

Forum: Economic and Social Council

Issue #EC-02: Exclusion from the labour market on the basis of race, religion or gender.

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Introduction

Since the dawn of mankind, it's an undeniable fact that humanity has advanced in an unimaginable manner from its original starting point both technologically and in mere numbers of population. The constant curiosity and innovative nature of humans has allowed us to be the architects of a world in which most of the population enjoys an uncountable number of commodities without necessarily being burdened by having to put much thought into it; carelessness which has had us neglecting and ignoring the serious implications of the waste produced by our consumption without realising that the rapid advancement of society skyrocketed along with the number of people on earth. While it's true that as society grows by the billions so does the need to produce certain products, there's the clear threat that if we don't do it responsibly we will eventually be buried by the product of our own device,

According to the UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme), the waste produced by LEDCs (Less Economically Developed Countries) has exponentially outgrown the actual prospect of their population according to recent UN reports. This directly translates to the staggering proportion of each citizen of a LEDC producing an estimate 74 kg of waste per year, which multiplied by 5.53 habitans is 409220000 tons of yearly waste polluting and actively destroying our planet. Moreover, MEDC (More Economically Developed Countries) aren't far behind with the amount of waste produced and also have the added responsibility of being leaders of most industries; being the ones enabling the disproportionate amount of waste by overproducing with little regards to the direct pollution generated in production and the surplus in the market. Both classifications of nations have a shared responsibility for the uncontrolled production of said waste with a reckless disregard for our future.

Delegates are expected to offer solutions to tackle the growth of waste, establishing sustainable consumption patterns of production and consumption while addressing the pollution produced by said waste keeping in mind the serious implications that the growing

population implies. The impending danger of waste and pollution is a matter of the utter most urgency and as such it will depend upon the collaboration of both LEDCs and MEDCs for it to be solved.

Definition of Key Terms

UNEP

The United Nations Environmental Programme is the organism in charge of coordinating the joined efforts of all willing nations to solve international environmental issues. Among the faculties of the organisations lays: informing the general public about environmental problems, producing research reports for the GA (General Assembly) and taking non-executive actions to protect the environment.

MEDC

More Economically Developed Countries are nations who have achieved a certain degree of industrialization and have a considerable GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Said countries are of major importance on the matter of regulating production since most of them are responsible for producing most of the products demanded.

LEDCs

Less Economically Developed Countries are nations with a less developed sustainable economic system unlike the MEDCs. The economy of LEDCs is usually reliant on agriculture and trade which makes their economic practices not very secure and may go downhill very easily. LEDC tend to lack the necessary industry to produce certain complex products and therefore fulfil that demand with imports from MEDCs.

FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organisation is a UN official organ whose mission is to secure a more sustainable and food secure world for all. This organ is highly relevant to the issue since the growth of the population consequently leads to an unnegotiable demand to nurture the need for food. Among the faculties of the organisations lays: encouraging sustainable agricultural practices, fighting against hunger, producing research reports for the GA (General Assembly) and taking non-executive to manage existing assets to best allocate food distribution.

Food waste

Refers to the decrease in the quantity or quality of food resulting from decisions and actions by retailers, food service providers and consumers.

Food loss

The term is used to describe decrease in the quantity or quality of food resulting from decision making by food suppliers.

Overpopulation

Refers to the growth of humanity to the extent exceeding the carrying capacity of the ecological setting, jeopardising the adequate living conditions of everybody.

Issue Overview

The first major historical breakthrough in regard to overpopulation was Thomas Malthus' thesis on the principle in the year 1798 in which he described the problem as a “shadowy spirit haunting humanity's progress, awaiting one fateful day to strike”. From that moment onward, history has been a witness on how overpopulation has forced us to take drastic measures such as in China's case with their 1979 one child policy to attempt to control their demographic growth by only allowing families to have just 1 child. The following timeline portrays all the major events on the topic that proved humanities constant struggle with overpopulation.

Ecologic whiplash: Humans are inherently ambitious creatures, an expectable side effect of being the only species on earth capable of picturing future scenarios and creating convoluted theories about possible outcomes. This same ambition isn't something inherently wicked but trouble begins when greed is hidden behind said facade; greed which later on crooks the sense of morality of even the most righteous men. Corporate greed and economic imperialism are often the factors that push nations into making blind eyes to the lack of corporate environmental responsibility to produce enough or even just to be at the top of the market with absolute disregard to the environment. Although, it would be rather simplistic to reduce the responsibility for pollution to just the effects of industries producing; households consumption and the consumption by other stages of the economy is very relevant to the issue.

The consumption levels worldwide are rising and while there are things that we can do to solve certain inefficiencies, a particular parameter are going to continue to grow regardless

since the consumption of food is not negotiable but could be optimised to make it more sustainable at long term. Furthermore, the FAO has revealed in recent studies that 58% of global farm-stage food waste occurs in middle and high income countries, even despite higher on-farm mechanisation. It's a harsh truth. The topic of conflict needs to be worked upon and perfected, since the answer lays behind cooperation and education in itself. Multiple environmental organisations have publicly agreed that the most efficient solution to the problem would be to educate producers about the direct effects that their practice has in the environment and how it depends on themselves if their practice is sustainable enough to be repeatable and scalable at a large scale.

Delegates choosing this approach should probably appeal to expose before the house the direct effects of pollution caused by unsustainable consumption patterns and invite all honourable to pass guidelines regulating economic practices to protect the planet. Additionally, remarks regarding educating households and producers would be a step in the right direction.

Food implications: Historically speaking, hunger has always presented itself as a great antagonising force for humanity to face; endeavouring to feed an ever growing number of people by producing an ever growing number of food with an ever diminishing amount of resources. However, human race has been capable of achieving partial victories and distributing food as they deemed appropriate to satisfy the world. Sadly, the aforementioned efforts fail to fulfil the need for food to a full extent as shown in the WHO's (World Health Organisation) previous reports. As established in the last global hunger index, hunger has become a critical humanitarian situation in LEDCS while in MEDC they face an ironically quite contrary paradigm. In first world countries food waste piles in the millions while others are starving to death. Where lays the issue? The FAO estimates that 40% of the food produced is lost due to not meeting certain cosmetic parameters.

While solving supply chain inefficiencies, such as guaranteeing the appropriate storage, might ease the constant pressure cosmetic parameters imply that wouldn't be the adequate approach. We cannot reduce the best course of action to a single measure but rather should be determined to be a set of joined actions with the sole intention of fixing the inequality of the current distribution of food. Last year's UNICEF press release on the topic of hunger shook the world with the terrifying reality of how one child every 60 seconds fell victim to the merciless murderous destructive force that hunger is.

Members of the house choosing to endeavour over ending hunger by establishing sustainable consumption patterns of production and consumption of food should also make sure to solve the preexisting inequality between LEDCs and MEDCs as to encourage cooperation within the whole house. Among the most reasonable propositions, delegates might want to opt into reducing already existing food waste by setting a reliable communication between all sectors of the economy (primary, secondary and tertiary).

Economic mayhem: The Austrian economic school of thought runs on the theoretical basis that the market chooses how to best allocate scarce resources to supply an unlimited demand of goods/services, describing this behaviour as the “price mechanism”, under which a vast majority of countries operate their industries. The mechanism in itself functions by a basic concept: If prices are rising because of high demand, its to expand productive capacity to meet the higher demand. The theory is known as “the free market” and is categorised as a liberal capitalist model which allows for the conduction of free economic practices without governmental intervention. The truth behind this theory is that, while appearing flawless, it falls short when stipulating responses for specific problems.

Adam Smith, often acknowledged as the father of the free market along with Ludwig Von Mises, is one of the greatest contributors to this theory; describing the price mechanism as “the invisible hand” that fixes the market in his book “the theory of moral sentiments”. However, Smith was capable of realising how the theory overlooked with a simplistic carelessness the consequences that this uncontrolled production could have on the world. Smith determined that price mechanism clearly does not ensure equitable distribution of resources and could lead to an unsavable market failure without the needed intervention of governments. Sadly, that particular stance is often not put into practice allowing for corporations to recklessly expand and produce with no discretion of its impact on the economy. Among the aforementioned consequences we can find how overproducing might lead to the over saturation of the markets and therefore risking that the sudden plummet of prices cause the closing of corporations, strangling the economy and causing a crisis.

Delegates choosing to stand up against the economic mayhem that can be unleashed by the relentless desire to fulfil an ever growing demand by an ever growing population will need to get all members together to establish much needed market regulations to assure the future economic livelihood of generations to come. Moreover, delegates will probably find themselves balancing these measures as to not asphyxiate producers and kill global productivity.

Major parties involved

United States of America

The USA classifies as MEDC and is considered responsible for providing most of the active services in the world. Moreover, it is often looked upon as the representative of the “free world” which in reality refers to it being a capitalist dream and therefore has the implications of being responsible for ridiculous consumerism.

China

In 1798, China had such a demographic that it was forced to only allow families to have a single child as to not further increase their population to a critical point. Since then, China has been a very careful nation and has kept ever since a close eye on their population. However, not the same thing can be said with their production standards as they are responsible for the production of most of the manufactured goods in existence.

FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organisation is a UN official organ whose mission is to secure a more sustainable and food secure world for all. This organisation has been the one in charge of making sure that food distribution, production and consumption is under control.

Large corporations

Big corporations play a proportionally big role in modern days as their production levels need to be tightly controlled as it has been shown in the past that if allowed to manage themselves with near to no regulations, they can get to the instance of triggering an environmental crisis.

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Date	Description of event
1943	UN Conference on Food and Agriculture
1945	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is established
1994	International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo
1996	World Food Summit/Rome Declaration on World Food Security
1965	World Population Conference in Belgrade establishing international course guidelines

Possible Solutions

Being a multidimensional problem, just one solution wouldn't suffice and therefore delegates should push for a complete resolution that fully comprehends and suits the complexity of the issue. Moreover, being a problem of such great magnitude and complexity, delegates will need to get all members together so to improve their grasp on how the situation impacts every nation; discouraging the division of the house into two opposite coalitions

Many solutions have already been proposed in the issue overview, inviting all delegates to partake in the debate keeping those points of discussion on mind. Delegates will probably find themselves balancing different stances as they will probably want to avoid falling into using arguments involving eugenics as they breach international humanitarian laws. **The** chair invites all members of the house choosing to endeavour over the challenge of sustainable consumption patterns of production and consumption as a response to the day

of 8 billion people to address the preexisting inequality between LEDCs and MEDCs as to encourage international cooperation.

Among the most reasonable propositions in regards solving unsustainable food consumption patterns, delegates might want to opt into reducing already existing food waste by setting a reliable communication between all sectors of the economy (primary, secondary and tertiary) and should probably appeal to expose before the house the direct effects of pollution caused by unsustainable consumption patterns and invite all honourable to pass guidelines regulating economic practices to protect the planet. Additionally, remarks regarding educating households and producers would be a step in the right direction. Also, the discussion about market regulations to assure the future economic livelihood of generations to come is a viable solution to prevent surpluses and other economic problems.

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