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**决赛**

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**英文（高中）委员会背景文件**  
**English Group(Senior High School)**  
**Background Guide**

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广东省中学生模拟联合国大会组委会

## 委员会：金融及经济委员会

Economic and Social Council Committee

## 议题：促进包容性和可持续的经济增长

Fostering Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth

## 工作语言：英语

### 1.Introduction

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, international economic growth had been stagnant. Global real gross domestic product (GDP) growth was only around 2% between 2014-18; in 2019, the increase of global real GDP per capita was only 1.3%. However, since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, global real GDP growth declined by an estimated 5.3%, and employment numbers have declined by 8.8% of global working hours when compared with the last quarter of 2019. This resulted in rising poverty levels and greater challenges in recovery among more vulnerable and marginalized populations.

Many countries only expect to be returning to re-pandemic numbers by 2022 or 2023, which heavily sets back growth and recovery. Particularly for women and youth, the pandemic will decrease prospects for them to pursue education or employment opportunities, even as employment numbers begin to recover. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these inequalities. The spread of COVID-19

infections has reduced income and working time, drastically slowing down global economic growth.

According to the International Monetary Fund, **having inclusive and sustainable growth measures is crucial in addressing inequality, reducing poverty, and increasing living standards and job opportunities. High levels of inequality within a country can adversely impact long-term growth prospects, social mobility, and macroeconomic stability, which heavily affects more vulnerable and marginalized populations.**

The Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) focus on inclusive and sustainable economic growth works to create long-term opportunities for human development and efficient resource management. Promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth falls most in line with the goals and objectives of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly's resolution 70/1, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda

for Sustainable Development (2015). The passing of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) introduced the ideas of sustainable growth and development with particular emphasis on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), which focuses on promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Inclusive economic growth is necessary to address rising inequality and its effect on development. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the vulnerabilities and weaknesses of many global systems and infrastructures, as they have been unable to adequately respond to the needs of the global population. Inequalities are especially prevalent in developing countries, who cannot adequately react to the increasing infection rates and do not have access to both vaccines and sufficient healthcare services. The Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) describes inclusive as economic growth that creates equal opportunities and is fairly distributed across societies. Sustainability refers to growth that is resilient over time, adapt to rising challenges of climate change that will affect future generations, and encompass all three dimensions of sustainability (social, economic, and environmental). The UN defines sustainable economic growth as being able to sustain per capita at least 7% gross domestic growth per annum in least developed countries (LDCs).

### 2.Environmental Concerns to Sustainable Growth

**Environmental challenges and concerns are important to address when discussing sustainable and inclusive development, as it is the third dimension of sustainable development.** As highlighted by SDG 13 (climate action), increased floods and droughts caused by climate change destroy many important ecosystems and affect billions of lives worldwide. Climate change is expected to affect the availability of necessities, such as access to fresh water and energy and food security. This particularly affects LDCs who are least capable of coping with the shocks to their economic, social, and natural systems. UNEP and OECD emphasize the importance and necessity of addressing sustainable growth through the idea of a green economy. The goal of the green economy is to promote sustainable economic growth while preserving environmental and health risks, social welfare, and employment for future generations. OECD built a framework called Green Growth Strategy that highlights the necessity of preventing environmental damage to achieve sustainable growth and development. This framework emphasizes the importance of governments to seize economic opportunities to transition to a green economy and how to monitor this progress, as economic, social, and environmental development

are intertwined. **Fostering economic growth through the green economy is necessary as growth continues to wear down national capital. Environmental sustainability is necessary to prevent further damages to the surrounding ecosystems, as it would lead to further environmental degradation from water scarcity, more pollution, and climate change if left unaddressed.** The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and One Planet network work conjointly with ECOSOC to promote resource efficiency and sustainability and connecting global stakeholders to achieve sustainable growth and development. The EPA offers expertise to One Planet network, while One Planet network focuses on facilitating knowledge exchange on projects to other international actors. Both organizations are part of the 10YFP, which provides another framework for countries to enhance

international cooperation and achieve sustainable development and growth. The 10YFP is a framework established from Rio+20 that promotes capacity building, sustainable consumption and production, and resource efficiency at the national level in both developed and developing countries.<sup>153</sup> The 10YFP aims to increase economic activities that will promote social development, poverty eradication, and

environmental sustainability to achieve global sustainable development. Also, with limited resources worldwide, widely adopting and implementing sustainable consumption and production is essential for sustainable development and the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs.

### 3.Challenges to Growth Due to COVID-19

**While the average global economic growth had slowed before the COVID-19 pandemic, the pandemic has caused financial and economic shocks that have disrupted market volatility and furthered uncertainty throughout the global economy.** The COVID-19 pandemic is not just a health crisis, but an economic crisis as well. The economic impact of the pandemic is felt particularly among developing states economies who do not have the sufficient resources to recover from the crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic further emphasized the inequalities within the social and economic systems in many countries and has affected much of the labor force. For example, many women are forced out of the labor force to care for their children who may be stuck at home because schools and day cares are closed. **The UN Secretary-General has emphasized that issues that must be prioritized are debt alleviation, including waivers on interest payments, and designing monetary and fiscal policies that offer resources to assist households and workers with health and unemployment insurance to prevent substantial job losses.** Secretary-General Antonio Guterres calls for a coordinated response from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank Group, and other international financial institutions to provide a global stimulus package and offer resources and support to restore

sustainable growth. Without addressing these issues, inequalities will continue to exacerbate growth and development within the global economy.

The UN and ECOSOC have addressed these vulnerabilities and volatility pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic through the ECOSOC Forum on Financing Sustainable Development in the Context of COVID-19. The UN Secretary-General also outlined a response to the pandemic that requires a three-prong approach: suppress the virus, adopt a large-scale response for socioeconomic consequences facing vulnerable populations, and recover better from inequalities that result from unsustainable economies. **Addressing the challenges caused by the pandemic is essential in fostering inclusive and sustainable economic growth, as equity and growth cannot occur from the reduction of the labor force and real GDP across the globe.** As a result of COVID-19, trade and tourism, which are large components of GDP growth in many countries, have decreased significantly since the pandemic. In many countries, international tourism is not expected to reach its 2019 levels until 2023, which will set back growth and development in this area of the economy. The UN recognizes that ECOSOC's 2022 Partnership Forum re-established the idea that addressing SDGs and COVID-19 must go hand-in-hand. As vulnerable populations are suffering from the pandemic the most, inclusive and sustainable growth cannot occur without addressing the needs of these populations first. A global online stakeholder consultation was established prior to the forum to submit views and proposals on solutions and policies to resolve the COVID-19 pandemic by addressing the SDGs. **Among all the proposals submitted, some of the key points that were highlighted by the body were ensuring sustainable development, inclusion of all groups of people, particularly those more vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic, and access to inclusive healthcare systems.**

### 4. Conclusion

One of ECOSOC's main priorities is to promote higher standards of living and employment and economic and social progress and address the complex challenges of environmental, social, and economic issues on sustainable development. These interconnected issues encompass many SDGs, such as SDG 1 (no poverty), 3 (good health and well-being), 4 (quality education), 8 (decent work and economic growth), and 13 (climate action), which offer challenges to inclusive and sustainable economic growth globally, if not addressed altogether. The green economy that is discussed by many organizations, such as UNEP and OCED, offer methods that can promote economic growth while considering sustainability and additional environmental damages. This involves developing institutions that promote sustainable consumption and production and allocating scarce resources more efficiency. **However, there are multiple ways to achieve sustainable growth and development, as conditions in each country differs significantly, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. To achieve inclusive and sustainable growth, economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development cannot be separated, as they are all**



**necessary to address this complex issue.** With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, challenges such as increasing inequality and lack of social protections, prove to be a problem to growth and development, especially among developing economies. Therefore the world must unite to overcome these difficulties to truly reach the goal of sustainable development.

### **5.Suggestion Research**

When researching this topic, delegates should consider the following elements:

1. ECOSOC address growth through all three elements of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental).
2. Ensure that its policies are inclusive to all populations.
3. Member States can incorporate the green economy into their sustainable development agenda.
4. Addressing the social and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic help achieve SDG 8 and inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

### **6.Possible Solutions**

1. A consensus of tariffs reduction among the member states.
2. An example of the developed countries to give up partially of their interests in order to establish a sustainable and green economic growth pattern.
3. Agreements on debt alleviation
4. A long term plan of stimulate the global economic after the pandemic.

### **7. Bloc Positions**

#### **North America**

The United States, along with China, is one of the world's largest economies. The U.S. has a per capita GDP of \$57,300, the largest in the world. Its economy has undergone major transformations from agriculture to manufacturing and then from manufacturing to services. Some experts say it has been moving from a services-based economy to an information-based one where knowledge is the main source of value. Yet the world is now facing a change that has never been seen before, The US will need to find a way to consolidate their position in the new world. Technology is a driving force behind Canada's economy. The oil boom has

transformed the undeveloped wastelands of the north into an economic engine. Oil is only one of Canada's many resources. It is known with abundant timber and other minerals, many of which are exported along with the tar sands oil to the US. Thanks to the abundance of resources and the technology to harvest them, Canada enjoys a per capita GDP of \$46,200, one of the world's highest. Like the U.S. it is services-based, with 70% of jobs in the services sector, but its industrial employment is 28% which is greater than in the U.S., partially due to the explosion of investment in oil extraction in the North.

### **Europe**

Europe constitutes an important and dynamic region of the world, at least in retrospect. The first recorded industrialization process in history occurred in northwestern Europe. This process dramatically transformed the income structure, patterns of consumption, and growth potential of the European societies. On the one hand, many indicators suggest that the roots or sources of this dynamic are to be found much further back than 1800. On the other hand, it is also clear that this development would scarcely have been possible in the scale in which it occurred without the increasing interconnectedness of the global economy and the increasing interaction with actors, regions and cultural circles outside Europe, which had already begun in the late-medieval period. However, with the uprising of the third-world countries, the international trading and commerce have met a tremendous change in all aspects, Europe need to find a new way to fit in.

### **Developing Countries**

It is undoubtedly clear that developing nations are not inherently poor in international trade. However, the reason for them lagging behind is the challenges that are both internal and external. It is also clear that efforts by developed nations to assist them and continuous rhetoric of commitment to poverty eradication are just but window dressing measures taken by the developed nations to avoid blame.

In addition, the developed nations only support the developing nations when their interests are taken care of in the deal. However, in the event that the situations changes to their disadvantage, they quickly change their terms of involvement. In fact they use the international trade rules to frustrate the exports from developing countries that threaten their domestic markets.

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