CHAPTER VI.
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

AMUN's Economic and Social Council will consider five topics on its agenda. Representatives can choose to explore these topics in a number of forms: through resolutions, in less formal working groups or commissions, or through the creation of treaty or convention documents.

STATE MEMBERS

Andorra	Costa Rica	India	Romania
Angola	Croatia	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Russian Federation
Argentina	Cuba	Italy	South Africa
Australia	Egypt	Japan	Spain
Austria	El Salvador	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Sudan
Bahrain	Ethiopia	Malta	Suriname
Benin	Fiji	Mexico	Sweden
Bhutan	Finland	Nepal	Uganda
Brazil	France	Netherlands	Ukraine
Burkina Faso	Georgia	Nigeria	United Kingdom
Burundi	Germany	Pakistan	United States
Cameroon	Ghana	Peru	Zimbabwe
Chile	Guatemala	Qatar	
China	Hungary	Republic of Korea	

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: MALARIA AND DIARRHOEAL DISEASES, IN PARTICULAR CHOLERA

Malarial and diarrhoeal diseases remain prevalent in developing countries, primarily affecting populations living in poverty, where the access to preventive and treatment measures is limited. Malaria is a tropical parasitic disease carried by mosquitoes. Although it is often curable, malaria is responsible for many deaths in the developing world. Cholera is an acute intestinal infection caused by the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. It is a water-borne viral disease characterized by diarrhea, vomiting, muscle cramps and severe loss of body fluids and is spread by contaminated water and food. Malaria and cholera are endemic in many African states and continue to be a stumbling block to social and economic development. Malaria has been shown to slow the economic growth of African countries by up to 1.3% per year.

A number of UN bodies have been assigned the task of addressing health concerns regarding malaria and cholera and have been most vigilant in their fight against these diseases. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) recognize the prevalence of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases in many tropical and sub-tropical states and stress the importance of national plans of action in countries where malaria is endemic (ECOSOC Resolution 1998/36). Both bodies have continued to call for the expansion of fund-raising efforts in order to provide for adequate financial and medical resources as well as technical assistance to affected developing countries. Current and past programs recognize the importance of preventive measures and the need for vaccine programs.

Roll Back Malaria, an initiative of the WHO, is the most expansive action taken to decrease the spread of malaria and to address the factors that contribute to the outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases such as cholera. The initiative promotes community-driven action and sector-wide planning in the development of effective control measures to strengthen developing country health programs that address this disease. It makes every effort to avoid building separate, vertical malaria control operations in host countries. In April 2000, at the African Heads of State Summit in Abuja, Nigeria, advocates succeeded in placing malaria high on the development agenda of poor countries. Since the summit, governments and country partners have developed strategic vision and identified feasible plans of action. Global partners of the Initiative were challenged to identify resources and channel mechanisms to streamline implementation. Round-table discussions held at the national level produced favorable outcomes, allowing countries to draw on additional resources through bilateral and multilateral debt relief programmes such as the World Bank's Highly Indebted Poor Countries initiative.

Since the beginning of 2002, cholera outbreaks have reached endemic proportions in Somalia, Malawi, Madagascar, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Limpopo region. This year alone, cholera cases in Malawi have increased by a staggering 900%. Mitigating factors such as food shortages, droughts, floods, poor sanitation and insufficient water purification systems have contributed to outbreaks of cholera. Political factors are also responsible for recent outbreaks. Civil wars and intra-state conflicts often produce mass refugee populations where outbreaks of such diseases are imminent. The lack of the hygienic disposal of human waste, an adequate supply of safe drinking water and sufficient food

hygiene produce breeding grounds for cholera bacteria and cause a large number of deaths. Unless water supply sources are purified in a manner consistent with current guidelines and practices, epidemics of diseases such as cholera, hepatitis and typhoid could occur.

Nevertheless, new developments such as cholera vaccines are a source of hope for many. Among these is a vaccine produced in Vietnam for the cost of 20 US cents. During research, the vaccine was found to result in high levels of immunity in children, for whom the risk of cholera is highest. The response to the new vaccine was comparable to those elicited by a Swedish-produced vaccine that has already been licensed for use in several European countries. Furthermore, research is being done on the effectiveness of traditional Chinese and Japanese medicines. Researchers are currently testing new therapies. In addition, plant derivatives, such as the compound galloyol-tannin derived from rhubarb, has been shown to inhibit cholera's toxic effects in the laboratory. Many leading scientists from institutions around the world have supported this research and some day in the near future new therapies and medicines might be used as a third phase of treatment, complementing oral-rehydration therapy and traditional antibiotic treatments.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:
• What role does your government play in supporting international health initiatives?
• To which regional bodies does your government belong that may play a pivotal role in fighting malaria and cholera?
• How can NGOs and local governments better coordinate their efforts and help fund initiatives?
• What types of policies should the UN promote in terms of health-sector reform?
• Should there be an international emergency stock of cholera vaccines established similar to the current emergency stock held for meningitis vaccines?

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SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Social problems have been recognized by the United Nations as an urgent need to be addressed by all Member States. Issues such as poverty, unemployment, social exclusion, health and welfare, malnutrition, aging and education impact

every country. As a macro-level concern, social development affects all aspects of human life. As a result, the UN convened the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 in Copenhagen, Denmark, to reaffirm the importance of social development and its interdependence with economic and political development, and to develop a framework of action to address the issues of social development.

Participants at the World Summit agreed to the Copenhagen Declaration, which contains ten commitments related to a variety of issues surrounding social development. In particular, the Declaration called upon Member States to create an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment to enable its citizenry to achieve the goals of social development, to progress towards the eradication of poverty by a target date set by each Member State, to support full employment, to promote social integration based on the enhancement and protection of all basic human rights, to achieve equality between the sexes, to accelerate development efforts in Africa and the Least Developed Countries, to ensure that structural adjustment programs include social development goals, to increase overall resources allocated to social development, and to strengthen cooperative efforts between Member States and various UN agencies. The commitments were detailed in their expectations and goals to address social problems and Summit participants went to great lengths to develop national, regional, and international action plans for each commitment.

Created in 1962 at the request of ECOSOC, the Commission on Social Development (CSD) reviews and implements the policies agreed upon in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme for Action. In 1995, the Commission's membership was expanded to 46 Member States and each year at its substantive meeting, a key theme is selected from the Declaration and the Programme of Action as that year's policy focus. Selected themes include the eradication of poverty (1996), productive employment and sustainable livelihoods (1997), promoting social integration (1998), providing social services for all (1999), reviewing the contributions of the Commission to the Summit +5 (2000) and the issue of social protection and vulnerability in a globalizing world (2001). This year's functional agenda is the integration of social and economic policy. The Commission agreed upon 11 conclusions; among them was the importance of promoting sound institutions that are open and transparent to public policy consensus building and the encouragement of broad participation in the formulation of economic policies between governments and other related policy actors in an effort to engage the private and NGO sectors.

From 26 June - 1 July 2000, a follow-up summit was held in Geneva (Summit +5) to review the progress made during the last five years since the agreement on the Copenhagen Declaration. During the Summit, the CSD presented an overview on the progress made toward achieving the goals outlined in the Declaration. While the participants noted that much progress remained to be made, they did reaffirm the commitments made at the last summit in the Geneva Declaration. They also agreed to tackle the issues of poverty, unemployment and social integration and agreed to a range of new commitments with regard to social development. The Geneva Declaration called for a "much stronger and more comprehensive action, and new, innovative approaches by all actors, national and international, governmental and non-governmental."

Despite the progress made in the last ten years, significant barriers remain in the majority of developing countries to achieving the commitments outlined in the Copenhagen and Geneva Declarations. Cross-cutting issues including who wins in a globalized world, the impacts of debt on development and the ability of nations to adequately fund social services and basic needs have hampered the efforts of many nations to address social development. Many of these issues have deep political undertones and their solutions remain elusive at best. Nevertheless, the CSD and the UN continue to underscore the importance of social development and providing for the needs of each country's citizens as an effective means of ensuring a prosperous and meaningful future for the world's growing population. Developing the proper governance structures and ensuring the integration of key issues on a multilateral level remain key themes and challenges for many UN Member States as they pursue development. Perhaps the Millennium Development Goals may serve as the blueprint for a new consensus on global development.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- Are the commitments developed by the Summit attainable in your country?
- What resources need to be made available to achieve the goals of the Summit, the Summit +5 and the Commission for Social Development?
- What role should Non-Governmental Organizations and the private sector have in assisting nations in achieving the commitments?
- Are there important social issues that are not currently being addressed by the UN?

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www.unrisd.org/
www.worldbank.org
www.imf.org

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT: THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN SUPPORTING EFFORTS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The problems faced by African countries since decolonization are numerous; internal and external conflicts, refugees and internally displaced peoples, food safety and security, and vast health crises including the HIV/AIDS epidemic all profoundly affect the African continent's development. With such a large region of the world facing so many serious difficulties, it is not hard to imagine that the problems faced there affect the rest of the world.

Over the last several decades, the United Nations has attempted to work with African states and regional organizations in tackling the problems faced by many on the African continent. In 1991, the General Assembly (GA) established the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa (A/Res/46/151, 18 December 1991). This resolution enumerates what actions the GA felt were necessary to achieve durable peace and sustainable development, calls that were echoed by both the Secretary-General and many African nations. The resolution addressed issues ranging from trade and health to environmental issues, specifically calling upon United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to create, implement and monitor programs aimed at fostering development within Africa. To this end, not only has the ECOSOC devoted a considerable amount of its resources to achieve these goals, but also its specialized agencies such as the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and Least Developed Countries (OSCAL) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) have stepped up their efforts toward African development and in garnering more cooperation from within the United Nations system.

Throughout 2001 and 2002, the UN revisited the New Agenda, examining its strengths and weaknesses, deciding ultimately what still needs to be done. In a report to the GA, the Secretary-General addressed the cooperation between the UN and the Organization for African Unity (now the African Union) and examined the progress of the New Agenda's hope for further cooperation between the UN and regional organizations (A/RES/56/48, 23 January 2002). While the Secretary-General commends the achievements made toward this end, the report also points to issues that still need resolution. In October 2001, the ECA and the African Development Bank, with support from the Group of 8 (G8) and other multilateral donors, announced a new initiative entitled the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). NEPAD is a wholly African initiative that was adopted by the Organization for African Unity (now the African Union) and the G8 to be the centerpiece for a new commitment to bring the benefits of the global economy to the African continent. Stressing the need to develop public-private partnerships, to eradicate poverty and to modernize the agricultural sector, NEPAD represents a major, long-term initiative designed to lift African countries out of the poverty, conflict, and economic stagnation that has plagued the continent since the 1980s.

With the work that has been concentrated over the last decade, there still remains a need for more progress. In 2001, the Ad Hoc working group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa published a report calling for continued discussion and action, and detailing that the topic of sustainable development should remain on the agenda as a priority for the United Nations. To this end, the GA has plans for meetings in June and September 2002 to discuss further implementation and actions on the New Agenda. The reports of the Ad Hoc group and the Secretary-General, as well as documents from ECOSOC and the Security Council, all agree in spirit that work toward sustainable development in Africa is crucial to international stability and security.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:
• What contribution has your country made toward the development and implementation of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa and NEPAD?
• What are the most immediate problems that should be addressed by this body?

- How can ECOSOC expand the work of the New Agenda and contribute to NEPAD?
- How does your country's ties with Africa affect its priorities on this topic?

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www.uneca.org/

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Under the threat of economic decline due to increased debt and unable to wrestle concessions from developed countries for the preferential treatment and technical cooperation necessary to promote growth, developing countries in the late 1970s and early 1980s began to turn to each other for help with their economic troubles. South-South cooperation has enjoyed official recognition in the United Nations since the Buenos Aires Conference in 1978. It encompasses two types of partnership: technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries (abbreviated TCDC and ECDC respectively). Economic cooperation refers to intra-South cooperation in trade, investment and finance and is also used to cover collaboration in other economic sectors, such as industry, technology and communication. Technical cooperation refers to the building, pooling and sharing of capacities to further enhance the environment for socio-economic progress in developing countries. The two interrelated approaches are intended to enable the South to promote collective self-reliance and to participate effectively in the international economic system. Through regional integration, many countries have expanded their market size, accelerated the pace of industrialization and laid the foundation for a more systematic integration of production structures across national boundaries.

Profound changes have occurred in the international system since the late 1980s that have had an equally profound impact on multilateral development cooperation. Since the 1970s, the United Nations has played an important role in promoting technical cooperation. It has provided guidance on policies and procedures and it has supported institutional capacity building, networking, and information systems. In the area of capacity-building, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has provided support to the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Economic Community of West African States and the Central American Common Market and commodity groups such as the Union of Banana Producing Countries, in efforts to strengthen their overall capacity. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the International Trade Union (ITU) have provided similar assistance to various regional organizations in the development of national and regional institutions in developing countries.

With the adoption of the Caracas Programme of Action in 1981, the Group of 77 (G-77) outlined an aggressive plan for the promotion of cooperation between developing countries in eight areas: trade, technology, food and agriculture, energy, raw materials, finance, industrialization, and technical cooperation. The strategies laid out in the Caracas Programme form

the foundation for South-South cooperation initiatives and have been reaffirmed by the G-77 in the San Jose Declaration and Plan of Action on South-South Trade, Investment and Finance and the Bali Declaration on Regional and Subregional Economic Cooperation of the Developing Countries. In addition, the United Nations has programs through the FAO, the ILO, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP, and the ITU. Along with support from these UN organizations, the Administrator of the UNDP in 1995 set up the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, and a Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

Nevertheless, South-South cooperation is still underexploited and, as the Special Unit for TCDC has reported to the Second Committee on several recent occasions, the marginal benefits from increasing cooperation remain large. There are several barriers to successful cooperation. The first is technical: developing countries need to be aware of the opportunities for cooperation that exist. To this end, there are several databases being set up to identify points where intellectual and material exchanges would be beneficial. These, however, are still not adequate given the lack of resources for independent collection of information in some of the countries themselves. Another area of concern is the monetary resources available for programs of cooperation between developing countries. Both the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation and the Special Unit for TCDC report that their budget and staff are inadequate for the effective promotion of cooperation on a large scale. A third problem lies in monitoring compliance with agreements for cooperation. There is a natural incentive for countries to attempt to benefit from concessions by others without making concessions themselves. While some monitoring agencies have been set up, their resources have not allowed them to effectively enforce compliance with cooperative agreements.

Currently the United Nations is in a period of debate over where programs for the promotion of ECDC/TCDC should be directed. While the branches of the UN continue to execute their specific programs for the promotion of ECDC/TCDC, the question of how these programs should be funded and executed remains at issue. First, there are some countries that argue that developed countries should dedicate more resources to support of the Trust Fund and the Special Unit for TCDC. Others argue that it is the developing countries that should take on more responsibility for their own programs and provide most of the funding for their execution, and that this is the only way for the program to truly become self-sufficient. Second, there is some question as to which ends ECDC/TCDC should be directed. For some, the main goals of ECDC/TCDC should be economic, promoting free trade and cooperation between businesses. Another school of thought holds that cooperation can be most effective if directed toward humanitarian needs such as education, health, sanitation or housing. There is also some question about preferences toward countries that are in the Least Developed category, are land locked, or are island states. Broadly speaking, ECDC and TCDC encompass a wide range of issues dealing with the developing countries. Specific programs focus on issues from multinational business links and free trade to the sharing of water resources.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- Can your country benefit from ECDC/TCDC, and if so, what is needed from the UN in order to support cooperation?
- Is your country a member of an organization that actively promotes ECDC/TCDC, and if so, what should the relationship between UN programs and other international organizations be on this issue?
- If your country benefits from ECDC/TCDC, what areas are most necessary for your country's welfare?
- What are the issues faced in your country in considering the range of projects prompted by ECOSOC for the sake of Economic and Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries?
- How should the bodies and structures of the UN cooperate in common activities and regional initiatives in terms of Economic and Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries?
- How much support should developed countries be asked to give in ECDC/TCDC efforts?

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

In addition to the four main topics on ECOSOC's agenda, the Council will also receive a report on the final day from the Commission on Human Rights (CHR). As a functional commission established by ECOSOC, the CHR is required to make annual reports on its activities to the members of ECOSOC. As this is a special session of the CHR outside its normal meeting schedule, the CHR will present its report only on the specified topics. While these reports are generally accepted pro forma, ECOSOC may also choose to take some action on the recommendations contained in the report. The CHR may also present their recommendations in resolution format, allowing ECOSOC the chance to review and formally pass the CHR's proposals.

To facilitate this process, the final session of ECOSOC and CHR will culminate in a joint session, whereby the Member States represented in the CHR will join their counterparts on ECOSOC and those members without formal representation in ECOSOC will be granted full observer status. CHR will decide on a process to present its recommendations and present them to ECOSOC, whereby it will be up to the joint session to take further action. Please be aware that as a functional committee of ECOSOC, the CHR has been given significant responsibilities to study, review, debate and decide on recommended actions within specific topical areas that ECOSOC felt should be dealt with in greater detail than could be addressed by the main body.

It is recommended that all Representatives assigned to ECOSOC also review the background section on the CHR (Chapter V), and Representatives may choose to do some additional research into these topics.