



CATMUN



ECOSOC

Background Papers

Colegio Americano de Torreón Model United Nations (CATMUN)
United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

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Committee Background

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the six principal bodies of the United Nations (UN), currently holding 54 member states. ECOSOC was established on October 24th, 1945 with the objective of improving the three dimensions of sustainable development. Those dimensions being: economic, social and environmental. ECOSOC is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues. It involves a wide variety of investors, policymakers, parliamentarians, academics, major groups, foundations, and business sector representative. ECOSOC most important functions are to serve as the central forum for discussion on international economic and social issues, promote higher standards for living, full employment and economic and social progress, encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, make arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organization.

I. Promote Green Energy

Statement of the Issues

The ability to exploit the use of energy has created a magnificent progress in countries' development, the growth in energy consumption is usually tied with the increase in levels of prosperity and economic opportunity. Since the industrial age,

different forms of energy have transformed the conditions of life, it has enabled us to enjoy a level of comfort. However, it is clear now that the energy we use the most is environmentally unsustainable. The huge reliance that we have on fossil fuels could alter Earth's climate to an extent that would create big consequences on the integrity of the natural and human systems. In past years many countries have created different ways of sustainable energy which allow people to keep the same level of comfort. But these applications are not affordable for everyone since sustainable energy has a higher price than the energy we are used to. We need to find a solution that allows all countries to access enough sustainable energy to provide to their citizens, while at the same time taking care of the environment.

History

Prior to the Industrial Revolution, energy production was mainly limited to burning biomass and from pack animals with hydropower and wind power. It wasn't until the Industrial Revolution that a shift in traditional methods to heavy industrialization in Europe and North America, with coal mining becoming a primary source of fuels. The 20th century marked by industrial, manufacturing nations, mainly colonial powers, and their dependencies as well as the first recorded signs of global climate change. By the end of World War I, coal and oil provided 90% of the energy demand. The demand was fulfilled with 750 megatons of coal that year, figure that would double in the second industrial boom during World War II. Countries quickly realized that oil produced more joules per unit mass than coal and moved to a less coal dependant energy structure. Oil exporting countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Venezuela formed the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The organization would extend to 14 member countries that controlled 73% of the world's known oil reserves. The oil crisis in 1973 demonstrated that the energy market was reliant on oil and many saw this as proof that they should look for new sources of oil, but also to invest in renewable energy resources. It was by 1988 when the UN decided to set up the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which officially

recognized the risks posed by anthropogenic contribution to the Greenhouse Effect. Natural gas, which has been around as long as petroleum has, is the most recent development in non-renewable energy. Currently only the US, Canada, and China produce enough natural gas on a commercial scale. It is important to remember that energy coming from fossil fuels and natural gas is non-renewable meaning that it will eventually deplete.

Current Situation

Over 200 countries signed the Paris Agreement in December of last year. Countries are aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an effort to save the world. Many nations have already been extremely successful at using renewable energy instead of fossil fuels. It is inspiring to see nations that believe they could go completely free of using fossil fuels by 2021. Investing on applying these alternative energies is a must do, since technology is already advanced and it is hard to upgrade. Nevertheless, although many countries want to stop using fossil fuels many others rely on the market and commercialization of fossil fuels. Those countries can't stop the mass extraction of fossil fuels, otherwise their market would crash.

Conclusion

This committee must find a way to integrate renewable energy into countries that have hard access to it. Taking into consideration that renewable energy is costly and will take a long time for countries to adapt. Asking advice from nations who have been working with renewable energy for some time now could be a great way of working with it. Renewable energy could be implemented all around the world but won't happen over a day. A structured plan to reduce the use of non-renewable sources of energy is a must for member countries to adopt.

Works cited

<https://www.climaterealityproject.org/blog/follow-leader-how-11-countries-are-shifting-renewable-energy>

<http://www.theenergycollective.com/robertwilson190/447121/who-produces-most-fossil-fuels>

II. Closing the Global Wage Gap.

History

In the 19th century women started working outside of homes, mostly focused in textile mills and garment shops. They worked shifts of 12 hours a day in crowded and poorly ventilated rooms. Women were mostly concentrated in textile mills and garment shops because men believed that they were not capable of performing any other profession or that women should not be allowed to become important laborers. Even during the 1960s, women would face discrimination as it was believed that women could not become permanent workers since they would someday get married and leave the job. A crucial issue has been maternity leave that needs to be granted. Maternity leave applies after the woman gives birth and entitles her to time off and job security for when she returns. The issue at hand is that many countries don't offer payment to the woman while she is away. The global wage gap, not to be confused with equal payment for equal work issue, targets women. A study conducted in the United States of America during 2016 found that for every dollar a non-Hispanic man wins a Hispanic woman would earn \$0.54, that means almost half. Immediate actions must be taken to close such gap. It is a problem that affects all the nations and not only the United States. Across countries women are generally concentrated at the bottom of the wage distribution.

Current Situation

All around the world, women are being minimized because it is believed that they get outperformed by men. Many industries and people in general believe that men are more capable of dedicating fully to work. The global wage gap is influenced by many things among them industry, occupation, education, experience, union, caregiving responsibilities, dedication, or a demographic factor. Many countries are

trying hard to close the gap on the salary between both the male and female genders. It is believed that the mentioned gap won't be closed at least for 100 more years.

Conclusion

All over the world, a global wage gap exists and is affecting not only the woman who is being minimized by not earning the amount of money a man in her position would. Since it is rather impossible to close the wage gap globally the committee must come up with solutions to minimize the gap. Mentioned solutions could implement facilities to women such as work-life supports and innovative solutions that allows both women and men to feel more comfortable with their earnings.

Work Cited

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2017/04/04/429825/international-approaches-closing-gender-wage-gap/>

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