



**The Economic and Social Council
(ECOSOC)**

Topic:

Strengthening strategies to promote equitable development, such as inclusive economic policies, investment in education and fair-trade practices

Chairs:

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Committee Background:

Established in 1945, the Economics and Social Council of the United Nations, known as ECOSOC, was established to address the three dimensions of sustainable development which are economic, social, and environmental affairs. As one of the United Nations' main organs, its objective is to promote debate and innovation between nations to achieve internationally agreed goals.

Powers and responsibilities:

ECOSOC, as one of the main organs of the UN, is responsible for coordinating the work done by the 14 United Nations specialized agencies, 10 functional commissions, and 5 regional commissions. This committee also receives reports from 9 UN funds and programs and issues policy recommendations to the UN system and its member states.

ECOSOC's responsibilities also include the promotion of higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social development, identifying solutions to various international problems such as economics, health, and social ambits, as well as facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation, finally encouraging respect towards universal human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Current Operations:

Some of ECOSOC's key operations and activities in 2025 include:

1. Monitoring and Coordination of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
2. High-Level Forums and Policy Dialogue
3. Advice and Recommendations on Global Policies
4. Monitoring the Compliance with Human Rights
5. Activities Related to Global Governance
6. Sustainable Development and Climate Change
7. Capacity Building in Developing Countries
8. Collaboration with Civil Society and the Private Sector
9. Humanitarian Assistance and Crisis Response

Background information:

The concept of equitable development refers to the inclusion of all social groups for economic, social, health, and environmental development, thus including disadvantaged, marginalized, and similar groups so that they have an impact and improvement in branches such as economy, employment, and education, thus providing them with safe and easy access to a greater range of infrastructures, improving their life quality and other fundamental human rights.

The challenges of equitable development are related to almost every single one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which are objectives established by the UN in the 2030 agenda. The complexity of trying to aboard every goal without leaving any aside is the main reason why the idea of equitable development has been a true challenge.

Origin and Historical Context:

Equitable development has been present since the foundation of the United Nations in 1945, after World War II countries devastated by war and current developing countries at the time were acknowledged and focused as countries in need of global development, also events like the Development Revolution in the 1960s, the UN began to take a more active stance in international development, particularly in the context of decolonization. Many newly independent countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America faced major challenges of poverty and underdevelopment. That's why in 1961 a program named the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) was created and it aimed to promote economic and social development in nations and fight against poverty and inequality.

In 1990 the Human Development Report established a new perspective on development, which had the purpose of focusing primarily on human well-being rather than just economic growth, and instead of only measuring progress by Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the Report proposed the Human Development Index (HDI), which considers aspects such as health, education and standard of living, recognizing that equitable development cannot be achieved through material wealth alone, but through equal access to opportunities and rights.

Key terms:

- Equitable Development – A process that seeks to ensure that all people, regardless of their socioeconomic background, have the same opportunities for growth and well-being in economic, social, and environmental terms.
- Inclusive Economic Policies – A set of government strategies that seek to integrate all sectors of the population in economic development, reducing inequality gaps and promoting equitable access to resources and opportunities.
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – The UN's global agenda is composed of 17 interconnected goals that seek to eradicate poverty, protect the planet, and ensure the well-being of all people by 2030.

Guiding Questions:

1. What are the main obstacles to equitable development in developing countries?
2. How can inclusive economic policies reduce the inequality gap in access to opportunities?
3. What role does investment in education play in equitable development at the global level?
4. What have been the positive and negative impacts of fair trade practices on the global economy?
5. How can the Sustainable Development Goals contribute to economic and social equity?
6. How can international cooperation strengthen equitable development strategies in countries with vulnerable economies?
7. What successful examples exist of countries that have implemented equitable development policies effectively?
8. How does economic inequality affect the political and social stability of a nation?
9. What is the relationship between climate change and equity in global development?
10. What impact do digitalization and technology have on reducing the economic and educational gap?

11. How do microfinance policies influence the empowerment of marginalized communities?
12. How can companies actively contribute to economic equity through Corporate Social Responsibility?
13. What is the role of governments in regulating foreign direct investment to ensure equitable development?
14. How do free trade agreements affect the economies of developing countries?
15. How can equitable development strategies be ensured to respect and protect human rights?
16. What policies have international organizations such as the UN or the IMF implemented to promote equity in development?
17. What are the specific challenges women face inequitable access to the economy and education?
18. How can local initiatives be complemented by global policies to achieve equitable development?
19. What impact does migration have on the equity of a country's economic and social development?
20. How can the success of strategies implemented to promote equitable development be effectively measured?

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