

## **Committee: Security Council**

### **Topic: The Question of Reducing global Inequality**

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## **Summary:**

The world has remained economically stagnant for the past 3 centuries with the old powers of the world controlling the majority of the world wealth, in turn causing high degrees of Global Inequality.

Global inequality refers to the unequal distribution of resources, opportunities, wealth, and power among countries and within societies on a global scale. It encompasses economic, social, and political disparities that exist between nations and among different groups within those nations. There are many different types of inequality here are the main three:

### **Economic Inequality:**

**Income Disparities:** Many countries experience significant income disparities, with a small percentage of the population controlling a large portion of wealth, while the majority struggles to meet basic needs.

**Wealth Gap:** Wealth inequality is often more pronounced than income inequality, with assets, property, and financial resources concentrated among a minority.

**Global South and North Divide:** The division between wealthier developed countries (Global North) and less developed countries (Global South) is a major driver of economic inequality, leading to disparities in living standards, access to education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

### **Social Inequality:**

**Access to Basic Needs:** Many individuals lack access to adequate food, clean water, sanitation, education, and healthcare due to economic and social inequalities.

**Gender Inequality:** Women and girls often face systemic discrimination, limiting their opportunities for education, employment, and decision-making roles. Gender-based violence is also a significant concern.

**Racial and Ethnic Inequality:** Minority groups and indigenous populations frequently experience discrimination, unequal treatment, and limited access to resources and opportunities.

## **Political Inequality:**

**Power Dynamics:** Global governance structures can perpetuate inequality by favouring powerful nations and limiting the influence of less powerful ones. Multinational corporations and international financial institutions also play a role in shaping policies that can exacerbate inequality.

**Lack of Representation:** Marginalized groups often lack adequate representation and voice in political processes and decision-making, contributing to their continued disadvantage.

## **Definition of Key Terms**

**LEDC:** Less economically developed country

**MEDC:** More economically developed country

## **Background Information**

### Colonialism and Imperialism (15th-20th centuries):

European colonial powers established empires across the world, exploiting resources and labour in colonized regions.

Colonies were often treated as sources of wealth for the colonial powers, leading to economic disparities and the extraction of resources from less developed regions.

### Industrial Revolution (18th-19th centuries):

Industrialization in Western countries led to increased production and economic growth.

Advanced technology and mechanisation enabled some countries to accumulate wealth and power, while others lagged behind.

### Slavery and Forced Labour:

The transatlantic slave trade and forced labour systems exploited people from Africa, Asia, and other regions, contributing to economic disparities and shaping racial and ethnic inequalities. The concept of slavery has not disappeared in the modern age rather the industry has grown exponentially and is alongside Drug and Human trafficking as the largest illegal markets in the world.

### Global Trade and Capitalism:

The expansion of global trade networks and the rise of capitalism contributed to the concentration of wealth in certain regions.

Developed countries benefited from favourable trade terms and access to resources, while many less developed countries were exploited as suppliers of raw materials.

### World Wars and Decolonization (20th century):

World Wars and the impact of colonialism led to political changes, including decolonisation.

However, newly independent nations often faced economic challenges and continued dependency on former colonial powers.

### Post-World War II Development:

Efforts to rebuild Europe after World War II led to economic growth in some countries, contributing to further inequality.

The Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union also influenced global economic dynamics.

### Globalisation and Technology (Late 20th-21st centuries):

Advances in technology and communication facilitated globalisation, enabling the flow of goods, services, and information.

While some countries benefited from globalisation, others struggled to compete in the global economy.

### Debt and Structural Adjustment:

Many developing countries faced debt crises and were subject to structural adjustment programs imposed by international financial institutions, contributing to economic inequality.

### Sustainable Development and Global Goals:

The international community has increasingly focused on addressing global inequality through initiatives such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aiming to promote inclusive development.

The history of global inequality is shaped by a complex interplay of historical events, economic systems, political decisions, and cultural factors. Efforts to address inequality involve a combination of domestic policies, international cooperation, and a commitment to promote fair economic systems, human rights, and sustainable development for all.

## Major Countries and Organizations Involved

All Former Colonial powers: Russia, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Spain, France, United Kingdom

All Former Colonial Entities: Majority of nations within Africa and Asia

All countries that experienced interventions during the Cold War: Majority of South America and Asia as well as eastern Europe

### United Nations (UN):

UN Development Programme (UNDP): Focuses on promoting sustainable development, reducing poverty, and addressing inequality.

UNICEF: Works to protect children's rights, provide healthcare, education, and nutrition, and promote gender equality.

UN Women: Dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment.

World Food Programme (WFP): Addresses hunger, malnutrition, and food security.

World Bank Group: focuses on poverty reduction, promoting sustainable economic growth, and improving living standards in developing countries.

International Monetary Fund (IMF): offers financial assistance, economic policy advice, and technical assistance to member countries to promote global economic stability and development.

World Health Organization (WHO): works to improve global health, provide healthcare access, and address health disparities.

Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI): focuses on expanding access to vaccines in low-income countries to prevent diseases.

OXFAM: an international confederation of NGOs working on issues related to poverty, inequality, and social justice.

Save the Children: works to improve the lives of children worldwide by providing education, healthcare, and protection.

CARE International: a humanitarian organisation addressing poverty and social injustice, with a focus on women and girls.

Amnesty International: advocates for human rights, including economic and social rights, and campaigns against injustice and inequality.

Human Rights Watch: monitors and reports on human rights abuses worldwide, including those related to inequality and discrimination.

Global Citizen: an advocacy organisation that campaigns for global issues, including poverty, education, and healthcare access.

ONE Campaign: focuses on ending extreme poverty and preventable diseases, particularly in Africa.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD): promotes trade and development, with a focus on addressing trade imbalances and structural inequalities.

International Labour Organisation (ILO): works to promote decent work, labour rights, and social protection for all workers.

Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN): supports the implementation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through research, policy advocacy and partnerships.

## Timeline of Events

### Pre-Modern Era:

**Ancient Times:** Socioeconomic inequalities existed within early civilisations, with rulers and elites enjoying privileges while common people often faced hardships.

### Colonial Era (15th-19th centuries):

**15th-16th centuries:** European colonial powers establish empires, exploiting resources and labour in colonised regions. Economic disparities between colonisers and colonies intensify.

**18th-19th centuries:** Industrialisation in Europe widens the gap between industrialised nations and less developed colonies. Slavery and forced labour contribute to global inequalities.

### Industrial Revolution and Imperialism (19th-20th centuries):

**Late 19th century:** Industrialisation leads to the concentration of wealth in industrialised countries, perpetuating inequality.

**Late 19th-early 20th centuries:** European powers scramble for Africa, further consolidating global economic disparities.

### Post-World War II and Decolonization (20th century):

**1940s-1950s:** World War II devastates many countries, but reconstruction efforts lead to economic growth in Western countries.

**1950s-1960s:** Decolonisation efforts grant independence to many colonies, but newly independent nations often struggle with economic disparities and political instability.

### Globalization and Technological Advances (Late 20th-21st centuries)

**Late 20th century:** Globalisation accelerates with increased trade and technology transfer. Developed countries benefit while some developing countries struggle to compete.

**Late 20th-21st centuries:** Technological advances contribute to income inequality as those with access to education and resources benefit more.

### Emergence of International Development Goals:

**1980s-1990s:** Global organisations and initiatives like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) begin to address issues of inequality, poverty, and development.

### Rising Awareness and Advocacy:

**21st century:** Inequalities in wealth, access to education, healthcare, and opportunities gain increasing attention. Social movements, NGOs, and international organisations work to address these issues.

### COVID-19 Pandemic:

**2020s:** The pandemic exposes and exacerbates existing inequalities, highlighting disparities in healthcare, education, and economic impacts.

## **Relevant UN Treaties and Events**

**Universal declaration of human rights (UDHR):** adopted in 1948, the UDHR sets out fundamental human rights and freedoms that should be protected for all people, regardless of their race, colour, religion, or other characteristics. It serves as the foundation for many other human rights treaties.

**International covenant on economic, social and cultural rights (ICESCR):** adopted in 1966, this covenant recognizes the right to an adequate standard of living, including food, clothing, housing, and healthcare. It emphasizes the importance of addressing economic and social inequalities.

**International covenant on civil and political rights (ICCPR):** also adopted in 1966, the ICCPR focuses on civil and political rights, including the right to equality before the law and freedom from discrimination. It complements the ICCPR in addressing various aspects of inequality.

**Convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (CERD):** adopted in 1965, CERD seeks to eliminate racial discrimination and promote racial equality. It obliges signatory countries to take measures to combat racial discrimination in all its forms.

**Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW):** adopted in 1979, CEDAW aims to eliminate discrimination against women and promote gender equality. It addresses issues related to education, employment, and political participation, among others.

**Convention on the rights of the child (CRC):** adopted in 1989, the CRC outlines the rights of children, including the right to education, healthcare, and protection from exploitation. It recognizes the importance of addressing disparities affecting children.

## Previous Attempts to solve the issue.

### 1. Marshall Plan (1948-1952):

After World War II, the United States provided financial aid to help rebuild war-ravaged Europe. The Marshall Plan aimed to stimulate economic recovery, stabilize societies, and prevent the spread of communism.

### 2. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

The UNDP was established in 1965 to focus on development issues and reduce global inequality. The MDGs, set in 2000, aimed to address poverty, education, healthcare, gender equality, and environmental sustainability by 2015.

### 3. Debt Relief Initiatives:

Programs like the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) aimed to alleviate the debt burden of poor countries, freeing up resources for development.

### 4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

Adopted in 2015, the SDGs provide a comprehensive framework to address global challenges, including inequality, poverty, education, gender equality, and climate change by 2030.

### 5. Fair Trade Movement:

The fair trade movement emerged in the late 20th century to promote more equitable trading relationships, ensuring that producers in developing countries receive fair prices and better working conditions.

### **6. Global Health Initiatives:**

Initiatives like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and GAVI (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization) focus on improving access to healthcare services and reducing health inequalities.

### **7. Debt Forgiveness:**

Some countries and international organizations forgave or restructured the debts of heavily indebted poor countries to help them allocate resources to development instead of debt payments.

### **8. Education for All (EFA) Movement:**

The EFA movement aimed to provide access to quality education for all, recognising that education is a crucial tool for reducing inequality and poverty.

### **9. Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015):**

The Paris Agreement seeks to address climate change and environmental issues, recognising the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations in developing countries.

### **10. Aid and Development Assistance:**

- Developed countries and international organisations provide financial aid and development assistance to less developed countries to promote economic growth, education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

These past attempts, among others, demonstrate the commitment of the international community to address global inequality and promote sustainable development. While progress has been made, challenges persist, and ongoing efforts are needed to create a more equitable and just world.

## **Possible Solutions**

### *Equitable Economic Growth:*

Promote inclusive economic growth that benefits all segments of society, not just the wealthy.

Implement progressive taxation to redistribute wealth and support social welfare programs.

### *Quality Education:*



Ensure access to quality education for all, which can empower individuals to escape poverty and contribute to society.

Invest in teacher training, infrastructure, and educational resources in disadvantaged areas.

*Universal Healthcare:*

Establish accessible and affordable healthcare systems to ensure that everyone can receive medical treatment and prevent health-related inequalities.

*Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:*

Enforce laws promoting gender equality in education, employment, and political participation.

Invest in initiatives that empower women economically and socially.

*Labour Rights and Fair Wages:*

Strengthen labour rights to ensure fair wages, safe working conditions, and social protections for all workers.

Support initiatives that promote fair trade and ethically produced goods.

*Access to Clean Water and Sanitation:*

Improve access to clean water and sanitation facilities, which can have a positive impact on health, education, and economic opportunities.

*Agricultural Development:*

Support smallholder farmers in developing countries by providing access to resources, technology, and markets.

Promote sustainable agricultural practices to improve food security and livelihoods.

*Infrastructure Development:*

Invest in infrastructure development, including transportation, energy, and telecommunications, to promote economic growth and improve living conditions.

*Technology and Innovation:*

Bridge the digital divide by providing access to technology and promoting digital literacy in underserved areas.

Leverage technology to deliver essential services, such as healthcare and education, to remote regions.

*Global Partnerships and Aid:*

Developed countries can provide financial aid and technical assistance to less developed countries, supporting development projects and capacity-building.

*Transparent Governance and Accountability:*

Promote transparent and accountable governance to ensure that resources are allocated fairly and corruption is minimised.

*Climate Justice:*

Address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations by promoting environmentally sustainable practices and supporting climate adaptation efforts.

*Social Safety Nets:*

Implement social safety net programs to provide financial assistance, healthcare, and education to vulnerable populations.

*Access to Financial Services:*

Expand access to financial services, such as microfinance and banking, to empower individuals and promote economic growth.

*Promotion of Peace and Stability:*

Address conflict and promote peaceful resolution to prevent displacement and economic disruption.

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<https://www.globalpolicy.org/en> : Offers analysis and resources on global economic and social issues, including inequality.

<https://unctad.org/> Focuses on trade, development, and inequality issues, providing research and reports.

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<http://global-inequality.com/> : Provides resources and research on global income and wealth inequality trends.

<https://www.gapminder.org/> : Presents global data and visualizations to highlight trends in development, including inequality.

<https://hdr.undp.org/> : Offers the annual UNDP report focusing on human development indicators, including inequality measures.

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