

Saint Ignatius College Prep

SIMUN XVI

Saint Ignatius Model United Nations



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ECOSOC

SIMUN XVI

Chair: Olivia DiMonte
Vice Chair: Jordan Smith-Berry

Table of Contents

Letter from the chair.....	3
Topic 1.....	4
Topic 2.....	8
Works Cited.....	11

Hello Delegates,

My name is Olivia DiMonte and I will be serving as your chair for ECOSOC SIMUN XVI. I am a senior at Ignatius this year and a member of the SIMUN Executive Board. My vice chair, Jordan Smith-Berry, and I are very excited to moderate a substantive discussion about the economic and social problems that face our world today. More specifically, our hopes for this committee is to make strides towards the 2030 sustainable development goals. With diligent action and careful planning taken by members of ECOSOC, Jordan and I anticipate great things for this committee.

Furthermore, ECOSOC is a committee that is designed to incorporate nations of all different levels of development. I am hopeful that diverse nations will convene and set aside differences to develop a comprehensive global framework.

Lastly, if you have any questions about anything, feel free to send me an email at olivia.dimonte@students.ignatius.org. I will be more than happy to help!

Best of luck, delegates!

Olivia DiMonte
Jordan Smith Berry

Topic 1: Sustainable Development

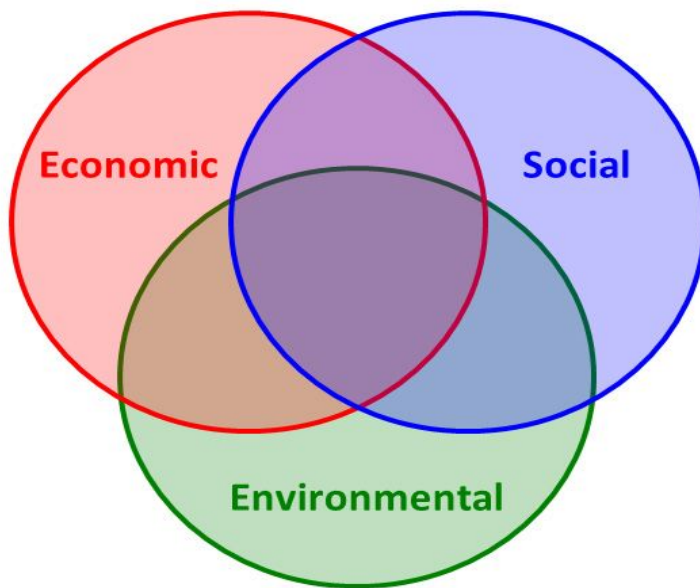
By definition, sustainable development is economic development that is conducted without depletion of natural resources. It is the usage of science, technology and innovation (STI) in the nation's natural resource industry that will secure resources for generations to come. Natural resources, while some nations are more lucrative in their supply and revenue, can serve as a blessing and a curse. The rapid fluctuation of oil and gas prices, geopolitical tensions, and concerning environmental conditions contribute to the strife within the international community. It is the job of ECOSOC to attend to the economical and social implications of the natural resource industry. A global framework must be constructed to maintain a steady modern market, while allocating efforts and resources to the insurance of future success. The three main pillars of sustainable development include economic growth, environmental stewardship, and social inclusion. The security of these particular pillars have been synthesized down to a formula of success. The question remains is how ECOSOC can convene to make this possible and achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Economic Growth

Earth's natural capital, since the birth of the industrial revolution, has been used wastefully and irresponsibly to stimulate economic growth. The abandonment of the agrarian lifestyle in the late 19th century to an industrial market may have birthed the innovation and efficiency needed to launch the world its contemporary market, at the cost of valuable natural resources. Some regions are certainly more blessed with natural resources than others. For example, rentier states (states with a lucrative income from the exportation of a natural resource) exploit their nature bearing goods to the international natural resource market. Natural resources are so valuable that

they have garnered the capability of making up to over half of a state's economy and supplementing the nation's GDP growth in areas such as Africa and the Middle East. The growing numbers and percentages are what make natural resources an effective catalyst for economic growth. For example, the exportation of oil holds an approximately 70% stake in Nigeria's economy, making it the largest oil producing nation on the African continent. Therefore, halting the exportation of natural resources or dismantling state-owned enterprises for the sake of conservation efforts is a destructive route. National economies must find ways to balance sustainable development with the stability of the economy. However, viable solutions are hard to come by. Some solutions that ECOSOC may consider implementing in its policy include national economic diversification efforts and financing science, technology, and innovation (see topic 2). Since a diverse group of nations will be present at the upcoming forum, it will be important to analyze a country's individual needs.

Overlapping Circles of Sustainability



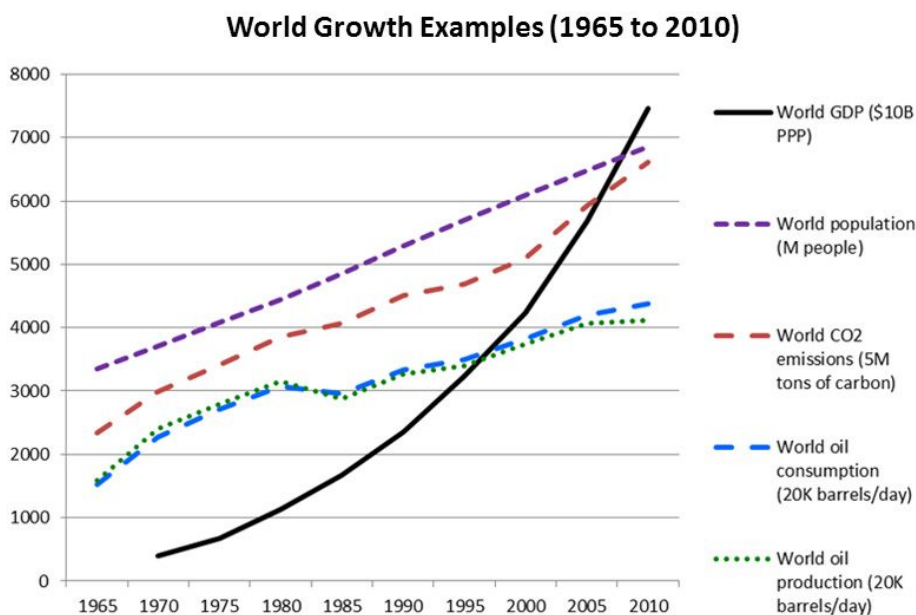
Environmental Stewardship

Identifying the past and current barriers preventing the world from achieving sustainable development brings the globe a step closer to meeting their goals. The next step in creating a viable global framework for sustainable development is considering the financing. One of the major financial barriers the world faces is the quality of living the civilians of a nation face versus their growth of the economy. The emerging economies, such as the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India, have focused on producing exports to compete with other economic powerhouse nations such as the United States and the United Kingdom. China's level of GDP growth has averaged 9.1% annually. This high level of progress, however, has cost the nation their environment health and quality of life for the Chinese people. While this has made China a wealthier country, there is also a social trade off. The Chinese government has not been able to support a sense of pragmatism for social problems facing the population which is crucial to the goal of social inclusion for sustainable development. ECOSOC is fundamentally about finding solutions that work for a nation economically and socially, hence the name of ECOSOC. Overall, sustainable development is calling for a willingness for national governments to comply with economic and social standards and cooperation on an international level.

Social Inclusion

Social inclusion, a main pillar of sustainable development remains an issue across world today. Social inclusion can be defined as is the act of making all groups of people within a society feel valued and important. Although this concept does not seem vital to creating an effective global framework, there are ways in which the divides of natural resources. If the demographics of any

given nation are analyzed, the various denominations that have the most access to natural resources are revealed. Part of an issue with sustainable development is that the resources are not distributed evenly and responsibly. The best example of this happening in the world is in Nigeria. The nation's elite group who has infiltrated the government and law enforcement, are the individuals who have access to the petro-dollars (revenue made from the lucrative Nigerian oil reserves). Natural resources and its revenues are concentrated in the hands of the few, and therefore has lead for too much oil to be sold and not enough revenue being poured into the key infrastructure of the country that has the ability to possibly support sustainable development efforts.



Questions to consider

1. What are the various domestic constraints that are placed on your nation and how will it affect your role in moving towards sustainable development?
2. How would you describe your nation's disposition within the international economy? How could this affect ECOSOC negotiations?
3. How can ECOSOC as a body improve the implementation process of said policies and infrastructure?

Topic 2: Science, Technology, Innovation and Capacity Building

Science, technology, and innovation (STI) are all areas that need improvement for ECOSOC to meet its goal of sustainable development. Great strides in effort to meet these various sustainable goals will only be sustained by the appropriate technology. Technology, now than ever, is becoming available to more nations across the world. Entities that are capable of financially and logistically are able to best foster the growth of STI, however, it is a goal of ECOSOC to distribute these resources evenly.

Science plays a key role in sustainable development because it helps the international community further understand the important interactions between nature, society, and the economy. Diligent research is vital to providing our world's political leaders who possess the ability to enable change and implement effective policy with the most updated intelligence. More specifically, ECOSOC is choosing to focus its attention on the Latin American and Asian countries who have undergone rapid growth, but do not possess the science, technology, or innovation to support their economies. What comes with focusing efforts mainly on less-developed countries, is an increased responsibility of developed countries to model strong and effective infrastructure and to donate their monetary means to producing more effective solutions.

On the technology front, there are many new constructs now available to combat the environment's major problems such as climate change, ozone-layer depletion, and loss of forest cover. To combat these various important global issues, countries will need to dissect the effectiveness of various methods such as of smarter energy usage, capacity building, and biotechnology.



One key catalyst to sustainable development includes updated energy and various propulsion technologies that have the ability to reduce harmful emissions of greenhouse gases. A main priority of containing greenhouse-gas concentrations will be to restore them to their past agrarian levels. This will require the international community to cut emissions by approximately 50%. The international community, however, cannot afford to cut emissions abruptly. It will call upon a gradual process that will protect the global economy's progress.

Due to the conflict between the economy and the environment, other technologies have been made available that can mitigate emissions through environmentally friendly processes. Technologies such as filters and water-treatment have been able to mitigate to some degree the harmful environmental effects, but they are unable to reach the source of the problem. Therefore, innovations that optimize various materials and energy have more infrastructural strength and show more promise to an environmentally sound future. Other STI efforts worth researching for ECOSOC include biotechnology eco-friendly transportation. For example, France has been able to implement a program that encourages carpooling and provides free public transportation on

days where the smog is too heavy in urban areas such as Paris. France serves as a great model for sustainable development STI, but is only able to do so because of their high development level as a country. Development levels serve as one of the financial barriers to achieving a more advanced international community.

The many advanced technologies outlined above, however, come with their own set of expenses. It is the duty of ECOSOC to outline the way in which the council plans to finance these crucial development efforts. In April of 2016, ECOSOC convened in New York City at the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) to discuss financing development. ECOSOC had international organizations such as the IMF (International Monetary Fund), WTO (World Trade Organization) and the UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) present at the AAAA to construct global financing framework and its implementation. The forum focused on similar topics to what ECOSOC is focusing on today: (1) a global framework for financing development post-2015, (2) seven action areas, and (3) data. The topics discussed at the forum serve to provide a comprehensive outline to understand where the scientific, technological, and innovative efforts are financially needed.

Questions to consider

- 1.** Has your country successfully been able to implement any successful science, technology, and innovation efforts? Which specific efforts?
- 2.** Will your country's economy and industry be able to support the installation and upkeep of expensive development projects?
- 3.** How will the financing of the STI efforts advance overall goals of sustainable development?

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