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BACKGROUND GUIDE: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Hello, delegates! My name is Sou Min Shin and I will be one of your chairs for ECOFIN. I'm currently a senior at Yongsan International School of Seoul and this is the seventh year of my MUN career. ECOFIN is a rather very interesting committee for me in that most of my MUN experiences were involved with the Security Council or the Human Rights Council. I will be focusing on your diplomatic behavior, active participation, and ability to write resolution papers. But the most important part is to have fun in this committee! MUN has always been a place for me to make new friends and build relationships. I am looking forward to an active, engaging committee!

My name is Junyoung Baik, and I am very excited to be your co-chair for the upcoming ECOFIN committee. To provide some brief information about myself, I am currently a senior at the Yongsan International School of Seoul (YISS), and I've been an MUN-er since 9th grade. As for my experience as an MUN-er, I've done a number of conferences both in and out of Korea in a variety of formats (e.g. GA Plenary, Historical Simulation, etc.). If you have any other questions about me, I'd love to go over them during committee breaks!

That's pretty much it, as of now! If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks for paying attention, and I'll see you soon.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The Economic and Financial Committee convened in Guyana on 1 October 2012. In the past, ECOFIN has taken according measures to address issues of financial sustainability and economic cooperation between countries. This committee focused on the issues of Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries to discuss about international measures for preventing financial crisis. Previous works include collaboration with the IMF and World Bank to ensure welfare and economic stability. The ECOFIN regularly convenes to discuss the issues of global economics and finances. It often reviews the nature of member states' macroeconomic policies, addresses current pressing global crises, and explores measures to solve these problems. They have worked extensively on the issues of starvation, poverty, globalization, communication, and inclusive growth.

AGENDA 1

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Sustainable Development
Sustainable development is the organizing principle for meeting human development goals while at the same time sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem.

Renewable energy vs Nonrenewable energy
Renewable energy and nonrenewable energies are sources of utilizing natural resources to produce energy. The difference would are from the materials. Renewable energies are "renewable" in the sense that the materials are not "consumed." Some examples of this would be solar, wind, hydropower, etc. Nonrenewables are the opposite, which consumes material (namely through burning) to gain energy, and produce a waste product that can, if not properly treated, pollute water, air, etc.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
The UNFCCC is an international climate treaty signed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. The UNFCCC focuses on reducing climate change via stabilizing the green gas productions across the world. Some notable elements would be their global warming policies that focuses on preventing an increase of temperatures, and specific clauses asking developed nations to lead the way.

Paris Agreement
This is one of the keystone achievements of Former President Barack Obama, who managed to further the deal to reduce global CO2 emissions across the world. Commonly regarded as the world's first comprehensive climate change response by many. It is designed to be a bottom-up approach where individual nations set their own goals and needs, but are expected to perform and commit more than the previous UNFCCC arrangements.

Copenhagen Accord
One of the post-UNFCCC documents signed in 2009 that focuses on the carbon emission commitments of specific nations. Problems with it are mainly in the fact that it is not binding, and that the accords were drafted by five nations out of the G77, which condemned the Accord as a means of securing "economic security of a few nations."

Kyoto Agreement
The Agreement was drafted and ratified by states in 1997 as the extension to the UNFCCC drafted in Rio de Janeiro. One of the first comprehensive attempts after the UNFCCC to address global emissions of greenhouse gases. Some elements of this includes the International Emissions Trading (the trading of licenses and emission units), etc.

Super Grid
A super grid is a wide area network that makes it possible to trade high volumes of electricity across great distances. It is sometimes also referred to as a "mega grid." Currently being developed as an inter-continental and national system, the Super Grid may become a major revolution in terms of energy

production and consumption.

HVDC / HVAC

High-voltage direct current (HVDC) and High-voltage alternate current (HVAC) are modern and developing technologies of electricity transportation over long distances. HVDC is developing field, where people are considering the option of using newly invented cables to transport high amounts of electricity over entire nations and continents via direct current. Given the limited space for definitions, one should go to the internet and make sure to read over the debate for either direct or alternate currents in power plants. A good place to start would be Edison and his contemporaries' discussions over Direct and Alternate currents.

Electricity Transmission Corridor

Essentially Electricity Transmission Corridors are the space surrounding the cables that will be placed in the nations. For safety concerns, it would be reasonable to claim that the region around it would not be settled by any people.

Intertie

Interties are interconnections, permitting passage of current between two or more electric utility systems.

AGENDA INFORMATION

Historical Background

For the longest time, humans have sought to develop new means of securing more energy for various purposes. However, with the industrial revolution, the real focus of energy has become intertwined with the productivity of a nation. The discovery of steam power via coal and crude oil has led to an epoch of human history that has seen the unparalleled production of goods that have bettered the lives of millions and billions of people. Unfortunately, the environmental consequences of these fast-paced developments have begun to creep up with us.

Climate change, a buzzword in recent years, has become one of the prime concerns previously mentioned above. As devastating typhoons, rising water-levels, and other natural disasters begin to affect the human way of life, the argument to correct these developments have become a common theme.

Some agreements have been made, such as the UNFCCC, or the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992), the Kyoto and Copenhagen Accords (1995, 2009), and most recently the Paris Agreement (2016) to combat the rising concern of the world becoming "inhospitable." All of these agreements are hallmarks in modern history, focusing on aid, cooperation, and standardizing climate criteria between nations.

With the advent of electricity since modern times, the debate about energy production has become even heated. As the need for energy has become even greater in recent years, interests in sustainable development are becoming a serious driver of evolving energy industries. One such example is the Super Grid. The idea came about in Britain when the government was consolidating their electricity grids in the 1960s, and since then, major figures such as John F. Kennedy have made it a project worth pursuing. As more and more technologies emerge that may assist electrical transmission, the more and more appealing Super Grids become.

Status Quo

The most current development has been the controversial Paris Agreement. Signed and ratified by a great number of UN and non-UN member states, the Paris Agreement places a great deal of focus on the development of state-driven projects and caps on carbon and greenhouse gas emissions. However, with US President Donald J. Trump deciding to pull the US out of the agreement, the future of the Paris Agreement has been jeopardized.

In terms of the traditional energy market, coal and crude oil has seen a record low in terms of prices. Such developments are making the energy industries rumble as new sustainable energy sources are coming to the fro, such as China's solar panels.

Relevant to this is the emerging debates concerning supergrids. As of now, Europe and the EU holds the world's largest and continuous energy highway. Similar discussions are emerging in the US, East Asia, North Africa, etc. over discussions of the potential building of international and even intercontinental supergrids. However, most of these discussions are not yet formalized, as the only successful example to date is the EU model. As Russia attempts to consolidate its Oil Hegemony over Europe, the EU has much in stake to expand and grow their current model. China and East Asia, plagued by air pollution also may see potential grounds for utilizing renewable energy sources such as wind from Siberia, solar energy from Mongolia, etc.

STANCES OF UN MEMBER STATES AND PARTIES

While looking into the individual nations, this section also will consider the issue in large geopolitical sections. For our purposes, we've divided them into traditional versus non-traditional energy-source producers and consumers. All sources on the nations themselves are from the US CIA The World Factbook.

The development of new energy sources is a serious challenge to the established oil and coal giants such as Russia and OPEC, and as the US moves back to place premiums in its coal industries, resistance in adopting new sustainable energy sources is becoming a reality.

Also, a different aspect of this is between the existing Oil giants such as OPEC (past and present) members as well as Russia, and the non-OPEC consumers. As Russia attempts to solidify its control over the European states to the West, there is a growing geopolitical consensus that developing a supergrid can remove the need for Russian gas. The same extends for nations such as China who is a major importer of oil from OPEC members.

When researching, please consider the factors mentioned above, such as traditional and non-traditional energy source producer or consumer, OPEC or non-OPEC, developing nation or developed nation. If you have any questions, please email Junyoung and he'll be more than willing to direct you to certain sources to focus on.

USA
The second largest producer and consumer of electricity in the world, producing nearly 4.1 trillion kWh (kilowatt-hours), and consuming 3.9 trillion kWh. The largest importer of crude oil (7.85 million bbl/day, or barrels of oil per day) and carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (5.4 billion Mt, or megatonnes).

Canada
The world's seventh largest producer and consumer of electricity, producing nearly 643.2 billion kWh, while consuming 516.6 billion kWh. Produces 11.4% of electricity from renewable resources (65th in the world). Twelfth (12th) largest importer of crude oil (892,500 bbl/day) and carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (564 million Mt).

Mexico
The world's 14th largest producer of electricity (292.7 billion kWh) and 16th largest consumer of electricity (245.2 billion kWh). Produces 8.5% of electricity from renewable resources (75th in the world). Does not import crude oil, but produces 1.2 million bbl/day (15th in world) and 15th largest carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (455 million Mt).

Brazil
The world's ninth largest producer and consumer of electricity, producing nearly 559.2 billion kWh, while consuming 500.6 billion kWh. Produces 16% of electricity from renewable resources (45th in the world). 15th largest importer of crude oil (350, 100 bbl/day) and 13th largest carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (535 million Mt).

China
The world's largest producer and consumer of electricity, producing nearly 6.14 trillion kWh, while consuming 5.9 billion kWh. Produces 13.7% of electricity from renewable resources (53th in the world). 2nd largest importer of crude oil (6.2 million bbl/day) and largest carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (9.1 billion Mt).

South Korea
The world's eleventh largest producer of electricity, producing nearly 528.1 billion kWh, and tenth largest consumer of electricity, consuming 497 billion kWh. Produces 7.2% of electricity from renewable resources (80th in the world). Fifth largest importer of crude oil (2.9 million bbl/day) and ninth largest carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (599.3 million Mt).

Japan
The world's sixth largest producer of electricity, producing nearly 976.3 billion kWh and fifth largest consumer of electricity, consuming 516.6 billion kWh. Produces 15% of electricity from renewable resources (48th in the world). Fourth largest importer of crude oil (44.1 million bbl/day) and sixth largest carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (1.3 billion Mt).

India
The world's fourth largest producer and consumer of electricity, producing nearly 1.3 trillion kWh, while consuming 1.0 trillion kWh. Produces 14.6% of electricity from renewable resources (49th in the world). Third largest importer of crude oil (3.8 million bbl/day) and fourth largest carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (1.9 billion Mt).

Indonesia
A previous OPEC member. The world's 22nd largest producer and consumer of electricity, producing nearly 221.3 billion kWh, while consuming 199.3 billion kWh. Produces 5.9% of electricity from renewable resources (89th in the world). 18th largest importer of crude oil (507, 900 bbl/day) and 16th largest carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (442 million Mt).

Saudi Arabia
An OPEC member. The world's twelfth largest producer of electricity, producing nearly 318 billion kWh and fourteenth largest producer of electricity consuming 292.8 billion kWh. Produces 0.1% of electricity from renewable resources (164th in the world). Does not import crude oil and is the tenth largest carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (594 million Mt).

Iran
An OPEC member. The world's 17th largest producer electricity, producing nearly 265.1 billion kWh, and 19th largest consumer of energy, consuming 220.9 billion kWh. Produces 0.2% of electricity from renewable resources (160th in the world). 60th largest importer of crude oil (33, 710 bbl/day) and 8th largest carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (650.4 million Mt).

France
The world's tenth largest producer of electricity, producing nearly 536.1 billion kWh, and eleventh largest consumer, consuming 436.1 billion kWh. Produces 16.9% of electricity from renewable resources (39th in the world). Tenth largest importer of crude oil (1.1 million bbl/day) and 17th largest carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (385.6 million Mt).

Russia
The world's fifth largest producer of electricity, producing nearly 1.0 trillion kWh, and sixth larger consumer, consuming 890.1 billion kWh. Produces 0.6% of electricity from renewable resources (147th in the world). 68th largest importer of crude oil (15, 110 bbl/day) and fifth largest carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (1.8 billion Mt).

UK
The world's 13th largest producer of electricity, producing nearly 309.8 billion kWh, and 12th largest consumer, consuming 301.6 billion kWh. Produces 33.4% of electricity from renewable resources (9th in the world). 16th largest importer of crude oil (808,800 bbl/day) and 11th largest carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (568.3 million Mt).

Germany
The world's seventh largest producer and consumer of electricity, producing nearly 643.2 billion kWh, while consuming 516.6 billion kWh. Produces 11.4% of electricity from renewable resources (65th in the world). Twelfth (12th) largest importer of crude oil (892,500 bbl/day) and carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (564 million Mt).

Italy
The world's 15th largest producer of electricity, producing nearly 269.3 billion kWh, and 15th largest consumer, consuming 296 billion kWh. Produces 28.6% of electricity from renewable resources (18th in the world). 9th largest importer of crude oil (1.2 million bbl/day) and 19th largest carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (362 million Mt).

South Africa
The world's 21st largest producer and consumer of electricity, producing nearly 229.2 billion kWh, while consuming 207.7 billion kWh. Produces 7.1% of electricity from renewable resources (81st in the world). 23rd largest importer of crude oil (434,500 bbl/day) and 14th largest carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (482 million Mt).

Nigeria
An OPEC member. The world's 65th largest producer of electricity, producing nearly 29.8 billion kWh, and 68th largest consumer, consuming 24.6 billion kWh. Produces 0.2% of electricity from renewable resources (162nd in the world). Does not import crude oil and is the 40th largest carbon dioxide emitter from energy consumption (97 million Mt).

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

There are a few issues to solve the current problem of energy consumption and use.
First of all, the most prevalent idea is the gradual replacement of traditional oil industries with newly developing sustainable ones. Success cases are usually that of Europe, where much of their energy comes from Wind and geothermal, as well as China which is emerging as one of the leading nations of solar energy production. By utilizing the money gained from the oil businesses, nations could spearhead research on new sustainable resources that are not only clean, but infinite in the longer sense.

Second of all, the other solution would be the supergrid system, where individual nations would combine their current grids to produce a world-wide, continental, or international super-grids. The best example, again, is in Europe where much of Western Europe is connected together with HVDC cables transporting wind energy from the North Sea, as well as traditional energy sources. With individual companies currently driving the call for better integrated international energy consumption, it may be in the best interest to utilize the UN as a platform for a strong and central organization that can maintain and organize the world's energy needs.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- How will your nation's economy be affected if pursuing the goals you intend to do? What would be some non-economic consequences as well? Would they be reversible?

- If establishing the supergrid, who will be in charge of maintaining these grids? How will they be kept accountable?

- How can we be more inclusive about the developing nations and oil-dependent / oil-producing nations in the UN?

AGENDA 2

GENDER EQUALITY IN JOB MARKETS

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Gender equality
The state in which access to rights or social, economic, political and cultural opportunities is unaffected by gender. It does not indicate that women and men are the same, but their difference and similarities are recognized.

International Labour Organization (ILO)
It is a tripartite U.N. agency that was established in 1919 and brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member states. The organization sets labour standards, establishes policies and devises programmes to promote proper work for all women and men.

Sustainable Development Goal 5
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. This goal is to strengthen policies and legislation to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

ECOSOC Resolution 2008/18
This resolution was introduced to promote full employment and decent work for all without discrimination in genders.

Job Market
The total number of vacant jobs open to those seeking employment.

Gender employment gap
Difference between male and female employment rates.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
It is a global intergovernmental body that focuses on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Forty-five Member States of the United Nations serve as members of this Commission and representatives from each states are elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
Described as an international bill of rights for women and establishes a definition of what constitutes discrimination against women. By signing the convention, states accept to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
It is the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women's rights. It is a defining framework for change and presents comprehensive commitments under 12 critical areas of concern. It serves as a source of guidance and inspiration.

AGENDA INFORMATION

Historical Background

In order to monitor the improvements of women's rights and support nations that request financial help, the General Assembly established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in July of 2010. Before the establishment of the UN Women, CSW compiled the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to deal with women's rights and status within countries. The Convention is regularly inspected and monitored by the Committee on CEDAW along with the World Bank that keeps track of the Gender Equality and Development of that year. The institution tries to discover the sources of differences in key aspects of welfare between men and women along with the ability to make effective choices and take action. After analyzing the situation, the World Bank guides action through policies and new frameworks that is appropriate for the nation of its review. World Bank assists in creating projects in countries such as the Adolescent Girls Initiative, which led transitions from education to employment. Furthermore, UN Women collaborated with the UN Global Compact to establish the Women's Empowerment Principles to provide guidelines to businesses that encouraged them to empower women in the workplace and job market. Also, the framework for UN Member States to improve action women's empowerment comes from The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), which emphasized the concept of gender mainstreaming and inspected 12 areas that needed urgent action to bring in gender equality. The Declaration specifically focuses on the effective implementation of a global policy framework for the advancement of women through a full and equal share of economic, social, cultural, and political decision-making.

Status Quo

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), known as the Global Goals or Agenda 2030 for Development, replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in January 2016. There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals that are sources of framework for future development for all UN Member States. Sustainable Development Goals 5 targets to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls across the globe. Also, in March 2015, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the United Nations Women established a goal to accomplish either complete or partial equality around the world under the campaign "planet 50-50" by 2030. Therefore, 93 countries are following the set goals to achieve gender equality by 2030. According to statistics by UN Women, "as of 2011, 50.5% of the world's working women were in vulnerable employment, often unprotected by labor legislation, compared to 48.2% for men. Women were far more likely than men to be in vulnerable employment in North Africa (55% versus 32%), the Middle East (42% versus 27%) and sub-Saharan Africa (nearly 85% versus 70%)". The evidence proves that despite the fact that women in some nations are permitted to work, they are not quite encouraged to do so, which leads to a lag in sustainable development. The UN committees plan to obtain gender equality by eliminating violence against women and abuse in jobs and in public along with encouraging them to be employed in different areas, such as the government. Also, the international community encourages the elimination of the discrimination in terms of pay, business and supply and engagements in firms, as well as ensuring that all employed women have working hours similar to that of men, and nonetheless get their maternity leave whenever eligable.

STANCES OF UN MEMBER STATES AND PARTIES

USA
Equality in pay has improved in the US since 1979 when women earned about 62 percent as much as men. In 2010, American women on average earned 81 percent of what their male counterparts earned

Brazil
Gender inequality remains high, despite some significant improvements. In 2003, under his first presidency, Luiz Iná- cio Lula da Silva created a federal governmental body for the purpose of addressing gender equality issues. This also led to the creation of a National Plan for Women's Policies (NPWP).

China
In 2016, the majority (70.8%) of China's population aged 15 years and older participated in the labor force. Women earn on average 35% less than men for having similar jobs, ranking in the bottom third of the Global Gender Gap Index (ranked 99th out of 144 countries)

South Korea
With the nation's workforce projected to begin a steady decline after peaking this year, the gap between the labor force participation rate for women (53.1 percent) and men (74.5 percent), looks like a critical weak point for the economy.

Indonesia
For the past 25 years, there has been virtually no change in Indonesia's female labour force participation (LFP), with a participation rate of 51 per cent. On average, Indonesian women earn 42 per cent less than their male counterparts.

Saudi Arabia
The number of women employed in Saudi Arabia has increased by 48% since 2010, according to the country's Central Department of Statistics and Information. Still women only make up about 16% of the Saudi workforce in total.

France
The employment rate of women in France (60.0%) was slightly higher than the EU-27 average (58.6%) in 2012. However, women still do not participate to the same degree as men in the labour market.

Russia
Russian women's relatively strong performance in business is partly explained by demographic factors, including the country's gender ratio that favours females by 57 percent to 43 percent. However, Russia has a gender income gap, with women paid on average 30 percent less than men, according to the World Bank.

UK
More women are working than before. Over two-thirds of women aged 16-64 are employed, rising from a slightly over half (53%) in 1971. Also, Employment rates for men are declining. Only 79% of men aged 16-64 are working today, a sharp decrease from 92% in 1971.

Germany
In 2004, 59.2% of women were employed. The increase in female employment was due to the increase in the numbers of women in part-time work. In 2004, women working full time earned, on average, 23% less than men. This wage gap is one of the largest in Europe.

South Africa
The South African gender pay gap is estimated, on average, to be between 15%-17%. This implies that a South African woman would need to work two months more than a man to earn the equivalent salary that he would earn in a year.In 2017, 31% of South African companies have no female representation in senior leadership roles.

Nigeria
Nigeria has one of the lowest rates of employed women, as percent of the total population, among selected countries with similar gross national income. The highest percentage of men in the workforce is among those aged 45-49 (99.2%) compared to just 67% of women in this same age group.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Delegates first need to keep in mind that each nation has a different economical and cultural situation. Therefore, solutions should be devised by dividing into regions that have similar conditions. These solutions should create effective policies for safe and equal environments for women in the workforce and they cannot violate any religious sovereignty of nations. We encourage innovative but also feasible solutions to be suggested in this committee. An example would be to encourage businesses and government to create opportunities by changing work culture and practice. Further methods can target methods of equipping women with the proper vocational training and access to important assets that are needed when working. In order to improve on the issue of gender disparity in work forces, the government has the most authority that can require businesses to follow guidelines of maternity rights and gender wages, awareness campaigns to fight social and cultural stigmas.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What is the perceived role of women in your country? How does this affect their decisions to find employment?
- Has your country ratified the CEDAW? Do laws prohibit gender discrimination in your country?
- How "equal" is your country when it comes to women in the economy and in education? According to the Gender Gap Index, where does your country rank in gender equality?
- What recent progress has your country made in favor of the topic?
- What region do you believe this committee should focus its efforts on?
- What recent programs or NGOs could be beneficial to produce change in other regions?

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