

Forum: Economic and Social Council

Issue: Promoting women's economic empowerment

Student Officer: Katharina Schier

Position: President

Introduction

Even in the 21st century, which is considered to be the most enlightened and undoubtedly has brought forward important strides towards equality, 50% of the world population still find themselves being seriously disadvantaged. Women and men are neither equally treated in the political sphere where women suffer from under-representation, nor in the legal field where they often face discriminatory laws and regulations. In the social sphere, especially in less economically developed countries (LEDC's), young girls do not have the same access to education as their male siblings. In many societies, women and girls are exposed to sexual violence and objectification. Consequently, promoting women's economic empowerment is an urgent socio-economic necessity of global scale.

Inequality becomes particularly evident with regard to the economic participation of women. In the status-quo, women are paid less than men for equal-value jobs. They are underrepresented in leadership or managerial positions, hardly run any business enterprises and have limited opportunities for career advancement. They have less access to land or credit schemes, in some countries, women are not even allowed to own property. They often work under very poor and even dangerous conditions, yet females also work much longer hours than males because it is women who mostly care for the children and elderly and who are responsible for securing the basic needs like food, water or sanitation.

Economic inequality is a worldwide problem not confined to industrialized countries. In less developed regions, economic disadvantages can very easily lead to extreme poverty and enhanced vulnerability of women and their children.

Looking at the issue from a different angle - women's economic empowerment is a prerequisite for sustainable development and the impact of women's economic activities on the social structure of societies and the environmental protection cannot be underestimated. It is often women who are more responsible towards their families, their society and the environment than men. Using the full potential of women's economic power would result in bigger economic growth. It would help to overcome financial and economic crises and it would contribute to the eradication of poverty. Obviously, equal economic participation is not only in the interest of women themselves, it is in the interest of the entire society. Not using women's full potential would thus be economically unwise.

As a consequence, strengthening women's economic empowerment should be a task of the whole society. Politicians, lawmakers, entrepreneurs, trade unionists, teachers and the media should all

be engaged. They should give equal access to economic resources and equal opportunities for women by creating jobs, by guaranteeing access to financial services and property, by eliminating discriminatory laws and social norms and – most importantly but not exclusively – by providing equal access to education for girls and boys.

For the well-being of mankind, it is fundamentally required to ensure women’s rights and increase their influence in society.

Definition of Key Terms

Women’s Economic Empowerment

There is no set definition for this term, however, Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) refers to realizing women’s economic rights, as increasing the access to economic resources, financial services, and property, providing equal job opportunities, or giving equal access to education, as well as achieving broader development goals through providing these economic rights to women, such as poverty reduction or inclusive economic growth. Women’s economic empowerment has reached its goal when women are able to advance and succeed economically and have the power to independently make economic decisions. Ultimately, WEE does not only help and empower women, setting a direct path towards gender equality, but ensures sustainable development for the entire society.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is comprised of economic and social development, as well as environmental protection. Officially, the term was first defined in the 1987 United Nation’s Brundtland Report as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Especially in recent years, the term has gained a lot of attention, as the conflict between technological and scientific advancement and guaranteeing sustainability has peaked.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s)

The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 goals decided on by all UN Member States on September 25th 2015. Member States adopted the SDG’s as part of a new sustainable development agenda, following the Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s). The goals are set to be achieved in 2030. Some goals include ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring prosperity for all. In context of this report, it is especially vital to look at SDG 5, which concentrates on gender equality and recognizes that gender equality is a necessity for a sustainable future.

Gender Equality

According to the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) “gender equality [is] achieved when women and men enjoy the same rights and opportunities across all sectors of society,

including economic participation and decision-making, and when the different behaviours, aspirations and needs of women and men are equally valued and favoured.” While today some individuals argue that gender equality has been reached, this state is far from being fulfilled, economically, politically, as well as socially.

Gender quotas

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) defines a gender quota as a “positive measurement instrument aimed at accelerating the achievement of gender-balanced participation and representation. It establishes a defined proportion (percentage) or number of places or seats to be filled by, or allocated to, women and/or men, generally under certain rules or criteria. Quotas can be applied in order to correct a previous gender imbalance in different areas and at different levels, including in political assemblies, decision-making positions in public, political life and economic life (corporate boards), as well as to ensure the inclusion of women and their participation in international bodies, or as a tool to promote equal access to training opportunities or jobs. Quotas aimed at increasing gender-balanced representation may be mandated by the constitution or by electoral, labour or gender equality laws (legal gender quotas, which may entail sanctions for non-compliance). Types of quotas also differ depending on the location and nomination process that the gender quota targets.

Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship describes the idea of transforming an original idea into a business, organizing and managing any enterprise with initiative and risk. Entrepreneurs should be hard-working, flexible, plan in advance, and be self-disciplined. Often, exactly these characteristics are characteristics that women are associated with and excel in.

Gender Wage Gap

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), “The gender wage gap is unadjusted and is defined as the difference between median earnings of men and women relative to median earnings of men. Data refer to full-time employees and to self-employed.”

Financial Services

BusinessDictionary defines financial services as “facilities such as saving accounts, checking accounts, confirming, leasing, and money transfer, provided generally by banks, credit unions, and finance companies.”

Economic Autonomy

“Economic autonomy is the sense of women's capacity to generate income and personal financial resources, based on access to paid work under conditions of equality with men.” - Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. This term basically implies and bolsters the empowerment of women in terms of their access to paid work and the benefits

that come with providing similar work as men.

Unpaid care work

The OECD refers to unpaid care work as “all unpaid services provided within a household for its members, including care of persons, housework and voluntary community work. These activities are considered as work, because theoretically one could pay a third person to perform them.”

Almost always, women are the ones in the family performing these types of unpaid services.

Inclusive economic growth

“Inclusive growth is economic growth that creates opportunity for all segments of the population and distributes the dividends of increased prosperity, both in monetary and non-monetary terms, fairly across society. “ - OECD. This form of economic growth would be reached through promoting women in the work space.

Background Information

Economic disadvantages

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton described the economic situation of women very well when, at the 2009 annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative, he stated that “women perform 66% of the world’s work, and produce 50% of the food, yet earn only 10% of the income and own 1% of the property. Whether the issue is improving education in the developing world, or fighting global climate change, or addressing nearly any other challenge we face, empowering women is a critical part of the equation.” These figures were confirmed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), adding that women work two-thirds of the world’s working hours, but only earn 10% of the world’s income. The reasons for this imbalance are manifold.

First, women are underrepresented in the job market in general. In 2013, 72.2% men were employed while only 47.1% women had a job. Women are paid approximately 25% less than men for equal jobs. They have a much bigger responsibility for unpaid care work like housework (1 to 3 hours more a day), care for children or elderly and sick family members (2 to 10 times more than men). On the other hand, they invest 1 to 4 hours less a day in market activities. In European countries, 25% of all women say that because of family responsibilities, they cannot work.

Second, a high percentage of women - especially in industrialized countries - often work in less well paid part-time jobs due to their family duties.

Third, in less developed countries, informal employment is a big problem, e.g. in South Asia, over 80% of women are informally employed, in sub-Saharan Africa, 74%, and in Latin America and the Caribbean, 54 per cent. Especially in rural areas, where many women earn their living with small-scale farming, they are often unpaid.

Fourth, there are existing gender differences in laws. This is the case in developing as well as in developed economies. Laws, for example, restrict the types of jobs that women can work in. In 15

countries, husbands can still object to their wives working and they can prevent them from accepting jobs. This was also the case in MEDCs like Germany, where until the 1970s, women had to receive the approval of their husbands to work. Since then, legislation has changed in favor of gender equality.

Fifth, the role that women play in society in general is reflected in their position in the job market. In Muslim countries, where the role of women in the public sphere is restricted in various degrees, the employment gender gap is largest worldwide amounting to 38% in Saudi Arabia, followed by Qatar with 30%, Egypt 29%, Iraq 26% and Iran with 21%. Interestingly enough, Greece with its still traditional society is infamously leading the group of Western countries with 15%.

Sixth, psychology plays an important role. According to a Hewlett Packard Internal Report, men apply for a job even if they meet only 60% of the qualifications; women only apply if they meet 100%. They are more reluctant to ask for a pay raise or a promotion. In addition, the so-called informal but well-established “boy networks” work very effectively in hindering women to quickly move forward in their careers.

Wage gap

In Western societies, the discussion on women’s economic empowerment mainly focuses on the introduction of quotas to ensure that equal numbers of women are employed in top management positions as well as the question on how to close the wage gap. In Germany, for example, since 2016, the 104 biggest companies have the legal obligation to have at least 30% of women in their boards. However, this does not apply to top and well-paid managerial positions where women are still widely underrepresented with only 6.1%. Additionally, well paid high ranking positions in the civil service are mainly male dominated, according to the German journal, “Der Spiegel”. In 2017, the German government introduced a law on wage equality. Despite the fact that it is only applicable to a very limited number of businesses, this law was the right way in trying to close the tremendous wage gap in this highly industrialized country, which has the third highest gap of all member states of the European Union. Women in Germany gain 22% less per hour than their male colleagues, the average in the European Union being 16.3%, led by Italy and Luxemburg where the wage difference only amounts to 5.5%. To close the gap until 2019, the European Commission has issued an action plan forcing governments to legally guarantee equal payment for equal work.

What is true for Germany and the European Union is also a global fact. In many regions of the world, women, on average, earn only 60 to 75 % of men’s wages due to the fact that (1) women are more likely to be wage workers and unpaid family workers; that (2) women are more likely to engage in low-productivity activities and to work in the informal sector, with less mobility to the formal sector than men; and that (3) the likelihood that women are in unorganized sectors or not represented in unions is high.

It is calculated that women could increase their income globally by up to 76 %, if the employment participation gap and the wage gap between women and men were closed. This is calculated to have a global value of approximately USD 17 trillion. If women and men played an identical role

in labour markets, up to USD 28 trillion could be added to the global GDP, according to UN Women.

Access to financial services and loans

In 2006, the economist and banking manager Muhammad Junus from Bangladesh received the Nobel Peace Prize. He had founded the Grameen Bank, which was the first to provide micro-credits for the poor and especially for disadvantaged women in order to create small businesses and thus to contribute to the eradication of poverty. Junus was aware that women in many LEDCs only have very limited access to formal financial services and saving mechanisms as well as land. While 55 % of men report having an account at a formal financial institution, only 47 % of women do worldwide, according to UN Women.

However, women show huge responsibility for the well-being of their families and possess the economic ability to run small enterprises, once trained in fundamental accounting skills. In many cases, the training programme was a full success. It contributed to gender equality, to poverty eradication and to inclusive economic growth, goals laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, in particular in goal 5. The scheme proved, amongst other things, that increasing the share of household income controlled by women, benefits the generations to come, because the spending is changed in ways that benefit the society, especially children.

Unpaid care work

As already laid out, unpaid care work is one of the main reasons why women are less employed and have lower incomes than men. It is a worldwide phenomenon that women are in charge of children, elderly and sick family members. Resulting from that, they have less energy and time to work in full time positions. The extra work at home often leaves them with the impression that they cannot engage as fully in pursuing a career. Often, also employers fear that their female workers will prioritize their family over their work, when in reality, women often have no other choice. In Muslim countries, the tendency that women have to stay at home, being deprived from earning their own money and having the chance to lead an independent life, is the biggest. There, women spend nearly six hours per day carrying out unpaid care work, whereas men spend far less than one hour. Also in LEDCs in South Asia or Sub-Saharan Africa, that is the common role model. Evidently, doing unpaid care work also does not provide women with financial stability nor independence, often making them completely dependent of their husband's income, although they, the women, actually carry out almost all of the care work. In North America and Europe, women still contribute with around five hours of unpaid care work, but men spent nearly three hours per day doing the same. Here, societies and the distribution of labour between sexes have gradually changed over the years. In this regard, better and equal education is also important in overcoming the notion that only women have to carry out unpaid care work.

Legal barriers

Legal barriers prohibiting women from having equal job chances are widespread. In the Democratic Republic of Congo and Pakistan, for example, women are by law prohibited from registering a business, which evidently does not give them equal economic chances. Almost 90 % of 143 economies studied by UN Women have at least one legal difference restricting women's economic opportunities. Of those, 79 economies have laws that restrict the types of jobs that women can do. Also, in 15 economies, husbands can object to their wives working and prevent them from accepting jobs. Also in the Western world, there have only been laws combatting this legal binding of wives to their husbands in regards to jobs in the last 50 years. In Germany, for example, women had to have the legal consent of their husbands in order to be able to work up until 1977.

Female entrepreneurship

Many international organizations like UN Women, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) or the International Labour Organization (ILO), as well as the European Union and many development agencies like the United States Agency for International Development (US-AID) or the German Development Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) have recognized that gender equality, especially in the economic field significantly contributes to advancing economic and sustainable development. That is the reason why they are looking into creating more job opportunities for women and also trying to encourage female entrepreneurship. Society especially benefits from women's innovative ideas. This is also noticed by the business community itself. In the framework of the Global Compact, which deals with responsible entrepreneurship, hundreds of CEOs showed their support for the Women's Empowerment Principles – Equality means Business.

In order to promote the inclusion of women's innovative ideas, governments as well as private investors must invest in female entrepreneurship. There are various means to do so: governments can, for example, issue subsidized loans for entrepreneurs, thus giving them an access to capital through loans. Additionally, private investors, like the company Angel Investing, can invest into small companies run by entrepreneurs who only have limited access to financial resources. Both corporations and institutional investors can also provide aid to start-up companies with high potential for fast growth and influence on the market, by for example supplying capital, office space, or mentorship and financial education. Although all of the above mentioned measures already exist for supporting entrepreneurs, female entrepreneurs often do not receive this assistance, as they tend to set up businesses in female-dominated sectors, where there is less funding available. Adding on to that, investors are often reluctant to provide female entrepreneurs with large amounts of investments and loans. This reluctance, most likely originating from socially constructed gender roles, must be combatted.

The necessity of women's economic empowerment

Evidently, women's economic empowerment is vital. If the global community wants to achieve gender equality, all three spheres of women's empowerment must be fulfilled: the political, the social,

and the economic sphere. First of all, women's economic empowerment is necessary because it promotes equality. Men and women should be equal, thus, they should be paid the same amount of money for their work, should receive equal opportunities in the job market and to financial services, and should not be economically discriminated by law. If society wants women to be fully recognized and appreciated, they should be able to achieve their full potential, especially in the economic world. So often, women are held back, starting with lacking access to education at the very beginning of their lives. Even if women receive sufficient education, they are held back later along the way, when they, for example, are not chosen for a job despite having the same or even better qualification than the man being chosen, or when they are not promoted to a leadership position because employers fear that they will prioritize their family over work. These inequalities, based on deeply-rooted prejudices in society, prohibit women from reaching and portraying their full potential in regards to economy.

However, empowering women economically does not only benefit women. It benefits the entire society, as it promotes inclusive economic growth – where all factions of society gain benefits from the economic growth. The idea of inclusive economic growth is also one of the key goals of the Sustainable Development Goals, meaning it is essential to achieving sustainable development. In contrast to inclusive economic growth, pure economic growth is neither effective in reducing poverty nor in improving gender equality, as it only benefits the overall economy of the nation, not respecting the needs of discriminated or minority groups. By promoting women's economic empowerment, economic growth is fostered in one of the major, yet discriminated groups of society. Additionally, not only helping women increases inclusive economic growth, but according to the OECD and UN Women, women are more invested in promoting the development of minority or discriminated groups and provide new perspectives. By encouraging their participation, they will also work to further promote this inclusive economic development.

Inclusive economic development being necessary in order to achieve sustainable development also makes women's economic empowerment a prerequisite for sustainable development. Women are incredibly important in achieving the SDG's, as their education and empowerment will also reduce worldwide poverty massively. According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, sustainable development will only be achieved, if women are fully involved and granted the right to participate. Including women into the economy boosts national prosperity, creates new jobs, increases the income per capita, raises the overall level of human capital, and labour productivity. Women are also more attentive to ensuring sustainability in businesses than men are. The Brookings Institute states that this attentiveness is expressed through women's interest in long-term capital rather than short-term capital, "with interest in supply chain and equity financing as well". Also in the private sector, women bring benefits with them. In the financial household decision making, for example, giving women more power would lead to rising savings and more education and health. Investing in women economically would therefore not only provide economic, but also equity-based social development. Women's empowerment being included in the SDG's also highlights the global awareness of women's importance in achieving sustainable development.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

European Union (EU)

The European Union is a key contributor to women's economic empowerment. For example, the EU Parliament includes the Committee of Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM), which frequently discusses economic issues in regards to women's empowerment. Recently, the Committee published a report on women's economic empowerment in the private and public sectors in the EU. While this only pertained to empowerment in the EU, the ideas presented can also be related to international efforts towards economic empowerment. Additionally, the EU has recently introduced its Small Business Act for Europe (SBA), which serves as a policy for EU countries, in which they have to work to improve access to finance and markets, especially for women. The EU has recognized the gender gap in employment and hosts many events, trying to establish an EU-network on eradicating this gender gap. Finally, the EU promotes female entrepreneurship with its Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan.

UN Women

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women aims to promote women's empowerment globally, especially in LEDC's. Although the organization was only established in 2010, it has gained a global significance and helps governments in formulating and enforcing policies on gender equality, also through financial aid. UN Women actively works to promote economic empowerment and also aims to inform about economic inequalities. The organization has launched a plethora of programmes and initiatives, providing women with financial opportunities. One of their key projects are the "UN Women's Empowerment Principles: Equality Means Business", which provide solutions to ending women's economic disadvantages.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

The International Labour Organization, founded in 1919, has focused on promoting women's empowerment by tackling social and labour issues since its creation. Its main goals include increasing equality in employment between man and woman, the protection of maternity in the work force, as well as the "recognition that equality implies sharing of family responsibilities between men and women".

Germany

Germany, in the past years, has made quite a few efforts to promote women's economic empowerment, as it has been lagging behind its European counterparts. Recognizing that government participation through the implementation of quotas is sometimes a necessity when wanting to reach equality, the "Frauenquote" was recently introduced. This quota determines a set percentage of women in businesses, aiming to ensure that men are not hired over women for no apparent reason. The quota, however, only applies to board members of the 104 biggest German companies, the so-called "Dax-entreprises", not to high managerial jobs, other businesses, or the civil service. Therefore, its effectiveness has been questioned and it has been suggested to widen the scope of the quota.⁶ Other European countries, like Norway or France, have a lot harsher quotas, forcing fines or other sanctions on

not-complying companies. Generally speaking, quotas are a very controversial topic in economic empowerment, as they force certain groups to empower women. Some people even argue that quotas discriminate men. In the near future, the progress made through the quota implementation in various countries, like for example Germany, will have to be closely observed in order to reach a conclusion.

Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

In the Middle East and North Africa, economic participation for women needs to be increased drastically, as women face immense economic discrimination in the countries belonging to the MENA region. Especially political reforms need to take place, promoting economic empowerment and gender-specific barriers need to be alleviated. Women's economic empowerment in these countries is also vital to tackle the on-going economic crisis with high unemployment rates. Entrepreneurship could be an option for creating new job opportunities.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
March 11, 1911	International Women's Day is first celebrated.
1919	International Labour Organization is created. In the year it is founded, ILO introduces its first two Conventions on women.
1920	Treaty of Versailles states that women and men should receive equal pay.
October 24, 1945	UN Charter is established, proclaiming "fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion".
June 21, 1946	United Nations Commission on the Status of Women is formed.
1964	Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination in employment based on race or sex, Title VII.
December 18, 1979	UN General Assembly adopts the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

September 1994	International Conference on Population and Development is held in Cairo, the necessity of realizing women’s rights as a means to promote sustainable development is discussed and recognized by the global community.
September 1995	The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is unanimously decided upon during the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.
September 2000	The Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s) are adopted during the UN Millennium Summit, set to be achieved in 2015. While they primarily focus on combatting extreme poverty, Goals 3 (promoting gender equality and empowering women) and 5 (improving maternal health) specifically mention women’s empowerment.
July 2, 2010	The United Nations General Assembly creates the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).
September 5, 2013	The Domestic Workers Convention (C189) on labour rights goes into action, giving domestic workers the same labour rights as other workers. As most domestic workers are women, this convention was an important step.
September 25, 2015	The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s), a set of 17 goals for the next 15 years, are decided upon by all UN Member States with Goal 5 focusing on Gender Equality, recognizing that gender equality is a prerequisite for sustainable development.
March 2017	The 61 st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women takes place, the main theme being “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work”.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- **Draft Resolution on Women’s Economic Empowerment, 9 March 2010 (E/CN.6/2010/L.5)**
 This resolution, debated in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN, discusses what measures need to be taken to economically empower women and lists current problems, stating why women are economically disadvantaged.

- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 18 December 1979 (A/RES/34/180)**

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was one of the major steps in promoting women’s empowerment. It follows the principles of non-discrimination and serves today as an international human rights treaty. The document addresses violence against women, the discrimination against women in politics, education, employment, health, economics and society as well as the representation of women in the work force.

- **Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, 21 December 2010 (A/RES/65/191)**

This General Assembly Resolution sums up the progress made during the Fourth World Conference on Women and reaffirms the goals of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Additionally, it discusses measures on how to fully implement the goals set forth in the previously mentioned declaration.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

There has been a multitude of attempts to solve the issue of this report: promoting women’s economic empowerment. On a regional, national, as well as international level, much work has been done in the past years, as the global community has increasingly recognized just how vital equality is.

One of the earliest attempts to solve the issue was the introduction of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which aimed to lessen discrimination against women, also economically. This convention has been discussed in a multitude of forums and until today, new measures are being debated on how to further implement the ideas proposed in the convention. Another UN-led attempt to solve the issue was the creation of the UN Secretary General’s High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment, which was established by the UNSG in 2016. It aims to “look at the best ways to unlock the power of women to work and achieve their financial independence”, its most recent work focusing on unpaid work and care as well as providing infrastructure in order to ensure women’s economic empowerment. Additionally, the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2017 at the UN Headquarters in New York focused on “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work.” There was a multitude of outcomes, which can be found in the appendix. One final UN-led attempt to solve the issue is Goal 5 of the 2030 Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s): “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. This attempt is actually still on-going and recognizes that equal representation of women and girls in economic decision-making processes “will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large”.

Another attempt to solve the issue was portrayed by UN Women in 2011 with the introduction of their Empowerment Principles (WEPs). These aim to “offer practical guidance to business and the private sector on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community”. Another one of the earliest attempts to foster women’s empowerment was made with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which was created during the Fourth World Conference on Women in September of 1995. The Platform for Action listed 12 critical areas of concern, committing signatories to the Beijing Declaration to the implementation of partially radical changes in their nations. Still today, the Beijing Declaration remains a powerful guidance in women’s economic empowerment. Finally, the International Labour Organization has published a multitude of conventions on women’s economic empowerment. These can also be found in the appendix.

Possible Solutions

When looking at possible solutions, it is necessary to first realize the immense, persisting inequality present. Only if one is aware of the problem that needs to be tackled and that remains to be present globally, can one actually promote women’s economic empowerment. First of all, all Member States must recognize and implement the already existing international commitments promoting women’s economic empowerment: The Beijing Declaration, the ILO conventions, the WEPs, Goal 5 of the SDGs, and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Governments as well as civil society must work to translate the ideas set forth in these documents to actual changes – on a regional, national, and international level. Commitment to working for gender equality must be omnipresent and the public needs to be mobilized. Empowering women empowers humanity. Women’s economic authority must be guaranteed, through (1) providing equal access to education, including vocational training for women, (2) equal access to technology, information, communication, (3) economic resources like land, credit schemes, and markets, and (4) public services and opportunities. The structural causes of poverty need to be addressed through changes in economic structures. The social causes for economic inequality need to be tackled, especially through defeating gender norms. Discriminatory legislatures need to be abolished and Member States not willing to do so need to face consequences from the international community. Equal wage legislation should be put in place, as women and men deserve equal pay. In order to one day achieve also the complete social acceptance of the equal participation of women in the work force, putting quotas in place, especially for well-paid and high ranking positions should at least be considered. Female jobs and job opportunities should be promoted, as well as inclusive female entrepreneurship, especially in male-dominated areas.

For delegates of the ECOSOC, especially the WEPs are a good source of solutions, as they are rather recent and provide concrete and realistic ideas to tackling the issue. When trying to promote women’s economic empowerment, it is vital to believe in the spirit of gender equality and recognize the existing disparities. Delegates should keep in mind that women’s economic empowerment does not only empower women, but the entire society through fostering sustainable development and inclusive economic and social growth. This reality should also be one of the key arguments when promoting women’s economic empowerment.

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Appendix or Appendices

- I. European Parliament's Analysis: Women's Economic Empowerment at International Level ([http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_IDA\(2017\)583128](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_IDA(2017)583128))
- II. UN Women Website, Empowering Women, Facts and Figures (<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>)
- III. Global Economic Forum Davos, “Women's Economic Empowerment is the smart thing to do. What's stopping us?” (<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/01/womens-economic-empowerment-is-the-smart-and-right-thing-to-do-whats-stopping-us/>)
- IV. UN Women: Women's Empowerment Principles: Equality means Business (http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2011/10/women-s-empowerment-principles_en%20pdf.pdf?la=en&vs=1504)
- V. EU Parliament: Women's Economic Empowerment in the private and public sectors in the EU (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bREPORT%2bA8-2017-0271%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN>)

- VI. Why Germany's New Quota for Women on Boards Looks Like a Bust (<http://fortune.com/2016/03/11/germany-board-quota-women/>)
- VII. (E/CN.6/2010/L.5) (http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/outcomes/L%205%20_%20Ec%20empowerment_Advance%20unedited.pdf)
- VIII.(A/RES/34/180) (<http://www.un-documents.net/a34r180.htm>)
- IX. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf>)
- X. (A/RES/65/191) (<https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/65/191>)
- XI. Agreed Conclusions: 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/unw_csw61_brochure_en.pdf?la=en&vs=2057)
- XII. International Labour Organization: ILO Conventions on Gender Equality (http://www.ilo.org/moscow/areas-of-work/gender-equality/WCMS_249143/lang--en/index.htm)

Forum:	Economic and Social Council
Issue:	Digital technology and legal identity: increasing the number of people with access to identification documents
Student Officer:	Katharina Schier
Position:	President

Introduction

The concepts of “citizenship” and “identification” are easily taken for granted. Most of the world’s population can consider it self-evident that their ties to a nation, legal status or personal identity are verifiable; that they do not need to go to great lengths to prove that they actually are the person that they say to be, coming from the nation they say they are from. Legal identity is frequently taken for granted because it is most relevant to those who lack it. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), that applies to 1.5 billion people worldwide. Roughly 20% of the world’s population is legally unable to prove their identity -- and thus is unable to access the benefits and basic rights that a legal identification can grant.

In many countries, obtaining legal identification is crucial in order to access public services and goods. Many nations -- including those in which notable proportions of the population lack legal identity -- consider the verification of citizenship, birth date and other identification traits through a state-held ID card or another form of legal identification a prerequisite in order to open a bank account, register with a school or university, or simply in order to interact with government agencies in any form or fashion.

The relevance that legal identity carries towards unlocking equal opportunity is exemplified by the demographics of the groups that typically are unable to prove who they are. The 1.5 billion people that lack identity are overwhelmingly at a societal disadvantage to the majority of the population. “ID-less” people tend to belong to marginalized groups such as women, children and ethnic minorities. The majority of them live in Africa and Asia, and more than a third are under 18 years of age. Some countries that tend to deny individual rights and services to marginalized groups may refuse to grant them any form of legal identity for this very reason; in others, members of these groups may simply live in circumstances that prevent them from acquiring identification. What unites the 1.5 billion people worldwide who lack legal identity, however, is the clear social disadvantages they suffer under as a result from being denied the ability to prove who they are.

Definition of Key Terms

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is comprised of economic and social development, as well as environmental protection. Officially, the term was first defined in the 1987 United Nation’s Brundtland Report as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising

the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Especially in recent years, the term has gained a lot of attention, as the conflict between technological and scientific advancement and guaranteeing sustainability has peaked.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 goals decided on by all UN Member States on September 25th 2015. Member States adopted the SDG's as part of a new sustainable development agenda, following the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). The goals are set to be achieved in 2030. Some goals include ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring prosperity for all. In context of this report, it is especially vital to look at SDG 16.9, which under the framework of goal 16's call for "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions" urges all member nations of the UN to ensure universal access to identity credentials.

Legal Identity

Legal identity can be best defined as a person's ability to back up their identity and citizenship with a legally authorized identification document, including state-issued ID cards, birth certificates, and passports. The UNDP describes a person's legal identity as "the recognition of a person's existence before the law, facilitating the realisation of specific rights and corresponding duties", as the access to legal identity tends to be necessary in order to access a majority of important services that governments refuse to issue without proof of a person's existence. Since legal identity is a prerequisite for these important services, the access to identification that procures a person's legal identity is considered particularly necessary to minimize societal cleavages.

Biometric Data

Any sort of data or metrics collected on human characteristics can be considered biometric data. The term is usually used when attempting to achieve authentication and/or identification and originated in computer science as a means of access control. Consequently, the model of biometric authentication creates a biometric "template", a sort of reference model based on known characteristics of a person, and compares this stored data with a person's biometrics in order to verify their identity. Meanwhile, the model of biometric identification, in order to determine a person's identity rather than verify it, compares any entered biometric item with matches in a database of already collected biometric data. Today, biometric data, or biometrics, are usually used to identify and search for individuals in larger groups, usually if they are under surveillance. Biometrics are also used in private technology; fingerprint reading and facial recognition software, for instance, can be found in most smartphones. However, in recent years, advances have been made in the attempts to collect biometrics related to DNA, heart or brain activity. In many countries, biometric data has been used in order to "modernize" national identification databases and in order to verify ID cards. In Germany, for instance, along with a

mandatory photo, the national ID card now allows holders to enter two fingerprints in order to maintain security within the national identification system.

Blockchain Technology

Also known as Mutual Distributed Ledgers, Blockchain technology promises to solve the issues that occur when complex transactions occur by the principle of each participant having his/her own individual ledger, or computer file used to validate, record or track a transaction. Quite literally, a blockchain describes a system comprised of a chain of blocks: as a transaction occurs, it is encrypted and forms part of a block, which is connected to the one immediately before and after it. Thus, each ledger is “mutually distributed” as the result is an irreversible chain of individual blocked transactions. Computer systems that allow groups to complete their transactions are decentralized, meaning that communication occurs exclusively between peers rather than through a central register. However, no central figure has exclusive access to the information in a blockchain; instead, the entire database and its history is made available to every user. Once transactions are entered, they cannot be reversed or altered. This system, on which most cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and Ethereum are based, has attracted particular attention in the banking industry; however, the *Harvard Business Review*, among other publications, has repeatedly called attention to its potential as a means for identification without the manipulation of third parties. Not only does the blockchain system, due to its transparency and irreversibility, go to great lengths to prevent identity theft, the system is also highly accessible, allowing for great numbers of people to be registered and access their registration information universally.

Background Information

Legal Identity Within the Sustainable Development Goals

When the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were outlined by the UN in 2015, Target 16.9, “By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration”, marked one of the major changes in comparison to the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The fact that 1.5 billion people still lack legal identity is a testament to the monumental task that the United Nations has determined to work towards within the next 15 years. Since outlining the SDGs, however, some progress has been made: the launch of the World Bank’s Identification for Development (ID4D) program has promoted extensive research in the matter of legal identity as it relates to the concept of sustainable development.

Legal identity is crucial as a means to achieve sustainable development primarily because of the massive potential that identity papers and any form of state-issued identification documents can unlock. In the vast majority of countries, documents that verify legal identity are the only reliable way to engage in services that are sometimes even necessary for survival. Indeed, many of the rights outlined in the UN Declaration for Human Rights are, in most countries, restricted to those with the ability to provide verification of who they are.

Legal Identity as a Prerequisite for Basic Rights and Services

Because most basic rights and services are provided by the government to its citizens, the access to legal documents acts as a barrier for the government to verify the identity of citizens. Though this process is to some degree necessary in order to make the provision of governmental services and government-citizen transactions more secure, it also ensures that those who are unable to legally verify themselves are not able to access a majority of these basic necessities.

State benefits such as social security and child benefits are largely dependent on the ability of an individual to provide a legal ID, as governments attempt to avoid non-citizens from receiving these state benefits. When applied to benefits such as healthcare and education, this can particularly become a problem of equality as a result of the overwhelming amounts of women lacking any form of legal identification. Many of the government institutions that are meant to promote women's empowerment, among them those that provided services related to sexual health and rights, may only provide their services to women who are legally able to identify themselves. As ID papers improve access to maternal healthcare and reproductive rights and decrease the likelihood of being sold off into early marriage -- the legal implications and the verifiability of a person's identity can act as major deterrents to human/child trafficking -- the provision of ID papers is crucial to women particularly in countries in which the birth right to documentation tends to be limited along gender lines. The provision of social services exclusively to those who can verify their identity with a form of ID has again become an important talking point since the global refugee crisis has reached its peak. In many key destination countries for refugees, it is country policy not to grant asylum seekers. Asylum seekers thus are not only sometimes unable to register for a job, but unable to receive access to social services that may be necessary for them to avoid extreme poverty.

The degree to which asylum seekers require a legal identity to access basic rights and services is underlined by the nearly universal policy of making documentation a prerequisite for border-crossing. Seeking asylum in general is near-impossible without a form of ID, as any nation without an open-border policy will require asylum seekers to verify their identity as a key starting point in the process of applying for asylum. The issue is not exclusive to asylum seekers, however: crossing borders legally and safely and the right to migration is restricted for all who do not have the ability to back up their identity claims with legal documents.

Finally, legal identity is necessary to engage in many forms of interaction with public institutions; in many nations, registration through the provision of legal documentation is necessary in order to begin an education at a school or university, to begin working in a public body, to open a bank account, or to gain access to political rights such as the ownership of public property or the ability to participate in local and national elections. The social inequality that occurs as a result of barriers in obtaining legal documentation is perhaps nowhere better exemplified: Nations that restrict or limit ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples or other marginalized groups from gaining access to a legal identity can easily perpetuate already existing social cleavages along ethnic lines. The fact that these marginalized groups disproportionately lack any legal documentation underlines the degree to which some nations deliberately prevent them from receiving the same

benefits that other groups do. As restricting the political and legal rights of some groups can solidify the power of others, it is no surprise that some national and local governments have resorted to these actions.

Current Hindrances to the Provision of Legal Identity for All

One of the major hindrances to the provision of a legal identity to all currently is simply the logistical difficulty of ensuring that all citizens of a nation are able to gain access to a state-issued identification document. In poorer, rural areas far away from any sort of state office, births may go undocumented for weeks on end or deliberately concealed, resulting in either legal documents with questionably verifiable information or no legal documents at all being provided to citizens at birth. The logistic restrictions are exacerbated by the massive amount of child labourers, children in conflict with the law, child trafficking and children bound by marriage -- these generally interfere with the ability of a child to gain legal documents verifying their identity.

Armed conflicts, too, tend to result in a disproportionate lack of citizens with legal identities in countries that have recently emerged from them. Civil registration systems, if they are not compulsory, universal and secure, may be endangered by armed conflicts, and if these systems are somehow harmed or destroyed, reissuing legal identities to all citizens can be a daunting task for a rebuilding post-conflict nation.

As previously mentioned, some national and local governments actively restrict their citizens from being able to assume a legal identity. Particularly regimes that believe that social equality along ethnic/gender lines could endanger their power are liable to restrict the provision of legal documentation to groups that they believe could challenge their rule. It may sometimes be economically profitable, too, for governments to restrict the provision of services to a select proportion of the population. The restriction of voting rights to those who are legally able to verify themselves is widespread, and even governments more developed countries such as the United States have received criticism for engaging in this alleged violation of civil liberties and measure to perpetuate inequality.

Technological Development as it Aids the Provision of Legal Identity for All

Both Non-Governmental Organizations such as the World Bank and the UNDP as well as corporations in the private sector such as Microsoft and Accenture have attempted to harness the power of technological developments in order to combat some of the limitations that current forms of legal identification offer. The UNDP has already mobilized some of its regional offices in an attempt to develop digital identity registration systems in Malawi and Tajikistan, and Microsoft and Accenture are currently working on a similar, UN-funded project designed specifically to fulfil SDG 16.9.

Most prominently, the developments in the technologies of blockchain and biometric data have fuelled the hopes that current technological developments can be used to aid the legal identification process. Biometric data can potentially be used in concordance with identification documents as a more secure way of verifying identity, and blockchain processes aim to universalize the process of registering a legal identity in order to increase its accessibility.

Limitations of the Current Technology Used to Aid Legal Identification

Though some of the technological developments in recent years have been extremely valuable in their contributions towards making legal identification available to all, they fall short of being universally deployed as of now because they face serious technological hindrances.

Biometrics face two main issues as a reliable way to provide legal identification: Firstly, unimodal biometrics - those that rely on only one identifier - have been time and time again ousted as not secure enough to prevent identity theft. Even in private technological use, biometrics tend to be easy to “cheat” or mimic, as facial and fingerprint recognition has not yet been perfected. Most biometric data processors tend to have a “false identification rate” as well, as they almost invariably, though sometimes exceedingly rarely, report false positives as a result of technological imperfection. Secondly, biometric data collection and storage in databases has faced severe opposition from the public. Biometric data collection has been criticized as disrespectful towards human dignity, with philosopher Giorgio Agamben notably equating the process of turning a human into a sum of biological data points with the collection of data on Jews in Nazi Germany. The process of collecting this data and storing it in a database, meanwhile, notably failed in the United Kingdom, when the 2006 parliamentary act calling for the establishment of a “National Identity Register” as the key organ to collect information and issue ID cards succeeded, was met with massive public protest and seen as a violation of privacy, and led to the destruction of the National Identity Register in 2010.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

UNDP (United Nations Development Fund)

The UNDP plays an important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 16.9 as it most notably is dedicated towards utilizing technological developments to achieve this goal. The UNDP has done extensive research in the question of utilizing biometrics as a means to more reliably issue identification documents, and is currently dedicated towards research and towards aiding the provision of legal identities to citizens in each of its regional offices worldwide. The UNDP also collaborates with the other organizations mentioned below in sharing research in order to facilitate the digitalization of legal documentation.

World Bank

The World Bank’s most notable contribution towards the effort of facilitating the Sustainable Development Goal 16.9 is its Identification for Development (ID4D) scheme, one of the most high-profile movements dedicated towards providing legal documentation since the inception of the SDGs. The ID4D scheme aims to raise awareness about the issue, interact with its clients - most of them governments of countries struggling to provide widespread identification - on appropriate measures to take in achieving their goal, and finances the necessary infrastructure in struggling countries.

ID4Africa

The private organization ID4Africa outlines five specific measures they aim to utilize in order to facilitate the development of digital identification in Africa, the continent struggling most with the provision of legal identity: “

1. Promote the responsible adoption of digital identity in order to enhance people’s lives, make them visible, and empower them to claim and exercise their rights from birth-to-death with dignity and respect.
2. Promote access to knowledge and information by the identity stakeholders so that policies and investments about identity systems are informed and based on sound evidence and experience.
3. Promote South-South knowledge transfer related to identity in order to better understand the practical implications of different options depending on the context.
4. Promote the emergence of a robust commercial identity marketplace, which allows many vendors, products, solutions, and technologies, to continually compete on innovations, features, performance and price for the benefit of Africa.
5. Organize in Africa an annual meeting, accessible to all African Nations, in order to actively engage and discuss identity matters and to lay out the ID development agenda for the upcoming year.”¹

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1891	The first recorded use of biometrics for identification takes place in Argentina, as criminals are identified according to their fingerprints.
1915	In Great Britain, a photographic passport is first required as a form of state-issued identification.
1979	Biometric identification is first used to identify and arrest terrorists in Germany, as the method of “Rasterfahndung”, filtering information out of public databases, is used to arrest members of the left-wing terrorist Red Army Faction.
1987	“Smart cards” or identification cards using digital chips are first implemented as a form of identification, as Turkey begins to issue all professional drivers’ licenses as smart cards in order to identify and report violations of traffic law.

1988	Biometrics are first embedded in state-issued identification documents as fingerprints and iris scans within personal IDs are standardized in numerous European countries.
1993	In the United States, the National Voter Registration Act streamlines the process of registering to participate in national elections by requiring US states to allow all citizens with a driver's license (the only form of legal identification in the United States) the ability to register to vote.
2003	The European Union deploys "Eurodac", its automated fingerprint identification system designed to identify asylum seekers.
2015	In the UN Resolution A/RES/70/1, the Sustainable Development Goals, the successor to the Millennium Development Goals, are outlined as the targets the UN aims to achieve by the year 2030. Goal 16.9 mentions the provision of legal identity and a birth right to identification to all global citizens.
2017	Accenture and Microsoft collaborate in a UN-supported project designated to create a blockchain-based digital ID network.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- **Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)**

When the United Nations passed A/RES/70/1 in September 2015, they first outlined the Sustainable Development Goals as the framework for the work the UN hoped to achieve within the next 15 years. Goal 16.9 aims to provide legal identity, including the right to birth registration, to all by the year 2030.

- **Birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition everywhere as a person before the law- Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): A/HRC/7/22**

The annual OHCHR report discusses the current status of legal identity and the right to birth registration in individual UN Member States. It also assesses the necessity of legal identity in order to receive access to basic rights, services and freedoms, and analyzes the current hindrances to globally available legal identity, before discussing means by which SDG Goal 16.9 can be universally achieved.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Many nations have made individual attempts to solve the issue by effectively deploying identification schemes in all areas of the country or by utilizing new technological developments to facilitate the provision of legal identities. Through collaboration with organizations such as the World Bank or the ID4Africa movement, Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) have made particular advancements in providing legal identities and the birth right to documentation in recent years.

Countries such as Thailand, Peru and India have implemented national ID numbers and universal registration plans as a highly beneficial way to provide services to their citizens. In Thailand and Peru, the respective governments have seen widespread improvement of their delivery of health and disaster prevention/help services by obligating the population to register a national ID number and be documented by a national database. In India, meanwhile, the unique ID number issued to every citizen has prevented identity theft -- the benefits the government intends to provide have reached their intended beneficiaries with magnitudes of higher efficiency than before the introduction of the “Aadhaar” number. Though these plans increase efficiency, however, they struggle to address the problem of registering rural and undocumented populations to ensure that these benefits reach them as well.

Public education campaigns in some countries have been effective in increasing the number of citizens aware of the potential to receive a legal identity. In Iraq and Mali, information campaigns and citizens’ guides published and distributed have notably increased the amount of rural citizens applying for federal-issued IDs.

National electronic ID (“eID”) programs can also greatly assist the widespread provision of legal documentation. Some eID programs carry the benefit of not requiring a citizen to physically go to government offices in order to apply for public services, allowing citizens to store digital signatures, and holding a citizen’s fingerprints for easy bank transfers and other forms of verification. Most notably, however, eID programs are restricted by how expensive they are- nearly all nations that have issued eIDs are More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs).

Possible Solutions

To increase the number of people who have the ability to assume a legal identity, increasing the accessibility of legal documentation is crucial. Whether this be through technological developments or schemes such as the public education campaigns in Iraq or Mali, the barriers that prevent individual citizens from obtaining the means to verify their identity must be broken down.

One relatively straightforward means by which governments can make the assumption of a legal identity more accessible is by minimizing the requirements for receiving a state-issued ID. Nations in which drivers’ licenses act as a replacement for state-issued IDs, for instance, restrict large proportions of the population from receiving social services or participating in elections. Those nations which have high requirements for issuing IDs may consider lowering these requirements in order to more efficiently

monitor who receives social services and in order to form a more comprehensive national database of ID holders.

The political misuse of legal identification must also be prevented - both on the patron and the client's side - in order to ensure that the right to legal documentation is properly secured. To prevent identity theft, the potential of blockchain systems is to be strongly considered. Moreover, transferring the authority over the ID-issuing process to autonomous ID agencies could streamline the process, make it more accessible and both reduce corruption in limiting the provision of IDs to certain marginalized groups as well as prevent any sort of ID fraud on the client's side, e.g. the abuse of services granted by a government. An autonomous ID agency, however, would have to be intensely monitored and secured in order to prevent further political misuse and to secure any sort of ID database in case of an economic or political crisis.

The shortcomings of biometric data collection could be countered by utilizing multimodal biometrics. Instead of relying on the highly insecure method of verification based on one characteristic such as fingerprint or face-scanning, multimodal biometric data collection checks for concordances across two or more biometric characteristics before allowing a proper verification to ensue. This measure, however, would be extremely costly and thus for now primarily limited to MEDCs.

In debate, delegates will have to consider the factors that prevent the current technological developments from fully tackling the issue with regards to making legal documentation more accessible to the world population. Resolutions should tackle both the technological shortcomings that are still to be overcome as well as the political and socioeconomic factors that perpetuate the vast numbers of people without access to a legal identity in order to promote viable solutions and a fruitful debate.

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Appendix

I. ID4Africa

(www.id4africa.com/about/)

II. Human Rights Documents related to *Relevant UN Treaties and Events*

(http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/alldocs.aspx?doc_id=13819)

III. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)

(http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf)

Forum: Economic and Social Council

Issue: The Question of Eradicating Child Marriages

Student Officer: Mariana Colmenares

Position: Deputy President

Introduction

One in every 9 girls is married before reaching age 15, and that number increases to 1 in every 4 when looking at girls who are married before age 18. Children all over the world are impacted by this issue and it can take a physical and emotional toll to those who are directly affected by it. In nations where child marriages are common, high indexes of early pregnancies can be found, and the mothers often have a lack of medical resources available to them, putting their health directly at risk. Early pregnancies have been identified as a leading cause of death in many developing countries. Furthermore, girls involved in a young marriage are often forced to leave school in order to take care of household activity. This hinders a large percentage of young populations in countries where child marriages happen often, and as a result many of them are unable to further their education in hopes of a better future.

Taking a closer look into the communities that are largely affected by it we can observe that there are some main factors that stand out as root causes for this issue. First off, poverty is highly prevalent in many nations where child marriage is common. In many developing countries families tend to see marriage as an opportunity to ensure their child's future, by providing them with a family that has a better economic standpoint. In many countries, families also believe that that marrying their child will protect them from sexual and gender violence, because of this misconception, young girls are often married in the hopes of providing safety. Another big issue when dealing with child marriages are customs and religions present in specific nations. Sometimes, traditions and religious practices support child marriages, causing many families to marry their children in devotion to these practices.

Many girls in developing countries lack the ability to chose and make decisions for themselves, these situations can be influenced by many factors, and cause them to be subject to dangers such as child marriages. Although countless international agreements outlaw child marriages, and provide restrictions to similar interactions, it is still a big issue in many developing countries.

Definition of Key Terms

Minors

A minor is defined as someone who is under the legal age of 18. Minors are protected under the law from many situations but issues such as child marriages are violations of said protection.

Underage individuals are not fully developed physically or mentally, that's why the law strives to protect them and enforce their rights.

Developing country

A developing country is a nation that is not yet industrialized, and often has poor rates of economic and social development. Regions like these seek for more resources and solutions, in order to become more advanced in areas where they lack expansion and infrastructure.

Gender Inequality

Unequal treatment or recognition based on or influenced by an individual's gender. Society's gender norms also play a big part in gender inequality in regions where the roles of both genders are evidently different.

Dowry

A dowry is property or money that is gifted from the bride and her family to the husband. In countries where dowries are a tradition, impoverished families often marry their children at a younger age in order to "exchange" their daughters for a smaller sum seeing as it would be considered more affordable.

Fertility

Fertility is the ability to conceive children. In many developing countries it is a tradition that once a girl is married, regardless of her age, she should demonstrate her fertility. Often times, this leads to many young pregnancies which can further develop to have complications for both the child and the mother.

Exploitation

Exploitation refers to using someone in order to benefit from their work. Child marriages often lead the exploitation of these children, as they are later expected to accomplish household chores according to the role they play in their home.

Background Information

General Overview

Gender Inequality

The issue, like many other world problems, affects both genders. However, there is a clear discrepancy between the amount of young girls and boys that are affected by child marriages. The UNICEF progress and prospects report on ending child marriages states that 156 million boys are married before they reach age 18, compared to 720 million girls under the same consequences. Evidently, child marriages puts many young boys and girls at risk, however it is discernible that it is a much bigger risk for girls. The UNICEF report also states that even in

countries where child marriage is less common, the same difference between genders are also found.

It is also observed in many nations, that girls found in child marriages are married to much older men, further adding to the discrimination of girls worldwide and portraying a negative image of women's rights upon the youth of the society. Many organizations focusing on eradicating child marriage state that this issue is a “manifestation of gender inequality” (UNICEF) and it reflects social norms that are imposed on many women and girls across the globe.

Medical Care

Child brides are often subject to unsafe sex, conditions that make them vulnerable to early pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and other implications. There is also an increased pressure provoked by societies and culture to have children once a girl is married, making these pregnancies not at all uncommon in regions where child marriage indexes rise high. The UNICEF prospects and progress report states that in Nepal one third of women ages 20 to 24 years of age who were married before reaching age 15 are mothers to three or more children, compared to 1% of women who were married as adults.

Despite the health implications, child brides and young women who were married at early ages are less likely to access safe medical care for treatment and even childbirth. The UNICEF report also states that in developing countries such as Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nepal, and Niger, women who were married as adults are at least twice as likely to deliver their children in a proper health care facility.

Progress

Although this problem is still of great concern and has alarming statistics in many countries, we can observe some progress that has already been made. Currently, 1 out of 4 women were married as children compared to 1 out of 3 in 1980. This is a decline in around 10% of the affected number of women. Practice of marriage under the age of 15 has also declined, providing hope that more children will have the opportunity to complete a basic education and not be hindered by their involvement in a marriage.

These results go to show, that in spite of the issue still at hand, the strategies that are being used at the moment are causing a slow but steady improvement. However, the UNICEF report predicts that if the process is not accelerated the number of child brides will remain high.

Increase in population

One of the major factors that increase the problem of child marriages, is the increase of population. By 2050 the world population is expected to grow by more than 2 billion inhabitants. Our world is rapidly developing, but in many regions we can observe that the population is growing too fast in comparison to development rates in various aspects.

When the socioeconomic rates of a country fall behind, the percentage of poverty immediately increases, creating an unstable environment for individuals living in regions of the country that have lower access to resources, as well as decreased income in comparison to the rest of the population.

When poverty, one of the root causes for child marriages, merges with the presence of a deteriorating economy, many families who stood in a stable position begin to lack monetary resources in their daily lives due to many things such as inflation, increase of taxes, decrease in job opportunities, and many more. This causes a greater need for alternative options to make ends meet, opening a door to child marriages.

Major controversies

Religious and cultural practices

As previously stated, religion and culture are big influences to the support of child marriages. With this, it is controversial whether taking action would be considered a violation of the freedom of speech of a population. With a growing human rights movement it is important to avoid causing riots amongst the people in order to maintain their full support to increase efficiency when battling a serious issue like this.

It is also critical to note, that the UN and many other activist organizations, have a goal to protect the cultural identity of the population, and to value their importance. Because of this, campaigns, and attempts to decrease the cultural incorporation of child marriage must be approached carefully.

The effects of poverty

Poverty is one of the root causes of child marriages. It is shown that developing regions' indicators regarding the issue are much higher than that of wealthy regions. UNICEF states that girls in the "poorest quintile are 2.5 times to marry in childhood than those living in the wealthiest quintile". The difference is also prevalent when looking at median age of marriage. For example, in India the median age of marriage is at a 5 year difference with the poorest women being on the younger side (median age is 15.4 years old).

The economic and social status also has an importance on the issue because it affects how certain families and individuals are seen within the community. Poverty also plays a big part when looking at the reasons for child marriage, families will often times marry their children at young ages to reduce the price of a dowry when paying the groom's family. It's also controversial whether an impoverished family has the proper resources and ability to take care of a child, and if that child would be in a better position with her family on in her marriage.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Niger

Niger is recognized as the country with the highest number of child marriages and lies 1st on the international ranking as the nation with most young marriages. The nation also has a high prevalence of poverty and other factors that often increase statistics regarding child marriages specifically.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh lies 5th on the international ranking for the most child marriages. The country has a high prevalence of both girls married by age 15, at 18%, and those married by age 18, with a 52% .

India

India has also shown high numbers of child marriages, being ranked at 10th place, however, most of the marriages in India occur between ages 15 and 18 instead of before age 18 like most of the countries largely affected by the issue.

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, girls who marry as children are less likely to continue their education. This stems from the role society plays, where most child brides move on to occupy the roles of a housewife in their community by taking care of their home and performing chores.

Brazil

Child marriage in Brazil is different from other regions due to the fact that it's not based or encouraged by cultural practices. Instead, the main cause for the high percentage of child brides stems from the popular belief that it will grant them protection and economic security in regions where their opportunity would otherwise be limited.

UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) and UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)

UNICEF and UNFPA have a joint global programme that focuses on actions to speed up action in order to eradicate child marriage (The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage). UNFPA also has its own Action for Adolescent girls Programme, that focuses on providing aid and empowering girls and young women. In 2012, UNICEF organised the international day of the girl child, where the theme focuses on child marriage in order to raise awareness to the topic.

Girls not Brides

Girls not Brides is a global partnership, that counts with the participation of 800 civil society organizations based in more than 95 countries. The program focuses on empowering girls and eradicating child marriages to help girls fulfil their full potential.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1879	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is adopted by the UN general Assembly
1987	International Association on Adolescent Health (IAAH) is formed.
November 20th, 1989	Convention on the Rights of the Child (adopted and open for signatures)
1994	International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) is adopted by 179 member states.
October 11th, 2012	First International Day of the Girl Child (organized by UNICEF)
June 22nd, 2017	HRC adopted a resolution to end child marriage in humanitarian contexts.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- The international Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) hosted by UNFPA has called on countries to eliminate child marriages, and actively discussed the issue.
- The convention on the rights of the child: ratification by the general assembly resolution 44/25, in accordance with article 49 outlines living standards for the youth and specifically mentions child marriage.
- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): ratification by the general assembly resolution 34/180, in accordance with article 27

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

There are many programmes worldwide, along with conventions and treaties, that speak against child marriage and have brought awareness to the general public on this alarming issue. Despite the efforts being made by the UN and countless other organizations, child marriage is still largely present in many nations and puts many young children at risk. However, as mentioned before, some progress is visible when comparing current statistics to those before most programmes were put into action. Because of this, we should keep striving to put a stop to the issue at hand.

Possible Solutions

In order to solve this pressing issue action must be taken in various aspects. First off, the committee should focus on supporting international events in order to raise awareness to the issue. If a viable option is deemed appropriate more events or celebrations could be created to further spread awareness.

Seeing as child marriage often has an impact on education programs should be strengthened and made available to those in rural and impoverished areas. Nations should seek to provide safe institutions in every area of the country. Furthermore, proper transportation should be provided to those in areas at a long distance from their educational centres. Curriculums could also be adapted in order to better fit the needs of a community, and provide proper education that could teach young children about common issues in their region that would include the implications of child marriage. Charity oriented projects could be considered as an alternative to raise funds and gather volunteers to help in said educational facilities.

On the other hand, schools and other educational centres should provide adapted services to children who never finished their education due to a child marriage. Their curriculum should be condensed, providing them an opportunity to complete their education in a viable time to further expand their knowledge for the future and ensure them with a better lifestyle.

Lastly, campaigns to inform young girls and boys should be spread internationally, and especially in areas most affected by the issue. These campaigns could provide information on children's rights regarding the situation, and help centres where they can seek aid if they are being affected.

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Appendix

- I. Girls Not Brides: <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/where-does-it-happen/>
- II. UNICEF Progress and Prospects report: http://www.unicef.org/media/files/Child_Marriage_Report_7_17_LR..pdf
- III. UNFPA overview: <http://www.unfpa.org/child-marriage>
- IV. Convention on the rights of the child <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/crc.pdf>

Forum: Economic and Social Council

Issue: Measures against the threat to public health posed by fraudulent medicines

Student Officer: Lucas Jones

Position: Deputy President

Introduction

Fraudulent medicines represent a serious threat to the wellbeing of millions of people around the world, especially those in developing countries. The fraudulent medicines industry is worth billions of US dollars, but it is by no means legal or consolidated. Fraudulent medicines can be manufactured by individuals or sold by large groups of people on a scale that is difficult to come to terms with. Recent estimates by the World Health Organisation put the percentage of fraudulent medicines on the market in some developing countries at 50%. The trade in fraudulent medicines continues to grow and become more sophisticated as pharmaceutical sciences become more advanced, and counterfeit medicines continue to plague attempts to combat epidemics in the developing world.

In developed nations the majority of people do take into consideration the existence of fraudulent medicines, yet in many nations the threat that they pose is all too real. Countries that have had regulated healthcare systems in place for many years tend not to struggle with the issue as much as countries where medicine can be sold in areas other than designated pharmacies and medical practices. With 200,000 people dying each year in China alone due to the use of fraudulent medicines, it is imperative that the United Nations moves to deal with this crisis as quickly as possible.

The United Nations is well placed to deal with the threat posed by these counterfeit pharmaceuticals; one of the largest factors in explaining the problem is the way in which the pharmaceuticals trade operated between borders. The UN's power to bring nations together with the aim of setting out trade regulations for medicines and tighter border control for pharmaceuticals is a key tool to be used in the fight against these medicines. International cooperation is imperative in ensuring that the trade in fraudulent medicines is stopped due to the fact that a huge percentage of counterfeit medicines in countries like the Dominican Republic originate in other countries; China, in this example.

Definition of Key Terms

Fraudulent Medicine

When discussing the problem referred to as 'fraudulent medicines' in the title of the issue the WHO adopted the term "substandard or falsified medicine" on the 29th of May 2017(ii). A

'Fraudulent Medicine' is therefore classified as any medicine that doesn't contain enough of the active ingredient for it to work, and actively pretends to do so. A medicine that does not meet quality standards is not, therefore, a fraudulent medicine, but a medicine that does not meet quality standards but pretends to therefore is. As will be discussed later the definition of what constitutes a 'fraudulent medicine' is a huge object of debate, and for that reason the nomenclature of this topic is quite complex.

Inert Medicine

An inert medicine is one that lacks any of the active ingredients that allow it to work, thus rendering it obsolete.

Intentional Definition

This is a definition that gives a general overview of what something is, followed by the qualities that it must meet to satisfy the definition. In terms of fraudulent medicines, this would be the IMPACT definition of counterfeit medicinal product, which is listed above.

Enumerative Definition

A definition that encompasses a list of, in this example, products that count as counterfeit medicines in order to avoid the intricacies of an intentional definition, which can be left up to interpretation.

Thin-layer chromatography

A method of assessing the components of a solvent by separating the components of the solvent by their solubility in another given solvent. This is the process of using a medium, like paper, suspended with the very bottom of the material in a solvent, like water. A second solvent, such as ink, can then be placed on the medium, and it will be carried up the medium until it the solvent separates into its individual components; allowing one to observe the components of a medicine in liquid form to determine whether there are active ingredients present, or unexpected ingredient that shouldn't be in the medicine. This is not an instant test, but it is a good indicator of whether or not a medicine needs to go for further testing.

Background Information

History

The trade in counterfeit medicines is as old as medicine itself, and examples of fake medicines can be found throughout history. One of the earliest known writings on fraudulent medicines and their detection is by Dioscorides: a Greek botanist in the 1st Century, illustrating the long-term nature of the problem. More recently there has been an increase in awareness of fraudulent medicines around the world as both healthcare systems and medicines become more sophisticated. Due to the rapid industrialisation of countries around the world during the 19th and 20th centuries there has been an

increase in the accessibility of medicine to the overall benefit of the human race. Competition in the medicine industry has been increasing for centuries, with some of the earliest examples of people profiting from counterfeit medicines being apothecary's in Paris in the 15th century. The first modern international attempt to solve the problem was the international conference on the rational use of drugs in Nairobi 1985. 3 years afterwards it was decided that the World Health Organisation would work towards eliminating the problem of counterfeit pharmaceuticals.

Defining fraudulent medicines

One of the biggest problems that occurs when the international community attempts to solve the issue of fraudulent medicines is the fact that the definition of a “counterfeit medicine” varies by country. Although there is a unified WHO definition for what constitutes a fraudulent medicine this is not entirely agreed by nations. Some nations settle for enumerative descriptions: which is troubling considering the constantly evolving nature of the problem. When countries have laws for prohibited substances that are just lists of what is illegal it is very easy to circumvent the laws by producing products that are still counterfeit but do not fall afoul of the law. In the future It is possible that there could be an uptake of the WHO definition, which is set out in A70/23, however for now it is critical that there is a clarification as to what is defined as a fraudulent medicine, particularly in regards to confusion between intellectual property law definitions that use the word counterfeit and definitions of fraudulent medicines that use the word counterfeit in the sense of falsified rather than the sense of abusing a patent.

Why are fraudulent medicines dangerous?

Fraudulent medicines can either be actively, or passively dangerous.

Actively dangerous medicines

These are medicines that have been contaminated with a poison or any other hazardous chemical that means the medicine has a negative effect. Interpol reports that “anti-freeze” that was put into cough syrup led to “hundreds of deaths” in “Panama, Haiti, Nigeria, and Guangzhou”. Internet frauds tend to be more responsible for these medicines, but that is not to say that other kinds of medicines are not dangerous. Medicines that misrepresent themselves as other medicines can have undesired side-effects, especially if a very strong medicine is being sold as one that has a high dosage, which can cause severe damage. There are several household items like wax and paint that are routinely added to fraudulent medicines in order to save money in the process of making them, and if the compounds used are toxic and unsuitable for human consumption then the fraudulent medicine is considered actively dangerous.

Passively dangerous medicines

These tend to be a lot more common in markets where there are not stringent tests in place to determine whether a medicine has the correct amount of the active ingredient. Equipment to test whether or not a medicinal sample contains the required amount of active ingredient is often expensive and requires a large amount of electricity, so a lot of drugs that lack active ingredient

go unnoticed. This has led to fatalities all around the world, particularly in the Mekong river basin; where fraudulent Artesunate (a cheap anti-malarial drug) is often sold as real medicine. This has led to hundreds of deaths of malaria, despite the fact that the medicines themselves were not harmful. These are not only dangerous for the people who cannot find drugs that will actually cure them, but they are also dangerous because they have the potential to destroy a community's trust in modern medicines as they are seen to be useless. Attitudes to medicines are a defining factor in the fight against infectious disease in Africa in particular, so when the WHO issued a warning about fraudulent Meningitis vaccines in May 2015 it was a devastating blow to the attempt to eradicate the disease in the area.

How do counterfeit drugs enter legal circulation?

The sheer variety of methods by which counterfeit drugs can enter legal circulation makes it incredibly difficult to find solutions that actually assist and engage with every aspect of the problem.

Manufacture

The development and manufacture of counterfeit drugs is not an intensive, skilled, or expensive process, and this ease of access coupled with the high potential reward yielded by counterfeit drugs has led to the creation of many small-scale workshops and laboratories that create inert or actively harmful drugs intended for sale as working pharmaceuticals. These drugs can then be directly supplied to people; allowing them to bypass the protocols that would show that they are fake. A common example of this is the sale of inert growth hormones to athletes in gyms.

Introduction into the supply chain across borders

For the period in which a drug is in circulation around one country that has regulations in place it is relatively difficult for counterfeit drugs to enter the legal circulation, however when drugs cross borders a huge problem arises due to differences in regulations and the many pathways through which the drugs can travel. The constant changing hands of the drugs and the price disparity for the same drug in different nations leave an abundance of opportunity to inject cheaper fraudulent medicines into legal distribution networks in order to make a profit.

Repackaging

One of the most overlooked problems with regards to fraudulent medicines is the way in which the labels on medicines are changed at the borders to different nations. Every nation has regulations stipulating what has to be included on the label of a pharmaceutical product, and because these regulations often differ across borders a great deal of repackaging must be done in order to facilitate the legal trade of pharmaceuticals. One of the key safeguards to avoid the counterfeiting of medicine is the inclusion of identifiers and ingredients lists on labels for individual units, but these become obsolete when the medicines are repackaged. In reality it is simple to repackage a medicine as something other than what it is that can be sold at ten times the price, and this is how a lot of inert medicines enter the market.

There are further issues with the repackaging process in that despite the fact that international regulations make the destruction of used labels compulsory, a lot of the time these labels can be used and repurposed in order to sell useless or harmful medicines in disguise as the medicine on the label. This mislabelling is very common in nations that lack the appropriate infrastructure and funding to adequately observe the label changing procedure in a way that could make all the difference.

The illegal market

In regulated markets it is very easy to detect fraudulent medicines because there are safeguards in place, but a significantly higher percentage of drugs in illegal market are faked. The illegal market can be divided into different areas.

Informal sales

This tends to be more common in developing nations, but that is not to say that this phenomenon does not occur in developed nations. Many nations have developed a culture of street-vending that covers everything that can be bought, including medicine, and this is where we see some of the highest levels of fraudulent medicines in the trade. Because these street-vendors operate outside the parameters of regulated pharmaceutical systems they are cheaper, but also far more likely to be lacking key active ingredients. There is also a culture of this informal market in developed nations, however it tends to focus more on the sale of lifestyle drugs directly to consumers in gyms and clubs.

The internet

In developed nations the biggest problem are internet pharmacies, which are generally not regulated and sell a disproportionate number of fraudulent medicines when compared to the general market. An example of this is America. A lot of American citizens buy drugs from Canadian online pharmacies, but they are often unwittingly tricked into buying the medicines from fake sites, and end up with medicines that are useless to them.

How can counterfeit drugs be detected?

Thin-layer chromatography

Thin-layer chromatography was recommended by the World Health Organisation in 1999 as a preliminary test that can be done cheaply to verify whether or not a product needs to go for further, more complex testing, in order to verify whether it is a counterfeit and, if so, what item was used to produce the counterfeit. This method of testing can give an idea of the quantity of active ingredient present in a medicine, and can therefore be used to test whether or not a medicine has been rendered inert by a lack of active ingredient, which is a common method of counterfeiting. These tests are not able to independently identify the nature of the counterfeit; however it is enough to check whether or not a product needs to be tested further, therefore reducing the cost and risk of simply sampling the entire medicines industry to a high scientific level.

Basic testing

Basic testing involves using simple chemical tests to determine whether or not an ingredient that is purported to be present in the medicine is actually there. This can be effective in the detection of inert medicines, and harmful compounds in suspect medicines, but counterfeiters have been able to circumvent these methods of testing by inserting trace amounts of the active ingredient into the counterfeit; thus, making the counterfeits produce a positive result for active ingredient despite not having enough present to be useful. Basic tests are quick and cheap, and are therefore useful in rapidly working out whether or not a medicine has any active ingredient in it at all. Basic testing cannot quantify the amount of active ingredient in the medicine, and therefore it is not useful in detecting sophisticated counterfeits.

Complex testing

Complex testing is any testing that requires laboratory facilities in order to carry out the tests. This tends to analyse the structure and individual components of a sample of medicine

This testing tends to be more specific for individual pharmaceuticals or classes of drugs. For example; in Montreal in 2014 a method was developed that reduced the time taken to identify fraudulent erectile dysfunction pills by a factor of five. Using a liquid chromatography-mass spectrometer the researchers were able to identify the presence of any of 80 commonly used counterfeit ingredients in erectile dysfunction pills in under 10 minutes. The limitations to this is that the detection method searches for additional, incorrect ingredients that are already known to be used, and therefore the application of this system across the world in order to combat other fraudulent medicine problems is unlikely. The other limitation is expense; it is unfortunate that the countries who suffer disproportionately due to the problem will most likely not have the resources to implement such advanced methods of testing.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

China

China is the largest supplier and manufacturer of fraudulent medicines in the world, and tends to be the origin for the majority of fraudulent medicines that are shipped to Latin America and South-East Asia. This abundance of fraudulent medicine has been devastating to the Chinese population as well as the rest of the world; an estimated 200,000 (*International Policy Network 2006*) Chinese citizens die each year due to fraudulent medicines.

Interpol

Interpol's Operation Pangea targets the online sale of illicit medicines, and Interpol has run 6 separate important operations that deal with the problem of fraudulent medicines in different parts of the world. Their efforts have been incredibly effective, between the 9th and the 16th of June 2015 illicit drugs worth an estimated \$81 million were seized in Operation Pangea. Other operations like Mamba (which

deals with East-African fraudulent medicines), and Storm (which deals with the problem in South-East Asia have run in order to attempt to curb the trade in the areas where it has done the most harm.

WHO (The World Health Organisation)

The WHO is in charge of protecting the world from threats to humanity's collective help, and is therefore a key player in the fight against fraudulent medicines. World Health Assemblies are generally used as an area to discuss the issues, and the WHO has a high level of expertise in the field, as well as the funding to implement programmes to fight against the problem of fraudulent medicines.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
November 25 th 1985	First international conference on 'the rational use of drugs' is held in Nairobi; signifying the first time the problem of fraudulent medicines was brought to the attention of the international community
April 1 st 1992	First international convention on "counterfeit drugs" held in Geneva; the report that was produced after the conference is in the appendix. The first WHO definition of a fraudulent medicine was created.
May 1994	Resolution WHA 47.13 published, which requests the WHO "to assist Member States... in combatting the use of fraudulent drugs". This represents the first time that the issue of fraudulent drugs was formally made an international priority
1995	During a Meningitis epidemic in Niger 50,000 people are inoculated with a fraudulent vaccine, leading to 2,500 deaths
1998	Thirty children die in India after taking cough syrup that contained diethylene glycol: a toxic chemical used in anti-freeze.
2010	Estimated global fraudulent medicines sales reach \$75 billion dollars globally, signifying a 90% increase in the trade since 2005
May 29 th 2017	Seventieth World Health Assembly; where it was agreed that the phrase "substandard or falsified medicines" would be used to refer to the medicines referenced in this problem, rather than counterfeit in order to prevent confusion with intellectual property law.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Countering fraudulent medicines, in particular their trafficking, Resolution 20/6, 2011

- Substandard/spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medicinal products, WHA 65.19, WHA65/2012/REC/1, 26th May 2012
- Member State mechanism on substandard/spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified/ counterfeit medical products, A70/23, 20th March 2017

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Operation Pangea

Every year for the last ten years a week has been dedicated to Interpol's Operation Pangea; this year saw record participation, and a large increase in the number of participating African nations. This greatly increased the operational effectiveness of Pangea X. These operations have been highly successful in the past, and will continue to become more able to tackle the problem as more countries begin to participate. Pangea is on-going; it has just reached a decade in operation and will continue to do so.

Operation Storm

This operation applies specifically to the problem in South-East Asia, which is one of the largest hotbeds of fraudulent medicines across the world. The operation works in a similar fashion to Operation Pangea, but differs in the fact that it is a constant effort as opposed to one week each year. This is the kind of operation that has been applied across the globe in other markets for fraudulent medicines, such as Operation Mamba which aims to interrupt international fraudulent medicines trade in East-Africa. Operation Storm is a regional effort that has brought together the various customs regulation bodies of South-East Asian nations in order to bring about an effective end to the problem

Possible Solutions

Ending the informal medicine trade

Given that the informal medicine trade is one of the biggest reasons for the extent of the problem in developing nations it is necessary to clamp down on the illegal medicines trade in order to make it less easy for people who create fraudulent medicines to sell them outside of the law. The end of the trade can only be done on a country-by-country basis because it is such a specific problem. Of course, this cannot be done without regulations already being in place.

Shoring up trade regulations within nations

This is critical, and was one of the suggested points in resolution 20/8(i) to deal with the problem within nations. There is a noticeable correlation between the strength of a country's trade regulations and that country's ability to tackle the problem of fraudulent medicines. Countries that do not have strong regulations, or indeed have corrupt regulators; such as former Soviet Union nations and South-East Asian nations, tend to have a higher percentage of fraudulent medicines in the market than on average because it is easier for falsifiers of medicine to circumvent any regulations that are in place. Nations

should not only modernise their anti-fraud programs at legal level; they must also dedicate resources to the enforcement of these laws at ground level. Interpol has years of expertise in the field of law enforcement to combat fraudulent medicines: Operations Pangea, Storm, and Mamba have shown this. One of the functions of Interpol is to provide guidance to national law enforcement bodies in nations to deal with problems such as fraudulent medicines; and this function should be made more explicit. Interpol could be set up alongside the ECOSOC council to provide guidance for all nations, and nations could be encouraged to become more actively engaged in Operation Pangea, and other future operations to do with fraudulent medicines.

Raising awareness

One of the biggest problems in developing nations where there is a flourishing illicit trade in medicines is the inability of citizens to differentiate between legal and illegal pharmacies. Closing down entire illegal supply chains could place huge stress on developing economies, and would most likely be highly expensive. The reality is that no one wants to buy medicine that has no active ingredient in them, and therefore if people are made aware of how high the risk is that illegal medicines are fraudulent the demand will plummet and more people will use legal pharmacies. Awareness has to be raised in two regards: people need to be able to spot the difference between legal and illegal pharmacies, and they have to be made aware of the dangers of illegal pharmacies and the scale of the problem of fraudulent medicines in illegal supply chains. Care should be taken to use separate awareness campaigns for areas with separate issues, and it might be useful to include provision for an online awareness campaign in order to combat purchases from internet pharmacies. Internet medicinal sales can reach 50% counterfeit rates even in developed countries like America, and people should be made the aware that there is a strong chance that the medicines that they are ordering are fraudulent.

International partnerships

Trade deals between nations, particularly those that are known to export a lot of fraudulent medicines, should have an increased focus on preventing the sale of fraudulent medicines to other nations. China suffers immensely due to fraudulent medicines, but it also exports a lot of medicines to countries such as Panama, where the medicines are often found to be fake. That is not to say that China's legal medicinal industry is not working, but it would be unwise to ignore that nations such as China and India are exporting fraudulent medicines to developing nations in disguise as legal medicines. This problem can be tackled in nations that are on either side of this criminal international trade band together to create relatively impenetrable regulation systems for international medicinal trading, and it might be a good idea to bring nations together at a conference with representatives from Interpol and the WHO to facilitate the creation of these international agreements.

Improving the ability of people to verify the quality of medicines

A drug company called Sproxil has introduced a system of countering the fraudulent medicines trade by placing codes on every product that they sell that can only be accessed when the barrier is scratched off. The code can then be sent to a hotline which verifies the drugs that people have bought,

and does not charge for the calls. In doing so the codes effectively verify the quality of the medicines and give people reassurance that what they are buying works before they use it. Solutions such as this: which are simple and inexpensive, should be explored with assistance from the WHO and other relevant third-party organisations in order to aid finding fraudulent medicines amongst real ones. The solution suggested above is by no means the only way of verifying whether a medicinal product is real or not, and creativity is encouraged in finding efficient ways of detecting frauds.

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Forum:	Economic and Social Council
Issue:	Ensuring alternate employment opportunities to compensate job loss in fisheries
Student Officer:	Lucas Jones
Position:	Deputy President

Introduction

An estimated 120 million people rely at least partly on fisheries for their incomes, and yet 44% of fish stocks are close to collapse due to intense overfishing. With scientific estimates predicting the complete collapse of world fisheries by 2048, the sustainable use of marine resources has become a key issue for all nations, as illustrated by Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals; which reads: “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”. In order to protect fragile fish stocks and allow marine ecosystems to survive, it is inevitable that some of the estimated 2.1 million fishing vessels that are currently active will have to be taken off the water at least temporarily, but this will lead to a monumental unemployment problem with 43.5 million people, the majority of whom are small-scale fishermen operating out of developing countries, making their livelihood directly from fishing or aquaculture.

Fishing is a high-risk job that can be negatively impacted by a range of factors. The ILO found that fishers have an on-job death rate that is 18 times higher than the national average in Australia. Therefore, the provision of alternate employment for fishermen is necessary to maintain their economic and physical security. As climate change influences fish stocks and increases the frequency of extreme weather events, it is becoming more and more imperative to provide alternate employment opportunities to fishing communities; especially those in developing nations where there is no alternative available(iii). Vocational training and skills based assessments have worked previously to diversify the incomes of fishers, and the solutions that have been implemented in pilot schemes in the past can now be evaluated with the aim of creating more extensive programs to provide jobs for fishers.

. The introduction of means of alternate employment is important to ensure that individuals are not left disadvantaged due to marine conservation, and to help revitalise collapsing markets that relied heavily or totally on the ocean for their resources. This provision of alternate employment is also key to providing fisher communities with the social and economic mobility that is necessary to develop as a community. The economic, social, and ecological benefits of providing alternate sustainable employment to fishers cannot be overstated, and work must begin immediately to find solutions that are practical, non-intrusive, and most critically, long-term.

Definition of Key Terms

Fishery

The word fishery can be used as a noun to define an area in which fish are raised for commercial purposes, or as a verb to define the occupation of catching fish. This encompasses both marine environments that are fished, and aquacultures.

Marine Protected Area(MPA)

An area of water that is more strictly regulated than the area around it in order to protect the marine ecosystem within it.

Aquaculture

The farming of marine plants and animals in order to use them as food. An aquaculture differs from a fishery due to the fact that an aquaculture is controlled by humans specifically in order to produce food.

Primary employment in fisheries

This is any form of employment that involves the action of fishing. This refers specifically to the people who 'fish' waters: either from boats or from the land, or indeed any other form of fishing that is applicable. This does not include people who work in aquaculture.

Secondary employment in fisheries

This term defines anyone that works in any other aspect of fishing. The largest proportion of these workers are the people who process the fish once they are caught, but this term can apply to anyone that directly relies on the fish for their income but does not actively retrieve fish or shellfish from the ocean.

Sustainable Development Goal 14(SDG14)

The Sustainable Development Goals were a plan of action that was agreed for 2030, and encompasses all the areas of development that are considered crucial in improving the situation of the human race and the planet. Goal 14 reads "To conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development".

Ocean 'dead-zone'

Ocean dead zones are areas that have become hypoxic, usually due to eutrophication caused by human fertilisers making their way into the ocean. Entire ecosystems can collapse in these areas, and recurring, giant ocean dead zones exist in the Bay of Bengal, the Gulf of Mexico and the Baltic Sea.

Background Information

Overview

Providing alternate employment to compensate job loss in fisheries is important because the world's fisheries are struggling to cope with demand put on them by the human race. Fishing can be a highly dangerous job that bears very little reward, and it is a very unstable industry due to the vulnerability of fish stocks to climate change, weather, and other natural and manmade phenomena. The provision of alternate employment is primarily a method to compensate for the impact of closing fisheries, but in many cases alternate employment should be provided because it improves the quality of life for the community in question. Alternate employment methods grant fishing communities greater economic power; which can allow them to better survive freak weather events, famines, and other events that could spell doom when an entire community's income relies on the sea.

Why are fisheries closing?

When going about ensuring that people who are no longer employed in fisheries can find alternate employment, one must be aware of the reasons for which they lost them. The main reasons are listed below.

Overfishing

One of the most common causes of unemployment in fisheries is overfishing. In the European Union alone, the New Economic Foundation (NEF), an independent think tank, estimates that 100,000 jobs would be created if the problem of overfishing was solved. This is due to the fact that fisheries have had to close due to the extent of overfishing that has occurred, and this has led to a complete collapse of not only the fishing profession in the area, but the majority of economic activity. By restricting the number of people that use fisheries for a period of time, and teaching fisher communities to sustainably utilise their marine resources jobs will be created in both the primary and secondary fishing industries because there will be more fish in the oceans. Having less people on the oceans creates more jobs than having no one at all being able to use a fishery because it is utterly depleted. The issue with this is that in the same report NEF advises governments not to gradually reduce fishing in fisheries with collapsing stocks, but rather to completely halt fishing in areas that are at risk of depletion. In the long term, sustainable fishing could create thousands more jobs, and generate an estimated \$56 billion globally (*Sunken Billions*), but the immediate cost to jobs could be disastrous in communities that do not have safeguards in place to offer alternate employment to those that have lost their jobs.

Marine Protected Areas

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are a common factor for the closure of fisheries in areas in Southern Asia and Africa. When it is found that an area cannot continue to sustain a fishing industry, the area will be heavily regulated in order to prevent the complete collapse of marine ecosystems and allow fish stocks to replenish. The issue is that these waters are often the historical fishing grounds of local people, and that many of these people do not have the equipment required to fish the waters further from the coast than the MPA. For fishing communities this is a devastating blow to their economies. As the FAO notes on its website,

fisher communities are often built up in rural areas with minimal connection to other markets, leading to their complete dependence on fish. Since they are completely dependent on fish, when their fisheries are close they have nothing; and therefore need an alternate means of employment.

Who needs alternate employment?

When considering job loss in fisheries it is worth noting that there is a stark difference in the difficulty of providing alternate employment between developed nations and developing nations. There is also disparity in difficulty concerning the number of people that had once made a living of a now closed or empty fishery, and the extent to which their communities were developed before the closure. When Atlantic Cod fisheries closed in Canada, there were some successful measures in place to allow individuals who had previously fished Cod to fish for other species or engage in aquaculture, however this was not enough to prevent a 30% drop in population in several coastal towns that had previously relied on Cod stocks. Of course, one should aim to prevent similar changes in population due to closing fisheries, but one has to also remain aware of the fact that in many nations, the ability to move to another place to find alternate employment simply does not exist. Aid in providing alternate employment is most important in nations that are already experiencing intense unemployment and competition for existing jobs, and in areas where it would be insensitive, unjust, or dangerous to force people to leave their homes due to a lack of job opportunity in the fisheries that had once sustained them.

Alternate job opportunities to do with the ocean

It goes without saying that when looking for alternate employment for fishermen the global community must be sensitive to their needs and skills.

Marine conservation

One area of alternate employment that has been explored by the Colombian government is the use of local people who are no longer able to fish the waters as conservation experts helping to ensure the survival of newly created MPAs. The knowledge and expertise of local people provides benefits to the MPAs and helps to ensure that locals are educated on the benefits of the MPAs; which can help to prevent poaching and dangerous illegal methods of fishing.

Tourism

Tourism is often considered a force for evil when it comes to the work of conservationists, however when tourism is sustainably managed it can raise both awareness and funds for projects such as MPAs. Sustainable tourism can stimulate entire local economies, and provide jobs for any individuals that might have lost theirs due to the creation of an MPA, assuming that care is taken to prevent the locals and the environment from being exploited.

Alternate catches

In many areas, such as the Atlantic off the coast of Canada, there are only partially closed fisheries. These are fisheries where the catch of a specific type of fish is disallowed, but the fishing of the area for other catches is not restricted or prohibited. While it is true that the majority of fish stocks are crashing due to human over-exploitation there are still types of fish and shellfish that have the potential to produce higher yields if they are used sustainably. If a stock such as this exists near or within a restricted fishery priority can be given to the individuals that have lost their jobs in order to assure them alternate employment. If the transition is fully facilitated and there is minimal cost involved to individuals then there is not likely to be much friction concerning what kind of fish can and cannot be caught.

Aquaculture

The switch from a fishing lifestyle to one that relies on aquaculture is the marine equivalent of moving from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle towards agriculture. Communities that previously relied on marine resources can be taught to manage offshore farms for marine flora and fauna that can allow them to sustain themselves and profit from more efficient methods of raising fish and marine plants such as seaweed. It is necessary to note at this point that problems have arisen in the past concerning the proficiency of locals in managing aquaculture projects due to the fact that the methods employed are simply not natural to people who previously fished the open waters. When considering a shift towards agriculture it is necessary to take this into account and advise the locals at every turn.

Alternate employment unrelated to fisheries

The Regional Fisheries Livelihood Program for South and South-East Asia (RFLP) is a Spanish fund alternate employment pilot that was implemented by the FAO in Sri Lanka in order to try and provide alternate means of employment for fishing communities that argued for and implemented a strategy of diversification of income and alternate employment in order to reduce the risk posed to vulnerable fishing communities by changes in weather, dropping fish stocks, and the rise in fuel prices that was damaging their net profits. It is therefore to be considered whether you believe that the best way to go about providing alternate employment for individuals who have lost their jobs in fisheries is to provide them with completely separate means of earning a living.

Obstacles to the provision of non-marine employment opportunities

Below is a list of some issues that have arisen when trying to provide completely separate employment to people who had previously been employed in fisheries.

Lack of infrastructure in fisher communities

Many fishing communities that have developed around ocean resources only have the infrastructure necessary to profit from marine resources, and therefore additional funding and building work must go into creating the facilities required to create a diverse job pool that is less at risk from weather phenomenon and collapsing fish stocks. This could be funded by the

state or by the UN, and it should be taken into account that, if carried out correctly, this will have a large return value in terms of the overall contribution of that community to the nations economy as a whole. Take into consideration the potential need to secure funding and resources for any projects, be they educational or provisional, that are planned to provide alternate employment for people in fisheries.

Skill level

It would be unwise to underestimate the capacity of people in fishing communities to adapt to change and be able to thrive in alternate employment opportunities, but for a lot of people in these communities it would be difficult to suddenly change from the form of employment that they have pursued since they were a child to a completely new area of employment. Creativity is key in discovering new ways in which to provide employment to these people, but suggestions of alternate areas of employment should be realistic in order to allow for their success.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation)

The FAO is the body responsible for the maintenance of fisheries, and ran the pilot in Sri Lanka that looked into the provision of alternate employment to that community. This was successful in some aspects, as is detailed later in the report. The FAO is, in effect, responsible for the maintenance of fisheries, and is in charge of the implementation of SDG 14. The FAO also publishes the “*State of the World’s Fisheries Report*” every two years; which collates research from a variety of bodies to give an in-depth overlook of all aspect of the worlds fisheries, and world fish stocks.

ILO (The International Labour Organisation)

The ILO is in charge of assuring that workers from all walks of life are safe and are not exploited. They produce assessments of the fatality rate in occupations such as fishing, as well as dealing with issues concerning labour that are pertinent in fisheries: like the use of child labour or high levels of fatality.

MSC (The Marine Stewardship Council)

The MSC was founded in the wake of the North Atlantic collapse of Cod stocks, and is a body that evaluates whether fish products were fished sustainably and assigns fish products a rating if they are deemed to be a sustainable product.

Asia

The majority of fishing vessels are registered in Asia, which will be referred to in the geographic sense. The latest statistics put 73% of fishing vessels in Asia; highlighting the importance of fisheries in Asia as a means of income. With such a large population of fishers the needs of separate Asian nations should be taken into account when providing alternate employment in fisheries.

Canada

In 1992, Canada's Atlantic Cod fishery completely collapse, and it has since been directly involved in organising alternate employment for the 40,000 people that lost their jobs as a direct result of the fishery's closure. Canada is therefore one of the most experienced nations in terms of administering alternate employment in fisheries.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
April 29th 1958	UN convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources on the High Seas is signed, signifying the first time the international community discussed the issue of sustainable use of fisheries.
Summer 1992	The collapse of the North Atlantic Cod fishery: 40,000 people are put out of a job when the once-plentiful ecosystem off the coast of Newfoundland completely collapses
December 12 th 2015	At the 21 st Conference of the Parties in Paris in the Paris Agreement is signed; pledging almost all nations support for its program of environmental improvement. The accords stress the importance of saving the oceans and fisheries.
January 1 st 2016	The SDGs, including SDG 14, come into full force, thus cementing mankind's collective commitment to sustainable development.
June 5 th 2016	The 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA), which deals with the issue of IUU fishing comprehensively, enters into force.
July 2017	The Ocean 'dead-zone' in the Gulf of Mexico reaches record 8,776 square miles; becoming the largest dead zone on record in the area, and threatening the shrimp industry in the area.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources of the High Seas, 29th April 1958
- FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 31st October 1995
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 25th September 2015

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Sri Lanka

This is perhaps the most significant pilot scheme into diversifying income for fishing communities, and the full report is referenced in the bibliography(ii). This scheme assessed the areas in question in order to ascertain the most abundant natural resources, the enthusiasm for specific areas of work, and the potential of individuals who would be placed on the program. This surveillance took up to two years, and meant that when the project began the FAO, alongside development workers on the ground, were able to effectively guide a lot of young people into various aspects of work; in this case sewing, computing, and the use of Coconut materials to make manufactured goods. These were three areas of employment that were found to be highly desired in Sri Lanka at the time, which meant that once the group had developed the necessary skills they were able to find work. Funding was also provided for individuals to set up their own businesses, or to go on to further vocational training, which has allowed these communities to greatly diversify their income. This pilot scheme was specifically aimed at women in the area because it was found that the importance of fishing to the income of people in the area had increased gender equality and made the women in the area far more dependent on the men. That was one of the imbalances that the FAO set out to change in their pilot, and it should be noted that the majority of the participants in the pilot scheme were men. The pilot was a success; as it significantly diversified the income of the community and greatly reduced economic inequality between men and women in the area, but despite the fact that it did provide alternate employment in a fishing area its scope was not wide enough to provide all the actual fishers with means of alternate employment. The pilot did highlight that there is a genuine interest in alternate fields from people who lived in fishing communities all their lives, but the amount of time that the surveillance at the beginning took to carry out carries worrying implications for a version of this pilot on a larger scale.

Canada

In the 1990's Atlantic Cod fisheries reached breaking point, and the Canadian was forced to close four Cod fisheries: three indefinitely. This action put 40,000 workers in both primary and secondary fishing jobs out of work and led to an economic crisis in that area in Canada that had to be mitigated by the Canadian government; which had to provide about \$2.8 billion dollars to provide relocation, education, equipment, and other tools for economic diversification. This case highlights both the strengths and weaknesses of transferring workers who fish one species to fisheries where they can fish another one. In this example the Canadian government increased the quota for crab and shrimp and prioritised the jobs that were created for those that had been put out of work by the closure of the Atlantic Cod fisheries in the area. This succeeded in the short-term, and the quota for shrimp continued to increase, however this led to an unsustainable drop in the crab population that had to be dealt with by closing yet more fisheries. That being said, the injection of money into these areas contributed to a 40% boost in tourism, and a large expansion of other areas of employment in the area. The only issue was that even with the money, and an impressive local effort to increase heritage sites and change into a tourist economy, the areas worst-affected saw a 40,000-net migration rate over the next several years; highlighting that there are huge consequences if alternate employment is not provided to those made redundant by the closure of fisheries throughout the world

Possible Solutions

Alternate marine employment

In fisher communities the main area of expertise tends to be centred on the oceans, and therefore fishers will have transferrable skills that should be taken into account when attempting to provide alternate employment. Using these transferrable skills can be particularly helpful when the reason for a fishery's closure is marine conservation. Using a fishing community's practical marine skills to help with the preservation of their natural environments can be very effective as these communities will have expertise and practical knowledge that can aide in preservation. Aquaculture can be another appropriate marine job that can be taught to a community that needs alternate employment. Whatever marine employment is provided for a community a level of planning and education is key to the success of the venture. Respect for culture and tradition is required during the process of opening fisher communities to alternate employment, and provision could be taken to subsidise or pay for the equipment and training that would be required in order for them to change their method of employment.

Alternate employment on land

As the case study carried out by the FAO in Sri Lanka showed, there is definitely a strong case for the provision of completely separate employment for fisher communities. This is a very open solution to the problem, but it is also one where every case has to be analysed separately in order to alternate employment provisions to be successful. To ensure the success of the programmes one must ensure that the employment opportunities provided are long-term, and ideally there would be an opportunity to progress in that field. There are many different ways that these alternate employment opportunities could be provided, and the following suggestions are by no means exhaustive. One of the best ways to ensure that people in fisher communities have the chance to find employment in areas other than just fishing is to provide them access to lower and higher education. Education doesn't just give people the ability to change their means of employment: it teaches them that there are many more opportunities than just fishing. Fishing is often seen as a generational occupation, and in some cases children might never consider that there is alternate employment available to them. Specific vocational education can be provided that would propel fishers into flourishing markets in their localities, as long as care is taken not to over-saturate the local market or exceed demand.

Working with people in fisher communities

Regardless of what type of employment is offered to people in fisher communities, they should be included in the deliberation process throughout the course of the programme, regardless of whether the initiative is a state or UN programme. Satisfying the needs of the community is key to providing alternate employment that people actually want to do, and not doing so could jeopardise an entire program of action. Employment provided needs to be attractive, attainable, sustainable, and long-term in order to ensure that the solution is true-one, and not simply a "patch-fix" that does not tackle the root issue.

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Forum:	Economic and Social Council
Issue:	Encouraging the private sector to invest in developing educational tools and facilities
Student Officer:	Nicholas Kim
Position:	Deputy President

Introduction

It is reasonable that investing in education has always been difficult to tackle because too many children around the world lack the basic right to a proper education. Currently, about 132 million children around the world cannot make it to primary or secondary school. The United Nations estimates that countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America have about a 38 billion dollar financing gap that needs to be accounted for. Such gap exists because of the private sector that tries not to invest in risky areas such as countries in conflict or those with corrupt governments. However, it is even more necessary for local NGOs in the region and the private sector to try to close this gap in funding because as this report will show, these children will not only be the future of the businesses and economy in their respective countries, but could inevitably become part of the very companies that invest in them.

Definition of Key Terms

Private Sector

A private sector is all for-profit businesses that are part of the economy not part of the government's control, run by individuals. The sector employs workers through non-government agencies, business owners or corporations. Non-profit organizations or charities are part of the voluntary sector.

Invest

To invest means to spend and risk money to improve the educational tools and facilities that children can take advantage of especially in developing

Educational Tools and Facilities

Educational tools and facilities are resources that students have that help them learn useful skills to enter the workforce.

Developing Countries

A developing country is a country that has poor agricultural, economic and social infrastructure to support the nation's citizens. In the context of this issue, developing countries will also have weak primary and secondary educational systems because of a lack of support for education. Many nations with these types of problems have a lack of investment from the private sector. The background information will discuss emerging markets and their future. The emerging markets represent the markets of the developing countries in these three continents.

Global Education First Initiative (GEFI)

(See UN Global Compact in Major Countries and Organizations involved) The UN Secretary General introduced the Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) in 2012 to achieve goals related to education. It is unique in that it promotes partnerships and collects funding from sources from businesses in the private sector. The most recent GEFI held on September 2017 focused on improving the quality of education, fostering community members to become global citizens, and trying to put every child in school.

Emerging Markets

Emerging markets are markets of developing nations *(see Developing country in Definition of Key Terms)* that are rapidly developing their economy usually due to quick industrialization. They will also usually have more of a political and economic role in the world.

Background Information

The future of emerging markets

The question often arises, why big businesses and corporations in the private sector invest a significant amount in areas such as emerging technologies and health care but very little in education. The simple answer to this question is that in the past it was too risky with very little return on investment (ROI). After offering millions of dollars, investors believed they were making reckless long term investments in primary, secondary and sometimes even tertiary education systems with little in return.

But times have changed. Businesses in the private sector can no longer ignore investing in education in Lower Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) because changing migration patterns and demographic shifts throughout the world have given corporations incentives to invest. As the Center for Universal Education at Brookings states, current trends show that as the working population of wealthy countries begins to decline, the young workers in developing countries will inevitably take their place.

Trends in Demographics

The few demographic trends show that the working force of the future will be from developing countries. India, Brazil, and Bangladesh will have their working populations increase by at least

10% by 2020. In Africa, countries like Nigeria will have about three times the working force it has today. Ethiopia will have twice as much. India will have the largest workforce in the world. Meanwhile, the workforce in many European countries as well as in a few Asian countries, like Japan, will decrease. Multinational corporations can no longer ignore this increasing workforce because they will need to hire these young workers in the next decade or further on in the future.

Trends in Migration

Businesses that are based in wealthy and developed nations will have to hire the young working force mentioned above, and these migration trends are already showing. From 2008 to 2012, the United States had about 6 million migrants from countries like China, India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Just Pakistan and China alone had about 10 million emigrants. Countries like the United States and Australia are expected to increase their working population by about 4 percent due to immigration from the young working population in developing nations.

Global Growth Domestic Product (GDP)

Emerging markets will affect the global GDP significantly in the future. In 1990, emerging markets made only about 37% of the global GDP. In 2010, emerging markets made about 50% of the global GDP and by 2050, about 65% of the global GDP will be from emerging markets.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

UN Global Compact

The pact brings together companies in the private sector to fight for educational rights of children in developing countries. It particularly supports the GEFI's (*see Definition of Key Terms*) role in trying to decrease the number of out of school children. Currently, the number of out of school children is 57 million and decreasing thanks to efforts like these.

Intel

Intel makes significant investments in education each year. They created the Intel Teach Programme in 2000 that invests in about 40 million children's education each year and 10 million teachers around the world. This type of philanthropic work shows that it is more than possible for governments and large corporations to create systematic change. It has served as an inspiration to others and is currently working with other corporations like Microsoft and Cisco to implement the Assessment and Teaching of Twenty First Century Skills.

Nokia

Has created the Nokia MoMaths program that gives children access to interactive math lessons on mobile and through social media. The goal of this program is to create a community where children and teenagers alike can use the mobile platform to support each other's learning.

Cisco

Cisco has created the Cisco Networking Academy that teaches students and teachers around the world how to use computer networks more effectively. This program currently teaches about 1 million students that are from over 160 countries around the world. The academy has estimated to teach about 4 million students in total.

Global Business Coalition for Education

Brings together companies in the private sector to fight for educational rights of children in developing countries. It particularly supports the GEFI's (see *Definition of Key Terms*) role in trying to decrease the number of out of school children. Currently, the number of out of school children is 57 million and decreasing thanks to efforts like these.

UNESCO

UNESCO's vision is that education is the best way to fight against the poverty that exists in the world and also to improve the well-being and health of everyone. It is the lead player in shaping the goals and initiatives of the GEFI.

UN Special Envoy for Global Education

The special envoy was created to ensure that no child would be denied the right to go to school and be lifelong learners. The envoy's strategy is to focus on populations and developing nations that have the greatest risk of having limited access to learning opportunities. They also deal with issues such as child disabilities, child labour and child marriages.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1960	The 1960 UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education affirms the values of non-discrimination and equality in opportunities for education. Such affirmation opens the door for governmental support for investment, both public and private, into education.
1975	Multinational coffee companies sponsor the "Escuela Nueva" teaching method in Colombia, based on students taking part in their own learning and fostering links with school and the community. 'Escuela Nueva' has become a school management model that demonstrates how private initiative can help public education
1990	Charter schooling gains popularity in the US, whereby state governments supported the idea of private sector dynamics in education to improve its efficiency

2012	Global Education First Initiative introduced (goal to provide funding for education through global advocacy efforts and the private sector)
2016	United Nations Private Sector Forum-- discusses specifically the need for the private sector to pitch in to aid the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
2017	United Nations Private Sector Forum held-- discusses the role private finance and investment play in delivering UN goals for education. Specifically references the US' \$3-5 trillion annual investment.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, 22 December 2015, A/RES/70/224
- Enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, 6 August 2015, A/70/296
- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education on his mission to Chile, 3 April 2017, A/HRC/35/24/Add.1
- Participation of business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, 2 September 2015, E/DEC/2015/245

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

There have been many promising attempts toward getting the private sector to invest in the education. For instance, the Intel Teach programme, created in 2000, trained about 10 million teachers to allow for information technology to be incorporated into the classroom for over 40 million students worldwide. The program gives students the chance to learn basic computer skill training that allows them to use those skills in the future.

Although programs like these show how governments can work with corporations can provide better education, there must be more done to help those children in LEDCs who are especially in need. Attempts made so far, are like those of the Intel Teach programme, tackle a broad range of students around the world. But the children most in need, like the 18 million children in conflict-ridden countries who do not have proper access to school currently only receive 2% of the total aid given to education. It is understandable that attempts to give access to education in conflict ridden areas is incredibly difficult due to the inherent risk involved in investing there.

Another issue was that the funds that did make it to the children in need had ineffective government engagement. There was little cooperation between governments and the corporations investing because there wasn't enough knowledge of the developing countries laws and policies. For instance, in one of the Sub Saharan African state, the country did not allow schools to be on hills land that was not flat. Many of private schools therefore could not register to be official schools at the state. Most importantly, parents were sometimes left in the dark. Information about the school their children were attending. The investment also did not consider the hidden costs that parents had to deal with when their child attended school, like buying basic school materials.

Possible Solutions

In most cases businesses will only invest in a new venture if the returns significantly outweigh the costs of such investment. Businesses in the private sector (especially multinational corporations) are starting to realize that investing gives significant return in our interconnected world. In order to obtain even more investments from a diverse number of businesses, organizations like the UN Special Envoy for Global Education (See Major Countries and Organizations) should actively try to partner and give opportunities to businesses that want to invest in educational systems, facilities and tools.

A bigger dilemma with investing in educational tools and facilities is managing the investment so that it doesn't go to waste. Traditionally, investments that have been given in the forms of funding to responsible agencies in the developing country, direct funding, or subsidies to governments. Such methods have their strengths. But because of lack of oversight from the investor, sustainability cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, delegates should think about different investment models that could sustain a long-term investment in developing educational systems in those particular countries. For instance, delegates can come with a solution for the investment money to directly go to the students and parents themselves like by funding for basic school materials and supplies like books, pens and pencils. Delegates could also make sure that the investment is used effectively by holding the schools accountable for the educational services they provide. Partnership with the government and other educational services to hold schools accountable could be a good place to start.

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Appendix or Appendices

- I. 22 December 2015, A/RES/70/224 Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, 22 December 2015, A/RES/70/224
http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/224
- II. Enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, 6 August 2015, A/70/296
<http://undocs.org/A/70/296>
- III. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education on his mission to Chile, 3 April 2017, A/HRC/35/24/Add.1
<http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/593a6e8b4.pdf>