

Forum:	Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
Issue:	Tackling international Inequalities in regards to access to Resource-Exploitation Technologies
Student Officer:	Natasha Panagiotou
Position:	President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Natasha Panagiotou and I am a 10th grade student at Anavryta Model Lyceum. This year I will have the utmost honor of serving as the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the 12th PSMUN conference. This conference will be my tenth chairing experience and my 16th conference overall.

I need to congratulate you on your decision to get involved in the MUN world and I hope you enjoy it as much as I do. This study guide will focus on the first topic of the agenda of ECOSOC, namely “Tackling international Inequalities in regards to access to Resource-Exploitation Technologies”. The examination of this topic is necessary due to the significance of the issue today. Technology-driven inequality leads to poverty and resource depletion. The world cannot progress if a part of it moves forward and the rest of the nations are left behind without resources and access to technology. This study guide will provide you with some basic knowledge and information upon the issue and explain the important aspects of the matter. However, you are advised to do further research on your country’s policy and action, as well as the topic holistically, so as to be fully prepared for the conference.

My email address is natpanag07@gmail.com . Do not hesitate to contact me about anything regarding our committee. I am looking forward to meeting you.

Best regards,

Natasha Panagiotou

INTRODUCTION

The topic of international inequalities in regards to access to resource-exploitation technologies is something that concerns today's world with the rise of demand for technological means and innovations and the evolution of technology. Resource-exploitation technologies, if used correctly, can have a great impact on the field of natural resources. These technologies will make the extraction of pores more productive and safer, they will enable a more resilient environment and more responsive and productive utilities as well as they will change the ways consumers live and reduce resource consumption since the resources will be handled in a better manner.

On the other hand, the rapid evolution of technology has resulted in extremely advanced technologies and mechanisms for use in the field of resource-exploitation and in other factors, such as communications and security. However, due to the quick tempo of the progress of technology, there is not enough time for Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) to keep up. Thus, inequalities are an eminent problem and the gap between Most Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) and LEDCs is constantly growing. The rapid rise in inequality is often seen to go hand-in-hand with resource overuse and shortages in some cases.

The overconsumption and overuse of natural resources contributes to the problem as the nations that are developed exploit the resources and have a negative effect on climate change as well as the international economy. Except from the negative effects, there is also the result that there is unfair distribution since some countries have an abundance of natural resources, but not the means to exploit them, if they are LEDCs. Many times, the resources exploited are in the land of LEDCs or in countries who cannot get their hands on the needed technologies for the extraction of the product, meaning that MEDCs intervene in the procedure and take advantage of the circumstances in LEDCs and the technological gap among the nations. Examples of such cases include water extraction in Pakistan, land degradation in Bangladesh, forest harvesting in Sub-Saharan Africa and industrial fishing in Lake Victoria.

Access to ecosystem services mitigates poverty, but exclusive access to these technologies by developed nations and wealthy individuals result in excessive resource extraction, thus, widening the wealth gap and inequalities between countries through the exploitation of the already existing gap between LEDCs and MEDCs. The continuation of resource-exploitation may lead to resource degradation as well as the collapse of the international or national economy or increased rates of poverty due to developed countries taking control of international economy and leading the market for their own profit while LEDCs are left behind and struggle with economic development and keeping up with the international level of development.

Bridging the gap and eliminating inequalities will lead to the correct distribution of wealth and stop vulnerable states from falling into the poverty trap and worse circumstances of living. By bridging this gap, the exploitation and national slavery to MEDCs that intervene in foreign resources is ceased. The examination of international inequalities in regards to access to resource-exploitation technologies is crucial for the unison of the world and the provision of same opportunities to all the members of society. The United Nations (UN) needs to step in and evaluate the situation. Inequalities in general are a constant issue that troubles the United Nations, as reducing inequalities and ensuring no member nation is left behind is necessary for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically the 10th goal, namely “reduced inequality”.

This topic is not only linked to the agenda of the UN, but it is also closely linked to this conference’s topic, namely “Pacifism and Injustice”. As the idea of pacifism is the opposition to war and violence, with the intervention of MEDCs this is a threat to pacifism. The issue at hand is a factor that can cause disputes and injustice between Member Nations for the reason of unfair distribution of wealth and resources and unequal opportunities for growth. These conflicts need to be avoided for all kind of reasons. Maintaining peace and a high level of living to all Member Nations is necessary to be achieved.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Poverty Trap

Poverty trap is a spiraling mechanism which forces people to maintain their financial status, whether this means remaining poor or wealthy. Poverty trap generally happens in developing countries and LEDCs due to lack of capital and credit to people.¹

Social-Ecological Systems

Social-Ecological Systems are systems consisted of both people and nature making it clear that humans should be seen as party of nature and not something separate.²

Inequality

A lack of equality or fair treatment in the sharing of wealth or opportunities.³

¹“What is Poverty Trap? Definition of Poverty Trap, Poverty Trap Meaning.” The Economic Times, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/definition/poverty-trap>

² https://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/image/document/2017-1/3-4- socio-ecological_concept - marta_perez-soba and janet_dwyer_41127.pdf

³ “Inequality.” Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/inequality>

Natural Resources

Materials or substances occurring in nature which can be exploited for economic gain.⁴

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Gross domestic product is a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced and sold in a specific time period by countries.⁵

Common Pool Goods

Common-pool resources are goods available to everyone by consumption and to which access can be limited only by the increase of cost.⁶ Common-pool goods are forests, irrigation systems, fishing grounds and groundwater basins.⁷ Consuming this good affects the consumption of another, as a result there is the decrease of its quantity.

Blue-Collar Jobs

Blue-collar jobs are those that involve a greater degree of physically-taxing or manual labor. Blue-collar jobs include farmers, mechanics, power plant operators, and electricians.⁸

Non-excludable Goods

Non-excludable goods are public goods that cannot exclude a certain individual or group of individuals from using them. For this reason, it is nearly impossible to restrict access to the consumption of non-excludable goods. A public road is an example of a non-excludable good.⁹

Rivalrous goods

A good that cannot be subsequently consumed by a person after it has been consumed by another person. As a result, the overall stock of the good decreases.¹⁰

⁴ "Natural Resource." Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia, Wikimedia Foundation, Inc, 1 Dec. 2022, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_resource

⁵ "Beginners:GDP - What is Gross Domestic Product (GDP)? - Statistics Explained." European Commission | Choose Your Language | Choisir Une Langue | Wählen Sie Eine Sprache, ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Beginners:GDP_-_What_is_gross_domestic_product_(GDP)?.

⁶ "Common-pool Resource." Encyclopedia Britannica, www.britannica.com/science/common-pool-resource.

⁷ "Common-Pool Resource Definition." Investopedia, 1 May 2011, www.investopedia.com/terms/c/common-pool.asp#:~:text=Examples%20of%20a%20Common%20Pool,fishing%20grounds%2

⁸ "Blue-Collar Vs. White-Collar: What's the Difference?" Investopedia, 2 Dec. 2015, www.investopedia.com/articles/wealth-management/120215/blue-collar-vs-white-collar-different-social-classes.asp#:~:text=Blue%20collar%20jobs%20are%20those,%2C%20administrativ

⁹ "What Is a Rival Good Vs. a Non-Rival Good, With Examples." Investopedia, 23 May 2007, www.investopedia.com/terms/r/rival_good.asp#:~:text=Rival%20Goods%20vs.-,Non

¹⁰ "Common Good (economics)." Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia, Wikimedia Foundation, Inc, 11 July 2022, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_good_\(economics\)#cite_note-0-1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_good_(economics)#cite_note-0-1)

Privatization

The act of selling an industry, company or service that was owned and controlled by the government to a private body.¹¹

Human Capital

Human capital consists of the knowledge, skills, and health that people invest in and accumulate throughout their lives.¹²

Wealth Gap

Wealth gap is a term used to express the economic inequalities, for example income from wage or labor, among different races, ethnicities, generations or nations.¹³

Poverty

The state of being extremely poor.¹⁴

Resource-Exploitation Technologies

Resource-exploitation technologies are the means used in order to exploit the natural resources for economic growth, sometimes with a negative impact such as environmental degradation.¹⁵

¹¹ "Privatization: What It Is, How It Works, Examples." Investopedia, 25 Nov. 2003, www.investopedia.com/terms/p/privatization.asp#:~:text=66%20license%20holder,-

¹² "The Human Capital Project: Frequently Asked Questions." World Bank, 3 Oct. 2022, www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital/brief/the-human-capital-project-frequently-asked-questions.

¹³ "Racial Wealth Gap Definition." *Investopedia*, 12 Feb. 2021, www.investopedia.com/the-racial-wealth-gap-5105010.

¹⁴ "Poverty." Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/poverty>

¹⁵ "Discover Technology's Impact on Natural Resources." McKinsey & Company, 15 Feb. 2017, <https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/sustainability/our-insights/discover-technologys-impact-on-natural-resources>

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Natural Resources

Natural resources refer to materials or substances found in nature that have economic value and can be exploited for human use. These resources can be classified into two categories: renewable and non-renewable.

Renewable resources are resources that can be replenished or regenerated over a relatively short period of time, such as air, water, sunlight, and soil. On the other hand, non-renewable resources are resources that are finite and cannot be regenerated over a human timescale, such as oil, coal, natural gas, metals, stone, and sand.

The extraction and utilization of natural resources play a crucial role in the economic development of a country and the well-being of its citizens. They are the raw materials used in the production of energy, food, and other goods, and are considered essential for human survival. Natural resources can also be considered as common-pool goods, as they are available to everyone for consumption, regardless of their origin.

However, natural resources can also be considered rivalrous goods, as the exploitation of one person affects the availability of the resource for others. This can result in inequalities, as some countries and individuals may have greater access to resources due to their proximity to the resource, technological advancement, or financial resources.

The exploitation of natural resources is typically carried out by state-owned companies or transnational corporations. The ownership of natural resources is defined by international laws and conventions, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which defines the territorial waters and seabed of each nation.

Despite being considered a common-pool good, the unequal distribution of natural resources remains a significant challenge, particularly between developed and developing countries. This inequality can result in economic disparities, environmental degradation, and social unrest. To address these inequalities, solutions such as fair-trade agreements, support for local entrepreneurship, and regulation of transnational corporations have been proposed.

Overall, natural resources play a critical role in the economic development and well-being of nations and individuals. It is crucial to manage and utilize these resources in a sustainable and equitable manner, to ensure their availability for future generations and to reduce inequalities in access and exploitation.

Resource-Exploitation Technologies

The utilization of resource-exploitation technologies is an integral aspect of economic growth and development. These technologies are designed to optimize the extraction of natural resources, leveraging a combination of people, information, knowledge, materials, tools, machines, energy, capital, and time. Companies or nations can either privatize these technologies or keep them as public capital.

The primary goal of resource-exploitation technologies is to exploit resources efficiently, thereby, enabling maximum economic growth and development. However, it is important to note that these technologies may have negative impacts, such as environmental degradation or high production and operational costs.

The extraction of resources requires the expertise of professionals who carry out operations directly in nature or in a chemical laboratory. Deforestation, fishing, mining operations, oil extraction, aquifer exploitation, agricultural operations, excavation, drilling, and chemical extraction are all examples of resource extraction processes that utilize these technologies.

In conclusion, while resource-exploitation technologies play a vital role in economic growth and development, it is essential to consider their potential negative impacts and balance their use with sustainable development practices.

Inequalities in access to resources

Societal disparities are continuously expanding, and their root cause lies in the widespread acceptance of established roles, stereotypical biases, discrimination based on economic status, as well as unequal legislation and political influence. These forms of inequality, in turn, perpetuate the widening wealth gap, unequal access to healthcare and education, a lack of accountability, the technology divide, and other disparities between various social groups and regions.

Technology Gap and LEDCs

The technology gap is created because of the rapid evolution of technology which calls for the time of exportation of new products to be very fast, something not possible for everyone. That is when the substitutes, local products created by domestic producers similar to the original ones which original products do not arrive to everyone on time, come in and try to fill the void. But the quality or quantity of all the products are not the same, resulting to not everyone having equal opportunities and possibilities. This phenomenon is very clear between MEDCs and LEDCs. LEDCs do not have access to the improved new mechanisms that technologically advanced countries have their hands on. This is because the environment in those nations cannot support such technological networks so devices are underprovided to the citizens there. Moreover, the GDP and the budget set for this specific purpose of those countries many times cannot support buying and operating advanced technologies such as resource-exploitation technologies resulting on many

sources not been taken advantage of by the locals, and there is where MEDCs step in and intervene. MEDCs provide a greater degree of education and help their citizens reach the highest potential of these technologies when, on the other hand, LEDCs citizens do not have these same opportunities due to lack of capital and development. As a result, MEDCs develop even more and LEDCs stay developing. The wealth gap and inequalities stay the same or even grow bigger instead of getting eliminated.

Wealth Gap

The rapid pace of technological change has also contributed to growing economic inequality, as low-skilled jobs become automated and the demand for highly-educated workers increases. This exacerbates the wealth gap, particularly in LEDCs, where the majority of the population lacks access to education and are relegated to low-skilled, low-wage jobs. The widening wealth gap, in turn, exacerbates political and social instability, hinders economic growth, and perpetuates the divide between the rich and the poor.

Wealth Gap between Nations

Financial inequality is closely linked to political and social instability, such as revolution, democratic breakdowns, and conflict between civilians. The greater the wealth gap, the less economic growth and stability a region experiences. Governments can play a role in reducing these disparities by implementing tax relief and other policies aimed at narrowing the wealth gap.

Wealth Gap between citizens

In general, globalization has reduced global inequality, but it has increased inequality within nations meaning that plenty of nations have the same growth but the social groups of a nation have different

opportunities for growth. People in LEDCs do not have the same opportunities for studies and education as people in MEDCs. This is why blue-collar jobs are most commonly found in LEDCs while in MEDCs is most common to find white-collar jobs, for instance, office jobs. This gap forces LEDCs to remain in their country and work as workers or flee their country and immigrate to MEDCs for better opportunities. The latter is a phenomenon known as brain drain.

Global Wealth Distribution 2020 (Property)

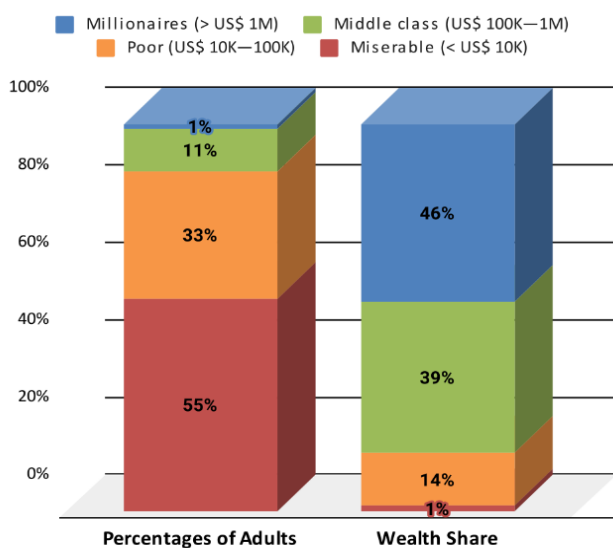


Figure 1: Global Wealth Distribution 2020

MEDCs intervention to LEDCs

The exploitation of resources LEDCs by MEDCs frequently hinders the LEDCs' potential for economic growth and progress. In some instances, MEDCs fail to adhere to international norms and engage in unethical practices, causing political and military unrest in LEDCs. As seen in the case of the US intervention in Iraq, such actions can escalate existing conflicts and further compound the challenges faced by LEDCs. A more constructive approach to resource exploitation in LEDCs would prioritize peace and stability. Providing aid to LEDCs to enhance their capability to harness their resources sustainably could play a vital role in promoting their economic and social development.

Effects of Inequalities to Access to Resource-Exploitation Technologies

Inequality remains a persistent challenge that affects communication and cooperation at both the national and international levels. The unequal access to resource-exploitation technologies has a significant impact on nations and the wider international community. While resource-rich nations benefit economically and socially from resource extraction, nations lacking such resources are forced to rely on imports, leading to a dependent economy and perpetuating the economic gap.

The living conditions in resource-poor nations and those whose resources are exploited by MEDCs are often subpar and hinder their rate of development. These circumstances can lead to strained relations between MEDCs and LEDCs and disrupt the global economy, as seen in the case of economic sanctions. For instance, when sanctions were imposed on Russia, the international community had to find alternative sources for gas and oil.

LEDCs are disproportionately affected by these inequalities and are denied the opportunity for growth and development as their resources are being exploited by MEDCs. This results in limited opportunities for work, education, and financial stability for citizens in these countries.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Iraq

The land of Iraq, as many other Middle Eastern countries' land too, is rich in rock and gas as well as oil. This is something that sparks the interest of many MEDCs and bordering nations. For instance, the United States imported an average of 157,000 barrels of petroleum per day from Iraq in 2021¹⁶ while there were US troops based in Iraq constantly for this purpose, the exploitation of resources. The situation in Iraq then was fragile but now the relations have been rectified with some remaining US troops in Iraq to advise for the ISIL conflict. Iraq tries to exploit its rich soil but due to the lack of education and resource-exploitation technologies, MEDCs and other powerful nations such as Russia, have tried to invade its territory in the past.

Germany

Germany is not a rich country in natural resources and raw materials making it crucial that most of these goods get imported from other nations. The first mining operations started in Western Germany before its unification for the benefit of the Soviet Union. Water supply is low in Germany, a common phenomenon in many industrial countries. Since then, the relation between Germany and Russia for export-import of natural resources have been present. Germany imported a large quantity of resources from Russia before the break-out of the Ukrainian war which caused Germany to ban many Russian based companies from operating in Germany or cooperating with Germany. The financial and political sanctions and the ban imposed by the government of Germany towards the Russian Federation have created a great shortage of resources, as in many other EU nations, too.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The main resources found in UAE's land are oil, natural gas, water, and deposits of sand and rocks.¹⁷ A large part of the economy of UAE is exclusively based on the profit coming from the exportation and exploitation of these resources. Under the Constitution of the UAE, the natural resources belong to the Emirate where the resources are found.¹⁸ UAE's main exports are to Japan, China, India, Thailand, and South Korea with a total income of 34 billion dollars just from extraction of crude petroleum yearly. UAE have an advanced sector of mining and extraction as the land there is so rich in sources that it was natural to opt for their exploitation.

Russian Federation

¹⁶ "U.S. Petroleum Imports from Iraq 2021." Statista, 29 Mar. 2022, www.statista.com/statistics/191210/petroleum-imports-into-the-us-from-iraq-since-2000/.

¹⁷ Deena. "Is There UAE Corporate Tax on Natural Resources? (Oil, Gas, Minerals)." Emirates Diary – Helps You With UAE Corporate Tax, UAE Labour Law and Company Formation in UAE!, 14 May 2022, emiratesdiary.com/uae-corporate-tax/uae-corporate-tax-on-natural-resources-oil-gas-minerals#:~:text=Oil%2C%20natural%20gas%2C%20water%2C,where%20the%20r

¹⁸ Deena. "Is There UAE Corporate Tax on Natural Resources? (Oil, Gas, Minerals)." Emirates Diary – Helps You With UAE Corporate Tax, UAE Labour Law and Company Formation in UAE!, 14 May 2022,

Russia is rich in natural resources such as coal, oil, natural gas, gold, timber and other rare earth metals. Russia's oil reserves are ranked as the sixth largest worldwide making the national natural resources reserves worth an estimated \$75 trillion. Russia was the world's third-largest oil producer at 12% of global supply in 2020.¹⁹ A great number of Russia's gas and crude oil reserves are in the Arctic, but they cannot be exploited because of financial sanctions imposed after the beginning of the Ukrainian war, the ban of state-owned companies responsible for extraction of pores from operating drills in the Arctic, and the unwillingness of the government to cooperate with private Russian companies for this purpose. Because of the aggression Russia showed towards Ukraine, there are financial sanctions and ban to many Russian businesses and Russia in general. Thus, as the main source-country for resources has been banned, the prices of all goods was drastically increased due to inflation because of the war. The war also caused shortage of resources to many EU nations especially Germany. Considering the current price of crude oil on the international market, extractions from an area such the Arctic can be profitable in many ways, such as financially on a national and international level. Sanctions to Russia are the main reason why the drills are not taking place and why the price of resources are skyrocketing. Sanctions are precluding Russia from engaging with Western countries' companies with the necessary technological equipment to explore Russia's Arctic resources. However, Russia has a regional framework that prohibits private companies in Russia, even with specialist experience and technology, to explore or exploit Russia's unreached Arctic pores. This exaggerates the fact that there is unexploited potential on the Arctic due to the government and the private sector not cooperating in the region. Russian Federation is a great example of a nation which is rich in resources and can get hands on resource-exploitation technologies but it is unable to either extract or export the resources.

China

China has natural resources estimated to be worth \$23 trillion.²⁰ 90% of China's resources are coal and rare earth metals. China has the greatest hydropower potential because of the abundance of water resources. The biggest impact on the environment is that of the continuation of using coal. China continues to rely on coal for 58% of its energy.²¹

emiratesdiary.com/uae-corporate-tax/uae-corporate-tax-on-natural-resources-oil-gas-minerals#:~:text=Oil%2C%20natural%20gas%2C%20water%2C,where%20the%20r

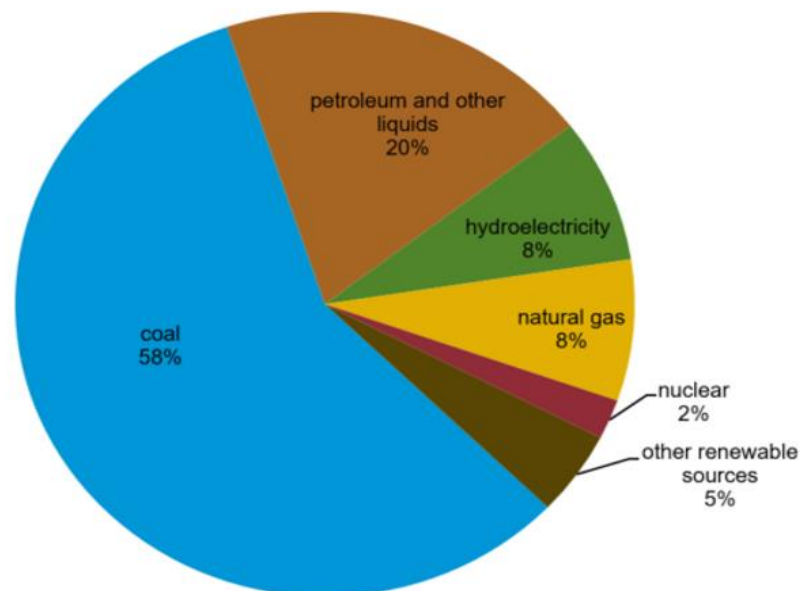
¹⁹ "Which 10 Countries Have the Most Natural Resources?" Investopedia, 5 Sept. 2016, www.investopedia.com/articles/markets-economy/090516/10-countries-most-natural-resources.asp#toc-3-saudi-arabia.

²⁰ "10 Countries With the Most Natural Resources." Investopedia, 5 Sept. 2016, www.investopedia.com/articles/markets-economy/090516/10-countries-most-natural-resources.asp#toc-6-china.

²¹ "10 Countries With the Most Natural Resources." Investopedia, 5 Sept. 2016, www.investopedia.com/articles/markets-economy/090516/10-countries-most-natural-resources.asp#toc-6-china.

Other resources that China possesses include rice, oil and natural gas, and immense amounts of metals such as gold and aluminium and minerals. China's technologies are rarely developed even if there is a potential for innovation. Chinese companies show refusal towards selling or sharing such technological means, that is also a reason why China is such a superpower in the world and owns advanced technologies that can only be found in Asia or China. Furthermore, China is involved worldwide in a variety of projects and extraction of resources. For instance, extraction of energy, agricultural, and infrastructure projects, drills and mines. These projects destroy the biodiversity and the ecosystem. On the other hand, China is also involved with eco-friendly activities such as opting for solar or wind power, cutting down air pollution and reforestation. China's policies are causing problems worldwide on the scale of environmental degradation and economic relation concerning the issue.

. China total primary energy consumption by fuel type, 2019



Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2020
 Note: Total may not equal 100% because of independent rounding. Includes only commercial fuel sources and does not account for biomass used outside of power generation.

Figure 2: China's total primary energy consumption by fuel type in 2019

United States of America

The United States (US) are not very rich in natural resources but their value is around \$45 trillion, almost 90% of which are timber and coal.²² The US is the number one producer for coal and one from the top producers of refined and crude petroleum. On the other hand, the US lack domestic reserves for manganese, niobium, strontium, tantalum and tin. The US are a great consumer of natural resources. With less than 5% of the world's population, the US consume 17% of the world's energy and account for 15% of world GDP.²³ The US is known for its invasive tendencies, especially when it comes to resources. For instance, the US had sent troops back in 2020 to Iraq causing political and armed conflict. The aim of this operation was to extract the unexploited pores from the land of Iraq. Countries such as Canada, Iran, China and Russia have imposed economic or political sanctions to the US for similar incidents.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is the largest country in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia's geology boosts the richness in minerals, oil, gas and raw materials for manufacturing and industrial development. Saudi Arabia has quarter of the world's reserves in tantalum and niobium. Saudi Arabia oil production started in 1933 and oil exports in 1939.²⁴ Saudi Arabia extracts an estimated 7.5 billion standard cubic feet of natural gas daily. Saudi Arabia is extracting the sources in its land, mainly oil, which is also the main source of income. With the drop of oil prices, the national income decreased as a consequence. China is the greatest marginal partner of Saudi Arabia when it comes to the extraction of resources. This is a strategic move that is working well for both of the nation's economy and relations.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Programme is a United Nations agency created for providing aid to countries in order to fight poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development. UNDP is committed to being green, sustainable and eliminating waste. UNDP is battling climate change by being climate neutral in its global operations since 2015. This can be achieved by others by means such as staying within a 1.5°C increase in global warming, reduce greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030. In August 2019, UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner, launched the 'Greening Moonshot', committing the Organization to reduce its operational carbon footprint by 50% by 2030.²⁵ The UNDP has tried offering solutions for strengthening LEDCs by means such as but not limited to finance and investment, eradication of poverty,

²² Moraes, Frank. "US Economy: What Are the Exports and Imports It Relies on Most?" Commodity.com, 25 Apr. 2022, commodity.com/data/usa/.

²³ Moraes, Frank. "US Economy: What Are the Exports and Imports It Relies on Most?" Commodity.com, 25 Apr. 2022, commodity.com/data/usa/.

²⁴ "Natural Resources." NIDC, www.ic.gov.sa/en/invest-in-saudi-arabia/natural-resources/.

²⁵ "Sustainable Operations | United Nations Development Programme." UNDP, www.undp.org/accountability/social-and-environmental-responsibility/sustainable-operations.

transformation of the environment and achievement of all the goals in the UN agenda of 2030.

International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD)

The International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) is an Institute that examines the evolution of climate change and addresses inequalities and environmental issues via the publication of issues and policies. Recently, it launched a program for raising awareness about over-exploitation and its effects on humans and nature. It encouraged the enhancement of the framework around the supply chain and the adoption of inclusive decisions. The IISD in general has tried to promote sustainable and financial development in LEDCs specifically through the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3) and by supporting the achievement of the goals in the agenda of the UN of the year 2030.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
1933	Oil production starts in Saudi Arabia.
13-16 July 2015	The Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3) takes place.
2015	UNDP goes carbon neutral and calls for the rest of the world to do the same.
2019	The 2019 Human Development Report is turned in, showing outrageous results and worries about our societies.
August 2019	UNDP launches “Greening Moonshot” to be achieved by 2030.
March 2020	The US takes control over a number of military installations in Iraq.
9 December 2021	The US combat mission is formally concluded.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

2019 Human Development Report (HDR)

Generally, reports by the UN bodies are a way of approaching issues because it provides us with a clear view on how the situation is and what we can do about it. This specific report by the UNDP in 2019 on human development showed very problematic results concerning our societies and the grade that inequalities affect us. “This Human Development Report sets out how systemic inequalities are deeply damaging our

society and why,” said Achim Steiner, the UNDP Administrator.²⁶ A new generation of inequalities around technologies, education and climate change has begun setting us and all endeavours for progress back. The report studied inequalities in three steps: beyond income, beyond averages, and beyond today.²⁷ It is necessary that we take the findings and make the most of it. It is proven that this report was effective with the variety of information it has provided. We should take advantage of all the productivity and means we have in order to do more with less.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 10,12,13)

The achievement of the sustainable development goals before it is too late is crucial. Closely linked to the topic of this guide are the SDGs number 10, 12 and 13 and with the rest of the goals playing a vital role, too. SDG 10, namely reducing inequalities, is one of the greatest issues of today’s society as many of the international problems begin from inequalities between races, countries or economic status. Distributing wealth correctly and providing equal opportunities for all can lead to achievement of equality. SDG 12, namely responsible consumption and production, is about leaning towards sustainable production and consumption. The key is to be able to do more with less. It is also about decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, increasing resource efficiency and promoting sustainable lifestyles.²⁸ The 13th SDG is about combating climate change. Climate change is constantly getting worse with the global temperature rising and other effects such as poverty and hunger, no access to basic services, such as health and education, expanding inequalities, stifling economic growth and even conflict. Overconsumption is a true problem that has the greatest impact on environmental degradation. We should act now.



Figure 3: The 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN to be achieved by 2030

²⁶ "Inequality Threatening Human Development, New Global UN Report Warns." UN News, 11 Dec. 2019, news.un.org/en/story/2019/12/1052991.

²⁷ "Human Development Report 2019: Beyond Income, Beyond Averages, Beyond Today: Inequalities in Human Development in the 21st Century [EN/AR]." ReliefWeb, reliefweb.int/report/world/human-development-report-2019-beyond-income-beyond-averages-beyond-today-inequalities#:~:text=The%202019%20Human%20Development%20Report,necessitie

²⁸ "Sustainable Consumption and Production." United Nations Sustainable Development, 29 July 2022, www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-consumption-production/.

UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

A previous attempt to approach this and other similar issues was the creation of a subsidiary body of the UN. One of these bodies was this one. The United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) is a body operating under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It holds an annual forum for discussion on current affairs affecting science, technology and development. Strong links exist with other UN bodies (The Commission on Status of Women, Regional Commissions, ITU, UNESCO).²⁹ The CSTD provides the UNGA and ECOSOC with advice on relevant science and technology issues. These reports filled after each forum, contribute to the formulation of the agenda and the drafting of resolutions with feasible solutions. There was seen to be a change on the way nations negotiated on the issue after holding the Forum. It provided a place for all the Nations to examine the issue and changes together.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Education in LEDCs

LEDCs need an educational system which will provide knowledge about their land and how they can take advantage of it. Learning about the extraction of natural resources and resource-exploitation technologies as well as acquiring a basic technical and technological education can be something that will push LEDCs to step up and take control of what is their own. Through programs and seminars held by experts, subsidized by the UN and the World Bank, we can achieve skill development in LEDCs. The UNDP is body possible to organize such operations as well as monitor its results.

Fair Trade Agreements

Fair trade agreements are designed to ensure that trade is conducted in an equitable and fair manner. In the context of resource exploitation, these agreements can be used to ensure that less developed countries receive a fair price for the resources they export and that they have access to the technologies and know-how needed to exploit their resources. For example, a fair-trade agreement might require transnational corporations operating in a less developed country to transfer a certain amount of technology or know-how to local companies, or to provide training and education programs to local workers.

Encouraging and providing incentives to local entrepreneurship

Encouraging local entrepreneurship can help build local capacities and reduce dependence on foreign corporations and technologies. This can be achieved through a variety of measures, such as providing financing and support to local businesses, encouraging innovation and creativity, and promoting the development of local value chains. For example, a government might establish a program to provide financing and

²⁹ "Commission on Science and Technology for Development." UNCTAD, unctad.org/es/node/2853.

training to local entrepreneurs who are interested in developing new technologies or businesses based on resource exploitation.

Regulation of transnational corporations

Governments can regulate the activities of transnational corporations to ensure that they are acting in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. This could include measures such as environmental regulations, labor standards, and anti-corruption measures. For example, a government might require transnational corporations operating in its country to adhere to certain environmental standards, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions or reducing waste. It could also require these corporations to pay a fair price for the resources they extract, and to provide fair wages and benefits to their workers. Additionally, anti-corruption measures could be put in place to ensure that transnational corporations are not engaging in bribery or other unethical practices.

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