



Background Paper

Committee: ECOSOC

Topic A: Reducing Young Adult Unemployment Worldwide.

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Youth unemployment has become one of the main economic problems that prevents countries from progressing and moving forward. This issue only has negative effects such as lower lifetime earnings and career progression on the social part. Economically, high youth unemployment results in losses of productivity, lower consumer spending, and reduced tax revenue, all of which slow down national progress. The roots of this crisis are deeply structural. For instance, the economic crisis of 2008, where millions of young workers lost their jobs and subsequently struggled to find stable employment. This event created an important shake in the labor market around the world, where the number of graduates getting employment was reducing in a critical way. Additionally, the growth of automation and technology has fundamentally altered the labor demand equation. Machines powered by artificial intelligence are displacing millions of workers because their work results are obsolete, making it even harder to gain experience as a young worker. During the COVID-19 pandemic, global lockdowns, business closures, and reduced economic activity caused massive job losses among young adults. Many individuals aged 18–30 entered the labor market during a recession, facing hiring freezes, delays in education, and fewer opportunities to gain professional experience. The lack of formal employment opportunities pushed young people into informal or temporary jobs where income is less and there is no set salary; consequently, there are people working in poor conditions. A persistent development barrier is created by the combination of structural shocks, technological disruption, and the prevalence of precarious work. This highlights the urgent need for ECOSOC to develop comprehensive, forward-looking strategies that actively bridge the skills gap and formalize the creation of decent jobs for the world's youth.

The situation of youth unemployment has evolved into a structural challenge that affects countries in different ways depending on their economic models, labor policies, and demographic trends. Nations such as Sweden, Germany, Japan, Canada, France, Norway, South Korea, and Chile have positioned themselves in favor of strong international cooperation, recognizing that coordinated action is essential to provide young adults aged 18–30 with access to training, innovation, and stable employment pathways. These countries generally promote investment in technical education, apprenticeships, and digital skill development as long-term strategies to integrate young people into the labor market. On the other hand, the United States, China, Russia, India, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Brazil, and Hungary argue against multilateral intervention, maintaining that employment policy should remain a strictly national responsibility. Their opposition often reflects concerns about sovereignty, economic autonomy, and the belief that domestic strategies are better suited to address internal labor challenges. Meanwhile, Mexico, South Africa, Indonesia, and Switzerland hold a neutral stance, acknowledging the urgency of the issue but opting to evaluate proposed measures before committing to a definitive position, as they balance economic priorities with internal political considerations.

For all these reasons, the establishment of this committee is not only justified but urgently necessary to confront the growing challenge of youth unemployment in a coordinated and effective manner. Our objective is to create a space where Member States can openly evaluate current labor trends, examine the economic and social barriers faced by young adults, and identify the weaknesses that prevent millions from accessing dignified and stable employment. By fostering dialogue, exchanging best practices, and encouraging evidence-based policymaking, this committee aims to promote strategies that strengthen technical education, expand access to professional training, support innovation and entrepreneurship, and encourage the formalization of labor markets. Furthermore, the committee seeks to build mechanisms for international cooperation that allow countries to adapt to rapid technological change, reduce the skills gap, and generate long-term opportunities for individuals aged 18–30. Addressing youth unemployment is not merely an economic priority—it is essential for ensuring social stability, reducing inequality, and securing sustainable development for future generations. Through collective commitment, informed negotiation, and a shared responsibility toward global progress, this committee aspires to develop comprehensive and lasting solutions that empower the world's youth and contribute to the advancement of the international community.

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