



Committee: ECOSOC
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Topic 1: The Fate of Sustainable Development Post COVID-19 Crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted people from all expanses of life globally, causing significant problems in many countries. It has caused a monumental catastrophe in the world and has affected developing countries the most. With over 5 million deaths worldwide and 31 million people pushed into poverty by COVID-19, this has caused many issues, reversed progress, and has taken away from the economy, education, and infrastructure of countries¹. Also, the threatening issues of global warming have been put aside during COVID-19 and they need to be stimulated. Developing countries in poorer continents have struggled the most, in Africa only about 3% of the population have been vaccinated per an article from the Seattle Times from September 17th². There is a general worry that many of the poorer, less developed nations might be left behind while larger countries focus on their own issues. Since COVID, Nicaragua has lost 30 million USD, making some of these goals unachievable. Nicaragua believes the developed countries must be able to stimulate the economies of countries that were hit hard by the pandemic. Due to these issues, many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set in 2015 cannot be achievable by 2030. The UN has recently projected the amount of impoverished people. By 2030 it is projected that there will be an additional 44 million people in extreme poverty. The world must emphasize the SDGs more due to COVID, or we will all be worse off in the near future.

Nicaragua views the SDGs with a positive outlook on the future. The economy grew 5.3% on average between 2011 and 2017 and decreased poverty by almost half, from 48.3% (2015) to 24.9% (2016)³. Nicaragua has improved almost all aspects of life for its people. It has the highest gender equality in Latin America, increased coverage of electricity and water, and is the safest country in Latin America. It also has one of the highest-rated Spillover Scores (assessing how a nation has helped those around it) with a 98%⁴. This shows that if given the help, Nicaragua can rebound from COVID while helping itself and other countries. Nicaragua suggests that other countries should follow what Nicaragua is doing as the policies used have been successful (Ex for equality). Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women). However, Nicaragua approaches this ECOSOC meeting with caution as it believes that the Western powers want more control of the nation. The Western powers have criticized and meddled with Nicaragua's elections for no apparent reason. In times of crisis the world must unite and Nicaragua cannot be bothered with malicious acts like this. Every country is currently worried about their own issues right now, but every country should be concerned about the representation of smaller countries being taken away.

Nicaragua approaches this meeting with several ideas to help drive Sustainable Development Goals. First, balanced alliances, where more developed countries can offer assistance, can help lower the gap between the wealthier and poorer countries. These alliances should be checked over by an international review board which can look over the terms so fair alliances happen. Secondly, Nicaragua believes that nations should modify some goals to make them more achievable. Countries with larger economies may achieve the original plans; however, the smaller countries should be kept in mind. These countries do not have the vast resources to achieve the SDGs, especially after the economic hit during COVID. The economies of these countries must be stimulated in order to reverse the effects of COVID, while also giving the countries revenue to use to work on SDGs. Nicaragua suggests a resolution which highlights a safety net that can be created by the more developed,

¹ Takahama, Elise. "Gaps between wealthy and poor countries grow as COVID-19 pandemic pushes on, new Gates Foundation report says." Seattle Times, 13 Sept. 2021. Seattle Times, www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/gaps-between-wealthy-and-poor-countries-grow-as-covid-19-pandemic-pushes-on-new-gates-foundation-report-says/. Accessed 26 Dec. 2021.

² Takahama, 2021

³ High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals. Voluntary National Review 2021. Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platf, sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/nicaragua. Accessed 22 Dec. 2021.

⁴ Sachs, Jeffrey D., et al. Sustainable Development Report 2021. Cambridge University Press, 2021. Sustainable Development Goals, dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/nicaragua. Accessed 21 Dec. 2021.

higher income per capita countries if an issue like COVID-19 ever happens again. This safety net can be composed of assets from these more developed countries and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that can be issued to these smaller countries. Every year each of these countries could be “taxed” based on a country’s GDP and this would provide the assistance that these smaller countries desperately need. These stimulation of the economy should lead to a stimulation of Education NGOs (Ex. BARRIO PLANTA PROJECT); this would help a lot as the education system has been neglected by smaller countries already in debt due to COVID. Lastly, Nicaragua suggests countries reward companies and businesses for implementing low-carbon technologies, through tax incentives. The governments of countries should further reward electric car companies, allowing them to price the electric cars cheaper and this could lead to a more widespread use of eco-friendly vehicles.

Topic 2: Promoting Action for Better Humanitarian Assistance of Internally Displaced People

The problem of displaced people has grown to 48.0 million at the end of 2020⁵. This is primarily due to conflicts that have forced innocent civilians out of their home country. Assistance is needed for these Internally Displaced Peoples and the world must find ways to get help to them safely. In order to stop this issue from further enlarging, there must be a place for the international community to step in if a country is not capable of carrying out a safe environment. Many smaller countries have also had issues dealing with internal conflicts and there should be a guideline where the international community can help. Some smaller countries also do not have the ability to create a good environment for their people.

Nicaragua has been impacted severely by this issue as the rebels against the government have caused over 100,000 people to seek asylum⁶. These rebels have caused violence and have made some parts of the country unsafe. Nicaragua recognizes the issues the rebels pose to its people and have used military force to keep a safe living environment. With all this in mind, Nicaragua approaches the meeting with the need for assistance from the committee members. Therefore, Nicaragua asks the countries of the committee to send economic and military assistance to Nicaragua to help solve the issue of internally displaced peoples (IDPs). Once Nicaragua is given the economic and military assistance in order to create a safer environment for the people, Nicaragua would plan on improving the infrastructure of the area and allotting space for these IDPs and for more jobs. Nicaragua also thinks that the more significant countries need to assist the smaller countries affected by internal and political conflicts as Nicaragua isn’t the only country in trouble.

The COVID-19 virus has heightened the impacts of many internal conflicts, as the economic despair has caused even more people to leave the country. These smaller countries also do not have the necessary assets to keep conflicts under control and create a safe, economically friendly environment for their people. The international community also should have to step in at a point where a committee decides that the situation in a nation cannot be saved by itself anymore. The government of the country would have to show several times that a country is not fit to help the IDPs. However, getting this aid to reach more difficult areas would be a challenge. In order to increase the success rate of these missions to get aid to the IDPs especially in war-torn countries, both sides should be notified of these missions, also possibly the addition of a symbol of peace which can be worn by those attempting these missions. This symbol would have to be very easily distinguishable and if that were possible Nicaragua believes that this would increase the success rate. This would be a great long term solution as a symbol that is easily distinguishable for the assistance of IDPs would help IDPs in many different ways. A way to hold up the guiding principles of IDPs would be to have an NGO(Settlement Services International) which could monitor how IDPs are treated in different areas and rate them. An NGO Nicaragua believes could be tasked with this, is one which works with the people already, the Settlement Services International. The countries with the lowest ratings would be notified by the UN and if needed, assistance would be sent to those countries.

⁵UNHCR. Refugee Statistics. UNHCR, www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/statistics/. Accessed 27 Dec. 2021.

⁶ UN Refugee Agency. Displacement in Central America. The UN Refugee Agency, www.unhcr.org/en-us/displacement-in-central-america.html. Accessed 22 Dec.2021.