



ISME MODEL UNITED NATIONS BACKGROUND GUIDE - ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Agenda: Sustainable development of Latin America

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Delegates,

We are extremely excited to have you in committee this year at the ISME Model United Nations 2019. The topic at hand is commonly debated, both at Model United Nations conferences, and at the United Nations, and hence the content in this guide is going to be inclined towards how we expect you to present the various opinions and documentations that you come up with as a result of your research.

The ECOSOC is a fairly standard committee, consisting of 54 member states (subject to change in Model UN conferences), that discusses a variety of social and macroeconomic elements of society. These elements may be prevalent globally, or geographically confined. However, if it is the latter, it is considered the duty of every state to contribute towards solutions that adhere to the purpose of committee, and subsequently to the essence of the United Nations. Delegates, do not be disheartened even if your allotted nation has nothing to do with the agenda at hand; what counts is the knowledge of the delegate and their input towards making the committee successful.

Delegates, what is most important to your executive board at this conference, is the alignment of your solutions to the purpose of the United Nations. Awareness about the agenda, and the technicalities of it is important. However, awareness about the nature of operation of the United Nations is something that can significantly enhance the quality of debate in any individual. Despite the fact that this is merely a simulation of the United Nations, we expect the nature of debate to be oriented towards the goal of the committee, and hence the previous sessions of the ECOSOC may be a crucial insight in order to determine the trajectory of debate.

This background guide aims to provide delegates with pointers to enhance their research, and can be used as a basis to expand your research. However, it is not necessary for the structure of your research to be confined to the background guide. The executive board would be pleased if a delegate steps out of the limited knowledge of the EB and comes up with something that would benefit committee.

We hope to see you soon, and will do our best to see to it that every delegate receives the opportunity to develop as an individual.

Regards,

Atul Puri (Chairperson)

Smriti Bhardwaj (Vice Chairperson)

Background of Committee

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. It has the responsibility of coordinating economic and social work of the UN Specialized Agencies alongside their functional and regional commission counterparts. It holds significant influence on how members formulate economic and social policies as they function as a forum which even includes the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, Economists, and consultants.

The role of ECOSOC is to better the lives of people by influencing international policies on trade, finance, investment, and economic management. It is also spearheading the international movement for development in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs).

ECOSOC might undergo future changes if proposals for reforms are accepted, but that remain NGOs to be seen.

a. History of Committee

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was established by the UN Charter in 1946, as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. The key driving forces for the creation of ECOSOC emerged from the need to coordinate international efforts to rebuild economies. The focus later evolved to encompass coordination of policies by reviewing, recommending, and establishing dialog to discuss economic and social issues relating to it. In the past decade, ECOSOC has undergone reforms to enhance the council's capabilities and increase its capacity. Succinctly, it now provides more funding and attention to coordinating a unified international approach to integrating goals (such as the Millennium Development Goals and then later the Sustainable Development Goals i.e. SDGs), providing consultation and monitoring of approaches, and reviewing the outcomes of such approaches by all United Nations conferences pertinent to the mandate of ECOSOC.

b. Mandate of Committee

As stated before, ECOSOC is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and was established by the UN Charter in 1946. It elects a President for a one year term, and the candidates are chosen from member states in ECOSOC. ECOSOC is responsible for coordinating policies and actions pertinent to economic and social issues.

Within ECOSOC, there are 54 member states and in recent times, a growing number of non-governmental organizations as consultants. After 1998, they have since hosted annual meetings with heads of committees from the IMF and the World Bank.

ECOSOC serves as the main body for the United Nations when it comes economic, social, and to some extent, humanitarian and environmental areas. It acts as a central body which oversees the specialized agencies, subsidiary and expert bodies, and functional commissions pertinent to the agendas of ECOSOC. All policies drafted by the subsidiaries listed above will go through ECOSOC and will be enshrined as recommendations to member states/observers. Under the new reforms, it now undergoes heavy focus in integrating global efforts to achieve certain goals (i.e: Sustainable Development Goals).

In order to achieve this level of integration, ECOSOC undergoes the need to review their mandate from time to time and will update its mandate by reforming certain aspects in order to keep up with the development of world affairs pertinent to its agenda.

Background of Agenda



Delegates, please note prior to any form of research, that the committee's ultimate goal while addressing post conflict scenarios will be achieving the goals listed above.

In 2009, on the Environmental Change & Security Program (ECSP) channel, Oli Brown joined a UN press member to sit down and discuss the advisory role of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and its importance in guiding the UN. The topics specifically discussed were conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding among many others. Mr. Brown speaks about the importance of effectively harnessing legal as well as natural resources that are most important during tough times.



UNFPA launch a program to support women in post-conflict scenarios

The United Nations itself has mandated providing support to countries by integrating sustainable development principles by implementing conflict-sensitive *National Sustainable Development Strategies* (NSDS), all while developing other mechanisms to deal with lack of institutional structures, a central authority and a monitoring system.

It is recommended that you visit this [link](#) to further your understanding of the intricacy of the NSDS. It lays a set of guidelines for government officials and policy makers in the targeted country. Analyzing strategies drafted for other countries in the past will be essential for us to draft a stronger framework for anything post-conflict. These strategies have a holistic approach; they are elaborate in the sense that they cover every relevant sector and prioritize efficiently.

Most war torn states are at a low level of economic development, many among the least developed countries in the world. Hence, even at the best of times, they will lack physical and human capital to prevent economic failure and social divisions that can easily provoke expensive conflicts. Civil wars will further reduce their already limited capacity to achieve and sustain social stability, cohesion, and peace.

Consequently, every conflict increases the dependency of a fragile state on foreign aid, both material and technical. An important result of this is that the effective use of external assistance becomes, especially in the early stages of the post-war reconstruction and development, a shared responsibility between the receiving country and the international community. The blame for any failure cannot be attributed, therefore, exclusively to one side – even though the main responsibility for what happens in a sovereign state rests with its population and institutions.

Nature Of Debate

The Executive board's role will primarily be to moderate debate, and we will ensure that we exhibit minimal involvement. However, there is a threshold that we have established with regard to the expectation of the nature of debate.

There are a variety of views an individual can possess while obtaining knowledge about the agenda at hand, and the nature of debate might vary depending on country policy, and the nature of the individual. Keeping that in mind, here are some general instructions-

1. Cite your Sources - The agenda being discussed is not unprecedented or predictive in nature, and hence the delegates are expected to have a variety of facts relating to previous occurrences in the international community. These facts must be cited, and only then will the executive board consider them in committee. Please keep in mind that we only recognize Reuters, BBC, and Al Jazeera as valid sources. If you wish to provide evidence for any accusation, the executive board will confirm your sources and the decision of the Executive board will be final.

2. Stick to the Mandate - If your solution requires enforcement of a legally binding document, or appointment of a peacekeeping commission, it's something you'd rather present to the Security Council and hence holds no value in the ECOSOC. However, if you wish to have the ECOSOC recommend to the UNSC anything out of ECOSOC mandate, go ahead. But keep in mind that the Executive Board looks favorably upon a resolution which can be majorly implemented by the ECOSOC itself. Here is a [link](#) to the

ECOSOC mandate .

3. Format your resolution - While a working paper may be poorly formatted, a resolution must be perfect, since it is a document that may go on to impact people. Here is an example of an ECOSOC [resolution](#) .

Insights from Case Specific Scenarios

1. Venezuela - From crime and poverty, to economic war, to soaring hyperinflation with falling oil output, Venezuela has been in a turmoil since 2010. The supreme court took over the National Assembly 2 years ago citing voting irregularities and ruled that entire assembly was in contempt and all decisions it made would be null. This deadlock lead to protests over the same, and although the court quickly reversed its decision, violent street protests continued on for over 3 months. Since then till today, over 2.3 million have left the nation. While Venezuela is lagging in providing various basic necessities including food, water, and electricity to its citizens, they have set the cryptocurrency ‘Petro’ as their national currency. According to the government, the Petro is backed by oil, gas, gold and diamonds, and is meant to help overcome US and EU sanctions. However, after being called a “scam” by the president of the USA, and being heavily criticized by other companies world wide, not much can be said as to how effective a solution it is to their problems. While Venezuela is in desperate need of foreign aid, including food, medicine, and forex, no country or organization is willing to do so as there is no guarantee that the same will be properly utilized for the better of the nation. With widespread corruption in most forms of the legislature and judiciary, steps towards restoring the nation seem bleak. While the nation has a significant store of natural resources as well as oil, these aren't being used efficiently to bring down the runaway inflation consuming the nation. Delegates, this is one of many things nations must look at during post-conflict reconstruction.

2. Kosovo - The Kosovo Conflict was a year long war between the ethnic Albanians and the Ethnic Serbs, with limited involvement from the government of Yugoslavia. Kosovo experienced a rather peculiar approach to reconstruction. The methods of reconstruction used in Kosovo involved detailed plans that extended to methodologies designed for the purpose of efficient implementation and execution . However, what was unique in Kosovo's approach to reconstruction was their methods of data collection. Being a mixture of both quantitative and qualitative methods, their methods of collection of data involved a combination of 14 surveys each having a common element, and the criteria were mapped out in order to structure the reconstruction. This process of collection can be a valuable insight towards committee's potential solutions.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

- 1) How can you intend to structure financing the NSDS and Sustainable development in the Latin American areas to be more effective?
- 2) What kind of indicators (if any) are you going to set-up in said countries to track change and progress?
- 3) Are implementation of the SDGs identical in all countries facing post-conflict situations? If not, how? What guidelines can a nation follow to focus on SDGs of utmost importance over others?
- 4) How is the ECOSOC, and subsequently the NSDS supposed to prioritize which sectors to target, and what is the plan of action?

5) How are you going to ensure the active participation of both the public and private sector in achieving these SDGs in targeted countries?

