



Economic and Social Council Committee (ECOSOC)

ROYAL MUN

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1.1. Welcome

Dear delegates,



It is a pleasure for us presidents, Alejandra Arcila and Maria de los Angeles Rodriguez, to have each one of you on the second edition of the Royal MUN, and are looking forward to seeing you active, dedicated and participating as representatives of the delegations assigned to each of you for a smooth and productive debate. We are very thankful for having the chance of being the heads of the ECOSOC Committee.

Any doubts or questions? Ask ahead!

Feel free to contact us by the following emails or phone numbers.

aarcilla4@royalschool.edu.co - 302-423-5316

mrodriguez3@royalschool.edu.co - 300-206-2773



1.2. About ECOSOC

The Economic and Social Council deals and coordinates economic, social, cultural and health matters as well as human rights and fundamental freedoms. It also coordinates the work of the 14 UN specialized agencies, ten functional commissions and five regional commissions. Under the UN Charter, this committee is responsible for promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economics and social development. ECOSOC's ambit extends over 70% of the human and financial resources of the entire UN system.

ECOSOC holds a four-week substantive session each July, with the 54 member Governments, alternating between New York and Geneva. The session includes a high-level segment, where national cabinet ministers and chiefs of international companies and other high officials focus on a selected theme of global significance.



The Council's member Governments are elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms. While carrying out its command, ECOSOC turns to academics, business sector representatives and more than 2,500 registered non-governmental organizations.

2.1. Topic: *What is the Right Approach to Build Cities that are Environmentally Friendly with Sustainable Urban Development?*

Sustainable urban development focuses on creating cities that meet the needs of current and future generations while minimizing negative impacts on the environment, economy, and society. The right approach to building environmentally friendly cities involves a combination of strategies and considerations aimed at achieving balance and harmony between urbanization, economic and ecological preservation. By adopting a holistic approach that integrates these principles and practices, cities can strive towards becoming more environmentally friendly, resilient, and inclusive spaces for all inhabitants, both present and future.

It highlights the incorporation of green infrastructure and sustainable design principles as key elements in transforming urban landscapes. By integrating features such as green roofs, rain gardens, and permeable pavements, cities can mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, improve air quality, and enhance overall urban biodiversity. Additionally, the article underscores



the need for holistic planning approaches that consider social, economic, and environmental factors to ensure the long-term sustainability and well-being of urban communities.

2.2. Environmental Context

As it is known climate change is a substantial contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, primarily from energy consumption, transportation and industrial activities. Classic urbanization often leads to habitat degradation and the loss of biodiversity, therefore rapid urban growth also strains natural resources, including water, land, and energy. Unsustainable consumption patterns and inefficient resource use exacerbate resource scarcity, pollution, and environmental degradation, threatening long-term sustainability and resilience.

Unsustainable urban development patterns can lead to economic inefficiencies, social inequalities, and environmental degradation, undermining long-term prosperity and competitiveness, that's why with an environmentally friendly approach is expected to get substantial investments in infrastructure, including transportation, water supply, sanitation, energy, and communications. Strategic infrastructure planning and investment promote economic development, job creation, and enhanced connectivity, while also reducing environmental



impacts and enhancing resilience to climate change, in fact, it creates opportunities for green job creation, innovation, and entrepreneurship across various sectors, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste management, green building, and sustainable transportation. Embracing circular economy principles and sustainable business models fosters economic resilience, competitiveness, and inclusive growth.

2.3. Current Situation

The last High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was held from Monday, 10 July, to Wednesday, 19 July 2023, under the auspices of the ECOSOC. This includes the three-day ministerial segment of the forum as part of the High-level Segment of the Council. The theme was *"Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels"*.

In the forum, participants were able to further discuss the effective and inclusive recovery measures to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and explore actionable policy guidance for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at all levels.

The HLPF in 2023, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs, also reviewed in-depth Goals 6 on clean water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy, 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals.

The HLPF in July also supported the mid-term review of the implementation of the SDGs and the preparations for the 2023 SDG Summit – the HLPF to be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023.



2.4. Guide Questions

1. How does incorporating green infrastructure and sustainable design principles contribute to the transformation of urban landscapes, and what benefits does it offer in terms of mitigating climate change and improving urban biodiversity?
2. Why is a holistic planning approach essential for sustainable urban development, and how does considering social, economic, and environmental factors contribute to long-term sustainability and well-being in urban communities?
3. How can the integration of sustainable transportation systems and smart technology solutions promote efficient mobility and reduce carbon emissions in urban areas?
4. How do smart technologies, such as intelligent traffic management systems and energy-efficient buildings, play a role in enhancing urban sustainability and minimizing environmental impacts?
5. How do considerations of social equity and community involvement factor into the planning and implementation of sustainable urban development projects?
6. What are some potential economic benefits of investing in sustainable urban development initiatives, and how can these benefits be leveraged to promote further adoption of sustainable practices in cities?

2.5. Relevant Information

1. Urban Planning and Design: Effective urban planning and design are fundamental to sustainable development. This involves careful consideration of land use, zoning regulations, infrastructure development, transportation systems, green spaces, and building design.

2. Green Infrastructure: Integrating green infrastructure, such as parks, green roofs, permeable surfaces, and urban forests, into city planning helps mitigate the urban heat island effect, improve air quality, and enhance biodiversity. These green spaces also provide recreational opportunities and improve overall quality of life for urban residents.



3. Renewable Energy: Transitioning to renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and geothermal, for power generation in urban areas reduces reliance on fossil fuels and lowers greenhouse gas emissions.

4. Waste Management and Circular Economy: Adopting sustainable waste management practices, such as recycling, composting, and waste-to-energy technologies, minimizes landfill waste and conserves resources. Embracing a circular economy approach, which focuses on reducing, reusing, and recycling materials to minimize waste generation and maximize resource efficiency, is essential for long-term urban sustainability.

5. Community Engagement and Social Equity: Engaging local communities in the planning and decision-making processes ensures that sustainable urban development initiatives reflect their needs, preferences, and cultural values. Promoting social equity and inclusive development by addressing issues of affordable housing, access to basic services, and socioeconomic disparities is crucial for building resilient and equitable cities.

6. Policy and Governance: Enacting supportive policies, regulations, and incentives at the local, regional, and national levels is essential for driving sustainable urban development. Effective governance structures, stakeholder collaboration, and innovative financing mechanisms can facilitate the implementation of sustainable practices and foster a supportive environment for green growth.

7. Parliamentary language: Delegates must use the parliamentary language during all the working sessions and manage the relationships between them and with the organizers with diplomacy and respect.

3. Sources

[What does ECOSOC do?](#)

[China - AQLI](#)

[Environmental quality in China - statistics & facts | Statista.](#)



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Resolution Recognizing, Promoting Care Economy among Texts Approved, as Commission for Social Development Concludes Its Sixty-second Session
Urban Development