

FAIRGAZE MUN'24

Economic And Social Council

Chairperson : Harshita Gera

Vice Chairperson : Arya Kadam

*Eradicating Rural Poverty to implement the
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Goals*

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Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It gives us incredible delight to invite you all to the academic simulation of the *Economic and Social Council at Fairgaze MUN'24*. We hope that this simulation turns out to be an experience worth cherishing for all participants while accommodating a praise-worthy debate!

Throughout this conference, we will have meaningful debates and discussions about the agenda “Eradicating Rural Poverty to implement the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals”. The selected agenda necessitates careful analysis and creative answers. We invite every one of you to bring your unique perspectives, experiences, and talents to the table as we collaborate to find solutions to these complicated challenges.

As the Chairperson, I am dedicated to making this conference a productive, courteous, and welcoming environment for all. I would appreciate it if you could come to the talks with an open mind and a readiness to engage in constructive discourse with your fellow delegates.

Please be aware that the background guide, as its name implies, is just meant to provide you with an overview of the agenda and cannot be relied upon as reliable information. It was prepared with the intention of serving as a guide for you to navigate through the abundance of material that you may encounter in your preparation for the conference. However, beyond this guide is where you should conduct your true research, and we expect to see some compelling arguments and discussions. Furthermore, it is crucial to recognize that, in a competitive environment, we aren't particularly interested in hearing what statistics or legislation you have read while researching. Rather, we urge that you analyze these facts and give your country's perspective on the significance of these laws.

At all levels of the council, unless stagnation develops, delegates must guide it. The MUN agenda is a wonderful experience and is not as challenging as it may

sound. You all need to put up a lot of work and passion so that we may all have a positive experience.

If this is your first Model United Nations Conference, then don't worry too much, and feel free to approach any of us at any point in the conference if you need any form of support. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us for any concerns you have. We cannot wait to meet all of you!

All the best!

Regards,

Harshita Gera (Chairperson)

+91 7701805714 | geraharshita12@gmail.com

Arya Kadam (Vice Chairperson)

+ 91 8355942863 | kadamarya2009@gmail.com

Evidence or Proof Acceptable in the Committee

Evidence or proof from the following sources shall be accepted as credible in the committee:

1. News Sources:

Reuters – Any Reuters article that clearly makes mention of the factor is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in the council.

<http://www.reuters.com/>

State-operated News Agencies – These reports can be used in support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any Country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are,

RIA Novosti (Russia) <http://en.rian.ru/>

IRNA (Iran) <http://www.irna.ir/ENIndex.html>

BBC (United Kingdom) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. China) <http://cctvnews.cntv.cn/>

2. Government Reports:

These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country.

a. Government Websites

For Example:

The State Department of the United States of America
(<http://www.state.gov/index.html>) or

The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation (
<http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm>)

b. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations

For Example:

India (<http://www.mea.gov.in/>),

People's Republic of China (<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>),

France (<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/>),

Russian Federation (http://www.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/main_eng)

c. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Reports

<http://www.un.org/en/members/> (Click on any country to get the website of the Office of its Permanent Representative)

d. Multilateral Organisations

For Example:

NATO (<http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm>),

ASEAN (<http://www.aseansec.org/>),

OPEC (http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/), etc

3. UN Reports:

All UN Reports are considered credible information or evidence for the Executive Board of this committee.

a. UN Bodies:

b. UN Affiliated bodies:

For Example:

International Atomic Energy Agency (<http://www.iaea.org/>),

World Bank (<http://www.worldbank.org>),

International Monetary Fund (<https://www.imf.org/en/home>),

International Committee of the Red Cross (<http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp>),
etc.

c. Treaty-Based Bodies:

For Example:

Antarctic Treaty System (<http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm>),

International Criminal Court (<http://www.icccpi.int/Menus/ICC>)

d. Subsidiary Organs of the UN:

International Law Commission: (<http://legal.un.org/ilc/>)

The Commission on the Status of Women (<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>)

NOTE:

Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, or newspapers like the Guardian, Times of India, etc., shall be accepted or taken as valid proof.

Committee Overview

About ECOSOC:

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), established by the UN Charter in 1945, stands as a cornerstone of the United Nations system. With its mandate to coordinate the multifaceted endeavors of 14 specialized agencies, ten functional commissions, and five regional commissions, alongside receiving reports from nine UN funds and programs, ECOSOC serves as a pivotal nexus for global cooperation. Operating at the intersection of economic, social, cultural, and health domains, as well as human rights and fundamental freedoms, ECOSOC steers collective action towards sustainable development goals. Established under the UN Charter, It plays a crucial role in promoting international cooperation and dialogue on a wide range of issues, from poverty eradication and sustainable development to humanitarian assistance and human rights. Through issuing policy recommendations to both the UN system and Member States, ECOSOC embodies the collective commitment to fostering a more equitable, prosperous, and sustainable world for all.

ECOSOC Agenda :

ECOSOC is a central platform for addressing the interconnected economic, social, and environmental challenges facing the world. Its highest responsibilities are to promote better standards of living, full employment, economic and social progress, identification of solutions to the international economic, social and health problems, and to facilitate international cultural and educational cooperation.

1) Promotion of Sustainable Development:

ECOSOC recognizes health as a fundamental driver of socio-economic progress and endeavors to promote equitable access to life-saving interventions and health-promoting initiatives, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable populations. By prioritizing health-related Millennium Development Goals, addressing chronic diseases, and combating neglected tropical diseases, ECOSOC contributes to broader development goals with a focus on justice and equity.

2) *Health Promotion and Security:*

Collective action is essential to address common health security threats, including emerging infectious diseases and epidemic-prone illnesses. ECOSOC emphasizes the importance of global cooperation in responding to outbreaks, strengthening health systems, and implementing international health regulations to mitigate the impact of health emergencies.

3) *Strengthening Health Systems:*

Ensuring that health services reach underserved populations is critical for poverty reduction and sustainable development. ECOSOC prioritizes the strengthening of health systems by advocating for adequate staffing, funding, data collection systems, and access to essential technologies and medicines, particularly in resource-constrained settings.

4) *Poverty Eradication:*

Central to ECOSOC's agenda is the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions. It emphasizes the need for targeted interventions to lift individuals and communities out of poverty, focusing on income inequality, access to basic services, social protection, and employment opportunities. ECOSOC supports initiatives that empower marginalized groups, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities, to break the cycle of poverty and achieve sustainable livelihoods.

5) *Inclusive Economic Growth:*

ECOSOC promotes inclusive economic growth that ensures equitable opportunities for all members of society, particularly the most vulnerable. It advocates for policies and programs that stimulate job creation, entrepreneurship, and innovation, while also addressing disparities in wealth distribution and access to financial services. ECOSOC fosters partnerships between governments, businesses, and civil society to build inclusive economies that leave no one behind.

Committee Mandate:

The fundamental mandate of the ECOSOC is laid down in the Charter of the United Nations. The Charter, under Article 62 (functions and powers), grants the Council authority to:

1. Make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters;
2. Make recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;
3. Prepare draft conventions for submission to the United Nations General Assembly;
4. Call, in accordance with the rules prescribed by the United Nations, international conferences on matters falling within its competence.

In addition, under Article 63, the Council has responsibility for defining the terms on which the specialized agencies are brought into relationship with the UN system and is authorized to coordinate their activities. Furthermore, ECOSOC may set its own rules of procedure (Article 72), establish subsidiary bodies (Article 68, “commissions”) and consult with non-governmental organizations(Article 71).

Introduction to the agenda

In an era marked by unprecedented global challenges, the pursuit of sustainable development stands as a beacon of hope amidst uncertainty. The world grapples with a multitude of crises, ranging from the existential threat of climate change to the devastating impacts of pandemics and economic turmoil. Against this backdrop, the exploration of strategies, technologies, and financing mechanisms that can foster sustainable development assumes paramount importance.

Rural areas are often disproportionately affected by poverty, with limited access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and clean water, as well as limited economic opportunities.

Rural poverty has far-reaching implications beyond individual communities, affecting the entire world in various ways. It contributes to global economic inequality and instability by limiting the potential for inclusive economic growth and exacerbating social disparities within and between countries.

Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is crucial in addressing rural poverty as it provides a comprehensive framework for tackling its root causes and promoting sustainable development globally. By focusing on eradicating rural poverty, the 2030 Agenda aims to uplift marginalized communities, enhance access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, and build resilient infrastructure in rural areas. This not only fosters inclusive growth but also contributes to achieving other SDGs, such as ending hunger, promoting health and well-being, and combating climate change.

Against this backdrop of converging crises, the imperative for proactive and holistic approaches to sustainable development become clear. Mitigation and adaptation strategies are essential for building resilience to eradicating poverty, whether through introducing new policies, enhancing ecosystem resilience, or by restructuring and introducing new funds. Similarly, preparedness and response measures are critical for combating poverty, encompassing everything from equitable distribution of basic humanitarian needs to stable lifestyle. Moreover, fostering economic resilience involves diversifying economies, promoting

inclusive growth, and ensuring social safety nets to cushion the impacts of crises on vulnerable populations.

The importance of eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for SDGs lies in its potential to create a more equitable and sustainable world for all. By integrating poverty eradication efforts with broader development strategies, countries can accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind. By addressing rural poverty comprehensively, countries can create more inclusive and sustainable societies, where no one is left behind in the pursuit of prosperity and well-being for all.

Current Situation and Important Issues

More than 80 per cent of the extreme poor live in rural areas and work in agriculture and that the extreme poverty rate in rural areas is three times higher than in urban areas, and recognizing that devoting resources to the development of rural areas and sustainable agriculture and supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, is key to ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions, by, inter alia, improving the welfare of farmers

Progress in reducing poverty remains uneven, with 1.1 billion people still living in multidimensional poverty, 84 per cent of whom live in rural areas, and that this number continues to be significant and unacceptably high, whereas the levels of inequality in income, wealth and opportunities remain high or are increasing in a number of countries, and the non-income dimensions of poverty and deprivation, such as access to inclusive and equitable quality education or basic health services, and relative poverty remain major, and stresses the importance of national and global efforts to create the conditions for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions, economic, social and environmental, sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all in society, taking into account different levels of national development capacities;

Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, which is disproportionately high in rural areas, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly in Africa, in the least developed countries, in landlocked developing countries, in small island developing States and in some middle-income countries, noting with concern that, as of 2023, approximately 691 million people still lived in extreme poverty and that the latest projections suggest that up to 89 million additional people were living in extreme poverty in 2022 because of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the precarious recovery, compounded by the continued global crisis of food, finance and challenge of energy access, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, recovery and sustainable development,

including full, productive employment and decent work for all, with a view to reducing inequalities within and among countries.

Taking into consideration, the the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics is an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind

Case Studies

1) China's Poverty Alleviation Campaign

China's poverty alleviation campaign is one of the most ambitious efforts in history. Through targeted interventions such as infrastructure development, vocational training, and social assistance programs, China lifted over 850 million people out of poverty between 1981 and 2013. The campaign focused extensively on rural areas, where the majority of China's impoverished population resided. By investing in education, healthcare, and rural infrastructure, China significantly reduced rural poverty rates and improved living standards for millions of people.

2) Grameen Bank and Microfinance in Bangladesh

The Grameen Bank, founded by Muhammad Yunus in Bangladesh, pioneered the concept of microfinance as a tool for poverty alleviation. By providing small loans to rural entrepreneurs, especially women, the Grameen Bank empowered individuals to start their own businesses and generate income. This initiative not only lifted many families out of poverty but also fostered economic growth in rural communities. The success of microfinance programs like Grameen Bank has inspired similar initiatives around the world.

3) Brazil's Bolsa Família Program

Brazil's Bolsa Família program is a conditional cash transfer program aimed at reducing poverty and inequality. The program provides financial assistance to low-income families, contingent upon certain conditions such as school attendance and healthcare check-ups. By targeting vulnerable populations in rural and urban areas, Bolsa Família has helped millions of Brazilians escape poverty and improve their living conditions. The program's success in reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion has made it a model for other countries seeking to implement similar initiatives.

4) Kenya's Rural Electrification Program

Kenya's Rural Electrification Program aims to expand access to electricity in rural areas, thereby spurring economic development and improving living standards. By extending the power grid to remote villages and promoting off-grid solutions such as solar energy, the program has enabled rural communities to access modern amenities, enhance productivity, and create new economic opportunities. Improved access to electricity has also facilitated the delivery of essential services such as healthcare and education, contributing to overall development in rural areas.

Questions to Consider

- 1) How can countries ensure that development initiatives aimed at eradicating rural poverty are inclusive and address the specific needs of marginalized and vulnerable populations, including women, children, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities?
- 2) What role can innovative financing mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships, impact investments, and microfinance, play in mobilizing resources and scaling up efforts to eradicate rural poverty and achieve sustainable development goals?
- 3) What steps can be taken to monitor progress, evaluate the effectiveness of interventions, and ensure accountability in the implementation of strategies to eradicate rural poverty and achieve sustainable development goals at the national, regional, and global levels?
- 4) How can countries enhance coordination and collaboration among government agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, and international partners to maximize the impact of efforts to eradicate rural poverty and achieve sustainable development goals?
- 5) How can a more coordinated and comprehensive approach or methodology be developed for eradicating rural poverty?

Resources for Further Research And Study

- <https://ecsdev.org/ojs/index.php/ejsd/article/view/320>
- <https://www.fao.org/3/CA1908EN/ca1908en.pdf>
- <https://www.emergingmarketsforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Eradicating-Poverty-Reducing-Inequality-and-Promoting-Sustainable-Development-min.pdf>