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WIMUN NY 2025

SIMULATION HANDBOOK

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ECOSOC Commission for Social Development Simulation Handbook

The Economic and Social Council, otherwise known as ECOSOC, is one of the six main Organs of the UN. It is the main body for coordinating and reviewing recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as for implementation of the internationally agreed development goals.

The League of Nations was planning to expand its economic and social functions when war broke out in 1939. Unfortunately the League never got a chance to implement this plan. None-theless, many of the ideas that were discussed in the League were later included in the UN Charter.

To increase the impact of ECOSOC, the UN Charter was amended to increase the members in the Council from 18 to 54.

Like the General Assembly, ECOSOC can only make recommendations. It has no way of enforcing its decisions.

ECOSOC coordinates and provides guidance to a wide range of UN entities dedicated to sustainable development that include regional economic and social commissions, functional commissions and specialized agencies, programmes and funds.

Reforms over the last decade, particularly General Assembly resolution 68/1, have strengthened ECOSOC's leading role on economic, social and environmental issues and achieving a balanced integration of these three pillars of sustainable development. ECOSOC is also charged with giving special attention to following up on major UN conferences and summits.

ECOSOC is responsible for:

- promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress;
- identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems;
- facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation; and
- encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

ECOSOC oversees a complex ecosystem of subsidiary bodies, composed of regional commissions, functional commissions and expert bodies, standing committees and ad hoc bodies that are actively engaged in the work of the UN system on development.

Simulation of Functional Commission

During WIMUN NY 2025 we will be simulating the Commission for Social Development (CSocD). The simulation of the CSocD will focus on "Fostering social development and social justice".

The [ECOSOC Commission for Social Development \(CSocD\)](#) was established in 1946 as one of the earliest functional commissions of the [United Nations Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)](#). Its creation was driven by the need to address global social issues in the aftermath of World War II, focusing on promoting social progress, reducing inequality, and improving living standards worldwide.

Simulation of Functional Commission (cont.)

Over the decades, the Commission's mandate evolved to reflect emerging global challenges. In 1995, following the [World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen](#), the Commission was tasked with monitoring and implementing the [Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action](#), which outlined commitments to poverty eradication, full employment, and social integration.

The Commission serves as the key UN body responsible for promoting [social development](#) globally. Its main roles include:

- Tracking global progress in achieving social development goals, focusing on areas like poverty reduction, employment generation, and social inclusion.
- Providing policy recommendations to ECOSOC and member states to address emerging social challenges.
- Acting as a global platform for dialogue on social development, bringing together governments, civil society, and international organizations.
- Promoting inclusive policies that address the needs of vulnerable groups, including women, youth, older persons, and persons with disabilities.
- Monitoring the implementation of the [Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action](#).
- Focusing on the three core themes: poverty eradication, promoting productive employment, and fostering social integration.
- Aligning its work with the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), emphasizing the social dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as reducing inequality (SDG 10) and ensuring decent work (SDG 8).

The ECOSOC Commission for Social Development plays a vital role in shaping global policies that prioritize human well-being, promote equitable growth, and ensure that no one is left behind. Its focus on social inclusion, equality, and poverty eradication makes it a cornerstone of the UN's broader mission to achieve sustainable development

Main Elements of the Simulation of CSocD Meetings

The simulation of the ECOSOC Plenary is divided into three parts: 1) Opening Plenary, 2) Informal Consultations, and 3) Closing Plenary.

THE OPENING PLENARY OF THE COMMISSION

The simulation begins with an Opening Plenary of the CSocD where delegates will adopt their Organization of Work by consensus and engage in an interactive session with a UN expert on "Fostering social development and social justice". The Plenary is led by a Chair.

A. First formal meeting (run according to Rules of Procedure) to:

1. [Review and adopt the Organization of Work](#) which details how long delegates have to deliver their statements during the General Debate and how the time will be organized during the time delegates will be their Commissions. The presentation of the Organization of Work is the first order of business which must be adopted by consensus before the Commission can begin its General Debate.

Main Elements of the Simulation of CSocD Meetings (cont.)

2. **Engage in an Interactive Session with a UN expert** to give delegates an opportunity to deepen their knowledge on the topic they will be debating. The Interactive Session will begin with a statement delivered by an expert followed by Q&A from the delegates.
3. **Convene the General Debate** where individual delegates speaking in their national capacity and/or on behalf of a political group will have an opportunity to make an opening statement on the topic that will be discussed. Any delegation or political group wishing to make a statement during the General Debate must subscribe to the Speakers List before the debate begins.

B. Informal consultations (where rules of procedure are suspended and where most of the time in the Commission is spent) to:

1. **Allow each regional group to draft a resolution.** This replaces the use of working papers which is followed in some Model UN conferences. Before delegates will be split into different regional groups, the Commission as a whole must agree by consensus on a common structure for the operative section of the resolution.
2. **Merge the different drafts.** The regional groups must each choose a head delegate to lead the discussions on how to merge their different drafts into one resolution that is that is later reviewed paragraph by paragraph by the entire Commission. Each group can change the head delegate leading the negotiations on their behalf as often as they want.
3. **Submit the draft to the Bureau** along with a list of sponsors.
4. **Review the draft resolution line by line** to create a compilation text that contains a complete list of amendments proposed by delegations that chose not to sponsor the resolution. These amendments are neither friendly or unfriendly and are never voted on during informal consultations. Delegates will be given a choice at different points during the line by line to temporarily suspend the line by line review to debate the amendments that have been proposed so far or continue on. If the Commission decides to review the entire resolution without suspending the line by line at any point, then the debate of amendments would not begin until after the line by line review is completed.
5. **Debate the amendments** proposed by the non-sponsors during the line by line review. During this stage of the deliberations, sponsors and non-sponsors talk to each other with the goal of reaching consensus on the amendments that have been proposed. An amendment cannot be accepted if one or more delegates have an an objection to including it in the text. When this happens, delegates can agree to an alternative version of the amendment if that will address the objection that has been raised or if there is strong objection to the amendment from other delegates, the delegate who proposed it can withdraw it, if they so choose. Every time the wording of an entire paragraph has been agreed to by the Commission it should be marked "Agreed ad ref" to indicate that the Commission has temporarily agreed to the text in that paragraph until the entire negotiation process has been completed.



Main Elements of the Simulation of CSocD Meetings (cont.)

B. Informal consultations (where rules of procedure are suspended and where most of the time in the Commission is spent) to:

6. During the debate, delegates can choose to have the Chair moderate the debate of amendments or to do it by themselves or have one of the sponsors moderate the negotiations. It is up to the Commission to decide.
7. If there is an amendment that the delegates cannot agree on during informal consultations, the amendment should be “bracketed” or set aside for further discussion later on so that the Commission can first focus on those amendments that are easier to reach agreement on.
8. After going through all the amendments at least once, the Commission should return to those amendments that have been “bracketed”.
9. Facilitators can be appointed to help delegates reach agreement on these amendments.
10. After all the amendments have been debated and all paragraphs are marked ‘agreed ad ref’, the Chair should scroll through the entire resolution paragraph and paragraph and ask the delegates to carefully read the text to make sure there are no further objections.
11. **Repeat #5** if new objections are raised until agreement has been reached on all of the new amendments and every paragraph is marked “Agreed ad ref”.
12. If consensus has been reached early and time still remains in the Commission, delegates can go back and add more text or even another sub-topic. If new text is added, it must be reviewed and any amendments that proposed to the new text must be debated in the manner set forth in this handbook.

C. Formal meeting (run according to the rules of procedure) to:

1. **Formally Introduce the draft resolution** to the entire Commission. The sponsors must decide who will introduce the resolution to the Commission on their behalf.
2. **Adopt the draft resolution** by consensus (i.e., without voting).
3. The CCPCJ has always adopted its resolutions by consensus. **If consensus is not reached, the draft resolution would be withdrawn** and delegates would be allowed to make statements to explain why consensus was not reached or highlight where their delegation disagreed with the text that was being proposed or voice their disappointments over the negotiation process.

CLOSING PLENARY OF THE COMMISSION

If the consensus was reached on the text of the draft resolution during informal consultations, the resolution will be adopted as second time during during the Closing Plenary. Following the adoption by consensus, delegates would be allowed to make statements explaining their position. If consensus is not reached on a resolution, no decision will be taken on what actions should be taken by Members States or relevant stakeholders on the topic that as assigned. Delegates would still have an opportunity to make a final statements before the Commission is adjourned.



Things to Know about the Rules of Procedure

1. There are no moderated and unmoderated caucuses. That means that during the General Debate during the Opening Plenary and Commission Sessions, the speeches are never interrupted. The Speakers List is followed until all speakers have had an opportunity to speak.
2. Passing notes during Formal Meetings is not allowed.
3. The presiding officer during meetings will never ask, "Are any points or motions on the floor?"
4. Parliamentary points (e.g., Points of Personal Privilege, Points of Information, and Points of Inquiry) and motions (e.g., Motion for Moderated or Unmoderated Caucuses, Motion to Set Agenda, Motions to Set Speaking Time, Motion to Move to Voting Procedures, etc.) are not allowed during the conference. These are parliamentary rules of procedure and they are not used at the United Nations because it is not a Parliament.
5. Delegates will not be allowed to yield their time to the Chair or another delegation.
6. The only point that is allowed is a Point of Order, which is only to be used if a delegate feels the rules of procedure are not being followed properly.
7. Delegates must raise a Point of Order without being prompted.
8. The Right of Reply is allowed during the General Debate if a delegation wishes to respond to a comment made during a speech that they find offensive. Any delegation wishing to exercise their right of reply must notify the secretary of their Commission of their request. If granted by the Chair they must wait until the end of the Speakers List to reply.
9. Signatories are not required in order for a resolution to be considered.
10. During informal consultations, there will be no rules of procedure. Delegates are encouraged to work together to achieve consensus on the wording of the resolution that is under consideration.
11. The line by line review offers an opportunity for delegates to propose changes to the draft resolution.
12. Sponsors are not allowed to propose amendments during the line by line review. Sponsors can get together during informal consultations and decide to modify the text, however, all the sponsors must agree to any changes that are proposed. If one sponsor objects to a proposed change in the text, then the text should not be changed until all the sponsors agree to it.
13. During the line by line review delegates can indicate if they agree or disagree with the amendments that are proposed and ask the sponsors to clarify the meaning of the text. Delegates must wait until the line by line review has been suspended or completed before they can begin discussing any of the amendments in detail.
14. Delegates can make a statement during the Closing Plenary to put on record any reservations they may have on the resolution before or after action is taken.



Terms used in WIMUN

1. **Bureau:** refers to the Chair and Vice-Chair who are officials elected by the Functional Commissions to preside over meetings.
2. **Facilitator:** The Facilitator is responsible for presiding over the informal consultations and has the responsibility of helping the delegates reach consensus on the text of the draft resolution.
3. **Tabling a resolution:** refers to the act of submitting a resolution to the Bureau for consideration. This action does not require signatories.
4. **Paragraphs:** Model UN conferences around the world are used to referring to the clauses or sub-clauses of a resolution. At the United Nations, these are referred to as paragraphs and sub-paragraphs.
5. **Consensus:** Consensus occurs when all of the delegations in a Commission reach agreement on the wording of every paragraph in a draft resolution and are ready to adopt it without voting on it. This is the goal of the negotiation process. In order to reach consensus delegates have to be ready to make compromises. In most ECOSOC Commissions, if consensus is not reached on the text of a resolution, it is withdrawn.
6. **Explanation of position:** When consensus has been reached and a resolution is adopted without a vote, any delegation that chose not to sponsor the resolution is given the opportunity to make a statement about any reservations they may have about particular paragraphs that are included in the draft resolution. It is possible to agree to adopt a resolution without a vote and still have elements of a resolution that a Member State is not entirely pleased with. Or it may be to express their disappointment that something important to the non-sponsor was left out of the resolution.

Terms not used in WIMUN

1. **Dais:** This term is not used at the UN and is therefore not a part of the terminology of the in this simulation. The proper term to use when referring to the officials presiding over a meeting is the Bureau.
2. **Honourable Delegates or Honourable Chair:** Delegates should not begin their statements with the words "Honorable delegates" or "Honorable Chair." These terms are used in a Parliament and since the UN is not a Parliament it is not appropriate to use them during the simulation of UN meetings. When a delegate is given the floor to make a statement during the General Discussion, delegates should begin by saying "Thank you Mr/Madame Chair." Statements are always addressed to the presiding officer not to the delegates.
3. **House:** In some conferences, the person presiding over a meeting might say, "Will the House come to order" if the delegates are making too much noise. Again, since the UN is not a Parliament, it is inappropriate to refer to ECOSOC as the "House" when addressing delegates.
4. **Director:** Most MUN conferences have a Director that oversees working papers and draft resolutions and acts as an expert on topics. The WIMUN approach does not have Directors. There is the Chair who presides over meetings and Secretariat staff or real UN experts who advise on topics being discussed in the Commission.
5. **Friendly and Unfriendly amendments:** These terms are not used at the UN and do not apply the negotiation process in the WIMUN approach which focuses on reaching consensus among all delegates.
6. **Moderated and Unmoderated Caucuses:** These terms do not exist at the UN. what does exist are Formal Informals and Informal Informals which are similar in some respects but differ in other respects (see definition above).
7. **Clauses:** Model UN conferences around the world refer to the clauses of a draft resolution. In contrast, the editorial guidelines at the UN refer to them as paragraphs and sub-paragraphs. The term "clause(s)" is never used when referring to real UN resolutions.



Drafting a Resolution

Every resolution is divided into two sections that consist of preambular and the operative paragraphs.

Preambular paragraphs begin with a word or phrase in the present participle (e.g., *Recalling*) and always ends with comma. Preambular paragraphs are not numbered.

Operative paragraphs begin with a word or phrase in the present tense (e.g., *Encourages*) and always end with a semi-colon except for the last operative paragraph that ends with a period.

The words or phrases used to begin a paragraph are always italicized and never underlined.

The preambular paragraphs set the stage and context for the operative section.

The best way to learn about how to write a good resolution is to study and compare them. Here are some tips about what goes into a good resolution.

TYPE AND ORDER OF CONTENT TO INCLUDE IN THE PREAMBLE WITH EXAMPLES FOR EACH

When reading this section, please keep in mind that the aim is to give you an idea of the range of content that could be included in a resolution and does not mean that this content is always included in a resolution. It also aims to serve as a guideline on how to decide the order in which to include content when drafting a resolution or merging content from different resolutions on the same agenda item.

1. The chapeau of a resolution adopted by the Commission for Social Development always begin with:

The Economic and Social Council,

- The reason for that is that once a resolution is adopted by the CSocD, it is then sent to ECOSOC for adoption by the ECOSOC Plenary. It does not become an official resolution until it is adopted a second time by the Economic and Social Council..

2. The preamble usually begins by recalling past actions that the Economic and Social Council, the CSocD or the General Assembly has taken on the agenda item that is being discussed:

Examples

The Economic and Social Council,

- **Recalling** its resolution 2023/12 of 7 June 2023, in which it decided that the priority theme of the 2024 session of the Commission for Social Development would be “Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication”, *Recalling* also the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,
- **Recalling** also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

If the same verb (i.e., recalling) is used twice in a row to begin a paragraph, the second time it is used, the word ‘also’ is added and italicized. If the same verb is used three times in a row to begin a paragraph, the third time it is used, the word ‘further’ is added and italicized (e.g., **Recalling further**).

Drafting a Resolution (cont.)

TYPE AND ORDER OF CONTENT TO INCLUDE IN THE PREAMBLE WITH EXAMPLES FOR EACH (CONT.)

3. Member States sometimes include paragraphs that recall important Declarations or Conventions that provide a foundation for the actions to be recommended in the operative paragraphs..

Examples

- **Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,**¹

4. If there are other important actions that the United Nations or Member States have taken on this agenda item that would sometimes go next,

Examples

- **Welcoming** the progress made towards the full implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action through concerted action at the national, regional and global levels,

5. The preambular paragraphs also include information about the concerns that are driving the debate of the agenda item that is under consideration.

Examples

- **Noting** that the family plays an important role in social protection and that over 4 billion people still lack social protection,
- **Expressing its deep concern** that the progress in reducing poverty remains uneven, with 1.1 billion people still living in multidimensional poverty, half of whom are children, and over 600 million people living in extreme poverty,

6. If there are any other reports delegates want to highlight, such as a report by the Secretary-General, this would typically be mentioned at the end of the preamble.

Examples

- **Noting** the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”²

Only UN documents are referred to in the body of an ECOSOC resolution. If there are other resources, reports or books that were used while doing research and they were not published by the UN, they should not be included in the resolution.

¹ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² A/75/982.

Drafting a Resolution (cont.)

CONTENT TO BE INCLUDED IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS WITH EXAMPLES

First and foremost, the operative paragraphs should consist of recommended actions that address the concerns outlined in the preamble.

Since ECOSOC resolutions are only recommendations and there is no way to enforce them, paragraphs in this section typically begin with the words, “**Encourages**” , “**Invites**” , “**Calls upon**” or “**Urges**”:

Examples

1. **Calls upon** Governments to adopt measures to combat trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, modern slavery, and sexual and other forms of exploitation that victimize persons in situations of poverty;
2. **Invites** Member States to consider adopting labour market policies that strengthen institutions and provide adequate labour protection to all workers, especially the most disadvantaged;
3. **Encourages** Member States to accelerate efforts to promote the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors through integrated strategies that comprise nuanced and differentiated measures for decent work and reliable social protection;
4. **Urges** the Secretary-General to continue to provide information that can help Member States to prepare for the challenges that ageing poses to meeting social protection obligations, sustaining fiscal systems and strengthening social stability, especially in countries that are still developing and countries with ageing populations;

Please note that when a verb is repeated more than once in the operative section, the second time the verb is used, “also” appears **before** the verb (e.g., Also invites) and the third time it appears “further” appears **before** the verb (e.g., Further invites).

A list of terms commonly used terms in resolutions will be posted on the WIMUN NY 2025 website along with the Study Guide and Annotated Bibliography for each simulation.

