



PACE MUN 2025
CONFLICTS TO CONSENSUS

BACKGROUND GUIDE

COMMITTEE: UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
(ECOSOC)

AGENDA: MITIGATING GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN
FRAGMENTATION: ADVANCING ECONOMIC
COOPERATION IN AN ERA OF STRATEGIC RIVALRIES.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear Delegates,

We, the Head Chair and the Co-Chair, are absolutely delighted to welcome you to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at this year's conference. One of the primary reasons for our excitement is having such a varied and talented group of delegates and that you are addressing the theme that really constitutes the most outstanding economic challenge of the contemporary times – "Mitigating Global Supply Chain Fragmentation: Advancing Economic Cooperation in an Era of Strategic Rivalries"?

The disruptions that have been shaking the global supply chains, chains that were hailed as the ultimate interconnectedness and efficiency triumphs, are attributable, among others, to escalating geopolitical tensions, trade restrictions, and the subsequent changing of national priorities. Moreover, the exacerbation of these conflicts between the great powers, which is being increasingly witnessed, has resulted in the problems becoming more acute thereby exacerbating the situation from which the weakest emerge the most vulnerable developing countries while the global economic instability is becoming a serious threat. How international cooperation is intensified, inclusiveness accelerated, and security-compatible yet globally integrated frameworks sketched out in this regard, delegates? These are some of the questions that come up in our minds as we reflect on your mandate.

The issues at stake will prompt you to come up with well-thought and original ideas for the role of inter-governmental bodies, the involvement of the private sector, and multilateral diplomacy efforts in restoring global trade confidence and trade resiliency. We are hoping that in these sessions delegates will find it productive to work together and that through these sessions they can gain deeper insight into the equilibrium that exists between economic interdependence and state independence.

It is a sort of delight for us to perceive, through a glance to the future, the enthusiasm, and creativity of approach, negotiation skills and most importantly, the good resolve to come up with concrete measures towards a more cooperative and stable global economy that you will display during this work of yours.

In Service to Diplomacy,

Zeyad Hany - Head Chair

Ghulam Fareed - Co-Chair

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the principal organs of the United Nations, tasked with promoting international economic and social cooperation and development. Established in 1945 and headquartered in New York, ECOSOC serves as a central forum for discussing global economic policies, coordinating the work of UN specialized agencies, and fostering sustainable development initiatives worldwide. The Council facilitates dialogue among member states, international organizations, and civil society to address pressing economic, social, and humanitarian challenges.

The agenda item “Mitigating Global Supply Chain Fragmentation: Advancing Economic Cooperation in an Era of Strategic Rivalries” addresses one of the most critical issues affecting the global economy today. Recent disruptions in international trade, exacerbated by geopolitical tensions, regional conflicts, and protectionist policies, have highlighted the fragility of global supply chains. These disruptions not only hinder the movement of goods and services but also threaten economic stability, equitable development, and access to essential resources across nations.

ECOSOC’s role in this context is vital. By promoting economic cooperation, facilitating dialogue on trade and investment, and supporting policy coordination among member states, the Council seeks to mitigate the risks of supply chain fragmentation. Delegates are tasked with exploring strategies to enhance resilience, diversify sourcing networks, and foster multilateral collaboration. In doing so, ECOSOC aims to ensure that global supply chains remain secure, efficient, and inclusive, thereby sustaining international economic growth and stability in an era marked by strategic rivalries.

A DELVE INTO THE AGENDA:

AGENDA: Mitigating Global Supply Chain Fragmentation: Advancing Economic Cooperation in an Era of Strategic Rivalries

This agenda points out the increasing disintegration of global supply chains — the partial splitting or politicization of the intricate network of cross-border production, logistics, and finance that is the basis of modern trade — and wonders how international economic cooperation can lessen the damage while keeping open markets, resilience, and development gains.

Delegates are expected to weigh the efficiency of the economy, the inclusive development, and sustainability against well-founded national-security concerns and strategic competition between major powers. The discussion revolves around the government actions (diversification, stockpiling, reshoring/friend-shoring, export controls, standards harmonization) and the multilateral instruments (trade rules, technical assistance, development finance, and cooperative risk-sharing) that can reduce fragmentation's costs and ensure that resilience is spread at the same level of freedom of the society.

PAST ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE

For quite a long time, The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has been at the core of advocating multilateral economic cooperation and solving issues resulting from global trade and supply chain disruptions. ECOSOC, however, is not directly involved in trade regulation (this being mainly the WTO's role); it has, nevertheless, been a consistent platform for the exchange of views, coordination, and capacity building among UN member states and agencies.

Perhaps one of the first measures that have bearing on this topical area was the founding of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1964 with ECOSOC acting as a supervisory authority. UNCTAD has been committed to the fair participation of the developing countries in international trade and has, therefore, published a large number of reports and framework agreements that are aimed at trade sustainability and supply chain inclusivity. After the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, these initiatives have become even more significant as ECOSOC resolutions and meetings at the highest level re-affirmed the need for environmentally friendly global value chains and production diversification as a way of lessening the risk of being exposed to external shocks.

Right after the COVID-19 pandemic, ECOSOC organized numerous Special Meetings on Sustainable Development and Global Recovery (2020–2022), which mainly focused on the global supply chain disruptions caused by the implementation of measures to contain the virus spread such as lockdowns, trade restrictions, and the unequal distribution of vaccines and essential goods. The council supports the coordinated efforts through UNCTAD, UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and Committee for Development Policy (CDP) to back digitalization, regional integration, and investment in the supply chain infrastructures as a way of enhancing supply chain resilience.

Besides that, ECOSOC has been a key promoter of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (adopted in 2015), especially Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), which both, in essence, target the increase of global trade connectivity and cooperation. Furthermore, the body has supported the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015), a landmark that rethink and

recommitted the need for intensified collaboration among nations in the areas of finance and technology to address the problem of economic fragmentation.

After that, through its 2023 Special Meeting on Global Cooperation in a Fragmented World, ECOSOC got the chance to look into the effects of the new geopolitical rivalries and the trade decoupling between the leading economies on the world economic interdependence. The main concern during the talks was how to make sure that the competition for strategic advantages does not cause the global economic interdependence to weaken. Among the suggestions were the facilitation of the inclusive digital trade, the broadening of the supply sources, as well as the deepening of the commitments towards the developing countries by way of enhancing their engagement in the regional and global value chains.

THINGS TO RESEARCH ABOUT

1. **Security vs. openness:** When is economic statecraft ethically proper and what ways can be used to verify its proportionality and targeting? What are some means to stop national security measures from becoming a cover for protectionism?
2. **Multilateralism against Mini lateral coalitions:** Does the energy of the system going to be ensured by international regulations (WTO/upgrades) or by coalitions of states sharing the same values (friend-shoring blocs)? How can ECOSOC help in this transition of bridging development concerns to these choices?
3. **Cost and distribution:** Who will pay the price for the resilience investments - consumers, firms, or international financial institutions, and how can policies ensure that there is no aggravation of inequalities?
4. **Technological and Digital Infrastructure:** Technological advancements, including automation, AI, and blockchain tracking, can greatly improve supply chain efficiency and transparency. However, disparities in digital capacity between nations risk leaving some countries behind. Developing international standards for supply chain digitization can ensure interoperability, security, and equitable access to these technologies, supporting resilience while fostering global economic cooperation.
5. **Political and Geopolitical Risks:** Geopolitical rivalries, such as tensions between major economic powers, heavily influence supply chain strategies. Nations must navigate these risks carefully to avoid escalating conflicts. ECOSOC can provide a neutral platform for dialogue, helping member states assess risks, coordinate strategies, and develop frameworks that balance economic security with peaceful cooperation.

6. ***Human Capital and Labor Considerations:*** Supply chain resilience depends on a prepared workforce capable of adapting to new production, logistics, and digital demands. Training programs, relocation support, and skill development initiatives are essential to ensure equitable labor participation. Policies protecting labor rights in reshored or relocated industries can promote social stability and ensure that resilience investments generate inclusive economic opportunities.

7. ***Environmental and Sustainability Considerations:*** Resilient supply chains must also align with sustainability goals. Rerouting production, reshoring industries, or constructing new manufacturing hubs can have significant environmental impacts. Policies promoting green logistics, circular supply chains, and low-carbon alternatives can help mitigate these effects while ensuring that economic resilience does not come at the cost of climate objectives.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ADDRESS

I. Drivers of Fragmentation - This includes a variety of factors such as pandemic shocks, geopolitical rivalries (especially the US–China competition), sanctions and export controls, and a range of near-term shocks like war and natural disasters.

II. Policy Responses of States and Firms - Some of the measures taken include reshoring, nearshoring, friend-shoring, diversification, stockpiling, dual sourcing, and digitalization of supply-chain visibility.

III. Trade Policy and Economic Statecraft - This refers to the use of tariffs, export controls (technology, critical minerals), investment screening, and how security motives lead to changes in trade governance.

IV. Developing Countries and Equity - Fragmentation can do this by increasing costs in import-dependent developing economies, making commodity volatility more severe, and changing the bargaining power that these countries have.

V. Institutional Responses and Multilateral Solutions - The mentioned institutions such as WTO, UN system (including ECOSOC), regional trade agreements, OECD and MDB can support resilience investments, standards and cooperation mechanisms.

VI. Measurement, Monitoring and Early Warning - This involves indices and data (e.g., container stress indices, trade forecasts) that guide the decisions of policymakers.

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GOOD LUCK
DELEGATE!

See you at the Conference!

