



# ECOSOC

## **Confronting Mass Unemployment**

Chairs:

Ismaeel Ali & Ghali Moudni

Dear Delegates,

We, Ghali Moudni ([ghalimoudni2020@gmail.com](mailto:ghalimoudni2020@gmail.com)) and Ismaeel Ali ([Xeranzoo@gmail.com](mailto:Xeranzoo@gmail.com)), are honored to welcome you to this year's annual TMUN conference. In light of the Coronavirus, this year's ECOSOC committee, responsible for economic and social progress, will be confronting and deliberating the issue of Mass Unemployment.

### **Topic Introduction:**

With the sudden onset of Coronavirus, the world is facing numerous unprecedented social and economic issues. In an attempt to flatten the curve on coronavirus, many countries have adopted lockdown and curfew reforms that prevent large gatherings of people. As a result, many businesses have had to temporarily close their doors and lay off workers due to insufficient consumer activity, leading to an exponential rise in unemployment rates. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reported an increase in unemployment rates by 2.9 percent from March to April. Approximately 18.4 million people in the span of only one month. These significant increases in unemployment rates have become the root of new-found socio-economic problems worldwide.

Informal workers, sometimes considered non-essential workers, are at the biggest risk of facing mass unemployment. An informal worker is defined as an individual who is self-employed or works for those who are self-employed. Informal jobs include, but are not limited to, food servers, construction workers, transport workers, and domestic workers. Around two billion people world-wide work informally, and approximately ten million of them have already felt the effects of mass unemployment brought on by COVID-19. Before COVID-19, this large group of informal workers practiced their profession in urban areas. Urban areas that are now deemed high risk sectors of the virus and are impacted by lockdown measures. Developing countries such as India, Brazil, and Nigeria, countries with 90% of its inhabitants working in the informal economy, are now at risk of facing greater poverty rates. Poverty rates that must be alleviated.

Mass unemployment also serves to threaten the economy in countries worldwide. The United States, a country that hasn't seen an unemployment crisis of this caliber since The Great Depression, has had nearly all of its economic gains in the last decade erased. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta reports that the United States GDP will drop 32.7% in the second

quarter of lockdown. Countries like China, France, and India, are also experiencing historic slumps in their GDP as unemployment rates increase. This world economic shift can lead to potential social discord and deepen mistrust between the people and government. Halting peace, development, and social unity in a country.

Moreover, with the sudden increase in unemployment, countries all over the world are experiencing a “shadow pandemic” in both crime and mental well-being. Despite property crime experiencing a decrease due to lockdown measures, domestic violence cases and assault crimes are going up as unemployment rates increase. A study by the American Economic Review shows that unemployment in males leads to a 30% increase in chances that a male perpetrates domestic violence. Respectively, female unemployment leads to nearly a 60% chance that the woman is a victim of domestic violence. With stay-at-home orders in place and an increase in unemployment rates, countries all over the world are reporting significant increases in arrests related to domestic violence.

Years of research and studies have also shown a directly proportional relationship between unemployment rates and a number of adverse health effects. Suicidal tendencies, mental distress, criminal tendencies, and substance abuse are all growing rampant in people worldwide as unemployment takes its toll. A study by the CDC shows that 1 in 4 unemployed adults struggle with suicidal thoughts. Additionally, unemployment isn't just the loss of financial stability. According to a 2019 study published by the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology, 1 in 5 individuals lost access to time structure, social contact, and status, which all contribute to an increase in depression. As a result, mass unemployment due to COVID-19 is indirectly leading to a global health crisis.

In an effort to alleviate these rampant unemployment issues, countries have adopted various welfare strategies. The most popular being income compensation for unemployed individuals and government wage subsidies to keep businesses open. The G20, a group of industrialised nations that aim to promote economic stability and prevent future financial crises, have already agreed upon fiscal stimulus measures that will serve to stabilize this global unemployment issue. However, these strategies have been proven to sometimes be inefficient in a sense that they are not sustainable long-term and don't apply well in developing countries. In which case, it is imperative that we come together and create viable solutions that aim to alleviate the global mass employment issue brought on by COVID-19. An issue that is in

position to further globally damage mental well-being, disrupt social dynamics, and taint the economic status of countries all over the world.

### **Questions to Consider**

- How has COVID-19 affected your country's unemployment rate, if at all?
- What is your country doing to support individuals suffering from mass unemployment due to COVID-19?
- What are some reforms taken up by your country that aim to decrease unemployment rates?
- Do certain groups of people require special services when creating unemployment reforms?
- Is your country providing necessary services for individuals experiencing adverse health issues or domestic violence due to unemployment?
- Has your country considered measures to counter youth unemployment?

### **Key Words:**

- **Unemployment Rate:** The percentage of unemployed individuals of working age in the total labor force.
- **Labor Force:** The total number of employed and unemployed individuals in an economy
- **The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):** An intergovernmental economic organisation with 37 member countries, founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade. Member countries include much of the EU, the UK, Australia, the US, Canada, Korea, and Turkey.
- **Informal Worker:** An individual that is self-employed or works for a self-employed individual. The informal economy relates to the contribution informal workers make to the economy.

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**: a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in a specific time period.
- **Domestic Violence**: Domestic violence refers to violent behaviour between current or former intimate partners – typically where one partner tries to exert power and control over the other, usually through fear. It can include physical, sexual, emotional, social, verbal, spiritual and economic abuse.
- **Center of Disease control CDC**: The US branch of public health services and the department of health and human services.
- **The International Labour Organization (ILO)**: is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards.

### **Requirements:**

- A position paper illustrating your country's position on the topic (**March 26. 2021**)
- Resolution paper with proposed solutions (**March 26. 2021**)
- Adequate research on the subject