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**UNITED NATIONS YOUTH AND STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIA**

EISENSTADT - GRAZ - INNSBRUCK - KLAGENFURT - LINZ - SALZBURG - VIENNA



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**Abstract:**

**Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

**“Sustainable Energy for All”**

## **The Committee**

ECOSOC, constituting one of the six principle organs of the United Nations, is the United Nations platform concerned with all economic and social matters. That by, the Council's main task is to push forward economic and social development by formulating policy recommendations addressed to its Member States. Furthermore, ECOSOC represents the body that will set course for the post-2015 development agenda.

Under its umbrella, ECOSOC unites a great variety of subsidiary bodies, including specialized agencies, as well as functional and regional commissions. (In regards to the simulated sessions at VIMUN, the Commission on Sustainable Development is of utmost importance.) ECOSOC serves as the main coordinator of these specialized agencies and functional commissions and thus, has the responsibility for approximately 70% of the human and financial resources of the entire United Nations system.

ECOSOC is comprised of 54 member states that are elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms and allotted based on geographical representation. Besides the member states, civil society plays an active role in ECOSOC, since the Council constitutes the main link to non-governmental organizations in the United Nations system, with almost 4,000 NGOs enjoying consultative status with ECOSOC.

This year's president of ECOSOC is the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Martin Sajdik.

## **The Topic**

As the targeted date of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), 2015, is approaching, the debate of a post-2015 development agenda is at its peak.

"Sustainable Energy for All" has evolved as one of the new themes under discussion of the post-2015 agenda in the United Nations system. The issue of energy plays a central role in enabling sustainable development, as highlighted at the Rio+20 Sustainable Development Conference. "Energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today. Be it for jobs, security, climate change, food production or increasing incomes, access to energy for all is essential".

In the absence of a long-term plan for achieving global sustainability, the issue has long been disregarded. Even the Millennium Development Goals failed to specifically address the issue of sustainable energy as a goal or target. However, the theme of sustainable energy has gained considerable momentum. The UN Secretary-General declared 2012 the year of "Sustainable Energy for All" (SE4ALL) and launched a new global initiative that solely focuses on taking energy as a starting point to achieve specific global sustainability objectives. The United Nations Secretary-General's vision of making sustainable energy for all a reality by 2030 still has to be concretised. In September 2013, it was announced that a major International Symposium on the post-2015 Agenda would be held in Sydney, Australia on the 12th and 13th of November 2014. The upcoming months will therefore be crucial in devising an outline to deal with the question of how sustainable energy can be achieved and what role it shall play in any future arrangements of a post-2015 development agenda.

Building on its success in reviewing progress on the MDGs through the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), ECOSOC will play a major role in the preparations, implementations and follow-up of a post-2015 development agenda.