

# ARISMUN 2020: The Economic and Social Council

Chair & Co-chair: Phoebe Laryea & David Safo

## INTRODUCTION TO THE CHAIRS

“Welcome to the Economic And Social Council delegates! My name is Phoebe Laryea, and I am the chair for the Economic and Social Council for ARISMUN. I am looking forward to your thorough preparation and enthusiasm towards the whole affair. I want to experience fruitful debates, diplomatic resolutions, intriguing points of information, and overall fun time with all of you!”

- *Phoebe Laryea, Chair of ECOSOC*

## INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The Economic and Social Council issues policy recommendations to the United Nations and the committee's member states. The committee works to establish higher standards of living, eradicate health, social and economic problems, ease international cultural and education liaison and build general respect towards human rights and essential freedom. The committee consists of 54 rotating member governments, which are elected by the General Assembly.

## TOPIC A: THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF COVID-19

### INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 has affected communities, businesses and organizations globally, affecting the financial markets and the global economy. Unanticipated governmental responses and lockdowns have led to a disruption in the supply chain. In China, lockdown restrictions significantly reduced the production of goods from factories, while quarantine and self-isolation policies decreased consumption, demand and utilization of products and services. As COVID-19 has advanced to affect the rest of the world, China will begin to recover faster than the rest of the countries, strengthening its trade negotiating power against the US.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The decline in global stock markets has matured, and an unstable environment with critical liquidity levels has emerged. To combat these effects, Central banks globally have intervened to maintain liquidity and mitigate the economic shock, with several leaders adopting the 'Whatever it takes' stance.

## ARISMUN 2020: The Economic and Social Council

The time spent in lockdown translates into vulnerable people being more subjectable to abuse and increases the difficulty for them to seek help. In response to rising concerns, the United Kingdom's government has published guidelines on how to recognize domestic abuse, how to report it and where with a list of all the services available. Furthermore, a significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is evident within the video-gaming industry. With individuals self-isolating and/or remaining home under strict governmental regulations, online gaming has seen a record number of players, which has facilitated a boost in revenue for many companies.

The tourism sector is currently one of the most impacted by the outbreak of COVID-19, with impacts on both travel supply and demand. As an immediate result of COVID-19, The World Travel and Tourism Council has warned that 50 million jobs in the global travel and tourism sector may be at risk. The European Tourism Manifesto alliance, which involves over 50 European public and private organizations from the travel and tourism sector, have prioritized the need to implement urgent measures. These include a temporary state aid for the tourism and travel sector from national governments as well as fast and easy access to loans to overcome liquidity shortages, as well as funds to be made available by the EU through the Corona Response Investment Initiative, and fiscal relief.

The global pandemic caused a collapse in demand from hotels and restaurants, thereby causing the prices of agricultural commodities to drop by 20%. Countries around the world have imposed several protective measures to contain the exponentially increasing spread. Advice on self-isolation upon contact with suspected carriers of the virus is likely to impact the number of available inspectors and delivery staff critical to ensuring verification and transportation of products. As a result, there will be immense implications for perishable goods such as meat and vegetables. Additionally, markets have gone to the extent of shutting down floor trading, which has impacted the ability to exchange commodities—the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, for example. 'Panic buying' is further complicating shortages beyond supermarket shelves.

The British Plastics Federation (BPF) surveyed to explore how COVID-19 is affecting manufacturing businesses in the United Kingdom. Over 80% of respondents anticipated a decline in turnover over the next two quarters, with 98% admitting concern about the negative impact of the pandemic on business operations. Importation issues and staffing deficiencies have emerged as a critical source of concern for businesses due to how it has disrupted the supply chains due to self-isolation policies. Indubitably, for many roles within a manufacturing company, 'working from home' is not an option as the UK is adopting similar protective measures to the rest of the world, and due to the global overlap of supply chains, we can expect these anxieties to transcend borders.

## **TOPIC B: Establishing Universal Acceptance of Medical Marijuana**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 included cannabis and similar drugs to its list of prohibited drugs unless used under the pretext of research and medicine. Till date, 30 countries have licenced the use of cannabis and its derivatives for medicine including Germany, Australia, Norway, Canada, Columbia, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Turkey and Finland. The means on which said drugs are distributed, legalized, advertised and decriminalized differs amongst said states. This committee will focus on establishing a resolve on whether or not medical marijuana should be normalized and to what extent, while bearing in mind the advantages and disadvantages of the drug mentioned above.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The League of Nations added cannabis to the list of drugs, signing the International Opium Convention on the 19th of February 1925. This treaty took effect on the 25th of September 1938.

The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs treaty of 1961 included marijuana in its list of restricted drugs, monitoring and controlling the movement of drugs of the member states. Whether medical marijuana is legal, decriminalized or illegal differs from country to country, with marijuana being either legal or decriminalized in 30 countries.

The medical marijuana plant consists of some active ingredients, including THC and CBD. Although cannabis is legal/decriminalized in 30 countries, many countries have legalized a certain percentage of cannabidiol (CBD) in cosmetic/ medical products. Cannabidiol in medication is used commonly for treating seizure disorder and has reportedly been used to subdue muscle pains that come with multiple sclerosis.

Multiple resolutions are being made to control the abuse and distribution of narcotic drugs by the UNODC, CND, ECOSOC and the General Assembly. Although cannabis is an illicit drug in multiple states, many countries still face the problem of drug trafficking, abuse and drug-related deaths in prohibited countries. Scientific claims have been made about marijuana being a gateway drug, with the National Epidemiological Study of Drug in the

## **ARISMUN 2020: The Economic and Social Council**

United States of America proving addiction to other substances such as alcohol and other hard drugs stem from the use of marijuana.

Establishing universal acceptance of medical marijuana is thus debatable as cultivation and distribution of the cannabis plant in numerous member states may not be supervised adequately. Hence, the methods of distribution of said drugs, education and a general limit on the prescription of cannabis remain essential factors in achieving this goal.

Whether or not establishing universal acceptance of medical marijuana is a necessity is an equally important motion.

### **Key terms and concepts**

Legalization: The action of making something illegal permissible by law.

Decriminalization: The action or process of ceasing to treat something as illegal or a criminal offence.

## ARISMUN 2020: The Economic and Social Council

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

“Cannabidiol (Cbd): Uses, Side Effects, Interactions, Dosage, and Warning.” *WebMD*, WebMD, [www.webmd.com/vitamins/ai/ingredientmono-1439/cannabidiol-cbd](http://www.webmd.com/vitamins/ai/ingredientmono-1439/cannabidiol-cbd).

“Drug Trafficking.” *United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime*, [www.unodc.org/unodc/drug-trafficking/index.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/drug-trafficking/index.html).

“Erowid Cannabis Vault: Timeline.” *Erowid Cannabis Vault : Timeline*, [www.erowid.org/plants/cannabis/cannabis\\_timeline.php](http://www.erowid.org/plants/cannabis/cannabis_timeline.php).

“How Did Marijuana Become Illegal in the First Place?” *Drug Policy Alliance*, [www.drugpolicy.org/blog/how-did-marijuana-become-illegal-first-place](http://www.drugpolicy.org/blog/how-did-marijuana-become-illegal-first-place).

“Is CBD Legal Worldwide? Cannabidiol's Legal Status 2020.” *The Extract*, 5 Oct. 2020, [www.theextract.co.uk/is-cbd-legal-worldwide/](http://www.theextract.co.uk/is-cbd-legal-worldwide/).

Johny.thomas. “INCB.” *Narcotic Drugs*, [www.incb.org/incb/en/narcotic-drugs/index.html](http://www.incb.org/incb/en/narcotic-drugs/index.html).

National Institute on Drug Abuse. “Is Marijuana a Gateway Drug?” *National Institute on Drug Abuse*, 8 Apr. 2020, [www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/marijuana-gateway-drug](http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/marijuana-gateway-drug).

Pacula, Rosalie Liccardo, and Rosanna Smart. “Medical Marijuana and Marijuana Legalization.” *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, 8 May 2017, [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6358421/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6358421/).