

**Forum:** Economic and Social Council  
**Issue:** Migration and Economic Sustainable Development  
**Student Officer:** George Papagiannopoulos  
**Position:** President

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is George Papagiannopoulos and I will be acting as the Main President of the ECOSOC committee for this PS-MUN Conference. I am attending the Costeas-Geitonas School, and I am in my first year of the IB Program. My studies are going to revolve around the biomedical field, and in all probability medicine. Yet, I have always had a keen interest on the field of economics and sociology, resulting in my attending most of my MUN Conferences in the ECOSOC Committee.

So far I have chaired a total of three times (this being my fourth), two out of which were in the ECOSOC Committee.

My aim for this conference is to create an environment in which all of you can shine, as well as have a prolific debate over the course of these three days. In order to ensure that this will be the case, I am writing this study guide; it will not only include necessary information for your preparation, but also certain ideas and suggestions that you are free to use, should you see fit.

I look forward to working with every single one of you.

Sincerely,

George Papagiannopoulos

## INTRODUCING THE TOPIC

The issue that this study guide is going to revolve around is Migration and Economic Sustainable Development; basically how one can use migrants (as well as other assets) in a manner that yields the greatest economic growth in the long term. Keep in mind that migrants are often mistreated and taken advantage of, as they do not possess great financial ability. As members of the ECOSOC committee, you will be asked to ensure that no workers will have their rights violated, and that the development is achieved without being based on the abuse of any individuals, or the destruction of the environment.

On the other side, it is of utmost importance that the economic strategies that are proposed are actually applicable, and can result in the desired growth.

It is advisable that the issue is divided into two subjects; one being the integration of the migrants into a new society, and the other being sustainable development. By ensuring that there are no differences on a societal level between indigenous and other populations, we can make sure that the migrants are treated with decency and are productive members of society. As such they are bound to help develop the nation according to its guidelines, and if these guidelines aim at the sustainable development of the economy, then we can say with a certain degree of certainty that this is to be achieved.

Finally, how these migrants can be successfully introduced in a society will also be heavily discussed upon, as one cannot expect to have any economy prosper (especially on a national level) with any percentage of the population living in conditions of poverty.

The Markets can only flourish when people are concerned with something more than simply survival; this desire to attain something more than what is required, can only be met in societies which are socially mature, societies which ensure the well-being of all citizens, indigenous or not. This will be our committee's main aim on the issue.

## KEY TERMS

**Migrant:** An individual who arrives at a location with the aim of finding a means of attaining their livelihood; a person who goes to a different country to find a job. Not to be confused with the term refugee.

**Sustainable Development:** The idea of planning one's actions in order to ensure the growth of a community or sector, without reducing the ability of future generations to develop as well.

**Economical Sustainability:** The proper and optimal use of resources available, so as to ensure financial development in the long run.

**Economic Development:** Albeit being considered by many as simply the increase in income, economic development is actually meant to refer to the following:

- Increase in the living standards a community has (Social Factor)
- Industrialization of the economy (Economical Factor)
- Adoption of new technologies (Technological Factor)

**Millennium Development Goals:** A set of 8 goals set in 1999 by the UN with the aim of completing them by 2015. Albeit having failed in the complete realization, the progress was such, that it was still considered a partial success.

These goals were:

- Eradication of Extreme Hunger and Poverty
- Universal Primary Education
- Promotion of Gender Equality
- Reduction of Child Mortality
- Improvement of Maternal Health
- Combating of HIV/ AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- Ensuring Environmental Sustainability
- Global Partnership for Development

**Sustainable Development Goals:** A total of 17 goals set by the UN in 2015 following the Millennium Development Goals. These expand upon the previous 8, while also dealing with matters that are more recent in nature.

These goals are:

- No Hunger
- No Poverty
- Good Health and Well- Being
- Quality Education
- Gender Equality
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Affordable and Clean Energy
- Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Reduced Inequalities
- Sustainable Cities and Communities

- Responsible Consumption and Production
- Climate Action
- Life Below Water
- Life on Land
- Peace and Justice; Strong Institutions
- Partnership for the Goals

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The idea of sustainable development is one relatively new; the idea was first brought into consideration in 1962 with the “Silent Spring”. Following the event, new aspects were made part, especially the economic aspect, as it was made evident that if these changes were to be made, then the economy would undergo uncontrollable fluctuations (if the changes were too sudden). As such the world trade has slowly started to comply with the ideas of sustainable development, with the hopes of achieving sustainable status before it is too late.

Date	Event
1962	Silent Spring: The idea is being created by Rachel Carson and a group of selected scientists
1967	Founding of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)
1969	National Environmental Policy Act
1970	First Earth Day
1972	Limits to Growth is published
1977	UN Conference on Desertification is held
1979	Nine multilateral development agencies begin undergoing changes in their means of operation
1980	New economic relations between North and South America are attempted, after poverty and social inequity were recognized as major factors in environmental destruction
1982	The UN Charter for Nature is held
1983	The Grameen Bank is established
1984	The Third World Network is established
1985	Data which suggests the existence of the Ozone Hole and Climate Change are found
1986	Chernobyl Incident
1987	The Brundtland Report is published. The term “sustainable development” is popularized
1992	The UN Earth Summit is held
1993	First UN Commission on Sustainable Development is held
1999	Launch of sustainability Indexes on the Dow Jones
2000	The Millennium Development Goals are set
2002	World Summit on Sustainable Development

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Following are some countries and organizations involved in the issue of sustainable economic development, as well as that of migrants, and how they are to become part of a society in a non-problematic manner.

### DESA

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is an instrument of the United Nations' Secretariat. Its action revolves around three different aims:

- a) The compilation, generation, and analysis of data provided by the Member States of the United Nations. This data contains information about the social, economic, and environmental situation that its state is found in.
- b) It is in charge of facilitating the discussions that Member States have in order to review their actions, as well as plan their upcoming actions.
- c) Provides advice, as well as technical support to countries, so as to help them in the adoption of UN regulations, which have previously been discussed upon during conferences and summits.

In addition to providing necessary assistance to Governments in topics of major social, environmental, and economic importance, the DESA acts according to the UN framework.

### ILO

The International Labour Organisation has on more than one occasion fought so that migrants are not robbed of their rights upon arriving at the host country, as well as highlighting the benefits a nation can have for hosting migrants. Furthermore they have published a handbook alongside with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in which they offer answers to many questions that individuals concerned with the matter might have. It also suggests strategies and ways, through which social unity can be achieved, and the marginalization of migrants can be limited. It is mainly preoccupied with the issue of Human Rights violations due to poor working conditions though, and as such does not offer a lot as far as sustainable economic development is concerned.

### United States of America

The United States of America have been recognized as the nation which has received the most migrants in the world; a total of 45.8 million migrants have been recorded, a figure estimated to be at least 20% of the total number of immigrants. Yet, it has also been recognized as one of the least sustainable countries in the world, both environmentally, and economically. In order to counter the huge stress that the environment undergoes, as well as the "mounting economical strains", a report has published in 2013, which has certain key aims, hoping to put an end to this short-sighted policy that has been followed thus far. It should be noted though, that only a

single policy change revolves around migration, and it has been criticized for not making proper use of this part of the work force.

After the summit which took place in April 2012 in New York with the topic of Migration and Sustainable Development, the USA have noted the importance of migrants to an economy and how beneficial their introduction can be. Still, relevant actions have yet to be taken.

### Germany

With over 10 million migrants, Germany is not only one of the world's strongest economies, but also one of the main country recipients. In fact the number is such that Germany is having trouble coping financially and socially; there has been a rise in the German citizens who have openly raised concerns regarding the issue. The government has agreed to reduce the number of immigrants that they accept. Yet Germany has been characterized as an exemplary nation in the field of sustainable economic development due to its practises, and regardless of the workers background, the same principles are followed, ensuring in such a way that the system does not undergo any changes.

### Iceland

Ranking consistently as Number 1 in the EPI Rankings, Iceland is the world's most sustainable (ecologically) economy. Following the market crash in 2008 Iceland started over, and created a nation which depends purely upon green energy. Not only that, Iceland has been renowned for the innovation it has showcased over the past few years, and this has resulted in a continuously growing number of investors to be attracted to the nation. Perhaps the most interesting part, is that following the crisis, the vision to create the Iceland that is now, is the fruit of a cooperation between citizens and experts alike. It has on more than one occasion been characterised as a paradigm nation in the field of sustainable development, and it is strongly suggested that all nations take a life out of Iceland's book.

### Costa Rica

Costa Rica has an economy which is heavily based on the environment and its natural resources. It was voted the "greenest and happiest" nation by the New Economics Foundation, and a "BioGem" by the Natural Resource Council. It has achieved this status thanks to the highly appealing incentives that the government provides; at times the reward for forest preservation can reach as high as 300\$ per acre. Such incentives also work on firms which seek to invest in Costa Rica, especially on the field of green energy. On top of being a "green nation", most of its power is green and it is aiming to be carbon neutral by 2021. It should also be noted that the impressive 51% of the land covered in forests hosts sustainable timber operations.

## Sweden

Known for the way its people strongly support the idea of sustainable development, Sweden is the European country which is paying the greatest attention to organic apparel. According to a study nearly half the Swedes buy organic food on a monthly (at least) basis. On top of that, most notable is the extent to which they recycle, as 88% of all aluminum cans sold are being recycled, and it appears that there are plans for the percentage to increase even more. Lastly, it is highly innovative in the field of green technology, and it has invested notably in both research as well as the export of the technology in other parts of Europe, so as to increase the sustainability of Europe as a whole.

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS AT SOLVING THE ISSUE

**Rio +20:** A Conference which took place on Rio de Janeiro on 20-22 June in 2012. The Conference revolved around the idea of sustainable development and it resulted in a political outcome document, which contained specific guidelines and solutions to many environmental problems that governments might be facing. It was there that the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals was decided, which serve as an expansion upon the Millennium Development Goals.

On top of that, certain suggestions and decisions were made:

- Strengthening the United Nations Environment Program on more than one field
- A high-level political platform was suggested
- 10 year frame programs were also adopted so as to ensure that the sustainability in the long run, after taking into consideration consumption patterns

Yet probably the most notable result that the Conference brought in, was the huge increase in partnerships that followed, as well as more than 700 voluntary commitments, which are expected to impact greatly the field of sustainable development in the years to come.

**Sustainable Development Summit:** A summit held in September of 2015 in which all 193 countries took part in the discussions. The most important decision taken in this conference the creation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals which we hope to have completed by the year 2030. The Agenda aims at all three aspects of sustainable development (social, economic, and environmental) and aims to tackle issues that disrupt the public peace and justice, both in MEDCs and LEDCs. A total 17 new aims have been set and they all been closely monitored by the UN. Amongst the aims issues of upmost importance were the issue of inequality, poverty, hunger, and illiteracy. Yet how the deadline is to be met, is up to each separate country. As a

result numerous partnerships were created, and the feeling of the summit has been characterised as that of “solidarity”.

**Paris Conference on Climate Change:** As the name suggest this conference revolved mainly around climate change and how the measures suggested and proposed were to be implemented and used properly. Having a total of 29 articles, it underlines the importance of information and how certain guidelines need to be set, so that none of the signatories lose sight of the objective. Other than that emphasis is set on the importance of infrastructure, and what facilities are needed so that accurate data can be obtained.

On the issue of information, a network of transparency was created, so that the other signatories can have a clear view of the actions that other nations are taking, as well as clauses which aim at providing other Member States with vital information.

Not only is it stated clearly that none of the signatories are given the right to back out, MEDCs are also bound to help LEDCs in achieving these aims, be it financially or by providing resources. Such support is strongly urged for all Member States.

**Thirteen Coordination Meeting on International Migration:** Held in New York in February of 2015, it revolves around the correct integration of migrants into a society, and how they can help the nation reach its new development goals. An absolutely essential conference about the issue, it should be noted that it decided to work upon and expand previous frameworks and decisions, rather than overrule them.

Racism, xenophobia and sexism are strongly condemned, and the idea of an organized migration done in a calm and restrained manner is heavily encouraged. On a last note, it ensures that the battle against smuggling is going to continue with increased fervor, and that all lives matter. As such there are hopes for creating global guidelines and rights for the workers, which are to be adopted by all member states.

The document praises the progress that has been made thus far, and hopes that even more is to be made.

**The Global Forum on Migration and Development:** With the last conference being held in Istanbul, the main theme was creating a framework which can work alongside the Sustainable Development Goals. Yet it can boast of a more humanitarian nature, as emphases was placed on making sure that acts of violence were as limited as possible, and that all ongoing conflicts would end.

This Forum attempts to combat the issue at its root, by trying to diminish the reasons as to why someone would migrate to another nation such as violence, conflict, and poverty.



## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

It is advisable that this issue is combated in two separate parts: some clauses should combat problems that occur during migration, may that be discrimination, racism, or even cultural issues, while other clauses should concentrate on ensuring that the development of a country is done in a sustainable manner. When possible the two aspects should be expressed together. For example:

- Education is a vital part of fighting discrimination. By having courses in schools that promote the idea of gender and race equality, a new generation can be raised which will be free of issues such as sexism, racism, sexual orientation discrimination etc.
- We can use the legal framework, to ensure that sexist, racial and homophobic remarks are treated as the offenses they are; heavy fines should be imposed
- Incentives for hiring migrants in a firm; creating a multicultural environment can prove really useful for a society. Considering the quantity of migrants in certain nations, it should serve as no surprise that the development will be most notable if this population is used efficiently
- Orientation courses for migrants that just arrived at the nation can prove most helpful. If the migration was done in an unorganized manner, it is likely that the migrants might not be familiar with the language or culture, both of which are vital aspects of living in a foreign state. Such courses can help them in this aspect, as well as redirect them to a relevant business or corporation once it has been deemed that they are skillful enough with the language
- Attempts should be made at organized migrations; smugglers are one of the major reasons as to why human life is lost during migration. By having a specialized agency organize the migration one could ensure that no lives are lost, and there are no illegal transactions taking place. On top of that, proper background checks could be made, and the migrant could be redirected to a destination which might be more fitting for their field of work
- Support groups could be created with the aim of helping migrants that are facing issues with discrimination. These groups could be consisted of mainly sociologists and psychologists who could help them cope with the issue

On the topic of Sustainable Development, some of the following ideas could prove useful in combating the issue:

- Providing corporations and firms with strong incentives to take up sustainable development. If proving that the revenue in the long run is greater does not suffice, taxes can be set per unit of pollution, or subsidies could be given to corporations which decide to use green energy or become carbon neutral
- Frequent unannounced audits could be put to place so that we not only ensure that the policy of the corporation is actually sustainable, but we also check for workers' rights violations

- Seminars which inform entrepreneurs of the benefits of sustainable development could be held
- The government making investments into new technologies that can prove useful

## MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES/ QUOTES:

“Western civilization is a loaded gun pointed at the head of this planet.”

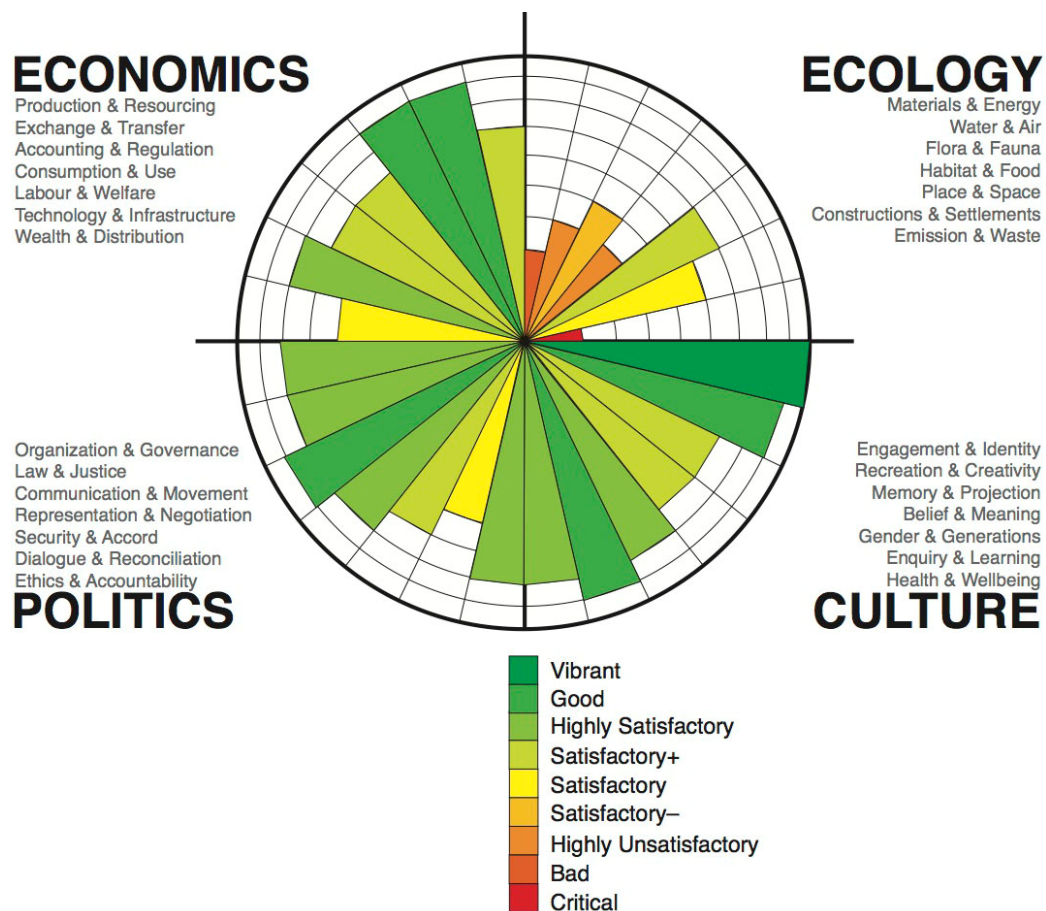
– **Terence McKenna**

“We cannot hope to create a sustainable culture with any but sustainable souls.”

– **Derrick Jensen, Endgame, Vol. 1: The Problem of Civilization**

“We are such spendthrifts with our lives, the trick of living is to slip on and off the planet with the least fuss you can muster. I’m not running for sainthood. I just happen to think that in life we need to be a little like the farmer, who puts back into the soil what he takes out.”

– **Paul Newman**



# CIRCLES OF SUSTAINABILITY

**The Importance of Sustainability:**

<http://www.environmentalscience.org/sustainability>

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