



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

Universal Access to Affordable and Quality Healthcare: Overcoming Barriers to Healthcare Access

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DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMITTEE

The ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) committee is a very important council in the UN, it is one of the 6 main organs of the UN. It was established in 1945 during the UN charter. This committee consists of 54 members and 18 of them are selected by the General Assembly each year every three years. The main role of ECOSOC is to promote high standards of living, economic and social problems, facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation, full employment, and encouraging universal respect for each other.

The ECOSOC's main accomplished works focus on social development, women's status, human rights, population, and more. In the ECOSOC every July there is a 4-week session, this has been happening since 1998. Another annual meeting for this committee is held every April, where finance ministers, and key committees of the International Money Fund and the World Bank reunite.

Furthermore, the current president of the ECOSOC council is called Paula Narváez, who is the permanent representative of Chile in the UN. She is the 79th president, she was elected on July 27, 2023. She was the officer in charge of the UN's entity for gender equality and empowerment of women in Guatemala. She also was the Social-Political Adviser at the UN-Women regional office of Latin America and the Caribbean.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TOPIC

Health is necessary for a quality life, being free from illness and injuries helps us to have a better quality life. In the world life-expectancy is the "measure" of health in a country. Life expectancy has increased drastically in the past few years, this is great for the world, many people live longer than in the past. In many countries life expectancy has not gone up, there are countries that have a life expectancy of less than 60 years, but there are some with more than 80 (Ortiz-Ospina & Roser, 2016).

Half of the world's population (3.5 billion people) do not have access to the health services needed to have a quality life. Around 100 million people are put into poverty due to health expenses. Due to COVID-19 this issue has only gone worse, this has forced “unprivileged” people to pay for health expenses that they are not able to pay, people believe this pandemic has “stalled” all progress to achieve health for all (Philips, 2022).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE TOPIC

To have a sustainable and affordable healthcare system we need to know the basic history about this topic. In various places like rural and urban countries having an affordable and good healthcare system is key to basically live. In the last 10 years a congress called the Affordable Care Act was put into action in the US. Since then this issue has slowly decreased and has saved plenty of lives. This type of action plan is what we need to help this important issue.

The ACA congress has helped in various ways to help the economic healthcare problem, but this isn't the only help we have received. The UNHCR is one of the most famous refugees awareness center in the world. This committee has helped with the healthcare system issue because of the amazing work the doctors on board have done. This plan is currently working in 135 countries and plans to expand even more. It's been working for more than 70 years now.

CURRENT SITUATION OF THE TOPIC

Healthcare can vary because of each country. Some countries have different rules to prevent the lack of affordable healthcare, but also to help people in need to get the medical attendances they need. Many countries, especially in Africa, have very little rate of people with healthcare access. The UN is currently getting involved in this topic with a movement called, “Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World,” which has the purpose to speed up the process for affordable healthcare access for all, this includes financial risk protection, access to quality healthcare, and access to safe and affordable medicines. 43 out of 195 countries all around the world do not have free access to healthcare. In most places, there are limitations to the benefits of free healthcare provided. Individuals living in countries that provide access to free healthcare may experience different levels of coverage and taxation and may be required to purchase supplementary health coverage.

INTERNATIONAL ACTION OF THE TOPIC)

Currently there are some action plans regarding this topic, here are some of these now:

- **The Affordable Care Act:**

This act has two main objectives to work. The first main objective of this act is to reform the private insurance market. This objective is key to having affordable healthcare because many people who have access to healthcare are only or mainly rich. This objective will help close the gap between the rich and poor to help so everyone can have access to healthcare. The second objective is to change the way medical decisions are made. This objective is an important one because it helps us see the issue when it comes to this topic.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CREATING A RESOLUTION (jimena)

The chair recommends for delegates to take a look at these suggestions before creating a resolution:

- Consider long-term and short-term solutions
- The UN cannot create laws only reinforce them
- In the UN money is not a problem
- You can use others peoples ideas, but give credits
- Add in text citations
- Remember the topic (to make access for affordable healthcare)
- Avoid using personal pronouns
- Consider UNs past words and actions

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER (to create a Resolution) (Juan Pablo)

- Do you know the percentage of people with healthcare coverage around the world?
- What is the average cost of insurance?
- Which countries do not have free health insurance?
- Is the UN changing anything in this topic?
- What are the pros and cons of having healthcare coverage?
- Average price of hospital/doctor bills?
- Which country has the least amount of health insurance?
- Which race has the less opportunities to have quality healthcare?
- Are countries planning to implement rules about this topic?
- Are public hospitals planning to reduce the cost of their bills?

RESEARCH AID (All)

<https://healthadministrationdegree.usc.edu/blog/how-to-improve-access-to-health-care/>

This can help to get an idea of possible solutions

[ECOSOC adopts its 2023 resolution on the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS | UNAIDS](#)

Ecosocs past actions

<https://ourworldindata.org/health-meta>

Here you can get an idea of the topic given

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/10-ways-aca-improved-health-care-past-decade/>

Past actions on the topic

TERMS AND CONCEPTS (Juan Pablo)

- Facilitating: Make something easier than it was before.
- Permanent: Planned to not be changed.
- Expenses: the cost required for something; the money spent on something.
- Sustainable: To be able to maintain at a certain rate or level.
- Stalled: stop running, typically because of an overload.
- Bills: an amount of money owed for goods supplied or services used, set out in a printed or written statement of charges.
- Reform: To make changes.

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