosen and why and which, briefly, addresses why you did not choose any of the other 3 countries.

To achieve this aim, you will:

- Plan the key points you want to highlight in your presentation.
- Decide the format of your presentation and create any resources.
- Rehearse your presentation.

1. Planning your presentation

Your presentation should run for **no longer** than 12 minutes – so aim to plan a 10-minute presentation!

At the end of the 'Decide' activity you considered:

- In what ways can LSE research be of use to the country and its institutions?
- In what ways might partnership with the country bring other benefits to LSE?
- Bearing in mind the **LSE's Ethics Code**, are there any ethical/political reasons that might make LSE cautious of forming a partnership with this country? If so, can these be mitigated in some way?
- Are there any ethical/political reasons that make this country a particularly good candidate for partnership?
- Any other issues that you have identified that you think are relevant.

Begin your presentation with a brief overview of why you chose this country rather than the other three. Then, use the prompts above to structure your presentation, but you will also need to briefly address why you the other three countries.

Plan how many minutes you want to allocate to each prompt.

2. Creating your presentation

You can use tools/apps to support your presentation (e.g. PowerPoint, Sway) but you don't have to. It can be equally effective to just speak!

If you do want to use technology to support the presentation it will need to be shared via OneDrive with Eoin, so make sure you talk to him before making any final decisions.

If you do use tools/apps to support the presentation, keep in mind that these shouldn't be too 'text heavy.' Concise points and images are much more effective. During your presentation you shouldn't just read what is on the display!

Not all members of your coalition need to be presenters. You should choose the members of your coalition who are happiest to fulfil this role.

3. Rehearsing your presentation

Although it can be useful to create notes or prompt cards to provide you with reminders, **you should not read from a script.**

Run through the presentation as many times as you can. All members of your coalition should provide constructive feedback. If necessary, revise the presentation in light of that feedback.

Check your timings. If you make changes to the presentation, check the timings again.

Presenters should think about how it feels to be at the front of the room rather than sitting down listening. Think about how you will need to position yourself to be able to make eye contact with your audience.

Towards the end of the rehearsal period the order the coalitions will present in will be decided by drawing numbers 'from a hat.'

4. Showtime!

We will start the presentation session promptly at 15:00 so all coalitions need to be in CBG 2.01 no later than 14:55.