



**GlobalMUNers Conference
in Riviera Maya
#GMRM2022**

**Study Guide
Economic and Social Council**

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Welcome letter

Honorable, delegates,

It's a pleasure for us to welcome you to the Global Muners Conference in Riviera Maya and specially to the Economic and Social Council. In this committee you will be able to rise your voice, to debate and look for solutions to international issues.

My name is **Mayra Stefanía Gómez González** and for me is a honor to serve as your co- president during this model. I definitely expect you to have a memorable experience, where you can develop your soft skills and realize how enriching a model of United Nations can be. I am studying international affairs at Tec of Monterrey Campus Ciudad de México and I have participated many models at a national and international level. I am passionate about sustainable development goals and I am currently SDG coordinator in Mexico by SDSN Youth and international organization launched by UN. I am definitely committed to support youth leadership and achieve sustainability.

Joining us as Vice President of this Commission is **Angela Ruiz Padilla**, She is 17 years old and currently she is in her last year of high school. She is excited to be part of your Chair at this first edition of the Global Muners Conference in Riviera Maya. Throughout her middle school and high school years she have participated in 9 model United Nations, in two of them having the charge of President of the Chair. Angela is pleased to be able to say that within this model, as well as the previous ones and the following ones, you will have the opportunity to learn new things, ways of dealing with an audience and this will be a new challenge for all of you, make the most of this new and great opportunity for so you can stand out with your participation, you can also find support and resources in us, for Mayra it will be an honor to be able to see you perform within the debate that we will be carrying out and to be able to work with you.

And last but not least, **Elías Dávila Martínez**, who will be serving as Rapporteur throughout all sessions of this debate. Model United Nations have been an important part of his life for the past six years of it, so much that it convinced me of studying international relations. He started off in this MUN world as a delegate of China and has the opportunity to be chair in different committees and even presiding over some others such as the World Bank, Security Council and the International Court of Justice in the past few years. He firmly believe that these Models represent the questioning of adultocracy that is imposed on us as we grow up in the world and at the same time they inspire the force of change lead by youth. He encourage you to step out of your comfort zone, because this is the only way we can change, grow and transform ourselves and the way we see the world. Thank you for taking part in this, he is looking forward to meet you and listen to the ideas that will transform our reality.

Remember to give your best during this model and make the most of every single moment.

Best luck,

Mayra Stefanía Gómez González
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About the ECOSOC

The Economic and Social Council (known as ECOSOC by its acronym) is one of the main organs of the United Nations (UN), under authority of the General Assembly that is responsible for its social and economic work, as well as that of its specialized agencies and institutions. The ECOSOC was founded in 1945, and began working in February 1946. Its functions are established by the Chapters IX and X of the UN Charter, which state on making recommendations on the matters regarding economic, social and cultural issues, initiate studies, among others. Its operation is vital within the United Nations, since by having contact with NGOs and specialized agencies, it is a communication and information channel between the United Nations and society. (United Nations Economic and Social Council Official Website). The council is currently composed of 54 members, elected by the General Assembly, with a three-year term membership, and a Presidency that changes every year. The parties are based on geographical representation for all parts of the globe. ECOSOC holds a four-week meeting every year to discuss international affairs oriented into the faculties of the committee.

Powers and function of the ECOSOC

The Economic and Social Council has the following powers and functions:

- To serve as a central forum for the discussion of economic and social problems and the development of policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the United Nations System.
- To undertake or initiate studies, reports and recommendations on economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters.
- Promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.
- To convene international conferences and prepare draft conventions for submission to the General Assembly for consideration.
- To coordinate the activities of the specialized agencies, through direct consultations and recommendations, or by making recommendations to the Assembly and to Member States.
- To consult with non-governmental organizations concerned with matters within the Council's competence.
- To establish subsidiary organs, such as functional and regional commissions, sessional bodies and standing and ad hoc committees.

- The most recently established subsidiary body is the Group of Experts on Geographical Names, established in 2018.
- In two cases ECOSOC subsidiary bodies were established by the General Assembly.
- To establish regional commissions that represent the United Nations in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, Western Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - Regional commissions do technical work, they promote regional economic integration and establish connections with regional intergovernmental bodies.
 - They produce economic and statistical information, set norms and make direct policy recommendations to Governments in their respective regions.
 - Some examples are the Aarhus Convention (Economic Commission for Europe, ECE) and the Escazú Agreement (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC) on information rights and the ECE Compendium of Legal Instruments, Norms and Standards.
- To set functional commissions that carry out the technical work of the Council providing guidance and advice in specific fields.
 - The functional commissions report to ECOSOC at the end of their sessions, indicating “issues requiring action” and in some cases making recommendations through ECOSOC to the General Assembly.

The ECOSOC agenda

The ECOSOC agenda begins with the election of the Bureau at the organizational session, after which the establishment and adoption of the agenda is the first order of business. The draft agenda is prepared by the Secretariat. In the case of the functional commissions, the Secretariat draws up a draft agenda in consultation with the Chair and the Bureau. The Council also approves a biennial calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields. (UN ECOSOC Handbook).

ECOSOC resolutions and decisions

The debate of an agenda item is usually followed by the adoption of resolutions/decisions. The process leading to the adoption of a resolution or decision involves the drafting of a text, the submission of a proposal for action and a decision on the proposed text. Negotiations and consultations are aimed at reaching consensus or getting as close to consensus as possible. Before adoption of the decision/resolution, its potential effect on the UN programme budget is addressed. If there is no such effect, the presiding officer informs the body before action that the proposal has no “programme budget implications” (PBIs). If the decision/resolution has programme budget implications, the Secretariat makes a statement thereon. Once adopted, resolutions are issued as ECOSOC documents in all six languages, numbered and published under “documents” on the ECOSOC website and under

ECOSOC “Resolutions and decisions” on the e-delegate platform (UN ECOSOC Handbook).

Topic A: Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

“We face unprecedented, interconnected crises if we do not swiftly reverse course, the 2030 Agenda may fall out of reach. It is a battle we cannot afford to lose.”
-Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Council

The COVID-19 pandemic was a massive reflector of the inequalities, poverty and unfair conditions the world was facing. Countries, governments and institutions found themselves in uncertain and complex scenarios, where sustainable development was left behind. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) are plans established on the 2030 Agenda that focus on the urgent call of action for all members of the UN and aim for innovation on proper and viable solutions to worldwide problems such as poverty and inequality around the world. The core center of the agenda was the health, economic and social crisis that the pandemic triggered. “More than 97 million people are living on less than \$1.90 a day, giving rise to 77 million people left in extreme poverty due to the pandemic. This unprecedented crisis showed how divided the world was.” (World Bank, 2021).

The increasing gaps of social inequality and education had a severe impact in reaching the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, countries needed to address with an inclusive and equitable vision of the multiple interconnections of the world's problems.

Prior to the COVID-19 Global pandemic, poverty was one of the biggest and most concerning issues. The economies of countries in the process of development were in a complicated position due to the increasing prices caused by inflation. During the first year of the pandemic, a big number of small businesses, enterprises, and companies shut down labors and others were forced to go out of business, which led to an impressive amount of unemployment, this also representing the loss of the main source of income for many people.

In regards to the previous, many organizations such as the World Bank Group, the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and various Non-Governmental Organizations reached out to the regions of the world in need of urgent help with programs that seeked for the wellness of the people in poverty status. Until 2020, the ECLAC had already 72 running programs in 21 countries of Latin America that focused on labor and productive inclusion by improving and increasing the work offer, as well as the enhancing of entrepreneur, self and independent employment, all based on the 2030 Agenda.

During the course of the same year, the organizations in charge of the programs looked for ways to preserve the started initiatives; some of them had to be stopped nonetheless new ones came to action. The programs established during that time were helpful in the regions of the world where they were implemented, such as Sierra Leone, where a group of young girls, with support from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), started a business dedicated to the making and selling of soap. This, not only improved their economics but also, helped their community stay safe from COVID-19. Even though the projects assisted communities, there are many more places that need immediate action to reduce the population in this status.

Undeniably the pandemic affected the food security for the most vulnerable sectors of the population. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) there was an increasing number of 811 million undernourished people within the account, it is estimated that 70% of women and girls suffered from lack of food thus causing malnutrition and health problems. Sustainable Development Goal Number Two, targets zero hunger and is intertwined with SDG One, that centers on no poverty. It is common for people with low resources to lack food, which makes a correlation between ending poverty, then providing people with nutritional security. Figures from the World Bank show that millions of people are affected by poverty, which reduces their quality of life, and that it keeps on growing. There's an urgent need for governments, institutions and societies to address these global challenges with a systematic and feasible approach.

The world economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has been clearly unequal and this represents a risk to global growth. The ministerial declaration made a call upon the international community to enhance international cooperation to address urgent matters as are, food insecurity, poverty, undernourishment, water scarcity, inequalities, education disruptions, violence against women and children, barriers to financial resources, social and economic vulnerabilities and also climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Recently, the High-level Segment (HLS) of the ECOSOC held a three-day ministerial meeting of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development. This meeting took place in the UN Headquarters in New York from Wednesday 13th to Friday July 2022. This meeting ran under the ECOSOC and HLPF theme of “*Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”. (ECOSOC High-level Segment). In this meeting the HLPF reviewed carefully some of the Sustainable Development Goals which include SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land and SDG 17 on partnerships for the Goals.

After taking into account the impacts the COVID-19 Global pandemic had on the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, the HLPF modified and implemented some of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, this allowing the readers to know how the COVID-19 pandemic affected each Goal and how each Goal can still be achieved despite the setback the pandemic represented for some of the Goals.

The HLPF took the Ministerial declaration of this session, that in article 1, under point 3 states that “We strongly reaffirm our commitment to the full implementation of the 2030

Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, recognizing it as the blueprint for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerating the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, leaving no one behind.” (Ministers and high representatives of the HLS of the ECOSOC, Ministerial Declaration).

The world’s recovery from the global pandemic has been a complex process that involves reconstructing economical systems, cultural and political changes, among others. Poverty and hunger are social and economic issues that take place all around the globe. Millions of people are affected by them, and in most cases the aid provided by States may not be enough to have a real impact on the matter. Although action has been taken by intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, there are still regions of the world in need of support to stabilize themselves. The UN has stated that these matters should have a solution by 2030 alongside a sustainable development of it.

Topic B: Harnessing science, technology, and innovation, including digital technologies to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for an inclusive recovery.

“ICTs have a profound influence on development”.

-Ban Ki-Moon Secretary-General

The pandemic was a rethinking and redesign for all countries. It gave micro, small and medium-sized enterprises a unique opportunity to transform their business models. However, the pandemic abroad gaps for the most vulnerable people, because not everyone had universal access to literacy, digital skills and infrastructure to overcome the crisis. Millions of jobs, business and livelihoods were lost during the economic crisis worldwide. It particularly affected the emerging market and developing economies within the informal sector. Because of the nature of the sector and the economic crisis, people faced a multiple challenge: the lack of insurance programs and job insecurity. In addition, it resulted in ineffective policies to address the different sectors in the economy. Hence, their right to safe and healthy working conditions was totally violated during these circumstances.

However, considering the complex, globalized and interconnected world, the technological, scientific and innovative infrastructure has become a key factor in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. The international scientific community strengthens multilateral cooperation to build resilience in the mitigation of the pandemic effects in the development of sustainability. For instance, the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS) was created to measure the regulation of SDGs and how effective was the use of high tech and innovative solutions. Thus, “the sustainable development goals represent measurable, concrete and achievable missions for science.”(Mazzucato M.2018)

The inclusion of STI skills is of utmost importance in the development and increase of economic growth in a country. They are divided in different 4 levels:

- Adoption
- Basic use
- Creative use and adaptation
- Creation of new technologies

Thereby, the levels of engagement offer an opportunity for constructing a more qualified society with the necessary capabilities and tools to obtain a great reach towards a technological transition and implementation of Info Communication Technologies on a daily basis. For instance, the implementation of renewable energy such as biomass, hydro, wind, solar energy shows technological progress in the transformation path of sustainability and a greener economy with the implementation of a higher level of STI and widening the upcoming Green Windows of Opportunity (GWOs). Moreover, the support of institutions and industrial policies play a decisive role in the fostering of these capabilities.

On the other hand, there is an urgent call for facilitating technological mechanisms in schools, just as universal access to the internet and digital infrastructure. So, the evolution

of science, technology, engineering and mathematics; the STEM areas can be achievable in the creation of different strategic projects and policies that can provide the population with a technological foresight in the economic, social and environmental systems. The creation of medical advances during the pandemic was the consolidation of physical infrastructure and technology. For example, big data and artificial intelligence provide a safe and less risk response to medical emergencies due to the effective and assertive decision-making of the algorithms. Nevertheless, there still exist some gaps within the information and communication technologies that hinder the adaptation of digital health. In fact, the Secretary-General emphasized: “the introduction of a multisectoral approach for science, technology and innovation policies in accordance with national health priorities and sustainable development strategies”. (E/CN.16/2021/2)

Through the implementation of FinTech¹ the economic and business landscape was widely successfully accepted. The pandemic brought positive outcomes to financial institutions with the acceleration of digital paying, e-commerce and retail financial services. However, the technological transition had a great difference within small and large enterprises. The era of digitalization has transformed the market structures, providing a new perspective in financial services. Furthermore, there was a rapid growth in the BigTech revenue, the online platforms had diversified themselves and acquired a rapid interaction with the consumer; providing new and easy alternatives. For instance, the cloud computing strategy of BigTech flourished in cost reduction, stability, standardization with more security responses to the economic transactions. There's no doubt that “BigTechs have further expanded their footprint in financial services”.(International Monetary Fund, 2022)

The sustainable development goal number 9 is based on three main pillars: industry, innovation and infrastructure. The pandemic became an opportunity for the integration of small industries into a digital market. It is recognized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs that “Small and medium sized enterprises are the core of the modern economy”. (UNDESA, 2021)The pandemic has shown the necessity of creating a more resilient and inclusive industrialization due the triggering of natural disasters.

Therefore, the efficiency of resources and energy has become essential in the development of progress in the industries in order to foster employment and competitiveness in economic activity. It has also further expanded the SDG 9 with the target to have access to information and communications technology. The most precise example is teleworking in different types of services. It is claimed by the International Telecommunication Union that: “95% of the world population now has access to a mobile broadband network”. (ITU,2022)

However, more than a half of the world population still do not have universal coverage of the internet leading to unprecedented setbacks in economic growth SDG 8 due to lack of profitability in different industries that haven't crossed the path of digitalization and thus are stocked in the digital divide without strategic and inclusive use of ICT in their

¹ FinTech: technology-enabled innovation in financial services that could result in new business models, applications, processes, or products with an associated material effect on the provision of financial services. (Financial Stability Board, 2022)

production chains. This hinders the possibility of automatization and development for a more productive and effective system.

Thereby, in order to reduce the gaps and increase efforts towards information availability, economic opportunities and universal connectivity the adoption of strategic partnerships between stakeholders. The agreements reached within these actors play a fundamental role in the creation of inclusive policies and indicators; which provide a systematic vision of progress. Moreover, Indicators arise from values and they create values” (Meadows,1998). In other words, there is a back and forth relation of the value and indicators. In particular the indicator launched by the United Nations states that: “ even though 90% of the population is covered by internet networks, there is a rapid increase in networks but not in people use”. (UN, 2019) To conclude, there’s an urgent necessity to adopt a more holistic, interconnected, inclusive and innovative approach towards sustainability. It is important to achieve evolution and enhance recovery from the pandemic crisis with a more inclusive, creative and sustainable vision.

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