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| Forum: | Economic and Social Council |
| Issue: | The question of economic growth and international migration |
| Student Officer: | Argyro Mavroeidi |
| Position: | Deputy President |

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Argyro Mavroeidi and it is my honour to serve as a Deputy President on the Economic and Social Council, which is known as the central platform for reflection, debate, and innovative thinking on sustainable development of United Nations. I have participated in YISMUN (Yerevan International School Model United Nations) as a chair of Legal Committee, as a delegate of Legal Committee in RIMUN, and now for the first time, I am participating as a Deputy President of ECOSOC in PSMUN.

I am a current graduating student of Quality Schools International in Yerevan, Armenia. Although I am Greek, I am situated in Armenia currently because my parents work in the Hellenic Embassy of Armenia. The reason why I believe I would do commendable work in MUN is because of my experience with diplomatic situations. I also believe that I have a certain set of skills and dedication to handle duties that MUN presents. As I mentioned above, this will be my first time participating in ECOSOC as a Deputy President, and since I consider it one of the strongest Committees, I would like to have the honour of representing ECOSOC in PSMUN.

As a Deputy President, my role is to encourage you to participate in the debate as being confident of your opinions, and provide you any help when constructing the resolutions. As a student in an international school, I have learned how to collaborate with other students of different cultures who had with different opinions, in order to help us all reach our goals. Moreover, I've been in your position before, and I know how much hard work it requires to be a good delegate, but I think that all of you will do a great job. Therefore, I hope this study guide will provide you with helpful and interesting information. However, I strongly recommend that you do further research on information about this topic as it is a vast one, especially to adapt your ideas to your country's policy. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need some assistance with your research. E-mail: yromav1998@gmail.com

I am looking forward to meeting all of you at the conference.

Best regards,

Argyro Mavroeidi

INTRODUCING TOPIC

From the past years, it is evident that every migration movement had a positive or negative impact on the economic growth. In the nineteenth century international migration played an important role in the process of economic growth. During World War I, it was relatively easy for people to change their country of residence.

The belief widely held in that period was well expressed by an International Immigration Conference in 1889: 'We affirm the right of the individual to the fundamental liberty accorded to him by every civilized nation to come and go and dispose of his person and his destinies as he pleases.' One of the four freedoms proclaimed that time was certainly the freedom of migration.

Nowadays, we observe a new wave of international migration and the reasons may vary. The most important one can be considered the economic crisis faced at the underdeveloped countries and within the EU. However, the international migration can have either good or bad effects on the economic growth.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

Immigration: A process by which non-nationals move into a country for the purpose of settlement.

Migrant: At the international level, no universally accepted definition for "migrant" exists. The term migrant is usually understood to cover all cases where the decision to migrate was taken freely by the individual concerned for reasons of "personal convenience" and without intervention of an external compelling factor; it therefore applied to people moving to another country or region aiming to improve their material or social conditions as well as the prospects of theirs and their family's future. The United Nations define a migrant as an individual who has resided in a foreign country for more than one year regardless of the causes, (voluntary or non-), and the means, regular or irregular, used to migrate. Under such a definition, those travelling for shorter periods as tourists and businesspersons would not be considered migrants.

Economic migrant: A person leaving their habitual place of residence to settle outside his or her country of origin in order to improve their quality of life. This term is often loosely used to distinguish from refugees fleeing persecution, and is also similarly used to refer to people attempting to enter a country without legal permission and/or by using asylum procedures without bona fide cause. It may equally be applied to people leaving their country of origin for the purpose of employment

Documented migrant: A migrant who entered a country lawfully and remains in the country in accordance with their admission criteria.

Skilled migrant: A migrant worker who, because of their skills or acquired professional experience, is usually granted preferential treatment regarding admission to a host country (and is therefore subject to fewer restrictions regarding length of stay, change of employment and family reunification).

Temporary migrant worker: Skilled, semi-skilled or untrained workers who remain in the destination country for definite periods as determined in a work contract with an individual worker or a service contract concluded with an enterprise.

Migration: The movement of a person or a group of people, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced individuals, economic migrants, as well as those moving for other reasons, including family reunification.

Xenophobia: At the international level, no universally accepted definition of xenophobia exists, though it can be described as attitudes, prejudices and behavior that reject, exclude and often vilify people, based on the perception that they are outsiders or foreigners to the community, society or national identity. There is a close link between racism and xenophobia, two terms that can be hard to differentiate from each other.

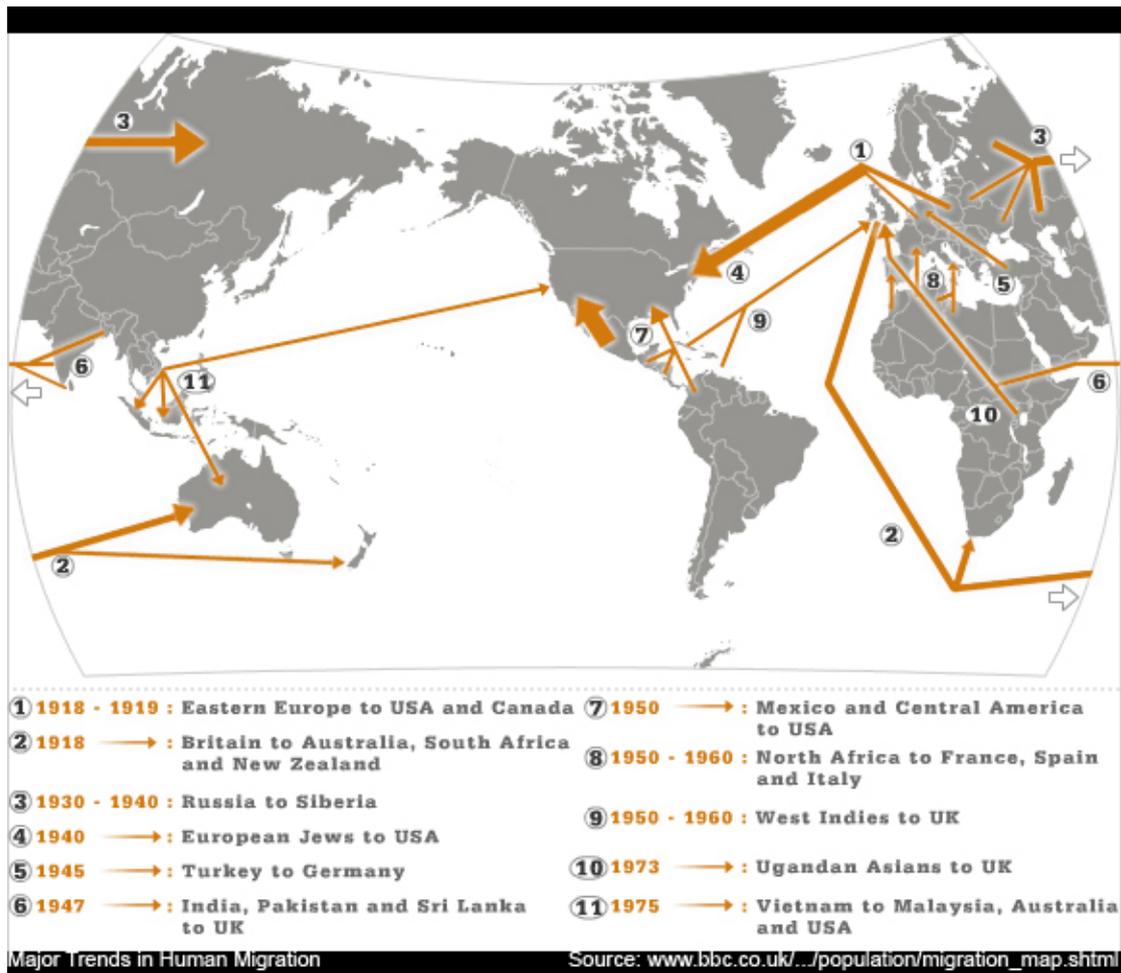
Economic Growth: An increase in the capacity of an economy to produce goods and services, compared from one period of time to another. Economic growth can be measured in nominal terms, which include inflation, or in real terms, which are adjusted for inflation. For comparing one country's economic growth to another, GDP or GNP per capita should be used as these take into account population differences between countries.

Gross domestic product (GDP): The market value of goods and services produced by labor and property in the United States.

Welfare: A government program which provides financial aid to individuals or groups that cannot support themselves. Welfare programs are funded by taxpayers and allow people to cope with financial stress during rough periods of their lives.

Expenditure: The amount of money that is spent on a good or service.

European Economic Community (ECC): This organization was established (1958) by a treaty signed in 1957 by Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany (now Germany); it was known informally as the Common Market.



HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The issue of migration has always been one that has resulted in a lot of debate; notable is the case of the U.S., a country which receives thousands of migrants annually.

During the period of 1820s to the World War I, approximately 60 million Europeans decided to move on to New World destinations in order to find a better future. More than 60% of these migrants went to the United States, as during that time it was considered a prosperous land offering great opportunities. Some people moved to escape religious or political oppression, others to escape European poverty, and others left on their own free will. As technology improved, transportation and communication became easier, the expenditures and ambiguity of migration fell, and overseas migration came within reach for a progressively larger portion of the European population, for whom this move offered the best prospects. These factors, followed by famine and revolution political turmoil appearing in Europe, gave rise to the first great mass migration in the 1840s.

Prior to the start of World War I in 1914, there were practically no border controls or restrictions to labor mobility across the world. However, during the war, crossing of borders by migrants began to be a security concern, and it was at this period that passports and visas were presented in Europe. During the 1950s, when Europe was beginning to recover from the damage of World War II and experience a period of extreme economic growth, labor mobility was yet again encouraged. Due to the lack of experienced workers being considered a risk for the economy, the transition of workforce into other European countries became necessary. Treaties were written, and this was the beginning of the European Economic Union, the predecessor of the European Union.

More than 8 million work licenses were distributed to foreigners in Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Italy, the Netherlands, and West Germany (the original six members of the EEC) during the period of 1958 to 1972. One-third of the migrant workers came from within the European Economic Community, mainly from Italy, which was lagging behind in industrial development and suffered from high unemployment. The oil crisis that took place in 1973 put an end to the open-doors policy concerning migrant workers, who were welcomed when the economy required them but were estimated to leave when times were tough. Surprisingly for the host nations, however, most of the migrant workers had come to stay. Furthermore, many of these migrants had asked their families to join them in the destination countries; making family ties a more prominent basis for legal migration into Europe than active labor recruitment. This dilemma was effortlessly summarized by Swiss author Max Frisch: "We asked for workers, but human beings came."

As the process of boosting migration and easing travel limitations continued, emphasis was located on decreasing border control formalities within Europe. The Schengen Agreement, which first went into effect in 1995, created a common, fundamentally borderless area between France, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain, wherein travel permits were only required at the external borders of this area. After the 2004 development, Poland was the font of the largest number of migrant workers among all new Member States. Lithuania, however, had the largest number of outgoing migrants comparative to the size of its labor force, and some areas of the country have suffered from at least an impermanent, yet very visible, infancy drain. In general, the distinctive histories, cultures, economic situations, and government policies in each new Member State seem to have influenced the amount of outgoing migrants. For some countries, joining the European Union did not considerably increase outward migration.

The impact of international migration on the economic growth of all the countries that have accepted migrants, it can be viewed in a positive and a negative aspect. At certain eras throughout history, greater migrations have taken place which created vast population surges. The higher population numbers placed tension on the infrastructure and services within the host country. When migrants move to a new country, they face notable challenges, including finding a job and a house, as well as

adjusting to new laws, cultural norms, and probably a new language. It can be a challenge for a host country to adapt migrants into society and providing the essential funding. Moreover, migration causes an increase in the labor force. This can influence great quantities of them if the migrants are generally the same type of worker (e.g. low-skilled) and migrate in large enough numbers so as to considerably expand the supply of labor.

To sum up, International migration and its impact on economic growth is still a deeply debated topic in many host countries. Some consider that migration brings many advantages to a country for both the economy and society in total. Others believe that high migration statistics threaten national identity, increase dependency on welfare, and prove a liability for national security (through illegal immigration or terrorism). Another argument is that high migration rates devalue labor. Empirically, research has shown this may be partly true. The Brookings Institute found that from 1980 to 2007, migration only caused a 2.3% depression in the incomes of the host country. The Center for Immigration Studies found a 3.7% depression in incomes during 1980 to 2000.

MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE

U.S.A

The United States of America have always been the “dreamland” for a lot of migrants coming from countries all over the world, such as China, Japan, Greece, Spain, Armenia etc. In this case, migrants that went to United States had undeniably a worthy impact on the economic growth. The US has the most industrially powerful economy in the world, with a per capita GDP of \$54,800. Based on a comparison of GDP measured at Purchasing Power Parity conversion rates, the US economy in 2014, having stood as the largest in the world for more than a century, fell into second place behind China, which has showcased more than three times the growth rate that the US have, for the past 4 decades.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has a long and interesting history of migration over hundreds of years. Especially after the World War II, the pace of immigration increased significantly. For instance, thousands of Poles, many of whom had fought for Britain in the World War II, were given British citizenship in 1947. In the late 1990s the pace and scale of migration reached a level without historical precedent. Undeniably, between 2001 and 2011 the foreign born population increased dramatically, rising from 4.6 million to 7.5 million. The United Kingdom, a principal trading power and financial center, is the third largest economy in Europe after Germany and France. Services (mainly banking), insurance, and business services, are key drivers of British GDP growth.

Germany

Germany is considered the most powerful economy in Europe due to the fact that it managed to remain stable although the economic crisis that Europe deals with the last 5 years. This is why a lot of people from the Southern countries of Europe with poor economies migrate to Germany hoping to start a new life.

France

The migration situation in France has been intensely influenced by the legacy of colonialism present due to its past actions, as well as the long tradition of recruiting foreign workers. Although migration has been viewed as a success story in economic terms, in the past three decades it has increasingly been observed as the root of social problems. Furthermore, the migration policy has concurrently taken an increasingly restrictive progress in France. As in other European countries, there is an effort to accomplish migration with a view to maximizing benefits to the economy.

Australia

The last 10 years Australia has been viewed by a lot of people as an ideal place for change and better life opportunities. A lot of people especially from Europe migrate to Australia where it is easy enough to start a new life. Australia is an open market with only minor restrictions on imports of goods and services. The opening up of borders has improved productivity, stimulated growth, and made the economy more flexible and dynamic.



Map 1:

Major labor migration streams at the beginning of the 21st century

■ labor-sending countries ■ labor-receiving countries

⚓ maritime and cruise employers

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TIMELINE OF EVENTS

The following list includes an almost 100 years of policies created for Labor Migrants. It is necessary to pay attention on this board, as it will make easier for you understand how improving the rights of migrants workers gives a different shape on the economy.

| Name | Year | Country/City | Details |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---|
| Peace Conference | 1919 | France, Paris | International Labor Organization states its intent to advance the protection of the interests of workers when employed in countries other than their own. |
| Forced Labor Convention | 1930 | Switzerland, Geneva | Adopted by the International Labor Organization the Forced Labor Convention prohibited forced labor in member-states. |
| Universal Declaration of Human Rights | 1948 | France, Paris | Adopted by the UN General Assembly, it was the first document to guarantee universal human rights for all people regardless nationality and occupation. |
| Migration for Employment Convention | 1949 | Switzerland, Geneva | It made mandatory for member-states to guarantee certain rights to migrant workers. (Website with the rights will be located on the Bibliography) |
| UN Convention | 1951 | | The UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees is established to |

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| | | | guarantee the protection of refugee rights. Primarily designed to address the post-war refugee crisis in Europe, the Convention is later prolonged under the 1967 Protocol to include refugees regardless of their location. |
| Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers. | 1975 | Switzerland, Geneva | A migrant worker is defined as “a person who migrates or who has migrated from one country to another with a view to being employed otherwise than on his own account and includes any person regularly admitted as a migrant worker” (Article 11). |
| 1 st World Conference Against Racism | 1978 | Switzerland, Geneva | Combat against racism and discrimination. |
| Immigration Reform and Control Act | 1986 | United States | Creates a great legalization program while enacting stricter border controls and criminalizing irregular migration. |
| Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants | 1999 | United States | CHR Resolution 1999/44 of 27 April 1999 |
| Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labor Convention | 2014 | Switzerland, Geneva | Expands the provision in the original treaty to explicitly extend protections from abuses to migrants |

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Taking into consideration all the previous information, it is time to think about what can be done in order to deal with international migration and economic growth. Therefore:

- It is necessary for the governments all over the world, to cooperate together so as to eliminate factors that force people to migrate, such as poverty. The United Nations has already elaborated resolutions on this matter.
- All the governments must guarantee the respect of basic human rights for all migrants and their families, regardless of their migratory condition, as they are established at the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 General Assembly resolution 217 A.
- More intense checks and identification of migrants' data must take place, in order to ensure that the security of the nation is not jeopardized
- The migrants must be allocated to other countries according to the economic condition of these countries.
- Further attention must be given to the protection of migrant children and women from human trafficking.
- More campaigns or even school courses must be implemented in order to combat against xenophobia and violence against migrants.
- Emphasis must be given to the positive effects that the migrants can bring to a country's economy, such as paying taxes according to their salary.



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Timeline of events:

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