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ECOSOC

GUIDELINES

TOPIC 1

GLOBAL INITIATIVES TO TACKLE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is an organ of special significance in the United Nations structure. It coordinates economic, social, and related work of the fourteen United Nations specialized agencies, functional commissions and five regional commissions. It serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues. For this 5th MUNL Edition, It will consist of 40 member countries.

The ECOSOC Committee is mainly dedicated to the promotion of higher standards of living, full employment, economic and social progress. It aims at finding solutions to international economic, social and health problems and also deals with international cultural and educational cooperation. Furthermore, one of its goals is encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Finally, the committee consults with academics, business sector representatives and more than 2100 registered non-governmental organizations.

Youth unemployment is the situation of young people who are looking for a job, but cannot find a job, with the age range being that defined by the United Nations as 15–24 years old. It is commonly seen as an issue of stature for all economies around the globe, irrespective of the stage of development of the nation. There are multiple and complex causes behind youth unemployment, which led countries to address this problem in many different ways.

In the year of 2008, as the economic crisis worsened exponentially, the amount of unemployed individuals increased exponentially. As a result of this, there was an incredible impact on the stability of the work force, mainly because many employers were on the verge of declaring bankruptcy. On an international scale, economic growth has been slowing down, yet at the same time, the global 'youth' population continues to expand rapidly. Due to this inevitable factor it is clear that pressure for employment amongst youth and the youth labor market is going to increase. This could result in higher numbers of unemployed youth, unless preventive measures are implemented. The first major economies that suffered from such an impact were the European Union (EU) and the United States of America (USA). However, it is important

to note that youth unemployment is currently most visible in Southern European nations (Spain, Greece, Italy, Portugal). In some extreme cases it has been recorded that there is a 50% youth unemployment rate in these Southern European states.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development is an organization that focuses on promoting, stimulating, and maintaining stability with regard to a nation's economy. Through doing this, they are attempting to avoid another major economic crisis. The OECD accomplishes this by tackling the economic, social and governance challenges of any and all economies that are internationally recognized.

The quality and relevance of education is also one of the main root causes of youth unemployment. In 2010, in 25 out of 27 developed countries, the highest unemployment rate was among people with primary education or less . Yet, high education does not guarantee a decent job. Indeed, many young people leave college with a degree but then find graduate jobs are in short-supply. Some find they can be over-qualified for the job market they enter. A young person's background can also play a crucial role regarding its professional life. Indeed, a young person from an area of deprivation is more likely to have fewer opportunities than a young person from a rich family. Many paths are closed if a young person fails to get the correct grades, and if they cannot find or get experience in their chosen field, it is likely they won't be offered the job. That is not to say that young people cannot get jobs without education or experience. The quality of education plays a key role within youth unemployment . It is important to acknowledge that African countries define youth as someone from as young as 15 to someone well into their mid thirties, which varies from the standardized definition of the United Nations. Africa has the youngest population of any continent which means that the problem of youth unemployment there is particularly relevant. Although youth unemployment is high, this does not necessarily make the causes of unemployment youth-specific; many of the causes of unemployment, such as poor infrastructure or insufficient educational qualifications, affect older and younger Africans as well.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) has played a huge role in attempting to solve the issue of youth unemployment. Their goal, with regard to youth unemployment, is to find a way to cater for the development of rising economic capacities and the chances provided for social inclusion; they are looking for economic growth and decent work for all. The ILO strongly believe that the negative effects of unemployment are things that should be learned from, and that from there, a solution to this issue can be found.

Inflexible labor markets' refers to the differences between adults and youth. In many nations temporary workers – who commonly tend to be the youth – do not have as many rights as their older counterparts who have permanent contracts. The youth do not have the same job experience or job security that comes with working for a long period of time. Furthermore, it is important to note that commonly the youth have a smaller social network. In other words, young people do not have the contacts that you build over time through working in a firm and enabling you to create good relations that could have an impact in your future career. In many professions, such as politics, the only way to get far is by knowing people and having good relations; these cannot be obtained without experience.

Several Organisations have pledged to support Youth Economic Empowerment. For instance, Plan international (an international development organisation) has developed a unique approach to youth economic empowerment. Young people follow trainings in essential soft and hard skills, such as career counseling, life skills, and work and technical skills. They are either trained to be ready to work in a specific sector, or to become entrepreneurs. Plan International then helps bridge the gap between training and employment by supporting young people finding a job placement or starting their own enterprise. Moreover, several countries of Europe and Eastern Asia have been remarkably successful in developing vocational education. Vocational education offers an alternative to traditional academic subjects, like the ones many young people take at A-level or degree level. Vocational education is education that prepares students for work in a specific trade, a craft, as a technician, or in professional vocations such as engineering, accountancy, nursing, medicine, architecture, or law. A range of country studies has consistently demonstrated a link between completion of vocational education and a reduced probability of unemployment and higher earnings. Furthermore, Internet has been seen as a new world of opportunities for youth unemployment. With the use of social networks such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, young people are actively building their informal networks. New web applications are being designed today to use these networks to better match job seekers with employers, training volunteers and other forms of placement or mentoring.

Gender norms are one of the main obstacles faced by girls and young women when they want to access education or the world of work. Working with families, community and religious leaders, men and boys is crucial to challenge these social norms and attitudes. Moreover, girls and young women make up the majority of the world's 621 million young people who are not in education, employment or training.

Unemployment is affecting young women more than young men in almost all regions of the world. In Northern Africa and the Arab States, the female youth unemployment rate is almost double that of young men, reaching as high as 44.3 and 44.1%, respectively. In the world, women earn on average 24% less than men, and more than 30% less in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia.

To address this problem, Plan International consistently recruits a majority of young women to participate in all its Youth Economic Empowerment programmes, and encourage them to work in non-traditional sectors. It also aims to change gender norms that hold young women back, by always embedding gender equality within its trainings, and working with parents, communities and employers, so that they become facilitators of young women's economic empowerment. This enables Plan International's Youth Economic Empowerment programmes to be truly gender transformative.

It is clear that youth Unemployment and early job insecurity have scarring effects in our society and leads to many negative outcomes in the economy. That is why supporting and helping young people access to education, employment, and training is crucial. They provide a young person with independence, a routine, a new social system, and new opportunities. This not only benefits the individual but also the community they are in and is why we are passionate about seeing lives and whole communities transformed. If young people can get their foot on the first step, they can begin walking up the rest, and could become something greater than they expected.

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TOPIC 2

DEVELOPING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CAPABILITIES ON AREAS AFFECTED BY NATURAL HAZARDS

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is an organ of special significance in the United Nations structure. It coordinates economic, social, and related work of the fourteen United Nations specialized agencies, functional commissions and five regional commissions. It serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues. For this 5th MUNL Edition, It will consist of 40 member countries.

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Each year natural disasters kill thousands of people and inflict billions of dollars in economic losses. No nation or community is immune to their damage. The World Health Organization estimates that between 1964 and 1983 natural disasters throughout the world killed nearly 2.5 million people and left an additional 750 million injured, homeless, or otherwise harmed. Unless action is taken to reduce the toll of natural disasters, these statistics can only be expected to rise as populations increase and concentrate in vulnerable urban and coastal areas. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and reduce the causal factors of disasters. Reducing exposure to hazards, lessening vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improving preparedness and early warning for adverse events are all examples of disaster risk reduction. Disaster risk reduction includes disciplines like disaster management, disaster mitigation and disaster preparedness, but DRR is also part of sustainable development. In order for development activities to be sustainable they must also reduce disaster risk. On the other hand, unsound development policies will increase disaster risk - and disaster losses. Thus, DRR involves every part of

society, every part of government, and every part of the professional and private sector.

First and foremost, it is crucial to acknowledge the fact that there is no such thing as a natural disaster, but disasters often follow natural hazards. Disasters are the result of hazards combined with exposure and vulnerability. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) aims to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards like earthquakes, floods, droughts and cyclones, through an ethic of prevention. Disasters often follow natural hazards. A disaster's severity depends on how much impact a hazard has on society and the environment. The scale of the impact in turn depends on the choices we make for our lives and for our environment. These choices relate to how we grow our food, where and how we build our homes, what kind of government we have, how our financial system works and even what we teach in schools. Each decision and action makes us more vulnerable to disasters - or more resilient to them. Hazards do not have to turn into disasters. A catastrophic disaster is not the inevitable consequence of a hazard event, and much can be done to reduce the exposure and vulnerability of populations living in areas where natural hazards occur, whether frequently or infrequently.

It is important for every country to do a risk assessment. If a country ignores disaster risk and allows risk to accumulate, it is in effect undermining its own future potential for social and economic development. However, if a country invests in disaster risk reduction, over time it can reduce the potential losses it faces, thus freeing up critical resources for development. When performed at the national level, risk assessments range from qualitative national risk profiles for advocacy purposes to the quantitative assessment of risk to inform countries financial strategies for addressing the accumulating risks. Different types of risk assessment are applied at different scales. For instance, the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery has identified a selection of types of risk assessment. Hazard and risk assessments combine information on natural hazards with information on human activity to determine vulnerability to natural disasters. Effective — and cost-effective — disaster reduction must be grounded in a thorough understanding of the physical forces a community faces and their likely impacts on the human, built, and natural environment. Unfortunately, comprehensive hazard and risk assessments are not universally available. Therefore, Widespread public awareness and education is fundamental. In 1989, the General Assembly of the United Nations designated the date October 13th as the International Day for Disaster Reduction "to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction, including prevention and mitigation." This way, the United Nations aimed to increase the awareness on natural

disasters through information campaigns in order to promote efforts to increase resilience and responsiveness of communities and governments when facing these adversities.

Climate change is now one of the most pressing environmental concerns, and it cannot be overlooked as the consequences are already affecting livelihood in many countries worldwide, particularly the low and middle income countries. Most scientists agree that global warming is a reality, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states there is a "very high confidence" that humans have played a major role in climate change since 1750 by overloading the atmosphere with carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Arab region, for instance, is expected to be one of the most vulnerable regions to the impact of climate change due to environmental and socio-economic preconditions. This implies that urgent measures must be taken. In only the past few years, Puerto Rico suffered a massive hurricane, wildfires in California destroyed thousands of homes and an earthquake devastated parts of Mexico City.

Technology is an important part in the overall picture to deal with natural disasters. Although we will never be able to fully prevent all kinds of natural disasters, technology can help to mitigate the adverse consequences of these events. For instance, improved early warning systems can save many lives which would otherwise be lost due to tsunamis or other natural disasters. It can provide governments, planners and engineers with essential information, offering a better way to predict behaviour of buildings during a natural crisis. In effect, advanced technology provides a proactive method to more effectively create disaster-resistant communities. Needless to say, it is necessary for the authorities to find new ways to prevent and reduce earthquake damage. This includes the development of infrastructure and long-term maintenance and preparedness in the event of a disaster.

Technology available today can converge architectural, engineering design and geo-spatial data. Cities have the capability to use precise geo-spatial data and apply it across the entire infrastructure, including operations and maintenance. This integration has enabled significant changes to be put in place to address town planning and management needs.

Natural disasters frequently occur across the world, affecting both developed and developing countries. However, some countries are more vulnerable than others. The vast majority of lives lost or affected by natural disasters are in developing countries. Poor governance, external sanctions, poverty, and foreign debt force

farmers to burn wood for fuel and to engage in unsustainable farming techniques that drive deforestation and consequently slope processes. Poverty results in migration to urban areas, usually in unsafe areas, the consequences of which can be disastrous (e.g., landslides and debris flows in urban areas). Between 1991 and 2005, nearly 90% of disaster-related deaths and 98% of people affected by disasters were in developing nations. Future adaptation to the increasing impact of weather-related natural disasters due to global climate change will also be more costly in these countries. Developing countries are more vulnerable to natural disasters because people live in areas at high risk from natural disasters (e.g., unsafe urban areas), the housing is poorly built and can be easily damaged in the event of a disaster, countries are not equipped with early warning systems, and they have few assets and a weak social safety network to help them cope with disasters. Governments face the dilemma of not having funds available when they need them to help their country recover from a disastrous event and instead have to divert resources that were earmarked for different uses (such as education, public health, development, etc.) to pay for costly disaster response activities.

Since the biggest natural disasters often happen in poor countries, rich developed countries can help them with financial support in order to recover from the adverse consequences. For example, it will take lots of money to rebuild the destroyed infrastructure. This can be accomplished much faster if financial support is supplied by other countries. Africa, for instance, is a continent prone to a wide variety of natural and human-induced hazards and disasters. Therefore, It has implemented a revised Science Plan, which seeks to revitalise efforts to address the impact of natural and human induced hazards and disasters on African communities. It is a major challenge for the continent's scientific community to develop a truly regional and global partnership to minimise disaster risk through investing in managing risks rather than responding to crises when these arise.

Among the greatest challenges of the Decade will be the development of broad public support and the political will to implement disaster reduction programs. The involvement and commitment of all sectors of society — including individuals; community, voluntary, and professional organizations; business and industry; public interest groups; academia; and federal, state, and local governments — will be crucial to reducing vulnerability to natural hazards. Through the combined efforts of all these participants, we can reduce the toll of natural disasters and create a safer future for all.

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