



CHSVMUN '25

Background Guide



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
(ECOSOC)



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



Dear Delegates,

We are equally excited and honoured to welcome you to the simulation of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and more significantly, to the 12th edition of CHSVMUN. Over the course of this conference, we will collectively engage with matters of debate, economics, narcotics, diplomacy, and geopolitical issues. The only principles we expect all participants to adhere to are mutual respect and a willingness to enjoy the experience.

The committee agenda has been set as follows: “Combating the use of cryptocurrency in money laundering, illicit arms trade, and other transnational crimes.” We believe this topic presents considerable scope for substantive debate and will allow delegates to understand both the operational mandate of ECOSOC and its programmatic functions. We encourage delegates to prioritize engagement through structured debate, pointed rebuttals, and analytical questioning, as opposed to monologic speeches based on already established information.

As ECOSOC is an official organ of the United Nations, the committee shall function using the UNA-USA procedural format, subject to modifications at the discretion of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board is guided by the belief that delegates must strive to be “better humans before best delegates,” and that one “never loses in a MUN, but either wins or learns.” We welcome you warmly and hope you arrive in good spirits and depart enriched.

Regards,

Abyaz - Chairperson

Mahi - Vice-Chairperson

Aprameyan - Director



OVERVIEW OF ECOSOC



The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, established in 1945 under the UN Charter. It is responsible for promoting international economic, social, and environmental progress. ECOSOC operates through a network of 14 specialized UN agencies, 10 functional commissions, and 5 regional commissions. It plays a central role in formulating policy, fostering multilateral partnerships, and serving as a platform for dialogue among governments, civil society, academia, and international financial institutions.

Recent reforms, including General Assembly Resolutions 68/1 (2013) and 72/305 (2018), have expanded ECOSOC's mandate, enhancing its policy coherence and oversight role—particularly in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ECOSOC now coordinates with a wide range of bodies, including non-UN institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Through key forums such as the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), the Forum on Financing for Development (FfD), and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), ECOSOC serves as a global hub for reviewing progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and issuing policy recommendations. Its Integration Segment assesses the interlinkages among the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of the SDGs, offering integrated policy guidance.



OVERVIEW OF THE AGENDA



The agenda selected—“Combating the use of cryptocurrency in money laundering, illicit arms trade and other transnational crimes”—was chosen for its contemporary relevance and complexity. Below are simplified definitions of the agenda’s key terms:

Cryptocurrency: Cryptocurrencies are digital assets that function as mediums of exchange through decentralized online systems. Unlike national currencies, they lack intrinsic value or legal tender status, and their market value is determined solely by supply and demand. Common cryptocurrencies include Bitcoin and Ether.

Mechanism of Operation: Cryptocurrency transactions occur via messages that include the parties’ digital addresses, transaction amount, and a timestamp. Transactions are grouped into blocks and added to a blockchain following validation by “miners,” who solve cryptographic puzzles. Confirmation takes place after the addition of several blocks, making the process secure yet not instantaneous.

Fiscal Policy: Fiscal policy involves the use of government expenditure and taxation to influence national economic conditions. It is a key tool for fostering sustainable growth and mitigating economic inequalities. Fiscal responses have played significant roles during recent economic crises, highlighting the government’s role in safeguarding financial systems and supporting vulnerable populations.

Monetary Policy: Monetary policy concerns the regulation of the money supply to stabilize inflation and economic output. Conducted by central banks (e.g., the U.S. Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank), it affects interest rates, currency supply, and investment flows. Short-term effects include altered consumption and production patterns, whereas long-term outcomes primarily influence price levels.



OVERVIEW OF THE AGENDA



Illicit Financial Flows: These refer to cross-border movements of capital that are illegal in source, transfer, or use. Examples include corruption, tax evasion, and financing terrorism. The IMF and related institutions actively address such flows through financial transparency frameworks and regulatory standards.

Transnational Crimes: Transnational organized crimes are illicit activities conducted across international borders. They include drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms smuggling, and money laundering. These operations undermine governance, propagate violence, and destabilize societies. The global nature of such crimes necessitates robust multilateral cooperation.



KEY RESOURCES



United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

UN Report: “Regulating the no man’s coin”

UN News: Call for regulating cryptocurrencies in developing economies

UNCTAD: Public payment systems in the digital era

UNCTAD Policy Brief No. 100: “All that glitters is not gold”



EXPECTATIONS



This committee does not impose rigid expectations for debate structure or content. Delegates are encouraged to adopt logical reasoning and analytical frameworks, akin to the questions they confront in academic settings. Whether through advocating for national interests or promoting global cooperation, the aim is to propose feasible, innovative, and evidence-backed solutions.

Delegates are advised to:

1. Reflect on whether their conduct contributes positively to the conference environment.
2. Assess whether their contributions—whether through speeches, questions, or analysis—add substantive value beyond the rote of information sharing.



COMMAN PITFALLS



Merely stating opposition to cryptocurrencies without proposing actionable measures.

Listing national laws without examining their implementation, enforcement challenges, and global relevance.

The Executive Board acknowledges its own fallibility and welcomes corrections substantiated by credible sources. We look forward to an engaging, respectful, and intellectually enriching simulation.

We wish you the best in your preparations and eagerly anticipate your contributions to the committee.