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Documentation of the Work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) NMUN Simulation*



Conference A

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Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

- I. The Socio-Economic Effects of Global Pandemics
- II. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Fragile States
- III. Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective into All Policies and Programmes in the United Nations System

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
ECOSOC/1/1	The Socio-Economic Effects of Global	Adopted by acclamation
	Pandemics	
ECOSOC/1/2	The Socio-Economic Effects of Global	bal 19 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 5 abstentions
	Pandemics	
ECOSOC/1/3	The Socio-Economic Effects of Global	23 votes in favor, 1 vote
	Pandemics	against, 2 abstentions
ECOSOC/1/4	The Socio-Economic Effects of Global	Adopted by acclamation
	Pandemics	

Summary Report

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

- I. The Socio-Economic Effects of Global Pandemics
- II. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Fragile States
- III. Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective into All Policies and Programmes in the United Nations System

The session was attended by representatives of 28 Member States; 1 non-governmental organization also attended the meeting.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning discussion on the topic of "The Socio-Economic Effects of Global Pandemics". By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of four proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including a macro-economic response, impacts on vulnerable populations, funding mechanisms, and partnership building. The committee atmosphere was very collaborative and delegates had a very structured approach to their working papers.

On Wednesday, four draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, two of which had amendments. The committee adopted four resolutions following voting procedure, two of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including funding for economic recovery, addressing impacts on vulnerable populations, strengthening regional partnerships, and infrastructure development to address socio-economic effects. The committee showed transparency and engagement in their work to address the socio-economic effects of global pandemics. Their focus and dedication allowed the delegates to reach the common goal of strengthening the international community's responses to global pandemics.



Committee: Economic and Social Council Plenary **Topic:** The Socio-Economic Effects of Global Pandemics

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The Economic and Social Council Plenary,

Deeply concerned that since 1970, about 40 new infectious diseases have been found that hold a threat level of a pandemic, according to the World Health Organization's (WHO) report on Emerging Infectious Diseases (2015),

Noting that, according to the WHO's report on COVID-19 in Fragile, Violent and Climate Risk States (2020), 56% of Member States are facing severe socio-economic effects due to disruptions in global foreign aid and assistance programs,

Taking into consideration that the world's most vulnerable amidst the current and future pandemics are women, children, and the impoverished, who should be prioritized in Member States,

Acknowledging that Small Island and Developing States (SIDS) face special challenges during global pandemics due to their reliance on international tourism industries, leading to particular economic hardships,

Alarmed by the negative impact of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) crisis as well as other epidemics and pandemics on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) introduced in General Assembly Resolution 70/1 (2015),

Acknowledging the unique potential that Small Medium Enterprises have to catalyze the recovery and expansion of the financial markets of Fragile States and SIDS through increasing the rate of employment, diversifying the economy, and encouraging competitiveness and entrepreneurship,

Acknowledging the outstanding pressure on low- and middle-income countries during the COVID-19 pandemic's economic downturn,

Reiterating the United Nations (UN) Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) 2020 report presented at the UN General Assembly, which calls for immediate financing of 2.5 trillion USD to low-and middle-income countries suffering from the social and economic consequences of the global pandemic,

Recalling the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) previous role in aiding low- and middle-income countries in stabilizing their financial and economic systems during the 2009 global financial crisis by providing them with international foreign exchange reserves through allocating special drawing rights (SDRs),

Cognizant of the impacts caused by the COVID-19 crisis on low- and middle-income countries in the achievement of the SDGs, especially SDG 8, which puts sustainable and inclusive economic growth at risk,

Dismayed by the impacts of global pandemics on the tourism sector, which is closely linked to the social, economic, and environmental well-being of many States, especially low- and middle-income States, which are currently one of the hardest-hit by the outbreak of COVID-19, with impacts on both travel supply and demand,

Understanding that emerging economies reliant on agriculture are particularly vulnerable to the socio-economic effects of global pandemics,

Deeply conscious with the negative impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on global progress toward achieving gender equality, as evidenced by the disproportionate domestic burdens placed upon women, which have led to exacerbated gender-based violence worldwide and a global economic loss of 1.5 trillion USD,

Reaffirming the current UN Secretary-General António Guterres's view that education is an essential "global public good" and should be "protected to avert generational catastrophe",

- 1. Recommends Member States to implement the Triple R's Plan:
 - a. Rebuild the Global Economy (Clauses 2-8);
 - b. Respond to the Global Pandemic (Clauses 9-12);
 - c. Revitalize the Global Future (Clauses 13-17);
- Suggests to Member States to create partnerships similar to Maldives, UN Development Programme and WHO to create an Integrated National Financing Framework that provides a strategy for sustainable recovery, especially in Fragile and Climate Risk States by exploring all financial flows and providing the governments with good practices and advice for efficient management of limited financial resources during pandemics;
- 3. Requests Member States to prioritize safe and sustainable tourism through the implementation of the World Tourism Organization's Sustainable Tourism Eliminating Poverty (ST-EP) Programme, which aims to use tourism as a tool to combat poverty during a pandemic through the following seven mechanisms:
 - a. Employment of locals in tourism enterprises;
 - b. Supply of goods and services to tourism enterprises by locals or by enterprises employing locals;
 - c. Direct sales of goods and services to visitors by locals;
 - d. Establishment and management of tourism enterprises by locals;
 - e. Tax or levy on tourism income or profits with proceeds benefiting the community;
 - f. Voluntary giving or support by tourism enterprises and tourists;
 - g. Investment in infrastructure stimulated by tourism also benefiting the host community;
- 4. Advises international financial institutions to use the Development Bank of Central Africa as a model to increase their lending limits to low- and middle-income countries at zero nominal interest rate, after conducting assessment and reviews based on their financial system and plan, in order to allow Member States to have financial resources to tackle a pandemic;
- 5. Supports the monetary expansion of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) brought to action by G20 countries, the World Bank, and the IMF in order to:

- a. Establish guidelines with a particular consideration for amending debts for Least Developed Countries and Member States facing immediate debtor's default;
- b. Encourage the participation of private creditors to whom DSSI eligible countries collectively owe about one third of their total debt service obligations in 2021;
- c. Inaugurate further evaluation of the DSSI eligibility criteria with regard to the risk of debt default;
- 6. *Highlights* the outstanding potential of SDRs in aiding developing countries to stabilize their economic and financial systems, for which reason it:
 - a. Recommends to the IMF to allocate at least 500 billion XDR to its Member States;
 - b. Encourages prescribed holders of SDRs to engage in exchanges of SDRs with developing countries to bolster the latter's foreign currency reserves;
 - c. Suggests the establishment of an independent review of the allocation and use of SDRs by the Group of 15 (G-15);
- 7. Advocates increased access to credit and capital for small and medium sized enterprises in small island and fragile states through interregional financial partnerships via the Barbados Programme of Action, Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway, and Addis Ababa Action Agenda which all prioritize trade liberalization, economic diversification, and monetary policy with aims to empower all Member States;
- 8. Encourages respective regional cooperation of fragile states, g7+ groups, and African Union (AU) member states by promoting the South-South Cooperation's incentives of the UNCTAD to facilitate the health response against pandemics:
 - Enabling the implementation of the necessary technology needed to revitalize the economy by prioritizing the education system to create more informed societies to prevent and mitigate future epidemic and pandemic occurrences;
 - Strengthening communication and information sharing in these respective regions for the safe distribution of medical stockpiles and the longevity of the UN sustainable development and gender inclusive initiatives;
- 9. *Invites* the WHO to create a health cluster for future pandemics and epidemics, modeled after WHO Global Health Cluster on COVID-19 Pandemic, which provide expertise and information sharing between regional organizations to mitigate health pandemics;
- 10. Recommends international organizations to develop partnerships similar to WHO's Access to COVID-19 Tool Accelerator to tackle emerging infectious diseases by creating a plan of action that embodies its four pillars:
 - a. Diagnostic: Aims to provide equitable access to test and create health infrastructure for Member States;
 - b. Therapeutic: Seeks to deploy equitable delivery of treatments at all stages of disease, ensuring they are accessible to all, regardless of geography and level of economic resource;
 - c. Vaccine: Access and equitable delivery of vaccine to all Member States;

- d. Health System Connector: Supports the other three pillars by ensuring that health system and local community network can fully utilize these and other essential tools to battle pandemics;
- 11. Requests an extension to the UN Sustainable Development Group's ongoing evaluation which is included in the UN Comprehensive Response to COVID-19 until the end of 2021 to examine on how the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 is affected by global pandemics;
- 12. *Urges* Member States to adhere to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) while especially addressing the impacts posed by the current and future pandemics:
 - a. Recommends Member States to recognize the hardships endured by migrants and refugees around the world during the current pandemic;
 - Requests Member States to consider the recent draft resolution's initiatives (A/C.2/75/L.8/Rev.1) such as protecting the human rights, safe access to drinking water, and mental health of migrants and refugees during pandemics in light of COVID-19 to be dealt with alongside with the CRRF;
- 13. Further recommends establishing a one-week forum that focuses on low- and middle-income countries under the guidance "Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19" report to help them rebound economically from the crisis by building up plan to economically recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and other crisis that might occur in the future, with the aim to:
 - a. Bring together relevant state and non-state actors, especially those working with vulnerable populations, in the international community to formulate an economic policy that includes a plan to better address the socio-economic impacts of pandemics;
 - b. Facilitate conversations and discussions on best practices to address pandemics that are inclusive of the financial needs of each Member State;
- 14. Advises regional organizations to partner with the International Labor Organization, World Food Programme, and Food and Agriculture Organization to expand programs like Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools, which provides a unique curriculum to Northern African States on agriculture and life skills with an aim to empower vulnerable populations and improve livelihood options during pandemics;
- 15. Encourages regional organizations to implement programs similar to the Committee on World Food Security Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN), to promote the creation of and equal access to sustainable food systems;
- 16. Asks Member States to model initiatives similar to those of Mexico in partnering with both public and private broadcasting networks to bolster the accessibility of other remote learning sources options for low-income families and regions such as the television, radio, and public internet access in order to anticipate potential learning disruptions during global crises;
- 17. Advocates for a distinct High-Level Segment that addresses the inequalities that impact women and girls during pandemics spearheaded by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and seeks to contextualize the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.



Committee: Economic and Social Council Plenary **Topic:** The Socio-Economic Effects of Global Pandemics

The Economic and Social Council Plenary,

Recognizing the global nature of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and the ways in which our world has forever been changed by this situation, whilst also noting and learning from the prior socioeconomic impacts of previous pandemics,

Acknowledging that pandemics are not only a health crisis but an unprecedented economic crisis, and the handling of both pandemic recovery and preventive measures should be taken with this in mind,

Noting that international health matters fall under the mandate of ECOSOC, per Article 62 of the United Nations Charter,

Recalling that the international community renewed their efforts against infectious disease and their social and economic impacts in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by establishing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Keeping in mind five distinct SDGs relevant to fragile states: SDG 1 which focuses on the elimination of poverty; SDG 2 which focuses on food security; SDG 3 which concentrates on good health and well-being by addressing existing epidemics, universal health coverage, access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, and capacity-building in developing states; SDG 8 which promotes decent work and economic growth; and SDG 9 which focuses on industrial innovation and infrastructure,

Deeply concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic might reverse the successes obtained in realizing the SDGs,

Calling attention to Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which highlights the right to a standard of living and personal well-being including medical care and social services,

Further recalling the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (AAAA) that was created as a framework focusing on all financing flows and policies in relation to economic, social, and environmental priorities and is especially important in times of crisis,

Taking into consideration the "Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19" publication in 2020 by the UN Secretary-General which highlighted the socio-economic disruptions of the pandemic and led to General Assembly resolutions 74/270 and 74/274 calling for global solidarity and cooperation in the fight against COVID-19,

In light of Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (1976) the international community maintains the responsibility to prevent, treat, and control epidemics and other disease occurrences,

Emphasizing ECOSOC's Statement on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and economic, social, and cultural rights (E/C.12/2020/1) that viruses on a pandemic scale affect marginalized individuals at an increased rate and reveal a need for international cooperation,

Reaffirming its commitment to the UN Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 (2020) that further sets out to strengthen current efforts against pandemics such as

improving health systems, establishing economic response and recovery programs, and promoting community-led resilience and response system with the help of Resident Coordinators (RCs),

Recalling General Assembly (GA) Resolution 74/306 (2020) that calls upon all Member States to address the social and economic impacts of the pandemic,

Reaffirming GA Resolution 74/307 (2020) that emphasizes the necessity to support economies and businesses, as well as vulnerable groups, and developing and least developed countries,

Further proclaims that the creation of COVID-19 vaccines and the progress of the vaccination campaign is gathering speed, but will however have a long-standing socio-economic impact on our societies,

Bearing in mind the urgent need to create long term frameworks to plan for, not only the health aspect of COVID-19 recovery, but also the economic effects of potential future health crises,

Solemnly affirms that all succeeding suggestions are within the notion of respect to Member States' sovereignty which should be upheld as pre-existing ECOSOC bodies continue and strengthen their response to the socio-economic recovery of pandemics, and that all suggestions are to be focused on the industry of global trade, irrespective of foreign aid and their conditions, and that all anti-exploitative trade measures should be upheld during a period of health crisis,

Stressing the importance of the work being done by the *Global Preparedness Monitoring Board*, such as their annual published overview of the state of the world's preparedness and monitoring progress, and their recommendations on actions needed to address pandemics,

- 1. *Proposes* that the *Global Preparedness Monitoring Board* continues its efforts to aid in the strengthening of the global community so that it is better equipped for future pandemics by:
 - a. Undertaking a study to analyze the global socio-economic effects of responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the effects of lockdowns, the decrease of cross-border trade, and the increase of children experiencing food instability as a result of school closures, as well as collect best-practices from both Member States and leaders within the private sector;
 - Establishing collaboration between the WHO and experts from the private sector to present accurate and accessible information on pandemics at ECOSOC's High-Level Session;
 - Supporting the WHO's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan to global pandemics and encourages every Member State to actively participate in implementing the guidelines;
- 2. Further recommends the promotion of international trade through newly suggested and preexisting macro-economic policy measures in order to stimulate the global economy in light of the strain caused by the pandemic, such as:
 - a. Reducing the Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM's), these being one Member State's economic measures to compel changes in the trade policies of another Member State, mainly in the form of the easing of trade sanctions and trade restrictions during the period of global pandemics, by:

- Suggesting Member States whose economies have been negatively affected by pandemics to further collaborate with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and seek applicable macroeconomic solutions;
- ii. Encouraging Member States to increase communication between the applicable bodies, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and private companies involved in authorization of the relaxation of trade barriers during a period of global health crisis;
- Actively seeking to reduce the interruption of financial and investment flows between exporting and importing countries in a period of health crisis as an attempt to reopen the global economy by encouraging the involvement of external bodies such as private companies and NGOs;
- c. Suggesting Member States, especially developing states, to voluntarily and temporarily adopt policies that reduce barriers to entry and promote international joint ventures that allow for the easier inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in preparation for pandemics to stabilize their respective domestic economy with the possibility of, but not limited to:
 - Offering tax credits to foreign companies that invest into Member States' critical infrastructure, with a particular focus on digital infrastructure as this will help to close the digital divide which will support digital education during school closures caused by public health emergencies;
 - ii. Marginally reducing their corporation tax rates for a suggested period of six months with the possibility of review after the first period and quarterly review, thereafter, keeping in mind those economies are reliant on the collection of tax revenues from exportation;
- 3. Further endorses the following macro-economic policies relating to international institutions and resource allocation such as:
 - a. The partial reallocation of revenues from mineral resources by Member States with the support of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, to guarantee access to basic services for all citizens in the short term and cooperate with the UN Sustainable Stock Exchange in the long-term to develop individual long-term investment strategies focusing on social and economic infrastructure installation for building up a sustainable economy less vulnerable to further crisis;
 - b. The inclusion of funding to The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI) from the UN-COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund to help promote the fair distribution of vaccines, particularly to Less Developed Nations as these Member States may not have access to vaccines otherwise and vaccinations are crucial for a safe reopening of economies;
- 4. *Encourages* the international community to invest resources into the prevention of negative socio-economic effects on vulnerable peoples and populations as the result of pandemics with the following actions:
 - a. Recommends the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) undertake a study on:

- i. The role that NGOs have played in supporting refugee populations during COVID-19, as NGOs have played a larger than normal role in protecting the economic rights of refugees by increasing access to food, housing, and vaccines; this would allow for a more comprehensive understanding of how to build long term partnerships that can better respond to future health crises;
- ii. The health and socio-economic impacts of returning asylum seekers to their country of origin during the pandemic on both displaced populations and the countries they move through;
- Devoting specific economic relief and aid to fragile Member States affected by current and future pandemics by investing their funds to create new jobs and anticipate medical needs;
- c. Ensuring that no one is disproportionately affected during future pandemics, we recommend hosting a forum during the ECOSOC High-Level Session specifically focused on the voices of the world's most vulnerable populations bringing together leaders from the private sector representing a diversity of interests, such as micro, small, and medium-size enterprises, women, youth, indigenous populations, displaced peoples, and others to discuss their specific socio-economic needs;
- d. Promoting the actions of the UN leading body of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) and proposing an increase to the efficiency with which data is provided to facilitate pandemic management and timely communication in developing countries and communicated between Member States to intensify transmission of information about medical data in indigenous language by a weekly report;
- 5. Suggests Member States develop policies surrounding social infrastructure development to address the negative socio-economic effects of COVID-19, focusing on long-term economic growth issues such as:
 - a. Exploring the economic tools needed to develop or maintain local infrastructure in accordance with the goals of SDGs 2, 6, and 9, such as hospitals, schools, road systems, food supply, and clean water, in light of the damage caused to them by the COVID-19 pandemic; the development of and opportunity for local infrastructure is essential in employment prospects, communal bonds, and the support of small businesses, all of which bolster local economies;
 - b. Providing recommendations for cross-border transit, including testing regiments and vaccine distributions for truck drivers and others involved in cross-border trade; the availability to health and safety measures are essential for these individuals during a global health crisis as the absence of such precautions may interfere with the trade which Member States economies are dependent on;
- Invites Member States to actively welcome the role that internal and external bodies such as UN bodies, private companies, and NGOs play in socio-economic pandemic response and recovery, and be open to their positive involvement.



Committee: Economic and Social Council Plenary **Topic:** The Socio-Economic Effects of Global Pandemics

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The Economic and Social Council Plenary,

Alarmed by the pressing global health threat of the ongoing SARS-CoV-2 outbreak, which has caused the world's first increase in global poverty since 1998 and the immense disruption to economic markets, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME), and social equality, in addition to widening the gap between developed and developing countries,

Guided by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948), in particular Article 25, affirming that all humans have the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond their control,

Acknowledging that the challenge of global pandemics is not a unique nor novel hazard, given the similar socio-economic consequences of past events such as the 2009 H1N1 pandemic,

Expressing concern that the scope of the current pandemic has far exceeded economic assessments and predictions published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) at the onset of the pandemic,

Fully aware of the important and growing correlation between states' economic vulnerability and their capacity to provide adequate health measures to those in need, as emphasized by the adoption of the theme "The vulnerability of LDCs facing COVID-19" during the 5th UN Conference on Least Developed Countries in 2022,

Appreciating already existing financial frameworks and initiatives dedicated to multilateral organizations as well as bilaterally directly to Member States which demonstrate powerful efforts of international solidarity in recovering from global challenges, including both the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) and the COVID-19 Partners Platform created by the World Health Organization (WHO),

Deeply concerned with the negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, in promoting good health and well-being, and SDG 17, in forming global partnerships for sustainable development,

Recognizing the foundation of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the effects this structure has had on technological advances necessary for improving conditions of developing nations in the past,

Emphasizing the important relief provided by the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), a joint partnership created by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the G20, which temporarily suspends government-to-government debt payments during the global economic crisis,

1. Encourages the bodies of the governance structure of the "United Nations Response and Recovery Fund" (RRF) to address its lack of long term solutions to rebuild sustainable and resilient communities impacted by current and future pandemics through the creation of a long term sustainable funding structured on the RRF, by developing a framework for bilateral mutual benefits corporations between contributing and receiving nations, funding the rebuilding of industries and MSMEs hit hardest by the pandemic, with a focus on the

revitalization of the global economy and thus intensifying bilateral economic relationships and trade;

- 2. Suggests that the long-term fund's financial basis be further acquired by:
 - a. The contributions from developed countries, on a voluntary basis, discussed and collected at a specialized donor conference added to the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development from 12-15 April 2021 both at the UN Headquarters and online;
 - International Financial Institutions such as the World Bank Group who are encouraged to open existing financing mechanisms, as the International Development Association, for partial allocation to the fund;
 - c. Encouraging further financing from regional governmental organizations, such as the European Union, the private sector, and private donors;
- 3. Encourages Member States and NGOs to allocate and distribute a portion of their pandemic response funding towards additional measures to rebuild SMSEs and promote sustainable resilience, by:
 - Establishing programs designed to reduce job loss and alleviate the burden on social services, similar to those that have been found efficient in other Member States, and providing financial support packages to said businesses;
 - b. Investing in sustainable global and domestic supply chain infrastructure, enterprise risk management processes, and the fostering, improving, and sharing of resources;
- 4. *Further invites* the continued involvement of the WHO and the United Nations Development Program in the expansion and distribution of the fund, in order to:
 - a. Help reduce economic difficulties, such as recessions and delays in food supply chains, as well as societal challenges through the crisis' evolution;
 - b. Further develop a pandemic prevention plan based on ongoing research for the spread of infectious diseases and their impacts in the pursuit of SDGs;
- Reminds Member States of the need of accessibility for developing countries and NGOs
 which are in general consultative status with ECOSOC to the fund by ensuring equal access
 to all developing countries, including economies in transition and overseas territories of
 developed countries based on their specific needs;
- Recommends the enhancement of existing UN pandemic response frameworks such as the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 (2020) regarding health system reform, revitalization of MSMEs, urban dimensions of the COVID-crisis in order to enable states to react more effectively to future pandemics by increasing their economies resilience towards future health crises;
- 7. Requests that the annual ECOSOC Partnership Forum in New York includes a best practice sharing panel, where members of civil societies, NGOs, the private sector, health organizations, and governments share successful solutions in combating socio-economic effects from pandemics with the goal on publishing an annual report;
- 8. Encourages that Member States follow the SDG Intervention path, laid out in the report on the Impact of COVID-19 in the SDG, to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDG;

- 9. Supports enhancing close collaboration between ECOSOC's regional commissions and local experts in the fields of economics and accounting, with further cooperation from intergovernmental organizations to monitor, coordinate, and provide advice on distribution of funding with the main goal of maximizing the expected results and benefits of such funds towards initiatives dedicated to the sectors, businesses, institutions in need of funding, while making sure that the monitoring respects the sovereignty of said Member States;
- 10. Encourages Member States to support funding for technologies such as telemedicine services to streamline physical and mental health services in avoidance of overwhelming healthcare facilities to address the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing mental health crises, allowing for a greater number of individuals to thrive in the workforce and stimulate the economy such as applying and providing its services will enhance the efficiency of workers and lessen the influx of resignations raised by the actual pandemic;
- 11. *Invites* UN Member States to follow the example of the DSSI sponsored by the G20, WBG and IMF with the aim to:
 - a. Encourage the private sector to take part, so a debt service suspension will lead to an impactful, resilient recovery and therefore a more stable international financial system;
 - b. Expanding the eligibility to middle-income countries that are in high risk of debt distress because of COVID-19s economic crisis;
 - c. Initiate a comprehensive report on the economic effects of debt suspension to be presented to the UN General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development for further consideration.



Committee: Economic and Social Council Plenary **Topic:** The Socio-Economic Effects of Global Pandemics

The Economic and Social Council Plenary,

Recognizing that the relevance of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its operational role guarantee that Member States have the possibility to oversee personal funds and the fund reform process as well as reinforce the responsibility and purview of this council in maintaining the economic stability of Member States,

Deeply concerned that the current COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the lives of 7.8 billion people and caused the decline of global human development for the first time in 30 years, according to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) report on the implementation of the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 (2020),

Remains alarmed at the significant increase in job loss and poverty globally during pandemics, especially in regard to workers who are dependent on day-to-day pay and are involved in the informal employment sector and notes the importance of civil society groups in fostering stability in the job market during national lockdowns such as quarantines,

Applauding the Tech Access Partnership (TAP), established by the UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the UN Development Programme, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, and the World Health Organization (WHO), which serves to improve access to health technologies for all with an emphasis on the international commitment to the Doha Declaration on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health which is outlined within the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 in LDCs to attain proper health and well-being for all,

Reemphasizes the agenda items set in the 2002 Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Guidance by promoting the increase of coordination, effectiveness, and efficiency of activities of ECOSOC's functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies, as well as enacting the critical role that ECOSOC plays in supporting and accelerating the mobilization of finance for sustainable development from national, international, public, and private sources, especially in the context of a global pandemic,

Calling attention to SDG 4 for Quality Education as closures of schools and other learning spaces have impacted 94 percent of the world's student population and returning to regular attendance is not predictable yet, according to the *Policy Brief: Education During COVID-19 and Beyond*,

Noting with regret that the current COVID-19 pandemic outbreak has provoked social stigma and discriminatory behaviors against people of specific ethnic backgrounds as well as anyone perceived to have been in contact with the virus because of confusion, anxiety, and fear among the public, according to United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) 2020 report on Social Stigma associated with COVID-19.

Reaffirming commitment to the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 (2020) which strengthens current efforts against pandemics as well as includes plans for Member States to improve health systems, establish economic response and create recovery programs,

Recommends Member States to work alongside NGOs such as the Global Workers Justice
Alliance and the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development to prevent future
pandemics from negatively impacting Member States' economic communities by protecting
jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the informal sector workers, and to advocate

for improved health standards which have proven to be detrimentally lowered during a pandemic as outlined in the National Domestic Workers' Alliance's report on the *Impact of COVID-19 on Domestic Workers*;

- Suggests that Member States utilize the coordinative assistance of the UNDP's national subunits as well as financial assistance from the Access and Delivery Partnership to enhance health services, strong partnerships with policymakers, and the socio-economic systems that support Member States by:
 - Supporting civil society and private sector engagement to optimize services and better meet civilians' needs, as well as bolstering medical and vaccine stockpiles, thereby circumventing further negative socio-economic impacts during both the current and future pandemics;
 - Sharing COVID-19 response-related information such as technical assistance from different agencies via the COVID-19 Data Futures Platform and relying on similar platforms during future pandemics;
 - c. Hosting periodic informal interactive dialogue between Member States to address global emergencies and global disease outbreaks while discussing policy solutions for the COVID-19 pandemic to deliver sustainable development to foster discussion via the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development;
- 3. Encourages the involvement of civil society groups within Member States to foster stability in the job market during global pandemics through establishment of a thematic interactive dialogue that will focus on involving civil society groups, grassroots organizations, and community-based organizations who will serve as the main source of communication about health mandates, hygiene practices, and quarantine measures, which will:
 - a. Work to maintain social cohesion amongst individuals and families during the mandated periods of social distancing;
 - Support employment aid to youth in fragile and affected states and implementing regional and national initiatives as guided by the UN Programme on Youth of DESA to increase youth participation in decision-making processes of peace and development and;
 - c. Encourage working with various industries, NGOs, and international actors to improve lines of communication with local communities and work towards multi-stakeholder solutions;
- 4. Urges Member States to parallel efforts initiated by TAP to increase access to health technologies for developing countries, such as clinical testing and personal protective equipment, as such would aid developing countries in post-pandemic economic recovery through expanding the skills and capacity of local manufacturers with complications that impede their ability to work via multilateral development bank funding from the UN Technology Bank for LDCs, which will effectively boost innovation and prioritize inclusive economic growth;
- 5. Emphasizes the importance of educational infrastructure as a major foundation for sustainable socio-economic prosperity for the upcoming generations, as outlined in SDG 4 on Quality Education, which can be achieved through ECOSOC's facilitation of collaboration between Member States, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and UNICEF by:

- a. Enabling social advancement due to knowledge transfer following the Global Education Coalition of UNESCO to provide distance education by coordinating local study platforms technically via internet, television and radio as well as working on strategies for opening schools securely;
- Diversifying economic opportunities through access to technical and university education by promoting the UNESCO's Teacher Task Force of Africa Initiative that developed practices and strategies for training school online education and;
- c. Improving the supervision of ECOSOC, World Food Programme, UNICEF, and Food and Agriculture Organization with providing food supplies to children as supplementation to the loss of school meal programs by take home rations, vouchers and cash transfer:
- 6. Asks Member States to strengthen multilateral collaboration within the international community to better prepare and respond to the current and future pandemics by:
 - Using existing funding instruments like the Joint SDG Fund, the Peacebuilding Fund, the Spotlight Initiative, and Vertical Funds like GAVI as outlined by the United Nations Development System, as well as multilateral development banks to fund and mitigate current and future pandemics;
 - Collaborating with regional subunits operating under the WHO to develop and update health emergency crisis management plans to minimize the socio-economic damage of arising pandemics by facilitating fast and coordinated reaction and;
 - Including both humanitarian and development actors as well as multiple sources
 needed to be used to mobilize resources the country level under the leadership of a
 resident coordinator and reporting on these funds should also be a part of the
 Member States collective reporting platforms;
- 7. Encourages Member States to work alongside initiatives, such as UNICEF Hero Campaigns, which serve to honor healthcare workers and raise awareness amongst communities about the stigma and misconceptions created by the pandemic and, additionally, address the negative socio-economic impacts of a global pandemic by:
 - Expanding financial support to healthcare workers on the national level by following the example of Malta's Support for Health Workers Strategy which promotes stimulus packages and long-term support for medical stockpiles and;
 - b. Providing a mechanism of psychological and counselling help to people mostly affected by the social stigma by following the guidelines of WHO's Mental Health Programme which aims to stimulate assistance and review the development of policies, programs, and services in psychiatry.