

**Committee:** ECOSOC

**Country:** Federal Republic of Germany

**Delegate:** Jenna Hayton, University of Southampton

**Topic A:** Education in Post-Conflict Situations

The following topics are before the Economic and Social Council: Education in Post-Conflict Situations; Implementing SDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All; and Promoting the Political, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Federal Republic of Germany believes that these topics have significance within the international community and looks forward to discussing them at the upcoming meeting of the Council.

Globally, there are more than 15 countries at war, with their cumulative fatalities reaching over 4 million people. One of these countries currently in conflict is Syria. Eight years since the conflict began, 13.1 million people are requiring humanitarian assistance, of which 5.3 million are children.<sup>1</sup> Education is of the most valuable things you can give to any person. It develops in us a perspective of looking at life. It enables people to progress in life, give back to their community, and lift others up. This means that more educated children not only improves the lives of the individuals, but also the economy of the individual state and the global economy as a whole.

Every child has the right to an education. The right to education, as laid down in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ranks among the fundamental human rights. The Fourth Geneva Convention from 1949 on the protection of civilians in times of war decrees (among other things in Article 24) that in the event of the military occupation of a country the occupying powers have to ensure that facilities are provided which serve to protect and educate children. The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees is very clear about the right to education for refugee children, specifically noting the obligation of countries accepting refugees to provide refugee children the same opportunities in primary education that are open to their own citizens.<sup>2</sup> The United Nations have committed to providing quality education for all, as laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015 and in the commitment of the United Nations International Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) to bring quality education to over 1.8 million refugee children.

Given the fact that there are plenty of flashpoints ridden by violent conflict worldwide, in order for the Member States of the United Nations to achieve the global development goals, destructive societal conflicts need to come to an end and affected societies need a clear path to peaceful change. The Federal Republic of Germany believes that crisis prevention and recovery situations must include the education of all children so that the entire community can be fully effective in addressing conflict and preventing it in the future. Germany has

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<sup>1</sup> UNICEF, cited <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unicef-s-response-syria-crisis-2018>

<sup>2</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/1F610940FB2A51B749256FFE001BD784-EDandConflict-GTZ.pdf>

donated €16 million to “Education Cannot Wait” movement<sup>3</sup>, and urges other countries to contribute in any way they can to this fun for education in emergencies.

### **Topic B: Implementing SDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All**

In 2015, Germany’s foreign minister released a statement: “Germany is a global leader when it comes to future-oriented energy systems. We are demonstrating that environmental protection, security of energy supply and economic growth fit together, that they are not mutually exclusive.” This is as true now as it was then. Unfortunately, many people around the world do not have access to electricity. Others have access to electricity, but the source of this is not clean energy. SDG 7 addresses the need for all people to have access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. This will have a global impact on all people, as climate change is largely affected by energy sources. Renewable energies are also becoming more cost-efficient. More people with access to electricity means more people able to contribute to society as a whole.

In February 2018, a global SDG 7 meeting was held in Bangkok. The link between SDG 7 and almost all other goals was recognized, highlighting the significance that achieving this goal would have. There have been advances in sustainable energy recently, and energy efficiency is continuing to improve. The progress is, however, too slow to be on track to meet the global energy targets for 2030.

The Federal Republic of Germany is pioneering an epochal transformation. Roughly 27 percent of its electricity comes from renewable sources, such as wind and solar power. In 2011, Chancellor Angela Merkel declared that Germany would shut down all 17 of its nuclear reactors by 2022. The German economy is the world’s fourth largest, and is committing to an 80% cut in emission from 1990 levels by 2050. The use of renewable sources of energy has significantly cut costs and will continue to reduce them further as Germany progresses towards its ultimate goal of entirely sustainable energy. The Federal Republic urges all member states to make such commitments to cutting emissions and moving towards renewable sources of energy if SDG 7 is to be achieved by 2030.

### **Topic C: Promoting the Political, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Indigenous people are the native people in a territory. They have historical and cultural ties with the land in which they live. They have a distinct culture, social institutions and religions. The United Nations has been tackling atrocious human rights violations worldwide since its birth in 1945. Entire languages have been lost and cultures destroyed. All persons have the right to their religion, culture, language, and the right to play a role in their country’s politics

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.educationcannotwait.org/germany-joins-the-education-cannot-wait-movement-with-a-e16-million-investment/>

and economy. More people participating in the economy will only lead to it being stronger, as well as a stronger global economy.

In the last decade, the UN has made big strides towards promoting the political, socioeconomic, and cultural rights of indigenous people, namely through the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007. This is also highlighted in SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities. The Universal Declaration on Human Rights lays out the set of rights that all humans are entitled to, including indigenous people.

In 2011, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) issued its Strategy on Human Rights in German Development Policy. This has reaffirmed Germany's commitment to a human rights-based approach to development cooperation. It focuses on those groups who, no matter the reasons, experience the greatest barriers to the fulfilment of their rights. This includes women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, religious or linguistic minorities – and indigenous peoples. The Federal Republic of Germany urges all member states to adopt a similar development program with a human-rights based approach, involving indigenous peoples as early as possible in the process and continuously.