

Committee: Economic and Social Council

Topics: Empowering youth to accelerate development

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Letter from the Chairs

Dear Delegates,

Greetings! We are chairs from ECOSOC, SCIEMUN 2023, writing to introduce our council and topic briefly.

Our world today is ever-changing, while increasingly interconnected. Once issues emerged, they could not be confined to one country, but impacts globally: the crisis in Ukraine traumatized Ukrainian, it furthermore dwindles the food trade, and more people to suffer in hunger.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is a UN body established to identify and tackle current global issues and reach to a balanced sustainable development. As its name suggest, the central basis of our discussion focus on economic and social aspects, including, environmental factors

Together, with our diverse and creative mindset, we aspire to reach to a solution regarding youths. This 16% of global population holds the potential to innovate; however, if misguided, they could be used in coups, civil wars, and terrorism attacks. They are the most versatile stage of individual and must be shaped in way benefiting the world.

We wish you an exciting, but challenging experience at conference. See you in November!

Regards,

Chairs of Economic and Social Council

Council Background and Mission Statement

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of six main organs of United Nations established in 1945's UN charters. It consists of 54 members elected by UN general assembly, and meets every July for regular sessions.

The council bears mission to bolster social and economic progress globally. On premise of equality and universal human rights, its work focuses on employment, living standards; the council coordinates inter-governmental collaborations to ensure equitable distribution of benefits equally.

ECOSOC also functions administratively within broader UN systems. It is designated to be in assistance of Security Council and General Assembly; it also holds conventions and commissions to align the member states more closely to the UN agenda, particularly regarding sustainable development. It provides insights on regional and global issues through annually reports to enhance resolutions or policies of other UN bodies. Independently, The ECOSOC administrates an array of subsidiaries, they dedicate to specific topical/regional issues, i.e., Economic Commission for Africa, and produce report with in-site research.

Considering its missions, ECOSOC has significantly achieved. Take for example its work improving welfare for underprivileged groups. In 2006, its ad hoc advisory group were deeply involved in Haiti's socioeconomic recovery from coup and gang violence.

Topic Overview

Introduction

Definition to Youth

Youth is statistically defined as people between 15-to-24 years old, when one transitions from compulsory education to full time employment. There are 1.2 billion young people globally, approximately 16% of the world population.

Importance of Youth

Young people are crucial to the employment. They determine the quantity and quality of labour globally. In countries with heavy investment on human capital and education, young people enter labour markets

with and access to better opportunities to practice innovation, while educational exclusion significantly contributes to higher unemployment everywhere.

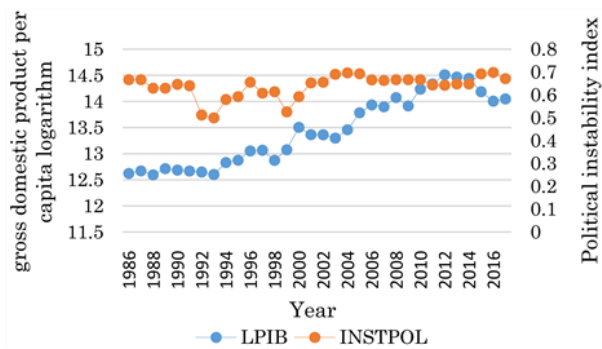


Figure 1: Correlation between political instability and economic growth in D.R Congo

Addressing youth employment plays a key role in the political process. In all social movements in history, young people have been in leading positions to voice out opinions, organize the masses, and bring about positive social influences. For example, in the pro-democratic movement in Myanmar, youth are the majority to participate in street demonstrations and negotiate freedom of speech and democratic elections with the government, which ushered in a political progression as the military regime gave way to elected civilian government. Meanwhile, the risk of youth in politics should be aware of and addressed with measures. The capability of youth, however, could cause unintended consequences. Political entities use the political engagement of youth. To overturn their political opponents, they elevate protests into violent conflicts or coups. As a consequence of recurring political instabilities, the economy may deteriorate.

Issues in Youth Population

Poverty

Poverty terms the state that lacks financial resource to maintain and essentials to maintain the minimum standard of living, when people are subjected to poverty, they suffer the deprived living conditions and prohibit future employment. Youth poverty rates are enormous. The post-COVID-19 recession has made this worse. In 2020, UN documented the first rise since 1990 of people in extreme poverty by 72 million, and most of whom resides in developing countries with many young people being disproportionately thrown into poverty. Furthermore, it is concerning, as they are overwhelmingly more concentrated in economically developing regions, 17% of population in Asia-Pacific, with India (191 million) being the prime contributor. With fewer employment opportunities and weaker access to social security, it is clear ECOSOC must address this.

Employment

Full employment is the one solution addressing poverty effectively, youth being in employment and when in employment have access to resource, and more propensity. It is a work-in-progress regarding the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the world still faces inefficiency in employment market. Competition for employment remains can be intense. An economy, in particularly developing ones, provides only limited positions.

The status quo is that a fraction of youth whilst destined to be left out in the beginning, are vulnerable members of society- often forced into workforce right after adolescence. With a lack of education and low skill levels with low literacy levels, incapable of the demands of employers in 2023. As corporations move towards automation with the rise of artificial intelligence, entry-level jobs in manufacturing will require increased literacy and vocational skill.

Education and Learning

Education is central to the lives of young individuals, transformative far beyond the classroom. As a gateway to a world of employment opportunities, equipping young people with the knowledge and skills needed for a dynamic job market is tantamount., Education significantly boosts earning potential and employability, fostering secure and fulfilling careers. It is instrumental in breaking the cycles of poverty, its empowering individuals to better themselves and their families, contributing to a more equitable society. Economically, it drives growth and job creation, while also promoting better health and social mobility. Globally, it is key to achieving Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in poverty eradication, gender equality, and economic growth. Recognizing and investing in quality education for youth is fundamental to building a prosperous, equitable, and sustainable future.

Current Issues

In the context of youth education, several pressing issues demand our attention. Firstly, millions of young people around the world still lack access to quality education. According to UNESCO, in 2020, approximately 258 million children and youth are out of school, often due to financial constraints, geographic remoteness, or other socio-economic factors.

Secondly, addressing equality within education remains a paramount. Gender disparities persist in across various regions, with girls often facing challenges in accessing education because of cultural norms and discrimination. For example, UNICEF reports in sub-Saharan Africa middle east, millions of girls

between the ages of six and eleven are at risk of never attending school from gender-based barriers, for example, Taliban regime in Afghanistan prohibits females from school education.

History and Current Situation

TABLE 2.1. TOMAŠEVSKI'S CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO EDUCATION		
RIGHT TO EDUCATION	AVAILABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiscal allocations matching human rights obligations Schools matching school-aged children (number, diversity) Teachers (education and training, recruitment, labour rights, trade union freedoms)
	ACCESSIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elimination of legal and administrative barriers Elimination of financial obstacles Identification and elimination of discriminatory denials of access Elimination of obstacles to compulsory schooling (fees, distance, schedule)
RIGHTS IN EDUCATION	ACCEPTABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parental choice of education for their children (with human rights correctives) Enforcement of minimal standards (quality, safety, environmental health) Language of instruction Freedom from censorship Recognition of children as subjects of rights
	ADAPTABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minority children Indigenous children Working children Children with disabilities Child migrants, travelers
RIGHTS THROUGH EDUCATION	ADAPTABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concordance of age-determined rights Elimination of child marriage Elimination of child labour Prevention of child soldiering

Source: Tomaševski (2001), p. 12, box 1.

Figure 2: Tomasevski's conceptual framework for right based approach to education

The United Nations has consistently addressed the concerns and aspirations of young people through a series of resolutions and recognitions. One of the landmark moments in this endeavor was the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth in 1995. This pivotal document outlined strategies to enhance the well-being and development of youth globally. Moreover, Resolution 65/309 in 2011 reaffirmed the international community's commitment to youth empowerment, acknowledging young people as influential agents of change. These resolutions both symbolize global recognition and but also set the stage for concrete actions.

Beyond mere rhetoric, the organization actively encourages young people to contribute to decision-making processes. Through various initiatives and activities, the UN has sought to empower youth to become active stakeholders in shaping their future. Programs like the United Nations Youth Delegate Program provides opportunities to represent their countries and express their concerns on a global stage. This direct approach both amplifies youth voices and develops future leaders.

Conferences and dialogues have served as critical platforms for discussing youth-related issues comprehensively. The United Nations has organized a range of conferences, like the World Youth Forum, that bringing together young leaders, policymakers, and experts to exchange ideas and perspectives. These gatherings have facilitated dialogues on pressing topics, from education and employment to health and climate change. By fostering these conversations, the UN has enabled a more holistic understanding of youth issues and encouraged innovative solutions.

The appointment of a United Nations Youth Envoy has been instrumental in advancing youth-related agendas. They serve as a resolute advocate for youth concerns within the UN system. This role involves raising awareness, mobilizing support, and engaging with young people worldwide. Through campaigns, outreach, and collaboration with youth-led organizations, they Youth Envoy have been a catalyst for change. The establishment of this position underscores the UN's commitment to amplifying youth voices and ensuring their active participation in global development.

Date	Events
2015	UN member states reached consensus on the 2030 agenda, to set out a vision to eliminate poverty and promote sustainable development particularly among youths
2014	UN Youth Strategies, “Youth 2023” is established to create bonds and platform for youth around the world to share their effort and experiences
2012	The Sustainable Development conference is convened in Rio DE Janeiro, the conference involved increasing number of youths to contribute to global sustainable solutions
1995	UNGA Resolution A/RES/50/81 passed, world program of action for youth is thereafter established as a concrete guideline to reinforce opportunity and right for youth
1978	UNGA Resolution A/RES/33/7, establishes the international youth year to celebrate the youth
2018	Goal Youth 2030 launched by UN Secretary-General. The program aims to ensure every youth by the year of 2030 to have opportunity for education, training, and employment.
1998	The world conference of minister responsible for youth, Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programs is adopted

Bloc Positions

United Nations (UN): The United Nations, a staunch advocate of youth empowerment, has consistently recognized the invaluable role of young people in addressing global challenges. In the past, the UN has implemented initiatives such as the United Nations Youth Envoy and the UN Youth Strategy to foster youth participation. These endeavors have focused on facilitating young people's engagement in policy development, peace-building, and sustainable development efforts.

United States: The United States has historically emphasized the importance of youth engagement, particularly through educational and employment initiatives. Previously, the U.S. has enacted programs to promote youth leadership, entrepreneurship, and civic involvement. It has also prioritized policies addressing issues related to youth, including education, healthcare, and social welfare.

China: China's approach to youth issues has centered on nurturing the potential of its vast youth population. Past policies have focused on improving educational opportunities and employment prospects for young people, with an emphasis on harnessing their skills and innovation to drive economic growth and social development.

European Union (EU): The European Union has consistently supported youth inclusion and participation. They have implemented a variety of youth programs, including Erasmus+ and the Youth Guarantee, to enhancing access to education and employment for young citizens. These have been instrumental in encouraging youth participation in political and societal decision-making processes.

Possible Solutions

School Education

Countries are advised to provide wider access of education in general, which can be realized through creating foundations and appealing for international loans and other forms of financial support. In practice, it is operationalized as establishment of more educational institutions covering all age groups. Such measures are effective in long term to empowering the young to in realizing their aspirations to. In economically developing regions, it provides stability by encouraging certain into career paths, and discouragement involvement in crime discouraged from criminal.

Vocational Training

Complementary to formal education, countries should invest in lifelong education. This refers to tertiary education into education and also non-degree-bearing vocational training programs. Through expanding lifelong education, young people dropout rates decline with greater dropping of education declines with the opportunity to gain opportunities skills work-based and better place to obtain gainful to for employment.

Entrepreneurship Education

Entrepreneurship education is an emerging form of education, recommended following basic and vocational education, giving for millions globally. Such They train young people to manage develop their own business responsibly and wisely. With its growth of, we can release the innovational and adventurous potential of young people, to create prosperity for all.

Legislation

Legislations regarding equality is recommended to member states. Equality in this context contains a wide array of equal rights, including (but not limited to) gender equality and social equality. By legislating against discrimination and towards equal rights, legal discrimination can be eliminated. Individuals can gain access to various form of resources and begin to thrive, and to assert their own agency in interest of better livelihood.

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