

# Study Guide

for the

**United Nations Economic and Social Council**

on the topic of

**Combatting the Socio-economic Fallout following the  
COVID-19 Pandemic in Developing Countries**



Chairs:

Juan Francisco Poveda Alvarez

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## Welcoming Letter from the Chairs

Distinguished Delegates,

We, Juan and Rezwan warmly welcome you to the Economic and Social Council at KAMUN 2021. With the motto of “The Black Forest Summit”, this year we will discuss one of the most important topics of this pandemic era. We hope that you all will go through the study guide and do more extensive research to come up with a fruitful resolution at the end of the conference. Well, before going further about the topic, we would like to introduce ourselves.

### **Juan Francisco Poveda Alvarez**

I am 23, coming from Ecuador. After finishing a degree in International Relations in the Karlsruhochschule International University, in Karlsruhe, Germany, I have now moved on to Public Economics, Law and Economics at the LEUPHANA University of Lüneburg. My MUN history started in 2013, when I first attended a conference, as a delegate in my High-School MUN in Ambato, Ecuador.

By the end of 2017, I attended KAMUN 2017 as my first MUN experience abroad. I got caught by the incredible atmosphere and people who attended this conference. I gathered interesting insights that just inspired me to keep participating. I ended up attending 4 MUN's across different wonderful places in Europe, such as Karlsruhe, Budapest and Vienna. Now, I've decided to take a step forward in this journey, and use my fifth opportunity of attending a MUN conference as the first chairing one. I guess there is always a first time for everything, and after being a part of such wonderful experiences, due to the COVID pandemic I feel more ready than ever to meet you all and have the best committee of all! I wish good luck to you all, and a good time in Karlsruhe!

### **Rezwan Ahmed**

I am an international student in Germany. Currently, I am pursuing my M.Sc. in Environmental and Resource Management at Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU) Cottbus-Senftenberg. I started my MUN journey a few years ago from the small and naturally beautiful town Sylhet, Bangladesh. To date, I joined many MUN conferences as a chair and the Secretariat. In 2020, I established my very own MUN society at BTU, BTUMUN, to encourage students to join the MUN world and contribute to solving various global crises.

We are looking forward to meeting you (in person). Please do not hesitate to contact us for any query regarding the topic.

Best wishes,

Juan and Rezwan

*Chairs, ECOSOC, KAMUN 2021*



## The Committee: Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was established in 1945, as one of the six main organs of the United Nations. It is the central platform for fostering debate and finding consensus amongst nations to achieve internationally agreed goals.<sup>1</sup> The first meeting of the Council was convened in London from 23 January to 18 February 1946 under its first president Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar (India). The council's membership has grown from 18 in 1945 to 27 in 1965 to 54 since 1974.

The ECOSOC has achieved significant progress in areas of Global Public Health, Sustainable Development, Women's rights, Emergency Response, and Peace and Development, for example the creation of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS in 1994 and the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Non-Communicable Diseases (UNIATF). The creation of The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Furthermore, ECOSOC hosted special emergency meetings and coordinated UN response in disaster events such as: The global food crisis in 2008/9, The Ebola outbreak in 2014, the Zika Virus outbreak in 2016, and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.<sup>2</sup>

The ECOSOC commissions and bodies are located in different cities around the world. However, its main headquarters are located in New York, USA and in Geneva, Switzerland.

ECOSOC Mandate and Powers:

According to the UN Charter, the ECOSOC may<sup>3</sup>:

Make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and make recommendations to the General Assembly.

It may make recommendations, prepare draft conventions, and international conferences on the above-mentioned matters.

The Economic and Social Council may enter into agreements with any of the agencies (see Article 57, of the UN Charter). And make consultations and recommendations to such agencies.

Obtain regular reports from the specialized agencies and communicate its observations in these reports.

Assist the Security Council upon its request, and carry out the recommendations of the General Assembly.

It may, with the approval of the General Assembly, perform services at the request of Members of the United Nations and at the request of specialized agencies.

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<sup>1</sup> [About Us | 75th Economic and Social Council](#)

<sup>2</sup> [ecosoc\\_brochure\\_2020\\_digital\\_2th.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Chapter X: The Economic and Social Council \(Articles 61-72\) | United Nations](#) (Chapter 10, Functions and powers. Articles 62-66)

## 1. Introduction to the topic

The world economic growth plunged into a severe contraction due to the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. Along with the developed countries, the developing and the low-income countries are still suffering from the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. It also affected the long-term sustainable global economic development. According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), 119 to 124 million people went under the poverty line and another 255 million people lost their full-time job because of the pandemic<sup>4</sup>. This also affected the long-term global challenges and the situation is more severe in developing countries. According to the World Bank, the coronavirus pandemic and shutdown lead to the worst recession since World War II<sup>5</sup>.

Apart from the economy, the pandemic also attacked the society at its core and all segments' people are experiencing this vulnerable situation. People living under the poverty line are considered to be the worst sufferers<sup>6</sup>. For instance, homeless people are not only suffering financially, but they are also highly exposed to this deadly virus due to lack of good personal hygiene.

After declaration of Covid-19 as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), ECOSOC and its auxiliary bodies made it their central issue and started to identify the impacts and proposed various policy solutions to respond<sup>7</sup>. Among the different issues, the SDGs are getting the most priority for recovery and building resilience. However, international solidarity and cooperation is required to put the world economy back on track for achieving the 2030 agenda and avoid the longer-term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic<sup>8</sup>.

## 2. Historical Background

The Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 belongs to a larger group of viruses, and it can spread through humans and animals, including bats, camels, and cattle<sup>9</sup>. Experts believe that SARS-Cov-2 originated in bats and

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations Africa Renewal. DESA, 'Sustainable development report shows devastating impact of COVID, ahead of 'critical' new phase', available at: <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/sustainable-development-report-shows-devastating-impact-covid-ahead-%E2%80%98critical%E2%80%99-new-phase>

<sup>5</sup> The World Bank. Press release, 'COVID-19 to Plunge Global Economy into Worst Recession since World War II', available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/06/08/covid-19-to-plunge-global-economy-into-worst-recession-since-world-war-ii>

<sup>6</sup> UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Social Inclusion, "Everyone Included: Social Impact of COVID-19", available at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/everyone-included-covid-19.html>

<sup>7</sup> ECOSOC's response to COVID-19, available at: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2020doc/ECOSOC-and-COVID-19-compilation-of-actions.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> WebMd. 'Coronavirus History', available at: <https://www.webmd.com/lung/coronavirus-history>

later transmitted to humans at one of Wuhan, China's open-air 'wet markets'<sup>10</sup>. Although some believe that pangolins (also called scaly anteaters) infected the people with SARS-CoV2- since they are illegally sold animals in some markets in China<sup>11</sup>. The spreading of the novel Coronavirus was reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) on 31 December 2019<sup>12</sup>. A month later, on 30 January 2020, the WHO declared the Covid-19 outbreak a global health emergency<sup>13</sup>.

On 11 March 2020, three months after the identification, the WHO declared Covid-19 as a global pandemic, which led to lockdowns and various restrictions in different countries in order to stop spreading this deadly virus<sup>14</sup>. The pandemic is far more than a health crisis since it is severely affecting societies and economies<sup>15</sup>. It is increasing poverty and inequalities on a global scale, although the impact of the pandemic varies from country to country. According to a projection of the World Bank, in 2020 the Emerging Market and Developing Economics (EMDEs) reduced by 2.5%, and the per capita incomes declined by 3.6%, which shifted millions of people below the poverty line<sup>16</sup>.

The UN Secretary General called the pandemic a 'human crisis', since it also affected the environment, society and politics<sup>17</sup>. The UNDP's Human Development Report shows that the human development dimensions are at deprivation levels since 1980s<sup>18</sup>. For instance, in Guatemala, the infant and maternal mortality increased by one-third. In Syria 70 percent of the refugees are affected by the mental health issues<sup>19</sup>.

According to the latest data from the WHO Coronavirus Dashboard, globally 4,697,099 deaths were reported to the WHO, along with 228,807,631 confirmed cases<sup>20</sup>. The highest case counts are confirmed in America, followed by the European countries and South-East Asia<sup>21</sup>. Overall, this pandemic has caused severe disruptions to societies and the global economy with deep impacts on health, education, economy, and social systems.

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> Ibid

<sup>12</sup> Medscape. David J Cennimo, MD, FAAP, FACP, FIDSA, AAHIVS, How did the coronavirus outbreak start?, 25 June, 2021, available at: <https://www.medscape.com/answers/2500114-197402/how-did-the-coronavirus-outbreak-start>

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> UNDP. COVID-19: Socio-Economic Impact, available at: <https://www.undp.org/coronavirus/socio-economic-impact-covid-19>

<sup>16</sup> The World Bank. Press release, 'COVID-19 to Plunge Global Economy into Worst Recession since World War II', available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/06/08/covid-19-to-plunge-global-economy-into-worst-recession-since-world-war-ii>

<sup>17</sup> UNDP. SCOTT, RACHEL, Understanding what data tell us about COVID-19's socio-economic impact, 02 December, 2020, available at: <https://www.undp.org/blogs/understanding-what-data-tell-us-about-covid-19s-socio-economic-impact>

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

<sup>20</sup> [WHO Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Dashboard](https://covid19.who.int/), available at: <https://covid19.who.int/>

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

### 3. Timeline of the Pandemic

Over the last one and half years, the world has witnessed the outbreak of the Covid-19 and its consequences. The following timeline lists some of the key events which happened during this time<sup>22</sup>.

31 December 2019	Chinese authorities treated dozens of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause.
11 January 2020	China reported its first death.
20 January 2020	Other countries, including the United States, confirmed cases.
23 January 2020	Wuhan, a city of more than 11 million, was cut off by the Chinese authorities.
30 January 2020	The W.H.O. declared a global health emergency.
31 January 2020	The Trump administration restricted travel from China
02 February 2020	The first coronavirus death was reported outside China.
07 February 2020	A Chinese doctor who tried to raise the alarm died of Covid-19.
11 February 2020	The disease the virus causes was named Covid-19.
14 February 2020	France announced the first coronavirus death in Europe.
29 February 2020	The United States reported their first death.
16 March 2020	Latin America began to feel the effects.
26 March 2020	The United States led the world in confirmed cases.
02 April 2020	Cases topped a million, and millions lost their jobs.
10 April 2020	Cases surged in Russia.
26 April 2020	The global death toll surpassed 200,000.
17 May 2020	Japan and Germany, two of the world's largest economies, entered recessions.
10 July 2020	The U.S. set seven records in 11 days.
13 July 2020	More than five million Americans lost health insurance.
17 July 2020	India reached a million coronavirus cases, and lockdowns were Re-imposed.
21 July 2020	European leaders agreed on a \$857 billion stimulus package.

<sup>22</sup> The New York Times. Taylor, Derrick Bryson, 'A Timeline of the Coronavirus Pandemic', 17 March 2020, available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-timeline.html>

22 August 2020	Global virus deaths surpassed 800,000.
06 September 2020	India became the country with the second-highest number of cases with more than 4 million.
28 September 2020	Global deaths reached 1 million.
11 October 2020	The world recorded more than 1 million new cases in three days.
05 November 2020	England entered a national lockdown.
08 November 2020	The U.S. surpassed 10 million infections.
02 December 2020	The U.K. approved Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine.
02 December 2020	London entered a severe lockdown, ordered by Boris Johnson.

## 4. Impacts of Covid-19 on Economic Sustainability

### World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2021

#### Impacts of COVID 19 in Global Trade:

According to the World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2021, elaborated by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, there is a shadow over the projected 5.4% global growth in 2021: While global growth outlook has improved in countries such as China and the United States, high COVID 19 infection rates and inadequate vaccination progress in many countries is threatening a global recovery in the world economy.<sup>23</sup>

The report shows consistent negative economic effects on women, and global trade in countries from South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. These economies still remain fragile and uncertain. For many countries, economic output is not projected to return to pre-pandemic levels earlier than 2022 or 2023.

Global trade is unevenly recovering. Sectors with a strong demand during the pandemic are surging, having a positive impact in the recovery of manufacturing dependent economies. However, trade in services, in particular tourism, will remain depressed. For instance, industrial sectors such as electrical and electronic equipment, personal protective equipment, and other manufactured goods, are having a recovery in global merchandising. The tourism sector is still severely affected, amid slow lifting of restrictions on international travel and fear of new waves of infection in many developing countries.<sup>24</sup>

Swift and bold policy interventions in developed countries have been crucial in averting a deeper economic crisis. Amid limited fiscal space and high public debt, many developing economies have

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<sup>23</sup> [World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2021 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/WESP2021_UPDATE.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> [www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/WESP2021\\_UPDATE.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/WESP2021_UPDATE.pdf) (Pg. 2-5).



been constrained in their ability to roll out sufficient stimulus measures to manage the health crisis and hasten recovery<sup>25</sup>.

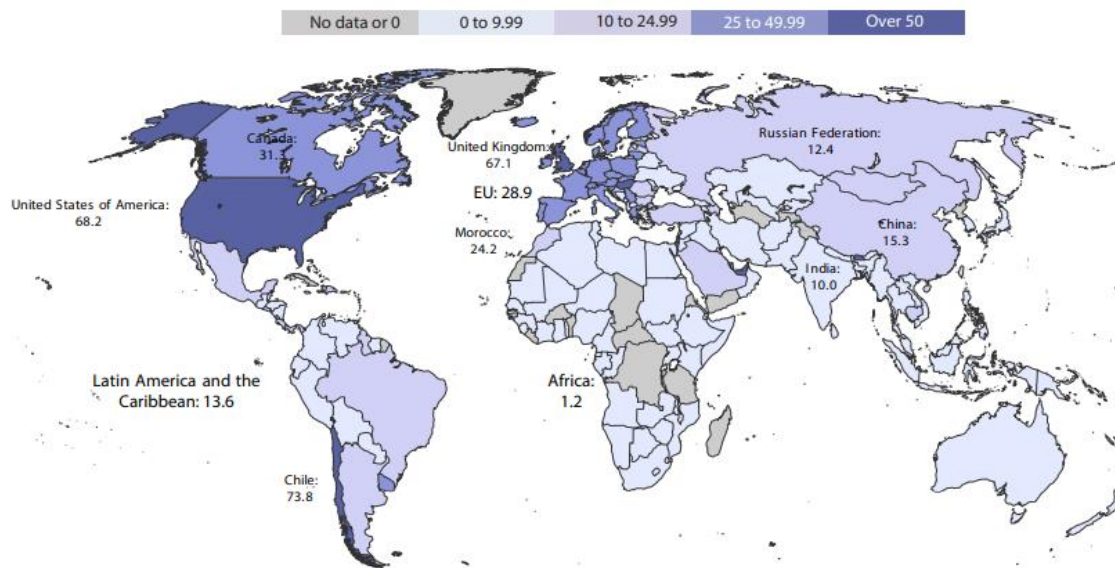


Figure 1: Global Progress on COVID 19 vaccination, as per 100 people until mid-2021.

### Impact of COVID 19 on Women:

Nearly 58 million women and girls were pushed into extreme poverty, as a consequence of the COVID 19 pandemic. According to Hamid Rashid, the Chief of the Global Economic Monitoring Branch at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the pandemic has disproportionately hit women, given the exacerbated gender gaps in income, wealth and education that impeded progress on gender equality.

Women represent most health service workers, caregivers, and essential service providers. However, job and income losses have been higher for women, although they have to meet more family demands than men. Women entrepreneurs were disproportionately affected by business closures, further widening gender gaps in income and wealth.

Furthermore, women's health and reproductive health suffered massive blows, unintended pregnancies increased, motherhood was delayed, and education disrupted, significantly undermining progress towards gender equality. On the one hand, in developed economies, birth rates at the end of 2020 and early 2021 had fallen due to financial and job insecurity<sup>26</sup>. On the other hand, 1.4 million unintended pregnancies occurred in 2020 across 115 developing countries due to disruption in access to, and use of, contraceptives, with possibly life-changing consequences. Women are also frequently underrepresented in clinical trials, which could potentially affect the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccination for women<sup>27</sup>.

<sup>25</sup> [World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2021 \(un.org\)](#) (pg.11)

<sup>26</sup> See: [World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2021 \(un.org\)](#) (pg.13)

<sup>27</sup> Ibid. pg 12

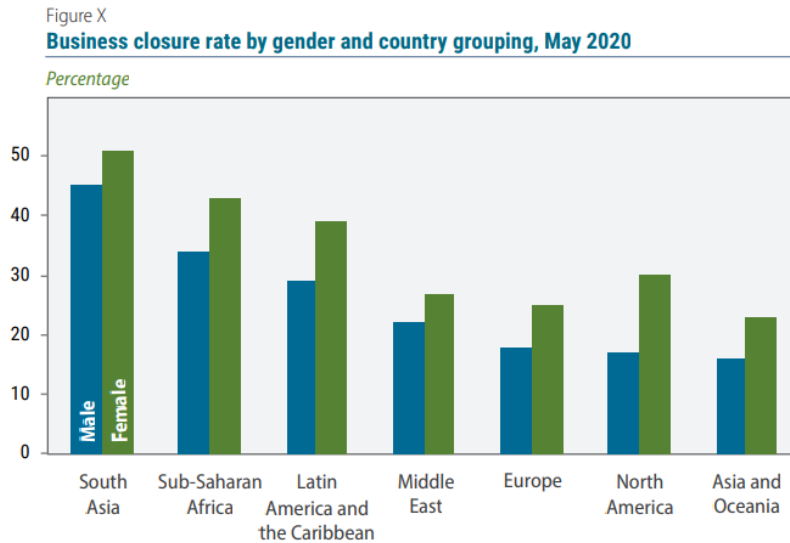


Figure 2: Business closure rate by gender and country grouping, May 2020: Source: World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2021.

Moreover, the United Nations has warned of a simultaneous “shadow pandemic” of gender-based violence and harassment. Even pre-COVID-19, 1 in 3 women experienced physical or sexual violence, mostly perpetrated by an intimate partner. The pandemic has further exacerbated these existing inequalities, with domestic violence increasing by upwards of 33 per cent in some countries<sup>28</sup>, imposing high human costs and high economic costs from lost productivity<sup>29</sup>.

Progress towards SDG targets related to gender equality and non-discrimination will likely face significant setbacks in the absence of targeted and gender-sensitive policy interventions. Stimulus spending worldwide has not adequately prioritized women. Countries have an opportunity to build back better from the crisis, accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals<sup>30</sup>.

During this conference, the search for a solution will focus on expanding employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women, which is fundamental for achieving gender equality. At the same time ensuring social safety nets and robust social assistance and social insurance for women. Discuss about Policies to safeguard girls’ education, prevent violence against women, foster inclusive legal and social norms including asset ownership, and accelerate digital inclusion for women. Furthermore, ensure decision-making processes for more voice, agency, participation, and leadership for women. There should be concerted efforts for collecting, analysing, and disseminating gender-disaggregated data so that evidence-based and gender sensitive policies guide the efforts to build back better<sup>31</sup>.

<sup>28</sup> [Trailblazing leaders commit to end gender-based violence, drive equality in technology and innovation, and ensure economic justice and rights for women and girls at the Generation Equality Forum | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

<sup>29</sup> [World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2021 \(un.org\)](#) (pg.12)

<sup>30</sup> [EVAW From the Beijing Platform to the SDGs | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

<sup>31</sup> [World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2021 \(un.org\)](#) (pg 17)

## 5. Bloc positions

In terms of recent developments, outlook and risks, the global economic prospects, as of June 2021 are the following:

### East Asia and Pacific:

Regional growth has bounced back from 2020, but the speed of recovery has differed among countries. Among the three largest economies, China, Indonesia, and Thailand, only China has seen its output surpass pre-pandemic levels. Growth in the region is projected to strengthen to 7.7% in 2021, primarily reflecting a strong rebound in China. Growth in China is projected to pick up to 8.5% this year, supported by buoyant exports and the relief of pent-up demand amid effective control of the outbreak. Output in the rest of the region is projected to grow 4.0% in 2021. Moreover, risks to the outlook are more balanced than in January but downside risks predominate. Vaccination delays and new virus variants could prolong the pandemic. The current pace of vaccinations could make it difficult to achieve widespread vaccination in many countries for some time. In addition, the favorable financial conditions of recent years may not persist<sup>32 33</sup>.

### Europe and Central Asia:

The region continues to grapple with COVID-19. After declining in early 2021, cases accelerated as new variants emerged and population mobility increased. Vaccination progress has been uneven across the region. The resurgence of COVID-19 cases in early 2021 has weighed on the incipient economic recovery; manufacturing has faltered; and services activity remains subdued. Furthermore, the regional economy is forecast to expand a stronger-than-expected 3.9% in 2021, partly due to improvement in the euro area. However, the outlook remains challenging given the recent worsening of the pandemic, tighter macroeconomic policy, and elevated policy uncertainty and geopolitical tensions. Moreover, risks to the outlook are tilted to the downside. Although the region has had some success in administering the vaccine in some countries – mainly in Central Europe, the Western Balkans, and Turkey – deployment elsewhere has lagged. The pandemic could also add a further drag to already slowing investment in human and physical capital<sup>34 35</sup>.

### Latin America and the Caribbean

The region continues to be severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and new cases have spiked after slowing down in early 2021. Brazil in particular is grappling with outbreaks of variants that have not only infected but re-infected people. Mobility restrictions were tightened in countries including Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay in the first half of the year, hindering economic activity, especially in the services sector. Vaccination is uneven across countries. Regional GDP is projected to grow 5.2% in 2021, assuming moderate progress in vaccine rollouts in most countries, eased mobility restrictions, positive spillovers from advanced economies, and a rise in commodity prices. Growth is projected to reduce to 2.9% in 2022. Risks to the outlook are predominantly to the downside, including slower-than-expected COVID-19 vaccination, surges in new

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<sup>32</sup> [Regional highlights -- East Asia and Pacific \(worldbank.org\)](#)

<sup>33</sup> [East Asia and Pacific \(PDF\) \(worldbank.org\)](#)

<sup>34</sup> [Regional highlights -- Europe and Central Asia \(worldbank.org\)](#)

<sup>35</sup> [Europe and Central Asia \(PDF\) \(worldbank.org\)](#)

cases, adverse market reactions to strained financial conditions, and disruption related to social unrest and natural disasters. The durability of the recovery is highly contingent on containment of the pandemic. Concerns about fiscal sustainability have intensified as gross government debt in the median economy climbed to 64% last year, and external debt has also jumped. Disruptions related to natural disasters are a persistent risk to the region. In the longer term, failure to pursue policies to heal from the damage caused by the pandemic, such as investing in new technology and infrastructure, would weaken prospects<sup>36 37</sup>.

### **Middle East and North Africa:**

Most economies in the region experienced their sharpest contractions in decades in 2020, and the economic damage done by the pandemic remains particularly evident in the transport and tourism sectors. Output in the region is expected to grow by 2.4% in 2021, stronger than initially forecast, but below the previous decade's average. The region should benefit from the recent rebound in oil prices, stronger external demand, and less economic disruptions from COVID-19 outbreaks. As vaccinations rise, mobility restrictions ease, oil production cuts taper, and damage to balance sheets reverse, growth should accelerate further to 3.5 percent in 2022. Risks are tilted to the downside and are related to the possibility of resurgence of COVID-19 cases, delays in vaccination rollout, weaker oil prices in the context of limited economic diversification, higher agricultural prices and food insecurity, and conflict and social unrest. Limited economic diversification continues to present risks as oil demand is expected to remain below pre-pandemic levels through 2023. Social unrest and conflict are recurring downside risks to the region. The intersection of higher food prices, fragility and conflict, political risk and resurgent outbreaks of COVID-19 pose significant economic and social risks to the region<sup>38 39</sup>.

### **South Asia**

COVID-19 cases have surged in South Asia and the situation in India has been particularly difficult. For the region, peaks in daily new confirmed cases and deaths are multiple times higher than last year. Progress in vaccination has been slow, and the largest economies, Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan, have vaccinated only a small fraction of their populations. Growth is projected to rebound to a stronger-than-expected 6.8% in 2021, partly reflecting momentum from the end of last year. India accounts for most of the upgrade as strong services sector activity more than offsets the economic effects of the worsening pandemic. The outlook is underpinned by a rebound in private consumption. The recovery, however, has done little to narrow the gap with pre-pandemic trends; In 2022, GDP is expected to be 9% lower than projected prior to the pandemic. With the recovery in early stages and the pandemic continuing to spread, the outlook is highly uncertain. Downside risks stem from high government debt, upward pressure on food prices, financial sector challenges, and the uncertain trajectory of COVID-19 and vaccination<sup>40 41</sup>.

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<sup>36</sup> [Regional highlights -- Latin America and Caribbean \(worldbank.org\)](#)

<sup>37</sup> [Latin America and Caribbean \(PDF\) \(worldbank.org\)](#)

<sup>38</sup> [Regional highlights -- Middle East and North Africa \(worldbank.org\)](#)

<sup>39</sup> [Middle East and North Africa \(PDF\) \(worldbank.org\)](#)

<sup>40</sup> [Regional highlights -- South Asia \(worldbank.org\)](#)

<sup>41</sup> [South Asia \(PDF\) \(worldbank.org\)](#)

## Sub-Saharan Africa

Output in Sub-Saharan Africa shrank an estimated 2.4% in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a milder-than-expected recession. Growth has gradually resumed this year, reflecting positive spillovers from strengthening global economic activity, including higher oil and metal prices, and some progress in containing COVID-19, especially in Western and Central Africa. Growth is forecast to resume to 2.8% this year and firm to 3.3% in 2022, underpinned by stronger external demand, mainly from China and the United States, higher commodity prices, and containment of COVID-19. Risks are to the downside. While some countries (Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa) are upgrading national vaccine distribution systems, procurement and logistical hurdles in many other countries could further slow vaccinations. An oil price drop could dent revenues for some oil exporters. Food insecurity remains a key risk as food prices have risen by more than 20 percent early this year in Angola, Ethiopia, and Nigeria<sup>42 43</sup>.

## Questions a Resolution Must Answer

- How can the committee contribute to a more even economic recovery from the pandemic, between developed and developing economies?
- How can the international community contribute to alleviate the limited fiscal space and high public debt in developing economies, and which stimulus the international community can provide to manage the health crisis and stimulate recovery?
- How can this committee promote the expanding of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women?
- How can this committee contribute to ensure social safety nets and robustize social assistance and social insurance for women?
- Which policies can be developed to safeguard girls' education, prevent violence against women, foster inclusive legal and social norms on asset ownership, and accelerate digital inclusion for women?
- How can this committee encourage the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender-disaggregated data, and gender sensitive policies?

## Useful Resources

ECOSOC's response to COVID-19:

<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2020doc/ECOSOC-and-COVID-19-compilation-of-actions.pdf>

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<sup>42</sup> [Regional highlights -- Sub-Saharan Africa \(worldbank.org\)](#)

<sup>43</sup> <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/600223300a3685fe68016a484ee867fb-0350012021/related/Global-Economic-Prospect-2021-Regional-Overview-SSA.pdf>

Everyone Included: Social Impact of COVID-19:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/everyone-included-covid-19.html>

United Nations. General Assembly, Draft Resolutions A/74/L.92\*(2020):

<https://undocs.org/A/74/L.92>

United Nations. General Assembly, Resolutions A/74/L.5: <https://undocs.org/A/74/L.57>