



ECOSOC

ISSUE ON DERTIFICATION

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear Delegates,

The Chairs would like to welcome all of you to 2016 GECMUN ECOSOC committee. There is no such thing as failure in MUN. Thus, the Chairs highly encourage all delegates to fully engage in enthusiastic debates and work hard to produce fruitful resolutions. Make most out of the conference and enjoy your time here!

If you have any questions or need help, please feel free to contact us through hschang17@pupils.nlcsjeju.kr/jmlee17@pupils.nlcsjeju.kr

Best regards,

Chairs of ECOSOC
Elizabeth Chang, Chris Lee

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LIST OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES



Afghanistan	Japan
Algeria	Kazakhstan
Argentina	Nepal
Australia	Nigeria
Bagladesh	Republic of Korea
Belgium	Russian Federation
Brazil	Somalia
Chile	South Africa
China	Sudan
Colombia	Togo
Democratic Republic of the Congo	United Kingdom
Finland	United States of America
France	
Germany	
Ghana	
Guatemala	
India	
Italy	

ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) is one of the main organs of the United Nations set up for all economic and social related works. It is also one of the fourteen UN specialized agencies.

Globally, climate change in tropical areas is continuing, resulting in unsustainable desertification and natural disasters. ECOSOC is strongly willing to push forward positive dialogue in order to create solutions for this issue, which is placing numerous countries and millions of people at risk. Although there have been considerable efforts in the past to tackle the socio-economic problems, they have failed to solve problems such as the increasing amount and severity of desertification. Such failure is leading to further poverty and famine.

There are some concrete actions nations can take to tackle this global issue of climate change. We encourage delegates to seek various types of remedies, both long and short term, and urge delegates to come up with solutions that will guarantee the well-being for not only people today, but for the generations which will follow.

There are many factors that lead to desertification. One of the most common is removal of trees and vegetation. Trees and vegetation bind the soil and therefore prevent soil erosion. Consequently, when the trees and vegetation are removed, the soil gets easily eroded since there aren't any roots to bind it. The removal of trees and vegetation may be done by animals, who feed on grass or by humans deforesting the area. The other cause of desertification is the soil's loss of nutrients. When the nutrients of the soil are lost, topsoil becomes vulnerable and gets easily eroded. One of the factors that cause loss of nutrients in soil is intense farming by humans.

Status Quo

Desertification is defined as "land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities". This definition is simplistic, as it does not express clearly the constant interaction between climatic factors and human activities - the latter often being decisive in triggering desertification processes."(Agenda 21, Ch.12) Today, about 25% (3.6 billion hectares) of land is desertified globally. Increase in annual land degradation has resulted in land loss of over 12 million hectares every year. Lives of nearly a billion people are prone to threat of desertification in about 100 nations currently; the threatened are mostly undergoing additional struggles such as poverty. The growing consciousness of the consequences of desertification has led to yearly spending of over 40 billion USD. The influence of desertification is also linked to world food supply as 50% of agricultural territories in Latin America are estimated to face desertification in 50 years (www.ifad.org).

Therefore, in order to tackle these issues of desertification, many organizations such as ECOSOC, FAO and UNCCD have been cooperating for a long time. They have tried to create new international laws and regulations along the causes of desertification.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION 1978, New York. (29 August - 9 September 1977).

19 December 1989, 83rd plenary meeting (A/RES/44/172)

A. Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

B. Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

General Assembly's resolution A/RES/64/201. The motivation for this resolution was the Parties' concern about the deteriorating situation of desertification in all regions, which has far-reaching implications for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the eradication of poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability

December 2010, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on "Implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (A/RES/65/160) and decided to convene a High-level Meeting on the theme Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication on 20 September 2011.

UN Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 (Rio+20).

General 15 March 2013 , Sixty-seventh session, Agenda item 20 (e) Resolution adopted by the General Assembly, [on the report of the Second Committee (A/67/437/Add.5)]

67/211. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

(On going) UN Decade for Deserts and the Fights against Desertification (2010-2020), the high-level meeting aims to raise awareness of desertification, land degradation and drought at the highest level.

One of the solutions is binding the soil by planting trees, constructing sand fences, and building wind breaks. The other solution could be planting vegetation to reforest the area. For instance, technological advancement has enabled some crops to be grown in desert areas. Managing the water by restoring rainwater or reusing treated water could be one of the possible solutions as well. Creating a system to prevent soil degradation and using mixed farming techniques could stop or slow down the desertification as well.

You would also want to consider measures to manage existing desertified area, such as government regulations on felling of trees or extensive farming.

Questions to consider

Here are some questions you might want to address:

1. What social impacts can desertification bring?
2. How has desertification imposed threats on economy in some countries?
3. What has caused desertification, and was this inevitable?
4. What measures are there to help LEDCs adopt more sustainable farming methods that would not worsen or provoke desertification?

SUGGESTED SOURCE OF RESEARCH

<http://www.un.org/en/events/desertificationday/background.shtml>

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/>

<http://www.eoearth.org/view/article/151708/>

<http://www.conserve-energy-future.com/causes-effects-solutions-of-desertification.php>

http://www.un.org/en/events/desertification_decade/value.shtml