



United Nations Economic and Social Council

Accommodating the youth in the fight against poverty; Youth empowerment and creation of spaces for the realization of SDG1.

BACKGROUND GUIDE

SAIMUN 2019

LETTER FROM THE DAIS

Greetings Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to SAIMUN19. United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). We greatly appreciate your interest to represent the 54 states that sit in this council and the zeal to fulfil its mandate. The dais will be staffed by

- Anindo Murunga- Committee Chair
- Elsie Dulo- Committee Co-chair
- Ruth Gichana- Committee Secretary

We encourage you to do extensive research on the agenda of discussion as you prepare for Conference week. This will help you understand the topic well enough to come up with sustainable solutions to the poverty menace while protecting the economic and social interests of your states. This means that you must be conversant with your country's stand and position regarding the agenda. Endeavor to find out how your State involves the youth in the fight against poverty. Poverty has been a never ending problem in the world since time immemorial and while states have made efforts to reduce poverty, they have overlooked the potential of the youth to bring substantive contributions to deal with the issue to the table.

We also encourage you to go through the SAIMUN rules of procedure that will be availed to you by your campus directors/high school trainers. This will enable us to have a more organized interesting and fruitful debate.

We wish you a great SAIMUN 19.

Sincere Regards,

ECOSOC DAIS.



Committee Information.

Ecosoc is one of the United Nations 'organs that was established in (1945). It was mainly established to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development. These are economic, social and environmental. It fosters debates and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals.

ECOSOC has greatly coordinated with the UN on major global issues such as economic development, climate change, poverty, health, education, humanitarian aid among others. This organ is dedicated to sustainable development.

Mandate of ECOSOC.

Heads of states mandated ECOSOC with ensuring the follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the internationally agreed development goals, and to hold annual ministerial-level substantive reviews (AMRs) to assess progress, drawing on its functional and regional commissions and other international institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates

Membership of ECOSOC.

This organ has a total of (54) member states, who are elected by the general assembly for a total of three years.

The current president of ECOSOC is Her Excellency Inga Rhonda King, who was elected on 26th July 2018.

TOPIC; Accommodating the youth in the fight against poverty; Youth empowerment and creation of spaces for the realization of SDG1.

In accordance with Sub-Saharan International Model United Nations 19 theme: Youth Leadership at its peak: The role of youth in sustainable development, ECOSOC will discuss the topic stated above.

History of the topic.

As the 2030 agenda for sustainable development stipulates, the future of humanity and of our planet lies in our hands. It lies also in the hands of today's younger generation who will pass the torch to future generations.

The Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, is the international community's ambitious response to today's most pressing global development challenges which guide our development priorities for an entire generation. Young people play a key role in shaping this agenda and experience first-hand many of the issues it seeks to address.

There has been notable change and development in achieving SDG 1. However, Progress has been uneven, with many young people across the globe still experiencing interlocked forms of discrimination, limited political inclusion, and high levels of poverty, among others. It is imperative that states provide opportunities for the youth in the process of achieving sustainable cities.

Current Situation



Poverty has been a major social problem in the world since time immemorial that persists despite numerous efforts and initiatives geared towards eradication of poverty. It is one of the worse characteristics of social life that negatively influences the development process.

Poverty is universally viewed as the incapability to afford goods and services necessary to maintain minimum standards of living mainly due to low income levels.¹ However poverty is more than the lack of resources to ensure a sustainable livelihood; it includes hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and basic amenities and services, social discrimination and lack of participation in decision making.² So pressing is this problem that the UN General Assembly in 2015 listed it as the first goal in the list of seventeen Sustainable Development Goals.



While global poverty rates have been cut by more than half since 2000, one in ten people in developing regions are still living with their families on less than the international poverty line of US\$1.90 a day, and there are millions more who make little more than this daily amount.³ It has been established that up to 42% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa continues to live below the poverty line. Poverty is also a major problem in Eastern and South eastern Asia.

- 783 million people live below the international poverty line of US\$1.90 a day
- In 2016, almost 10 per cent of the world's workers live with their families on less than US\$1.90 per person per day
- Globally, there are 122 women aged 25 to 34 living in extreme poverty for every 100 men of the same age group.
- Most people living below the poverty line belong to two regions: Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa
- High poverty rates are often found in small, fragile and conflict-affected countries

¹ NEJATI, M., POUREZZAT, A., & GHOLIPOUR, A. (2013). POVERTY ERADICATION: THE ROLE OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION AS A CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE. *Society and Economy*, 35(3), 413.

² <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>

³ ibid

- One in four children under age five in the world has inadequate height for his or her age
- As of 2016, only 45% of the world's population were effectively covered by at least one social protection cash benefit.
- In 2017, economic losses due to disasters, including three major hurricanes in the USA and the Caribbean, were estimated at over \$300 billion.

With the increasing involvement of the youth within the society and their role as ambassadors and drivers of positive social changes, the youth definitely have a major role to play in the realization of SDG 1 and in the improvement of quality of life. As active agents of change in their respective societies, the youth are at the forefront of the efforts geared towards making the world a better place, by among other things, eradicating poverty. They possess the potential and capabilities to come up with ideas and projects to shape a better life in the community.

However, the youth, especially those from poor countries need to be empowered so that they take responsibility of poverty eradication. This is due to a hypothesis that has been drawn that indicates that youth from poor countries view poverty as an inevitable part of life, more like destiny. Utilizing youth's potentials to resolve poverty issues therefore requires empowerment and enhancement of youth's skills and capabilities to ensure the youth participate actively in society and contribute to decision making.

States can involve the youth in the fight against poverty by;

- i. Ensuring social justice and youth representation
- ii. Forming civil societies where the youth can participate actively in the fight against poverty
- iii. Empowering youth and promoting their skills development
- iv. Organizing national and international gatherings where young activists come together and exchange ideas on how to eradicate poverty

Countries brief history of youth involvement in poverty eradication

Over the past, a number of States have initiated the design and implementation of national policies and strategies focused on youth. However, most countries do not have specific structures in place for effective youth participation. Governments rarely consult youth on matters affecting their lives such as poverty reduction strategy efforts despite the fact that the youth constitute more than 50% of the population in most states. Even the governments that have developed legislation on youth issues often lack comprehensive and holistic approach to the challenges faced by the younger generation.

Questions A Resolution Must Answer

1. How can the youth take part in the fight against poverty in their societies?
2. What do States have to do to ensure youth participation in the fight against poverty?
3. What spaces should be created for the youth to enable them to participate in the realization of SDG 1?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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2. Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere; No Poverty. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>