

# COMMITTEE GUIDE

ECOSOC



**Economic and Social Council**

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## 1. Presidents' Letter

Dear Delegates,

We would like to give you all a warm welcome to this year's CCBMUN XIX and to our committee, ECOSOC. First off, let us introduce ourselves: we are Sofia Coupland and María Sofía Duque, students of 10th grade and 9th grade at Colegio Colombo Británico. Although this is our first model as presidents, we've both had a lot of experience as delegates in many different models. We are very excited about having the opportunity to provide an enjoyable model and learning experience for you all. We hope that this model is an enriching, unique experience where you will be able to learn something new, regardless of how much experience you have with United Nation Models.

Throughout our topics and debates, we hope to create engaging and intriguing discussions. It is also vital to remember that you are representing your country's political views, not your own, so we expect your actions in the Model to correspond to that view. However, this is not possible without two very important elements - investigation and participation. As your presidents, we expect you to have a wide range of knowledge on the topics that will be talked about, along with some active participation in order to have a successful model. It is also vital to remember that you are representing your country's political views, not your own, so we expect your actions in the Model to correspond to that view.

Taking into account that we are a mixed school committee, it is possible that many of you are rookies and that this is your first model; although it can seem quite intimidating in the beginning, we remind you that the most important part is for you to try your best. Both of us believe that United Nations Models are truly special and allow us to become more aware of the world we live in while developing our social skills even further. We commend you for taking the initiative to join in the first place and expect a positive and respectful attitude from you all during the Model. Remember, If anyone has any inquiries about the model, commission guide or anything in between feel free to contact us at our email: [ecosoc@ccbcali.edu.co](mailto:ecosoc@ccbcali.edu.co)

Yours sincerely,

Sofia Coupland and Maria Sofia Duque

ECOSOC Presidents

## **2. Committee Information**

### **I. History/Context**

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. It was established by the UN Charter in 1945, with the goal of promoting dialogue in order to develop recommendations and solutions on economic, social and environmental issues, while implementing internationally agreed development goals. ECOSOC has an annual theme to assure a focused discussion among the member states. It is the central mechanism for the activities of the UN system and its specialized agencies; it also supervises the subsidiary and expert bodies in the economic and environmental fields. In 1965 and in 1975 the UN Charter was changed in order to expand the number of members from 18 to 54.

ECOSOC has the goal of promoting a higher standard of living, full employment, and economic and social progress around the world. It facilitates international cooperation with regard to topics of culture and education, promoting universal respect for human rights.

In 2007, the Council launched the Development Cooperation Forum (DFC) though it was proposed at the 2005 World Summit Outcome. At this summit, world leaders decided to found this forum because of new rising trends of lack of development cooperation. The DFC has the goal of reviewing trends on international cooperation and promoting policy and guidelines to assure effective international development. It provides a platform for members to share solutions and implement strategies with respect to the subject. The DFC still remains one of the most important forums under ECOSOC's responsibility.

Additionally, ECOSOC has branches such as the High-Level Political Forum, which was mandated in 2012. These branches act upon the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by ensuring cooperation amongst world leaders. It has a special focus on countries, governments, civil society organizations, international organizations, development banks, local government, philanthropic foundations and the private sector.

### **II. Structure**

ECOSOC has a cycle of programmes that make up its structure. These include: the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which provides political leaders with guidance and recommendations on how to acquire sustainable development; the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) that has been held every year since 2007, with the primary goal of assessing progress in the implementation of the UN's development agenda; the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), which reviews progress and development every two years; the Integration Segment is held annually, and its primary goal is to accomplish a balanced integration of the economic,

social and environmental dimension to accomplish sustainable development; the Humanitarian Affairs Segment strengthens the coordination of United Nations humanitarian actions; the Operational Activities for Development Segment is held annually and provides the overall coordination and guidance of the UN's funds and programmes.

The Economic and Social Council oversees several UN bodies which include specialized agencies, such as the World Bank, UNESCO, WHO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and more. It also oversees regional commissions such as the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and many more. Additionally, there are functional commissions such as the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Human Rights.

### III. Bibliography

“About Us | UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC and SOCIAL COUNCIL.” *Un.org*, 2018, [www.un.org/ecosoc/en/about-us](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/about-us).

“Welcome to Csonet.org | Website of the UN DESA NGO Branch. At Your Service.” *Csonet.org*, <https://csonet.org/?menu=123>

### 3. **Simulation:** *Healthcare systems for Indigenous peoples*

#### I. **History/Context**

Indigenous communities can be found all around the world, and whether it is in Latin America or New Zealand, these people have spent centuries cultivating their culture and practising their traditions. Despite not being an imminent threat to their nation, they have suffered from displacement due to the development of mega-corporations and the colonization of their land. This has led to them being undervalued in society to the point where they have had to face violent acts of racism. The United Nations has declared that the conservation of these Indigenous communities is a priority.

As the COVID-19 pandemic struck, an immediate threat was created, putting the health of these communities in danger. There are inequalities in systems of healthcare for Indigenous people all over the world. These include the difficulties of accessing the health care system in their communities, and the limited attention they receive from medical services. One of the reasons they are treated this way is because of racial discrimination and stereotyping, which makes it harder for these people to receive the medicine and attention needed.

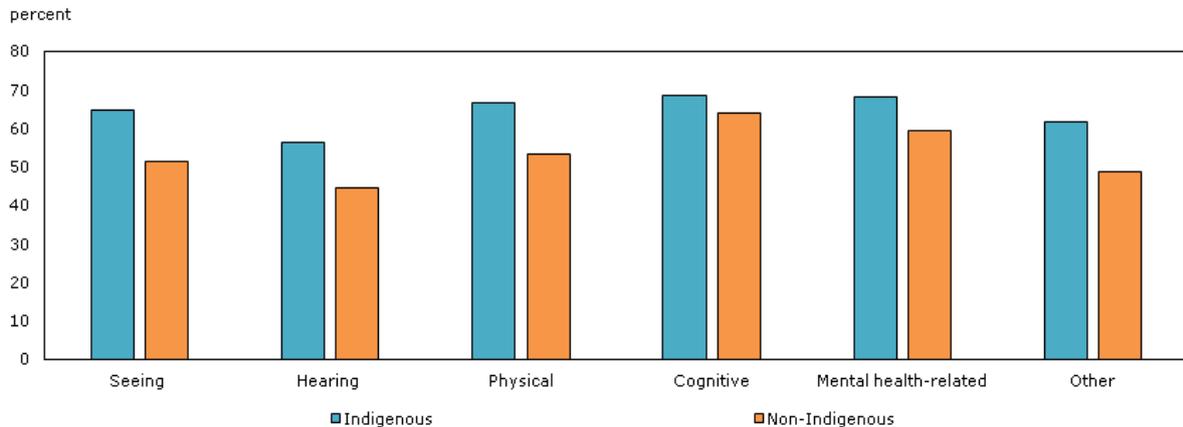
For Indigenous communities, racism has always been present, an example of which can be shown in a research paper made by BMC Public Health using data from 2011, 2012 and 2014. The data showed that in the State of Victoria, Australia, Indigenous peoples were four times more likely to experience racism compared to those who weren't part of this community. The consequences of this can be especially unforgiving, as this affects the process of providing medical care for these Indigenous communities. This is one of several countries where the Indigenous community has faced difficulties accessing basic health care, and factors such as unemployment and low levels of education also play a role in this problem. The high cost of healthcare in some countries exacerbates the problem.

The racial injustice and discrimination these communities constantly face in regards to the health care system has led this population to speak out and expose the health inequities they have experienced.

When compared to other communities, research has concluded that Indigenous communities are the ones that suffer the most in terms of health. Since many of these people also live in rural areas, their geographic location makes it harder for them to access the health care system.

A study made with the population of Canada showed the comparison of health aspects such as malnutrition and illnesses among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

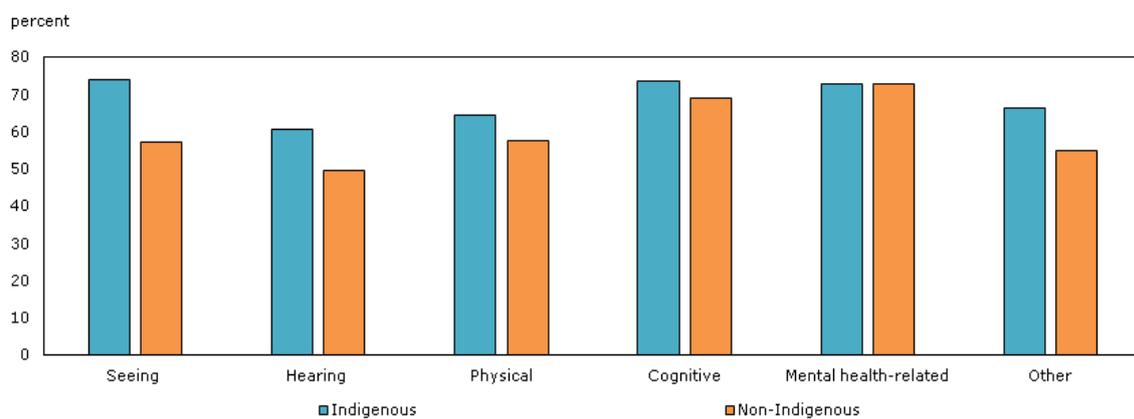
**Chart 1**  
**Proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants with long-term conditions or disabilities reporting somewhat or much worse self-rated overall health since before the pandemic, by type of difficulty, June 23 to July 6, 2020**



**Note:** Categories are not mutually exclusive.

**Source:** Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians - Living with Long-term Conditions and Disabilities.

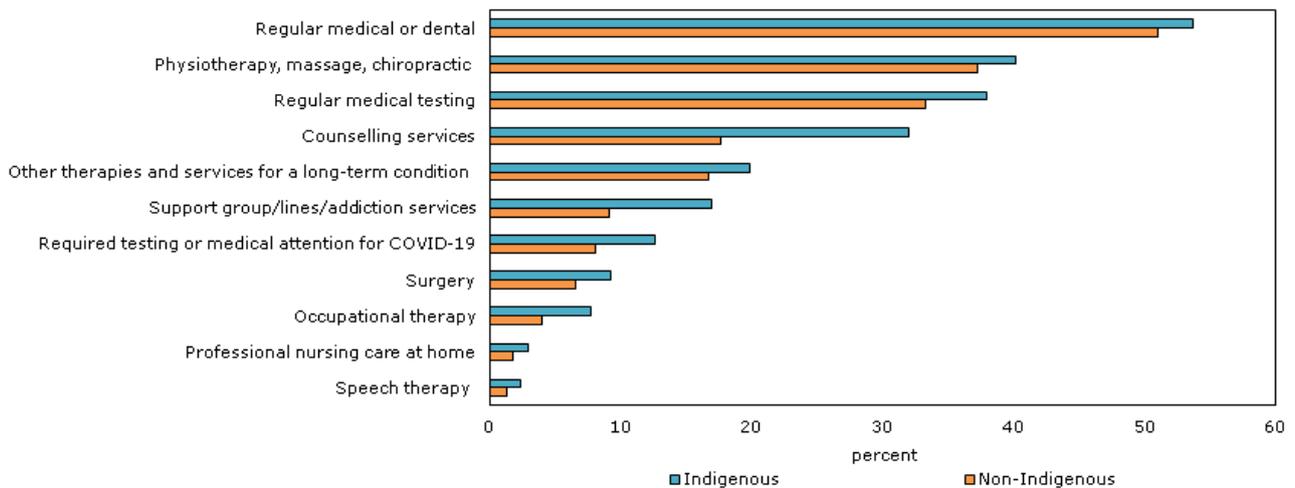
**Chart 2**  
**Proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants with long-term conditions or disabilities reporting somewhat or much worse self-rated mental health since before the pandemic, by type of difficulty, June 23 to July 6, 2020**



**Note:** Categories are not mutually exclusive.

**Source:** Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians - Living with Long-term Conditions and Disabilities.

**Chart 3**  
**Proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants with long-term conditions or disabilities reporting health service disruptions, June 23 to July 6, 2020**



**Source:** Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians - Living with Long-term Conditions and Disabilities.

Although all nations have different barriers to providing adequate healthcare systems for Indigenous communities, there is a general tendency of prioritizing other citizens over the Indigenous communities. The charts above show clear evidence of the differences between the healthcare system among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada, but many other countries are facing similar problems.

## II. Current Situation

In 2020, the world was faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, an event that threatened almost every human being on earth. Indigenous people were hit especially hard by this virus since, as mentioned before, they have limited access to healthcare systems. Even before the pandemic, the health inequities they suffered were very marked, and COVID-19 only worsened the problem.

The COVID-19 pandemic has produced grave threats regarding the health of Indigenous communities worldwide. Some of these threats include: inadequate resources for proper sanitation; limited access to hygiene necessities; and difficult access to any nearby hospital due to the location of these Indigenous communities, which are often based far away from major towns and cities. With the pandemic, Indigenous communities barely had enough resources to maintain proper hygiene and to prevent the virus from spreading. This meant that they did not have enough materials such as face masks, clean water, soap and hand

sanitizer. Also, because they live far away from society, it was difficult for some of them to learn about the effects of COVID-19 and how to prevent the spread of infection.

Currently, Indigenous communities are seeking measures to prevent the COVID-19 outbreak in their territories such as territory isolation and voluntary isolation. Yet it has been concluded that they do not have the appropriate services or supplies to treat this deadly disease.

Additionally, there is a deeper problem in that even if these Indigenous people have managed to access a hospital nearby for their crucial medical needs, there have been many reports of racism and discrimination. This has made it even harder for them to access the medical help they need. The discrimination they constantly face has led them to have less economic opportunities and has made it harder for them to own their own land. They are also often excluded from taking part in important decisions that may affect them directly, and are not included in processes that include changing their territory or colonizing it meaning they have no say in what happens to their homes. In countries such as Australia, Canada and the United States, indigenous peoples have spoken out about the unfair treatment they receive and have solicited new agreements where they can manage their own health system so that their needs can be met accordingly.

Other current issues Indigenous communities are currently facing are the effects of toxic chemicals and waste. This is because some organizations dispose of these materials in areas in which the most vulnerable, including the Indigenous communities, are directly affected. "There is an urgent need to create a global, legally binding regime for toxic industrial chemicals and hazardous pesticides to protect the rights of everyone, including Indigenous peoples. Such a regime should have strong accountability and compliance mechanisms and be in conformity with international human rights standards, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of the Child." (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, n.d.)

### III. Key Points of the Debate

- The racism Indigenous peoples face in the healthcare system.
- The lack of support Indigenous people receive regarding health care.
- The short- and long-term effects the pandemic has had on Indigenous communities.
- The application of COVID-19 preventions and their success rate within Indigenous communities.
- The intervention of governments in their country's Indigenous communities.
- The strategies/systems that can be applied to ensure efficient health programmes for Indigenous peoples.

### IV. Participating Organisms

- UNESCO
- RSPCA
- NCCIH
- DESA

### V. Guiding Questions

1. Does your nation have Indigenous communities? If so, in what ways does your country support them?
2. If the country does not have an Indigenous community in it, does it participate in any program or organizations that help them in other countries? If so, what sort of help does your country provide?
3. What relationship do these Indigenous communities have with the government? Are they able to have their own independence and administer their own affairs? If your country does not have any Indigenous communities, what is its view about giving autonomy to these groups in general?
4. What strategies does your country have to provide adequate safety and health care systems for these communities, either at home or in other countries?
5. How has the pandemic affected Indigenous communities either in your country or in the world in general?
6. Should traditional medicine practices be included in official healthcare systems for Indigenous peoples?

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#### **4. Topic 1:** *The economic and social situation of developing countries during the COVID-19 pandemic*

##### **I. History/Context**

Covid-19 is a virus that originated in the city of Wuhan, China. It came to light in December 2019 according to data from WHO, which received an alert for the presence of pneumonia from an unknown origin. After the announcement, countries began to make preventive plans against this new coronavirus disease. Quite rapidly, the virus began to spread around the globe.

This new virus, which was confirmed as a pandemic on March 11th 2020, does not distinguish between age, race, gender, or geographic location and only affects the human race. This has impacted humanity worldwide and created many socio-economic consequences, for example, the loss of income for businesses leading to unemployment. In addition, problems arose in various healthcare systems, which later exposed internal problems within those countries. Although world medicine is generally advanced, no country was prepared for the pandemic, leaving people fearful for their health.

The pandemic has impacted several sectors, one of them being the health care system, which was overwhelmed by the spiralling cases. This especially affected countries whose health care systems were quite weak, putting the foundations of their countries at risk.

After reviewing the management of this pandemic, it has been concluded that the strategies first implemented failed, as there was a global fall in GDP of 3.3% in 2020. In order for there to be a recovery from this situation and for there to be stability once more, it was concluded by many governments that vaccines must be distributed worldwide so that people can be protected against COVID-19. Nations around the world will have to find ways in which to manage the distribution of the different vaccines in order to make them accessible to all of their citizens. According to the International Chamber of Commerce, if the vaccine rollout fails the global economy could lose up to \$ 9 trillion.

COVID-19 has had a greater impact on vulnerable countries. Developed countries with a stable economy, along with the United Nations, agreed to support countries in need as a response to the pandemic.

This United Nations aid programme was used to provide vital resources for countries that do not have the same economic capacity to access these products in order to help them fight against the virus.

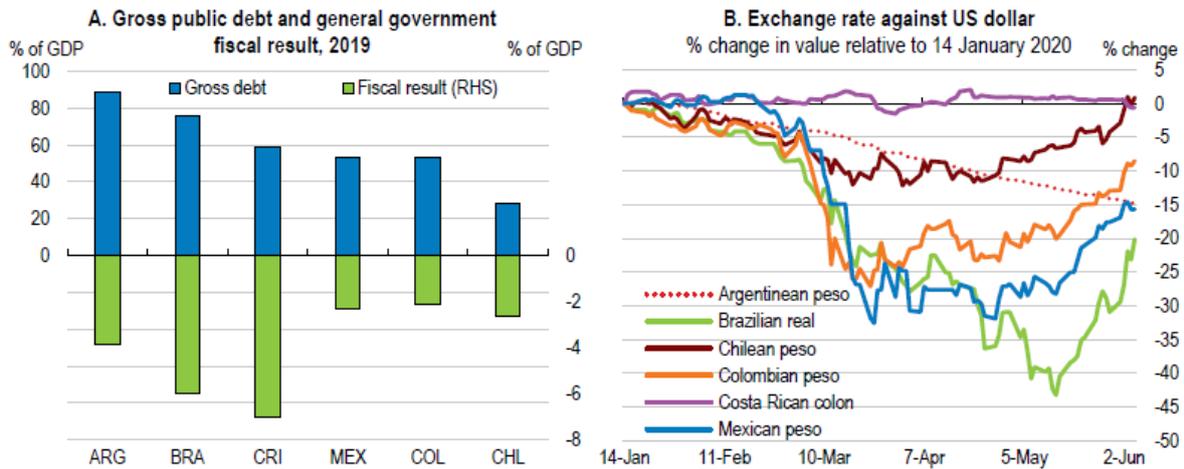
## II. Current Situation

At the moment, the world is trying to mitigate the socio-economic impact the pandemic is causing as COVID-19 is still active in many parts of the world. As a result of the pandemic, 255 million jobs were lost in the world during 2020. Developing countries such as those in Latin America, the Caribbean, southern Europe and southern Asia have been the most affected by the restrictions caused by this pandemic.

The economic recession that is currently taking place shows disproportionate figures in the emerging and low-income economies of the world. In fact, World Bank President David Malpass warned that *“the global recession could delay decades of progress in developing countries”*, and claimed that *“the COVID-19 pandemic would lead to higher rates of infant mortality and stunting of children.”* (USGLC, 2020)

The statistics emerging from this pandemic are concerning, as social and economic areas around the world struggle to cope with the effects of the pandemic restrictions. Income that had been obtained in previous years has been lost, and it is estimated that around 95 million people will join the ranks of those living on low resources in 2020.

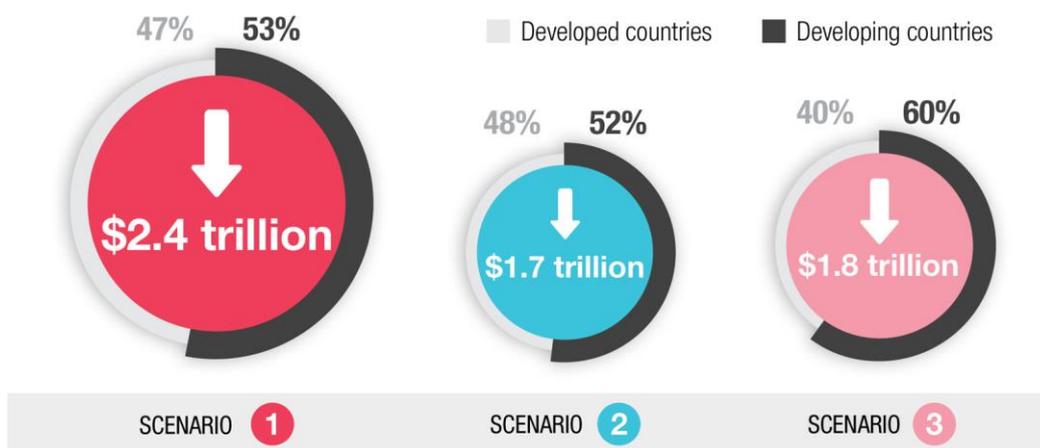
**Figure 1. Fiscal space is limited in major Latin American economies and currencies have lost value**



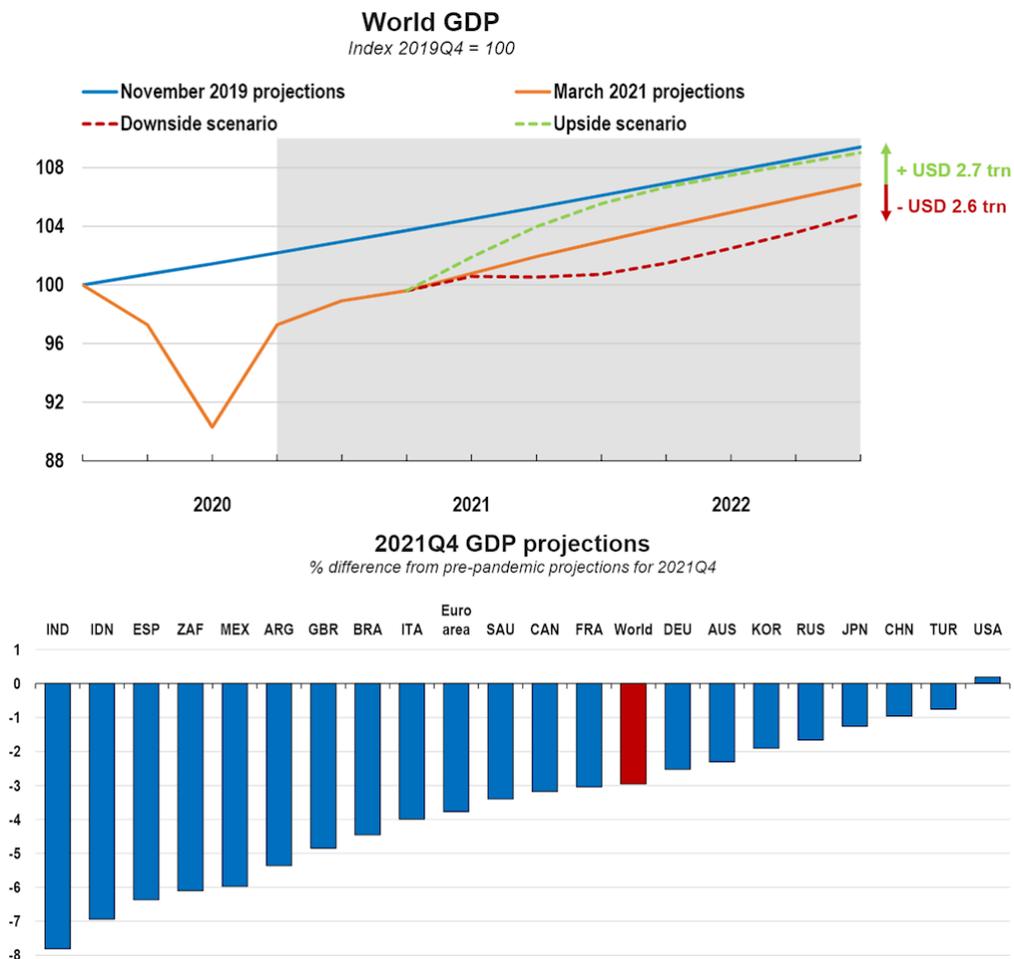
Source: IMF; National Treasury of Brazil; Thomson Reuters.

One of the sectors most affected by the pandemic this year was tourism as travel between and even within countries was severely restricted. Travel restrictions and all the necessary protocol, along with the lack of confidence from tourists, led to the collapse of these companies in many places. A loss of up to \$ 2.4 billion is estimated for 2021 in this industry. This is catastrophic for developing countries because they depend so much on the tourism sector.

An increase in the tourism industry is expected in the second half of this year, or at the end, according to a report from UNCTAD, which is the main organ of the United Nations General Assembly that deals with issues on trade, investment and development. This means that although part of the trade can be reactivated, the losses will be between \$ 1.7 trillion and \$ 2.4 trillion in 2021.



Although the issue of vaccination is being accelerated by some countries, many do not have the facility to obtain vaccines promptly. Developing countries do not have the monetary resources to pay for vaccines. These countries face challenges in terms of health, economics and social issues caused by the pandemic.



The pandemic has affected almost all areas of the economy, however the most affected sectors were the ones that had retail and wholesale trades, or personal and community activities, for example, real estate, manufacturing and rental activities.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, more than a third of employment and a quarter of GDP are generated in the economic sectors that suffered the greatest impacts of the pandemic. In addition, less than a fifth of GDP and employment are generated in sectors that have been impacted less by the pandemic.

Although the pandemic has caused an economic downturn, the global macroeconomic projections are expected to improve significantly in the second half of 2021, due to the

effectiveness of the actions of some nations, which have clear organization and strategies to prevent or mitigate economic fluctuations.

### **III. Key Points of the Debate**

- Impact of the vaccination process on the nation's economy and integrity.
- Action plans to reactivate the economy.
- Help from wealthier nations for developing countries in the current crisis.
- Internal conflicts caused by COVID-19 pandemic.
- Food and supplies crisis.
- Data about the nation's economic flow before and after the pandemic.

### **IV. Participating Organisms**

- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)

### **V. Guiding Questions**

1. What problems are the civilians in your nation facing regarding their day-to-day activities due to the pandemic?
2. Is the sanitation and socio-economic management given in your country enough to stop or contain the spread of the virus and its consequences?
3. What actions has your government taken to mitigate the effects of pandemic restrictions on the population in your country?
4. In which ways, if any, are delays in the vaccination process affecting developing countries? Has your country tried any alternative strategies to vaccination?
5. What actions could governments implement to ensure that younger generations can get into the job market, as many of them have been particularly hard-hit by the pandemic restrictions?
6. What does your nation need in order to be able to reactivate the economy?

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## 5. Topic 2: *The effects of a worldwide increase in natural disasters*

### I. History/Context

The effects of climate change are truly concerning, and the number of emissions, pollution and contamination increases day by day. This has directly affected the temperature of our planet, which has warmed 1.2 degrees Celsius since the industrial era, which was when humans decided to utilize fossil fuels a lot more. The greenhouse effect, which is what contributes towards heating the Earth, happens when the sun emits its heat onto the Earth. While the Earth returns part of this heat to outer space, the other part stays trapped inside the atmosphere due to greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, which re-radiate it around the planet. The energy absorbed in this process is what increases the global average temperature of the Earth.

Climate change has worsened due to human activities such as the substantial use of fossil fuels, the loss of ecosystems, deforestation, overpopulation, and many other factors. In the last few decades, scientists have been researching the continuous upward trend in annual temperatures, especially in the last decade. Moreover, it has been concluded by a group of international scientists from the United Nations that there is a 95% chance that the Earth has warmed because of human activity throughout the last few decades. In fact, according to NASA, *“The industrial activities that our modern civilization depends upon have raised atmospheric carbon dioxide levels from 280 parts per million to about 417 parts per million in the last 151 years.”* (NASA. “The Causes of Climate Change.” 8 Aug. 2018). While 1.2 degrees Celsius may seem like a slight increase in temperature, the effects it has had, and continues to have, on the planet have been devastating for both humans and the environment alike.

Some of the effects are the following: due to the higher temperatures, the ice glaciers are melting, making sea levels rise; there have been many alterations in plant and animal ecosystems, leading to the loss of natural habitats. However, one of the biggest problems it is currently causing is the effect it has on extreme weather events and natural disasters around the globe, and now, humans are facing the consequences.

This increase in the annual average global temperature has led to an increase of energy in the atmosphere, which is then dispersed through extreme weather events, which can cause natural disasters. Unless there is an urgent change in the way humans manage climate change, this situation will only worsen. While climate change may not directly cause extreme weather events, it influences their intensity and frequency. Due to the increase in these uncertain, forceful events, they have created more natural disasters.



("Climate Change: Europe's Extreme Rains Made More Likely by Humans." *BBC News*, 23 Aug. 2021.)

The method used among scientists to understand how much of an impact global warming is having on natural disasters and extreme weather events is called extreme weather attribution. By using this strategy, scientists can measure the effect climate change had on a specific weather event, and if it made the disaster happen in the first place or increased its power. They do this through strategies such as climate models, where scientists create virtual realities of our world; one where there is the earth's current state with climate change and another model of the earth without any climate change at all. Through doing this, they can compare the models and calculate the likelihood of whether the event still would have happened without climate change and if climate change influenced the magnitude and recurrence of this event. Some governments use this method when they are warned about an extreme weather event, in order to prepare for the natural disasters that may come with it, and to make climate action plans beforehand. It is important to note that this method is not an immediate solution; it only guides humans towards suitable ones.

With these research methods, scientists have concluded that there has been a greater intensity and frequency in natural disasters/extreme weather events due to climate change. The following sources support this: According to EASAC (European Academies Science Advisory Council), *“Extreme weather events have become more frequent over the past 36 years, with a significant uptick in floods and other hydrological events compared even with five years ago.”* In addition, they also stated, *“Climatological events, such as extreme temperatures, droughts, and forest fires, have more than doubled since 1980. Meteorological events, such as storms, have doubled since 1980.”* Finally, EASAC also claimed that: *“the number of floods and other hydrological events have quadrupled since 1980 and have doubled since 2004, highlighting the urgency of adaptation to climate change.”* The United Nations also reported, *“Moreover, the probability of heatwaves has been significantly increased due to human activity, according to several studies done since 2015.”* Another natural disaster that has increased are tropical cyclones, which as a result, make flooding more powerful. This is a dangerous risk for islands, coastal areas and low-lying cities which are vulnerable to these types of dangerous floods.

Natural disasters occur worldwide, affecting both developed and developing countries, and they gravely affect sectors such as health care, the economy, general infrastructure (schools, buildings, homes) and the overall well-being of citizens. There have been losses of approximately \$20 billion US dollars from 1980 to 2015 due to intense thunderstorms alone in North America. At the other extreme, droughts are alarming natural disasters that caused 650,000 deaths from 1970 to 2019 worldwide. Similarly, storms killed 577,232 people in the same timescale; they are the costliest natural disasters worldwide because of all the destruction they cause. The number of deaths and economic loss these events have caused only emphasizes how much of an impact they are having, severely affecting the social and economic sectors in countries. When referring to developing countries, from 1991 to 2005, calculations stated that almost 90% of lives were lost due to natural disasters and 98% of the people disturbed by them lived in developing countries. What this shows is that the world as it is struggles greatly from natural disasters, and an increase in both frequency and strength of these events could be detrimental to both the human race and to the environment.

The following graph demonstrates the upward trend in natural disasters from the years 1980 to 2010, indicating how climate change has increased different types of natural disasters:

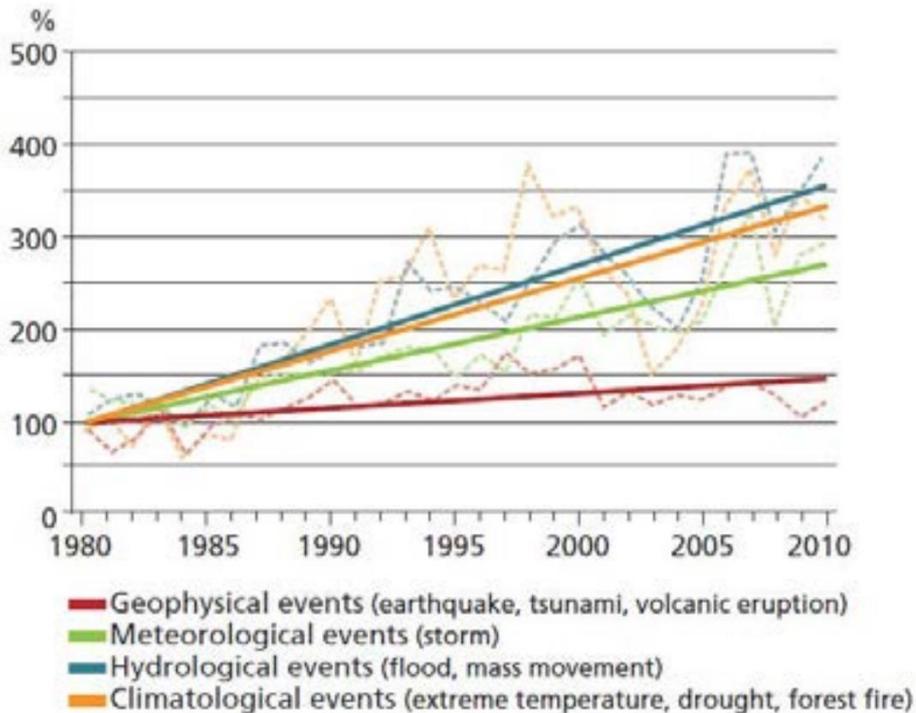


Figure 1 - Trends in different types of natural catastrophes worldwide, 1980- 2012 (1980 levels set at 100%)- Munich Re NatCatSERVICE.

**Some of the natural disasters that were affected by climate change are the following:**

**The East African Drought:** This drought occurred from 2016 to 2017, and according to multiple studies, it was worsened by even higher temperatures than what would usually be expected. Through extreme weather attribution tests, it was concluded that it was a result of man-made climate change. The rising sea temperatures mainly influenced these higher temperatures.

**Extreme China Rainfall:** As the Earth's atmosphere warms, storms can hold and release more water. This has led to rainfall increasing extraordinarily in the past 30 years. Furthermore,

investigations found that this contributed to the extreme rainfall and floods in China from June to July in 2016, where 36 lives were lost, and 200,000 people were displaced.

**Hurricane Harvey:** It has been claimed by multiple reports that in 2017, the ocean's temperature was at a record heat worldwide, yet was reduced in some areas after Hurricane Harvey by the process of evaporation and cooling; however, it later turned into significant amounts of heavy rainfalls. According to several investigations, the intensity and durability of Hurricane Harvey was considerably strengthened because of human-made climate change. By the end of this natural disaster, around 13 million people were directly affected, 32,000 people were displaced, approximately 450,000 registered for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster assistance, and more than 100,000 homes were damaged.

Understanding the direction in which climate change and rising temperatures are going allows humans to make informed decisions about our safety and helps us prepare for future extreme weather events.

## II. Current Situation

A lot of the current infrastructure humans have around the globe, such as general architecture and even buildings that protect against natural disasters such as levees and storm surge barriers, are based on the climate system that humans are used to. This means that the way these structures were built does not prepare them for more extreme weather and fluctuations in the climate. Even structures used for protection against these events would prove unsuccessful if the natural disaster were more extreme than initially expected. If natural disasters and extreme weather become more intense, they could cause massive destruction in countries, affecting their infrastructures significantly.

An increase in these extreme weather events could be incredibly worrying worldwide, especially for developing nations who do not have the resources for protection nor can cope with the grave consequences these disasters create. The current increase in disasters around the globe has led to 91% of the deaths caused by these events to be in developing countries.

Some of the reasons these countries are so vulnerable to these events are because, first of all, their infrastructure is weak and it cannot hold up to extreme weather. In addition, they do not have alarms or warning systems that could let people know beforehand to take cover. They also have very few resources to cope with the disasters once they have struck. Finally, due to the large amount of poverty in these countries, people may move to urban areas which are more prone to landslides and debris flows, which can be fatal. These weaknesses make those who live in developing countries more likely to be injured or killed than those living in developed countries. Taking new measures, such as investing in protection in order to be able to adapt to the increasing extreme weather events, will probably be more expensive in developing countries.

### **Heatwaves:**

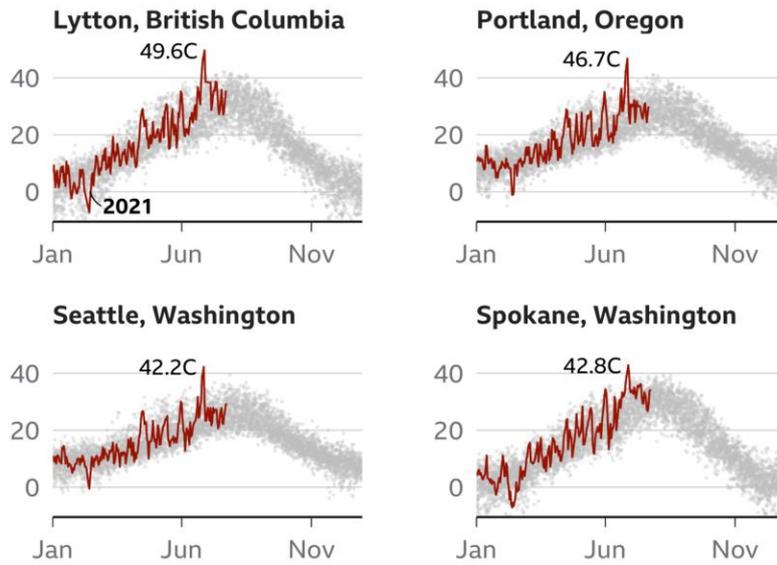
Due to the increase of greenhouse gases, the heating up of the planet has caused an increment of heatwaves in Australia, China and Europe, which have gravely affected the economy, environment and people's lifestyles.

In the United Kingdom, the length of heatwaves has doubled in the last 50 years. Meanwhile, in Canada, one of their heatwaves last summer made the temperature rise by nearly 5 degrees Celsius. The World Weather Attribution Organization reports that this would not have occurred without human-made climate change. Recently, in places such as Russia, Northern Ireland, and the Antarctic continent, temperature records were both broken and matched, further demonstrating the impact climate change is having on the Earth.

**The following graphs show other areas that were affected:**

## Records set in June 2021

Maximum daily temperatures 1 Jan 1980\* to 25 July 2021



\*Data for Lytton only available from 1 May 2006

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

BBC

*(Extreme Weather: How It Is Connected to Climate Change? BBC News, 9 Aug. 2021)*

### Droughts:

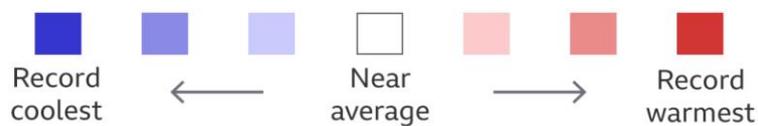
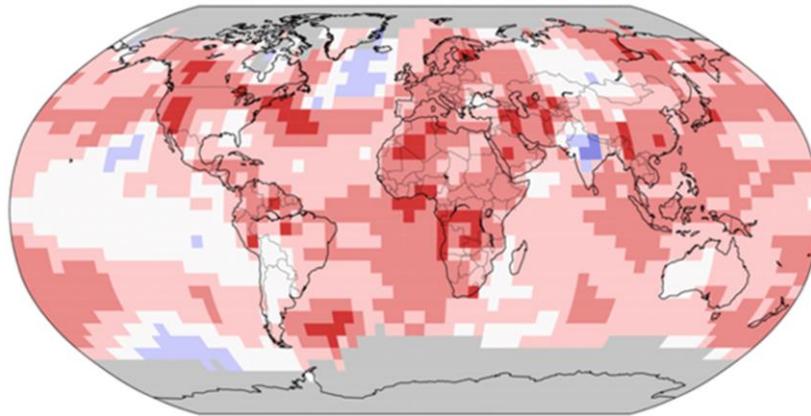
The effect heatwaves have is that there is less rainfall after each one, which leads to less moisture on the land. As a result, the air may warm more rapidly and lead to higher temperatures. Droughts can cause a lot of water shortages in many areas, for example, farming, leading to crops dying.



(NASA's Earth Science News Team. 17 July 2019)

In this map, the increase in temperature is clearly noticeable, further illustrating the effects climate change is having on our planet.

## High temperatures recorded in June 2021



Source: US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

BBC

*(Extreme Weather: How It Is Connected to Climate Change?" BBC News, 9 Aug. 2021)*

### Wildfires:

With the increase of temperatures and dryness in the ground, fires can be quickly sparked and spread rapidly because of the dehydrated vegetation. As reported by the BBC and Climate Central, "Compared with the 1970s, fires larger than 10,000 acres (40 sq km) are now seven times more common in western America." (BBC, 2021)



*(Extreme Weather: How It Is Connected to Climate Change?" BBC News, 9 Aug. 2021)*

### **Extreme rainfall and flooding:**

Countries such as China, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands have been greatly affected by extreme weather, more specifically, extreme rainfall which then leads to flooding. The increase in droughts in particular regions can, as a result, cause extreme rainfall somewhere else in the world.

### **Recent Flooding in Germany and Belgium**

This is a natural disaster that occurred from the 12th-15th July in 2021. These severe floods ruined infrastructure such as transportation, where motorways, railway lines and bridges were left damaged. Meanwhile, some routes were closed so villages didn't have access to emergency services. The flooding itself was caused by heavy rain that lasted around 1-2 days and broke multiple rainfall records. The analysis showed that the intensity of this rainfall increased because of human-made climate change. These floods left a death toll of 220 people in Germany and some died in Belgium as well. The amount of rainfall they got in one day is what they would normally get in a month. It was concluded that the likelihood of similar floods occurring in following years is increasing because of the fact that climate change is increasing.

Regarding this disaster, Friederike Otto, the associate director of the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford, said the following: "These floods have shown us that even developed countries are not safe from severe impacts of extreme weather that we have seen and known to get worse with climate change, "This is an urgent global challenge and we need to step up to it. The science is clear and has been for years." (CNN, Angela Dewan.)

The consequences that natural disasters are having on both developed and developing countries in all aspects are very concerning, whether it is the loss of monetary resources, destruction of infrastructure, or most importantly, the danger human lives are put in. It is important to see the call for immediate action regarding this problem by acknowledging the effects this is having on the world and moving towards more sustainable and eco-friendly practices in order to diminish the role that climate change has in this crisis. Without action being taken as soon as possible, the continuation of the warming of the planet can lead to extremely grave effects on both the human race and environment alike.

### III. Key Points of the Debate

- The acknowledgement of the effects that the increase in natural disasters is having on developed and especially, developing countries.
- The influence climate change is having on this problem and what strategies will be used in order to mitigate its effects.
- The consequences the increase of natural disasters is having on societies, economies, human health and more.
- Ensuring the safety of civilians who do not have access to basic resources or protection from these events.
- How to sustainably develop in both developed and developing countries in order to reduce climate change.

### IV. Participating Organisms

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

### V. Guiding Questions

1. What is your country's position regarding climate change? How does this affect your country's decisions regarding climate change regulations?
2. What programs or solutions has your country implemented in order to mitigate the effects of climate change? Which ones could it further implement to reduce climate change and its global impact? Are they doing anything to help developing countries with this situation?
3. Has your country suffered from any natural disasters that have been caused by climate change? If so, which ones and how are they affecting the overall well-being of the country?
4. What strategies has your country developed and implemented to ensure the safety of its civilians and to prevent further environmental, social, and economic consequences of extreme weather events and natural disasters?
5. How have these natural disasters affected rural and more underdeveloped areas in your country? How has it affected citizens' quality of life?

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