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Economic and Social Council

Study Guide

Topic A:

Cementing global support for the economic and social disparity in the least developed countries

Topic B:

Increasing Women's Political Participation

Münster, May 2022

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Words of Welcome from the Chairs

Honorable delegates of the United Nations Economic and Social Council at MUIMUN 2022,

I am thrilled to welcome you to the United Nations Economic and Social Council - ECOSOC at MUIMUN 2022. Through this study guide you will get an introduction to the topic that will be discussed within my committee, so I recommend you read it carefully. Good preparation is essential to actively participate within the debate, and also influences the overall experience through the quality of discussion. Of course, you are encouraged to do any additional research as well. Also, please be sure to familiarize yourself with the Rules of Procedure beforehand. Your task at MUIMUN 2022 will be to represent your country's policies diligently and accurately and to negotiate for solutions that align best with your country's interests. The topics we will discuss both focus on sustainable global growth but will deal with different aspects and potential issues with such said.



The basic essence of any Model United Nations conference is debating with dignity and facts. The MUNs give you an ultimate experience with the lobbying or voting part as well. The very delegates that you will be competing against must be your allies in a certain capacity as well. That is where diplomacy kicks in. from GSL to unmoderated caucuses, I hope you come prepared and do absolute wonders in the committee. In case of any queries, you can always reach out to me and you are encouraged to do that. My email address is umararshadd@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Best wishes,

Muhammad Umar Arshad

Honorable delegates, Hello and Welcome to the simulation of the Economic and Social Council at Munster University International Model United Nations,



my name is Arqam Altaf-Ur-Rehman Niaz, and I am from Lahore, Pakistan. I have been in a Model UN circuit in my home country for more than 7 years now. I am currently studying at the University of Central Punjab; I am a computer science major. I am also in the Model UN society at my university and have been training students in the art of public speaking and diplomacy at various institutes back home. From doing declamation style of debate and then gradually inclining towards Model UN conferences, I have been experimenting with different styles of debates for a long time. I have always been inclined toward international law and public policy drafting, and international relations, and I am sure that my inclination toward the aforementioned topics has changed my perspective on looking into matters and issues. It has forced me to think out of the box and have an out-of-the-ordinary way of thinking and analyzing situations.

Other than debates, I am an experimentalist when it comes to extra-curricular activities. From being one of the most active members of my sports society to being the cast in multiple theater performances. From being the president of the Debates society to being the General Secretary of the Arts and Literary Circle at my high school. I have tried almost everything that my school had to offer. As an individual, I have always felt that education is not just confined to the walls of a classroom or a lecture hall. As a lot of people have mentioned in their speeches, and I agree with them, learning is out of the protected bubble of a classroom and outside of the constant shadow of our professors. One of the biggest reasons for all these experiments was to live life outside of the control and influence of teachers and elders, no doubt it is very important and vital, but it is also very important to somehow deal with difficulties on your own.

I welcome you all to the ECOSOC committee at MUIMUN 2022, the committee will be filled with diplomatic debate points and a show of diplomacy, I assure you that the debate will

be not an ordinary one, the delegates in ECOSOC will be allowed to be as creative as they wish with their frameworks and solutions. I would recommend you research well and use this with their frameworks and solutions. I would recommend you research well and use this document to your fair advantage, and always remember, you need to practice diplomacy throughout the conference as that is one of the main goals of Model UN conferences.

Arqam Altaf

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Committee Description

We welcome you all to the ECOSOC committee at MUIMUN 2022, the committee will be filled with diplomatic debate points and a show of diplomacy, we assure you that the debate will be not an ordinary one, the delegates in ECOSOC will be allowed to be as creative as they wish with their frameworks and solutions. We would recommend you research well and use this document to your fair advantage, and always remember, you need to practice diplomacy throughout the conference as that is one of the main goals of Model UN conferences.

History and mandate of the committee:

ECOSOC was established by the UN Charta (1945), which was amended in 1965 and 1974 to increase the number of members from 18 to 54. The Economic and Social Council was designed to be the main platform for the United Nations to discuss and debate international economic and social issues. ECOSOC has been one of the most important subsidiary bodies of the United Nations, as it has been active since the establishment of the UN charter and has been given the mandate to not only discuss social issues, but also economic, humanitarian, and cultural issues as well. That gives ECOSOC the right and responsibility to solve issues such as:

1. Gender Discrimination
2. The economic crisis of states
3. Social development
4. Illegal production and supply of Narcotics
5. Issues faced in fulfillment of the sustainable development goals and millennial
6. development goals.

These are just some of the topics that the ECOSOC has been working upon for the last years, and more are there as well.

What does the Economic and Social council do? There are multiple tasks and objectives that the ECOSOC have adopted over the years, they are:

1. Promoting and financing sustainable Development
2. Coordination Segment
3. Managing the transition from MDGs to SDGs
4. Development Cooperation Forum
5. Financing for sustainable development
6. Coordinating humanitarian action
7. Guiding operational activities for development
8. Providing coordination and oversight
9. Building partnerships
10. Engaging youth
11. Raising awareness on emerging issues
12. Advising on Haiti's long-term development
13. Promoting the peace-development nexus
14. Working with civil society
15. Joint operational activities of ECOSOC and the United Nations for development

[The Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)](#), under the overall authority of the General Assembly, coordinates the economic and social work of the United Nations and the UN family of organizations. As the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues and for formulating policy recommendations, the Council plays a key role in fostering international cooperation for development. It also consults with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), thereby maintaining a vital link between the United Nations and civil society.

As explained above, ECOSOC has a set number of members, that represent their geographical belongings, the breakdown of which is, that 14 members are [from](#) Africa, 11 from Asia and the Pacific, 6 from Eastern Europe, 10 from [Latin America](#) and the Caribbean, and 13 from Western Europe and other areas. This adds up to 54 total members. After every 3 years, these members are re-elected. As the mandate of ECOSOC is quite diverse and a lot of area needs to be covered, ECOSOC has further regional commissions, in totality, ECOSOC has 5 regional commissions, to name them, and we have:

- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

These different commissions work as sub-bodies for the ECOSOC and help the main body execute its plans and missions on a grassroots level.

Topic A: Cementing global support for the economic and social disparity in the least developed countries

Written by Muhammad Umar Arshad and Christoph Kahlen

The issue of illegal arms trade in Africa and the Middle East is one that is not new but has been relevant with the rise of arm use in conflicts across the globe. Illegal arms trade facilitates instability through acts of terrorism and further escalates conflicts. This illicit form of trading is particularly rife in the Middle East and in Africa and has resulted in many civilians losing their lives or being displaced due to conflicts stemming from distribution of unregulated and illegal arms.

Illegal arms trade is in contravention of international law and basic human rights. Illegal arms trade perpetuates conflict and is against Sustainable Development Goal 16,¹ which aims to promote peace, justice and strong institutions. This issue commands great attention as many of those affected by illegal arms trade are not the perpetrators of the trade, but rather are mostly civilians (including women and children) who in most cases are victims of crossfire in conflicts.

Introduction

What are Least Developed Countries (LDCs)?

The Least developed nations (LDCs) category became mounted by the united nations in 1971 to recollect the diversity of developing nations and to offer relevant treatment for the poorest. starting with 25 nations, the class has forty-seven LDC nations in 2019, usually in Africa. LDCs are characterised by using low capita income and structural handicaps that impede their development, justifying their unique interest and guiding measures from the international network. Those structural handicaps are measured through an economic Vulnerability Index (EVI) and a Human assets Index (HAI).FERDI's work in the Least evolved countries specialises in the traits of the class and the development of LDC identity, and the effectiveness of their unique treatment.

Overseeing the progress of the United Nations

The listing of LDCs is reviewed every 3 years via the Committee for development policy (CDP), an institution of independent specialists that documents to the Economic and Social Council

(ECOSOC) of the united nations. Following a triennial review of the list, the CDP may additionally propose, in its record to ECOSOC, international locations for addition to the listing or graduation from LDC repute.

During 2017 and 2020 the CDP undertook a comprehensive assessment of the LDC standards The ensuing revised standards had been first carried out on the triennial overview which came about in February 2021. The standards and the thresholds for inclusion into the LDC category and for graduation from the class applied at the 2021 triennial overview were as follows[2]:

- (a) An earnings criterion, based on a three-12 months average estimate of the gross national income (GNI) in line with capita in the U.S.A. dollars, the use of conversion elements primarily based on the world financial institution Atlas methodology. The threshold for inclusion and commencement is based on the thresholds of the sector financial institution's low-income class. On the 2021 triennial assessment, the threshold for inclusion turned to \$1,018 or underneath; the brink for commencement becomes \$1,222 or above[3];

- (b) A human assets index (HAI), such as two sub-indexes:
 - a)fitness sub-index and
 - b) training sub-index.

The health sub-index furthermore has 3 indicators:

- (i) the beneath-5 mortality fee;
- (ii) the maternal mortality ratio; and
- (iii) the superiority of stunting. [4]

The schooling sub-index has 3 signs:

- (i) the gross secondary faculty enrolment ratio;

(ii) the adult literacy charge; and
(iii) the gender parity index for gross secondary school enrolment. All six signs are transformed into indices using hooked-up methodologies with the same weight. The 2021 triennial review set the thresholds for inclusion and graduation at 60 or under and sixty-six or above, respectively.

(c) An economic and environmental vulnerability index, including two sub-indices: a monetary vulnerability sub-index and an environmental vulnerability sub-index.

The financial vulnerability sub-index has 4 indicators:

- (i) share of agriculture, hunting, forestry, and fishing in GDP;
- (ii) remoteness and landlockedness;
- (iii) merchandise export attention; and
- (iv) instability of exports of goods and services.

The environmental vulnerability sub-index has four signs:

- (i) percentage of populace in low elevated coastal zones;
- (ii) share of the population living in drylands;
- (iii) instability of agricultural manufacturing; and
- (iv) victims of screw-ups.

All 8 signs are transformed into indices of the usage of installed methodologies with equal weight. The 2021 triennial assessment set the thresholds for inclusion and commencement at 36 or above and 32 or beneath, respectively.

At every triennial evaluation, all countries in developing regions are reviewed against the criteria. If a non-LDC meets the established inclusion thresholds for all 3 criteria in a single review, it can emerge as eligible for inclusion.[5]

Inclusion calls for the consent of the UNGA worried and will become powerful straight away after the general meeting takes notice of the Committee's advice. No recommendations have been made for inclusion in the CDP's 2021 triennial evaluation.[6]

Multilateral strategies to counter sustainability

Every ten years, the United Nations convenes a convention dedicated completely to LDCs. Programs of Action (PoA) had been decided for each of the four many years all through 1980 and 2021. because of the outcome of a multilateral method to improve negotiation and compromise, PoAs aren't legally binding.[7] They necessarily embody a political schedule and replicate the unequal electricity performances and interactions present between distinctive constituencies and ideological leanings within the multilateral system.[8] It is critical to bear in mind that PoAs no longer update national development plans as this would neglect the heterogeneity of the LDCs and infringe on their sovereignty and employer. PoAs as a consequence inherently generalise LDC internal factors, each in[9]:

- (i) the articulation of structural impediments to improvement;
- (ii) inside the evaluation of implementation;
- (iii) putting more emphasis on regions of worldwide action extra oriented to consequences

Successive shifts in emphasis throughout the PoAs have served to make bigger sure dimensions of development over others, and try to “repair” problems/troubles that occurred at some stage in the implementation of previous PoAs. This represents a development in the complexity and the number of policy measures (which includes related charge-offs and sequencing demanding situations), with the corollary being greater demands on (and for) state ability. all the PoAs are heavily dependent on the potential and management function of LDC governments, which have a primary obligation for their own improvement.[10] But LDCs’ state potential has been at risk of erosion at some point of the PoAs’ implementation, as evidenced by the negative effects of the austerity measures taken within the context of the structural adjustment programs (SAPs) of the Eighties and Nineteen Nineties – the latter almost absolutely overshadowing longer-time period issues with sustainable improvement and structural transformation pursuits embodied in the SNPA and the economic improvement Decade for Africa.[11]

Moreover, ODA commitments and measures intended to improve useful resource allocations and mechanisms have always remained unmet and hampered desires on

useful resource effectiveness and the building of the kingdom's ability to deliver at the PoAs and other improvement goals. It is consequently notable that each one of the PoAs has functioned

imperfectly, with neither birthday celebration in a position to say they have completely met their goals.[12]

International efforts for LCDS

Each of the PoAs is known for commitments to global guide measures (ISMs). Further to ODA and technical help, change is the primary place thru which concrete LDC-unique ISMs have been pursued and operationalized, inclusive of the doors of the PoAs.[13] Whilst the special wishes of LDCs are extensively diagnosed, foremost monetary institutions, such as the arena bank and the worldwide financial Fund (IMF), no longer recognize or observe the LDC category of their operational work. Even though multilateral institutions are events in the PoA development cooperation partnership, and at the same time associated with donor commitments on financing for improvement, including ODA, technical assistance, and debt relief. At the same time as most resource donors want to seem as beneficent as viable, the single file on more differentiation inside the unique treatment of LDCs is inconsistent.[14] It may be said that the PoAs have influenced the worldwide discourse on development in LDCs serving as a useful tool for advocacy considering donors want to comfy their public's buy-in for useful resource coverage. Policy statements, however, many donor nations have no longer multiplied ODA to LDCs on the tempo required to achieve agreed targets; issues about this had been raised as early as the first LDC conference in 1981 when the subject of the limited progress achieved inside the implementation of the immediate action Programme became broached (United nations, 1982).[16] There are several dimensions to the less-than-exceptional report on the fulfillment of ODA dreams and objectives, no longer least the lagged constraints imposed on the ability and inclination of donors to satisfy ODA targets throughout instances of home financial strife.[17] Those factors likely contribute to explaining why donor commitments on ODA within the PoAs weakly translate to actual aid transfers and why aid allocations are unequally distributed throughout the diverse dimensions of improvement. Donor ambition is likewise measured by using the nature of

their commitments.[18] Critics factor out that ODA commitments do not quantify to a promise to obtain the objectives; furthermore, the graduated nature of the PPOA-installed commitments skews donors' incentive due to the fact the few notably small countries that consistently reach the top-stage target (0.20 percent of GNI) are required to do extra. Bigger and richer donor nations that do not obtain even the lowest goal (zero.15 in keeping with cents of GNI) are difficult with much

less strain to decide on a quantity of ODA in percentage to their GNI.[19] The political context for the PoAs is as important as the goals themselves because donors necessarily reply to development goals in approaches that are precise to their nearby situations. As a result, it's far additionally essential to recognize that the messages that may be simplest in garnering donor assistance for pro-improvement guidelines and sustained resource programs can be distinctive from people who incentivize sustainable progress on the floor. Studies have prominently shown a diffusion of donor motivations for giving, e.g. cohesion, recipient want, donor self-interest, recipient traits, donor ideology, historic path dependencies, geopolitical opposition, exchange pursuits, enlightened self-hobby, and home protection concerns.[20]

Also noteworthy is the Monterrey Consensus, which underpins 21st-century development financing, and which advanced the view that sound governance is necessary for aid to be used successfully.[21] This endorsement effectively justified selectivity in aid allocation by donors and tilted the balance of obligation for resource effectiveness in the direction of useful resource recipients. One tough problem is the multitude and contested meanings of the idea of improvement.[22] Such ambiguity and elusiveness serve to justify a variety of different agendas held by using countrywide governments, donors, and the diverse and increasing number of actors in development cooperation; that is similarly complicated by using electricity imbalances that tend to negate the rhetoric on LDC possession and leadership on choices in this question. because the Monterrey Consensus, which means the concept of development is closely weighted closer to poverty relief and development perspectives emphasising character well-being versus a holistic view of the national economic system functioning as a device that simultaneously addresses societal well-being.[23] The interplay of stagnant ODA flows and a sectoral allocation disproportionately geared towards social sectors and

humanitarian activities leaves economic infrastructure and productive sectors rather underfunded.[24]

National strategies to counter problems in LDCs

Nations comply with extraordinary improvement paths and trajectories due to preliminary conditions, countrywide policy selections, and exogenous elements. The implication of particular United States of America challenges calls for nations to strive for stability among different priorities, at the same time as pursuing their development schedule.[25] At the centre of development planning procedures are the governance structures and

establishments that outline country-wide visions and expand techniques and guidelines to realise them. These governance institutions have the concomitant duty to increase rules that foster brotherly love throughout the populace and stability of the alternate-offs and unintended consequences of guidelines.[26] Those contrasting forces have once more become a chief function of the national policy-making process in growing nations given that 2015. Therefore, an evaluation of LDCs' countrywide improvement plans was made, masking various overlapping durations starting in 2014/2015–2020/2021 and ending in 2020/2021–2030/2036. numerous of those plans include an implementation price estimate, even as others most effective include a demonstration of the spending allocation in step with vast regions of precedence.[27] The budgets are largely tied to an economic system's length and are no longer necessarily indicative of the use of a level of ambition. For example, Angola, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nepal, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania have extraordinarily big budgets, steady with their size. In contrast, the development plans of Rwanda and Burkina Faso showcase substantial ambition, as compared to other LDCs with similar profit ranges. Afghanistan is a specific case.[28] There, the economy size is not a limiting component, which demonstrates the USA's expectations to mobilise great external resources to reinforce the potentialities for peace and recovery after years of conflict, clearing backlogs in public provider shipping, and strengthening establishments.[29] In truth, Afghanistan received the highest share of ODA to LDCs in 2018–2019 accounting for 10% of the \$ fifty-seven billion of useful resources to all LDCs. The selection and costing of flagship tasks for enforcing country-wide plans vary in line with country priorities, and from actual financial spending

statistics.[30] An analysis of the countrywide improvement plans imparting information and costing of spending for the implementation of the plans well-known shows that national governments place an excessive level of precedence on the development of productive capacities, economic diversification, and structural transformation.[31] A sectoral breakdown of the national budgets of 23 LDCs for which records are to be had, well-known shows that they foresee a median of 52 according to cent in their price range allocations committed to the two sectors of economic development, transformation, diversification; and infrastructure. Within the case of Burundi, Ethiopia, Liberia, Nepal, Madagascar, and the United Republic of Tanzania, their percentage of allocations in these sectors is mainly high, with the 2 classes accounting for more than 60% in keeping with cent of deliberate spending.[32] Burundi, for instance, allotted seventy-seven consistent with the price of implementing its national plan to those large topics. although, infrastructure development, which is central to economic transformation, acquired the simplest 2. five in line with cent of the price range, notwithstanding currently having handiest 1,646 km of paved roads out of a total of five,211 km in the categorised national street community (authorities of Burundi, 2018).[33] Several nations have allocated an above-average (as a minimum of 30 percent) of their budgets to economic development, transformation, and diversification, including Guinea, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Niger, and Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, and the United Republic of Tanzania.[34]

UN-related documents:

1. The Ministerial Declaration of the Group of Least Developed Countries
2. GA Resolution – Graduation of Bangladesh, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Nepal from the least developed country category
3. ECOSOC Resolution - Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its 23rd session
4. Report of the Secretary-General on Implementation, effectiveness and added value of smooth transition measures and graduation support
5. Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

6. Statement of the Group of Least Developed Countries on the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19): Burgeoning Challenges and a Global Stimulus Package for the Least Developed Countries
7. The Ministerial Declaration of the Group of Least Developed Countries
8. GA Resolution - Rescheduling of the LDC5 Preparatory Process and Conference due to COVID-19 pandemic
9. GA Resolution - Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
10. ECOSOC Resolution-Program of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

Challenges to solve in the current fiscal situation

About 1.1 billion people live in the least developed countries (LDCs), which face daunting improvement demanding situations.[35]

The LDC organisation grew from an initial 25 international locations in 1971 to a top of fifty-two in 1991 and stands at forty-six today. The handiest six nations have controlled graduation from the class.

“The vulnerabilities of LDCs have advanced since the UN created the class 5 a long time ago, but they keep facing main obstacles that block their sustainable improvement,” stated Paul Akiwumi, UNCTAD’s director for Africa and least advanced international locations.[36]

These include hovering debt, export marginalisation, power poverty, and climate vulnerability.

1. a Soaring debt

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, UNCTAD warned about the hiking debt burden of LDCs, which undermines their capacity to provide fundamental services, which include fitness care and schooling. Their debts have not simply grown but have also become costlier and riskier. between 2011 and 2019, LDCs’ debt provider tripled to \$33 billion, which represents between five% and 13% of the price of their exports. The pandemic has exacerbated the state of affairs, with LDCs’ debt repayments set to hit \$43 billion in 2022. The sort of burden will jeopardise their COVID-19 healing efforts and sap the general public finances needed to combat poverty and put money into crucial infrastructure, which includes roads and hospitals.[37]

2. Export marginalisation

LDCs also remain marginalised in international change. Their share of world merchandise exports has hovered around simply 1% in 2010. Their fundamental exports leave them pretty liable to international crises and shocks.[38] Even though numerous LDCs have broadened their export base, as many as 38 of them remain commodity established. They rely upon primary goods like copper, cotton, and oil for over 60% of the exports of their products. Global commodities’ markets are very unstable, and while costs crash, so do exports, jobs, and authorities’ revenue. This volatility is a serious risk to many LDCs, mainly for meals and gasoline. The impact of

the warfare in Ukraine on global costs for these two merchandise is a stark reminder.[39]

3. Power poverty

UNCTAD calculations show that greater than half of the human beings in LDCs nonetheless lacked the right of entry to energy in 2019. about 570 million men, women, and children in these international locations don't have light at night time for reading and aren't capable of feeding a cellular phone.[40]

The state of affairs is worse in rural areas, with about thirds of the population (458 million human beings) residing without energy. Where power is available, such as in big towns, entry is frequently unreliable.[41]

LDCs trying to recover from the COVID-19 disaster. As an example, without reliable electricity, hospitals can't refrigerate vaccines. This hampers vaccine roll-out efforts.

4. Weather vulnerability

LDCs are on the front lines of the climate crisis although their populations have slightly contributed to the worldwide greenhouse fuel emissions fuelling international heating.[42]

In the past 5 many years, those susceptible international locations had been domestic to sixty-nine% of the global deaths due to weather screw-ups; yet their cars and industries have produced simply 1.1% of the sector's general CO2 emissions.[43]

Even their share consistent with man or woman barely reaches 9% of the arena's common. In 2019, the carbon footprint of a mean character residing in an LDC will become 23 times smaller than that of someone in a developed USA, consisting of the USA or an EU state.[44]

This "weather apartheid" manner that the people least responsible for weather alternate is the maximum tormented by its consequences.

The fifth United Nations convention on the Least evolved international locations (LDC5) is a risk to get LDCs the help they truly need to tackle their sustainable improvement challenges.[45]

LDC5 is being held in two elements. The first component was held at the UN headquarters in the big apple on 17 March 2022, during which the Doha Programme of movement for Least evolved nations was followed.[46]

It pursues to ensure LDCs are positioned at the pinnacle of the worldwide agenda, to rally stronger support to assist them to overcome the structural demanding situations they face.

The second one might be held in Doha from five to nine March 2023, in which global leaders will meet with civil society, the private sector, young human beings, and other stakeholders to construct new plans and partnerships for the transport of the program of motion over the subsequent decade.[47]

Conclusion

The issue of the development of LCDs can be tackled only through international inclusiveness and combined efforts. ECOSOC needs to play a vital role in that regard.

Questions A Resolution Must Answer:

1. How can ECOSOC collaborate with other UN bodies and subsidiaries to tackle this problem?
2. How can ECOSOC play a more vital role in uplifting the LCDs?
3. What measures can be taken to improve the existing frameworks by ECOSOC and other bodies?
4. Do the richer states owe any repercussions to the LCDs?
5. What multilateral, bilateral, and unilateral strategies must be advised by ECOSOC to counter the problem of poverty in this post-pandemic era?
6. How has COVID-19 exposed the vulnerability of the ECOSOC and LCDs in general?

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Topic B: Increasing Women's Political Participation

Written by Arqam Altaf and Christoph Kahlen

Introduction

Women's political participation is a concept upon which a lot of nations and organizations have been working, giving them equal opportunity to women in the field of politics, law drafting, and legislature. The United Nations itself has been working very hard to somehow make sure that the debate and implementation on the concept do not end or stop.

The following points shall be covered by the delegates in their debate, a brief explanation of these points is mentioned in this guide as well:

1. Definitions.
2. Historical background of the topic.
3. Issues faced by women in getting to a political platform.
4. Reasons behind the issues.
5. Impacts of those issues on the women, and the society as a whole.
6. Past international actions were taken by countries and organizations.
7. Current Scenario.
8. Questions a resolution **must** answer (in detail).

Defenitions

Political Participation: Political participation includes a broad range of activities through which people develop and express their opinions on the world and how it is governed, and try to take part in and shape the decisions that affect their lives.

Political participation refers to the civic activities, such as voting, that citizens use to take part in political processes and express their opinions and preferences.

Women's Political Participation: Women's political participation is a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality and genuine democracy. It facilitates women's direct engagement in public decision-making and is a means of ensuring better accountability to women.

Women's political empowerment supports creating policies that would best support gender equality and agency for women in both the public and private spheres.

Historical Background

The participation of women in politics has been active for a very long time. With or without the right to vote, women have had a strong influence on the political scenarios of nations. Women also have a strong history in partisan politics, one that, surprisingly, to some predates the winning of suffrage in 1920. In 1870, women in Wyoming and Utah territories were the first to cast ballots in general elections. In other states, women won the right to vote in municipal elections or for school boards. Women also formed auxiliaries to the major political parties and joined third parties such as the Populist, Socialist, and Progressive parties. Other than in the states, as of 2015, women in every country in the world have the right to vote; the first nation to grant female suffrage was New Zealand in 1893, and the last country was Saudi Arabia in 2015. Today, several countries are led by females and some countries, such as Finland, also have a cabinet dominated by women. These achievements have been possible in large part thanks to gender equality measures. In the Arab region, where progress has been slowest, the adoption of quotas by 12 countries helped increase the percentage of women in parliaments from 10 to 18 percent from 2012 to 2017.

But progress is slow and uneven. Women are still underrepresented in politics, parliaments, and public life. Women make up less than 23 percent of parliamentarians, with an average of 18 percent in the Arab region, while men make up more than 77 percent, leaving a more than 50 percent gender gap. Attitudes towards women candidates are still mainly characterized by deeply ingrained stereotypes, and political opponents will often use those stereotypes to question women's capabilities.

In the European region, from a low 16.6 % of female Members in the first directly elected legislature in 1979, the percentage of women has risen after each election up to 41% after t

the 2019 elections. As of January 2021, the percentage of women Members of the European Parliament has fallen since the 2019 elections and now stands at 38.9 %. ¹ This is above the world average for national parliaments and above the European average for national parliaments, which stands at 30.5 %. However, there are many differences

between the Member States. At one end of the spectrum, an increasing number of countries are at or around parity. On the other end, in Cyprus, Romania, Slovakia, and Greece, women make up less than a quarter of the Members of the European Parliament. Cyprus now has no women Members, a decline when comparing it with the share of 16.7 % in the last mandate. In Bulgaria, the share of women has risen to 29.4 % from 17.6 % in the last mandate. Interestingly, Malta, whose gender-equality record in national politics is near the bottom compared to the other EU Member States, has gender parity in the European Parliament, with 50 % of its members being women.

Issues

- Social and societal barriers
- Lack of Economic and grooming opportunities
- Lack of educational opportunities
- Lack of equal representation
- Gender biased laws
- Male dominant field of operations
- Issues that women raise for one another
- Lack of social acceptance toward women being political leaders
- Domestic pressure faced by women

Reasons behind these issues

1. The most prominent reason has always been the male dominance over society and the profession of politics. Due to the said reason, it has been difficult for any other gender to make its way up to their political representation
2. The second reason that has played a vital role in the situation is the domestic pressure that women face. First of all, it is hard for women in suppressing nations to come out of their comfort zone and be in politics, and win over their consciousness. Even if they emerge out of that situation, the next hurdle they face is the lack of acceptance at a domestic level.
3. Another important reason behind the issues that women face is the lack of awareness at a younger age. This is also related to a lack of education.

4. Another important reason is the taboo that is connected with women leaving their kids at home to work a full-time job, which is considered normal for men. Why is there a taboo attached to the concept when it comes to any other gender than a male individual?

5. Lack of role models for women to follow in political spheres of life.

The reasons are not limited to these, but these are one of the main issues. The issues have been highlighted as have the reasons behind those issues as well. These have intentionally not been explained. Delegate respective subheadings.

Impact of these issues on the topic

1. Lack of participation of women in the political spheres of life, in return, leads to male-dominant political parties, and then as these parties are responsible for legislation and policy drafting, they do that, and as that law is for every citizen that includes women and other genders as well so that law, in reality, is not considering their rights/opinions, so that is again gender discrimination. So, the main impact of the lack of participation of women in the political sector of a nation is **gender discrimination** at its fullest.
2. Another impact of this issue is, that women do not try to get involved in any other sector of life, even if they feel and observe any sort of discrimination or wrongdoing, they do not raise their voice against it, and the lack of political participation of women results in lack of confidence and self-esteem.
3. Following the mentioned impacts, another is, generational suppression, to explain what that would mean when one generation of women is denied access to political forums, it is something that is then carried forward to the next generation, they carry forward this suppression to their upcoming generation. They teach they are next born not to participate in social gatherings, and or political participation. Which then creates a chain and leads to generational suppression.
4. Another impact, that is not just on the society, but on the perception of the country as a whole is that the country with fewer women in their parliament is a country that does not support gender equality, and not a lot of countries then try to collaborate with such a nation.

Earlier International actions were taken by the nations and organizations to promote the participation of women in political spheres

- The convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women promotes equality in all spheres of life for women.
- Program for Enhancing Rural Women's Leadership and Participation in Nation Building aims of building the capacity of women leaders and groups at the national and local levels to participate in the process of nation-building.
- UNDP is working on promoting women's political participation at different levels and in different ways, along with Youth Programs and Awareness Campaigns. Those aim to deal with enhancing in political participation of women.
- The sustainable development goals of United Nations, goal # 16.
- There are a few organizations that have been working for the goal of promoting the rights of women, those being:
 - European Institute for Gender Equality
 - International Women's Democracy Center
 - International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
 - Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe – Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
 - Women's Environment and Development Organization
 - New Tactics in Human Rights: Empowering Women in Political Participation and Leadership
 - United States Agency for International Development: Women in Power Project

Possible solutions

These are the possible solutions to the topic:

1. Establish Proportional Representation Electoral Systems
2. Quota System
3. Increase Political Party Support for Women
4. Awareness programs for citizens
5. Promotion of education in women and girls at a young age

6. Promotion of political science and international law at local and international universities
7. Scholarships for women and girls
8. Trying to give opportunities to women where they promote self confidence

Questions a resolution must answer

1. Due to what factors, have the women not been able to exercise their right to political freedom?
2. What impacts does that have on the society as a whole?
3. What role does media, non-governmental organizations and Multi-national cooperation(s) play in this situation?
4. How can education help

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Conference and Research Tips

In preparation for the moderated caucus during the conference delegates might be required to submit opening statements which will highlight their country's position on the topic. A speakers list will be opened to member states in order to create a platform that allows engagement, making short comments on the issue at hand.

Typically, delegates will be required to adhere to the rules of procedure when participating in the debate. In preparation for the Conference, each delegate will be required to submit a Position Paper in accordance with the MUIMUN guidelines.

The key to being successful at MUN is thorough and comprehensive preparation. We recommend that all delegates become familiar with the following five areas of study. Each area should be addressed in the following order, as each is progressively more in-depth than the one listed before:

- The UN
- General Background of Country
- The Committee
- The Topic
- Your Country's position on said topic

Delegates, be aware that the objective of your opening speech is to persuade and even convince others and not merely state an opinion. Be aware of the strengths and weaknesses of your cause and that of your opponent. A speech is only heard once and it should leave a strong impression as other speeches will follow, and you want yours to be remembered. Select the most important points and arrange them in ascending order of importance. The final point should be the most important one.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the committee chair at:

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