



Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

President: Clara del Valle

Moderator: Filipe Simão



Presentation Letter

Honorable Delegates,

Your President Clara del Valle and Moderator Filipe Simão Antunes are glad to welcome you to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, for this seventeenth edition of SEK Institution's annual Model United Nations (SEKMUN). As one of the six principal organs of the UN, ECOSOC strives to bring *"people and issues together to promote collective action for a sustainable world"*. That will be your aim as delegates for the next three days, where, through diplomacy and debate we will try to achieve a resolution which will bring us one step closer to that final goal.

For this SEKMUN the topics addressed will be:

- Topic 1: Promoting Funding and International Cooperation to find Alternatives to the Unsafe Temporary Housing Inhabited by Undocumented Migrants
- Topic 2: Developing the work on the Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development

Both topics are heavily discussed within the UN Organs as they are of vital importance, and every country has something to say about them. The purpose of this committee will be to thoroughly debate these topics, strike alliances, make amends and finally to write a plausible resolution addressing the topic at hand. To achieve this, cooperation between countries will be of utmost importance, but with the differing policies per country many heated arguments are expected as well.

We also hope to make this as fun as possible for every delegate, and we thank you in advance for your commitment and participation.

Finally, we would like to leave you with a quote by the current Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, that we believe sums up the spirit of SEKMUN:

"We live in a complex world. The United Nations cannot succeed alone. Partnership must continue to be at the heart of our strategy. We should have the humility to acknowledge the essential role of other actors, while maintaining full awareness of our unique convening power."

Looking forward to meeting all of you in March,

Clara and Filipe

Committee Presentation

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is in charge of coordinating fourteen UN specialized agencies, ten functional commissions and five regional commissions. It receives reports from nine UN funds and programmes and issues policy recommendations to both the UN system and to Member States.

This Council was established in 1945 and is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, along with other committees present in SEKMUN such as the Security Council and the General Assembly. As the name implies, ECOSOC is the system in charge of advancing sustainable development in all that is economic, social - which consist of approximately 75% of UN activities at present - and sometimes even environmental areas.

It is the central organ for some of the toughest debates, so a lot of discourse between the attending delegations is to be expected. It promotes innovative thinking for the purpose of forging consensus on ways to move the world forward and is simultaneously in charge of coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals.

ECOSOC consists of 54 members of the United Nations which overlap in three-year terms. Seats on the Council are allotted in regards to geographical representation, with fourteen African States, eleven Asian States, six Eastern European States, ten Latin American and Caribbean States and thirteen Western European and other States.

This means developing nations are integral within the ECOSOC committee, used for them to form imperatives of development and seek multilateral forums to access organizations as means of help.

However, ECOSOC is often characterized by the divergence of interests, such as the Western World against the BRICS or the G7 against the interests of developing countries. Finding suitable resolutions for the most complex topics is what the 54 Member States - and by extent the attending delegations of this SEKMUN committee - are tasked to take upon.

Strategies for the Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development

This topic falls under the UN Development Goal num. 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. It is heavily debated and affects all nations, many with contrasting ideals and beliefs and great clashes with how such developments should be taken on. Before getting on with this debate, key terms should be kept in mind.

Trade liberalization is the reduction or even removal of existing restrictions and barriers on the free exchange of goods between nations. Such restrictions are comprised of tariffs, for instance duties and surcharges, and non tariffs, such as licensing rules and quotas.

The UN defines economic globalization as: “the increasing interdependence of world economies as a result of the growing scale of cross-border trade of commodities and services, flow of international capital and wide and rapid spread of technologies.”

Additional background information to keep in mind is that reforms since World War II have substantially reduced government-imposed trade barriers, though there are still policies that protect domestic industries and these vary per country. These barriers affect some countries more than others, and often the hardest hit are developing countries, used for cheap labor. ECOSOC has the mission of developing the work that has been done since then on trade liberalization, economic globalization and financing for development. As such, delegates are expected to know their nation’s own foreign trade policy and what their wishes on the improvement of these worldwide would be, if any.

The debate topics begin to arise, for instance, with developing countries disagreeing in their role in the current interdependence within economic globalization and asking for help, leading to the current situation of financing for development. The structure and meaning of such financing leads to problems such as half of low-income countries being heavily indebted because creditors involved mainly granted non-concessional loans instead of concessional loans. Developing countries ask for concessional loans and more support while developed countries providing subsidies argue against sending more loans due to government corruption. However, recent data has shown as much as a sixth of foreign aid flows into bank accounts in tax havens owned by elites.

Another major topic to be addressed is the trade war between the United States of America and China. In January 2020 the two sides reached an agreement which expired in December 2021 with China failing by a wide margin to reach the targets that were set out. This didn't only impact China and the United States, and has only increased the tariffs by hundreds of billions of dollars for each other's goods which has affected many nations in their trade as well. The USA has accused China of unfair trading practices and intellectual property theft whilst China accuses the US of attempting to curb its rise as an economical power. Currently trade has worsened with China's "Zero-Covid" policy, further emphasized with the reelection of Xi Jinping and his power distributions between the Zhejiang faction and kicking out the popularists. Nations that trade with China fear economic growth is being sacrificed for ideology driven policies.

Lastly, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine raises many more issues to be tackled under foreign trade, globalization and development financing. Many foreign trade policies were affected, because of the impact on Ukraine's production capacity, transport infrastructure, access to the Black sea and general ability to trade with the rest of the world. One of the most devastating consequences was the impact on food security, specifically the food crisis of Africa. Prices on grains have risen tremendously and many countries around the world are affected since they are heavily dependent on the shipments from both Ukraine and Russia. This in turn is affecting the development of some nations, and many ask for mitigation on the impact of rising food prices, though response if any has been insufficient as experts claim governments must expand social protection.

These three major topics will obviously arise discord between the present delegations of this committee and lead to more discussions on how to tackle them. Delegates are expected to be well informed in their country's positions regarding all of these debates, and in the end provide suitable realistic resolutions including clauses addressing all of these topics.

Additional Links for Primary Research:

Basics of International Trade:

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/Series/Back-to-Basics/Trade>

Developing Countries Renewed Debt Crisis:

<https://www.idos-research.de/en/the-current-column/article/why-developing-countries-are-facing-a-renewed-debt-crisis-1/>

Corruption Developing Countries:

<http://www1.worldbank.org/publicsector/anticorrupt/corruptn/cor02.htm>

Corrupt Finance Distribution:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/oliverwilliams1/2020/02/20/corrupt-elites-siphon-aid-money-intended-for-worlds-poorest/>

2019 Situation USA vs China Trade War Basics:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-45899310>

Impact European Businesses China's Zero-Covid Policy:

<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2022/05/18/how-is-china-s-zero-covid-policy-impacting-european-businesses>

Adoption Temporary Trade Liberalization with Ukraine:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/05/24/ukraine-council-adopts-temporary-trade-liberalisation-with-ukraine/>

Ukraine War Reshaping World Trade:

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/how-war-ukraine-reshaping-world-trade-and-investment>

African Food Crisis:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/28/ukraine/russia-war-continues-africa-food-crisis-looks>