

Committee: Special Conference on Decent Work and Economic Growth (SPECON)

Issue: Reevaluating equity in resource distribution for the purpose of eliminating poverty

Student Officer: Ilianna Mavroeidi

Position: President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Ilianna Mavroeidi, and I am currently attending the 11th grade of Pierce-ACG. This year I will have the honor of serving as the President of the Special Conference on Decent Work & Economic Growth in the 5th ACGMUN.

This will be my first time serving as a President and overall, my 4th time chairing and I am very eager to share it with you all as all of us have a mutual passion for MUN and the benefits it offers. When I started MUN last year, little did I know how much it would change my academic and personal life, from having the opportunity to research and discuss the world's most heated topics, to cultivating many essential skills and to fostering long-lasting friendships with people I now cherish.

This year's topics in SPECON are extremely heated and leading in the business and economy sectors. More specifically, I will have the pleasure of serving as the expert chair on the topic "Reevaluating equity in resource distribution for the purpose of eliminating poverty". Especially now, poverty is striking the doors of many households, businesses, and countries as a whole and that is exactly why reevaluating resource distribution is such a necessary action.

To conclude, at this point, I would like to stress that the sole purpose of this document is to serve as a basis for your preparation and that is why you should not limit it to the study guide but conduct further research on your own. To do that, I encourage you to take advantage of the bibliography, which you can find towards the end of the guide.

I wish you all a fruitful debate & I look forward to meeting you during the conference.

Since all topics of this year's SPECON committee are complex, should you have any inquiries whatsoever or need assistance with your research, do not hesitate to contact me at: ilianna.mavroeidi@acg.edu

Sincerely,

Ilianna Mavroeidi

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a scourge that affects populations globally and so it has, since the beginning of human civilization. Although there have been many attempts to combat it, there has never been a complete eradication of poverty. This is the case because there has never been a correct approach against poverty and because the issue has never been targeted at its roots, which are non-equitable resource distribution.

Since the beginning of human civilization, people have been divided into different social structures, or classes, each having different opportunities, privileges, and resources available. It is a pyramid, and each ascending level consists of fewer people with increasing levels of power and wealth. This is identified as the accumulation of resources to the wealthy, and it is in fact, a major factor leading to uneven resource distribution and poverty.

Equitable resource distribution entails allowing natural resources to be dispersed evenly to every part of society rather than concentrating in the hands of a few individuals, which is what is mostly happening at the moment. Especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic, resources have been accumulated in the hands of the few, mainly the ones residing in More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs), leaving the majority of the populations in Less Economically Developed ones (LEDs) economically drained. Such resources include, among others, water, food, minerals, vegetation, healthcare infrastructure, and income. In view of the fact that all those resources are unevenly dispersed around the globe and among communities, the critical issue of poverty is continuously exacerbated.

Thus, to effectively combat and eradicate poverty, the world needs to reevaluate resource distribution and ensure that it happens equitably, without leaving anyone to fend for themselves. This way, there will be a constant flow of adequate resources towards everyone, in every part of the world while every individual will be provided with the resources required for them to sustain themselves and their families.

Nevertheless, this does not mean that everyone will be provided with and have access to the same resources, as we are not referring to equal, but equitable distribution. What this means is that everyone will be provided with what they need in order to thrive and have access to the same final result. Hence, actions to ensure resource distribution is globally equitable need to take place at all levels so as to eventually eradicate all forms of poverty that beset this world.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Benefit incidence analysis

"Benefit incidence analysis (BIA) is a technique that has traditionally been used to assess the distributional impact of government spending on health care or more specifically the extent to which different socio-economic groups benefit from government subsidies."¹

Equitable resource distribution

Equitable resource distribution is defined as the balanced allocation of resources among individuals while considering their needs.

Equity

"Equity is defined as the situation in which everyone is treated fairly according to their needs and no group of people is given special treatment" ²

Fiscal decentralization

"Fiscal decentralization generally refers to the devolution of taxing and spending powers from the control of central government authorities to government authorities at sub-national levels (regional, provincial, municipal, etc.)." ³

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

"Gross domestic product (GDP) is the total monetary or market value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period." ⁴

Gross National Income (GNI)

Gross National Income (GNI) is defined as the sum of money earned by a nation's population and enterprises. It is used to evaluate and monitor a country's economy year by year. The figure contains the country's gross domestic product (GDP) as well as income from foreign sources.

¹ "How to Do (or Not to Do) ... a Benefit Incidence Analysis." OUP Academic, 4 Aug. 2010, academic.oup.com/heapol/article/26/2/174/592398.

² "Equity." Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/equity.

³ Boschmann, Niña. "Fiscal Decentralization and Options for Donor Harmonisation." Development Partners Working Group on Local Governance and Decentralization DPWG-LGD, Dec. 2009, <https://tinyurl.com/u8sz6sbn>

⁴ "Gross Domestic Product (GDP)." Investopedia, www.investopedia.com/terms/g/gdp.asp.

Low-Income countries

In the World Bank system, low-income economies or countries are the ones with a GNI per capita smaller than \$1,046 (2021).

Natural resources

Natural resources are products that exist in the environment and that humans utilize for nutrition, energy, clothing, and housing. Examples of such resources are, inter alia, water, soil, minerals, vegetation, animals, air, and sunlight.

Resource distribution

Resource distribution describes the geographical location or spatial arrangement of the world's resources.

Tax haven

"A tax haven is a country that offers foreign businesses and individuals minimal or no tax liability for their bank deposits in a politically and economically stable environment."⁵

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Types of resources

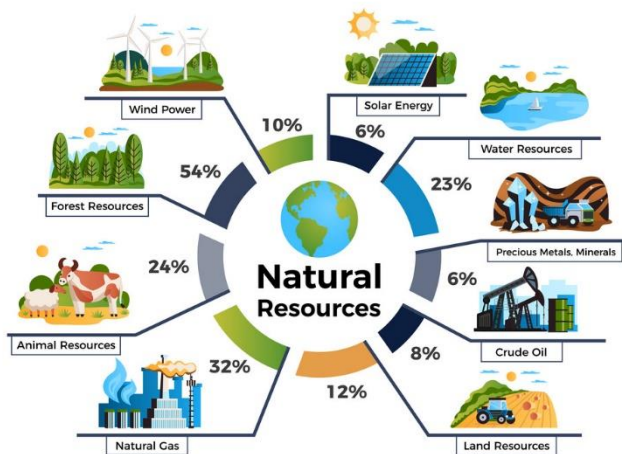


Figure 1: Image depicting the types and percentages of natural resources on Earth.

Natural resources

Natural resources are all resources obtained from nature. They are classified in a variety of categories such as biotic and abiotic (based on their origin), renewable and non-renewable (based on their exhaustibility), and ubiquitous and localized (based on their location and availability). They entail an abundance of resources and materials on earth that are widely

used by humans and are considered essential for life and survival. However, natural resources are unevenly dispersed around the globe. Unfortunately, that cannot be controlled by humans, since the location of such resources

⁵ "What Is a Tax Haven?" Investopedia, www.investopedia.com/terms/t/taxhaven.asp.

primarily depends on factors such as the environment, climate, and nature. Natural resources include the following:

Water, which is a need for survival. Although water makes up 70% of the planet, only around 3% of it is freshwater, with only 1-2% being potable. However, even this little percentage is not accessible to millions of people, since it is disproportionately scattered around the earth.

Clean air, which is the source of existence of all life on this planet. Even though the air is accessible to everyone, it is highly affected by pollution, and populations in megacities are not able to breathe fresh air.

Fossil fuels such as coal, crude oil, and natural gas. The former two are cheap and efficient for energy usage, after the necessary processing, but they generate the aforementioned air pollution while being non-renewable, which means that they will be depleted sometime in the next century. Natural gas is a new prospect for energy usage since it is cheap and more ecological, but research has found that it, too, will be consumed fully in the next years.

Soil, which helps preserve all plant life and is necessary for its growth.

Minerals, including gypsum, phosphate, and titanium which are widely used in technology and electronic devices.

Forests and timber that preserve life on earth by producing oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide, offering habitat to an abundance of animal species, and being a significant source of building material.

Human-made resources

Human-made resources occur when humans utilize natural resources to construct materials and infrastructure (such as bridges made of steel, which derives from iron). Usually, natural resources undergo a significant transformation in order to be classified as human-made ones, and in order to be exploited to satisfy human needs. Human-made resources are predominantly renewable but are still not distributed equitably. For example, technology is a major human-made resource, which is not accessible to all.

Other resources

There are other types of resources as well which cannot be classified in the categories above. Those include household resources, such as wages, property income, and social benefits, health resources, like personnel, infrastructure, machinery, tools, equipment, and education resources including books, class material, and equipment. The majority of those resources are the ones that

are the most unevenly distributed around the world as well as the ones that can be more easily controlled by governments and people, in contrast to natural resources which rely on natural conditions.

Equity and equality

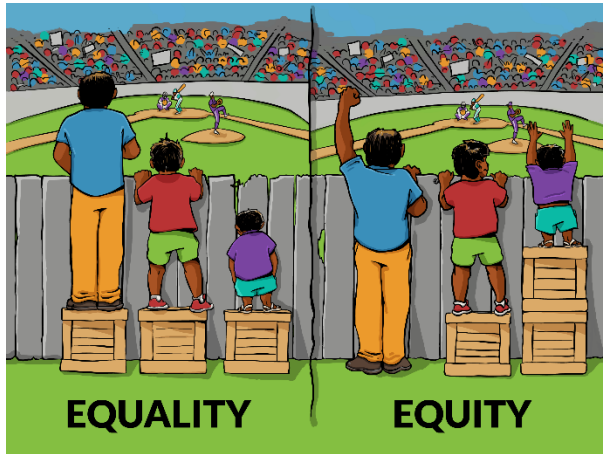


Figure 2: Illustration depicting the difference between equality and equity.

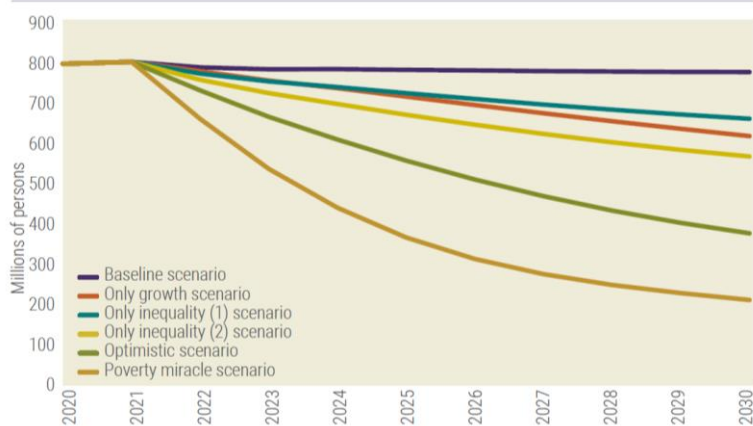
Equity and equality are both leading principles of justice and are enmeshed in the most pressing global challenges. Even though they are often mistakenly regarded as the same word, the two terms have quite different meanings, and it is crucial to understand the difference between the two. Equality means providing everyone with the same resources and the same amount of those resources, regardless of whether they need it or not while equity is

essentially when resources are distributed in a way that everyone gets exactly what they need, to balance opportunities and access to goods and services. The two terms are interdependent since you cannot reach one without the other. More specifically, to achieve global equality, the world needs to prioritize equity, especially when it comes to resource distribution. The latter applies to all resources, from income to vaccines. Since inequity is at the root of the majority of the world's social issues, comprehending it and addressing it is necessary for equality. Both terms are tightly correlated to poverty and its eradication since poverty essentially stems from income and wealth inequality. Thus, if resources are distributed equitably and people strive for equity, justice, and fairness, nations can achieve equality and, eventually, eliminate poverty in all its forms.

Importance of equity in resource distribution

Equity in resource distribution is crucial in the alleviation and eventual eradication of poverty. As research has continuously proven, equity promotes economic growth and development in the countries that

Global projections for number of people living in extreme poverty, by scenario, 2020–2030



Source: UN DESA calculations.

Figure 3: Graph depicting several global projections for the number of destitute people from 2020 to 2030.

implement it. Furthermore, income equality is one of the key solutions to achieving SDG 1, according to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). Equity is linked with fairness and social justice since it promotes equality among all social groups and ensures that everyone has equal access to services and equal treatment in the labor market, while it also influences the generations of the future. Lastly, through equity in resource distribution, social cohesion is enhanced, conflicts are reduced and thus, peace is promoted.

Causes of uneven resource distribution

Poverty and the majority of all other problems that plague humanity stem from the same underlying cause: unequal distribution of the world's wealth and resources. Thus, it is necessary to realize the root causes of uneven resource distribution and endeavor to hinder them.

Pursue of profit

In governments and economies whose primary aim is profit, it is quite common for injustice and unfairness to exist. They are usually characterized by elevated income inequality since the few members of the upper class collect all the wealth and the middle and labor classes' numerous members are poorer and sometimes even destitute. The few wealthy get a disproportionately sizable percentage of the country's wealth and thus, the distribution of income is inequitable.

Service-based economies

In a service or service-based economy, the principal economic activity is the provision of services such as education and healthcare while it does not focus on the production of goods. Services contribute to economic growth and overall development, but they are often expensive and thus, poorer people cannot afford them. As a result, a larger gap between the poor and the rich is formed and resources are distributed inequitably.

Urbanization

Urbanization entails a massive population shift from rural to urban areas and the respective changes which occur in the urban setting. It is a phenomenon widely observed during the past few decades and it leads to the accretion of people and cheap labor in cities. As a result of this influx, wages progressively decrease, so the wealthy become wealthier and the poor, poorer.

Wealth-based investments

Many investors choose investment opportunities based on their financial value. This means that they prefer to invest in those who already have enough power and wealth because they have guaranteed profit. Owners of capital choose to finance the wealthy, so both can gain revenue. Hence, all other smaller businesses and people who are looking for investors are left out and all the wealth is once again accumulated in the hands of the few.

Consequences of uneven resource distribution

Poverty

As mentioned, the main cause of poverty is the uneven distribution of resources and especially, of income. When all power and wealth is accumulated in the hands of the few, the rest remain poor and destitute and can do little to improve their economic status since the inequitable distribution of resources prevents them from accessing all goods and services.

Inferior quality of life

Inferior quality of life comes as an aftermath of poverty. The poor and destitute have access to minimal goods and services and thus, cannot sustain a healthy and prosperous lifestyle for themselves and their families. They have a lack of access to resources and therefore, have an extremely low standard of living.

Trading systems

This is a rather controversial consequence of the uneven distribution of resources. More specifically, unevenly distributed resources enable countries to trade with others in order to gain wealth and flourish. Countries, that are not rich in resources, can utilize trading to have access to them, build companies and infrastructure, and eventually, profit. Respectively, countries with which they trade also gain wealth. However, when resources are hardly accessible, trading is scarce, and the trading systems weaken.

Limited economic activities

When countries and regions do not have resources to rely on, due to inequitable resource distribution, they often lack a target of economic activity. Thus, they have limited sources to profit from and the economy is exacerbated.

Migration

When people do not have access to essential resources they tend to migrate and inhabit regions abundant in such resources. When this migration happens on a large scale, or in the form of urbanization, the issue of the inequitable distribution of resources is intensified, since people are clustered in small areas and resources are not sufficient to sustain every single one of them. It is, therefore, a vicious cycle.

Consequences of poverty



Figure 4: Illustration depicting the vicious cycle of the consequences of poverty.

Poor and destitute people do not have access to the essentials, principally because they cannot afford them. This includes, inter alia, water, food, housing, and healthcare. They suffer from malnutrition and are often found homeless, without sufficient protection from outside conditions. Thus, they are prone to diseases, and especially, in countries where healthcare is not free, they can seldom get adequate treatment. According to research conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO), 45 percent of the diseases in poorer countries are a result of poverty.

Additionally, they have limited access to education since they cannot afford decent schooling, school equipment, and stationaries. In some cases, they do not even have access to schooling facilities due to the long distances that separate them from such facilities or due to the lack of time seeing as poor children prefer to help their families with their financial issues by working, instead of getting an education.

As a result of all the above, the poor and destitute face social discrimination and exclusion. They cannot participate in normal everyday activities and socialize, so they are often isolated. When they are not, there are high chances that they will face discrimination due to their social and financial status.

As a response to the society that rejects them and as a way to obtain the essentials, people turn towards criminal actions and delinquent behavior. Increased crime is a serious consequence of poverty, and it affects a considerable number of people, despite their backgrounds.

The Gini coefficient

The Gini index or Gini coefficient is an indicator, used by both the UN and World Bank, to measure the distribution of wealth across a population. It was invented in 1912 by the Italian statistician Corrado Gini, from whom it took its name. It is used as a measurement of economic inequality, globally and nationally, calculating income and wealth distribution. The Gini coefficient extends between 0 and 1 (or 0%-100%), with 0 signifying total equality and equitable distribution of income, and 1, or 100, meaning complete inequality, that is all the wealth is controlled by solely one person. The Gini index may overestimate income disparity and obfuscate critical information about income distribution due to data and other restrictions, so its usage has been limited in the past years, but it is still one of the main indicators used as a measurement of income inequality. It can also be used to determine which countries are in higher need of reevaluation of resource distribution and are affected more by poverty.

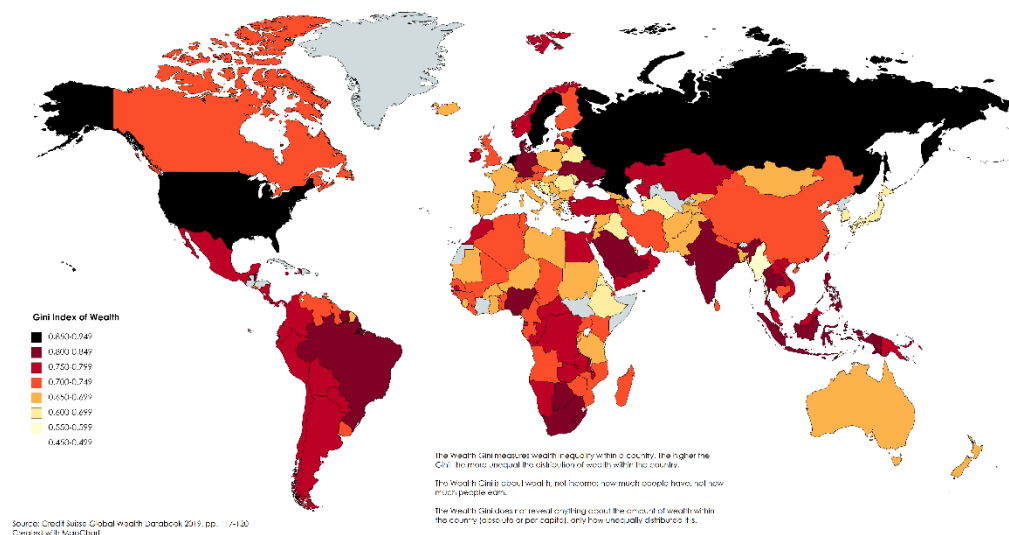


Figure 5: Map depicting the Gini coefficient of countries globally.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

The Republic of Burundi

The Republic of Burundi is a country in east-central Africa. As an LEDC and a low-income country, Burundi, as of 2021, is considered the poorest country in the world with a GNI of \$270 per capita. The economy of Burundi is deeply dependent on agriculture which maintains the largest percentage of the labor force and GDP, and since agriculture is not a stable business, Burundi does not have a stable economy. The country's financial situation is also partially owed to the lack of resources available in the country, due to its geographical and geopolitical location (it is landlocked), which hinders both manufacturing and industrialization and thus, economic growth. Additionally, the government does not allow economic freedom and controls all

sources of income and subsidies while there is poor financial planning, resource management, and distribution. Burundi has faced political turmoil and other hardships throughout the years, which led to the creation of a poor transportation network further impeding the even shipping of goods around the country. To compensate for the shortage of essential resources Burundi people have many times asked for aid from foreign powers. For example, in 2014, 42% of Burundi's national income was derived from foreign aid, and as a result, they have been, since then, able to import goods. Many countries and organizations have stopped financing Burundi and the ones remaining will as well, in the years to follow. Thus, it is necessary to find alternative ways to ameliorate Burundi's and other such nations' economies.

People's Republic of China

The People's Republic of China is a country located in East Asia and the most populous country in the world, inhabited by more than 1.4 billion people. It has a strong economy and is characterized by strong economic growth with a GDP of \$12,551 per capita. Despite all that, China is one of the most unequal countries with high levels of inequitable resource distribution, especially income distribution. The countries communist political system in combination with its capitalist-based economy has not yet managed to eliminate poverty and prevent the polarization of wealth, which is an ongoing phenomenon in China, despite its initial attempts. China is the country with the second-largest number of billionaires, but there are still approximately 600 million people that live in poverty, with the majority surviving with less than one dollar per day.

Seychelles

Seychelles is an archipelago of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of East Africa. Even though it is a popular tourist destination, it is the country with the highest rate of financial inequality worldwide with a Gini coefficient of 0.658. Although it is statistically the richest country in Africa (based on GNI per capita in 2021 which in Seychelles is \$12,720), all the wealth is accumulated in the hands of a small percentage of its citizens. Moreover, tourism belongs almost exclusively to tycoons and foreigners, due to the country's "tax haven" status. Hence, the Seychellois face extreme poverty, have limited access to the wealth produced by tourism and have minimal financial resources which make the country characterized by inequitable resource distribution.

Norway

Norway is an Economically Developed Scandinavian country in northern Europe. It has been continuously proven through research that Norway is one of the most -if not the most- equal countries in the world with a Gini coefficient of 0.226. Furthermore, it has

the most egalitarian economy worldwide, supporting that all people are equal and thus, have equal rights and opportunities. Norway has a very stable economy fueled by oil and gas exports and a GDP per capita of \$67,389.9 as of 2020, which allows it to employ strategies aimed at the redistribution of wealth. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in Norway, "wage inequality is low, and redistribution through taxes and benefits system is carried out on a large scale so that the distribution of net income is even more equal." If Norway's strategies and policies are analyzed and evaluated other countries can follow its path and implement measures to distribute the wealth more equitably with the final purpose of eliminating poverty.

The Organization for Poverty Alleviation and Development (OPAD)

The Organization for Poverty Alleviation and Development (OPAD) is an international non-governmental organization aiming to aid in the eradication of poverty around the world. It was established more than a decade ago and has, since then, helped communities in over 40 countries globally. The organization tries to promote human rights, sustainability, and action against climate change. The member's vision is to "improve the standard of living of all people by recognizing them as resources and not as victims." It has organized many projects to achieve its goal of eliminating poverty while also encouraging local initiatives and local markets. In addition, its members use tools such as education, financial growth, health support, and income redistribution to eliminate poverty and advocate for equality when it comes to financial resources.

Helping Other People (HOPE)

Helping Other People (HOPE) is a non-sectarian, humanitarian organization based in New York City and established in 2002. It initiates projects globally, seeking to eradicate poverty by targeting its root causes and by focusing on resource distribution in sectors such as health, nutrition, education, and social justice. The organization has worked with 13 countries, collecting more than \$1.7 million. They provide poor, rural areas with educational training, supplies, healthcare, and work programs while constructing facilities and funding scholars to promote education and entrepreneurship. For them, advocating for equitable resource redistribution is crucial if the world wants to tackle poverty and that is why the specific organization is a good example of that.

BLOCS EXPECTED

Bloc 1

This bloc should consist of countries that are characterized, for the most part, by equitable resource distribution and are less affected by poverty. Such examples include western countries, i.e., the USA, Canada, Scandinavian countries, countries in the European Union, and the United Arab Emirates.

Bloc 2

This bloc should include countries that lack equitable distribution of resources and are significantly affected by poverty. Countries such as India and China, Less Economically Developed Countries, Middle Eastern countries, and countries in the African region should be in this bloc.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
1912	Corrado Gini develops the Gini coefficient method.
22 December 1992	Resolution 47/196 is adopted by the UN General Assembly (GA) declaring 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.
17 October 1987	The first unofficial International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.
17 October 1993	The first official International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.
2002	The organization Helping Other People (HOPE) is established.
1 January 2016	The Sustainable Development Goals come into force.
20 December 2017	Resolution 72/233 is adopted by the UN GA proclaiming the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.
2008	The Global Citizen organization is founded.
2011	The Global Citizen platform is founded.
2018-2027	Duration of the Third UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.
December 2019	The report "Realizing the Potential of Agriculture for Inclusive Growth and

	Poverty Reduction” for Tanzania is published.
8 December 2019	The Tanzania Mainland Poverty Assessment Report and Tanzania Economic Update: Transforming Agriculture is published.
25-26 September 2021	The Global Citizen Festival takes place, called the Global Citizen Live.

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES, AND EVENTS

Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8 and 10

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 goals established by the United Nations and adopted by all its members in 2015, during the UN Sustainable Development Summit. As part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, they are an urgent call for all countries to join forces in a global partnership to end poverty, protect the environment, and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere. More specifically, when it comes to the topic of “Reevaluating equity in resource distribution for the purpose of eliminating poverty”, the focal Goals are Goals 1 (“End poverty in all its forms everywhere”), 8 (“Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”) and 10 (“Reduce inequality within and among countries”).

Goal 1 is more tightly correlated to the topic as it refers to the eradication of poverty through all means, including equity in resource distribution. According to 2021 reports, conducted by the UN and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the coronavirus outbreak impedes all actions to terminate poverty by 2030, especially when it comes to distribution since the factor of vaccines emerges as well. Nevertheless, governments worldwide are acting and implementing measures and policies to combat poverty, despite its wide exacerbation due to the pandemic.

Goal 8 refers to Decent Work and Economic Growth, the topic of the committee, and the conference as a whole. Similarly, this Goal is strongly connected to the topic and Goal 1, seeing as both decent work and economic growth are essential factors in the struggles to eradicate poverty. Decent work is also related to the equitable distribution of resources since improved work equals more production and better supply to everyone.

Goal 10 is equally connected to the topic at hand as it aims at reducing all kinds of inequalities, focusing on income equality and opportunities. One of the Goal’s targets is equitable resource distribution and in conjunction with Goal 1, it could be proven extremely helpful for eradicating poverty. Unfortunately, according to data provided

by the UN, the pandemic has aggravated the situation and the battle for reducing income inequality.

UN GA Resolution 72/233⁶ and the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

The Third UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty was proclaimed by Resolution 72/233 of the UN General Assembly (GA) on December 20, 2017, when the second respective Decade came to an end. The Decade is planned to last from 2018 to 2027, finishing around the time the 2030 Agenda is programmed to conclude since its purpose is to achieve the effective realization of Goal 1 of the SDGs (“End poverty in all its forms everywhere”). The theme of the Decade is *“Accelerating global actions for a world without poverty”* and actions are being taken globally to achieve the aforementioned goal. Specifically, the UN has conducted research to determine the statistics of poverty on an international level and the number that needs to be reached each year to achieve the goals (“it will be necessary to reduce by about 110 million every year the number of people living on less than \$1.90 a day”). Additionally, the Secretary-General has submitted a report on the implementation of the Third Decade, underlining priority areas and encouraging member states to implement policies on a regional, national, and international level in order to eventually eradicate poverty. He also makes specific references to the problem of uneven resource distribution which hinders attempts to eliminate poverty in several parts of the world.

UN GA Resolution 47/196⁷ and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty started being celebrated unofficially on October 17, 1987, when people gathered in Paris, the location of the signing of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948) to honor victims of poverty and other social challenges while proclaiming poverty as a human rights violation. Resolution 47/196, adopted in 1992, officially declared the 17th of October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, urging all member states to come together and take urgent action against poverty and destitution. During the specific international day, the UN tries to include people suffering from poverty into the deliberations and policymaking to eliminate poverty since they have experienced it entirely, while the focus is on their acknowledgment and recognition.

⁶ United Nations. "A/73/298 - E - A/73/298 -Desktop." ESubscription to United Nations Documents, undocs.org/A/73/298.

⁷ United Nations General Assembly. "Resolution 47/196." United Nations, shorturl.at/jwLW0.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Tanzania's attempt to minimize poverty

Tanzania is a country in East Africa and is considered to be a leader in poverty reduction. In the years between 2000-2011, Tanzania conducted several projects which culminated in a poverty reduction of 3.2%. From 2007 to 2018, poverty in Tanzania continued to decrease, as poverty rates dropped significantly from 34.4% to 26.4% and extreme poverty rates declined from 11.7% to 8%. This decrease is, on a large part, due to projects aimed at equitable resource distribution, mostly in the sectors of health, sanitation, and education. Tanzania also shows signs of a structural transformation since there have been attempts for urbanization and industrialization. They have focused on distribution in cities and not rural areas, but rural ones have also seen a remarkable decrease in poverty rates. Unfortunately, a large part of the population is still vulnerable to poverty and might fall back but Tanzania is persisting and continues its actions to alleviate poverty through equitable resource distribution. In addition, Tanzania in collaboration with the World Bank Group has published reports on poverty reduction, how they managed to achieve it, and what else could help in their fight against poverty ("The Tanzania Mainland Poverty Assessment Report and Tanzania Economic Update: Transforming Agriculture" and the "Realizing the Potential of Agriculture for Inclusive Growth and Poverty Reduction (English)" report).

Botswana's actions

Botswana is a landlocked country in Southern Africa and one of the world's fastest-growing economies, which has been continuously commended by the African Development Bank. Although it is a country with high social and economic inequalities, Botswana has tried several times to achieve income and financial equity among its citizens. With an economy primarily based on diamond mining, it had started as a poor country with many disadvantages, due to its geopolitical location. With the right economic policies and decisions, Botswana managed to safeguard current and future investors' property rights, maintain political stability, and guarantee that political elites are regulated by the political system, making steps towards equity in wealth distribution. All the above have resulted in the rapid buildup, investment, and extraction of resource rents in a socially optimal manner, in Botswana.

Global Citizens movement

Global Citizens is a movement that engaged citizens worldwide in the fight against international socioeconomic and environmental problems. One of their areas of action is economy and politics, including poverty reduction and equity. The movement's vision is to end extreme poverty by 2030 through its network of millions.

It has conducted 29.9 million actions in total and distributed \$35.4 billion in funds. Additionally, they organize annual concerts, the Global Citizens Festival, collecting money from people to dispose to charities and to actions with the purpose of eliminating poverty.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The scourge of poverty is a critical issue that needs to be addressed urgently. One of the most appropriate responses would be, as explicitly mentioned, to address it at its roots, specifically inequitable resource distribution. There are a few things that can be done to tackle this issue globally. It is crucial to note that all the following measures should happen after thorough research and analysis since the wrong redistribution of resources can result in significant damages due to misallocated resources and overall income losses.

Research

An especially important aspect of the issue is meticulous examination and evaluation which should take place prior to any action. The above should entail research on current resource distribution around the world, population needs, and ways to equitably provide people with the necessary resources as well as the economic equality status of each country and what each has done to fight poverty, in order to compose the most appropriate approach. This is encouraged to happen with the use of tools such as the Poverty and Social Impact Analysis (PSIA) and the Benefit Incidence Analysis (BIA). Further analysis should also take place, to determine the potential result of each way of distribution, method, and approach.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

It is vital to ensure that NGOs, and especially the ones aiming to eradicate poverty are equitably located around the world and have an equitably distributed activity. To do that NGOs must conduct additional research to discover ways to allocate resources efficiently and equitably.

Funding

Amid the pandemic and the fight for equitable resource distribution, many economies are not able to afford substantial measures and reforms to bring about change. This is why it is crucial to ensure that LEDCs are funded, either by fellow member-states with stronger and more stable economies or by the UN and the World Bank Group. This would guarantee that LEDCs will be able to construct better transportation networks and infrastructure and to obtain and harness resources to supply their populations and cover their needs equitably.

National-level solutions

When it comes to national approaches, it is important to implement laws and regulations to ensure income equality among different genders, religions, and ethnicities, to guarantee quality education for all, to regulate tax havens, and to apply progressive income taxation.

Moreover, it is important to urge governments to implement an “economic growth with equity” strategy which involves all aspects mentioned in the previous paragraph as well as the creation of jobs and the cost-free provision of public services such as universal health care. In addition to that, it is crucial to encourage member states to act to achieve the targets of the SDGs, especially Goals 1,8, and 10 which are related to poverty and distribution of resources.

Another key measure is fiscal decentralization. The latter would aim to transfer government resource distribution duties to smaller regions in order to have a better and more equitable distribution of resources and control transportation more efficiently. This would happen after meticulous research to ensure correct distribution among sub-national governments.

Lastly, governments should consider a reform of resource distribution strategies and policies, aiming to promote the harnessing of renewable resources which are cost-effective, ecological, everlasting, and will not cause the same amounts of conflicts as fossil fuels.

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