

ECOSOC

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Topic 1: The Issue of LEDC Development and Health Care Education

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-4V3HR696k>

Articles: <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zcg7dxs/revision/1>

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

https://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1519&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20Home;#1394;#Landlocked%20Developing%20Countries;#1392;#Africa,%20LDCs,%20LLDCs%20and%20Special%20Programmes

<https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-24396390>

<https://unchronicle.un.org/article/mdgs-and-least-developed-countries-challenges-landlocked-developing-countries-and-small>

Overview:

In this topic, plans for LEDCs (Less Economically Developed Countries) to increase development and implement health care education will be discussed. When researching about this topic delegates should keep in mind the difference between a LEDC and a MEDC (More Economically Developed Country). The criteria to consider a country a LEDC is GDP, education, standard of living, which includes wealth and nutrition, and industrial development. These factors should be lower or less developed than most MEDCs to be considered a LEDC. Some LEDCs include Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Liberia, Burundi, and Niger, etc..

To know more about goals for development of LEDCs delegates should know about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. All United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015. It includes 17 goals such as no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, life on land, peace, justice and strong institutions. This is meant for all countries developed and developing but for this topic it is crucial as it will have an immense impact on LDCs.

There are many factors that stop a LEDC from becoming a MEDC. One of the factors that is common in many LEDCs is corruption. Corruption can be defined as “dishonest or illegal behavior especially by powerful people (such as government officials or police officers)”. With corruption countries cannot collect taxes and cannot invest in police, education, health, and transport. Another factor that keeps them from becoming MEDCs is the management of their natural resources. Some of these countries have natural resources that could help them prosper and become a wealthy nation if managed correctly. Instead, most of these are affected with resource curse. This means that even with the great amount of resources countries have less economic growth. An example of this is the Democratic Republic of Congo. In DR Congo they have the world’s second largest river, fertile soil, copper, gold, diamonds, cobalt, uranium, coltan and oil. However, the rebels have used this to their advantage and have extracted the minerals for themselves and keep the profit for weapons. Furthermore, some LEDCs are landlocked, such as Niger. Landlocked Developing Countries are defined by the United Nations as “countries with serious constraints on the overall socio-economic development”. These countries have high transportation costs as their trade depends on other countries’ sea ports. Some LEDCs also have difficult climates. An example of this is Ethiopia, where the climate is very humid and hot which means that it is more prone to insects. Insects are able to move, eat, digest, and mate much more easily in hotter climates. This can increase the number of diseases, which cannot be properly treated without the proper health resources and health knowledge.

The second part of this topic is healthcare education in LEDCs. Most of these countries do not have proper knowledge on any of the diseases they are being affected by. For example, some people in certain communities in Africa such as the Gbalahi community in Ghana believe Malaria is caused by the sun. Without the proper knowledge of this disease they can never know what measures to take to prevent it. Delegates should find ways to implement healthcare in LEDCs in a effective way so people in LEDCs can know more about the diseases they are afflicted with every year.

Topic 2: The Issue of Freedom of the Press

Video:

Article: <https://en.unesco.org/unesco-condemns-killing-of-journalists>
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2015/05/497692-world-press-freedom-day-un-says-free-expression-vital-global-sustainability>

Overview:

In this topic, the issue of freedom of the press is being debated. Freedom of press is the principle that a person or group can express their thoughts freely, through media, without being prosecuted. In modern day world, many nations do not allow their people to exercise the right of freedom of the press. The delegates must know that the following countries restrict the freedom of press: People's Republic of China, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Iran, Eritrea, North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Korea, Philippines, Thailand, UAE, ect. The nations listed above either have restricted freedom of press or have censored items that mock their religion or culture. The delegates must know also that Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. Although freedom of press is stated in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, many nations restrict or even kill journalists. Nations do so in order to prevent a overthrow of the current leader. Delegates must know that due to the increase of killed journalists, UNESCO adopted the resolution 29: Condemnation of Violence against Journalists.

The issue in hand is whether freedom of press should be exercised fully or not. Many nations have no problem with allowing their people full freedom of press. However, many nations believe that if freedom of press is exercised fully, their religion and culture will be mocked. Delegates should be informed of the Charlie Hebdo attack, in spite of what Charlie Hebdo magazine published about Islam and their prophet Muhammad; Nations like Malaysia began to censor certain things as they were deemed disrespectful. Other nations such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea does not allow their people freedom of press or the use of internet in order to keep them misinformed of what is happening in the outside world. North Korea does this in order for Kim Jong Un to keep full power over the citizens. Nations which have dictators believe that if their citizens are allowed freedom of press they will use it against the current government. Delegates should find ways to both please the citizens of the countries and their governments.

Topic 3: The Issue of Energy Consumption in Regards to Climate Change

Video:<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/business-unusual-shift-carbon-neutral>

Articles:<http://theconversation.com/chinas-climate-progress-may-have-faltered-in-2018-but-it-seems-to-be-on-the-right-path-108589>

https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2020_en

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/signals/signals-2017/articles/energy-and-climate-change>

https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/?page=us_energy_home

https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/?page=us_energy_home

Overview:

The debate on climate change has become a defining part of the early 2000s. A heated and somewhat controversial topic, it has become a major concern for most countries today, especially for those who consume massive amounts of energy. Climate change is brought about by global warming, which occurs when there are increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels, causing the earth to heat up. The effects of climate change are many. Global temperatures have been rising by .99 °C every year since the 1880s, with 2016 being the hottest year since 1880. In 2017, Arctic sea ice reached a record low according to NSIDC and NASA, and sea levels are rising at their fastest rate in 2,000 years. Climate change has led to a refugee crisis, with an average of 21.5 million people displaced due to climate change-related weather hazards according to the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees. With all these harmful effects, most of which have occurred within the last twenty years, many countries are actively seeking out ways to reduce energy levels in order to stop the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from increasing by such a drastic number, therefore slowing the effects of climate change.

The Paris Agreement, adopted on the 12 of December by all 195 nations in the UNFCCC and the European Union, is a document which seeks to bring all nations under a common cause of slowing down and combating climate change. Its central aim is to enhance and strengthen the global response to the rise in global temperatures by trying to limit the temperature from rising further. To assist in this effort, appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity framework will be utilized to support actions by all countries.

The United States

Under its new president's leadership, the US has made its stance on climate change very clear by voicing its desire to pull out of the Paris Agreement in 2017, after joining in 2015 under the Obama administration. President Trump voiced his skepticism of climate change during his campaign for presidency in 2016, vowing to exit the agreement when he became president. Despite being a bit indecisive on whether to leave the accord in his first few months of presidency, he officially announced the decision to pull out of the agreement on the 1 of June 2017, saying it was "draconian" and would cause a "very diminished quality of life" for Americans. The main reason for his withdrawal was in defense of American workers claiming they were being put at an "economic disadvantage", mostly sourcing American coal miners, whose livelihoods would be put to risk if the agreement were followed through with. Though the US cannot officially leave the agreement until the year 2020, changes in US policy have already been made contrary to the accord. Fossil fuels remain the number one source of energy in the US, with natural gases second in use.

China

China seems to emerge as one of the most environmentally self-aware countries in the era of climate change. Though being the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide gas for more than a decade, its latest five year plan includes the objective of cutting the share of coal in total energy consumption to 58 percent by 2020, compared to 64 percent in 2015 and 80 percent in 2010. China relies heavily on coal to power its ever-growing economy. It uses more coal than the rest of the world combined, used mainly in the manufacturing and construction sectors, and 70 percent of China's emissions in 2016 were coal emissions. Aware of this, the country is seeking means to cut down on its coal emissions. Within the five year plan China also seeks to use more electricity it receives from nuclear, solar and other renewable resources. China will also shift the target of its economy, focusing more on consumption and services rather than investment and manufacturing. Most scholars agree that these goals are attainable for China. It has made considerable progress in lowering the energy-intensity of its economy and remains one of the few major economies to stay on track to reach the goal set in the Paris Agreement of lowering carbon dioxide emissions.

The European Union

The European Union continues to seek ways to hinder the effects of climate change in its latest 2020 climate and energy package, which sets the goals of cutting down 20 percent of greenhouse gases emissions, 20 percent of EU energy being from renewable resources and 20 percent improvement in energy efficiency. Along with the Paris Agreement, which includes countries outside of the EU, all nations within the European Union have taken on binding national targets for raising the amount of renewable resources used. Each target varies depending

on the country and the overall hoped-for result is that the EU as a whole will attain its 20 percent target for 2020 and its 10 percent share in the transport sector. The European Union is dedicated to its goals and is on track to reach them in the following years.