

MADMUN XV

ECOSOC

Committee Chairs: Ramneet Mann and Samantha Witt



ECOSOC

United Nations

Letter From the Chairs

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to MADMUN XV. Our names are Samantha Witt and Ramneet Mann and we will be the Chairs of ECOSOC: The Economic and Social Council. We are seniors at Lake Mills High School. We are so happy to be chairing another MADMUN Conference. Last year, we chaired the Human Rights Council crisis, which was very fun! To provide context on who we are and our likes/dislikes let us start with Model UN. We were both introduced to Model UN our freshman year and came in with no previous knowledge. Even with no knowledge, we were thrilled to be a part of the wonderful conference we attended. This is our 4th and final year (sadly) in Model UN. Other than Model UN, Samantha participates as Secretary in Student Council, NHS, and Interact; Editor for the yearbook and newspaper; Vice President of the International Club; and Varsity Tennis. Other than Model U.N, Ramneet has participated as class president for the past 3 years, this year taking on the role of Student Body President. Along with this, she is Treasurer of Interact and a member of the Lake Mills Forensics team.

Framework

The framework for this committee is to simulate the functions of the ECOSOC committee in times of great pressure on economic policy and higher standards of living. This committee is set during the present times and during ECOSOC's Special meetings. During the ECOSOC special meetings the objective is to settle disagreements over high standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress. Later in the background guide, we will expand your knowledge of these issues. Throughout the committee, we encourage delegates to implement policies that will pragmatically aid the realities of economic and social crises.



Topic 1: Status of Women in Agriculture

Introduction

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, “Women comprise 36 percent of the world’s agricultural employment, with a particularly significant role in agrifood systems in regions like sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia” (FAO, 2023). Women’s employment in agriculture provides almost half of the world’s food production, but even so, women are treated as less than their male colleagues. These inequalities don’t just hinder women’s lives but it also hinders the world’s food production. In order to increase the productivity of the world’s food industry, women’s lives must be improved; the first step would be to close the gap between women and men in agriculture.

History

Ever since 10,000 B.C.E., women have played a huge role in agriculture. Originally, they contributed to technologies for harvesting crops and turning the crops into usable ingredients. Due to World War II, things began to change, and women started to tend for farmland on their own or with limited help. With the men at war, women became more than just caregivers, and their contributions to agriculture helped them truly see their worth.



Along with helping on their own farms, women would find work on other farms.

Current Situation

Currently, women have begun advocating for their challenges faced in the agricultural society. Even so, women in many countries are still unable to purchase land, which can create a halt in the advancement of the status of women in agriculture, and for the agriculture business in general. One example of women advocating for land ownership is the “The campaign, *Stand For Her Land*, (which) aims to close this persistent gap between law and practice worldwide so that millions of women can realize these rights in their daily lives.” (“Women in Half”).

Give the Farmer a Hand!

Join the Volunteer Field Fighters



The call for help goes all along the line—to every able-bodied man, woman, boy and girl. Today, the farmer is working from dawn to dark in the hectic race against time. Will you take over part of the farmer's work? You'll be well paid for the time you put in—week-ends, vacation, or all season. The work will suit you right down to the ground—it'll be like mixing business with pleasure. Ask your friends to go with you, too! Scan this ad for work clothes and accessories. Buy only what you need and there'll be enough goods to go around.

What the Farmer and Farmerette Should Wear!

Accessories

Pocket Comb and Nail File — Put up in neat leatherette case with dome fastener. Colors Khaki and navy. Limited quantity. Special, per set **15c**

Pad and Envelopes—Handy size writing pad and 25 blue-lined envelopes. Come early! While they last, both for **11c**

Andrews' Liver Salts — A refresher and conditioner. 4-oz. tin **44c**

Dr. Lyons' Tooth Powder — Do as your dentist does—use tooth powder. **28c**

Colgate's Facial Soaps—Assortment includes White Rose, Lilac, Coleo, Hollywood. All one price, 4 for **15c**

Assorted Soaps — Odex Palmolive, Royal York Carbolle and Jergen's soaps. Your choice, each **5c**

Suntan Oil—Generous size bottles, each **9c**

Aspirin Tablets—For colds and headaches. 12 in box ... **22c**
24 in box **39c**

LADIES' AND GIRLS' COMBINATION OVERALLS

Choice of covert cloth, drill, etc., with short or long sleeves, button and zipper fronts. Sizes 12 to 20. Special **1.98**
..... —Bargain Basement

WOMEN'S AND MISSES' COTTON BLOUSES

Broadcloth and printed cottons in plain shades and candy stripes. Sizes 12 to 20. Special. **89c**
..... —Bargain Basement

WOMEN'S, GIRLS' ANKLE SOCKS

Fine, cool, cotton knits in assorted colors. Sizes 5½ to 8½ and 8½ to 10. Special, pair **12c**
..... —Bargain Basement

TURBANS

The handy headgear for farm work. Spun rayon turbans in assorted colors. Special, each **23c**
..... —Bargain Basement

LADIES' HEAD KERCHIEFS

Colorful cotton prints in all sizes. Light and airy for outdoor wear. Special, each **29c**
..... —Bargain Basement

MISSES' COTTON JERSEYS

Torso length, with crew neck, in barrel stripes. Small, medium and large sizes. Special, each .. **98c**
..... —Bargain Basement

LADIES', GIRLS' SLACKS

Cool, hard-wearing navy drill materials for sturdy wear. Sizes 12 to 20. Special **98c**
..... —Bargain Basement

LADIES' PULLOVERS

Team them up with skirts, slacks and shorts. T-shirt style, torso length, all-wool knit. Broken sizes. **1.95**
Special, each —Second Floor

LADIES' SOCKEES

Choice of sports, colors and patterns. Lots of plain shades, too. Straight tops or lastex cuffs. All sizes in the group. Come early. While they last. Pr. **17c** and **29c**
..... —Main Floor





Questions to Consider

1. How does your country discuss women's roles in agriculture? (Do they like women to help with agriculture or not?)
2. What has your country done to help with the gender gap present in agriculture? What does your country want to do?
3. What role should the UN play in aiding women in the agricultural sector?

Topic 2: Prevention of Russian Exploitation of African Nations

Introduction

Concerns about possible resource and political system exploitation have been voiced by the international community in response to Russia's increasing influence in African countries. Foreign nations have always been drawn to Africa because of its rich supply of natural resources, which include minerals, oil, and potential for agriculture. Russia has forged a number of military and commercial ties with African nations in an effort to increase its geopolitical might. Although the benefits of these connections are frequently touted, there is mounting evidence that Russia's engagement may be predatory and jeopardize the countries' sovereignty and prosperity.



<https://news.un.org/en/story/2013/05/440602>

History

Russia's involvement in Africa began during the Cold War, when the Soviet Union formed partnerships with recently independent governments and sponsored a number of African liberation organizations. However, Russia's involvement in Africa declined with the fall of the Soviet Union. Only in the twenty-first century, and especially under President Vladimir Putin, did Russia start to reclaim its dominance on the continent. Russia's quest for new allies and economic partners was prompted by the invasion of Crimea in 2014 and the Western sanctions that followed, which resulted in a renewed emphasis on Africa.

Russia has been involved in Africa in a number of ways, such as through military training, weaponry sales, and political backing for authoritarian governments. Russia has gained access to priceless natural resources, including minerals, oil, gas, precious metals, and gas from African countries in return. The Wagner Group has been very active in a number of African nations, providing security services in return for mining rights and other financial concessions.

Current Situation

Russia's engagement with Africa is multifaceted, involving both official government programs and the activities of private military contractors such as the Wagner Group. These contractors have assisted authoritarian regimes in Sudan and the Central African Republic, and they have been linked to human rights atrocities. In terms of the economics, Russia has secured lucrative mining contracts, particularly in countries with plentiful natural resources such as gold and diamonds. The impact of these agreements on the local community's social and environmental situations is largely disregarded. Russia uses its political power to undermine Western dominance in Africa by offering political and military help in exchange for allegiance. By employing this strategy, Russia has been able to broaden its area of influence and gain allies, often at the expense of African countries' freedom and prosperity. The prolonged crisis in Ukraine has also interrupted global food supply networks, with African nations particularly vulnerable due to their reliance on grain imports. Russia's ownership over these resources allows it to exercise more influence on African countries, cementing its position of dominance on the continent.



<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/what-to-know-about-russias-growing-influence-in-africa>

Russia's actions in Africa are raising concern in the international community, which views them as part of a bigger strategy to oppose Western supremacy globally. Nonetheless, the region's complex political and economic dynamics make it difficult to oppose Russian exploitation. While African countries work to overcome these challenges, the international community must support policies that promote human rights, foster sustainable development, and ensure that Africa's resources are used to benefit its people rather than being plucked by other powers.

Questions to Consider

1. What steps can African countries take to protect their sovereignty while resisting Russian exploitation?
2. How can the international community help African countries retain their political stability and natural resources?
3. What role should international organizations such as the UN play in preventing foreign powers from exploiting African countries?

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