



CSPCMUN2017

**United
Nations
Economic
and
Social Council**

Committee: Economic and Social Council
Topic A: Sustainable Energy for Rural Areas.
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Director: Enrique Gonzalez
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“Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.” – Harry S. Truman

Dear Delegates,
First of all, welcome to CSPCMUN2017. It is an honor to have you in this year's edition. We hope that this simulation is a memorable experience. We are confident that during these three days you will develop skills such as leadership, negotiating, and critical thinking while representing a specific country. We expect that in this model you meet new people who will encourage you to make an impact in our world. I am sure that you will prepare yourself enough so you can get to agreements and help in the resolution of the committee's problematic. We hope that you enjoy this simulation as much as we will. Any doubts you may have, do not hesitate on asking us.

Sincerely,
Mariana Lazo
Chief of Moderators



I. Committee Overview

The Economic and Social Council, known as ECOSOC, is a primary organ of the United Nations. It was created with the main objective to solve worldwide issues of international economic and social cooperation, environment and development for member states. It was established by the United Nations charter in 1946. ECOSOC importance comes from the responsibility of 70% of the human and financial resources. ECOSOC is one of the six main organs of the UN, and its committed for the coordination of making and formulating policy proposals, advising member states as well as being in charge of economic, social, and environmental issues. Currently this Council has 54 members states elected by General Assembly which is composed of: 14 members located in African states, 11 members located in Asian states, 6 members located in Eastern European states, 10 located in Latin American and Caribbean states, and 13 members located in Western European. ECOSOC election follows the General Assembly's rules of procedure, the election requires two-thirds of the majority of votes for the resolution to pass. The Ambassador Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, is the seventy-second President of the Economic and Social Council who was elected on July 28th, 2016 and the council have regular meetings throughout the year with representatives from private sectors, non-governmental organizations.

ECOSOC, as an active member of the UN, is always trying to find the best and fastest solutions for making the world a better place for us.

II. Topic Information

A vast number of people around the world suffer from lack of energy, which is a serious and critical problem that we need to take care of. Electricity is used in various areas of human activity, people are having difficulties in personal development because of this problem. The lack of electricity has a lot of negative effects, that limit the population of potential growth, including poverty, social progress, equity, health, safety, economic growth, education, etc. The United Nations Development Programme stated that more than 1.3 billion of people around the world have no access to electricity. It is important to take into consideration that everyone of us need energy in our lives. Not having energy can bring a lot of negative effects in personal development. Without access to sustainable energy, development goals cannot be achieved. But first, what does "sustainability" mean? According to the United Nations sustainability is defined as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Giving sustainable energy to rural areas is an important action, since reliable energy source is an essential component of any modern human society. Even with that information, roughly 23% of the world's population is currently experiencing energy poverty. According to a report issued by the UN, 1.6 billion of the 7.1 billion people in the world had no access to electricity as of 2010, the vast majority of whom live in

developing countries or regions. According to the World Bank, 550 million people in Africa live in the dark, followed by India with 400 million people in the same situation.

At least 2.7 billion people, and perhaps more than 3 billion, have the absence of modern fuels for cooking and heating. They depend instead on traditional biomass sources, such as firewood, charcoal, and crop residues, that can emit harmful indoor air pollutants when charred. These pollutants cause roughly 2 million premature deaths worldwide each year, an estimated 44% of them are children. Among adult deaths, 60% are women. Traditional energy usage also contributes to environmental impacts including forest and woodland deterioration, soil erosion, and black carbon emissions that contribute to global climate change.

The majority of the population that lacks electrical resources tend to use a certain type of source that, even though its appliances are low, helps sustain themselves for the rest of their lifetimes. This type of source is called Biomass, and is fuel that is developed from certain organic materials. It's a renewable and sustainable source of energy used to create electricity and other forms of power.

But no good solution comes without disadvantages. Biomass has a bad side according to various investigations, some of them consist on the inefficiency of the biomass compared to fossil fuels, since the ethanol biodiesel made in the process of energy making of biomass are mediocre compared to gasoline. Another one would be that it is harmful to the environment, sure it reduces or saves some carbon dioxide emissions, but it also releases methane gases, which are also harmful to the Earth's ozone layer. And it also can be considered unhealthy for the humans, considering the use of waste products, there's a smell that may not harm physically, but it's rather very unpleasant since it can attract unwanted pests such as rats and flies and spread bacteria or infections. However low-cost and continual energy sources that don't require a standard power grid could be the first step out of poverty for the people in rural communities who lack the commodities of electricity.

Three years ago, in 2013, more than 2.7 billion people, equal to 38% of the world's population, are estimated to have depended on the traditional use of solid biomass for cooking. While the number of people relying on biomass is in a larger development in Asia than in sub-Saharan Africa, their comparison of the population is lower: 50% developing in Asia, compared with 80% in sub-Saharan Africa. Overall, nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the global population (around 2 billion people) living without clean cooking facilities, live in merely ten countries.

A) History of the Topic

Electricity is one of the best inventions we have accomplished in technology. It has been a great impact in our life because, thanks to electricity, we have made a lot of progress in these past years. Nowadays is a must-have for everyone, and is something that everyone should have no matter where they are located. Having

access to a reliable and sustainable source of energy is fundamental in our lives because technology is constantly increasing, and new inventions are made which cannot work without energy and modern energy services that help improve the quality of our life. Yet, the lack of access to modern energy technology limits new generations to improve in their life.

One of the main causes of not having access to a sustainable energy is because of the high cost it has. A *Time* article "Building a Country by Switching On the Lights" mentioned that the lack of electricity is one of the main barriers for overcoming poverty. According to the article, "As long as those hundreds of millions remain in the dark, they will remain poor".

Over the past years when electricity became commercially available, the spread of electricity had diverse dynamics in urban and rural areas with approximately 90% of urban electricity by 1930s. While in rural regions, by the same decade only 10% of rural households had electricity. Otherwise, private companies supplied electric energy to most of the nation's consumers, argued that it was very expensive to string electric lines to isolated rural farmsteads.

Years later, between 1970 and 1990, millions of people in rural areas gained access to electricity. But of 3 billion people living in rural areas in 1990, 2 billion of people were still without access to a sustainable electricity.

The fact that this issue has been a main aspect of social and economic development is evidenced by the result of a study which concluded in 1987, where experts were asked to choose the most important technical advances of all time. According to the National Academy of Engineering in 1990, this survey electricity received 37% of the votes, followed by antibiotics with 14% and vaccines with 11% .

In 2009, according to the International Energy Agency, \$1.9 billion of dollars were invested worldwide in increasing access to modern energy services, such as electricity and clean cooking facilities.

In Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia by 2012, 88% of the people, lacked electricity in rural areas. Nowadays Sub-Saharan African countries ,are still struggling to gain access to electricity.

According to what the IEA reported, approximately 1.6 billion of people didn't have access to electricity . Therefore, a new UN initiative started to occur simultaneously with the selection of 2012 as the International Year for Sustainable Energy for All, which concentrates on the importance of energy for sustainable development, by creating awareness and decreasing energy poverty.

The International Energy Agency, estimates that the rate of rural areas without electricity access was about five-times higher in 2009, so if current trends continues as they are, the number of people without electricity will increase by the year 2030. In view of the issue the United Nations Sustainable Development made Goal 7,

which consists in ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all by 2030.

B) Current issues

Liberia: Civil War, which concluded in 2003, destroyed almost all of the country's ability to provide electricity to its population, besides Liberia has one of the lowest rates of electricity access in the world. Currently the Government of Liberia, is working closely with development members to undertake crucial steps to rebuild its electricity infrastructure.

India: India has developed its generating capacity, yet it has the dilemma in confronting the demand and lack of energy which make India's economy increase. With the development of the industrial and commercial sectors as well as the vast use of electrical equipment, electricity demand keeps increasing. India's population is about 1.21 billion, among the 1,210 million of people, 396 million have lack of electricity and of 592 million of people located in rural and urban areas, are still using firewood for cooking. In addition, these people are dependent on non-commercial energy sources such as, crop residue, fuel wood, and animal waste. More as a result of their energy needs.

South Sudan: South Sudan has a population nearly 11 million, more than 90% of the population are without access to electricity. Currently, South Sudan is facing challenges to build a strong economy. But without proper access to electricity, industrialization and, modernization cannot be achieved. Electricity supply is classified with poor infrastructures, frequent power interruptions, and lack of technical persons. Electrical equipments are brought from remote industrial countries, therefore they are very expensive. Modern forms of energy in South Sudan are few, most of them count on traditional biomass to provide their cooking and lighting needs.

North Korea: The electricity consumption of the country dropped about one-third from 33 billion (kwh) in 1991 to 24 billion kwh the next year because of the downturn in the early 1990s of North Korea. As industry continued to decline, electricity consumption did as well. North Korea's electricity infrastructure is getting inadequate for modern times, inefficient and in need of reparation in many areas. Some of the production and transmission equipment are from way back the independence in 1945. Most electricity transmission must be done near the user due to long-range transmission is no longer possible. North Korea is the only nation that has nuclear weapons but does not use nuclear power for electricity generation. Only 26% of the population, receives electricity according to the International Energy Agency.

C) UN Action

Concerned by this topic The UN has established a “Nexus Approach to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication”, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from the 4th - 6th of December in the year 2013.

The theme of discussion in the Conference, which was organized by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with Sustainable Energy for All, was the essential role that access to energy services has for enabling sustainable development. Over 250 participants from 40 countries attended to the Conference.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced the aim to create a hub for decentralized, off-grid “Bottom Up” Energy Solutions to advance the Sustainable Energy For All Country Actions Agenda, building on two decades of understanding in linking energy and sustainable development. UNDP also devoted to continue its advancement for energy as a critical integral of the post-2015 development agenda.

The Alliance for Rural Electrification pledged to launch two awareness raising campaigns in 2014, which would target energy decision-makers in developing countries. The first campaign would be focusing on the contribution of small hydropower technologies for rural development, and the second one on hybridization of off-grid systems.

An ingenious “Twin Schools” programme, was also announced at the conference. This partnership would involve the development of economical, high quality solar equipment and training arrangements to boost rural electrification, as well as an educational exchange associating universities and secondary schools in advanced countries with universities and schools in flourishing countries. A team of teachers and students will be trained in the chosen developing countries to install and preserve solar systems in rural communities.

An exposition, at which 25 organisations laid out renewable energy technologies that enable modest, clean energy, was an essential part of the Global Conference. The exposition demonstrated that advanced “clean” cookstoves and stand-alone electric generation systems, which are efficient, reliable and durable, are both extensively available and affordable.

III. Conclusion

This is major issue that needs to be solved as soon as possible. Energy has always been a very important factor in personal development, especially in social and economic aspects that is affecting and will affect the development of people, as

we know electricity is used in a lot of human areas, if we don't have access to it, we cannot achieve our development goals. It is important to solve this issue for present and future generations focusing more on the countries with most of the lack of energy access. The people without electricity is increasing, therefore we need your help, it is of great importance to address this issue.

Currently governments, international organizations, and NGOs are working to overcome this issue.

IV. Essential Questions

1. What is your country's position regarding this issue?
2. Has your country been affected by the lack of energy?
3. What is your country currently doing in order to have sustainable energy?
4. Is your country helping other countries to prevent this issue? If so, how?
5. What possible and effective solution(s) does your country recommend to solve this issue?
6. Has the solution your delegation is proposing been implemented? if so how did it help?, is it a worldwide solution?
7. Does your country have any campaign or NGO helping rural areas to gain access to a sustainable energy?

V. References

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