



GA2 Chair Report

Topic 1: Promoting Global Cooperation to
Ensure Universal Access to Affordable and
Sustainable Energy



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Personal Statements

Head Chair – Ridhi Hegde

Honourable Delegates,

I am Ridhi Hegde and I am from India. I'm 15 years old and currently in the 10th Grade at the International School of Stuttgart. This is my 4th MUN Conference but will be the first time chairing. I'm really looking forward to meeting new people, having interesting debates and working with my deputy chair Diego Dreher. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Deputy Chair – Diego Dreher

Dear Delegates,

I am Diego Dreher, and I am excited for this opportunity to be able to participate in MUNISS for the first time. I have previously attended other MUN conferences, such as MUNBW, and I will also be serving as a chair for the first time. Currently, I am attending 11th grade in Albertus Magnus Gymnasium in Stuttgart, where I will complete my Abitur. I hope to use this chance as a chair to work together with Ridhi Hegde and foster deep and thought provoking debates between all the delegations in my committee.



Introduction

The General Assembly Second Committee (GA2), also known as the Economic and Financial Committee, is one of the six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly. Its primary purpose is to address global economic and financial issues, including macroeconomic policies, sustainable development, international trade, and economic cooperation among nations. GA2 plays a crucial role in shaping UN policies related to poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, and economic growth, ensuring that global financial frameworks support the broader goals of peace, security, and human rights. Through discussions and resolutions, GA2 helps guide international economic policies and promotes cooperation among member states to achieve equitable and sustainable global development.

Our world is growing in population and in turn, also in energy consumption. As of the most recent publishings, it is estimated that the global primary energy consumption reached approximately 620 exajoules ($6.2 \cdot 10^{20} \text{J}$) in 2023, of which over 80% came from non-renewable sources, mainly fossil fuels. While the relative usage of non renewable energy sources has been slowly diminishing (-0.4% from 2022 to 2023) and renewable energy sources are becoming more popular and accessible to many worldwide, there is still much to be done to keep this trend going and increase the rate of change.

The biggest obstacle currently standing in our way is the over-reliance many developing nations have on cheap non renewable energy sources, as building sustainable sources of energy can be expensive to not only set up but also to maintain, making it not economically viable to invest in green energy without external investments from other countries.



Glossary

- **IEA : (International Energy Agency)**, a global organization that provides energy policy advice and, data
- **Lobbying**: the activity of trying to persuade someone in authority, usually an elected member of a government, to support laws or rules that give your organization or industry an advantage (Cambridge, 2025)
- **NOCs: (National Oil Companies)** petroleum company that is fully or partly owned by the government of a sovereign nation
- **Renewable Energy**: energy that is produced using the sun, wind, etc., or from crops, rather than using fuels such as oil or coal:
- **Non-Renewable energy**: types of energy that cannot be replaced after they have been used energy that is produced using the sun, wind, etc., or from crops, rather than using fuels such as oil or coal
- **ESMAP: (Energy Sector Management Assistance Program)**

Issue Explanation

One of the biggest problems we are facing when dealing with shifting countries away from their reliance on unsustainable energy sources is the cost of building the infrastructure for renewable energy sources. For example, an average wind turbine costs about \$3 Million USD, (Duval, 2024) to build and will need year round maintenance throughout its entire lifespan to continue functionally operating, with specific material and metal pricing shifts also affecting the total cost to build. Many countries simply do not have enough funding to justify any amount of turbines that would have any noticeable effect on their total energy output at a global or even national scale. What's more, hundreds of qualified workers and engineers are needed to build each individual turbine which are also very scarce in countries with weaker education systems. Because of this, many countries, especially ones that have to import or buy a lot of their energy from foreign states that are interested in increasing their overall renewable energy output, to make energy more affordable in the long run, face challenges in getting the starting capital to set them on track to move away from their constant state of importing.

Another big problem arises when a large amount of energy production is phased to green energy, due to the nature of most renewable energy sources, as the output of energy is dependent on uncontrollable geological factors such as sunlight or wind speeds. This variability on how much power could be available at any given time is also a factor that can discourage nations from investing more money into sustainable energy, if it means phasing out other forms of energy creation, as is often the case. Fossil fuels simply do not pose this threat, as long as they're present, energy is available no matter what.

In total this issue mainly affects citizens of developing countries that do not live directly in a big city, as in these places it is difficult to obtain secure access to energy, and if for any reason the price of energy suddenly fluctuates, many people could end up in a spot where energy is simply too expensive to use, which could exacerbate the inequalities between rural and urban areas.



Perspectives of Parties Involved

NOCs

NOCs are some of the biggest and most powerful oil companies, as they have full government backing and will have their government change entire passages of regulations if necessary to ensure they can continue selling their oil, as many times a large part of a country's GDP relies on NOCs successfully exporting their barrels to other countries and companies.

Private Oil Companies

Private oil companies, while not as big as NOCs, are nevertheless interested in the same things, namely loose regulations on fossil fuels and lobby, regularly spending millions of dollars in bribes to keep regulations as loose as possible to focus on their own profit.

Petroleum rich governments

(U.S, U.K, Russia, France)

These governments, which are in control of gigantic natural reserves of fossil fuels stand to gain a lot by delaying the onset of widespread renewable energy as they make a lot of money by selling their oil to other countries, or simply using it themselves to support their own energy needs.

Petroleum import governments (brazil, chad

These countries do not stand to lose as much with the onset of widespread renewable energy as in total, they net import more fossil fuels than they export. Although a fair amount of a country's revenue would be lost if demand for oil dropped, this may be compensated by the more abundant access to green energy and would ultimately outweigh all the cons in the long run.



History of the Topic

Access to energy has long been a global issue, from cattle pulling ploughs to steam engines powering trains. We as humans have long relied on energy we simply cannot produce with our own bodies. Historically, the wealthiest nations have always been those with the most abundant access to the cheapest energy. Since the 19th century, energy production has mainly come from “fossil fuels, coal, oil and natural gas.” (Rodrigue, 2019) During this time, western Europe and America were put into a lucrative spot wherein they quickly and efficiently developed and built their energy infrastructure to allow for great economic growth, which encouraged higher living standards leading to the post WWI urban sprawl all across these countries.

On the other hand, many of the other countries who either didn't invest as much into their own energy infrastructure or lacked the ability to, have been trying to catch up ever since. During the mid to late 1900s while electricity became ever more popular and useful in everyday life, many of these countries did improve their infrastructure, but only to a certain extent as many rural towns were either too difficult to connect to the power grid, or were simply overlooked. In many parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, electrification rates remained extremely low well into our modern day, as of 2020, only 49% of the population in rural towns had even secondhand access to electricity (Macrotrends, 2025). Worldwide, nearly 760 million people still lack access to electricity, according to the IEA.

Many international projects have already been made to try and combat this issue. In India, for example, the Sabhagya scheme, which according to the Indian government's ministry of power, aims to offer “Last mile connectivity and electricity connection to all un-electrified households in rural areas” (Powermin, 2023) has had great success in getting many towns connected to the national power grid. However, many rural areas still experience frequent blackouts, and energy prices remain high for many low-income households meaning more has to be done to not only increase the reliability of the entire grid, but also to decrease the cost per kilowatt hour of electricity, as what use is having access to something, but not being able to use it because of its price?



In contrast, Scandinavian countries such as Norway and Sweden have successfully transitioned to nearly 100% renewable energy while ensuring affordability for all citizens. Their success is attributed to government policies that prioritize sustainability and equitable energy distribution. In Latin America, countries like Brazil have made significant progress in expanding hydroelectric power, which will supply around 70% of the nation's energy in 2020(IEA, 2020) However, indigenous communities in the Amazon often face exclusion from the grid, highlighting the persistent energy gap.

There have been many times when unexpected events have suddenly spiked the price of oil and gas. One of the most notable times this has happened was during the 1970s energy crisis, when an embargo from arabian nations cut of a large supply of the available oil for the US, causing the price of a barrel to quadruple in the United States.



Potential Solutions for the issue:

One of the key approaches to solving energy inequality has been the establishment of international agreements and initiatives focused on sustainable development. One of the United Nations sustainable development goals, namely sustainable development goal 7 aims to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy by 2030. This goal has motivated investment into renewable energy, off-grid solutions, and policies that encourage equitable energy distribution. The research done by the IEA has also allowed for much faster planning and progress.

The ESMAP has supported developing nations in strengthening their energy infrastructure and increasing access to clean energy sources. In a similar way, corporations through the Africa-EU Energy Partnership have done lots of work to expand renewable energy projects and improve energy security across Africa. Technological innovation has also played a major role in addressing energy disparity.

Long-term cooperation between governments, international organisations, and private sector stakeholders is crucial to success. Even though there has been a lot of progress, more effective policies, more financing, and stronger commitments are still required to close the energy gap. It is essential to increase investment in renewable energy through public-private partnerships, financial incentives, and foreign direct investment. Furthermore, improving decentralised and off-grid energy options like mini-grids and pay-as-you-go solar systems can give impoverished people access to reasonably priced electricity. Equitable energy distribution will be further supported by fortifying policy frameworks through the implementation of precise laws, the phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies, and the encouragement of regional energy cooperation. Another important factor is technological innovation; developments in smart grids, AI-powered energy management, and better energy storage technologies all aid in supply and demand optimization. To promote technology transfer and the sharing of best practices, international collaboration and knowledge-sharing programs like ESMAP and the Africa-



EU Energy Partnership ought to be extended. In order to combat energy poverty, inclusive policies that support low-income households financially, encourage community-based energy initiatives, and make investments in workforce development and education for the renewable energy industry are needed. The goal of universal, inexpensive, and sustainable energy can be realised by putting these solutions into practice and upholding a global commitment to fair energy access.



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