



SRMUN CHARLOTTE 2023

Reimagining Peace, Reclaiming Human Rights, and Restoring International Law

March 23-25, 2023

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2023 and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)! My name is Lucie Willis, and I am so excited to be serving as your Director for ECOSOC! This will be my eighth SRMUN on staff. Previously, I have been on staff as an Assistant Director and Director for four committees across SRMUN conferences and served on Executive Staff for SRMUN Atlanta 2015. Most recently, I was given the pleasure of directing the International Labour Organization at SRMUN Charlotte 2022. I graduated in 2015 with degrees in both history and political science. Our Assistant Director for ECOSOC is Beau Seate. Beau is a recent graduate, receiving his degree in Computer Science in 2022. Despite this being his first conference as an official member of SRMUN staff, Beau has previously served as a chair/rapporteur in the International Labour Organization at SRMUN Charlotte 2022. We are honored to serve as your dais for SRMUN Charlotte 2023 and hope to make this a conference to remember!

ECOSOC is one of the United Nations' six main organizational bodies and is made up of 54 Member States from the United Nations' General Assembly. The committee oversees and guides over 20 subsidiary organizations within the United Nations and consults with countless non-governmental organizations to promote sustainable development. A wide array of topics fall under the scope of ECOSOC, ranging anywhere from sustainable development in specific regions of the international community to issues facing women and indigenous groups, to topics concerning geospatial information management. ECOSOC is tasked with focusing on environmental, economic, and social progress- three elements that are crucial in creating a future that is not only sustainable, but peaceful and just.

By focusing on the mission of the ECOSOC and the SRMUN Charlotte 2023 theme of "*Reimagining Peace, Reclaiming Human Rights, and Restoring International Law*," we have developed the following topics for delegates to discuss at the conference:

- I. Ensuring an Equal Gender Perspective in Economic and Social Policies for Sustainable Development
- II. Assisting Third States Affected by the Application of Sanctions

This background guide provides an introduction to the committee and the topics that will be debated at SRMUN Charlotte 2023. It should be utilized as a foundation for a delegate's independent research. However, while we have attempted to provide a holistic analysis of the issues, the background guide should not be used as the single mode of analysis for the topics. Delegates are expected to go beyond the background guide and engage in intellectual inquiry of their own. The position papers for the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues and their externalities. Delegations are expected to submit a position paper and be prepared for a vigorous discussion at the conference. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, March 3, 2023, by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.**

Beau and I are very excited to be serving as your dais for the Economic and Social Council! We wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and look forward to working with you in the near future. Please feel free to contact Deputy Director-General Jasmine Sutherland, Beau Seate, or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

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History of the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was established as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN) within Chapter X of its founding charter.¹ ECOSOC's mandate is to promote higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress to Member States around the globe.² ECOSOC, or the Council, has 12 specialized committees under its jurisdiction which include the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the Commission for Social Development, to name a few.³ The committee is also tasked with leading discussions on the international development framework to finance sustainable development and coordinating activities and programs through the expansive UN system towards the ultimate goal of sustainable development.⁴ The Council has demonstrated a commitment to mobilizing resources and building efforts to address key priority issues, which including the promotion of development and the formation and maintenance of international partnerships, such as partnerships with business entities for the purpose of funding development initiatives and partnerships to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda.⁵

In its early years, ECOSOC worked throughout the year to set up and review reports of various functional and regional commissions and committees, establishing relationship agreements with specialized agencies, and reviewing reports given by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).⁶ With the expansion of membership of the UN and the increase in scope of international economic and social issues, numerous agenda items were added. These items included methods of financing development and logistical assistance for developing Member States. The rapid growth of assistance through international organizations also led to the need for restructuring operational activities.

Since that initial founding period, ECOSOC has continued to undergo several reformations in order to ensure efficiency and accuracy in its initiatives. Most notably, at the start of the 1960s, Member States sought to broaden ECOSOC's agenda to include a deeper focus on the elimination of poverty and the support of sustainable development.⁷ At that time, the international community was growing rapidly, and an increased number of Member States were seeking involvement in the UN.⁸ In 1971, to better reflect the growing diversity of the world population, the UNGA passed Resolution 2847, which increased the number of ECOSOC's Member States from 27 to 54.⁹ While considered a success, ECOSOC still had little influence on the implementation of resolutions it passed compared to that of the UNGA.¹⁰ In 1995, in an effort to better clarify ECOSOC's mandate, the UNGA passed Resolution 50/227 to "further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields."¹¹ This put the UNGA in charge of providing guidance on policy while allowing ECOSOC to coordinate implementation of policy.¹²

¹ "About ECOSOC," *United Nations*, Economic and Social Council, accessed July 18, 2022.

<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/about-us>

² "About ECOSOC," *United Nations*, Economic and Social Council.

³ "About ECOSOC," *United Nations*, Economic and Social Council.

⁴ "Charter of the United Nations." Opened for signature June 26, 1945, United Nations Treaty Series.

<https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/ctc/uncharter.pdf>

⁵ "About ECOSOC," *United Nations*, Economic and Social Council.

⁶ "Economic and Social Council Brief History," *United Nations*, accessed August 17, 2022. <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/a-brief-history>

⁷ "United Nations Handbook 2022-23." *New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade*, 2022, accessed July 18, 2022. <https://mfat.govt.nz/assets/Peace-Rights-and-Security/Our-work-with-the-UN/UN-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>

⁸ "United Nations Handbook 2022-23." *New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade*.

⁹ "About ECOSOC," *United Nations*, Economic and Social Council.

¹⁰ United Nations General Assembly resolution 162, *Further Measures for the Restructuring and Revitalization of the United Nations in the Economic, Social and Related Fields*, A/RES/48/162, (January 14, 1994).

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/180245?ln=en>

¹¹ United Nations General Assembly resolution 162, *Further Measures for the Restructuring and Revitalization of the United Nations in the Economic, Social and Related Fields*.

¹² United Nations General Assembly resolution 162, *Further Measures for the Restructuring and Revitalization of the United Nations in the Economic, Social and Related Fields*.

Article 71 of Chapter 10 of the UN Charter authorizes ECOSOC to grant non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) consultative status.¹³ NGOs have been actively engaged with the UN since its inception in 1945.¹⁴ They work with the UN Secretariat, and other UN programs, assisting in raising funds and agencies in various ways, including in consultation with Member States.¹⁵ NGOs contribute to ECOSOC activities including in information dissemination, awareness raising, development education, policy advocacy, joint operational projects, participation in intergovernmental processes and in the contribution of services and technical expertise.¹⁶ Consultative status allows NGOs to cooperate with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies.¹⁷ An NGO that wishes to obtain consultative status with ECOSOC must first submit an application online at the NGO Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN Secretariat.¹⁸ After the application is screened by the NGO Branch, it will be reviewed by the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs.¹⁹ The Committee decides to recommend, or not recommend, granting consultative status to the NGO.²⁰ The final decision is taken by the ECOSOC at its annual Substantive session.²¹ More than 2,500 NGOs have been granted consultative status since the mid-1990s by ECOSOC.²²

ECOSOC elects Member States on a three-year rotating basis via secret ballot.²³ The Member States are elected proportionately according to the geographical distribution of UN Member States.²⁴ This is to ensure representation from all regions and levels of development.²⁵ Seats are allocated to each of the following five regional groups of states: six to Eastern Europe; 14 to Africa, 11 to Asia and the Pacific; 10 to Latin America and the Caribbean; and 13 to the Western Europe and Others Group.²⁶

ECOSOC resolutions are adopted by a simple majority vote and proceedings are overseen by a President, Vice-President, and Rapporteur in tandem with a Bureau consisting of the President and four Vice-Presidents.²⁷ These representatives are each elected for a one-year term at the end of each annual session in July.²⁸ The Bureau is also elected by the full Council annually in July.²⁹ The Bureau sets ECOSOC's agenda, devises action plans, and collaborates with the Secretariat on administrative duties.³⁰ ECOSOC's presidency rotates among the regional groups and is currently held by the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN, Lachezara Stoeva, for the 2023 session.³¹ ECOSOC currently holds the largest budget out of any UN subsidiary body, which is primarily funded by permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).³²

In July 2022, ECOSOC met to discuss "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."³³ As the world is struggling to recover from COVID-19 amidst continuing crises, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) reflected on how

¹³ "Working with ECOSOC: An NGO Guide to Consultative Status", *Economic and Social Council*, June 10 2011, accessed August 17, 2022, http://csonet.org/content/documents/ECOSOC%20Brochure_2018_Web.pdf

¹⁴ "Working with ECOSOC: An NGO Guide to Consultative Status", *Economic and Social Council*, June 10, 2011.

¹⁵ "Working with ECOSOC: An NGO Guide to Consultative Status", *Economic and Social Council*, June 10, 2011.

¹⁶ "Working with ECOSOC: An NGO Guide to Consultative Status", *Economic and Social Council*, June 10, 2011.

¹⁷ "Working with ECOSOC: An NGO Guide to Consultative Status", *Economic and Social Council*, June 10, 2011.

¹⁸ "Working with ECOSOC: An NGO Guide to Consultative Status", *Economic and Social Council*, June 10, 2011.

¹⁹ "Working with ECOSOC: An NGO Guide to Consultative Status", *Economic and Social Council*, June 10, 2011.

²⁰ "Working with ECOSOC: An NGO Guide to Consultative Status", *Economic and Social Council*, June 10, 2011.

²¹ "Working with ECOSOC: An NGO Guide to Consultative Status", *Economic and Social Council*, June 10, 2011.

²² "Economic and Social Council," *Britannica*, last modified July 27, 2022, accessed Aug 17, 2022,

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Economic-and-Social-Council>

²³ "Economic and Social Council," *Britannica*, last modified July 27, 2022.

²⁴ "Economic and Social Council," *Britannica*, last modified July 27, 2022.

²⁵ "Economic and Social Council," *Britannica*, last modified July 27, 2022.

²⁶ "Charter of the United Nations." Opened for signature June 26, 1945.

²⁷ "Economic and Social Council," *Britannica*, last modified July 27, 2022.

²⁸ "Economic and Social Council," *Britannica*, last modified July 27, 2022.

²⁹ "Economic and Social Council," *Britannica*, last modified July 27, 2022.

³⁰ "Economic and Social Council," *Britannica*, last modified July 27, 2022.

³¹ "Economic and Social Council," *Britannica*, last modified July 27, 2022.

³² "Economic and Social Council," *Britannica*, last modified July 27, 2022.

³³ "High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (including the three-day ministerial segment of the HLPF convened under the auspices of the ECOSOC)," *Economic and Social Council*, May 7, 2022, accessed July 18, 2022, <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/events/2022/high-level-political-forum-sustainable-development-including-three-day-ministerial>

recovery policies can reverse the negative impacts of the pandemic on the SDGs, and move Member States on a path to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda.³⁴ In the ministerial declaration that followed in August, the HLPF recognized that COVID-19 had “amplified existing vulnerabilities, reinforced, and created new obstacles to the realization of all of the Sustainable Development Goals.”³⁵ Their declaration outlined how ECOSOC plans to address both the on-going solutions of crises directly caused by COVID-19, as well as how to mitigate the crises that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, such as the economic fallout for the global community.³⁶ This declaration also reaffirmed ECOSOC’s commitment to SDG 5, achieving gender equality, and bringing an equal gender perspective to solutions to all goals for sustainable development.³⁷

³⁴ “High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (including the three-day ministerial segment of the HLPF convened under the auspices of the ECOSOC),” *Economic and Social Council*, May 7, 2022, accessed July 18, 2022, <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/events/2022/high-level-political-forum-sustainable-development-including-three-day-ministerial>

³⁵ United Nations Economic and Social Council agenda item 5, *Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of Council, on the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,”* E/HLS/2022/1, (August 15, 2022), <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/455/26/PDF/N2245526.pdf?OpenElement>

³⁶ United Nations Economic and Social Council agenda item 5, *Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of Council, on the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,”* E/HLS/2022/1.

³⁷ United Nations Economic and Social Council agenda item 5, *Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of Council on the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,”* E/HLS/2022/1.

I. Ensuring an Equal Gender Perspective in Economic and Social Policies for Sustainable Development

Introduction

According to the most recent report published by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development on the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the international community is not on track to meet the SDGs by the year 2030.³⁸ The report also highlights that the “the social and economic fallout from the pandemic has made the situation even bleaker.”³⁹ The pandemic affected women and girls at disproportionate levels, pushing the global community even further from reaching SDG 5 specifically, which is focused on gender equality.⁴⁰

The very first article of the United Nations Charter declares that one of its very purposes is “to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems”, and the solutions to those problems should be “without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.”⁴¹ The United Nations (UN) has declared its dedication to gender equality since its earliest days as an international organization, and continues to reaffirm its commitment in its development goals for the twenty-first century; first as Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals, and now Goal 5 of the SDGs.⁴² Article 62 of the United Nations Charter charges ECOSOC with “making recommendations for promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.”⁴³ ECOSOC’s very foundations rest upon the cornerstone of ensuring equality for all global citizens, in every aspect of their lives, regardless of gender.

The United Nations Entity of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) emphasizes that gender equality “does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women’s and men’s rights, responsibilities, and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female.”⁴⁴ UN-Women also highlights that “gender equality is not a women’s issue” but instead should be something that also engages men, and the concerns of men.⁴⁵ As it strives to reach the ultimate goal of gender equality for citizens across the globe, the United Nations, and especially ECOSOC, have made mainstreaming an equal gender perspective its global strategy for bringing that goal to fruition.⁴⁶

ECOSOC defines the concept of gender mainstreaming as “the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies, or programmes, in any area at all levels. It is a strategy for [making the concerns and experiences of both women and men.] an integral dimension in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies in all aspects of society.”⁴⁷ Gender mainstreaming is not intended to “replace the need for targeted, women-specific policies, programmes and positive legislation.”⁴⁸ Instead,

³⁸ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*, Page 36. New York, NY, 2022, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2022.pdf>.

³⁹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*, Page 36.

⁴⁰ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals*. E/2022/55, 2022, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/335/13/PDF/N2233513.pdf?OpenElement>

⁴¹ “Charter of the United Nations, Chapter I”, opened for signature June 26, 1945, *United Nations Treaty Series*, <https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/ctc/uncharter.pdf>.

⁴² United Nations, “United Nations Millennium Development Goals,” 2015, <https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>.

⁴³ “Charter of the United Nations, Chapter X” opened for signature June 26, 1945, *United Nations Treaty Series*, <https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/ctc/uncharter.pdf>.

⁴⁴ “Concepts and definitions,” *United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*, 2001, accessed September 7, 2022, <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>.

⁴⁵ “Concepts and definitions,” United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

⁴⁶ Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, “Gender Mainstreaming: Strategy for Promoting Gender Equality,” August 2001, <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/pdf/factsheet1.pdf>.

⁴⁷ United Nations Economic and Social Council agreed conclusion 2, “Coordination of Policies and Activities in the Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System Related to the Following Theme: Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective into All Policies and Programmes in the United Nations System,” E/1997/L.30, (July 14, 1997), <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G97/628/49/pdf/G9762849.pdf?OpenElement>.

⁴⁸ United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, “The Development of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy”, (August 2001), <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/pdf/factsheet3.pdf>.

both strategies are imperative for reaching true gender equality.⁴⁹ In fact, when applied properly, gender mainstreaming should also forward the goal of women's empowerment through the lens of having equal perspectives of both genders.⁵⁰ The concept of gender mainstreaming is intended to bring an equal perspective from both men and women when topics such as sustainable development or peacekeeping operations are being considered, not just when topics overtly related to gender arise.⁵¹

The COVID-19 pandemic presented new and unique challenges to the United Nations and the international community as a whole. As ECOSOC marches forward into the new millennium, it will likely be faced with even more new, unprecedented issues that affect all global citizens. In order to rise to this occasion and create a future that is both sustainable and equitable for all, it will be imperative that ECOSOC ensures that an equal gender perspective is considered from the earliest discussions on economic and social policy to when those policies are implemented, and their progress evaluated. The United Nations has repeatedly reaffirmed its commitment to gender mainstreaming throughout its system, and ECOSOC will need to maintain its place of leadership in creating social and economic policy that keeps that equal perspective as a key foundation.⁵²

History

The United Nations declared 1975 to be the International Women's Year, and serve as a reminder that despite the leaps and bounds women had made towards equality in the twentieth century, there was still a great deal of work to be done in ending discrimination against women in every area of the globe.⁵³ To coincide with the International Women's Year, a conference was held in Mexico City, Mexico in the summer of that year.⁵⁴ What would come to be colloquially known as the First World Conference on Women, the conference focused on renewing efforts across the international community to discuss gender equality and the advancement of women.⁵⁵ The First World Conference on Women had three primary goals: "full gender equality and the elimination of gender discrimination, ... the integration and full participation of women in development, ... [and] an increased contribution by women towards strengthening world peace."⁵⁶

This conference resulted in the creation of two new organizations: the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, both of which were later merged with other organizations to create UN-Women in 2010.⁵⁷ The First World Conference on Women also adopted The World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, which provided the international community with guidance for "sustained, long-term effort" towards gender equality over the next decade.⁵⁸ Five months after the conference, the UN declared the years 1976-1985 to be the Decade for Women.⁵⁹

Within the Decade for Women the second and third World Conferences on Women were held.⁶⁰ Copenhagen, Denmark, hosted the Second World Conference on Women in 1980.⁶¹ The report from this conference recognized that great strides towards Member States accepting the integration of women in policy development had been made

⁴⁹ United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, "The Development of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy", (August 2001).

⁵⁰ United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, "The Development of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy".

⁵¹ United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, "The Development of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy".

⁵² United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, "The Development of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy".

⁵³ "World Conference of the International Women's Year 19 June-2 July 1975, Mexico City, Mexico," *United Nations*, <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/women/mexico-city1975>.

⁵⁴ "World Conference of the International Women's Year 19 June-2 July 1975, Mexico City, Mexico," *United Nations*.

⁵⁵ "World Conference of the International Women's Year 19 June-2 July 1975, Mexico City, Mexico," *United Nations*.

⁵⁶ "World Conference of the International Women's Year 19 June-2 July 1975, Mexico City, Mexico," *United Nations*.

⁵⁷ "World Conference of the International Women's Year 19 June-2 July 1975, Mexico City, Mexico," *United Nations*.

⁵⁸ "World Conference of the International Women's Year 19 June-2 July 1975, Mexico City, Mexico," *United Nations*.

⁵⁹ "World Conference of the International Women's Year 19 June-2 July 1975, Mexico City, Mexico," *United Nations*.

⁶⁰ "World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women 14-30 July, 1980, Copenhagen, Denmark," *United Nations*, <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/women/copenhagen1980>.

⁶¹ "World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women 14-30 July, 1980, Copenhagen, Denmark," *United Nations*.

in the last five years, but also highlighted that despite the rights that women were guaranteed, their actual “capacity to exercise them” was still lacking at all levels of policy making.⁶² Three key spheres of gender inequality were identified at the Second World Conference on Women, highlighting disparities between the genders in terms of access to education, employment opportunities, and adequate healthcare.⁶³

To evaluate the progress made in the Decade for Women, the Third World Conference on Women convened in 1985 in Nairobi, Kenya.⁶⁴ The data presented at the Third World Conference for Women illuminated the fact that while Member States had implemented suggestions made at the last two conferences, the number of women that actually benefited from this progress was still very limited.⁶⁵ The key document from this conference, the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, outlined strategies for the inclusion of women at all levels of policy-making for the rest of the twentieth century.⁶⁶ Progress for women was to be evaluated by measures taken in three categories; constitutional and legal matters, equality in social participation, and equality in political participation and decision making.⁶⁷ The Third World Conference for Women also emphasized that “gender equality was not an isolated issue, but encompassed all areas of human activity.”⁶⁸ It was agreed that an equal gender perspective was not necessary only for issues explicitly pertaining to gender; the perspective of women should be included in all spheres of policy.⁶⁹

In September 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women took place in Beijing, China; the last of four major conventions held by the United Nations in the 20th century, in an attempt to make gender equality visible and a priority to the global community.⁷⁰ The Fourth World Conference on Women acted as the culmination of the three previous conferences held for women’s rights and gender equality and built upon the previous five decades’ worth of “legal advances aimed at securing the equality of women with men in law and practice.”⁷¹ At this nine-day conference, the 189 Member States in attendance unanimously adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.⁷² The Beijing Declaration laid out objectives for the international community to reach gender equality through the advancement of women in 12 focus areas, which ranged from the protection of girls, to women’s participation in government, to violence against women (including in situations of armed conflict), and women’s health.⁷³

While the overall focus on progress towards gender equality focused on women, the UN Division for Women has stated that the decisions made in Beijing in 1995 were transformative for discussions of gender in policymaking.⁷⁴ Prior to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the focus had been solely on women, but there was a shift in the approach that changed the focus to gender.⁷⁵ This shift was crucial because it recognized that only through “a fundamental restructuring of society and its institutions” would it be possible for women to be empowered enough to be seen as equal to men in every way.⁷⁶ The UN Division of Women went on to say that “this change represented a

⁶² “World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women 14-30 July, 1980, Copenhagen, Denmark,” *United Nations*, <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/women/copenhagen1980>.

⁶³ “World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women 14-30 July, 1980, Copenhagen, Denmark,” *United Nations*.

⁶⁴ “World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women 15-26 July, 1985, Nairobi, Kenya,” *United Nations*, <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/women/nairobi1985>.

⁶⁵ “World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women 15-26 July, 1985, Nairobi, Kenya,” *United Nations*.

⁶⁶ “World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women 15-26 July, 1985, Nairobi, Kenya,” *United Nations*.

⁶⁷ “World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women 15-26 July, 1985, Nairobi, Kenya,” *United Nations*.

⁶⁸ “World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women 15-26 July, 1985, Nairobi, Kenya,” *United Nations*.

⁶⁹ “World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women 15-26 July, 1985, Nairobi, Kenya,” *United Nations*.

⁷⁰ “Fourth World Conference on Women, 4-15 September 1995, Beijing, China,” *United Nations*, accessed on September 20, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/women/beijing1995>.

⁷¹ “Fourth World Conference on Women, 4-15 September 1995, Beijing, China,” *United Nations*.

⁷² “Fourth World Conference on Women, 4-15 September 1995, Beijing, China,” *United Nations*.

⁷³ “Fourth World Conference on Women, 4-15 September 1995, Beijing, China,” *United Nations*.

⁷⁴ “Fourth World Conference on Women, 4-15 September 1995, Beijing, China,” *United Nations*.

⁷⁵ “Fourth World Conference on Women, 4-15 September 1995, Beijing, China,” *United Nations*.

⁷⁶ “Fourth World Conference on Women, 4-15 September 1995, Beijing, China,” *United Nations*.

strong affirmation that women's rights were human rights and that gender equality was an issue of universal concern, benefitting all."⁷⁷ It was with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action that gender mainstreaming became the major global strategy for the UN in ensuring that societal progress was equal for both men and women.⁷⁸

Actions taken by the United Nations

ECOSOC began to prioritize equal gender perspectives in its own work in 1997 with the adoption of E/RES/1997/2Y.⁷⁹ This resolution took the work done at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 and committed the Council to promoting the integration of gender-mainstreaming into the UN system.⁸⁰ The resolution defined gender mainstreaming as "the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels."⁸¹ E/RES/1997/2Y highlighted that both the female and male perspectives, from the earliest discussions and debate of policies to the implementation and ultimate evaluations of those policies, are key to meeting the global community's humanitarian needs.⁸² While E/RES/1997/2 did call for women to play a larger role in decision making and emphasized that gender mainstreaming was not intended to replace "the need for targeted, women-specific policies", it also boldly stated that "an assumption of gender-neutrality should not be made" for any of the wide range of issues that ECOSOC, and the United Nations, seeks to address.⁸³

In 2012, the UN established the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to "implement the gender equality policy of its highest executive body, the UN Chief Executive Board, chaired by the Secretary General" and that it would be spearheaded by UN-Women.⁸⁴ Ensuring accountability was the main goal of this framework, which established "common performance standards" for the United Nations and all of its subsidiary bodies' work on gender-related issues.⁸⁵ The goal was for all UN bodies to meet the performance standards by the year 2019.⁸⁶ In total, the framework identified 15 performance indicators, which are broken into six categories. These categories include: strengthening accountability; enhancing results-based management; establishing oversight through monitoring and evaluation and reporting; allocating sufficient human and financial resources; developing and/or strengthening staff capacity in gender mainstreaming; and ensuring coherence/coordination and knowledge information management at the global and regional and national levels.⁸⁷

Since 2011, ECOSOC has placed "mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system" on its agenda for the year, and each year the Secretary-General of the United Nations

⁷⁷ "Fourth World Conference on Women, 4-15 September 1995, Beijing, China," *United Nations*, accessed on September 20, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/women/beijing1995>.

⁷⁸ United Nations, Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. *Supporting gender mainstreaming: The work of the Office of the Special Advisory on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women*. New York, NY, 2001, <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/pdf/report.pdf>.

⁷⁹ United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 3. *Chapter IV: Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*, A/52/3, (July 1997), <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4652c9fc2.html>.

⁸⁰ United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 3. *Chapter IV: Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*.

⁸¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 3. *Chapter IV: Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*.

⁸² United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 3. *Chapter IV: Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*.

⁸³ United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 3. *Chapter IV: Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*.

⁸⁴ "UN System-wide Plan of Action for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment," United Nations Sustainable Development Group, (December 2016), <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/un-system-wide-action-plan-gender-equality-and-empowerment-women>.

⁸⁵ "UN System-wide Plan of Action for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment," United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

⁸⁶ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, "UN-SWAP: A plan to improve gender equality and empowerment of women across the UN system," [https://elearning.un.org/CONT/GEN/CS/I_Know_Gender_\(English\)/story_content/external_files/M03_S16_16_17_UN_SWAP_brochure.pdf](https://elearning.un.org/CONT/GEN/CS/I_Know_Gender_(English)/story_content/external_files/M03_S16_16_17_UN_SWAP_brochure.pdf).

⁸⁷ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, "UN-SWAP: A plan to improve gender equality and empowerment of women across the UN system."

delivers a report to the committee to discuss the progress made by the UN and the international community towards full implementation of the strategy.⁸⁸ In August 2022, ECOSOC passed resolution E/RES/2022/18, reaffirming the Council's stance that "gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for achieving gender equality."⁸⁹ E/RES/2022/18 also "urge[d] the United Nations system to further accelerate gender mainstreaming" in all aspects of its operations.⁹⁰

Current Situation

ECOSOC's most recent progress report on the SDGs paints a stark picture of progress towards Goal 5.⁹¹ Not only did COVID-19 have devastating effects on gender equality, but trillions of people around the globe continue to deal with the aftermath of unprecedented natural disasters; many caused by climate change. These natural disasters are coupled with an increase in armed conflict to levels unseen since World War II.⁹² As of May 2022, these concurrent, ongoing crises have caused an estimated 100 million people to be displaced.⁹³ Not only is the global community not projected to meet SDG 5 by the year 2030, UN-Women estimates that it will now take 286 years of work at the current rate of progress in order for the goal of gender equality to be realized.⁹⁴

To put this into perspective, in order to reach the third target of SDG 5, which seeks to end child and forced marriages as well as female genital mutilation, by the year 2030, the global community would have to make progress at 17 times the current rate.⁹⁵ While the practice of child marriage had been steadily declining by 15 percent since the turn of the century, the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in 10 million more girls being forced into marriages this year than in 2020.⁹⁶ The recent pandemic also increased the number of women who left the workforce, engaged in unpaid labor (such as care work), and faced domestic violence situations over the last two years.⁹⁷

The SDGs Report Card from 2022 recognized the successful role that women played in effective policy responses to COVID-19, and highlighted that women "prioritize[d] measures that address the most vulnerable groups."⁹⁸ Yet despite proven leadership in times of global crises, the number of women in parliaments will not equal the number of men for another 40 years, if progress does not rapidly accelerate.⁹⁹ Women currently make up 26.2 percent of "lower and single houses of national parliaments," and while women are more represented in local governments than at national levels, they still only hold only one third of those seats.¹⁰⁰ The number of women being represented in local governments is the only indicator for all of the stipulations within SDG 5 that is considered "close to target."¹⁰¹ However, less than half of the 95 Member States that provided data to a 2020 study by the UN had quotas for the

⁸⁸ United Nations Economic and Social Council Resolution 18, *Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system* E/RES/2022/18, (July 22, 2022), <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/439/44/pdf/N2243944.pdf?OpenElement>

⁸⁹ United Nations Economic and Social Council Resolution 18, *Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system* E/RES/2022/18.

⁹⁰ UN Economic and Social Council Resolution 18, *Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*.

⁹¹ United Nations, "United Nations Millennium Development Goals," 2015, <https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>.

⁹² United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*, Page 5.

⁹³ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*, Page 5.

⁹⁴ "In focus: Sustainable Development Goal 5," *UN Women*, August 23, 2022, accessed September 2, 2022, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/in-focus/2022/08/in-focus-sustainable-development-goal-5>.

⁹⁵ "In focus: Sustainable Development Goal 5," *UN Women*.

⁹⁶ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals*.

⁹⁷ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals*.

⁹⁸ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*, Page 37.

⁹⁹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*, Page 37.

¹⁰⁰ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*, Page 37.

¹⁰¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals*.

number of women that participate in those parliaments.¹⁰² The Secretary-General of the UN, António Guterres, explained that, “where women have been in leadership positions, the pandemic response has been faster and more attuned to social needs...however, across all levels of and sectors, women do not occupy the same space in decision making as men.”¹⁰³ Not only do women not occupy the same space in decision making as men, but women only represent 28 percent of health executives while being over three-fourths of the workforce in the same industry.¹⁰⁴

In the Secretary-General’s annual report on mainstreaming a gender perspective, António Guterres stated that “gender mainstreaming... continues to be central to the achievement of gender equality and gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.”¹⁰⁵ He reported that according to data on information management systems, 70 percent of Member State teams included measures dedicated to gender equality in their cooperative frameworks.¹⁰⁶ Additionally, as many as 120 Member States “reported having a gender theme group or an equivalent coordination mechanism to support coordination of gender mainstreaming in joint planning and programming.”¹⁰⁷ He recommended that the UN increase its efforts to accelerate gender mainstreaming because both the United Nations system and the global community have a lot of work to do in promoting gender equality and policies reflecting an equal perspective.¹⁰⁸ The Secretary-General also noted that despite the emphasis placed on gender mainstreaming within the UN, the practical application and implementation of this policy did not always rise to the occasion, and he again referenced the lack of women in “pandemic-related decision-making structures” despite the success of women-led initiatives.¹⁰⁹

Conclusion

The global community is eight years away from its stipulated end date for the goals enumerated in the 2030 Agenda, but the progress on gender equality is falling decades behind. The leaps and bounds of progress towards equal gender perspective in policy making made in the twentieth century have slowed as the international community pushes deeper into the twenty-first century, and some of the unexpected effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender equality has further slowed this momentum. ECOSOC has made gender mainstreaming a priority as recently as this year. The Secretary-General of the UN has declared that policy making with this equal perspective of all genders is “central to the achievement of gender equality and gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.”¹¹⁰ ECOSOC is charged with leading the international community in social and economic policy; spheres of policy where gender disparity can be the most apparent. Therefore, ECOSOC has a responsibility to ensure that its work is truly representative of an equally gendered perspective. A sustainable, equitable future for all global citizens cannot be achieved unless the voices of men and women alike are heard at the same volume and with the same gravity, even when gender may seem inconsequential to the topic at hand. It will be up to ECOSOC to determine how to make social and economic policies that hear these voices in tandem and consider carefully how legislation will affect individuals and the global community at large.

¹⁰² United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals*.

¹⁰³ United Nations Economic and Social Council. *Report of the Secretary-General on Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*, E/2022/62, (May 19, 2022), <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/354/64/PDF/N2235464.pdf?OpenElement>

¹⁰⁴ United Nations Economic and Social Council. *Report of the Secretary-General on Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*.

¹⁰⁵ United Nations Economic and Social Council. *Report of the Secretary-General on Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*.

¹⁰⁶ United Nations Economic and Social Council. *Report of the Secretary-General on Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*.

¹⁰⁷ United Nations Economic and Social Council. *Report of the Secretary-General on Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*.

¹⁰⁸ United Nations Economic and Social Council. *Report of the Secretary-General on Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*.

¹⁰⁹ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals*.

¹¹⁰ United Nations Economic and Social Council. *Report of the Secretary-General on Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*.

Committee Directive

As the global community tries to progress towards achieving the SDGs and continues to fight towards gender equality, ECOSOC must continue to lead the United Nations and all its Member States in mainstreaming an equal gender perspective into every aspect of social and economic policy. Every issue within ECOSOC's mandate must be considered from the perspective of all genders in order to create a future that is sustainable, equal, and just. Delegates should consider how ECOSOC can further understand crises and issues of sustainable development from a perspective that recognizes that men and women often experience those things in different ways, even if those differences are not immediately apparent in analyzing the issue. Delegates should look at the methods through which their own Member States discuss the unique perspective that gender can lend to economic and social policy and determine what can be applied on the globe's stage to adopt equitable, considerate solutions that meet the needs of everyone. The key to ensuring gender equality through gender mainstreaming is accountability, both from Member States and the United Nations as a whole.¹¹¹ Delegates should seek to answer how both individual Member States and the entire United Nations system can be held accountable for implementing policies that include a perspective that is equal across genders.

¹¹¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals*.

II. Assisting Third States Affected by the Application of Sanctions

Introduction

As the world continues to move towards interconnected globalization, Third States often bear unintended consequences when sanctions are levied on other Member States.¹¹² Third States can be defined as “any Member State which is not party to an international treaty or agreement”, regardless if the treaty or agreement they are excluded from nonetheless holds consequences for that Member States economy or otherwise domestic functioning.¹¹³ For instance, a Member State that produces computer chips could be sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) or any other Member State, which could reduce exports of goods to Third States that relied on that computer chip output. Repercussions of such sanctions have been acknowledged in Article 50 of the United Nations Charter, with a very narrowly defined outlet of opportunity for third states to find recourse to these casualty consequences.¹¹⁴

Member States and other organizations can use sanctions for a variety of cultural, political, and economic reasons to negatively affect targeted Member States.¹¹⁵ Common sanctions include barring nationals from entering a Member State, banning or placing embargoes on the sale and use of goods from another Member State, and even removing a Member State from competing in international sport under its flag and symbol.¹¹⁶ Imposed sanctions are not only limited to individual Member States. An international body, such as the European Union (EU), has given and received sanctions from Member States and groups alike.¹¹⁷ One example are the sanctions placed against North Korea in response to its nuclear missile program.¹¹⁸ The EU targeted various sectors of the North Korean economy, including financial, energy, and transportation sectors, and with sanctions designed to put enough pressure on the North Korean government to dismantle its nuclear missile program and comply with international non-proliferation obligations.¹¹⁹

Sanctions can disrupt trade and investment, which can have negative consequences for the economy and for the welfare of the people in a targeted Member State.¹²⁰ They can also affect the ability of Third States to trade and do business with the targeted Member State, which in turn has negative effects on their economy.¹²¹ In addition, the impact of sanctions is an important humanitarian issue.¹²² Sanctions can affect the availability of essential goods and services, such as food, medicine, and fuel, which can have serious consequences for the health and well-being of people.¹²³ One of ECOSOC's key mandates of the United Nations Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) is to promote social development and to improve the living standards of people around the world.¹²⁴ Third States impacted by global sanctions, especially those considered developing Member States, will face the greatest challenges in overcoming the economic hardship sanctions on other Member States within its trading and economic

¹¹² “Impact of Economic Sanctions on Third States Must be Assessed Through Agreed Methodology, Sixth Committee Told,” *United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases*, September 26, 1996, Accessed January 1, 2023, <https://press.un.org/en/1996/19960926.gal3002.html>

¹¹³ “Third State (Noun) American English Definition and Synonyms,” *Macmillan Dictionary*, accessed September 16, 2022, <https://www.macmillandictionary.com/us/dictionary/american/third-state>

¹¹⁴ “Charter of the United Nations.” Opened for signature June 26, 1945, United Nations Treaty Series, <https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/ctc/uncharter.pdf>

¹¹⁵ United Nations Security Council. *Subsidiary Organs of the United Nations Security Council*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 2016. <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/information>

¹¹⁶ United Nations Security Council. *Subsidiary Organs of the United Nations Security Council*.

¹¹⁷ Kolja Brockmann, “European Union sanctions on North Korea: Balancing non-proliferation with the humanitarian impact,” *Sipri*, December 11, 2020, <https://www.sipri.org/commentary/topical-backgrounder/2020/european-union-sanctions-north-korea-balancing-non-proliferation-humanitarian-impact>

¹¹⁸ Kolja Brockmann, “European Union sanctions on North Korea...”

¹¹⁹ Kolja Brockmann, “European Union sanctions on North Korea...”

¹²⁰ Maria P. Berlin, “The Effects of Sanctions,” *Free Network*, May 10, 2022, <https://freepolicybriefs.org/2022/05/10/effects-economic-sanctions/>

¹²¹ Maria P. Berlin, “The Effects of Sanctions.”

¹²² Maria P. Berlin, “The Effects of Sanctions.”

¹²³ Maria P. Berlin, “The Effects of Sanctions.”

¹²⁴ United Nations Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC mandates and evolution of functions*. New York, NY, https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2020doc/BRIEF%20I_ECOSOC%20mandates%20and%20evolution%20of%20functions_FINAL.pdf

relationships produce.¹²⁵ By refocusing attention to this issue and exploring ways to mitigate the ripple effect of sanctions, ECOSOC can achieve its mandate to help promote economic and social cooperation and development.

History

The UNSC was one of the earliest bodies to have taken the initiative to address actions related to Article 50 in the United Nations Charter through the creation of The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM).¹²⁶ UNIKOM was established by the UNSC through Resolution 689, which was adopted on April 5 1991 in the aftermath of the Gulf War.¹²⁷ Resolution 687 established a ceasefire between Iraq and Kuwait and UNIKOM was tasked to monitor the newly formed demilitarized zone between the two Member States and provide assistance to Third States affected by the sanctions imposed by the UNSC on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait.¹²⁸ UNSC sanctions included an arms embargo, a trade embargo, a ban on financial transactions, a ban on the sale of oil and petroleum products, and a restriction on the movement of people and goods while freezing Iraqi assets abroad.¹²⁹ UNIKOM played an important role in assisting Third States affected, by providing targeted assistance to these Member States in order to address the specific challenges they were facing as a result of the sanctions handed down on Iraq.¹³⁰ Types of assistance included initiatives such as providing food, medical supplies, and other essential items, as well as infrastructure projects, education and training programs, and initiatives designed to promote economic and social development.¹³¹ While UNIKOM did not provide assistance directly to Kuwait, it did work to support the efforts of Kuwait and other Member States in the region to address the challenges they were facing as a result of the Gulf War and Iraqi sanctions.¹³² These included efforts to coordinate with other United Nations (UN) agencies and programs, as well as with international financial institutions and other stakeholders in order to provide effective assistance to these Member States.¹³³ The work of UNIKOM was an important part of the UN's efforts to promote peace, security, and development in the region. By providing targeted assistance to Member States and coordinating closely with other international actors, UNIKOM was able to help alleviate the economic and social impact of sanctions and support the development of surrounding Member States.¹³⁴

ECOSOC has attempted steps to soften the impacts of sanctions onto Third States by holding sessions with the topic on the agenda.¹³⁵ On July 25, 2001, ECOSOC met and discussed a number of issues regarding social, human rights, economic, and environmental issues.¹³⁶ During the discussions, the representative from Iraq, Saad A. O. Hussain, highlighted the repercussions his Member State faced due to the sanctions levied by the UNSC against Iraq.¹³⁷ The sanctions “had affected everyone, especially women and children” and he believed this was because of an “unjust blockade” the UNSC imposed on Iraq during the Gulf War.¹³⁸ Most notably, he questioned the assistance to the Third States affected while allowing Iraq to bear the full brunt of its effects.¹³⁹ He said the effect of economic blockades against Third States was a curious issue, when there was little attention paid to the effect of the blockade

¹²⁵ Alexandra E. Cirone and Johannes Urpelainen. “Trade Sanctions in International Environmental Policy: Deterring or Encouraging Free Riding?” *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 30, no. 4 (2013): 309–34.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/26275385>

¹²⁶ United Nations, Department of Public Information. *Iraq/Kuwait – UNIKOM – Background*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 2003, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/past/unikom/background.html>

¹²⁷ United Nations, Department of Public Information. *Iraq/Kuwait – UNIKOM – Background*.

¹²⁸ United Nations, Department of Public Information. *Iraq/Kuwait – UNIKOM – Background*

¹²⁹ Marco Sassoli, et al., “UN Security Council, Sanctions imposed Upon Iraq,” How does Law Protect in War?, accessed, October 2, 2022, <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/un-security-council-sanctions-imposed-upon-iraq>

¹³⁰ United Nations, Department of Public Information. *Iraq/Kuwait – UNIKOM – Background*

¹³¹ United Nations, Department of Public Information. *Iraq/Kuwait – UNIKOM – Background*

¹³² United Nations, Department of Public Information. *Iraq/Kuwait – UNIKOM – Mandate*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 2003, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/past/unikom/mandate.html>

¹³³ United Nations, Department of Public Information. *Iraq/Kuwait – UNIKOM – Background*

¹³⁴ United Nations, Department of Public Information. *Iraq/Kuwait – UNIKOM – Background*

¹³⁵ United Nations, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions, Decisions on Social, Human Rights, Economic and Environmental Issues*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 2001, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2009/10/ecosoc-adopts-resolutions-decisions-social-human-rights-economic-and>

¹³⁶ United Nations, ECOSOC. *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions...*

¹³⁷ United Nations, ECOSOC. *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions...*

¹³⁸ United Nations, ECOSOC. *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions...*

¹³⁹ United Nations, ECOSOC. *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions...*

on the Member State that was targeted.¹⁴⁰ While Hussain's primary focus was on the effects of sanctions on the sanctioned Member States, his comments relating to the consequences to Third States were picked up and voiced by other Member States, sparking a longer dialogue on unintended consequences to Third States of economic sanctions.¹⁴¹ Several Member States, including Ukraine and Slovakia, voiced strong support for looking deeper into assisting Third States affected by sanctions.¹⁴² The Ukrainian representative Igor Sahach spoke on how Ukraine was directly impacted by sanctions placed on the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which included an arms embargo and a ban on exports and goods.¹⁴³ Sahach argued that the sanctions, particularly on exports and goods, were too broad in nature and thus indirectly negatively impacted the Ukrainian economy.¹⁴⁴ He also brought up a report by an Ad Hoc Expert Group that was tasked to develop a methodology of measuring the impacts of sanctions on Third States that was conducted in 1998.¹⁴⁵ The review undertaken by this Group represented a big step forward in understanding how Third State economies could face negative consequences from sanctions targeted against other Member States.¹⁴⁶ The group had specifically pointed out that practical and timely assistance to Third States would further contribute to an effective and comprehensive approach to sanctions imposed by the Security Council.¹⁴⁷ Milan Majek, the representative from Slovakia, voiced how Slovakia had been affected by the sanctions placed against Yugoslavia as well.¹⁴⁸ Majek described how one of the waterways in Slovakia, the Danube, was not able to be fully navigated through due to travel sanctions.¹⁴⁹ Their hope was that logistical relief could also be taken into account when providing aid to Third States affected by sanctions.¹⁵⁰

On August 27, 1998, the former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, published a report in the 53rd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) titled "Implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to Third States affected by the application of sanctions."¹⁵¹ Years later, on October 16, 2007, during the United Nations General Assembly 62nd session's sixth committee, João Miguel Madureira, the Portuguese representative speaking on behalf of the EU, praised the report of the Special Committee on the Charter's UNSC sanction regime as an overwhelming success.¹⁵² The representative noted that no Member State in the previous five years had come forward with special economic grievances due to sanctions. Thus, the UNSC's work seemed to be coming to fruition. However, more work needed to be done. On the use of sanctions in the maintenance of international peace and security, the report recommended further consideration of the Russian Federation's working document: A/C.6/62/L.6.¹⁵³ This working paper suggested that "sanctions are an important tool in maintaining international peace and security but should be applied only when the Security Council determines the existence of a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression."¹⁵⁴ It also adds that "sanctions should also be carefully

¹⁴⁰ United Nations, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions, Decisions on Social, Human Rights, Economic and Environmental Issues*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 2001, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2009/10/ecosoc-adopts-resolutions-decisions-social-human-rights-economic-and>

¹⁴¹ ECOSOC. *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions...*

¹⁴² ECOSOC. *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions...*

¹⁴³ ECOSOC. *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions...*

¹⁴⁴ ECOSOC. *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions...*

¹⁴⁵ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) agenda item 156, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions*, A/53/312, (August 27, 1998), <https://undocs.org/en/A/53/312>

¹⁴⁶ UNGA, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter...*

¹⁴⁷ UNGA, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter...*

¹⁴⁸ United Nations, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions, Decisions on Social, Human Rights, Economic and Environmental Issues*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 2001, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2009/10/ecosoc-adopts-resolutions-decisions-social-human-rights-economic-and>

¹⁴⁹ ECOSOC. *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions...*

¹⁵⁰ ECOSOC. *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions...*

¹⁵¹ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) agenda item 156, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions*, A/53/312, (August 27, 1998), <https://undocs.org/en/A/53/312>

¹⁵² United Nations General Assembly press release 3321, *Help for 'Third States' in Application of Security Council Sanctions*, GA/L/3321, (October 16, 2007), <https://press.un.org/en/2007/gal3321.doc.htm>

¹⁵³ United Nations General Assembly Agenda item 85, *Basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations*, A/C.6/62/L.6, (October 11, 2007), <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/538/75/pdf/N0753875.pdf?OpenElement>

¹⁵⁴ United Nations General Assembly press release 3321, *Help for 'Third States' in Application of Security Council Sanctions*.

targeted in support of clear objectives and implemented in ways that balance effectiveness against the possible adverse socio-economic and humanitarian consequences for populations and for Third States.”¹⁵⁵

Current Situation

Most recently, ECOSOC has taken up assistance to Third States affected by the application of sanctions in 2009.¹⁵⁶ With the recent rise in global tensions, international sanctions have been broader and harsher in scope. While developed Member States tend to be targeted with the greatest number of sanctions, it is often developing Member States that struggle with their effects in the largest degree.¹⁵⁷ Developed Member States are more likely to have stronger and more diversified economies, which can make them less vulnerable to the impacts of sanctions.¹⁵⁸ These Member States also have resources at their disposal to mitigate the effects of sanctions, such as financial reserves or access to international aid.¹⁵⁹ Additionally, developed Member States have greater access to institutions in place to enforce and implement sanctions, which can make it easier for them to comply and minimize their impacts.¹⁶⁰

Sanctions have also made the response to the COVID-19 pandemic much more difficult for targeted and non-targeted Member States. A section of ECOSOC’s July 2021 Statements reads:

“The existing Sustainable Development obstacles such as economic sanctions and unilateral coercive measures need urgent attention because they increase the divide among affected economies in the process of Covid-19 recovery, and magnifies the adverse impact of the pandemic on all aspects of development. So, we urge the international community and the UN experts, working on the SDGs, to seek solutions to such complexities as unilateral measures and offer the affected societies with expert advice on how to deal with the multi-layered complications caused by sanctions.”¹⁶¹

They can also disrupt trade and financial flows, which can make it more difficult for countries to obtain the goods and services Member States need to respond to the pandemic.¹⁶² Medical supplies, such as personal protective equipment, vaccines, and other essential goods and services are a few of the supplies Member States need to effectively slow the spread of COVID-19.¹⁶³ Economic sanctions have also been shown to hurt economic and financial resources of directly and indirectly affected Member States, which can make it much more difficult for them to finance their COVID-19 response.¹⁶⁴ These include funding for healthcare systems, testing and treatment programs, and other measures to contain the spread of the virus.¹⁶⁵ Sanctions can also create uncertainty and

¹⁵⁵ United Nations General Assembly press release 3321, *Help for ‘Third States’ in Application of Security Council Sanctions*.

¹⁵⁶ United Nations General Assembly agenda item 13, *Assistance to third States Affected by the Application of Sanctions*, A/64/3/Rev.1, (2010), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/685638?ln=en#record-files-collapse-header>

¹⁵⁷ Alexandra E. Cirone and Johannes Urpelainen. “Trade Sanctions in International Environmental Policy: Deterring or encouraging free riding?,” *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 30, no. 4 (2013): 309–34.

¹⁵⁸ Alexandra E. Cirone and Johannes Urpelainen. “Trade Sanctions in International Environmental Policy...,”

¹⁵⁹ Alexandra E. Cirone and Johannes Urpelainen. “Trade Sanctions in International Environmental Policy...,”

¹⁶⁰ Alexandra E. Cirone and Johannes Urpelainen. “Trade Sanctions in International Environmental Policy...,”

¹⁶¹ United Nations, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) agenda item 5, *Statement submitted by organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*, E/2021/NGO/XX, (July 2021), <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2021doc/2021-ECOSOC-HLS-Written-Statements-by-NGOS-in-ECOSOC-Consultative-Status.pdf>

¹⁶² United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *Unilateral sanctions make it harder to fight COVID-19, must be dropped, says UN expert*, New York, NY, (October 18, 2020), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2020/10/unilateral-sanctions-make-it-harder-fight-covid-19-must-be-dropped-says-un>

¹⁶³ OHCHR, *Unilateral sanctions make it harder...*

¹⁶⁴ United Nations, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) agenda item 5, *Statement submitted by organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*, E/2021/NGO/XX, (July 2021), <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2021doc/2021-ECOSOC-HLS-Written-Statements-by-NGOS-in-ECOSOC-Consultative-Status.pdf>

¹⁶⁵ United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *Unilateral sanctions make it harder to fight COVID-19, must be dropped, says UN expert*, New York, NY, (October 18, 2020), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2020/10/unilateral-sanctions-make-it-harder-fight-covid-19-must-be-dropped-says-un>

instability in affected countries, which can make it more difficult for governments and international bodies to effectively implement COVID-19 response efforts.¹⁶⁶

Actions Taken by the United Nations

ECOSOC's annual agenda has included "Assisting Third States Affected by the Application of Sanctions" as far back as 1999.¹⁶⁷ During its 45th plenary meeting on July 28th 2000, ECOSOC adopted A/RES/2000/32 which reaffirmed "the important role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council... in identifying solutions to the special economic problems of those (Third) States."¹⁶⁸ The resolution also encouraged further development of report A/53/312, which included releasing the methodology and data gathered for how Third states are impacted by sanctions while inviting Member States and relevant organizations to provide their views on the report.^{169,170} The report looked closely at two broad categories Third States are challenged with: "direct" and "indirect" effects of sanctions.¹⁷¹ Direct effects are viewed as the income foregone and losses incurred that stem directly from the cancellation of contracts and/or severance of economic relations with the sanctioned Member State.¹⁷² Examples include suspended sales or outstanding orders for contracted deliveries; interrupted shipments, payments or other transactions; and disrupted production of jointly operated facilities.¹⁷³ Indirect effects, which are largely the result of lagging direct effects, represent the negative impact on domestic variables such as output, investment, employment and the budget.¹⁷⁴ They may include disrupted production due to the absence or higher cost of sanctioned supplies, suspended financial inputs and services.¹⁷⁵ A type of sanction strategy known as "targeted sanctions" was also looked at in the report.¹⁷⁶ On the merits of targeted sanctions, the report concluded that:

"Targeted sanctions, such as personal assets freezes, visa-based travel restrictions and exclusion from international forums, seek to deprive ruling elites of important values, thus bringing about the required policy changes without hurting the civilian population in the target country or affecting the economies of Third States. Such measures commend themselves on grounds of equity and probable efficacy, and their merits therefore deserve priority consideration in designing a sanctions regime."¹⁷⁷

At the end of the report, it is suggested that the UN explore practical and innovative effects of a sanctions regime in Third States that may be most affected by the implementation of sanctions.¹⁷⁸ The assessments by this regime would be to advise the UNSC and its sanctions committee on problems and options to prevent adverse effects on Third States.¹⁷⁹ Recognizing Member States could invoke article 50 of the UN Charter, the report suggested that the Secretary-General should be ready to provide assistance to those Member States at their request with materials

¹⁶⁶ United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *Unilateral sanctions make it harder to fight COVID-19, must be dropped, says UN expert*, New York, NY, (October 18, 2020), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2020/10/unilateral-sanctions-make-it-harder-fight-covid-19-must-be-dropped-says-un>

¹⁶⁷ United Nations General Assembly resolution 1999/59, *Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions*, E/1999/59, (July 30, 1999), <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/documents/2020/resolution-1999-59.pdf>

¹⁶⁸ United Nations, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), *Resolutions and Decisions of the Economic and Social Council*, (2021), <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/ECOSOC-2000-99-E.pdf>

¹⁶⁹ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) agenda item 156, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions*, A/53/312, (August 27, 1998), <https://undocs.org/en/A/53/312>

¹⁷⁰ United Nations, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), *Resolutions and Decisions of the Economic and Social Council*, (2021), <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/ECOSOC-2000-99-E.pdf>

¹⁷¹ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) agenda item 156, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions*, A/53/312, (August 27, 1998), <https://undocs.org/en/A/53/312>

¹⁷² UNGA agenda item 156, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States...*

¹⁷³ UNGA agenda item 156, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States...*

¹⁷⁴ UNGA agenda item 156, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States...*

¹⁷⁵ UNGA agenda item 156, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States...*

¹⁷⁶ UNGA agenda item 156, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States...*

¹⁷⁷ UNGA agenda item 156, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States...*

¹⁷⁸ UNGA agenda item 156, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States...*

¹⁷⁹ UNGA agenda item 156, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States...*

available to take such matters to the UNSC and find a solution.¹⁸⁰ A standardized sanction regime would also allow the UNSC to identify individual cases on a comparable basis within its sanctions committee.¹⁸¹

Case Study: SWIFT Sanctions against the Russian Federation

The sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation for their part in the invasion of Ukraine has garnered international attention for their scope and scale. These sanctions have increased dramatically since the start of the invasion in February 2022.¹⁸² As of September 2022, over 30,000 sanctions have been placed on numerous Russian entities, including airplanes, companies, legal entities, organizations, persons, and vessels.¹⁸³ Most notably, on March 1, 2022, in an unprecedented move, The European Union, United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States agreed to remove select Russian banks from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) messaging system.¹⁸⁴

The SWIFT messaging system was developed in the 1970s to bring a common financial process for cross border payment solutions between Member States.¹⁸⁵ Cross border payment solutions are financial services that allow individuals or businesses to send and receive payments to and from other countries.¹⁸⁶ These solutions typically involve the use of intermediaries or third parties, such as banks, to facilitate the transfer of funds across borders.¹⁸⁷ Headquartered in Belgium, SWIFT went live with its messaging services in 1977, replacing the Telex technology that was then in widespread use.¹⁸⁸ In 2014, SWIFT recorded 5.6 billion messages from more than 200 Member States and territories.¹⁸⁹ Today, SWIFT's strategy has shifted to focusing on building its financial crime compliance portfolio and expanding market infrastructure offerings.¹⁹⁰

This is not the first time the Russian Federation has been the target for such sanctions. In 2014, calls from the international community to bar Russia from the SWIFT payments system in response to the invasion of Crimea were also voiced, although no immediate actions were taken.¹⁹¹ However, the System for Transfer of Financial Messages (SPFS), a Russia-based SWIFT equivalent, was created by the Central Bank of Russia as a backup measure during this time and is still in early development.¹⁹²

The SWIFT sanctions have effectively isolated the Russian Federation's ability to conduct foreign exchange with the rest of the global community.¹⁹³ Banks that wish to transact outside its border must deal with each transaction on a case by case basis which could also incur delays and additional costs.¹⁹⁴ During the Africa CEO Forum in June 2022, President Macky Sall of Senegal, who currently chairs the African Union, urged EU leaders to “provide some

¹⁸⁰ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) agenda item 156, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions*, A/53/312, (August 27, 1998), <https://undocs.org/en/A/53/312>

¹⁸¹ UNGA agenda item 156, *Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States...*

¹⁸² “Search Open Sanctions: Russia,” *Open Sanctions*, accessed October 26, 2022, <https://www.opensanctions.org/search/?q=&countries=ru>

¹⁸³ “Search Open Sanctions: Russia,” *Open Sanctions*

¹⁸⁴ Russell Hotten, “Ukraine conflict: What is Swift and why is banning Russia so significant?” *BBC News*, Last modified May 4, 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-60521822>

¹⁸⁵ “Swift History,” *SWIFT*, accessed October 26, 2022, <https://www.swift.com/about-us/history>

¹⁸⁶ “Everything You Need to Know About Cross-Border Payments,” *ACI Worldwide*, accessed October 26, 2022, <https://www.aciworldwide.com/cross-border-payment-processing#:~:text=A%20cross%2Dborder%20payment%20refers,individuals%2C%20companies%20and%20banking%20institutions>

¹⁸⁷ “Everything You Need to Know About Cross-Border Payments,” *ACI Worldwide*.

¹⁸⁸ “Swift History,” *SWIFT*, accessed October 26, 2022, <https://www.swift.com/about-us/history>

¹⁸⁹ “Swift History,” *SWIFT*.

¹⁹⁰ “Swift History,” *SWIFT*.

¹⁹¹ Kenneth Rapoza, “Russia to Retaliate if Bank’s giving SWIFT Kick,” *Forbes*, accessed October 26, 2022, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2015/01/27/russia-to-retaliate-if-banks-given-swift-kick/?sh=654bf8bc652e>

¹⁹² “Financial Messaging System of the Bank of Russia (SPFS),” *Bank of Russia*, accessed October 26, 2022, https://www.cbr.ru/eng/psystem/fin_msg_transfer_system/

¹⁹³ Russell Hotten, “Ukraine conflict: What is Swift and why is banning Russia so significant?” *BBC News*, Last modified May 4, 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-60521822>

¹⁹⁴ Russell Hotten, “Ukraine conflict: What is Swift and why is banning Russia so significant?”

scope” to allow African Member States to pay for imported goods from the Russian Federation.¹⁹⁵ Since the Russian Federation had been barred from SWIFT, Senegal and other Member States had difficulties paying for the imports.¹⁹⁶ However, one exception to the exclusion from SWIFT was allowing Member States to pay for gas and oil through the system.¹⁹⁷ In a quote to *Le Journal du Dimanche*, Sall urged EU leaders to allow a similar exception to cereals and fertilizers because “we want to pay, but it is becoming impossible.”¹⁹⁸ EU leaders pushed back against the claims of the president and stated that the Russian Federation is solely responsible for the current food crisis.¹⁹⁹ The food crisis faced by African Member States could also be exacerbated by the ongoing war between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.²⁰⁰

Conclusion

ECOSOC’s ability to review the economic conditions of a Member State due to sanctions on another Member State falls directly under its purview as stated in Article 62 Section one of the UN Charter, which states the Council, “may make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters and may make recommendations with respect to any such matters.”²⁰¹ Third States have little to no control over the repercussions that sanctions can have on their people and economy. It is often that the most severe consequences are borne by developing Member States who lack access to assistance programs when they are impacted by sanctions not against their own government, but that of another Member State.²⁰² While previous frameworks and reports have been implemented as a foundation for alleviating the dire consequences sanctions can bring upon Third States, new circumstances are arising that make it critical for the international community to come together and address or reduce unintended negative impacts to Third States in a sustainable way.

Committee Directive

It will be important to consider the economic environment of Member States that have been directly and indirectly impacted by sanctions. How has the application of sanctions affected the economy, social well-being, and human rights of affected Third States? What unintended consequences do reactionary economic sanctions impose on Third States and how can they be avoided? What steps can ECOSOC take to encourage different forms of economic collaboration when Member States are disincentivized to agree to global sanctions? Are current mechanisms for addressing the impact of sanctions on Third states effective, and if not, what improvements should be considered? How can regional organizations and other actors play a role in providing assistance to Third States affected by sanctions? Overall, delegates should address these questions with realistic solutions for implementing their goals. Delegates should focus on building upon what the current UN-established bodies are already working on rather than creating new bodies within the UN system. Delegates should also focus on the issue as a whole and not rely solely on specific situations of any single Member State.

¹⁹⁵ Giorgio Leali, “African Union chief urges EU to ease food payments to Russia,” *Politico*, Last modified June 19, 2022, <https://www.politico.eu/article/african-union-chief-urges-eu-to-ease-food-payments-to-russia/>

¹⁹⁶ Giorgio Leali, “African Union chief urges EU to ease food payments to Russia.”

¹⁹⁷ Giorgio Leali, “African Union chief urges EU to ease food payments to Russia.”

¹⁹⁸ Giorgio Leali, “African Union chief urges EU to ease food payments to Russia.”

¹⁹⁹ Giorgio Leali, “African Union chief urges EU to ease food payments to Russia.”

²⁰⁰ Giorgio Leali, “African Union chief urges EU to ease food payments to Russia.”

²⁰¹ “Charter of the United Nations,” opened for signature June 26, 1945.

²⁰² Alexandra E. Cirone and Johannes Urpelainen. “Trade Sanctions in International Environmental Policy: Deterring or Encouraging Free Riding?” *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 30, no. 4 (2013): 309–34. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/26275385>.

Annotated Bibliography

Topic I: Ensuring an Equal Gender Perspective in Economic and Social Policies for Sustainable Development

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, “Goals 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,” *Sustainable Development*, (2022), <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5>

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was created and adopted by all Member States in 2015 and is comprised of 17 goals that the United Nations (UN) would like to see achieved by year 2030. This source gives a more in-depth view of Goal 5 particularly. Goal 5 of the SDGs is an integral aspect in understanding the research and background of the overall topic as it is the goal’s priority is to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.” Delegates will find that this source from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ECOSOC) breaks down each of the goal’s indicators, targets, and provides data on current progress towards each of those indicators.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), “Gender Mainstreaming: Concepts and definitions,” *UN Women*, Last accessed November 30, 2022, <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>.

This site is an excellent primer on gender mainstreaming. The “Concepts and Definitions” page primarily focuses on simplifying and explaining the basics terms and mechanisms that are crucial for understanding gender mainstreaming and creating an equal gender perspective. Throughout the page however, links to other pages that further explain different topics within the concept of gender mainstreaming, such as best practices and ideal examples of implementation, are also provided. The source is also helpful in presenting the “milestones in implementing gender mainstreaming,” which will aid delegates as they look for the ideal solution within their own Member State.

United Nations Children’s Fund. *Gender Equality: Glossary of Terms and Concepts*. Nepal: UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, November 2017. https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/gender-equality-in-2022-the-best-the-worst-the-most-surprising-and-most-ridiculous/?gclid=Cj0KCCQiA_bieBhDSARIsADU4zLc4WfURJmzDs-XbF4wIX2tAKbsuc8ckdnguI3gpgP2xgVWIITWch5saAp-IEALw_wcB

In this publication by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), delegates will find various terms associated with the discussion of gender equality. While conducting research on the topic of “gender mainstreaming,” delegates may find this publication useful as a quick reference to fully understand the context of the source and the terms being used. Having the explanation and definitions of these terms readily available may also aid the delegates in the formulating possible changes and solutions towards ensuring an equal gender perspective in international policies, as this document provides an explanation for a variety of terms, theories, and events.

Sia Nowrojee, “Gender Equality in 2022: The Best, The Worst, the Most Surprising, and Most Ridiculous,” United Nations Foundation, December 16, 2022, accessed January 23, 2023. https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/gender-equality-in-2022-the-best-the-worst-the-most-surprising-and-most-ridiculous/?gclid=Cj0KCCQiA_bieBhDSARIsADU4zLc4WfURJmzDs-XbF4wIX2tAKbsuc8ckdnguI3gpgP2xgVWIITWch5saAp-IEALw_wcB

This very recent blog highlights the progress made in 2022 towards gender equality as well the setbacks. The author, Sia Nowrojee, and her colleagues working on the “Girls & Women Strategy” note that 2022 was a year of “widespread violence against women and the rolling back of rights.” With these lows, also came high, as seen with solidarity amongst women across the globe and advances towards restoring gender equality in areas heavily affected by climate change. Delegates may use this article to review where the fight towards gender equality stands on a global scale as of the end of 2022.

Government of Canada, “Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations,” *The official website of the Government of Canada*, 2022, https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/gender_equality-egalite_des_genres/elsie_initiative-initiative_elsie.aspx?lang=eng

The Elsie Initiative is just one of many global initiatives to promote the inclusion of women in policy decision making. The goal of the Elsie Initiative is to “help increase the meaningful participation of women in the [United Nations] Peace operations.” The Initiative contains six aspects: “bilateral partnerships with select Member States, [collaboration] with the United Nations to create more receptive environments, targeted research on women in peace operations, global advocacy, monitoring and evaluation,” and maintaining the multi-partner United Nations fund named the *Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations*. The Elsie Initiative deals specifically with women involved in UN Peacekeeping Operations, but this overview of the program provides an example of how some Member States are implementing measures to promote gender equality in a frequently male-dominated field.

Topic II: Assisting Third States Affected by the Application of Sanctions

United Nations Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC mandates and evolution of functions*. New York, NY, https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2020doc/BRIEF%20I_ECOSOC%20mandates%20and%20evolution%20of%20functions_FINAL.pdf

This brief provides a basic overview of the United Nations Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC's) mandates. ECOSOC has the duty to host discussions on topics relating to economic, social, and related issues, in addition to observing "the implementation of internationally agreed development goals." This source also provides a list of some of the major resolutions that have shaped ECOSOC's structure and goals. Delegates may find this source helpful as they research their Member States stance on this topic and ensure their recommendations for change remain within the purview of ECOSOC.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Over-compliance with secondary sanctions adversely impacts human rights of millions globally: UN expert*. Geneva, September 14, 2022. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/09/over-compliance-secondary-sanctions-adversely-impacts-human-rights-millions>

UN Special Rapporteur, Alena Douhan believes "over-compliance...needs to be recognized as a significant new threat to international law and human rights, [as it] impacts the human rights of all [and] may at times exceed the impact of primary sanctions." This press release highlights Douhan's presentation to the 51st session of the Human Rights Council on September 14, 2022, on "the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights." The Special Rapporteur's report gave insight into the effects of "secondary sanctions" and how humanitarian aid operations were often unnecessarily kept away from heavily secondary sanctioned areas in fear of infringing on the primary sanctioned areas (also known as over-compliance). Douhan asked Member States to minimize over-compliance with unilateral sanctions through legislation, regulation, and financial incentives. Delegates may find Douhan's words useful as they draft their recommendations for a solution ahead of conference.

Nils Redeker, "Same Shock, Different effects, EU member states' exposure to the economic consequences of Putin's War" Hertie School Jacques Delors Centre, Last modified March 7, 2022 https://hertieschool-f4e6.kxcdn.com/fileadmin/2_Research/1_About_our_research/2_Research_centres/6_Jacques_Delors_Centre/Publications/20220307_Economic_Consequences_Ukraine_Redeker.pdf

This policy brief by Nils Redeker, who is a policy fellow at the Hertie School Jacques Delors Centre in Berlin, Germany, demonstrates how the ongoing war in Ukraine as well as the sanctions imposed on Russia will affect the European (EU) economy. The examples include energy, oil, gas, other non-energy goods, and how they are projected to grow over the course of the conflict. However, the effects of the war and sanctions will not be evenly distributed throughout the EU. Member States which are considered energy intensive will bear the most economic hardship due to their reliance on Russian energy imports. Energy intensive Member States are displayed within the policy brief.

United Nations General Assembly Agenda Item 162 of the preliminary list, *Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions*, A/57/165, 2002, (July 2, 2002), https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/470212/files/A_57_165-EN.pdf

This report by the United Nations Secretary General "highlights the measures for further improvement of the procedures and working methods of the Security Council and its sanctions committees related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions". The report was requested in paragraphs 6 and 12 of General Assembly resolution 56/87 of December 12, 2001, titled "Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions." The report contains recommendations from ad hoc expert groups as well as international financial institutions and other international organizations. Such recommendations include earlier assessments by the Security Council and the Secretariat of the impact sanctions have on the global community at large.

United Nations Security Council resolution 2664. S/RES/2664 (2022). <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/736/72/PDF/N2273672.pdf?OpenElement>

On December 9, 2022, the Security Council passed resolution 2664 that seeks to provide a “humanitarian carve-out” to halt actions of imposed by United Nations sanctions regimes. This freeze excludes “the provision of goods and services necessary to ensure the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance or to support other activities that support basic human needs.” In this resolution, Member States also expressed their “intent to consider further steps as necessary to minimize and mitigate unintended adverse consequences.” Sanctions often have secondary effects on a Member States population or economy that were not initially intended. As the most recent resolution passed relating to the United Nations use of sanctions, Delegates will find this resolution insightful as they research their own Member State’s stance on the matter.