



EcoSoc

Confronting Mass Unemployment

Chairs:

Amira Jaques and Ouwais Rkaina

Dear Delegates,

We, Amira Jaques (ajagues@gwacasablanca.com) and Ouwais Rkaina (ouwais.rkaina@ast.ma) are very pleased to welcome you to Tangier MUN 2022 and to the EcoSoc Committee. In the upcoming conference, we will be entertaining the topic of Confronting Mass Unemployment.

Topic Introduction

The world has been forced to face a stark rise in unemployment rates in light of the easily transmissible Covid-19 virus. Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Governments around the world have and still face the challenge in structuring a response to the outbreak of a novel coronavirus. Some have reacted by greatly restricting the freedom of citizens, while others have opted for less drastic policies. Due to the rapid spread of this virus, many countries were struck upon a strict lockdown which is believed to have drastically decreased the alarming amount of covid-19 rates, however it has negatively affected a large piece of the population's financial situations as they struggle to find a job.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, unemployment numbers quickly began to rise. Mass panic occurred as the many individuals across the globe were forced to close their small time businesses, and were left to seek other ways in which to provide for their family and themselves during such harsh times. COVID-19 reportedly began in March 2020 and in April 2020 the unemployment rate reached 14.8%—the highest rate observed since data collection began in 1948. It has been almost two years since the virus spread around the world and currently the unemployment rate has dropped to 4% and is projected to drop to 3.5% in the coming year, but even upon knowing this, mass unemployment remains a pressing issue.

In today's world, COVID-19 isn't the sole contributor to an increase in global unemployment. Other reasons found throughout our globe include but are not limited to; poor education, labour demand vs supply, slow economic growth, and even general lack of interest for entrepreneurship. Certain independent states face varying types of issues presented, and as such, their handling of these problems may differ, and lead to opposing results. As well, this provides a reasoning for the high unemployment rates that were instilled prior to the global pandemic.

Background

In the past, there have been a number of events such as The Great Depression which peaked global unemployment rates. In this particular case, over 15 million people lost their jobs which led to “serious economic hardship” (Pettinger, 2020) and very limited welfare support. It was deemed that countries reliant in international trade such as Chile, Australia and Canada particularly suffered from a rise in unemployment. While self-sufficient and relatively isolated states such as the Soviet Union, Spain and Japan, “avoided the worst costs of the great depression” (Pettinger, 2020).

In 1918 to 1920, the Spanish Flu majorly impacted the US economy. At that time, men were the primary source of labor, and as such played a key part in the economic well-being of their state. As such they were unprepared when the virus hit “males aged 18 to 40 the hardest”, thus reducing the workforce, creating a demand for employees, and reducing the unemployment rate. **(Think of the Spanish Flu and Covid-19’s unemployment situation, how and why does it differ?)**

In the past, the Antonine Plague (165 - 180 C.E), the Bubonic Plague (1347-1353), the Spanish Flu and more, have all primarily resulted in a need for employees in order to fuel the labor force participation rate and reduce the unemployment rate. As they were far more deadly than Covid-19, their damage to the economy differed as it resulted in more (than expected) available jobs. **“Instead of killing the workforce as other pandemics did before it, Covid-19 is killing jobs and businesses.” (Burdick, 2020)**

Different Perspectives/Recent Events

Mass unemployment has been handled differently across states. However it is commonly believed, to an extent, that recurrent market failure and attendant social conflicts are evidence of a wider collapse, is more disruptive to intellectual, social, and political order and more menacing to communities as a whole. NHS Wales, a governmental office, is one of many that aim to prevent and respond to MUEs (Mass Unemployment Events) from a public health perspective. They study the correlation between unemployment affecting displaced/unemployed workers’

mental wellbeing, and mortality rates, and search to identify a possible implementation of a framework that could localise actions against such an issue.

Delegates, please be knowledgeable about your country's key cultural and political perspectives on unemployment and confronting this issue.

Questions to Consider

- Should mass unemployment be of concern when a large amount of the population is forced to face death in light of Covid-19?
- To what extent does the rise in technology use improve rates of unemployment, is this sustainable?
- How may individuals seek freedom to a working/social life, when restrained by lockdown/vaccination policies and mandates?
- What is being done to aid unemployed individuals?
- Should a country's cultural or political beliefs/perspectives be overlooked in order to ensure unemployment rates from rising?
- How can countries better their unemployment rates when it comes to varying future virus outbreaks and/or mutations?
- How has the incline in immigration affected the rates of unemployment throughout the globe?
- How do the unemployment rates differ between genders, races, etc?

Key Terms

1. **Unemployment**: the state of being unemployed : involuntary idleness of workers.
2. **Market**: the course of commercial activity by which the exchange of commodities is effected : extent of demand.
3. **Frictional Unemployment**: The temporary unemployment of resources (as labor) resulting from job changes, imbalance of factors of production, or short term lack of mobility preventing continuous employment.

4. Self-sufficient: able to maintain oneself or itself without outside aid : capable of providing for one's own needs.
5. Demand: the quantity of a commodity or service wanted at a specified price and time, a seeking or state of being sought after, urgent requirement of work, (supply and *demand*).
6. Mandate: an authoritative command, *especially* : a formal order from a superior court or official to an inferior one.
7. Validity: the quality of being well-grounded, sound, or correct.
8. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): rights (such as freedom from unlawful imprisonment, torture, and execution) regarded as belonging fundamentally to all persons.
9. 23rd Amendment:
 - a. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
 - b. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
 - c. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
 - d. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

All Definitions above were acquired from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com>

10. Economic sector: an area of the economy in which businesses share the same or related business activity, product, or service.

The definition above was acquired from the investopedia dictionary.

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/sector.asp>

Requirements

- A position paper in relation to the topic.
 - **Due December 30th. Please email it, including both of our emails in the “to:” section and with the subject “Position Paper - [your country & your name]”.**
 - *(our emails are on the cover [1st] page of this document)*
- A resolution paper in relation to the topic, whilst being mindful of other country’s stances.
 - **Due December 30th. Please email it, including both of our emails in the “to:” section and with the subject “Resolution Paper - [your country & your name]”.**
 - *(our emails are on the cover [1st] page of this document)*
- Substantial research done on the committee’s topic.
- Proposed solutions to resolve the issue at hand.
- To be knowledgeable about the Covid regulations.
- To know all your points and motions.

Bibliography and Useful Links

- <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/R46554.pdf>
- <https://www.gcis.gov.za/content/resourcecentre/newsletters/insight/issue13>
- <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/social-sciences/mass-unemployment>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/26/opinion/covid-economy-unemployment-europe.html>
- [http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/888/Watermarked%20PHW%20Mass%20Unemployment%20Report%20E\(15\).pdf](http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/888/Watermarked%20PHW%20Mass%20Unemployment%20Report%20E(15).pdf)
- <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

MUN Procedure/Protocol:

- <https://teimun.org/mun-101-the-rules-of-procedure/>
- https://www.tangiermun.org/uploads/3/9/9/5/39954039/points_and_motions_tmun_.pdf

Writing a position paper:

- <https://www.wisemee.com/how-to-write-a-mun-position-paper/>

Writing a resolution paper:

- <https://bestdelegate.com/model-un-made-easy-how-to-write-a-resolution/>