

## CHAPTER 18 DRAFT BLUEPRINT: NAVIGATING CAPE

**What gives you hope? The backdrop of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth by the United Nations (UN) is, in a way, the strategic plan for our world to achieve a sustainable future for all – it is the hopeful blueprint. And it is essential from a big-picture perspective for effective advocacy on any front.**



**COMMITTING TO SDG** with a long-term perspective involves understanding the 17 SDGs established by the UN and reflecting upon them to identify which goals resonate with you, your values, and your aspirations. It will ensure the alignment that is critical for sustained advocacy efforts.

### **UNDERSTANDING THE SDG:**

Begin by visiting the UN website and familiarizing yourself with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Understand what each goal represents and the broader global context.

The goals address global challenges; hence they are critical for advocacy relating to eradicating poverty, addressing inequality, navigating climate change and environmental challenges, and achieving peace and justice for all.

### **SELF-ASSESSMENT:**

Reflect on your values, passions, skills, and resources. Consider how they align with the SDGs. Reflect on which goals resonate most with you on a personal or professional level, and why.

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*Advanced:*

- Choose one or more SDGs that deeply resonate with you and reflect your long-term commitment. These should be goals you genuinely care about and are willing to dedicate time and effort to.
- For each selected SDG, break down your long-term commitment into specific, measurable objectives. These objectives should be realistic and achievable within the time frame you set.
- Develop a detailed action plan that outlines the steps you'll take to work toward your objectives.
- Consider what resources, skills, and support you may need along the way.

*Draft Blueprint:*

- Schedule regular reflection sessions (e.g., annually) to assess your progress, reevaluate your goals and objectives, and make any necessary adjustments to your action plan.
- You may keep a journal or record of your experiences, learnings, challenges, and successes as you work toward your SDG objectives. This documentation can be valuable for personal growth and sharing your story with others.
- Seek opportunities to collaborate with like-minded individuals, organizations, or initiatives that share your commitment to the SDGs. Collaboration can amplify your impact.
- Celebrate your achievements, no matter how small they may seem. Recognize the positive impact you've made and use it as motivation to continue your commitment.
- Share your sustainable development journey with others to inspire and encourage them to also take action toward the SDGs

Regular reflection and adaptation are key to making a lasting impact on these important global goals.

**ADVOCATING FOR SCIENCE** with a societal perspective involves encouraging the responsible and ethical use of scientific knowledge for the benefit of society. Here's a reflection exercise to help individuals engage in science advocacy with this perspective in mind.

**SELF-REFLECTION ON SCIENCE:**

Begin by reflecting on your own relationship with science. What do you find most fascinating about science, and how has it impacted your life?

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Consider any personal experiences or connections you have with scientific fields. Research and learn about the societal role of science. Understand how science contributes to advancements in areas like healthcare, technology, the environment, and social issues. Explore any ethical dilemmas and controversies in science, such as genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, climate change, or medical research. Ponder your own stance and values regarding these issues. Reflect on any biases or assumptions you might hold about science, scientists, or the application of scientific knowledge and consider how these biases may influence your own perspective.

***Advanced:***

- Choose one or more SDGs that deeply resonate with you and reflect your long-term commitment. These should be goals you genuinely care about and are willing to dedicate time and effort to.
- Conduct thorough research on your chosen issue.
- Collect data, studies, and opinions from various sources to gain a well-rounded understanding of the topic.
- Reflect on how the issue you've chosen affects society, including its potential benefits and risks.

***Draft Blueprint:***

- Consider who is most affected and how it aligns with broader societal goals and values. Identify the key stakeholders involved in the issue. This may include scientists, policymakers, activists, affected communities, and the general public.
- Reflect on your role as an advocate for science with a societal perspective

What unique perspectives, skills, or resources do you bring to the table? How can you contribute positively to the conversation?

- Develop a clear advocacy approach that aligns with your values and the societal perspective you've gained. This may involve raising awareness, engaging in public discourse, or advocating for specific policies or practices.
- Seek opportunities to engage with others who share your passion for the issue. Join relevant organizations, attend conferences, or participate in online forums where discussions about science and society take place. Put your advocacy plan into action. Write articles, give presentations, engage with policymakers, or participate in community events to promote your perspective on the issue.
- Periodically reflect on the impact of your advocacy efforts. Consider whether you've been able to raise awareness, influence decision-making, or contribute to positive changes related to your chosen issue. Be open to adapting your advocacy approach as needed based on new information, changing circumstances, or feedback from stakeholders.
- Share your experiences and insights with others to inspire them to engage in science advocacy with a societal perspective.

**PROMOTING REPRESENTATION** in STEM fields with a global perspective is essential for diversity and innovation. Here's a reflection exercise to encourage individuals to actively contribute to global representation in STEM.

**UNDERSTANDING GLOBAL DIVERSITY:**

Begin by reflecting on the rich diversity of cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives around the world.

Consider how this diversity can benefit STEM fields. Reflect on your own background, experiences, and privileges. How do they shape your perspectives and opportunities in STEM? Recognize any biases you may hold. Explore the importance of global representation in STEM. Understand how diverse perspectives can lead to more innovative and inclusive solutions to global challenges. Research and identify areas within STEM where global representation is lacking or underrepresented. This could be in specific scientific disciplines, industries, or regions.

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**Advanced:**

- Choose a specific focus area within STEM where you are passionate about promoting global representation. This could be a field, a project, or an initiative that aligns with your interests.
- Dive into the diverse perspectives and contributions of individuals from various regions and backgrounds in your chosen focus area.
- Learn about their achievements and the unique challenges they face.

**Draft Blueprint:**

- Reflect on the barriers and challenges that individuals from underrepresented regions or backgrounds encounter in STEM. Consider factors like access to education, bias, cultural differences, and systemic issues.
- Set clear and achievable inclusion goals for your chosen focus area. Define specific actions you can take to promote global representation and diversity within that context.
- Connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds who are already contributing to STEM globally. Seek mentorship, collaboration, or partnerships that can support your goals.
- Explore how technology and digital platforms can help bridge geographical and cultural gaps in STEM collaboration. Identify tools or platforms that can facilitate global connections.
- Develop outreach programs or initiatives to encourage underrepresented groups in different regions to pursue STEM. This could involve mentoring, workshops, or educational campaigns.
- Set regular reflection points (e.g., annually) to evaluate your progress in promoting global representation in STEM. Assess whether you're meeting your inclusion goals and adjust your approach as needed.
- Share success stories of individuals from underrepresented regions in STEM on global platforms. Highlight their contributions to inspire others. Advocate for inclusive policies and practices within STEM

organizations or institutions that encourage global representation and diversity.

- Seek opportunities to collaborate on STEM projects or research with individuals or organizations from different regions. Promote international collaboration as a means of achieving global representation.
- Keep a record of your journey, challenges, and insights as you work toward global representation in STEM. Share your experiences and lessons learned with others.

**EMPOWERING STEM INNOVATION** with an inclusive perspective is essential for fostering creativity and addressing diverse global challenges. Here’s a reflection exercise to encourage individuals to embrace inclusivity in STEM innovation.

**UNDERSTANDING INCLUSIVITY:**

Begin by reflecting on the concept of inclusivity in STEM. Consider what it means to create an environment where individuals from all backgrounds, abilities, and experiences feel valued and empowered to innovate.

Reflect on your own experiences, biases, and perspectives. How might these factors influence your approach to innovation and collaboration? Recognize the value of diversity in the innovation process. Explore the importance of inclusivity in STEM innovation. Understand how diverse teams and perspectives can lead to more creative solutions and address a broader range of challenges. Reflect on the barriers and challenges that individuals from underrepresented groups may face in STEM innovation. Consider issues related to access, bias, and systemic inequalities.

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***Advanced:***

- *Choose an Innovation Focus, a specific area or project within STEM innovation that aligns with your interests and expertise. This could be a product, process, research initiative, or educational program.*
- Dive into the diverse perspectives and contributions of individuals from different backgrounds, including those who are typically underrepresented in STEM.
- Understand how their experiences can inform your innovation.

***Draft Blueprint:***

- Define clear and measurable inclusivity goals for your innovation focus. What steps can you take to ensure that your project or initiative embraces diversity and inclusivity? If applicable, assemble a diverse team of collaborators who bring different backgrounds, skills, and perspectives to your innovation project.
- Recognize the strengths of each team member. Apply inclusive design thinking principles to your innovation process. Consider the needs and experiences of a broad range of users or stakeholders in your project.
- Take a user-centered approach to your innovation by actively seeking input and feedback from individuals who represent various demographics and perspectives.
- Prototype and test your innovation with diverse user groups to identify potential biases or exclusions and make necessary adjustments. Embrace a culture of continuous improvement by actively seeking and incorporating feedback from diverse stakeholders throughout the innovation lifecycle.
- Keep a record of insights, challenges, and lessons learned as you work on your inclusive innovation. Share these insights with your team and the broader STEM community.
- Advocate for inclusivity in STEM innovation within your organization or community. Encourage others to embrace diversity in their projects and initiatives. Schedule regular reflection sessions (e.g., quarterly) to assess your progress in fostering inclusivity in STEM innovation. Celebrate successes and identify areas for improvement.
- Share your experiences and the outcomes of your inclusive innovation

efforts with others to inspire and encourage them to adopt similar practices.

Exercises that promote self-reflection can serve to encourage individuals to engage in science advocacy that is grounded in an understanding of the societal implications of scientific knowledge and that aligns with ethical and responsible practices. These exercises emphasize the importance of continuous learning, engagement, and adaptability in advocating for science in a way that benefits society through actions we can take.

Reflection remains a powerful technique for provoking action aligned with the CAPE framework. It emphasizes the importance of understanding diverse perspectives, setting clear goals, and actively working toward a more inclusive and globally representative STEM community. It also encourages us to actively incorporate inclusivity into our innovation processes.

The framework emphasizes the role of advocacy in fostering a culture of inclusivity in STEM innovation and curing it of its current lack of diversity.