

# **THE SAMARTH SCHOOL FAIRGAZE MUN**

## **The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

**Agenda:** Promoting Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All.

### **BACKGROUND GUIDE**

## Letter from the Executive Board

We welcome all of you to the **The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**, to be simulated at **FAIRGAZE MUN**. As the Executive Board, we would like to ensure that this committee offers you all a value addition and great learning experience during the two days of the conference. As the Executive Board, we believe that our primary responsibility is to ensure that the proceedings are as flexible and productive as possible. Delegates are encouraged to research all aspects of the negotiations and deliberations that lead us towards and up for the discussion related to the topic: **“Promoting Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All”**. However, please note that we strongly urge you not to solely rely on the information you have gathered. According to the ideal method of research in a MUN, it is advisable to analyze the information and present this analysis as statements to the committee in a rational and structured manner. We expect delegates to think critically (clearly listing pros and cons, by testing and retesting your assumptions, observations, and conclusions through research and questioning) and come up with their arguments and structure, which will lead to more productive deliberation. The responsibility of exploring the depth and vastness of each topic is completely yours. Your duty as a diplomat is not just limited to finding a solution to the problem, but more importantly, to problematizing the issue and available solutions firsthand. In this context, problematizing means to critically analyze the issue at various levels such as but not limited to cultural, legal, political, etc., so that it takes the debate to a mature level. We would like you to note that this document is only intended as a guiding framework. It does not attempt or intend to cover all probable areas of discussion, and we strongly encourage delegates to go beyond the guide for further research, using this document only as a starting point. Areas of discussion not included in the guide but lying within committee mandate are more than welcome. Lastly, we would like you to remember that the Executive Board will not accept the guide itself as proof in the committee.

# Proof/Evidence in Council

## (Credibility of Sources)

Research is one of the most vital factors that determines your success in a Model United Nations. Many beginners struggle a lot in doing the research as there is a substantial amount of information on the internet (*we have shared a research guide in the end to help you out!*). The trickiest part here is that not every information available on the internet is reliable. The delegates need to be really vigilant about the sources they quote and present in the committee. You are free to look at all types of sources for your reference or preparation and understand the agenda better. However, it is advised that you verify your research from a credible source, which are listed below for your reference-

1. **Reuters** – It is one of the world's most trusted providers of answers. It is an independent private news agency, which mostly covers international events of importance.  
(<http://www.reuters.com/>)
2. **State operated News Agencies** – These reports can be used in the 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 listed as follows-
  - a. RIA Novosti (Russia) <http://en.rian.ru/>
  - b. IRNA (Iran) <http://www.irna.ir/ENIndex.htm>
  - c. Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. China) <http://cctvnews.cntv.cn/>
3. **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. However, a nuance is

that the Executive Board as credible information can still accept a report that is being denied by a certain country. Some examples are,

- a. Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America (<http://www.state.gov/index.htm>)
- b. or the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation (<http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm>)
- c. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India (<http://www.mea.gov.in/>) or People's Republic of China (<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>).

#### **4. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations**

The documents from individual country websites also serve as a source for finding official statements by that country on various agendas. The nature of websites varies a lot from country to country.

Link- [www.un.org/en/members/](http://www.un.org/en/members/)

#### **5. Other Multilateral or Inter-Governmental Organizations**

These are international organizations which are not a part of the United Nations. Usually one may find these organizations based around a specific region like South Asia, and with a specific purpose such as trade, security or cooperation. Documents from the same can be deemed credible; most certainly for the countries which are a part of that organization.

For example,

- a. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Website: [www.saarc-sec.org](http://www.saarc-sec.org)
- b. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Website: [www.nato.int/cps/en](http://www.nato.int/cps/en)

## **6. United Nations and Affiliated Bodies**

a. All reports or documents from the United Nations, its organs or affiliated bodies may be considered as a credible source of information. Website: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

Organs such as,

i. **UN Security Council** [www.un.org/Docs/sc/](http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/)

ii. **UNGA** [www.un.org/en/ga/](http://www.un.org/en/ga/)

b. UN Affiliated bodies such as,

i. **The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**  
[www.iaea.org](http://www.iaea.org)

ii. **The World Bank (WB)** [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

## **7. Documents from Treaty Based Bodies**

These are bodies which are strictly formed for looking after the implementation of an international treaty or agreement. For example,

a. **The Antarctic Treaty System**

[www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm](http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm)

b. **The International Criminal Court**

[www.icc-cpi.int](http://www.icc-cpi.int)

# Introduction & Mandate of Committee

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 organisations. 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 organisations (NGOs), thereby maintaining a vital link between the United Nations and civil society. The Council has 54 members, elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms. It meets throughout the year and holds a major session in July, during which a high-level meeting of Ministers discusses major economic, social and humanitarian issues. The work of ECOSOC involves so many issues it has many commissions to help it. Some are known as functional commissions. They meet regularly and report back to it on such issues as human rights, social development, the status of women, crime prevention, narcotic drugs, and science and technology. Other regional commissions deal with special problems that people living in different geographical areas face. ECOSOC has five regional commissions that promote economic development and cooperation in their respective regions. While the Security Council's primary responsibility is maintaining peace, ECOSOC focuses on promoting social progress and better standards of living. Achieving international security and social progress go hand in hand. You can't have one without the other. Poverty and the denial of human rights greatly increase the risk of instability and violence. Similarly, war sets back development. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) coordinates the work of the 14 UN specialised agencies, ten functional commissions and five regional commissions, receives reports from nine UN funds and programmes and issues policy recommendations to the UN system and to Member States. ECOSOC's purview extends over 70 percent of the human and financial resources of the entire UN system. The mandate of the Economic and Social Council was defined by the Charter of the United Nations and various General Assembly resolutions. The responsibilities of the United Nations in the area of international economic and social cooperation established by the United Nations Charter are "vested in the General Assembly and, under the authority of the General Assembly, in the Economic and Social Council". The UN Charter mandates ECOSOC to promote higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress; solutions of international economic, social and health problems; international cultural and educational cooperation; and universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

# INTRODUCTION TO AGENDA

## *Promoting Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All.*

Humans transfer and transform energy from the environment into forms useful for human endeavors. The primary sources of energy in the environment include fuels like coal, oil, natural gas, uranium, and biomass. All primary source fuels except biomass are non-renewable. Primary sources also include renewable sources such as sunlight, wind, moving water, and geothermal energy.

Renewable energy is energy derived from natural sources that are replenished at a higher rate than they are consumed. Sunlight and wind, for example, are such sources that are constantly being replenished. Renewable energy sources are plentiful and all around us.

Fossil fuels - coal, oil and gas - on the other hand, are non-renewable resources that take hundreds of millions of years to form. Fossil fuels, when burned to produce energy, cause harmful greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide.

Generating renewable energy creates far lower emissions than burning fossil fuels. Transitioning from fossil fuels, which currently account for the lion's share of emissions, to renewable energy is key to addressing the climate crisis.

Renewables are now cheaper in most countries, and generate three times more jobs than fossil fuels. They are favorable and it's the need of the hour for residents of the world to adopt ways to use them and utilize them to their full capacity.

## **SOLAR ENERGY**

Solar energy is the most abundant of all energy resources and can even be harnessed in cloudy weather. The rate at which solar energy is intercepted by the Earth is about 10,000 times greater than the rate at which humankind consumes energy.

Solar technologies can deliver heat, cooling, natural lighting, electricity, and fuels for a host of applications. Solar technologies convert sunlight into electrical energy either through photovoltaic panels or through mirrors that concentrate solar radiation.

Although not all countries are equally endowed with solar energy, a significant contribution to the energy mix from direct solar energy is possible for every country.

The cost of manufacturing solar panels has plummeted dramatically in the last decade, making them not only affordable but often the cheapest form of electricity. Solar panels have a lifespan of roughly 30 years, and come in variety of shades depending on the type of material used in manufacturing.

## **WIND ENERGY**

Wind energy harnesses the kinetic energy of moving air by using large wind turbines located on land (onshore) or in sea- or freshwater (offshore). Wind energy has been used for millennia, but onshore and offshore wind energy technologies have evolved over the last few years to maximize the electricity produced - with taller turbines and larger rotor diameters.

Though average wind speeds vary considerably by location, the world's technical potential for wind energy exceeds global electricity production, and ample



potential exists in most regions of the world to enable significant wind energy deployment.

Many parts of the world have strong wind speeds, but the best locations for generating wind power are sometimes remote ones. Offshore wind power offers tremendous potential.

## **GEOTHERMAL ENERGY**

Geothermal energy utilizes the accessible thermal energy from the Earth's interior. Heat is extracted from geothermal reservoirs using wells or other means.

Reservoirs that are naturally sufficiently hot and permeable are called hydrothermal reservoirs, whereas reservoirs that are sufficiently hot but that are improved with hydraulic stimulation are called enhanced geothermal systems.

Once at the surface, fluids of various temperatures can be used to generate electricity. The technology for electricity generation from hydrothermal reservoirs is mature and reliable, and has been operating for more than 100 years.

## **HYDROPOWER**

Hydropower harnesses the energy of water moving from higher to lower elevations. It can be generated from reservoirs and rivers. Reservoir hydropower plants rely on stored water in a reservoir, while run-of-river hydropower plants harness energy from the available flow of the river.

Hydropower reservoirs often have multiple uses - providing drinking water, water for irrigation, flood and drought control, navigation services, as well as energy supply.

Hydropower currently is the largest source of renewable energy in the electricity sector. It relies on generally stable rainfall patterns, and can be negatively impacted by climate-induced droughts or changes to ecosystems which impact rainfall patterns.

The infrastructure needed to create hydropower can also impact on ecosystems in adverse ways. For this reason, many consider small-scale hydro a more environmentally-friendly option, and especially suitable for communities in remote locations.

## **OCEAN ENERGY**

Ocean energy derives from technologies that use the kinetic and thermal energy of seawater - waves or currents for instance - to produce electricity or heat.

Ocean energy systems are still at an early stage of development, with a number of prototype wave and tidal current devices being explored. The theoretical potential for ocean energy easily exceeds present human energy requirements.

## **BIO ENERGY**

Bioenergy is produced from a variety of organic materials, called biomass, such as wood, charcoal, dung and other manures for heat and power production, and agricultural crops for liquid biofuels. Most biomass is used in rural areas for cooking, lighting and space heating, generally by poorer populations in developing countries.

Modern biomass systems include dedicated crops or trees, residues from agriculture and forestry, and various organic waste streams.

Energy created by burning biomass creates greenhouse gas emissions, but at lower levels than burning fossil fuels like coal, oil or gas. However, bioenergy should only be used in limited applications, given potential negative environmental impacts related to large-scale increases in forest and bioenergy plantations, and resulting deforestation and land-use change.

# Main Issue

Renewable energy technologies — which range from wind and solar to hydroelectric, tidal, geothermal and biomass — generate many environmental and economic benefits. By definition, they do not use fossil fuels, which means they generate low or zero greenhouse gas emissions and less pollution. Investments in renewable technologies bring the added benefit of stimulating employment and economic growth, which move the world closer to a low-carbon economy.

Dependable and affordable energy supplies are crucial to economic growth in both developed and developing countries — to power homes, connect communities, provide safe water and promote economic and human development.

**Yet some 1.4 billion people** lack access to electricity. About 3 billion people rely on traditional fuels like coal and wood for cooking, and often have poor ventilation in their homes. Nearly 2 million people die each year from pneumonia and chronic lung disease from using these fuels. Switching to renewable energy sources will reduce indoor air pollution, improving health and quality of life for millions around the world. It will also strengthen energy security, which will boost economic growth and help reduce poverty.

## Other Important Resources and case studies

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/renewable-energy-sources-and-climate-change-mitigation/>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/06/07/report-universal-access-to-sustainable-energy-will-remain-elusive-without-addressing-inequalities>

<https://www.irena.org/>

<https://www.iea.org/fuels-and-technologies/renewables>

<https://www.seforall.org/goal-7-targets/renewable-energy>

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/raising-ambition/renewable-energy-transition>

# **Scroll Down for The Research Guide!**



## **Get Started!**

Here are a few things that you prepare for The MUN:

1. The Agenda item
2. The country that you are representing
3. Your Committee

## **The Agenda Item**

The agenda item is basically what you and other delegates will be discussing throughout the entire conference. The agenda item/ the topic is described in the Background guide that is given before the start of the conference.

### **1. The keywords of the agenda item/ the topic**

When you receive the agenda/ the topic, you should be well-aware of the keywords or the focus of your agenda/ topic. (The words help in framing deciding sub-categories/topics to raise motions also!)

### **2. The reason why the agenda is item an issue of worldwide concern**

The agenda item is discussed by delegates during the conference because it is a global issue, and involves a lot of countries and policies. You have to find the relevant data or statistics regarding the issue and bring them up in the conference as that other delegates will be aware of the need to take actions towards this particular issue.

### **3. Countries that are involved, stakeholders of the agenda item**

As mentioned, the agenda item discussed usually involves a lot of countries and stakeholders, and that's why you have to understand and be aware of the stakeholders' stances of the agenda.

#### **4. The timeline and development of the agenda**

Knowing the timeline and the development of the agenda could help you a lot with research. Getting to know the development of the topic can help you understand the relationships between countries and have a more thorough understanding of their stances.

## **The Country That You Are Representing**

Before the conference, you must have received an allocation regarding the country that you will be a delegate for, here are a few things that you should research for before the conference starts.

### **1. The membership status of your country in the committee**

There are a few types of membership status in the United Nations, including observers, permanent members, members, intergovernmental and other organizations, etc.

### **2. The stance of your country**

Different countries can hold different stances on a particular topic. For instance, Bitcoin is illegal in South Africa, while it is illegal in Egypt. It is very important to know the stance of your country so that you will know what countries to form allies with during the conference.

### **3. Past actions/ taken by your country regarding the agenda and relevant documents**

In the conference, you will talk about the actions that have been taken by your country and bear in mind that the actions that are taken by your country can be possible solutions for the issue. It would be useful if you can write down the name and important content of the documents and mention them in the conference speeches.

#### **4. Your allies and your enemies**

The stance and the actions taken by each country can be very diverse, countries may also have major clashes in between. For example, abortion is illegal in Ecuador under normal circumstances while it is legal in the UK. It is important to note the similarities and clashes between each country, and make sure not to form allies with your enemies if there are major clashes in between when drafting the resolution.

### **Your Committee**

The mission of each committee can be very different. Before the conference, you should have a thorough understanding of your committee, and here are a few things that you should research for (some are already there in the background guide but you can always research more!)

#### **1. The mission/ objectives of your committee**

When you want to reach a consensus or merge blocks together, you can mention the goal of the committee to remind other delegates that we are all here to find the best possible solutions for a particular group of people or to achieve a certain goal. For example, the goal of UNHRC is to work towards human rights and ensure that no one's left behind. When there is a big argument between delegates, you can simply mention the goal and bring them together.

#### **2. \*Past actions taken by your committee and relevant documents**

To perform well in Model United Nations, you must know the content of the documents and past actions taken by your committee. You can always find the past resolutions, meeting records, treaties, etc on the United Nations website. (The title of the relevant documents will often be mentioned in your study guides.)(<https://www.un.org/en/sections/general/documents/>)

### 3. NGOs and private sectors that are relevant to your committee

The mechanisms of the United Nations often have close relationships with other NGOs and private sectors. Make sure you know which NGOs and private sectors are in relations with your committee.

\*Here are a few websites that could help with your research and MUN journey!!!

Model UN Research- best delegate

<https://bestdelegate.com/research/>

How to research for a MUN- Munki

<http://munkiconference.weebly.com/how-to-research-for-a-mun.html>

How to research for MUN

<https://www.wisemee.com/mun-research-guide/>

 ***ALL THE BEST DELEGATES*** 