

Forum: Security Council

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TOPIC 1: The issue of the redistribution of global resources.

I. Introduction to the Topic

The issue of redistribution of global resources originates from the issue of unequal distribution of global resources between countries, resources such as land, and agricultural products. Demands for products are escalating, and as a result, it may jeopardise access to some essential resources and cause environmental harm. Uneven geographical distribution of some resources could further increase the instability of prices, undermining living standards and even contributing to geopolitical conflicts.

- International

Rates of inequality have been rising rapidly in the past several decades. While some countries significantly decreased their numbers of people living in extreme poverty and progressed significantly in terms of technology and wealth, economic gaps especially between the Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) and the More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) have continued to grow. The increasing inequality could prevent the UN from achieving the goal of reducing inequalities of the Sustainable Development Goals, and may require the assistance of and collaboration between member nations.

- Regional

The growth rate of output in a regional economy is positively impacted by inequalities of other regions. This means that if the disparity between the MEDCs and the LEDCs continues to grow, MEDCs near LEDC regions will likely benefit economically. However, regional inequality also leads to price volatility in resources and as a result increases risks for conflict.

- National

Poverty is present in MEDCs and LEDCs alike, where many citizens suffer from the unequal distribution of wealth. It is not only the number one goal of the SDGs but a collective concern between all member countries. When there is an unequal distribution of resources, it ultimately weakens a country's Gross Domestic Product per capita (GDP per capita), its national economy.

- Local

Uneven distribution of global resources in local areas will likely result in income disparity between various neighbourhoods, which in the long run could affect the economic well-being of the entire country.

II. Definition of Key Terms & Concepts

Definition of Key Terms

More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs): countries that have a strong economy where the majority of their population enjoys a good standard of living. This means that the citizens receive stable education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs): low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development. They are often highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and have low levels of human assets.

The Sustainable Development Goals: a set of goals that formed from an international conference regarding the adaptation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development consisting of calls to action for the end of major global issues, such as poverty, inequality, and climate action.

Natural Resources: resources that are drawn from nature and used with few modifications. With the increasing demand for resources and increasing levels of pollution, they have been decreasing over the past several decades.

Mutual Defence Treaty (MDT): an agreement that commits two countries to provide mutual aid if either faces external armed attack and usually allows the country proposing the MDT to station their troops inside the other country

The Great Divide: disparities between the MEDCs and the LEDCs in terms of wealth, economy, resources, etc.

III. Key Stakeholders

MEDCs: MEDCs are countries that have a strong economy, and they are the countries that mostly assist and fund humanitarian aid, peacekeeping, and many other UN- driven notions.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): The OHCHR is a branch of the United Nations (UN) that concerns itself with the progression and implementation of human rights and discuss issues pertaining to the concern, including equal distribution of human resources,

United Nations: an international governing body formed in 1945 to increase political and economic cooperation among its member countries

The P5 Nations: 5 permanent members of the United Nations Security Council that have veto power over other countries, a power that can reject a notion if one of the five permanent members makes use of its veto

Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC): Developing countries that are surrounded by land and therefore do not have territories connected to the ocean.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Less developed island countries

IV. Key Issues including Background Information

Key Issue 1: It is indisputable that global resources, from the beginning of humanity to modern times have been unequally distributed, hence the labels for “MEDCs,” developed countries usually with an overabundance of supplies, and “LEDCs,” less developed countries often with limited or little to no essential materials, even stable sources of food and sanitary water. As a result, in order to reduce inequality, supporting LEDCs are necessary, whether the support is from an international fundraising organization or from the MEDCs.

Key Issue 2: While assistance from other countries is needed in terms of the distribution of manufactured goods, the distribution of natural resources largely depends on the geological conditions of the countries. For example, the distribution of oil is centred around countries like Venezuela because they are situated above massive formations of organic-rich rocks ideal for oil deposits and thrive economically off of such deposits, which means that distributing them could severely damage their economies.

Key Issue 3: In a mainly capitalist society where countries compete economically, in terms of export markets, inward foreign direct investment, and distribution of resources seem contradictory to their competitive nature. Furthermore because of the constant need to expand due to the economy’s capitalistic nature, distributing resources will likely negatively affect national economies.

V. Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date

Description of event

- 1945 The United Nations (UN) was formed. The UN aimed to maintain security and peace among its member nations and fulfill the 17 SDGs, the core of their goals.
- 1965 The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was formed. The UNDP aims to alleviate poverty, promote peace and equality, and reduce economic inequality.
- 1994 The United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) was formed. The UNFC is a tool for harmonising policy framework, assisting government oversight, industry business process, and efficient capital allocation.
- 1996 The World Food Summit took place in Rome where all member states of the UN pledged their political wills and national commitment to achieve food security and eradicate hunger in all countries in many ways such as food security programs that distribute food supplies to LEDCs.
- 2003 The Borgen Project, an organization politically operating to advocate for the world's poor, was established. The national American campaign works with U.S. leaders to improve their response to the global poverty crisis and the distribution of essential resources.
- 2016 The SDGs were published as a result of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. The SDGs set goals for the member states to achieve until 2030, including reducing inequalities among countries, hunger, and poverty.

VI. Possible Challenges & Solutions

Key Issue 1: A trade system could be a solution to the distribution of manufacturing goods as well as natural resources, such as agricultural goods, which are global resources. Many LEDCs, such as Brazil and Iraq contain essential natural resources such as minerals and petroleum, a liquid that can be extracted and refined to produce fuels. Such countries can exchange their natural resources in return for assistance.

Key Issue 2: The unequal distribution of natural resources can lead to volatility in their prices and can result in international conflict, the Iran–Iraq War being a prominent example. In order to further distribute natural resources while minimizing economical and potentially political damage, modifications in the current existing international trading policies in natural resources could be a solution.

Key Issue 3: From an MEDC perspective, the formation of treaties similar to those of mutual defence treaties, where one country has partial control over another country, but in return for the control they have

to offer protection and other potential necessary resources to the latter country. This method has been proven effective numerous times, seeing the peace established from the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) of 1953 between South Korea and the United States (the US) and the MDT of 1951 between the US and the Philippines persists to this day.

VII. Recommendations for Resolution Writing including Research

Drafting resolutions is a difficult process, and here are a few tips for assistance:

1. Unfortunately, the delegates of low income LEDCs do not hold as much authority as some of the high-income MEDCs and lack sufficient funding to carry out certain notions, such as establishing new organizations. Therefore, if LEDC delegates want to propose such a notion, it is imperative that they include various incentives MEDCs will get if the notion requires cooperation with MEDCs.
2. LLDCs are less developed countries that do not have direct access to a seaport. As a result, their seaborne trade almost always must transit through other countries, which is a process that involves dealing with cumbersome border-crossing procedures and inadequate transit transport infrastructure. LLDC delegates should focus and draft clauses centering on establishing stable, and, if possible, transparent transport systems of trade goods to ensure that the countries in which the resources pass through do not take advantage of the cargo.
3. The crux of SIDs is that they usually lack the presence of international markets because the costs of any form of transportation to and from those countries are very high. SIDs should focus on persuading and/or cooperating with MEDCs and other potentially relevant organizations in order to establish an international market and to determine a stable source of funding for imports and exports of goods in their countries in exchange for incentives, such as giving the assisting MEDCs partial control over the SIDs' marine territories or giving a part of revenue generated from their exports.
4. High income MEDCs such as Japan and the United Kingdom need neither financial assistance nor basic resources, for they already have them. Delegates representing high-income countries should take the opportunity to demand as many incentives as possible from the countries that request their assistance.

VIII. Bibliography

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IX: Additional Resources

If there are any relevant maps, images or data that will help your delegates better understand the issue, include those in this section.