





DIRECTORS'
WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

On behalf of the organizers, the Advisory Board, and the Executive Board of AUSMUN 2019, it is my greatest pleasure to welcome you to the 12th annual AUSMUN Conference. With over 900 delegates registered from more than 40 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's background guide was diligently written to provide delegates with enough guidance for their research. It will act as a great starting point for delegates to familiarize themselves with the topics of their respective committee. After a short letter that gives the chairs a chance to welcome their delegates, a summary, a brief history, a discourse on the issue, and the latest developments of the issue will be presented. In the summary, delegates will have their first quick briefing on the issue where concerns will be defined. Followed by that, the guide delves into the root causes of the issue by identifying its history. Then, a discourse section will look into the issue with further scrutiny by presenting both sides of the topic's debate and examining some of its challenges and influences. Finally, it will aim to provide delegates with the latest activities in regards to the matter and any progressions in its respect. At the very end of the guide, delegates will find questions that will guide their thinking, some suggestions that will guide their research, and references that they can use for further relevant information. However, it is important to point out that depending solely on the guide will not be sufficient enough to prepare delegates for the conference. It is highly encouraged for delegates to look at the Delegate Handbook on the AUSMUN website and to view the "How to Research" video created by AUSMUN.

The theme of this year's conference is youth empowerment. This is very important as we are the children of tomorrow. Even if delegates are not necessarily planning on pursuing an occupation in the field of law or politics, MUN is an enriching experience to all. MUN is supposed to teach more than just details on a certain crisis, it educates them to work harder, to think on their feet, to learn from others and from themselves, to fall and to fail, and to break free from their fears. It dares them to be without hesitation. It dares them to add to the world. To Speak. To act. To know. We all understand how difficult it is to be a delegate. It requires a suspicious load of work and consumes most of one's energy. But we want delegates to give it their all and to get what they came here for.

Finally, I would like to conclude this letter by extending my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this background guide in any way or form. It is the collaborative work of the chairs, the AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, we truly hope that you find this background guide of great help and use.

All the best with the conference and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at research@ausmun.com.

Nada Nassereddin
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2019



SECOND
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
(GA 2)



Pavithra Ramaprasad

Maryam Alhamad

Aman Sandhu

Abdulla Al Matrooshi

MODERATOR'S WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates,

It is an honor to welcome you to the twelfth annual AUSMUN, and to our special committee, the United Nations General Assembly Second Committee, also known as the Economic and Financial Committee. AUSMUN is a benchmark conference to help you understand and learn the functioning on the United Nations while also helping you voice your opinions on topics of absolute importance and integrity.

The Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) deals with issues relating to economic growth and development, such as macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system, debt and commodities), financing for development, sustainable development, human settlements, poverty eradication, globalization and interdependence, operational activities for development, and information and communication technologies for development (UNSC, 2018).

The committee's end goal will be to draft resolutions that will help change the course of the problem at hand and find solutions for the same. There will be a simple majority involved in the passing or failing of the resolutions presented (more details about the rules and procedures can be found in the delegate preparation guide). The committee will function like the replica of an UN committee and delegates will be expected to maintain decorum throughout the three days. The delegates are be expected to dress, speak, and address their fellow delegates and chairs appropriately. This background guide is merely a tool for your research on the two topics and should be used as a starting point and not a final research document. The delegates will be expected to present their own research in their position papers and their speeches during the committee sessions.

Lastly, the chairs would like to take this opportunity to thank the delegates for their interest in this conference and also wish the delegates best of luck in the preparation for the conference. You are the future leaders of the world and we look forward to seeing you and hearing your opinions on pressing topics in the world today.

Should you have any questions, please email us at: ga2ausmun18@gmail.com

Sincerely,

The GA2 Chairs

TOPIC 1

The Role of the Youth in the Informal Economy

SUMMARY

The informal economy refers to a system of trade or economic exchange used outside state-controlled or money-based transactions that may or may not be considered legal. Practiced by 95% of the youth in developing nations, the informal economy may include the following: Barter of goods and services, street trading, direct sales, and self-help. As many of these trade activities are considered illegal, the money generated from the informal sector/economy is disregarded for the calculation of taxation and gross domestic product (GDP) purposes. The WIEGO defines the informal economy as follows: “The informal economy is the diversified set of economic activities, enterprises, jobs, and workers that are not regulated or protected by the state. The concept originally applied to self-employment in small unregistered enterprises. It has been expanded to include wage employment in unprotected jobs” (“About the Informal Economy,” n.d., para. 1).

Almost 19 out of 20 young individuals are involved in the informal sector in developing nations, which accounts for 95% of the employed youth. Jobs in formal sectors are hardly available in developing nations, hence the high numbers in the informal sectors. The youth as a whole (people aged 24 or younger) make up 40% of the entire world population, out of which those that are legally allowed to be employed (ages 18-above) constitute 16% of the world population.

With large numbers of young and easily influenced minds working in the informal sector, there are many disadvantages the informal sector poses for these individuals; these include no job security, odd working hours, extremely low wages, illegal activities, and no labor laws for protection.

HISTORY

The informal economy was officially recognized in the early 1970s. Since then, the role the informal economy plays in the overall economic development of countries that employ young workers has been debated quite heavily. Statistics show that 61% of all workers are informally employed, which accounts for two billion workers worldwide (ILO, 2018). Over the years, the informal economy has expanded and is still continuing to do so by appearing in new places and different contexts. It is undeniable that the informal economy plays a big role in the lives of the youth as it offers a platform for the young to be financially independent. The informal economy, if supported, would be able to play a big role in reducing inequality between genders and also poverty.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

The informal sector play an important role in the employment of the youth as it provides them with a platform to display of their skills as entrepreneurs. In developing nations such as India, Tanzania, and Zambia, the prevalence of the formal sector for the youth is extremely negative. Hence, this forces the youth to be involved in the informal sector to be financially independent. With no job security or labor laws to protect their stability, it could be argued that the informal sector has more disadvantages when compared to advantages. Since the income generated in the informal sector does not count towards the final GDP of an independent nation, the informal economy provides no benefits for the nation and hence, is disregarded by the leaders. By turning a blind eye towards the immense possibilities the informal sector holds, the nation is losing out on potential economic growth as a whole.

The legal age for an individual to apply for a job is 18 years in many countries. Some countries allow individuals as young as 14 years to be able to apply for a part time job (Government Digital Service, 2015). The nations allowing younger individuals to work legally are allowing more human capital development at an earlier age, hence the roles the youth play in the informal sector are minimal. However, in countries where the legal age is 18 years and above, many young individuals explore the informal sector to try to make some money to become less financially dependent. Keeping in mind that employment at a very young age has some demerits too, the youth must protect themselves and there should be laws in place that help protect them from issues such as rape, prostitution, child labour, etc.

PAST IO ACTIONS AND THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Many international organizations are involved with the informal sector and the youth that are a part of this sector. One of these organizations is the International Labour Organization (ILO). The ILO is the only UN agency that is a tripartite since its founding in 1919. The ILO works towards bringing together governments, employers and workers of its 187 Member States to set labour laws and standards and develop policies and devise programs that promote decent work for all women and men, including the youth in informal sectors (2018). It is important to note that decent work includes all jobs that do not mentally or physically degrade the worker.

The ILO states that more than 145 million young workers are living in poverty along with 64 million unemployed youth. Youth unemployment remains a global challenge and one of the top shelf concerns for the ILO. The ILO has a long standing history of promoting decent work for the youth and actively promotes youth employment, advocacy, knowledge development and dissemination.

Developing nations are usually the ones that suffer the most when the informal economy is not given importance. The informal economy acts as a stepping stone for many future entrepreneurs and it is important for international organizations to take action and realize the potential of the youth in the informal economy. With the formation of youth groups that promote and explain the importance of the informal economy in the physical development of the world, there can be a change in the way the youth involved in the informal economy are treated and the importance the informal economy holds.

QUESTIONS THE DISCUSSIONS AND THE RESOLUTIONS SHOULD ADDRESS

- How does the country you are representing deal with youth employment in the informal sector?
- Why is human capital development important for the youth in the informal sector?
- Apart from the ILO, what other organizations have tried to make big changes in the role the youth plays in the informal economy?
- What are the ways that can make the informal economy more stable?

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- Propose ways that can either better the formal sector to incorporate more positions with the youth in mind.
- Ways in which the informal sector can remain informal but start contributing to the country's GDP.

REFERENCES

About the ILO. (n.d.). Retrieved from . Retrieved from:
<https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/lang--en/index.htm>

About the Informal Economy. (n.d.). Retrieved from
<http://www.wiego.org/informal-economy/about-informal-economy>

Government Digital Service. (2015, April 16). Child employment. Retrieved from:
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002271/227150e.pdf>

Our Bureau (2018, March 09). 95% youth in developing nations work in informal economy. Retrieved from Retrieved from: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/95-youth-in-developing-nations-work-in-informal-economy/article22251152.ece>

United Nations, Second Committee, Economic, Financial, main body, main organs, General Assembly. (n.d.). Retrieved from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/>

TOPIC 2

Sustainable Tourism for Development and Poverty Alleviation

SUMMARY

As of today, more than three billion people, about half the population of the world, live under \$2.5 a day. Poverty alleviation is essential, and is one of the main steps towards the development of an economy. Tourism is a major contributor to the economy as it is a major source of forex earnings. It is labor-intensive, and so opens up employment for women and the youth. Moreover, many developing countries have a comparative advantage over developed countries in terms of cultural heritage, natural wildlife, climate, etc. ("Sustainable Tourism and Poverty Alleviation," 2004). "The attractiveness for tourism of some remote rural areas also adds to its advantages since three quarters of people in extreme poverty live in rural areas" ("Sustainable Tourism and Poverty Alleviation," 2004, p. 3).

As defined by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), sustainable tourism is "Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities." ("Definition | Sustainable Development of Tourism," 2005, p. 1). Sustainable Tourism contributes to growth and is crucial to an economy as it ensures resources and tourist spots are conserved for future use while being used and experienced in the present. Furthermore, it makes sure that projects taken up are environment friendly and are culturally integrated and that the benefits of tourism are widespread.

HISTORY

In the 80s, environmental changes were apparent, and the world recognized the need for a change in ways of living. Sustainable development, as a concept, was born from this and was first mentioned in a report by the World Commission on Environment and Development ("Sustainable Tourism Development - Guiding Principles For Planning And Management," 2016). Soon after, sustainable tourism was identified as a key component of sustainable development. Till the 1990s, tourism was considered a phenomenon that was a boon to economies, even as it grew to a global level and became one of the biggest industries in many nations. The debate of sustainable tourism was started in the 90s. Therefore, in 2001, rules were established for biodiversity and sustainable tourism (Convention on Biological Diversity, 2001). The next year, 2002, was declared as the International Year of Ecotourism. Now, Sustainable tourism is an important topic of discussion within international organizations and nations.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Sustainable tourism must generate future employment, create a high level of tourist satisfaction, and ensure a low impact on the environment and the culture of the local country. As one of the world's fastest growing industries and one with a cross-cutting nature, tourism is facilitating sustainable development in three pillars – economic, social and environmental (Sorenson, 2017). This can also place great stress on biologically diverse habitats and the indigenous population of nations, thus creating an urge to dwell into sustainable tourism. As Dr. Stephen Nhuta points out, "Achieving sustainable tourism is a continuous process and it requires constant monitoring of impacts, introducing the necessary preventive and/or corrective measures whenever necessary." (2015, p .4). Furthermore, as the UNWTO Secretary-General Taleb Rifai states, tourism will continue to increase and that according to the UNWTO forecast, by 2030, 1.8 billion people will travel across the world (as cited in Sorenson, 2017). Consequently, he urges that the world must work to capitalize on the benefits of tourism and minimize the losses.

Some of the issues in relation to tourism are prioritization of international tourism and displacement and resettlement of indigenous communities. In developing nations, dependence on foreign investments and imported goods increases as nations believe international tourism is better as compared to national tourism and fail to provide for the "budgeted traveler" from within the nation. They do not see that this sector brings significant non-economic benefits which could help to empower and educate the communities involved in this sector. The second issue of displacement and resettlement of the indigenous communities is a serious occurrence in the local tribes are alienated and disregarded. On the other hand, some nations, while developing sustainable development practices, worked to make it as a mainstream approach.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS' PAST ACTIONS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

From 1998, Ecotourism was the topic of discussion in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the United Nations World Tourism Organization. In 2002, UNWTO launched the sustainable tourism – (ST-EP) eliminating poverty initiative, which was announced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg ("Background and Objectives | Tourism and Poverty Alleviation", n.d.).

It aimed to assist sustainable development projects and ensure that the poor benefitted from the tourism sector in their respective nations. Moreover, in 2014, the UNGA adopted Resolution 69/233 on “Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environmental protection.” (UNGA Sustainable Tourism Resolutions | Sustainable Development of Tourism” , n.d). It highlighted the importance of sustainable tourism, its positive impact on job creation, and called on the UN to use sustainable tourism as a tool to achieve the development goals. Furthermore, in 2016, the UNGA adopted Resolution 71/240 which built upon report (A/71/173) and the 2014 resolution. It was larger and more detailed and recognized the importance and potential of sustainable tourism with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The next year, 2017, was adopted as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. The International Year was adopted to make changes in policies, practices, and business ways of working towards sustainable tourism that would help achieve the SDGs. The activities focused on were advocacy and awareness raising, knowledge creation and dissemination, policy making, and capacity building and education (“2017: International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development”, n.d.). With the support of the UNGA, the UNWTO also created a measure of sustainability of tourism (MST) to measure the performance and to correctly inform decision makers with correct statistics.

QUESTIONS THE DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS SHOULD ADDRESS

- Does your Member State promote sustainable tourism?
- What is the relationship between poverty and tourism and how do they affect each other?
- What is the role of stakeholders in sustainable tourism?
- Is MST a reliable way of measuring performance? How else can we measure growth and the benefits of sustainable practices?
- Will focusing on domestic tourism rather than international tourism achieve better results for developing nations?

REFERENCES

Background and Objectives | Tourism and Poverty Alleviation. (n.d.). Retrieved from:

<http://sapiir.psych.wisc.edu/papers/scudellari2016.pdf>

Definition | Sustainable Development of Tourism. (2005). Retrieved from

<http://sdt.unwto.org/content/about-us-5>

International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development (2017). Retrieved from:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/iyl/multilingualism.shtml>

UN Resolution 56/262 Multilingualism (2002). Retrieved from:

<http://undocs.org/A/RES/56/262>

UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger (2011).

Retrieved from: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001924/192416e.pdf>

UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001). Retrieved from:

http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13179&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

UNESCO. (2009). Endangered Languages, Endangered Thought. Retrieved from:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001865/186521e.pdf>