*Delegates*,

My Name is Jasmine Gaines and I have the pleasure of serving as your Director for this year’s High School Model United Nations Conference. I am currently a third-year student at Kennesaw State University with a Major in International Affairs, and a minor in Asian Studies and Political Science while working towards a certificate in Intelligence and Homeland Security. This year I am also Vice President of Kennesaw State’s Model United Nations Team and the Senator of Radow’s College of Humanities and Social Sciences for our Student Government Association. After graduation, I plan to travel abroad while seeking my Masters Degree in Integrated Global Communication. My long-term career goal involves working in the Central Intelligence Agency or as a foreign ambassador.

Joining Director Gaines is Assistant Director Claudia Irina Garavis Montagut. She is a second-year international student from Colombia at Kennesaw State University with a Major in International Affairs, and a minor in Political Science while working towards two certificates in International Law and Intelligence and Homeland Security. In addition, she is an honors student, tour guide, brand ambassador, the President of Kennesaw State’s Model United Nations Team, and a member of the International Student Association and the Museum of History and Holocaust Education Advisory Council. After graduation, she is planning to seek her Masters Degree in Conflict Management or International Policy Management. Her long-term career goals are based on living abroad and working with Intergovernmental and Non-profit Organizations.

**In relevance to this year’s theme, the topics under discussion for Economic and Social Council are:**

1. **Maintaining an Equal Gender Perspective within Institutions**
2. **Creating Full and Productive Employment as a Way of Overcoming Inequalities**

The Economic and Social Council’s main objective is topromote environmental, economic, and social progress for the betterment of our future in relevance to the sustainable development goals. Each Member State’s delegation within this committee is expected to submit a position paper presenting their ideas for both agenda topics. A position paper is a short essay describing your Member State’s history and position on the issues at hand. There are three key parts to any successful position paper: history, the current status of the issue, and possible solutions for the future. Information for properly formatting the position papers, as well as valuable advice for writing a quality paper, can be found in the Delegate Preparation section of the HSMUN webpage (http://conference.kennesaw.edu/hsmun/). Delegates are reminded that papers should be no longer than two pages in length with titles in size 12 and text in size 10-12 Times New Roman. Citations should be footnoted in Chicago-style formatting, such as those used inside this guide. Furthermore, plagiarism in an academic setting is unacceptable and will nullify any score for the paper in question. During the grading process, we will be utilizing the university’s plagiarism checker. Wikipedia is a wonderful place to begin researching, but we highly encourage the use of peer-reviewed academic articles or trusted media sources. The objective of a position paper is to present the diplomatic position of your Member State on both agenda topics as accurately as possible. ***All position papers MUST be sent to ksuhsmun2024@gmail.com by , 2024. Late papers will be accepted until , 2024 with points penalized.***

**History of the Economic and Social Council**

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, established by the UN Charter in 1945.[[1]](#footnote-0) The primary purpose is to coordinate the economic, social, and related work of 15 UN specialized agencies, their functional commissions, and five regional commissions.[[2]](#footnote-1) ECOSOC serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues and formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the United Nations system. It is responsible for promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress; identifying solutions to international economic, social, and health problems; facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation; and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Council's structure has evolved over time. Initially, ECOSOC had 18 members, however, this number has increased to 54, ensuring a broad geographical representation. Members are elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms. The presidency of ECOSOC changes annually, rotating among the various regional groups.

ECOSOC plays a key role in the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, and it is responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits. It meets annually in July for a high-level segment, where ministers and other high-level officials gather to discuss major economic, social, and environmental policy issues.One of ECOSOC's significant contributions has been the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and, more recently, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which seek to address global challenges such as poverty, hunger, ill-health, illiteracy, and environmental degradation.[[3]](#footnote-2) The Council has faced criticism for its complex bureaucracy and the overlap of its activities with other UN bodies. Despite these challenges, ECOSOC continues to play a crucial role in shaping the international agenda for economic and social development and in promoting collaboration among various stakeholders to achieve sustainable development.

1. **Maintaining an Equal Gender Perspective within Institutions**

***Introduction***

Maintaining an equal gender perspective within institutions, particularly in the context of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is a crucial aspect of fostering sustainable development and equitable governance. Gender equality is not just a fundamental human right. but also a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) plays a pivotal role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, which are integral to its mission of addressing global economic, social, and environmental challenges. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a functional commission of ECOSOC, is the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to this cause ECOSOC's role in discussing and coordinating work on global challenges extends to integrating gender perspectives in its policies and programs.[[4]](#footnote-3) This aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 5, which targets gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. [[5]](#footnote-4)

***History***

In 2010, during the High-level Segment of ECOSOC, significant discussions were held on implementing internationally agreed goals and commitments regarding gender equality, highlighting the Council's ongoing commitment to these issues.[[6]](#footnote-5) Further emphasizing its commitment, ECOSOC adopted a resolution titled, “Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programs in the United Nations system.” This resolution reaffirms the importance of integrating a gender perspective in areas such as innovation, technological change, and education in the digital age.[[7]](#footnote-6) It also encourages the United Nations system to expedite the mainstreaming of a gender perspective at all levels of its work. Since 1997, ECOSOC has issued several resolutions pertaining to gender mainstreaming, which provide guidance on integrating a gender perspective into all United Nations policies and programs. These efforts demonstrate ECOSOC's dedication to ensuring that gender equality is a central element in its endeavors to address the myriad challenges facing the world today.

***Current Situation***

The Economic and Social Council is instrumental in advocating for the integration of gender perspectives into economic policies. This advocacy is crucial for ensuring that the distinct economic roles, rights, and needs of men and women are recognized and addressed, thereby facilitating equitable access to resources and economic opportunities. Another significant focus is on embedding gender mainstreaming in social development initiatives. This means that both men’s and women’s perspectives are considered in all stages of policy-making processes, particularly in critical social sectors such as education, health, and employment. The aim is to eliminate gender disparities and promote equal opportunities for all. The Council strongly supports initiatives that enhance women's participation in leadership and decision-making processes.[[8]](#footnote-7) Promoting female representation in governance at all levels, the Council contributes to more inclusive and equitable governance structures, recognizing that diverse leadership leads to more comprehensive and effective policymaking. One of the innovative approaches adopted by the Council is advocating for gender-responsive budgeting. This approach ensures that budgets are designed to address gender disparities effectively and to fulfill the rights of women and girls. Aligns financial resources with commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment.[[9]](#footnote-8)

ECOSOC also plays a pivotal role in the monitoring and evaluation of progress towards achieving gender equality goals within Member States This involves assessing the effectiveness of policies and programs in reducing gender gaps and promoting equality. Collaborating with various stakeholders, includingMember States, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, is a key strategy employed by the Council. These partnerships are vital for mobilizing resources, sharing best practices, and advocating for gender-sensitive approaches at the global level.[[10]](#footnote-9)

***Conclusion***

In conclusion, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) plays an essential role in promoting gender equality and empowering women as part of its broader mission to address global challenges. Through resolutions and the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, ECOSOC has consistently emphasized the importance of integrating a gender perspective into all policies and programs.The initiatives in areas such as gender-responsive budgeting, advocating for women's participation in leadership, and embedding gender mainstreaming in social development highlight its commitment to eliminating gender disparities and promoting equal opportunities. ECOSOC's efforts in monitoring and collaborating with various stakeholders underscore its dedication to ensuring gender equality is central in its endeavors, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5. These initiatives demonstrate ECOSOC's ongoing commitment to making gender equality a central element in addressing the myriad of challenges facing the world today, thereby contributing to a more peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable future for all.

***Committee Directive***

Delegates to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) should focus on crafting papers that address the critical need for ensuring an equal gender perspective across all Member States. This involves a comprehensive evaluation of how gender disparities impact economic growth and labor market dynamics within each Member State, particularly in light of global challenges. Delegates are encouraged to formulate gender-responsive strategies that integrate gender perspectives into economic and social policies, aiming to rectify existing disparities. A key aspect of their work should involve promoting international collaboration, with a focus on gender equality in economic recovery and development initiatives. Papers should also consider how ECOSOC can facilitate Member States' actions in addressing gender inequality, especially in employment and economic sectors. Engaging both the public and private sectors to ensure inclusive and productive employment opportunities is crucial. Finally, delegates should propose plans for building resilient economies with a strong emphasis on gender equality, ensuring that all societal sectors are equally equipped to handle future economic challenges.

1. **Creating Full and Productive Employment as a Way of Overcoming Inequalities**

***Introduction***

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) recognizes the importance of maintaining employment within Member States, as a way to overcome development issues such as inequalities. Similarly, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must be taken into account to understand the complexity of creating productive employment. Specifically, special attention should be paid to Goal 10 of the SDGs, which aims to reduce inequality within and among Member States. Additionally, evidence from national and international experiences shows that rising inequality is not inevitable.[[11]](#footnote-10) Creating full and productive employment and global decent work is a proven pathway to reducing inequality in high percentages.[[12]](#footnote-11) Subsequently, good outcomes come as a result of guaranteeing employment, some of them are: Helping people escape poverty, promoting equality of opportunity and treatment, and empowering and improving the well-being of marginalized and disadvantaged social groups.[[13]](#footnote-12) As the strain on international cooperation increases, the responses and initiatives taken regarding the creation of full employment during times of crisis are now more important than ever.

***History***

Since the early 1990s, an exceptional period of decline in global inequality has been seen across transitional borders.[[14]](#footnote-13) As a consequence of this negative season, a reversal in the upward trend of equality is happening currently. Between 1993 and 2017, global inequality declined by 34 per cent, and one third of the gap between Member States was closed in about 25 years due to the economic development of emerging economies.[[15]](#footnote-14) Similarly, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has developed various strategies to overcome the inequality disbalances, especially regarding employment issues. In 2006, ECOSOC organized its High-level Segment on the theme, “Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development.”[[16]](#footnote-15) Subsequently, in 2012, ECOSOC returned to the issue of employment with the Annual Ministerial Review, (AMR) addressed jobs and growth topics.[[17]](#footnote-16) The sum of these initiatives has represented positive changes in the development and economic growth of every Member State. Following this, economic recovery in emerging markets is expected to be applied between Member States to maintain effective policies and strategies to improve inequality.

***Current Situation***

As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, various forms of inequality and recovery were deepened. Additionally, rates of economic growth and labor market recovery stayed in uneven terms for the past years. Although labor productivity rebounded in 2021 by rising by 2.4 per cent, productivity growth slowed in 2022, increasing by only 0.5 per cent.[[18]](#footnote-17) This disbalance of productivity growth is a concern for the international community since multiple crises have been raised among Member States. Another factor to take into consideration is the variation in recovery patterns across global zones. Low and middle income Member States have shown much lower employment growth trends than high income Member States, mainly due to the lower constrained fiscal space.[[19]](#footnote-18) Historically, the most immediate impact of the conflict on labor markets in developing Member States has been caused by rising inflation, which has a direct effect on the purchasing power of workers and their families.[[20]](#footnote-19)

***Conclusion***

Overcoming inequalities is a difficult goal that the international community must achieve. Creating full and productive employment represents an important tool for all Member States to improve economic growth. Investment in promoting capabilities through universal access to quality education and lifelong learning and skills training, universal health coverage, equal opportunities, social protection and equitable access to clean energy, safe water and sanitation is a prerequisite for reducing multiple aspects of inequality and improving decent work prospects for all.[[21]](#footnote-20) However, current solutions to help financial development face challenging difficulties in building financial prosperity. As such, multilateral efforts are needed to restructure labor markets in the international community by Creating Full and Productive Employment as a Way of Overcoming Inequalities.

***Committee Directive***

Due to the threat represented by the COVID-19 pandemic that has deepened various forms of inequality and recovery from it, ECOSOC must effectively assist Member States with generating employment. Other international conflicts have also affected rates of economic growth and labor market recovery. Based on these global issues, delegates should assess how their Member State is impacted and look for innovative solutions to generate international cooperation and communication along borders. Delegates should think about how the ECOSOC can support Member States’ actions in addressing immediate and long-term economic decline, especially in employment matters. Consideration should be given to how the private and public sectors can be mobilized to assist and guarantee full and productive employment for all sectors of society. Overall, delegates should pay special attention to how the United Nations coordination can potentially address employment needs to help Member States’ workforces be more resilient in the event of future economic disruption.

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3. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs). United Nations. Accessed November 14, 2023. https://sdgs.un.org/goals [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. Commission on the Status of Women, UN Women. United Nations Accessed November 13, 2023. https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. Dialogues at the economic and social council: Achieving gender equality, women’s empowerment and strengthening development cooperation. (2011). United Nations. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
7. Economic, U. N., Social Council (2018-2019 : New York, & Geneva). (2019). Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system :: resolution /: adopted by the Economic and Social Council. https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3810384?ln=en [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
8. United Nations. “Economic and Social Council.” *UN Women – Headquarters*, www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/intergovernmental-support/economic-and-social-council. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
9. UN Women. “Handbook on Gender Mainstreaming for Gender Equality Results.” *UN Women – Headquarters*, 2022, www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/02/handbook-on-gender-mainstreaming-for-gender-equality-results. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
10. UN Women. “What Is Gender-Responsive Budgeting?” UN Women – Headquarters, 13 Nov. 2023, www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/explainer/2023/11/what-is-gender-responsive-budgeting. Accessed 27 Nov. 2023.​​ [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
11. United Nations, *Creating Full And Productive Employment And Decent Work For All As A Way Of Overcoming Inequalities To Accelerate The Recovery From The COVID-19 Pandemic And The Full Implementation Of The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development,* February 6, 2023, https://social.desa.un.org/publications/creating-full-and-productive-employment-and-decent-work-for-all-as-a-way-of-overcoming [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
12. United Nations, *Creating Full And Productive Employment And Decent Work For All As A Way Of Overcoming Inequalities To Accelerate The Recovery From The COVID-19 Pandemic And The Full Implementation Of The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development.* [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
13. United Nations, *Creating Full And Productive Employment And Decent Work For All As A Way Of Overcoming Inequalities To Accelerate The Recovery From The COVID-19 Pandemic And The Full Implementation Of The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development.* [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
14. United Nations, *Creating Full And Productive Employment And Decent Work For All As A Way Of Overcoming Inequalities To Accelerate The Recovery From The COVID-19 Pandemic And The Full Implementation Of The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development.* [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
15. United Nations, *Creating Full And Productive Employment And Decent Work For All As A Way Of Overcoming Inequalities To Accelerate The Recovery From The COVID-19 Pandemic And The Full Implementation Of The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development.* [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
16. United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Employment*, n.d., https://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/employment.shtml [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
17. United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Employment.* [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
18. International Labour Organization, Assessing the current state of the global labour market: Implications for achieving the Global Goals, March 13, 2023,https://ilostat.ilo.org/assessing-the-current-state-of-the-global-labour-market-implications-for-achieving-the-global-goals/#:~:text=After%20a%20sharp%20decline%20in,been%20slowing%20around%20the%20world. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
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20. United Nations, *Creating Full And Productive Employment And Decent Work For All As A Way Of Overcoming Inequalities To Accelerate The Recovery From The COVID-19 Pandemic And The Full Implementation Of The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development.* [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
21. United Nations, *Creating Full And Productive Employment And Decent Work For All As A Way Of Overcoming Inequalities To Accelerate The Recovery From The COVID-19 Pandemic And The Full Implementation Of The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development.* [↑](#footnote-ref-20)