



WCDMUN 2023 Briefing Papers

ECOSOC





Topic 1: TQO Addressing Racism in Professional Sports

Racism in professional sports is a persistent issue that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries. The prevalence of racism in professional sports and its impact on athletes and communities continues to grow, for example according to Kick it out there was a 65.1% increase in reports of discriminatory behavior in the 22-23 football season compared to the previous season.

According to the BBC “Racism is where someone treats another person differently because their skin colour is not the same as theirs, they speak a different language or have different religious beliefs” In the context of professional sports, racism manifests through discriminatory actions, racial slurs, and biased treatment towards athletes of certain ethnic backgrounds. While strides have been made in addressing racial inequality, for example the Football Against Racism Europe (FARE) action weeks which raised awareness of the issue, instances of racism in professional sports persist. Historical prejudices and stereotypes continue to influence the treatment of athletes of color, both on and off the field. Systemic biases may limit the progression of talented individuals based on their racial background.

Racism in professional sports extends beyond the field, influencing societal perceptions and reinforcing harmful stereotypes. Addressing racism in sports is a crucial step towards challenging broader systemic inequalities. International bodies, including the United Nations the European Agency for Fundamental Rights, and various sports federations and NGOs such as Kick it out, have launched initiatives to combat racism in sports such as the FARE action weeks. These efforts aim to raise awareness, promote inclusivity, and establish guidelines for addressing and preventing discriminatory practices.

Local and grassroots movements play a vital role in addressing racism in sports and must be included in any resolution on this topic. Athletes, activists, and community leaders must come together to advocate for change, challenge discriminatory practices, promote diversity at all levels of sports participation and promote education and awareness about the history and impact of racism in sports. Sports organizations can implement training programs to educate athletes, coaches, and staff on the importance of diversity and the consequences of discriminatory behavior. Sports organizations should develop and enforce inclusive policies that explicitly prohibit racism and discriminatory practices. These policies should encompass clear reporting mechanisms, consequences for offenders, and support systems for victims as according to the European Parliament most victims of racism in sport do not report the incident. Collaboration between sports organizations, governmental bodies, and non-governmental organizations is essential for creating a comprehensive and coordinated approach to combat racism in sports. Shared resources, expertise, and advocacy efforts can amplify the impact of initiatives addressing this issue.



Topic 2: TQO Examining the Long-Term Consequences of Economic Sanctions

Economic sanctions encompass a range of punitive measures imposed by one or more states against another, typically to coerce the targeted nation into changing its policies, behavior, or leadership. Sanctions can take various forms, including trade restrictions, asset freezes, and financial penalties. Economic sanctions have been a commonly employed tool in international relations, used by states and international organizations to influence the behavior of target countries. While sanctions may be implemented with the intention of promoting peace, security, or human rights, it is crucial to assess their long-term consequences on both the targeted nations and the global community.

States often employ economic sanctions as a non-military means of achieving political or diplomatic goals. These may include discouraging nuclear proliferation, deterring human rights abuses, or responding to acts of aggression. One of the most pressing concerns regarding economic sanctions is their potential to adversely affect civilian populations. Prolonged sanctions can lead to a deterioration of healthcare, education, and living conditions, impacting the most vulnerable members of society such as in the case of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Sanctions can have a profound and lasting impact on the economic stability of targeted nations. Trade restrictions and financial penalties may result in job losses, economic contraction, and increased poverty rates. This may hinder future cooperation on various issues, impeding diplomatic efforts to address global challenges. The imposition of economic sanctions may destabilize the political landscape of the targeted nation. Economic hardships can lead to social unrest, migration, and increased internal tensions, potentially exacerbating conflicts.

The economic sanctions imposed on Iraq in the 1990s provide a notable case study. While the sanctions aimed to compel Iraq to comply with disarmament demands, they resulted in a humanitarian crisis, with widespread suffering and lasting health effects on the civilian population such as an increase in child mortality. Ongoing sanctions against North Korea highlight the complexities of using economic measures to influence a regime's behavior. Despite sanctions, North Korea has continued to develop its nuclear capabilities, prompting a reevaluation of the efficacy and unintended consequences of the sanctions regime. The ECOSOC committee is urged to reassess the goals of economic sanctions, considering whether they align with international norms and contribute to the long-term well-being of affected populations. When implementing sanctions, it is crucial to incorporate humanitarian safeguards to mitigate the unintended consequences on civilian populations. Ensuring access to essential services and addressing humanitarian needs should be integral to the sanctioning process. Striking a balance between achieving policy objectives and minimizing the humanitarian and economic impact on targeted nations requires careful consideration and a commitment to international cooperation.



Topic 3: TQO Unethical International Aid

While the intentions behind providing aid are often noble, the methods and practices employed in its delivery have come under scrutiny, raising concerns about the ethical dimensions of international aid. At its core, unethical aid involves actions that deviate from established principles of humanitarianism, human rights, and sustainable development. Examples include the exploitation of vulnerable populations, diversion of aid funds for corrupt purposes, and the imposition of aid conditions that undermine the sovereignty of recipient nations.

One of the most egregious forms of unethical international aid is the exploitation of vulnerable populations in recipient countries. This can occur through the imposition of conditions that disproportionately benefit the donor nation or by utilizing aid as a tool for political leverage. Such practices not only violate the principles of solidarity and empathy but also perpetuate a cycle of dependency. For example, Jordan has received nearly €2 billion from the USA in recent years and yet it has improved very little in its development or standard of living. Funds earmarked for development projects may be diverted for personal gain, leading to a lack of tangible benefits for the intended recipients. This not only hampers the socio-economic progress of recipient nations but erodes trust in the international aid system.

Some forms of international aid come with conditions that infringe upon the sovereignty of recipient nations. This is called tied aid and is generally in return for some form of political favors or exclusive trade deals. This may include the imposition of economic policies, political reforms, or strategic alignments that serve the interests of the donor nation. Such conditions can lead to internal strife and hinder the long-term development prospects of the recipient country. Several international organizations and frameworks exist to address the ethical dimensions of aid delivery. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), for example, works to ensure that humanitarian assistance is delivered in an impartial and principled manner. Additionally, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has guidelines in place to promote the effective and ethical use of aid resources.

The international community must work collaboratively to develop and adhere to clear ethical guidelines for aid delivery. These guidelines should emphasize the principles of impartiality, neutrality, and respect for the sovereignty of recipient nations. Governments, non-governmental organizations, and international agencies should collectively commit to upholding these principles in their aid efforts.

As nations come together to navigate the complexities of aid delivery, it is essential to prioritize the well-being and dignity of those in need, ensuring that international assistance remains a beacon of hope rather than a source of contention.