ECOSOC Committee

Chair Report

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[Committee Introduction]

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, established in 1945 to coordinate international action on economic, social, and environmental issues. Composed of 54 Member States by the General Assembly, ECOSOC serves as a central platform for policy dialogue, review, and recommendations on global development challenges. It oversees a broad network of subsidiary bodies and UN agencies, fosters cooperation among governments, civil society, and the private sector, and plays a leading role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through forums such as the High-level Political Forum.

[Welcoming Remarks]

The Chair warmly welcomes all delegates to the CIMUN ECOSOC Committee. As one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, ECOSOC serves as the central platform for international dialogue on economic, social, and developmental issues while bringing together diverse perspectives to advance inclusive and sustainable global progress. This committee offers delegates a unique opportunity to engage in policy-oriented debate that directly reflects the United Nations’ commitment to improving livelihoods, reducing inequality, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Delegates are encouraged to approach debate with diplomacy, pragmatism, and creativity, grounding their discussions in existing international frameworks while proposing realistic and actionable policy recommendations. The Chair looks forward to rigorous debate, constructive negotiation, and meaningful collaboration as delegates work together to craft solutions that uphold ECOSOC’s role in fostering sustainable and inclusive development for all.

[Agenda A: Promoting Urban Development and Affordable Housing]

Agenda Introduction

Rapid urbanisation has become one of the defining global trends of the 21st century. As economic opportunities, education, and public services continue to concentrate in cities, urban areas have experienced unprecedented population growth. While urbanisation has driven innovation and economic productivity, it has also placed severe strain on housing systems, infrastructure, and the use of land. In many cities, especially in developing countries, the pace of urban growth has outstripped governments’ capacity to provide adequate and affordable housing, resulting in the expansion of informal settlements, overcrowding, and unequal access to basic services. At the same time, developed economies face rising

housing costs driven by land scarcity, speculative investment, and insufficient affordable housing supply, and these factors further exacerbate social inequality.

The challenge of affordable housing is therefore not confined to a single level of development but reflects structural issues in urban planning, financing, and governance on a global scale. Inadequate housing undermines economic mobility, public health, and social stability, while poorly planned urban development contributes to environmental degradation and increased vulnerability to climate-related risks. Recognising these challenges, ECOSOC has emphasised sustainable urban development as a key component of the 2030 Agenda, particularly in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 11, which calls for inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities.

Thus, the purpose of this agenda is to promote comprehensive and cooperative approaches to urban development that expand access to affordable, adequate, and sustainable housing, where delegates are expected to consider policy tools. Through balanced and realistic solutions, this agenda seeks to ensure that urban growth contributes to social equity and long-term sustainable development rather than deepening existing disparities.

Historical background

Urban development has been closely tied to economic transformation and demographic change throughout modern history. During the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries, rapid industrialisation drew large populations from rural areas into cities in search of employment. While this urban influx contributed to economic growth, it also resulted in overcrowded living conditions, inadequate sanitation, and the emergence of slums, as housing supply failed to keep pace with population growth. Early urban housing challenges highlighted the need for government intervention in planning, public health, and social welfare, laying the foundation for modern urban policy.

Following the devastation of World War II, many countries prioritised large-scale urban reconstruction and public housing initiatives. In Europe, state-led housing programmes were introduced to address housing shortages caused by wartime destruction, while in developing regions, post-colonial urbanisation accelerated as newly independent states invested in cities as centres of administration and economic development. However, limited financial capacity and weak institutional frameworks in many developing countries led to the expansion of informal settlements, where access to secure housing, clean water, and infrastructure remained insufficient. At the same time, rapid population growth intensified pressure on urban land and services.

From the late 20th century onward, globalisation and economic liberalisation significantly reshaped urban development patterns. The rise of private real estate markets, financialisation of housing, and reduced expenditure on social housing in many developed economies contributed to increasing housing costs and affordability crises. Major global cities became hubs for international investment while often driving property prices beyond the reach of low- and middle-income households. In parallel, developing economies continued to experience rapid urban growth, with cities expanding faster than regulatory and planning mechanisms could adapt.

In recent decades, the international community has increasingly recognised urban development and housing as central to sustainable development. Frameworks such as the Habitat I, II, and III conferences, the New Urban Agenda, and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 11, have emphasised the importance of inclusive, safe, and sustainable cities. Despite these efforts, affordable housing remains a persistent global challenge that has been shaped by economic inequality, land-use constraints, and governance gaps. Understanding this historical trajectory is essential for devising effective and cooperative solutions to promote equitable urban development and ensure access to adequate and affordable housing for all.

Status Quo

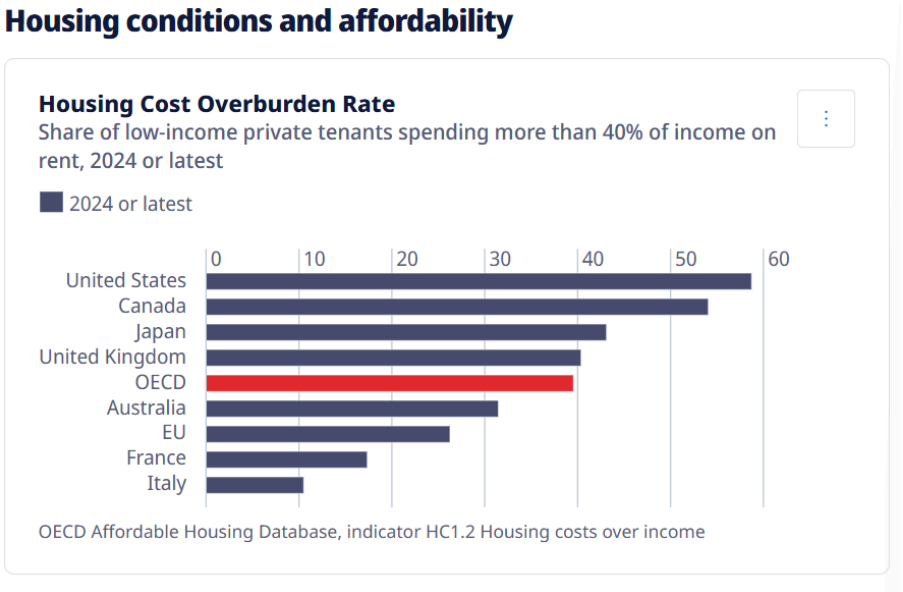
Global Urbanisation and Housing Demand

Urbanisation is accelerating at an unprecedented rate. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), 55% of the world's population currently lives in urban areas, which is a figure projected to rise to 68% by 2050, adding approximately 2.5 billion people to cities. This rapid demographic shift has significantly increased demand for housing, infrastructure, and basic services. However, housing supply has not expanded at a comparable pace, resulting in acute shortages and rising housing costs across both developing and developed economies.

The global housing deficit is substantial. UN-Habitat reports that 1.6 billion people or 20 per cent of the world's population live in inadequate housing, of which 1 billion reside in slums and informal settlements. Without intervention, this number is expected to grow as urban populations expand and land availability becomes increasingly constrained.

Housing Affordability Crisis

Housing affordability has emerged as a systemic challenge worldwide. In many countries, housing prices and rental costs have risen faster than household incomes.



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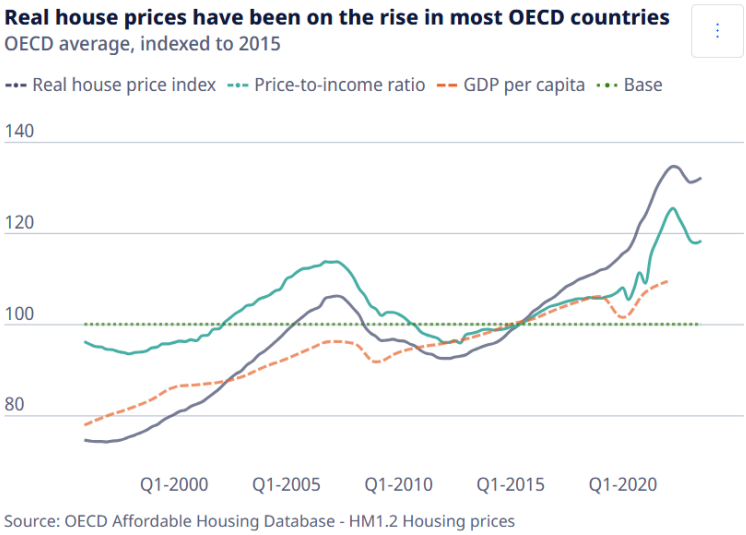

Several structural factors contribute to this crisis, including limited land supply, restrictive zoning regulations, rising construction costs, and the financialisation of housing. Housing has increasingly been treated as an investment asset rather than a social good, with speculative investment and short-term rental markets reducing the availability of long-term affordable housing. These trends have intensified socioeconomic segregation and displacement, particularly in urban cores.

Challenges in Developing Economies

In developing and least developed countries, the affordable housing crisis is closely linked to informality and governance constraints. Rapid rural-to-urban migration often outpaces governments' ability to provide planned housing and infrastructure. As a result, informal settlements proliferate, frequently lacking secure land tenure, clean water, sanitation, electricity, and access to public transportation. UN-Habitat reports that the informal sector accounts for 60-70 per cent of urban housing in Zambia, 70 per cent in Lima, 80 per cent of new housing in Caracas, and up to 90 per cent in Ghana.

Limited fiscal capacity, weak urban planning institutions, and insufficient access to housing finance further exacerbate these challenges. Many governments struggle to mobilise long-term investment for affordable housing, while low-income households are often excluded from formal mortgage markets due to unstable income and lack of credit histories.

Environmental and Social Implications

Poorly planned urban development has significant environmental consequences. According to UN-Habitat, urban areas are major contributors to climate change, accounting for 71 to 76 per cent of CO_2 emissions from global final energy use, largely due to inefficient land use, transportation systems, and energy-intensive buildings. Urban sprawl increases infrastructure costs and car dependency, while inadequate housing increases vulnerability to climate-related disasters such as floods, heatwaves, and

earthquakes. Informal settlements are disproportionately affected, as they are often located in high-risk areas with limited resilience.

Socially, inadequate and unaffordable housing undermines public health, educational outcomes, and economic mobility. Overcrowded living conditions have been linked to higher transmission rates of infectious diseases, which is shown as an example in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic. Housing security also disproportionately affects youth, migrants, and women, reinforcing cycles of inequality.

Current International Response

The international community has recognised these challenges through initiatives such as the *New Urban Agenda* and Sustainable Development Goal 11, which aims to ensure access to adequate, safe, and affordable housing for all by 2030. Despite these commitments, progress remains uneven. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) published a report in 2023 that provides the areas of progress where acceleration is needed. Furthermore, António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, said, "Unless we act now, the 2030 Agenda will become an epitaph for a world that might have been."

The current status quo proves that while awareness of the affordable housing crisis is growing, existing policy responses remain inadequate in scale and coherence. Addressing these challenges requires integrated urban development strategies, strengthened international cooperation, and sustained investment to ensure that urban growth is inclusive, resilient, and socially equitable.

Past Actions by Organisations

UN-Habitat and the Habitat Conferences (1976-2016)

The United Nations has addressed urban development and housing through a series of global initiatives led by UN-Habitat. The first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I), held in Vancouver in 1976, formally recognised adequate shelter as a basic human right and highlighted the responsibility of governments to ensure access to housing. This was followed by Habitat II in Istanbul in 1996, which adopted two major themes concerning all nations: "adequate housing for all" and "viable human settlements in a changing world. Full urbanisation". Most recently, Habitat III in 2016 resulted in the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, which represents a shared vision for a better and more sustainable future.

Sustainable Development Goals and SDG 11 (2015)

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with Sustainable Development Goal 11 specifically dedicated to making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Target 11.1 commits Member States to ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums by 2030. ECOSOC plays a central role in monitoring progress toward SDG 11 through the High-Level Political Forum, encouraging policy coordination, data sharing, and international cooperation. Despite widespread endorsement, UN reports indicate that progress remains uneven, particularly in rapidly urbanising regions.

World Bank and Multilateral Development Bank Housing Initiatives

Multilateral development banks, particularly the World Bank Group, work with national and local governments to build more livable, sustainable, and resilient cities and communities. The World Bank has invested $5 billion annually on average in sustainable urban development, focusing on resilient, low-carbon infrastructure and services, safe, adequate housing and buildings, vibrant local economies, and strong local governments. The World Bank also carries out initiatives such as The PILIER project, which focuses on flood control and urban resilience in N'Djamena, Chad, where it has cleaned over 250 kilometres of drainage networks and provided high-capacity motor pumps.

National Public Housing and Urban Renewal Policies

At the national level, many governments have adopted large-scale housing and urban development programs. After World War II, European countries implemented state-led public housing schemes to address severe housing shortages, while countries such as Singapore developed comprehensive public housing systems through strong government planning and long-term financing mechanisms. As a result, close to 80% of Singapore's resident population live in Housing & Development Board (HDB) flats. In contrast, several developed economies reduced public housing investment from the late 20th century onward, increasingly relying on market-based solutions, which contributed to rising housing costs. In developing countries, national urban development strategies have often focused on slum upgrading and social housing; however, limited fiscal capacity and rapid population growth have constrained their effectiveness.

International Climate and Urban Resilience Frameworks

Urban development and housing have also been addressed through climate-focused international frameworks. Agreements such as the Paris Agreement (2015) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) emphasise resilient urban planning and climate-adapted housing. These frameworks recognise that low-income and informal settlements are disproportionately vulnerable to climate-related disasters while urging governments to integrate affordable housing policies with environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction strategies.

Collectively, these past actions demonstrate sustained international recognition of urban development and affordable housing as global priorities. However, gaps between policy commitments and on-the-ground implementation remain significant, underscoring the need for renewed cooperation, innovative financing, and coordinated action under ECOSOC's mandate.

Stances of Major Countries and NGOs

United States

The United States approaches urban development and affordable housing primarily through market-driven mechanisms supplemented by federal intervention. Housing policy is largely decentralised, with state and local governments playing a central role in zoning, the use of land, and development decisions. At the federal level, agencies such as the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) oversee programs including Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) aimed at providing decent housing and suitable living environments. Internationally, the United States supports sustainable urban development through financial contributions to the World Bank and UN-Habitat, while emphasising public-private partnerships and innovation-led solutions. However,

domestic challenges such as rising housing costs, homelessness, and restrictive zoning laws shape the U.S. stance, leading it to prioritise flexibility and private-sector engagement over large-scale state-led housing models.

China

China views urban development and housing as integral to economic growth and social stability. The government has historically relied on strong state intervention in urban planning, land allocation, and housing supply. In recent decades, rapid urbanisation has been accompanied by large-scale infrastructure development and mass housing construction. However, rising housing prices and concerns over real estate market instability have prompted the Chinese government to shift its focus toward "houses for living, not for speculation," emphasising affordable rental housing and urban renewal. Internationally, China supports infrastructure-driven urban development through initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative.

European Union

The European Union recognises affordable housing as a growing social challenge across its member states, with a 60% rise in house prices on average since 2015 and 1 in 10 Europeans unable to pay rent or mortgage on time. The EU increasingly frames housing broader social inclusion and sustainability goals, aligning with the European Green Deal and SDG 11. Member states generally advocate integrated approaches that combine social housing provision, under regeneration, and environmental sustainability while addressing energy efficiency and climate resilience in housing stock.

India

India faces one of the largest urban housing deficits globally due to rapid urbanisation and population growth. The government has prioritised affordable housing as a key development objective, particularly through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), which aims to provide housing for all through subsidies, slum redevelopment, and credit-linked incentives. India emphasises the importance of international financial and technical assistance to support urban infrastructure and housing delivery. Within ECOSOC, India often advocates for capacity-building with the India-UN Global Capacity-Building Initiative.

Brazil

Brazil's stance on urban development reflects its long-standing struggle with informal settlements and housing inequality. Programs such as Minha Casa, Minha Vida were introduced to expand access to affordable housing for low-and middle-income households while combining federal funding with private-sector construction. Internationally, Brazil supports inclusive urban development and slum upgrading initiatives, while advocating for stronger international cooperation to address urban poverty and inequality in the Global South.

UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is the leading UN agency advocating for sustainable urban development and adequate housing. It promotes rights-based and inclusive approaches, focusing on slum upgrading, secure land tenure, and participatory urban planning. UN-Habitat strongly supports the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11, providing technical assistance and policy guidance to Member States. The

organisation emphasises that affordable housing is a social good and cornerstone of sustainable development while calling for increased public investment and improved governance at the local level.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a prominent non-governmental organisation dedicated to eliminating substandard housing worldwide. The organisation focuses on community-based housing solutions, affordable homeownership, and access to housing finance for low-income populations. Habitat for Humanity advocates for policies that improve land tenure security, expand affordable housing supply, and reduce barriers to homeownership. It often highlights the link between adequate housing and broader development outcomes, including health, education, and economic opportunity.

World Bank

The World Bank views affordable housing and urban development as essential to poverty reduction and economic growth. It supports market-enabling reforms, housing finance development, and urban infrastructure investment. While promoting private-sector participation, the World Bank also stresses the importance of regulatory frameworks and targeted subsidies to ensure inclusivity. Within ECOSOC discussions, the World Bank often emphasises data-driven policymaking and long-term financial sustainability in housing and urban development strategies.

Possible Solutions

Strengthening International Cooperation and Policy Coordination

Enhancing international cooperation is essential to addressing the global nature of urban development and housing challenges. ECOSOC can serve as a platform for coordinating policy dialogue among Member States, UN agencies, international financial institutions, and regional organisations. Greater alignment between frameworks such as the New Urban Agenda, SDG 11, and national urban strategies can improve coherence and reduce policy fragmentation. Regional cooperation mechanisms can further facilitate the exchange of best practices on land-use planning, housing finance, and slum upgrading, enabling countries to adapt successful models to their own urban contexts.

Expanding Sustainable and Inclusive Housing Finance Mechanisms

A major barrier to affordable housing is limited access to long-term and inclusive financing. Governments can work with multilateral development banks, including the World Bank and regional development banks, to expand finance instruments such as low-interest loans, credit guarantees, and targeted subsidies for low- and middle-income households. Public-private partnerships can be leveraged to increase housing supply while maintaining affordability standards. For developing countries, international financial assistance and blended finance models can help mobilise private capital without overburdening public budgets.

Strengthening Urban Planning and Land Governance

Effective urban planning and land governance are essential to sustainable urban development. Governments should prioritise inclusive zoning policies, efficient land-use regulations, and secure land tenure systems to prevent speculative practices and reduce informal settlement growth. Improving land registration and cadastral systems can enhance transparency and encourage investment in affordable

housing. Integrated planning that links housing with transportation, employment, and public services can also reduce urban sprawl and improve overall urban livability.

Capacity Building for Developing Countries and Local Governments

Many developing countries and municipalities lack the technical and institutional capacity to manage rapid organization. International organisations and donor countries can support capacity-building initiatives that strengthen local governance, urban data collection, and housing policy implementation. Training programs for urban planners, municipal officials, and housing authorities can improve project design and execution. Additionally, knowledge-sharing platforms can help cities learn from one another's experiences in affordable housing provision and urban renewal.

Promoting Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Housing

Integrating environmental sustainability into housing policies can reduce long-term costs and increase resilience to climate risks. Governments can promote energy-efficient building standards, climate-resilient construction, and the use of cooperation can facilitate technology transfer and financial support for green housing initiatives, aligning affordable housing goals with climate commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Enhancing Community Participation and Social Inclusion

Inclusive urban development requires the active participation of local communities. Governments and NGOs can involve residents in housing and urban planning decisions to ensure that policies reflect local needs and reduce the risk of displacement. Community-led housing initiatives and slum upgrading programs can improve living conditions while preserving social networks and livelihoods. Strengthening social protection measures can also help vulnerable groups maintain housing security during economic or environmental shocks.

Questions to Consider

- How can ECOSOC enhance coordination among UN agencies, financial institutions, and Member States to support coherent and effective urban development and housing policies?
- What financing mechanisms can be expanded or reformed to ensure affordable housing for low- and middle-income households without undermining fiscal sustainability?
- How can the planning of land-use and zoning reforms be implemented to increase housing supply while preventing urban sprawl and social segregation?
- What forms of international support are most effective in strengthening the capacity of developing countries and local governments to manage rapid urbanisation?
- How can affordable housing initiatives be aligned with climate resilience and environmental sustainability goals?
- What measures can be taken to ensure that urban development policies protect vulnerable populations and promote inclusive, equitable cities?

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[Agenda B: Addressing Youth Unemployment in Developing and Developed Economies]

Agenda Introduction

Youth unemployment remains as one of the most pressing socio-economic challenges that is faced in the international community today. Across the LEDC and MEDC nations, young individuals face systemic challenges to stable employment, caused by the inequalities in educational backgrounds, and personal income, also consisting with structural labor market constraints. According to the International Labor Organization, youth unemployment rates consistently exceeds adult unemployment rates, highlighting the structural vulnerability within global labor markets.

In developing countries, youth unemployment is mostly intertwined with the lack of structure in labor markets and the insufficiency of diversification in labor market. Many young employees are not formally unemployed but instead engaged in low productivity informal labor that only gives minimal income security or social protection, making generations after that avoid those jobs in the first place. According to the World Bank, the absence of a strong private sector and industrial expansion significantly restricts job creation opportunities for the youth population. Furthermore, limited access to quality education deepens the inequality since they have a different starting point in the amount of opportunities that they gain, whilst skill-based issues depend on the individual, the cases of opportunity originate from the background of the individuals. The United Nations Development Programme has emphasized that persistent youth development can fuel social unrest and long-term economic stagnation if not solved through policy reforms

This agenda invites delegates to examine the root causes of youth unemployment, especially focusing on the disparities that cause the imbalance between developed and developing nations, analyzing the difference between the two distinct economies, and further aiming to propose a sustainable and inclusive solution that can promote economic growth and innovation with a clear principle standard of equality that balances unequal opportunity for young employees in different economies.

Historical Background

The issue of youth employment gained significant attention internationally, especially during the late 20th century, as globalization accelerated labor market transformation. It starts with the oil crisis in the 1970s, followed by the subsequent economic reconstructions in the 1980s, many advanced economies experienced industrial decline and the rise of youth unemployment. The problem intensified in 2008, during the global financial crisis, when young workers were very much impacted by the crisis due to the economy being flooded with layoffs and hiring freezes. Southern European countries in particular witnessed youth unemployment rates exceeding 40%, sparking debates over labor flexibility and austerity measures and diverse social protection systems.

In developing regions, youth unemployment has been closely tied to rapid urbanization and the population growth that follows. Through the 1990s and the 2000s, economic liberalization created growth in some of the sectors but often failed to generate sufficient formal employment opportunities. For example, the 2011 Arab Spring demonstrated how persistent youth unemployment combined with the political clashes in

those regions. More recently, the pandemic caused by COVID-19 has impacted unprecedentedly to the education and employment sectors worldwide, disproportionately affecting young workers in service sectors and informal economies.

Status Quo

There can be multiple causes of unemployment that vary significantly across countries and their different economic contexts, but several underlying patterns remain consistent amongst the historic pattern of youth unemployment. In developing economies, the transition from education to employment has become increasingly complex. While tertiary education enrollments have indeed increased over the past decade, a lot of the graduates often fall short in the integration into the economy due to a shortage of jobs in their field of study. This means the problem is not only the lack of access to education, but it is also the lack of expansion of fields in the open economy in developing nations. This is also because rapid technological advancements have taken place in these nations over the past decade. While it seems good, it also have backclashs in the industry, since it has reduced demand for routine entry-level positions while employers increasingly require specialized digital and technical skills that education systems might not adequately provide. This means the industry is quickly turning into a professional individual-based vocational economy wheter than a smooth transition from the educational system connected to the employment of the youth.

Moreover, youth unemployment is disproportionately affecting the marginalized groups in the status quo. Young women often face additional barriers due to gender norms, and unpaid care responsibilities often originate from an unstructured workplace setup and policy. There are more stakeholders, especially in marginalized groups, who are in the category of youth employment. Those are refugees. They are constantly challenged by displaced youthwho encounter legal and documentation changes that restrict their formal employment. Like this, in many societies in the status quo, and especially in developing nations in which the principle of equality is not yet fully implemented, socioeconomic background strongly determines whether young and marginalized individuals are able to even enter the workforce. These disparities show clearly that youth unemployment is not only an economic statistic but rather a multidimensional development challenge that requires inclusive and interactive solutions in order to tackles thse inequalities in developing nations.

Stances of important stakeholders

Developed Nations

In developed countries, youth unemployment has had a gradual recovery since it peaked during the pandemic, but it remains a structural limitation compared to adult unemployment. Although economic recovery and stimulus measures have supported job creation, many of the young workers are remind in temporary and part-time employment that pays less; almost impossible to sustain an individual in a developed economy. Automation and artificial intelligence are also an increasingly affecting factor, especially for youth unemployment markets. Due to more automation, it reducesdemands for routine tasks while increasing demand for advanced technical skills. Since a lot of the young individuals are not ready to embrace jobs with advanced technical skills, the jobs that young people target are getting replaced by

automation in the status quo, especially in developed nations, with a burst of increase in the field of artificial intelligence.

Developing Nations

In developing nations, youth unemployment often coexists with widespread informal employment. Official unemployment rates don't show a huge rise, but that is only an underestimate of the real issue at hand. Many young individuals engage in subsistence and low-productivity work out of necessity since they lack the resources to do other white-collar jobs. This also connects to the low quality of economy that they are already in, but also connects to a low quality of life in those developing nations in which there is no guarantee of access to education, and safety for a majority of individuals, meaning their goal is not to grow the economy at a young age by taking white-collar jobs, but it is to sustain their family for another generation, and blue-collar jobs are the limitations of their skillset in the background with limited resources on their youth. Rapid population growth in regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia continues to increase the number of young employees entering the job market each year, placing significant pressure on already limited employment opportunities.

Additionally, urbanization has intensified the competition for quality jobs in metropolitan areas, while rural areas frequently lack adequate infrastructure and investment to generate sustainable employment. This is exclusive to developing nations, since they are suffering from a limited metropolitan area. There will be more individuals focused on that region, especially given the youth, who face more competition than in developed economies with multiple metropolitan areas in a single country. However, similar to developed nations, digital connectivity and entrepreneurial ecosystems are expanding in certain emerging markets, providing new avenues for economic participation. Access to mobile technology and new online platforms utilized for education, such as Zoom or Google meet has enabled youth to engage in digital freelancing and startup development more naturally. Nonetheless, these opportunities remain unevenly distributed and heavily dependent on infrastructure and on the very limited access to capital.

International organizations

The International Labour Organization promotes the principle of "decent work," emphasizing the importance of employment quality and labor rights being kept even when creating jobs for young people, especially because they are vulnerable compared to experienced workers. The World Bank typically supports structural reforms of the economy, including the development of the private sector, and skills training programs for young individuals willing to enter the job market.

Private Sector and Multinational Corporations

Large corporations and SMEs are central to job creation, since they are the ones that are advocating for regulatory efficiency and the use of taxes in incentiviting the employees. Technological firms support these by using their digital upskilling initiatives, while manufacturing industries prioritize supply chain resilience and the competition between industrials. However, automation strategies may simultaneously reduce an entry-level employment opportunity.

For example, the Global Apprenticeship Network in 2013 pushed companies to institutionalize apprenticeships as formal employment pipelines rather than informal internships, which promoted

high-quality employment rather than low-quality, but huge quantity jobs, also working with companies such as Nestle and Accenture. Nestlé, with which they worked, also has had multiple initiatives under youth employment, most notably in the "Nestlé Needs YOUth" initiative in 2013. This initiative was committed to creating 10,000 jobs and apprenticeships in europe partnered with vocational institutions. This shows how the private sectors are able to show different ways of employment in addition to education, using measures such as vocational education or professional mentoring.

Youth and Civil Society organizations

Youth advocacy groups are emphasizing the use of meaningful employment rather than getting employed in short-term and low-quality jobs. They want fair wages anti-discrimmination policies. Rather than making this be implemented for one company, they want to spread a culture in the economy and want the country to promote a healthy working environment. They do this by challenging market-oriented apporaches arguing that employment quality and accessibility are important as job quantity.

Youth Employment Network in 2001 helped governments design national action plans for Youth Employment that aimed to promote youth entrepreneurship. This was especially important because it tried to ensure the youth employment strategies are rights-based, not purely market-driven. Plus, AIESEC also ran an internship program as a Civil society organization during the times of employment expansion in the 2000s. They advocated for international internship placements and leadership development. They improved employability skills through global exposure and practical experience, ultimately assisting youth who may lack resources to equally compete with experienced workers by giving them exclusive training programs and mentorship.

The European Union (EU)

The EU remains in a stance of maintaining a coordinated, inclusive labor policy, especially focused on social protection. They bring multiple policies starting with the Youth Guarantee Expansion, which aims to guarantee an offer of employment, continued education with the skill of mentorship to all young people under 25 within four months of leaving formal education or being unemployed. They also utilize the European Skills Agenda, which is a fund for technical and vocational training to reduce skills mismatch. Furthermore, they also make use of the Digital Green and Transition Funds, which are investments linked to the European Green Deal that especially focus on youth employment in sustainable sectors.

United States of America

The United States of America operates in a market-driven job creation economy that is focused on making innovation of their economy. They bring multiple policies, such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which is a funding training program that helps young workers to connect in high-demand industries, possibly offering them mentorship, internships, or job opportunities. They also utillize Tax as a method of helping employment. They use Tax credits for hiring Youth by giving them incentives to reduce wage costs for companies hiring apprentices, interns, and recent graduates.

China

As a communist country with a single government handling the majority of China's behalf, they work on a state-guided employment strategy and industrial upgrading. They run a lot of programs in the country. This includes the National Youth Employment program, which is made in order to subside comparnies to

hire graduates in prioritized sectors such as tech and renewable energy, which is an upcoming, growing industry. They also bring Applied Vocational Education Expansion,s which is made to integrate vocational and technical education into national schooling curricula, in order to prepare students for jobs in the near future.

Germany

Germany is a clear representation of a model for low youth unemployment due to its dual vocational training system. Germany's stance includes having a strong apprenticeship system, with close industry-education coordination. Their purpose is to organize a clear system that incorporates a smooth transition from the educational system to the economic market.

India

India is different from other countries, since even though their huge demographic pressure, it needs to suit one of the world's largest youth populations. India uses different policies, such as Skill India mission (2015), Digital India (2015), and Startup India (2016), focusing on building an actual market in the nation using connectivity of digital infrastructure that is already predominantly built by previous generations. The problem with India in the status quo is that there is a huge amount of leakage of talent to more developed economies, such as the US or Canada. To stop this, India needs to build a stable economy in the next generation and encourage talents in their huge population to act as pioneers to build on that economy in the long-term.

South Africa

The South African economy has one of the highest youth unemployment rates globally. South africa is one of the most symbolic vulnerable nation out of a lot of the developing nations. South Africa aims to build public works programs and basic infrastructure in rural areas to reduce the focus of the population on urbanized areas, but is lacking the economic freedom to do so. It strongly supports international development financing and youth-focused development built through ECOSOC frameworks.

Possible Solutions

Expansion of Dual Education and Apprenticeship Systems

There needs to be a proven structural response to respond to youth unemployment is the institutionalization of the apprenticeship-based education system. A good example of this is shown in the past acts of Germany. Germany first implemented its Vocational Training Act in 1969; however revised it in 2005. The purpose of that was to formalize the dual education system, integrating classroom learning with paid workplace training. This model was introduced to significantly reduce youth unemployment by aligning education directly with labor market needs. In a wider scope, the European Union launched the European Alliance for Apprenticeship. The key earning from this is a clear comparative policy for both developed and developing nations. Developed countries should institutionalize structured apprenticeship pathways in high-demand sectors such as digital technologies, healthcare, and the use of green energy. On the other hand, developing countries should adapt apprenticeship frameworks in order to include SMEs and informal sectors, supported by the technical assistance from international organizations.

Public Youth Employment Guarantee Programs

To prevent short-term unemployment for suffering marginilzed Youth to long-term structural exclusion, governments should be able to implement youth employment guarantee mechanisms. The European Commission introduced the Youth Guarantee in 2013, encouraging EU member states to ensure that young people receive employment, continued education, and traineeship within four months of becoming unemployed. Similarly, the United States implemented the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) in 2014, strengthening workforce training programs and youth employment services.

Digital and Green job transitions

Technological transformation and climate transitions are redefined in labor markets. Rather than viewing automation as a destructive problem and a necessary tradeoff to innovation, governments can redirect the use of innovative automation technologies to youth employment in emerging sectors. In the status quo, as a lot of governments start to invest in digital literacy and AI-related training, they can expand various industries such as renewable energy, making more sustainable jobs in the industry. The European Green Deal in 2019 integrated green transition policies with employment generation. Meanwhile, the International Labour Organization launched the global initiative on decent jobs for Youth in 2016, emphasizing a much more sustainable job creation in terms of quantity.

Youth Entrepreneurship and SME Financing

In many of the developing economies, formal wage employment remains a challenge. Governments need to aim for the establishment of youth-targeted microcredit and startup grants by utilizing diverse tactics such as providing tax incentives for youth-led businesses, expanding digital marketplace access. The World Bank has supported Youth Employment Programs since the 2010s through targeted financing and skills projects. Additionally, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched YouthConnekt Africa in 2016 to support youth entrepreneurship ecosystems.

Strengthening Social Protection and Anti-Discrimination Frameworks

Youth unemployment disproportionately affected marginalized group especially because systematic discrimination is still intact in the status quo. The International Labour Organization Convention No.111 (1958) addresses discrimination in employment. Additionally, EU equal treatment directives (2000) strengthened anti-discrimination policies across Europe. Using these two policies, the policies are about to enforce equal hiring laws that aim to protect non-standard and gig workers. Using this policy, the quality of the workplaces can increase.

Role of ECOSOC

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) plays a central role in coordinating role in addressing youth unemployment within the broader UN development architecture. As one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, ECOSOC is established to prioritize the promotion of international economic and social cooperation and development. It oversees and coordinates the work of specialized agencies such as the International Labor Organization, as well as functional commissions that are established in order to directly address social development and sustainable growth across the globe.

ECOSOC integrates youth employment within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in this agenda, especially on SDG 8, which promotes a sustained and inclusive economic development for all. This aligns with the principles of equality thatthe UN runs through, which obligates not only ECOSOC, but all committees to act accordingly in giving countries equal opportunity despite their possible economic gaps. ECOSOC helps this by holding annual High-level political forums, as they are able to monitor progress, facilitate multilateral dialogue, and encourage knowledge sharing equally amongst different member states.

While ECOSOC is unable to directly implement employment programs in individual countries, it is a normative authority and coordination function that shapes international standards and funding priorities, which countries follow in the majority of situations. As such, within this committee setting, ECOSOC serves as the central body for harmonizing national approaches while fostering partnerships, acknowledging youth unemployment as a huge global problem, and discussing employment strategies with global development objectives.

Questions to Consider

- To what extent is youth unemployment a skill mismatch or a structural economic problem?
- How should responsibilities be divided between governments and different private sectors in creating a sustainable youth employment environment?
- How can developing countries create sufficient jobs for rapidly growing youth populations without unsustainable public spending and a limited budget for individual families?
- Is education a necessary step to take in order to succeed in employment as a new young employee?
- How can informal employment sectors in developing countries be formalized without harming small businesses or reducing economic flexibility?
- What roles should international multilateral institutions, particularly ECOSOC, play in coordinating global youth employment strategies?
- Do automation and artificial intelligence pose a greater long-term threat to youth employment in developed economies than in developing ones?
- How can developing nations incentivize help from developed countries using trade and international agreements?

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