The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals serve as a call to action for all countries of the world to promote health, safety, and prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs, and they call upon the creativity, know-how, technology, and resources from all of society to achieve them.

To highlight the power of standards as a tool in these efforts, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 2020 Student Paper Competition asks you to choose one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and explore the ways in which standards play a role in achieving it, or could in the future. Your paper should identify a relevant standard or multiple standards and discuss how they can contribute to strategies and solutions for reaching the targets set out in one of the Sustainable Development Goals.
You should refer to specific standards wherever possible. For example, a paper about SDG 16, “Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions,” could include a discussion of how ISO 37001, Anti-bribery management systems, provides guidance for good governance practices and can help promote peace and justice by increasing transparency and accountability and reducing corruption. Papers should include references to multiple types of standards and standards developing organizations.

All entries must be submitted by 5 pm ET on April 30, 2020, to lrajchel@ansi.org, and must adhere to the following requirements:

- Be written and submitted by student(s) (associate, undergraduate, or graduate, in any discipline) enrolled full- or part-time during the period of September 2019 to April 2020 at an institute of higher education located in the United States or its territories
- Include a title and a list of names of all contributing authors, their contact details, and the affiliated institute of higher education
- Be prefaced with an abstract of no more than 400 words
- Be less than 2,000 words (not including requirements #2 and #3 above, notes, tables, charts, and a bibliography which may not exceed 3 pages)
- Be in English and suitable for publication (final editing assistance will be provided before publication of winning papers)
- Be submitted in electronic format, preferably Microsoft Word or other revisable format, in 12-point type size
- Be original and not previously published (copyright will remain with the author; winners grant publication rights to ANSI, as well as the right to release entries to other media)

Submissions will be reviewed by top-level industry experts participating on ANSI’s Committee on Education (CoE) as well as by ANSI staff. A small number of finalists will be invited to give an online presentation to the review team before a winner is chosen.

Winning entries will be published on ANSI.org, StandardsLearn.org, and potentially in other media outlets. Winning submissions will be shared with and widely read by the domestic and international standards community, including experts in government, industry, professional societies, and academic institutions. Cash prizes will be given to first- and second-place winners; ANSI reserves the right to award no prizes based on the determination of the judges. The winning papers will be announced in June 2020.