ECOSOC

Topic A: “Expanding Internet Infrastructure in Rural and Underserved Areas”

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Welcoming letter

Greetings delegates,

We extend you a warm and cordial welcome to the 11th edition of the CFMUN. This event promises to be a remarkable experience that will enrich you from multiple perspectives. We are Pía Lechuga and Almudena Armada, and we are honored to serve as your moderator and chair for the ECOSOC committee.
At this CFMUN, you will have the opportunity to engage in an extraordinary and unforgettable experience, and cultivate or develop skills such as negotiation, diplomacy, public speaking, among others, which will serve you substantially. This comprehensive guide to the topic will be essential for your research, as it will provide insights into the current issue and assist you in developing the position of your country throughout the event. We will serve as your guides with the objective of moderating the committee and ensuring that this MUN is yet another exceptional experience for you.
We eagerly anticipate that this experience will become truly unforgettable for each of you, enriched by your presence.

Sincere regards,
Pía Lechuga and Almudena Armada
Moderator and Chair of ECOSOC

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I. Committee Background

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), was founded on June 21st, 1946. It was created to be in charge of addressing social, economic and environmental problems, through policies, expediting global efforts and important conferences. It is the forum where political recommendations are evaluated and debated.

ECOSOC is made up of 54 members and is one of the six main organs of the United Nations.

This council meets annually for a substantive four-week session, held in July each year, where ministers and other senior officials participate to discuss important issues, facilitating the advancement of objectives on global economic, and social problems.

II. Introduction to the Topic

Nowadays it would be demanding for many people to live a life without internet, but in many under developed countries, there is a lack of access to the internet, which causes poor communication.
The internet has become an important part of our daily activities. It can also give many opportunities to different young people, and adults around the world, whether for educational purposes or for public services. But, although in some places it is possible to install internet infrastructure, it can be high-priced and difficult in many countries.
On the other hand, some people, mostly adults, feel intimidated by the internet, without taking into account that it can make their lives easier.
In some communities, language is a dangerous barrier to the adaptation of this system.
In some schools, medical centers, workplaces, and even at their own houses, they struggle to have access to the internet to make their activities easier, faster and well structured.

III. Evolution of the Topic

Over the years, internet access has been significantly reduced, especially in rural areas around the world. It is estimated that around 77 million people living in areas of Latin America and the Caribbean do not have access to the internet, which causes them to face a lack of job and economic opportunities.
Internet access began in the 1960s and 1990s thanks to the ARPANET computer network, to which only urban and developed areas had access to it. After a few years, more countries had access to the internet, even though they remained being a few. The lack of adequate infrastructure, and the high costs of satellite connections are the main factors that cause this issue. Rural and underdeveloped areas are limited to this due to lack of economical resources, communication, and more factors. Although internet access is improving over time, this issue is still very important.

III. Evolution of the Topic

Satellite technologies, fiber optic networks, and wireless technologies such as LTE and 5G have allowed internet access to improve, since they allow higher speeds and a greater percentage of people with internet connections. However, the access to these technologies is unequal. In addition, government organizations are working on connectivity projects to improve infrastructure in less progressive places by combining different technologies. The pandemic of COVID-19 had great consequences on this issue, since it increased the internet access (11%) during that period. By the end of 2022, 5,300 million people had access to internet. However in places like the USA, even though it is a developed country, there is a big gap between the people who have access to internet and those who do not. In Europe, 2.4% of people can not access to the internet, while in Africa only 29% of the population have access, nevertheless, some infrastructure facilities improved the access. Finally, in Asia 70% of the population have access to internet.

III. Evolution of the Topic

The lack of internet access in underdeveloped areas seriously harms the lack of communication and loss of many economic opportunities, as well, it disadvantages the exchange of information. Internet access have made progress over time, however many areas do not notice a change, and the committee must find a solution so everyone can have better communication.

IV. Relevant Events

- In Spain, the program UNICO has been destined for more than 76 millions of euros for rural areas since it was created to help people connect with underserved areas.

- In Peru, the IPT in Spanish, the model of Internet for everyone, gives access to mobile operators to extend the services in rural areas giving infrastructure to help millions of people in underserved areas.

- In Mexico, the IFT in spanish Federal Telecommunications Institute proposes a project intended for the underserved areas. This project is searching to supply connectivity to the 3.1 millions of Mexicans that live in 53,448 locations that don't have access to the internet. Also in 2,176 locations of the CFE provide internet through satellite technology.

V. UN and External Actions

- The Project "Granting the coverage, access and use of digital connectivity in Chile" Was established together with the government of Chile and the UN, with the objective of providing high-quality internet access in rural areas of Ñuble and La Araucanía.

- The Giga Initiative is working together with UNICEF and the ITU (International Telecommunications Union) with the goal that all schools in the world have access to the internet by 2030.

- The UN has committed to bring connectivity in vulnerable populations and zones by 2030, and UNESCO and the ITU are working to promote equitable internet access.

- The UN has formed alliances between governments, the private sector and NGOS organizations to establish sustainable solutions that improve Internet access in disadvantaged places.

V. UN and External Actions

- The "Internet for All" project in Mexico supported by the company Viasat seeks to bring high-speed connectivity to rural places. It has benefited more than 250,000 thousand people.

- The UNICO Program in Spain aims to guarantee that rural populations in Spain have at least 100 Mbps of Internet access in 2025, for which more than 76 million euros have been allocated.

- Hispasat is deploying satellite technology to provide internet access to disadvantaged areas of Spain and other countries.

- RTA Telecommunications is committed to providing high-speed Internet access to rural communities by building new towers and installing fiber optic cables.

- Projects in Latin American countries are being established with innovative technologies that include WiMAX networks to improve Internet access in rural areas.

VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, this problem is impacting our society in a negative way. Most of the people of rural and not developed areas in the world don't have access to the Internet, so they have problems completing their daily tasks, their jobs, they don’t have as many opportunities like people that have access to internet and they cannot communicate with their family, friends, etc. This can cause so many problems in their daily live. Thats because it is of most importance to solve this problem so that everyone has more facilities, don't be in danger, and have communication with each other.

Everyone should have access to the Internet regardless of their economical status. All the world must have access to new tools that help them adapt to this new society. So we must find a solution to make the internet affordable and break the barriers of technological adaptation.

VII. Committee Focus

- How can we solve economic barriers that cause rural and underserved areas to not access the internet?
- What technological infrastructure models are most practical for bringing the Internet to underserved areas?
- How can the expansion of internet access can also be accompanied by improved education, health care, and economic opportunities?
- What international cooperation models could be effective in the expansion of the internet in rural areas, ensuring that both society and governments have an active and well-defined role?
- How can we ensure that the local communities' particular needs are taken into account and that they are able to manage and maintain these infrastructures in a sustainable way?

VII. Participation List

- Federative Republic of Brazil
- French Republic
- Japan
- Kingdom of Denmark
- Kingdom of Spain
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- New Zealand
- People’s Republic of China
- Republic of Botswana
- Republic of Cabo Verde
- Republic of Cameroon
- Republic of Colombia
- Republic of Costa Rica
- Republic of Equatorial Guinea
- Republic of Korea
- Russian Federation
- State of Qatar
- Swiss Confederation
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United States of America

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