



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
GENIUS DIVISION



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

STUDY GUIDE

TOPIC I

**PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE
NATURAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT**

TOPIC II

**PROMOTING ACCESS TO
AFFORDABLE HOUSING**



GMUN 2023

GENIUS MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE



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CHAIRS INTRODUCTION

[Winnie] Choong Yun Ni

Chair

Hi all! Firstly, welcome to ECOSOC of GMUN 2023!

A quick introduction of myself: You can call me Winnie and I have been doing Model UN since 2017 and have dabbled in Indonesia and UK MUN conferences too. I am from an International Relations background but am currently studying for my second masters in Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability. I have a strong passion for fashion too so feel free to reach out to them if you wish to chat about anything art (both visual or liberal)!

When it comes to MUN, I am a firm believer that it is a unique experience for each individual. You can begin on your MUN journey for a reason and decide to continue for another - and it's perfectly all right! So if you are a beginner in MUN, do not fret. We will go through this together. Most importantly, I hope that you guys have fun and have a memorable experience.

It's an amazing feeling to finally return to physical chairing post-pandemic and I look forward to a fruitful and fun session! Please do not feel shy to reach out to me if you wish to or have any inquiries.

A tip for beginners preparing for council: this is a research report that is predominantly descriptive in nature and a summary extract of a vast database of resources out there. Preparing the best you can means doing research beyond this report by nitpicking on glossed-over terms and reports. Even better yet, analyze, understand and develop your own understanding towards the topic - both personally and as your delegating country. This will hence allow you to be flexible in your approaches and allows for the best possible council experience throughout!

Email: winniechoong@ymail.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/yun-ni-choong/>

Instagram: [@yummi_cactii](https://www.instagram.com/yummi_cactii)



Marcus Chin Wei Hern

Co-Chair

Hi! My name is Marcus Chin Wei Hern, you can just call me Marcus. It is my first-time co-chairing, so it's an honour to be able to work with Winnie. Despite my inexperience in MUN, I have a burning passion to get outside of my comfort zone and learn new things. What motivates me further is the life motto I have: "I know that I know nothing".

I'm currently on the last semester of my Foundation in MMU Cyberjaya and will be taking a degree in Computer Science. I hope to carry forward skills that I acquired in STEM and become a more well-rounded individual. Aside from academics, I enjoy philosophy and debating so I'm quite active in Malaysian Philosophy Society (MyPhilSoc), as well as the MMU debate society. I find MUN as a fascinating avenue to take in order to further develop myself. I hope to bring new perspective on things and events using a deeper philosophical and political understanding.

I wish you all the best of luck and I hope that I will be able to get along with everyone!



COUNCIL BACKGROUND

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, tasked with facilitating the discussion of international economic and social issues and formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states and the United Nations System. Established in 1945 by the UN Charter, ECOSOC has 54 rotating member states and oversees a broad ecosystem of bodies, including subsidiary bodies, UN entities, 3,200+ registered NGOs and 6,000+ NGOs with consultative status. The current President, Her Excellency Lachezara Stoeva, was elected the seventy-eighth President of the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2022.

Each year, ECOSOC focuses its attention on a set of annual themes of global importance to sustainable development, which promotes international cooperation on economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related issues, with a focus on:

- Higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development.
- Solutions to international economic, social, health, and related problems, and international cultural and education cooperation
- Universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion

These work include regional economic and social commissions, functional commissions facilitating intergovernmental discussions of major global issues, expert bodies establishing important global normative frameworks, and specialized agencies, programmes and funds translating development commitments into real-world changes in people's lives.

Several segments, forums and meetings are formulated to coordinate efforts on various issues, such as:



ECOSOC's annual High-Level Segment

- [High-Level Political Forum](#) provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development and reviews progress in implementing sustainable development commitments.
- [High-level Segment](#), held annually, represents the culmination of ECOSOC's annual cycle of work and convenes a diverse group of high-level representatives from the Government, the private sector, civil society and academia.

Segment

- [Coordination Segment](#) promotes the work of subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC and the UN system to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- [Humanitarian Affairs Segment](#) strengthens coordination of UN humanitarian efforts
- [Operational Activities for Development Segment](#) provides overall guidance for UN funds and programmes
- [Management Segment](#) reviews reports of ECOSOC subsidiary and expert bodies; promotes UN system coordination on development issues; and considers particular country or regional concerns

Forums

- [Development Cooperation Forum](#) reviews trends and progress in development cooperation
- [Multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals](#) discusses science, technology and innovation cooperation around thematic areas for the implementation of the sustainable development goals, congregating all relevant stakeholders to contribute in their area of expertise actively.
- [Youth Forum](#) brings youth voices into discussions on global policy-making on development issues of the day
- [Partnership Forum](#) encourages collaboration among Governments, businesses and foundations, non-governmental organizations, academia, and Parliamentarians
- [Forum on Financing for Development follow-up](#) reviews the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, other financings for development outcomes, and the means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Meetings

- [ECOSOC Special Meeting on International Cooperation in Tax Matters](#) provides an opportunity to address emerging tax policy and administration issues.
- [Special meetings](#) to address global development emergencies or crises, raise awareness, and serve as a high-level policy platform for coordinating actors working on a specific situation.

More recently, ECOSOC has focused on the newly launched coordination segment, which aims to ensure UN bodies contribute fully to the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development in the 2030 Development Agenda and the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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TOPIC A: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

Target 12.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals details that ‘By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (SDG 12 Hub, n.d.), yet the realities of the situation in 2023 today challenge the actual feasibility of this target.

1. KEY TERMINOLOGY

Material Footprint (MF)	<p>A material footprint measures the raw materials extracted to meet final consumption demands. It is a consumption-based indicator of resource use. It is calculated as the sum of the material footprints for biomass, fossil fuels, metal ores, and non-metallic minerals.</p> <p>MF provides an additional perspective by considering materials required across the global supply chain to produce a good/service and attributing them to the final demand.</p>
Domestic Material Consumption (DMC)	<p>DMC reports the number of materials directly used within a national economy. These include materials extracted in the country, plus those directly imported through the trade of goods and services, minus those directly exported to other countries.</p>
Natural Resources	<p>Natural resources are materials and substances that exist in nature and can be used for economic or environmental purposes.</p>
Environmental Exploitation	<p>The use of natural resources in a way that is harmful to the environment or to the people who depend on those resources.</p>

(SDG 12 Hub, n.d.)



2. TIMELINE OF EVENTS

The concept and understanding of sustainable resource management had shifted over time and can broadly be categorized into 3 phases and yet notable sustainability practises that had developed within its period:

- a. **Pre-Bruntland**: identified to be economic growth and development-oriented with little concerns for environmental impacts
 - i. **1948**: The International Union for the Protection of Nature (IUCN) is founded.
 - ii. **1954**: Harrison Brown publishes "The Challenge of Man's Future," which develops themes later covered by the term 'sustainable development'
 - iii. **1956**: The first person dies from mercury poisoning in Minamata Bay, Japan.
 - iv. **1958**: The United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea is held, approving draft conventions on environmental protection.
 - v. **1960**: The world's population reaches 3 billion.
 - vi. **1962**: Rachel Carson publishes "Silent Spring," which raises awareness of the dangers of pesticides.
 - vii. **1968**: The IUCN publishes "World Conservation Strategy," which calls for sustainable use of natural resources.
 - viii. **1972**: The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment is held in Stockholm, Sweden.
 - ix. **1980**: The World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) is established.
- b. **Bruntland**: Official adoption of sustainable development as a concept defined to encompass fulfilling the needs of the present without being at the expense of future generations.
 - i. **1987**: The WCED publishes "Our Common Future," which introduces the concept of sustainable development.
- c. **Post-Bruntland**: Increasing focus on practices and innovation towards sustainable development and environmental protection.
 - i. **1992**: The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) is held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
 - ii. **2002**: The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) is held in Johannesburg, South Africa.
 - iii. **2015**: The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are adopted.

For the full documentation of a more detailed timeline of global sustainable development, one can refer to this link: [World Sustainable Development Timeline](#)



3. MAJOR ISSUES WITHIN THE TOPIC

It must be stressed that this topic is of a globalized nature that impacts not only the ecosystems but the international commercial supply chain. Different countries play a varied part in the utilization of natural resources. Where there is a demand, there will be a provider to supply.

a. Accuracy of figures and data collection

The usage of Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) and Material Footprint (MF) is common, but it is often an incomplete representation of the realities of global consumption in a globalized world where importation and exportation are prevalent. For example, a country with very high DMC could be due to its major production of exported goods, not because its local and domestic demands are high, and vice versa. Material Footprint can be associated with a similar phenomenon (SDG 12 Hub, n.d.).

b. Over-exploitation of resources

According to the International Resource Panel (IRP) of UNEP, the global average of material demand has significantly increased since the 1970s, from 7.4 tons to 12.2 tons by 2017 alone (Bansard & Schröder, 2021). While some natural resources regenerate comparatively quicker than others, ores, minerals, and oil, take much longer to form and are limited in supply and availability in specific geographical locations. Natural resources have always been considered important assets, commonly associated with the potential to drive national development and wealth creation (ex: gold, lithium, oil and gas). Oil-rich countries being some of the world's wealthiest counties adds to this perspective. As global demands increase, so do exploitation levels. When passed a certain threshold, exploitation exceeds a resource's natural regeneration rates, leading to overexploitation - a concern first brought up in the first UN conference on environmental issues in 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm, Sweden (Bansard & Schröder, 2021).

c. The Global Divide

The interconnected relationship between resources, nature and the community is not bounded by borders. Resources are unevenly distributed geographically, and so is their consumption. According to the IRP, ‘high-income countries’ material footprint is 13 times more than low-income countries’. In addition, there is a high reliance on the importation of resource extraction from foreign countries, often developing countries. This results in an ‘outsourcing of consequences and responsibilities’ yet often at the expense of the exporting country where their initial selling price is heavily undervalued compared to the final selling price in often higher income countries. ‘This imbalance highlights the global discrepancies in the distribution of benefits and negative impacts stemming from resource use, with countries “rich” invaluable resources not always benefitting from their extraction, distribution, and use, yet suffering the most environmental harm’ (Bansard & Schröder, 2021).

d. Rights to Resources

“[t]he right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources must be exercised in the interest of their national development and of the well-being of the people of the State concerned”

- *UN General Assembly Resolution 1803 (XVII)*

Who do the natural resources belong to? Considered as both an element of human rights and economic development places it at an awkward juncture that requires careful balancing. Overexploitation threatens the ecosystem and the livelihoods of communities, who may depend solely on these resources for their social and financial well-being. An example is the fishery industry, where overfishing the once abundant resource endangers the existing fish population to dwindling levels. Even if not endangered, other risks associated with poor fishery management include the decreasing quality and yield of catches and the problem of invasive species (which could be introduced by accident) that the local community cannot contain.

Different countries have different approaches to the governance of land and its ownership. While some are considered as community or government-managed territory (such as conservatories), there have been multiple occasions where this conflicts with rural or indigenous minority communities who had been in the region for decades and heavily relied on its resources. Multiple efforts from the UN have attempted to address this discrepancy, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) [Article 5], the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) [Article 8(2b), Article 11 and Article 28] and International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention [ILO 169] (Bansard & Schröder, 2021).

However, such efforts would only be effective should the national government be willing to implement and properly enforce them. Often these international laws are heavily recommended or provided guidelines without being made compulsory - often to address the concern that countries would each have their subjective approach specially designed to the national challenge. An example of such a limitation is the ratification of ILO 169, where only 23 out of 193 countries ratified. There could similarly be many other drafted legislations pending adoption due to the lack of signatories and ratifications (Bansard & Schröder, 2021)

It is the role of the government to ensure a proper balance is struck between powerful actors (either politically or commercially) and the disproportionate impact on the most affected ('inclusive of women, rural communities, and Indigenous Peoples, who are often cast as passive recipients to policy change, as opposed to rights holders and key actors in the sustainable management of natural resources' (Bansard & Schröder, 2021)).



PAST ACTIONS, PRECEDENCE AND SOLUTIONS

1. UN EFFORTS

The United Nations' initiatives in sustainable natural resource management often focus on the following scope:

- a. ***Development of international agreements and guidelines***, such as the *Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification*, to provide a framework for countries to work together to protect and manage their natural resources.
- b. ***Providing technical assistance and capacity building*** for countries aiming to develop supporting national policies and strategies through means such as training and development of tools and resources.
- c. ***Promoting public awareness and education*** of the importance of sustainable resource management, the challenges we face, and the available solutions.
- d. ***Supporting research and innovation*** through funding projects, developing new technologies, and sharing knowledge and best practices.

Other key UN Organs and their respective programs aimed at tackling sustainable resource management:

- a. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is leading the development of the ***United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS)***, which will provide a comprehensive framework for sustainable resource management.

For example, in collaboration with the European Union, UNEP implemented the Natural Resources Management of Sustainable Livelihoods project in East Darfur (UNEP, n.d.), while from 2010 to 2014, UNEP introduced the Community Environmental Action Planning (CEAP) to support community environmental management. (UNEP, n.d.). Another key contribution of UNEP to this topic is the International Resource Panel (IRP) which serves as a platform to form and share knowledge towards the development of better practices in natural resource management and is the custodian agency for SDG 12.2 (SDG 12 Hub, n.d.).

- b. ***The UN Development Programme (UNDP)*** supports implementing sustainable natural resource management projects in developing countries through collaborative efforts with policymakers, the private sector and NGOs.

Examples of such efforts include natural resource management and biodiversity conservation in Mongolia (Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity | United Nations Development Programme, n.d.).



- c. The *UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)* is working to promote sustainable agriculture and forestry practices.
- d. The *UN Resource Management System (UNRMS)* is a voluntary global standard that sets a comprehensive, sustainable natural resource management framework based on the UNFC. It supports attaining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UNECE, 2022)
- e. The *Stockholm Declaration of 1972* builds on the fundamental principles that focus on resource depletion and sharing [Principles 2,3, and 5].

2. NOTABLE COUNTRIES

- a. *United Kingdom:* Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are designated areas of the countryside protected by law to preserve their natural beauty for future generations.
- b. *Sweden:* Being ranked the world's greenest country for several years, it has a strong commitment to renewable energy and has a well-developed recycling and waste management system.

3. OTHER POLICIES, NGOS, AND EFFORTS TO BE EXPLORED

- a. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- b. Minamata Convention on Mercury
- c. Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
- d. Forest Stewardship Council
- e. Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
- f. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
- g. Better Cotton Initiative
- h. A circular processing system in production and consumption



While there are numerous existing solutions and mechanisms aimed at improving sustainable natural resource management, they are not always complementary and may occasionally conflict with one another. Such is the case for the Energy Charter Treaty, which is often criticized for the protection of foreign investment in environmentally and socially damaging practices as a result of the industry, in addition to its key purpose in facilitating cross-border commercial usage of the fossil fuel industry - a contrast to the obligations of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (Bansard & Schröder, 2021).

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER (QARMAS)

1. How does the global trade of natural resources and minerals work?
 - a. What resources are needed to maintain such trade and commercial demands?
2. What are the limitations of the current existing frameworks that countries are failing to address?
3. Why have we not tried to do more to address the problem?
 - a. Which part of the system requires improvement?
4. How do we reach the individuals most vulnerable to the system?
5. How do we balance the economic development of the global south and the wellbeing of the global environment?
 - a. What is the relationship between the producers and the consumers, and how does this affect the existing policies around this topic?



FURTHER MATERIALS

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TOPIC B: PROMOTING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

BACKGROUND AND RELEVANCE TO THE UN

“Homelessness is a harmful form of systemic discrimination and social exclusion,” affecting people everywhere, said Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (UN Press, 2020).

According to OECD, an increasing number of households are overburdened by increasing housing costs where ‘on average nearly 15% of tenants and 10% of mortgage-payers spend over 40% of their disposable income on housing costs (OECD, n.d.). In addition, almost 1 to 8 individuals in every one thousand lack regular access to housing, with 15% of low-income households forced to live in overcrowded, unsafe spaces where high crime rates and pollution are rampant.

Poor access to affordable housing often results in homelessness. This global phenomenon can be found in both developed and developing nations. In 2006 the UN estimation of the global homeless added up to 100 million, a figure that continues to rise as data from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme reports ‘1.6 billion people living in inadequate housing conditions, with about 15 million forcefully evicted every year’ (UN Press, 2020).



1. KEY TERMINOLOGY

Evicted	To force someone to leave a place, especially their home. It is usually done through legal means, such as a court order. The most common reason for eviction is nonpayment of rent. However, other reasons can include violating the lease terms, causing damage to the property, or engaging in illegal activity.
Homeless	Homeless is defined as having no home or permanent place of residence. People who are homeless may live on the streets, in shelters, or other temporary accommodations. They may also be couch surfing or living in their cars.
Zoning	Zoning is a land use planning tool that divides land into areas called zones, each of which has a set of regulations for new development that differs from other zones. In housing, zoning regulates the type of housing that can be built in a particular area.
Subsidize	Subsidizing is the act of providing financial assistance to an individual, business, or institution. The assistance can be in cash payments, tax breaks, or other financial support.

2. TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Below are some key UN milestones in promoting access to affordable housing

- **1948:** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes the right to "an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, clothing and housing."
- **1966:** The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights reaffirms the right to housing and calls on states to ensure everyone has access to "adequate housing."
- **1976:** The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I) adopts the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, which calls for "adequate housing for all by the end of the century."



- **1996:** The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) adopts the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda, reaffirming the right to housing and calling for a renewed commitment to achieving it.
- **2000:** The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aim to halve the proportion of people living in slums by 2015.
- **2015:** The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include a target to ensure access to adequate, safe and affordable housing for all by 2030.

3. KEY CONCEPTS WITHIN THE TOPIC

a. Rapid Urbanisation:

It is predicted by UN Habitat that by 2030, 40% of the world's population will need access to adequate housing, meaning 96,000 new affordable and accessible housing units per day. Not only does this strain housing resources and available space, but the failure to deliver would also mean individuals living in harmful conditions to their health, safety and prosperity.

b. Increasing inequality:

Accessible housing is a precondition for access to employment, education, health and social services that the most vulnerable within the community would need for social mobility (UN-Habitat, n.d.). Without, the gap between the rich and the poor continues to grow. As a consequence, it becomes a chronic problem where low-income households find themselves increasingly unable to afford housing.

The challenge in managing accessible housing is particularly visible in cities as rent and housing become increasingly unaffordable. In some countries, spatial segregation prevents certain residents from access to public services, education, and transport. At the same time, a survey finds that 'women, religious and ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees face discrimination with housing or live in appalling conditions' (OHCHR, n.d.).

c. Economic and Social Welfare problems:

As housing becomes increasingly unaffordable, low-income families are left with no other alternatives but to cut out expenses through budget trade-offs in purchases of products that, for example, are not the best for health. In addition, the lack of stability in households has been found to seriously jeopardize children's performance in school with long-lasting impacts on their achievements. Putting them at an educational disadvantage among their peers.

A community factor that contributes to the accessibility of housing includes the community transportation systems and neighborhood quality. For example, having affordable housing near accessible public mass transit allows for more work opportunities, job creation and savings, which as a result, can improve the quality of life and security within a neighborhood (Enterprise, 2014).

d. Defining Accessible Housing as a right

International Law defines ‘adequate housing’ as a right to secure tenure where one can live without worry from eviction and have safe access to appropriate social services such as school and employment. However, at a national level, inaccessible housing is often not seen as an infringement of basic human rights (OHCHR, n.d.). While each country has its law that should protect and offer its civilians this right, its enforcement varies in effectiveness.

Following are the conditions listed by OHCHR for ‘adequate housing’:

Security of tenure	Housing is inadequate if its occupants do not have a degree of tenure security that guarantees legal protection against forced evictions, harassment and other threats.
Availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure	Housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, energy for cooking, heating, lighting, food storage, or refuse disposal.
Affordability	Housing is inadequate if its cost threatens or compromises the occupants’ enjoyment of other human rights.
Habitability	Housing is inadequate if it does not guarantee physical safety or provide adequate space and protection against cold, dampness, heat, rain, wind, and other health and structural hazards.
Accessibility	Housing is inadequate if the specific needs of disadvantaged and marginalized groups are not considered.
Location	Housing is inadequate if it is cut off from employment opportunities, health-care services, schools, childcare centres and other social facilities or is in polluted or dangerous areas.
Cultural adequacy	Housing is inadequate if it does not respect and consider the expression of cultural identity.

(OHCHR, n.d.)



e. Evictions, displacement and informal settlements

Impacts arising from climate change (such as rising sea levels), natural disasters and armed conflict pose one of the greatest threats to adequate housing. Not only does it result in massive displacements of civilians, but it also destroys housing areas - adding to the already financial restraints that can arise for any government - in cases of such threats. Damage to infrastructure would also mean exposure to risks of low sanitation, clean water or electricity and heat (during cold seasons) (OHCHR, n.d.).

On the other hand, global events such as the Olympic Games and the World Cups often bring forward heavy criticism on the effective usage of space and resources, which has been increasingly prevalent in present debate as observed in Brazil, Japan and Qatar.

f. Economic impacts of the Covid Pandemic

The Covid Pandemic and the current global inflation mean an increase in the inability to afford rent or housing. It is pertinent that the government takes action during the current economic uncertainty and its rippling effect on access to housing.

g. Other Key Areas To Highlight

- i. Housing Investment, Right to Property and Acquisition
- ii. Zoning and Regulation efforts by the government
- iii. Government's ability to secure financial investors to back affordable housing
- iv. Construction and development cost of affordable housing



PAST ACTIONS, PRECEDENCE AND SOLUTIONS

1. UN EFFORTS

The UN aims to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups, such as refugees, people with disabilities and the elderly, in terms of access to affordable housing. Here are some examples of UN-supported initiatives to promote affordable housing:

- a. The UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme works to improve the safety and security of informal settlements, which often lack access to affordable housing.
- b. The UN-Habitat Global Urban Housing Network provides a platform for sharing knowledge and best practices on affordable housing.
- c. The UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) supports the UN Housing Rights Programme, which promotes the right to adequate housing for all.

2. NOTABLE COUNTRIES

(OECD, 2021)

- a. **Norway:** Norway has a long history of promoting accessible housing and has some of the most stringent accessibility regulations in the world. All new housing developments in Norway must be accessible, and existing housing must be made accessible if sold or rented out.
- b. **Australia:** Australia has many policies and programs to promote accessible housing. The government provides financial assistance to people with disabilities who need to make their homes more accessible, and several private organizations provide similar assistance. Australia also has several laws and regulations that require new and existing housing to be accessible.
- c. **Brazil:** Federal Law 11977/2000 prioritises female-led households, households in unhealthy areas, and households displaced or lost their homes due to flooding or other natural disasters.
- d. **Greece:** A national strategy is to address housing for asylum seekers and homeless students.
- e. **Malta:** The government has launched an Equity Sharing programme targeting people who are 40 years or older and find it difficult to become homeowners.
- f. **New Zealand:** Priority policy objectives focus on the Maori community, for whom housing support is administered through the Maori Housing Network.



- g. **Poland:** Tenant households with moderate income (too rich to qualify for public rental housing and too poor to afford rent in the private market) are also the target of explicit housing support.
- h. **Portugal:** Youth, seniors, the homeless, and victims of domestic violence are among the priority vulnerable groups in the country's housing policies.

3. OTHER POLICIES, NGOS, AND EFFORTS TO BE EXPLORED

There are some efforts and potential solutions to be explored

- a. **Investing in social housing:** Governments can build or acquire housing units to provide affordable housing for low-income people. Most OECD countries support social rental housing through direct provision, mostly delivered by local authorities and partly funded by the central government
- b. **Supporting the private sector:** Governments can provide tax breaks or other incentives to the private sector to build affordable housing. Countries in OECD had reported having established grants, financial assistance and public guarantees often reserved for low-income first-time buyers. In addition, while tax relief is also seen as beneficial, it tends to favour slightly wealthy households instead of low-income and vulnerable groups.
- c. **Promoting mixed-income housing:** Governments can encourage the development of mixed-income housing, which can help to reduce segregation and make housing more affordable.
- d. **Strengthening tenant rights:** Governments can strengthen tenant rights to protect low-income tenants from eviction and unfair rent increases. As private rental has become increasingly popular as a response to unaffordable housing through purchase, it is important to explore policies concerning rent regulation, tenancy protection and similar laws that can benefit or harm accessibility.



QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER (QARMAS)

1. How is 'adequate' housing defined? What is its scope?
2. How can one balance the consequences and benefits of commercialising housing properties?
3. How should governments regulate the property industry (from construction to selling)?
 - a. Should rent-seeking behaviours be encouraged?
 - b. Can affordable housing be done through zoning?
 - c. How can banks regulate loan risks?
4. What social, geographical and political factors and criteria do governments need to consider in their country when planning for affordable housing?
5. Why are some countries successful in regulating affordable housing?
6. What are the social concerns affordable housing policies can address for your country or globally?

FURTHER MATERIALS

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Contact us on:



<https://gmun.my>



genmodelun@gmail.com



@gmun_23



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