



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (ECOSOC)

Chair: Ryan Blackburn

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REPORT: Role of youth in eradicating poverty

Many are told that the youth are the future - the key to successfully leaving a legacy on the world lies in providing enough opportunities in the future for children to promote change in society today. Today, almost 9 out of 10 youth live surrounded by the lasting impacts of poverty - with the right economic and social know-how, these individuals have the capacity to shift the global effort against poverty for the better.

In order to fully debate and attempt to resolve this issue, delegates must be aware of the connotation of certain terms. While much of the topic is up to the jurisdiction and creativity of delegates, youth can be depicted as a person between the age where he/she may leave compulsory education, and the age at which he/she finds his/her first employment (UNESCO) and poverty can be defined as the [state of a family when it cannot procure] the amount of money necessary to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter (UNESCO). In addition, it is important that delegates understand that MEDC means *more economically developed country*, and that LEDC means *less economically developed country*. Acknowledgement of these definitions of such key terms allow for in-depth debate that is open to the interpretation of the delegate.



With a little under 50% of the world’s population classified as youth, many strive to implement this party into the fight against poverty through means that not only provide for their future, but also for the improvement of their society as a whole. Such groups cite the need for integration of youth in the battle against poverty by offering the benefits of such actions: unique firsthand voice of youth, more efficient implementation of programs, and addressment of UN Millennium Goals, among others.

Firstly, integrating youth will provide for more in-depth ideas on how to combat poverty, as many youth today experience the horrors of fiscal insecurity today and have a heightened sense on how to contain them. Thus, from the promotion of youths’ voice, many groups will glean a greater understanding on how to create lasting programs that truly act to uplift those faced with economic insecurity. Additionally, by investing in opportunities for the global youth to enhance their role in eradicating poverty, future goals and plans will disseminate into the population and take effect much quicker. This is due to the fact that by having youth on the side of development and progress, these implementations gain legitimacy with the general population and promote

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acceptance of its goals. Also, increasing the ability of youth to act against poverty addresses the pillars of the United Nations - namely, to eradicate extreme poverty in the world. By utilizing all possible tools available to the diplomatic world, the possibility of eradication is in sight.

Major bodies that aim to promote the greater role of youth in eradicating poverty consist of many supranational organizations as well as non-governmental organizations and federal programs. Firstly, a prime example of federal assistance in economic security is the United State Agency for International Development, which reaches out to any society in need to promote fiscal responsibility and improvement of its quality of life. A key aspect to doing so is the organization's involvement of children in improving their society - USAID allows or this by integrating the local youth in development projects as well as promoting an International Youth Day to invigorate the assistance of youth globally in combatting local poverty. Concordantly, the recent ECOSOC Youth Forum allowed for many youth to "engage in a dialogue with Member States and share ideas on innovation, collective action and solutions to global problems," prompting greater involvement of youth with their local and national governments to implement change. Also, NGOs such as the Borgen Project act to empower international youth and educate all on the opportunities given to societies through UN programs such as the UNDP, or United Nations Development Programme. These bodies allow for not only greater outreach for youth in impoverished societies, but also for education on the possibilities available to those willing to implement change in their community.

To give a brief history of youth integration in the fight against economic insecurity, major events are explained to underscore the current need for the promotion of youths' role. Evidently, the 21st century has witnessed the most implementation of youth in battling poverty, most notably from the creation of Tackling Poverty Together (TPT) under the The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations. TPT acts to empower youth primarily in Sweden to take an active part in and spread information about poverty and actions done to limit its influence. Thus, it is clear that prior to the recent surge of youth integration proponents, the youth was largely considered irrelevant in eradicating poverty and surprisingly only another aspect of world rehabilitation that had to be addressed (via spread of primary education, social equality, etc.). It is because of this that delegates must be aware that modern integration of youth in this economic battle is more important than ever to ensure the rapid deterioration of poverty's reach.

Previously, the world has made an effort to promote youth action against poverty through aforementioned programs and organizations to curb the social and humanitarian deficits of poverty. The United Nations has attempted to address this problem through the Economic and Social Committee Youth Forum, allowing for youth to voice their opinions and ideas for improvement on the battle against economic insecurity. In addition, the UN has also implemented Tackling Poverty Together, along with the passing of various resolutions, most notably Resolution 2006/15 and 2008/18 regarding the integration of youth as independent and efficient members of society to curb the reach of poverty, that works towards improving the status of youth internationally to not only lessen those afflicted by poverty, but also to promote the action of potential progressives that will limit its spread in the future.

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Therefore, resolutions drafted in this committee should discuss programs that will bring about greater implementation of the skills brought in by youth in all societies, as well as promoting the integration of the international youth in the fight against poverty. Such discussion should be aided by the detailing of actual processes that bring forth such effects as well as the addressment of prior resolutions and action made to promote the role of youth, such as the UN Millennium Development Goals and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, among others. For further research in possible solutions and action for this issue, in-depth information and statistics can be found through the works of Tackling Poverty Together (<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/publications/TPTPublication.pdf>), the World Factbook (www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mz.html), and any government website that underlines state policies and debate. Through extensive research, resolutions will underline the intricacies of the topic in a collaborative effort to work towards the promotion of youth activity in combatting economic insecurity. With that, delegates' resolutions should convey a well-researched, thought-out plan of action that not only identifies previously upheld doctrines but also provides solutions to further accentuate the role of youth in eradicating poverty.

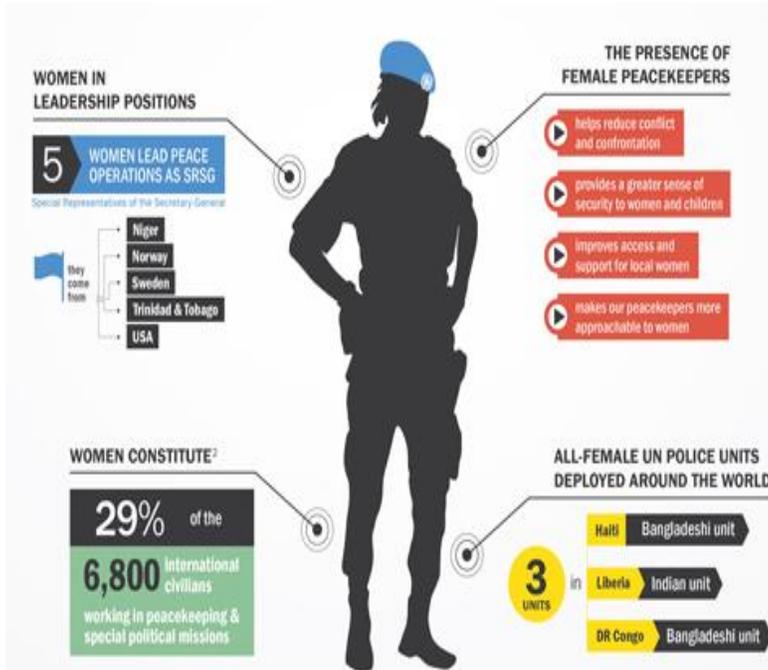
REPORT: Women's roles in politics and peace processes

The modern society, save for two nations worldwide, lies witness to less than half of their national legislations' seats held by women. As the modern world heightens in innovation and opportunity, gender stratification widens and poses a greater threat to international moral security day by day. Although these parliaments differ in function and methodology, it is clear that both genders' thoughts are often underrepresented today, with some nations even limiting the voice of women in national politics so far as having none elected to these high seats. Additionally, many countries experience a lack of women working towards peace in troubled societies, therefore deficient in "empowerment" and "role models [for] women in the community," from United Nations Peacekeeping. With this deficiency in women action in peace processes, many nations lose out on potential benefits that can more easily secure global peace and cooperation. Thus, it is evident that delegates must draft resolutions that not only define the scope of female roles in national politics or peace processes, but also outline a detailed plan of action to curb future moral unrest in gender stratification.

In order to fully debate and attempt to resolve this issue, delegates must be aware of the connotation of certain terms. While much of the topic is up to the jurisdiction and creativity of delegates, politics can be defined as the activities of the government, members of law-making organizations, or people who try to influence the way a country is governed, and peace processes can be defined as a mixture of politics, diplomacy, changing relationships, negotiation, mediation, and dialogue in both official and unofficial arenas. Acknowledgement of these definitions of such key terms allow for in-depth debate that is open to the interpretation of the delegate.

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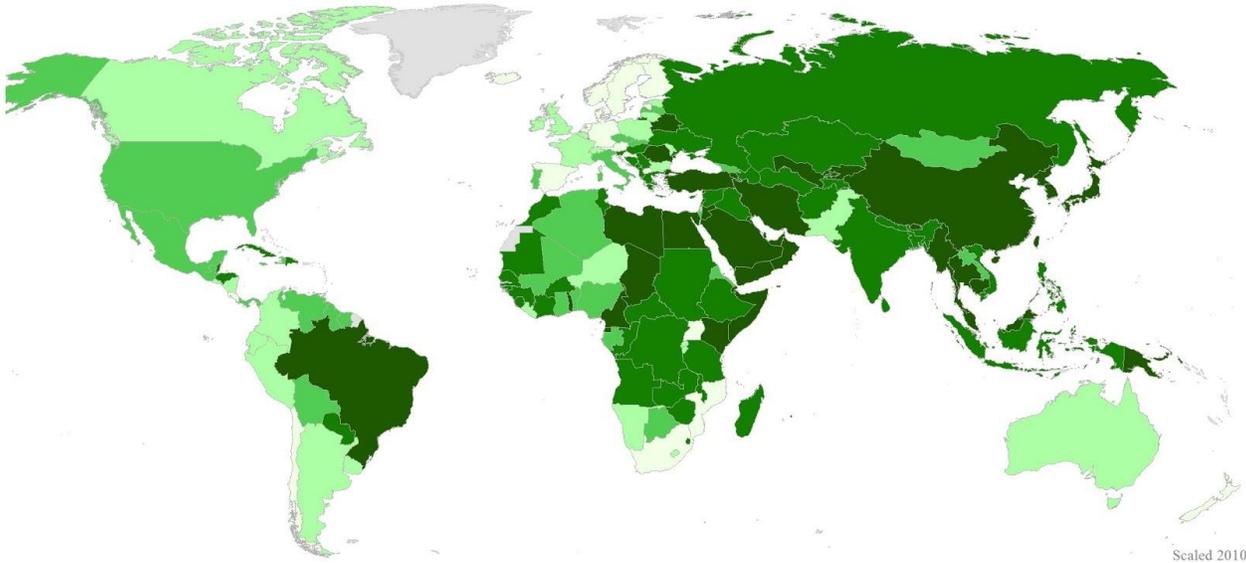


In addition to political action and diplomatic efforts at the national level, many women in nations around the world lack participation in politics at a communal scope. For example, a certain democratic world power sees only about 60% of its eligible female citizens as registered voters, a testament to the deficiency of awareness of and participation in local, state, and federal elections and issues. This lack of political participation by the common citizen often gives way to a less involved female community in the country, further limiting future female politicians and representation in all levels of government. Therefore, female roles in the society must shift so to promote an atmosphere of not only

uniform participation in politics but also the future development of more unified and representative governmental bodies.

Major bodies that aim to further women’s roles in the diplomatic and political world consist of many supranational organizations as well as non-governmental organizations. The prime example of female integration into peacekeeping efforts is the subsidiary of the United Nations, UN Women. This association acts not only to eliminate discrimination against women in all environments, but also to empower future integration into high-level positions in both business and policy. Similarly, UN Peacekeeping also leads other national peacekeeping agencies to promote the integration of female peacekeepers, listing the many benefits of a diverse workforce to help empower further recruitment. In addition to these intergovernmental bodies, NGOs such as InterAction, set up in developing countries, act to foster change in a variety of outlets, although most notably social recognition and equality. These bodies not only provide a sense of direction in the movement for female integration into policy and peacekeeping, but also underscore viable outlets for further advancement.

Governmental Participation by Women



To give a brief history of female involvement in politics, a few dates are given to provide delegates a greater idea of the scale of the issue at hand. Firstly, women were allowed the right to vote in any national election in New Zealand finally in 1893, demonstrating the elongation of an era without equal suffrage. Also, in 1906 the European power Finland follows suit with women’s suffrage and is the first to elect women to a national parliament. Then, in a monumental diplomatic motion, the Soviet Union in 1923 elects Alexandra Kollontai as ambassador to Norway, becoming the first woman to head international diplomatic relations with another country. Next, Siramavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka, in 1960, becomes the first national leader - prime minister in this case - in modern history. As the 20th century passes, more and more countries adopt leaders and legislature that demonstrate the growing power of women in national policy. However, even as more women participate in this work, stratified organizations and governments persist. For example, out of Yemen’s 275 seats for its national parliament, not one is for a female representative. Thus, delegates must act to aid in the continual effort to integrate female leaders in policy and diplomacy throughout the modern and developing worlds.

Despite the current standing of women’s role in both national and international policy, the United Nations has done much in the past to further equal rights and representation of women worldwide. The 1979 international women’s bill of rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, outlines specific statutes signatories must uphold in their national law, such as the repealment of current legislation that limits the social abilities of women. This document also defines discrimination against women as any “restriction made on



the basis of sex which...[impairs]...the recognition...by women...of [their] human rights and fundamental freedoms," further allowing member nations to implement programs to greater integrate women into their national functions. Concordantly, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action underscored monumental progress towards improving the status of women and their participation in politics through focus on twelve core ideals that addressed the increasing need for realignment of common societal views on women action in the community. Thus, the United Nations has acted to further the equal conditions of women to thrive in the modern political environment, although such efforts require continued support and reassessment to ensure the achievement of truly non-stratified policy.

Therefore, resolutions drafted in this committee should reflect possible implementations that address the growing issue of lack of women participation in all levels of politics and diplomacy. Such implementations could discuss methodology to promote voting in nations' female populations, further integration of women actors into governmental policy and promotion of job fields for both genders such as peacekeeping and diplomacy, among others. For further research in possible solutions and action for this issue, in-depth information and statistics can be found at UN Women (www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (<http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>), the World Factbook (www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mz.html) and the US Dep. of State Country Information (<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country.html>). From this, resolutions will encompass all or aspects of the topic at hand in a collaborative effort to work towards a more equal future.

Delegates of the Economic and Social Committee are expected in their resolutions to address prior agreements relating to the sustainability and improvement of women's role in politics and peace processes, such as the UDHR and the CEDAW, as well as define specifically steps that should be taken to ensure the equal role of women's political roles. Also, delegates should underscore prior knowledge of the global environment for women in politics through statistics and observations in addition to collaborative action to solve the issue at hand. Thus, resolutions should convey a well-researched, thought-out plan of action that not only identifies previously upheld doctrines but also provides a solution to increase the prominence of women's roles in politics and peace processes.

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