NMUN•NY 2017



9 – 13 April 2017

Documentation of the Work of the Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC)



2017 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS • NEW YORK

Conference B

Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC)

Committee Staff

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Chair	Manue Lopez
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Agenda

- I. Promoting Sustainable Peace by Addressing the Root Causes of Conflict
- II. Mobilizing Inclusive Partnerships for Sustainable Development
- III. Investing in Sustainable Energy for Rural Areas

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
ECOSOC/1/1	Promoting Sustainable Peace by Addressing the Root Causes of Conflict	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report

The Economic and Social Council Plenary held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Mobilizing Inclusive Partnerships for Sustainable Development
- II. Investing in Sustainable Energy for Rural Areas
- III. Promoting Sustainable Peace by Addressing the Root Causes of Conflict

The session was attended by representatives of 43 Member States and 1 Observer. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of III, I, II, beginning discussion on the topic of "Promoting Sustainable Peace by Addressing the Root Causes of Conflict."

By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 7 proposals covering a wide range of subtopics: women's rights and equality; economic development, funding, education, empowerment, and technology; advocacy for transparent government; education; addressing conflict through sustainable development; and inclusivity and minority opinion. The atmosphere of debate on Monday and Tuesday was marked by exceptional diplomacy and cooperation. Delegates debated their ideas respectfully and showed a high capacity for negotiation and compromise.

On Wednesday, one draft resolution was approved by the Dais with no proposed amendments. The body's collective work and collaboration reflected the true essence of the Economic and Social Council and of the United Nations as a whole. During voting procedure, the committee adopted the resolution by acclamation, which reflected the superlative level of cooperation and compromise held by the body. The resolution addressed a wide range of issues, including education, government transparency, good governance, inclusivity, human rights, funding, and sustainable economic development. The body's ability to effectively coordinate and delegate tasks allowed it to merge several working papers into one final resolution.



Code: ECOSOC/1/1

Committee: Economic and Social Council Plenary

Topic: Promoting Sustainable Peace by Addressing the Root Causes of Conflict

The Economic and Social Council Plenary,

Recalling the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations (1945), reiterating the determination to maintain international peace and security while respecting sovereignty among Member States,

Recognizing the importance of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966),

Acknowledging General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015) on "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and its establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly goals 4, 5, 13, and 16, which address the topics of education, gender equality, the promotion of good health and well-being, and justice for all, respectively,

Bearing in mind that several root causes of conflict are obstacles to sustainable peace including poverty, economic inequality, lack of education, discrimination, and political disenfranchisement,

Guided by General Assembly Report 71/460 of the Second Committee on Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) for Development (2016) which encourages technology for advancing social inclusion,

Deeply concerned by the growing economic inequality between developing and developed Member States, specifically between rural and urban areas, and between various groups within Member States themselves,

Noting further the comprehensive framework established by the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (2015) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Considering that the largest education gaps are found in conflicts and emergency situations, according to the *Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action* (2015) towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all,

Recognizing the importance of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on "women and peace and security," which, in collaboration with civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), requires that all parties to a conflict respect the rights of marginalized groups, women, and children and support their participation in peace negotiations,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) (2003), which recognizes that corruption can undermine the value of democracy and lead to conflict,

Realizing the importance of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), which stresses the importance of maternal health,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 71/197 (2016) on "globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights, which acknowledges the importance of guiding globalization to benefit all," especially in terms of sustainable energy and development,

Aware of General Assembly resolution 67/215 (2012) on "promotion of new and renewable sources of energy," which emphasizes the necessity of bringing affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy to all people, specifically for rural impoverished communities,

Emphasizing its commitment to General Assembly resolution 64/292 (2010) on "the human right to water and sanitation" and the collective action necessary to provide clean water as a human right,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 58/422 (2003), report of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption on the work of its first to seventh sessions, which discusses the establishment of Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAs) towards combating corruption,

Recalling ECOSOC resolution 2007/36 (2007) on "United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development," which calls for increased private and public sector collaboration for the promotion of integrated rural development,

Keeping in mind the powerful influence that science, technology, and innovation (STI) play in achieving equitable educational and social outcomes,

Further recalling the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Putting An End to Corruption report, which highlights the importance of improving transparency measures to reduce corruption,

Fully aware of recommendations from CSOs such as Civicus World Alliance for Citizen Participation on the importance of full application of the law in pursuit of justice, as well as maintaining civil dialogue between all stakeholders in situations of conflict,

Affirming the 2011 report of the Secretary-General (A/67/215) on the "United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All," which acknowledges the political influence of sustainable energy on a nation's capacity for stability,

Stressing the importance of youth entrepreneurial education, particularly through inclusive partnerships, as a means for economic growth and sustainability,

Recognizing that unsustainable economic policies, poor quality of public services, and closed trade regimes often prevent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in developing Member States,

Acknowledging the existence of industrial farming and the growing need for education in regards to ever changing agricultural endeavors and relevant technologies,

Emphasizing that educators require some form of support to facilitate good education for children in rural areas of developing Member States,

Deeply concerned with the rising unemployment rates in youth populations, as stated by the International Labour Organization, which, along with lack of political participation, greatly hampers the proper utilization of individual capacities and further increases their involvement in destructive organizations,

Acknowledging the advice and guidelines laid out by the World Bank's fraud guide in regards to preventing corruption during sustainable peace operations,

Acknowledging the need for climate-resistant crops in climate change and natural disaster vulnerable regions with limited food supply, which leads to food shortages resulting in conflict over the limited food supply,

Noting with deep concern the disparity in agricultural technology between developed Member States and developing Member States with respect to farming tools, access to farming knowledge and access to specialized crops,

Realizing the importance of the fiduciary duty of Member States as laid out in the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) financial initiative,

Convinced that many political conflicts within governments cannot be stopped unless pressured by external bodies such as Transparency International (TI) who promote transparency and produce reports based upon governance and program performance,

Recognizing the significant role that electronic governance (e-governance) plays in allowing the public sector to maximize their capabilities and make governance more effective.

Re-emphasizing the importance of expanding both public and private sector regulations similar to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) (2003) in order to limit the trade of natural resources coming from conflict zones,

Noting with satisfaction the World Bank report, Information and Communications for Development 2009: Extending Reach and Increasing Impact, concluding that a 10 percent increase in high-speed Internet connections results in an increase in economic growth by 1.3 percent,

Acknowledging the difference between developed and developing Member States and the need for transparency in the international sphere, as well as the particular challenges faced by developing states, in particular the unique challenges attributed to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Least Developed Countries (LDCs),

1. *Calls upon* the United Nations Statistical Commission to modernize and expand the scope of its risk management and reporting procedures in both public and private sector business stakeholder uncertainty in returns on Foreign Direct Investment affairs by:

a. Increasing the competition amongst state governments who will be incentivized to decrease their own risk;

b. Encouraging Member States to increase transparency and clamp down on illicit behaviors and markets within their jurisdictions to attract cheaper credit;

2. Reminds developed Member States of the 2030 Agenda's target goal of providing 0.7 percent of gross national income to their Official Development Assistance (ODA) efforts in order to financially facilitate addressing the root causes of conflict;

3. *Recommends* updating the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) protocol, modernizing investment systems and regulations universally to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises;

4. *Reiterates* the importance of South-South cooperation for sustainable development and peace, and the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing Member States to expand South-South cooperation by:

a. Increasing the value of regional trade leading to market integration and the increased financial interdependence of Member States;

b. Creating and re-engineering institutions to channel South-South cooperation more effectively like the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) between Africa and South America aiming an equal access to natural resources;

5. *Encourages* the use of asymmetrical trade integration to develop fragile post-conflict economies in order foster the development of diverse economies and increase local employment opportunities in the spirit of decreasing risk and increasing FDI;

6. *Encourages* Member States to create internal programs and policies that promote sustainable initiatives in impoverished areas with reliable electricity supply as one of the most powerful tools for improving the quality of life by creating partnerships with intergovernmental organizations such as, Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE), that make recommendations regarding:

a. Policies and financing by consolidating the off-grid sector there to assist decision-makers from both private and public sectors;

b. Technical support to develop renewable energy technologies, enabling electricity access in the household working with small and medium sized electrical companies (SME) and community level; including solar PV, small hydro, wind, biomass and biogas, mini-grids, (battery) storage, power components; Calls upon Member States to strengthen regional cooperation in order to create investment opportunities that build specific structures for sustainable energy, including: Investing in multiple kinds of renewable energy such as hydroelectric power plants, wind energy and solar plants; b. Investing in natural resources, promoting reforestation of areas afflicted by conflicts; Providing education of the workers through the creation of specific training classes financed by

reduce poverty;

- companies and giving workers access to specific professional skills programs;

 d. Creating new jobs and giving priority to those who live near benefit most from the projects in order to
- e. Opening research opportunities in developing Member States to international students looking to contribute to the energy sector with the intent of expanding renewable energy sources;
- 8. *Further encourages* Member States to create relationships with private-sector energy groups to bring in sustainable energy initiatives, specifically in areas that are heavily populated with indigenous and marginalized groups, by:
 - a. Allowing Member States to have financial support and assistance when implementing programs that create sustainable developments;
 - b. Establishing partnerships with NGOs like SkyPower, to create programs and policies that install solar panels and other renewable energy sources to homes in developing Member States;
 - c. Developing plans to create partnerships with major cities in Member States and private energy sectors, to create initiatives that brings solar panels to low-income homes, specifically in rural areas;
 - Solar panels would be installed at a reasonable price, if not for free, and kept for a specified time;
 - ii. The energy sectors would use a portion of the energy generated in major cities infrastructure;
 - iii. A portion of the profits should then be used to expand and sustain further developments;
 - iv. After that agreed upon time the solar panels would then be owned by the low-income household:
 - d. Following the example set by partnership between the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) and PV Energy, establishing a sustainable power plant, helping avoid carbon emissions of 160,080 kg per year;
- Recommends developed and developing Member States stimulate market economies by creating job
 opportunities specific to marginalized groups, through the use of adoption, incorporation, and investment of
 sustainable technologies by promoting educational programs for marginalized groups to be educated in
 sustainable technologies;
- 10. Reaffirms the importance of alleviating gender and minority discriminatory practices in the context of STI:
 - a. As already established under the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) through the Gender Advisory Board;

- 216 b. In accordance with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 217 Pamphlet No. 11 that stresses the importance of Member States to continue the construction and 218 enhancement of educational facilities to be inclusive of all minority groups as well as provide safe, 219 nonviolent, and effective learning environments; 220 Endorsing the facilitation of access to technology between developing and developed Member States 221 and private sector partners via improved licensing systems and the encouragement of multinational 222 223 trade agreements reducing barriers to the access of technological infrastructure materials, including: 224 The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) proposed IP-225 i. 226 sharing pool under the UN DESA 2008 Climate Change: Technology Development & 227 Technology Transfer report; Collaborative and voluntary patent pools organized in coordination with the OECD; 228 ii. 229 Trade agreements among willing Member States to reduce or eliminate the duties and tariffs iii. 230 on information technology equipment, including medical and scientific equipment, 231 environmental products, and agro-chemicals;
 - 11. *Further invites* an increase of Development Finance Institutions (DFI) cooperation with institutional capacity-builders, more specifically:
 - a. Regional development finance institutions such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and European Investment Bank (EIB) at the governmental level;
 - b. Bilateral development institutions such as the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) at the private level;
 - 12. Encourages Member States to promote environmentally sustainable jobs with the goal of:
 - a. Increasing job opportunities for the poor, specifically in rural areas;

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- b. Investing revenues generated by such endeavors for programs that are used to better the standards of living for citizens living in poverty;
- c. Monitoring the consumption and distribution of precious natural resources;
- d. Establishing community gardens in rural areas which would create a food source in locations where food may normally be scarce or difficult to access;
- e. Allocating funding for environmental scientists to study the environment of these rural areas to give proper and suited farming methods for the community;
- 13. Recommends an increase in job opportunities for the poor, specifically in rural areas, by incorporating:
 - a. The expansion of partnership programs such as the Global Partnership Programme between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Hewlett-Packard (HP) initiated in 2008;
 - b. Further involvement of partnership programs with the Global Coalition of Young Women Entrepreneurs as established by the LEAPs Framework for gender equality by:
 - i. Encouraging more women to take on leadership roles:
 - ii. Emphasizing the equal participation of men and women in domains of planning, decision-making and peace discussions;
 - iii. Providing more opportunities for women to enhance their business and economy-related skills:
 - iv. Advocating for partnership with men's and women's organizations to promote opportunities for all individuals regardless of the gender of an individual;

growth to:

- Organization to:

 a. Create more jobs and improve infrastructure in developing Member States to stimulate economic
 - i. Demonstrate the potential trade and investment can have on developing Member States;
 - ii. Reduce poverty in developing Member States by increasing capital flow through these Member State;
 - iii. Improve overall quality of life by sharing values and resources with Member States who lack the necessary items, such as a strong government core and poor economic strategies;
 - b. Stabilize high-conflict areas that lack basic necessities to grow both politically and economically due to pressures created by weak governmental bodies by:
 - i. Focusing on migrating minority workers into the formal sector to integrate these peoples into productive sectors with more political power;
 - ii. Breaking barriers that make it harder for private companies to move into these locations in order to:
 - 1. Reduce control in these areas by a single group of people;
 - 2. Introduce innovative technologies to catalyze growth in the private sector;
 - 3. Utilize domestic resources in these areas to mobilize trade multilaterally;
 - c. Share and create new technologies for both foreign and domestic states and integrate them into the global community by:
 - i. Reducing conflict between Member States by allowing developing Member States to "catch up" both economically and politically to developed Member States in terms of available technology in all sectors;
 - ii. Introducing potential alternatives to already existing high-conflict resources such as oil;
 - iii. Supporting growth in developing Member States who would have not had the resources to grow independently from the global community;
- 15. Calls for the strengthening of water sanitation and sustainability through:
 - a. Implementation of organizations like the World Health Organization and Human Rights Council to monitor institutions in equitable water distribution by appointing independent experts to report on Member States' implementation of right to water;
 - b. Research and development from the private and public sectors utilizing funding from institutions such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank; and
 - c. Investing in multiple kinds of renewable energy like hydroelectric power;
- 16. *Urges* Member States to reach out to the broader public of target project zones, through the establishment of joint programs with UNDP, to discuss and create more opportunities for political participation for local people, which includes:

- a. The utilization of the power of the arts to establish an open and inclusive dialogue amongst locals;
- b. The education of local leaders so that they can work within their communities via a Teaching of Teachers program (ToT);
- c. Extra funding from Member States towards local governments and distribute funding through participatory budgeting, modeled by the World Bank and World Bank advisory documents; and
- d. The proposed creation of reconciliation committees that encourage post-conflict participants to discuss long-term goals in open forum, as well as with the production of reports to aid future relevant United Nation resolutions;
- 17. *Promotes* the creation of platforms or conferences aimed at networking and coordination, a safe place to share needs and solutions ultimately aimed at fostering relationships of trust and productivity by urging all stakeholders and Member States in sustainable development operations to participate in open dialogue and cooperation, especially in regards of seeking those potential contributors not yet included;
- 18. *Stresses* the Committee for Programme and Coordination to focus on the importance of implementing programs to bring together and mediate between conflicted groups, in the most civil and peaceful process, through NGOs and governmental officials;
- 19. *Encourages* the establishment of a multinational council by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (one member from every continent, voted upon every three years) to officially note which areas have potential to become a future conflict zone;
- 20. *Encourages* UNESCO to develop a reintegration program to transform post-radicalized youth into productive members of society by considering both the physical and psychological repercussions associated with involvement in conflict;
- 21. *Encourages* NGOs and CSOs, such as Transparency International (TI), to propose solutions and innovations to governmental bodies that:
 - a. Have the possibility to save Member States money, such as the \$2 billion saved in the Czech Republic through TI exposing information on corrupt trades;
 - b. Promote safer environments by exposing illegal activity in both local and national governmental bodies such as police forces; and
 - c. Expose illegal financial write-offs within private businesses and governmental bodies;
- 22. *Invites* Member States to adopt a comprehensive evaluation process similar to Serbia's Single Project Pipeline for all infrastructure projects that require multilateral cooperation to ensure that all projects are being completed efficiently;
- 23. *Encourages* government accountability and identification of corruption or humanitarian or civil rights abuses through an open online database for immediate reporting by:
 - a. Endorsing border monitoring for resource protection, population movement, and conflict expansion through geospatial recognition technology with person in environment three-dimensional mapping; and
 - b. Assisting in operational-specific placement of resources in conflict and resupply efforts, thereby not relying on host states' area identification;
- 24. *Welcomes* the expansion of cooperation and the gathering of relevant stakeholders, such as NGOs, CSOs, UN bodies, private entities, and governments by:

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385	a.	Preventing conflicts by recognizing the need for centralized communication and transparency to
386		effectively alleviate tensions that governments alone cannot address; and
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388	b.	Reporting specific local corruption cases in order to make more efficient and adapted action following
389		the example of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
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391	25. Encour	ages Member States to develop multilateral cooperation to reduce corruption in governments, similar to
392	the OE	CD's Public Integrity Strategy, which:
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394	a.	Provides Member States with guidance for ensuring a comprehensive and coherent governmental

- a. Provides Member States with guidance for ensuring a comprehensive and coherent governmenta integrity system to develop guidelines for stricter anti-corruption laws;
- b. Promotes the elimination of corruption in the financial and government lobbying sectors by encouraging Member States to increase their regulation of those sectors;
- c. Strengthens the national statistical offices of Member States to improve their transparency, coordination, and accountability;
- 26. *Expresses its hope* that Member States expand their application of technology methods in security operations and humanitarian missions with the utmost transparency;
- 27. *Urges* the ACA to utilize its specialized employees in supporting the goals of fighting government corruption by:
 - a. Providing students in elementary and secondary schools with education that focuses on civic lessons, particularly on the causes and consequences of corruption; and
 - b. Involving students in a simulation of policymaking, decision-making, and the management of governmental activities, in order to raise awareness of anti-corruption;
- 28. *Invites* Member States to support and participate in Global Entrepreneurship Conferences and educational workshops for underrepresented groups, in which youth and women entrepreneurs meet, collaborate, and learn about the reduction of conflicts, with the advisement and guidance of established entrepreneurs and following the Commission on the Status of Women;
- 29. Encourages UNESCO to assist Member States in educating against extremism to obtain sustainable peace by:
 - a. Suggesting the integration of the SDGs in the curriculum through existing United Nations tools; and
 - b. Encouraging the development of traditional and cultural education locally and regionally, aiming to inform youth about the effects of globalization, by recommending UNICEF to expand its current program "Learning for Peace" to incorporate and include study abroad programs for better understanding of international cultures;
- 30. *Calls upon* currently existing organizations and Member States to expand vocational training programs to acquire the necessary skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed for the world of work and to lessen the probability of these individuals joining destructive organizations;
- 31. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate with NGOs such as The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism for the implementation of anti-prejudice and tolerance awareness workshops within communities;
- 32. *Encourages* relevant United Nations organizations to continue to work for educating teachers with national governments for decreasing educational inequality between regions;

33. *Encourages* the utilization of Proactive Fellowship programs with the help of the Training and Fellowship
Department of Economic and Social Affairs, implementing sustainable development within the African Bloc;
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- 34. *Urges* Member States, while considering national action plans and agendas, to keep in consideration the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) to promote the female role in crisis prevention, conflict resolution, peace restoration, and protection against gender-related violence in armed conflicts;
- 35. *Recommends* maternity and midwifery educational programs in Member States with high maternal mortality rates by partnering with NGOs like the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), in order to improve maternal mortality rates and women's health and promote job creation;
- 36. *Welcomes* Member States to invest in the field of education and development of the private and public technological sectors to promote the growth of human capital and scientific research funding for developing states, building on:
 - a. Existing public-private partnerships involving UN entities such as UNICEF, the United Nations Foundation, UNIDO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and UNDP; and
 - b. NGOs such as Telecoms Without Borders and campaigns such as the Better World Campaign;

 Encourages Member States to build accountable institutions through a gender-inclusive governing system to
- 37. *Encourages* Member States to build accountable institutions through a gender-inclusive governing system to strengthen the rule of law similar to the UNDP's Institutional Innovations for Gender Equality.