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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Argentina

**Delegates:** Veda Devireddy, Siya Kumar

**School:** Baton Rouge Magnet High School

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#### **Argentina's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

Argentina has nationalized labor laws that are holistic, and meant to protect individual worker's rights by monitoring working hours and conditions, allowing paid sick leave, requiring severance pay, and creating annual vacation days. Argentina even increased their minimum wage to \$250 per month in December of last year. Despite this, corruption in the government has led to the persistence of unethical good production. Intraregional migrant workers have taken on low-paying jobs in rural areas, and immigrants make up 5% of the total population, with almost 80% of those migrants coming from nearby countries. Argentina has suffered from large scale sweatshops in the past, created by mass manufacturing and fast fashion companies like Zara. While the economic recession has slowed, it has not stopped completely, and inflation remains high, as do socioeconomic differences between central cities and more rural areas. Much of the economy has been based on oil exports, and in 2018 it ranked 29th globally for daily crude oil production, harming the environment. Large beef farms are often not properly cared for, and can be harmful to the animals as well as the workers. JBS is one of the biggest beef production companies in Argentina and has been called out for unsanitary working conditions over the past few years. Argentina is looking for solutions that will not only aid in creating better conditions for poorer workers, but will also be cost-efficient and easy to manage among many socioeconomic classes.

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#### **Argentina's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

Argentina is a country with wide socioeconomic differences among its people. Even in more developed cities like Buenos Aires, poverty is still high. Overcrowding and lack of resources is a large issue in residential areas, and mismanagement of government funded aid has resulted in areas like Villa 31. Villa 31 is infamous for its poverty and gangs, and is a hotspot for crime. It, like most Villas, is not attached to a legal power grid, has abysmal living conditions, and is constructed mostly of shacks made of sheet metal. Despite these challenges, it is home to more than 40,000 people, and the government has been working towards turning it into a proper neighborhood since 2017, but the cost has been a roadblock. As more and more people are pushed from their homes because of the economic recession, poverty rates will continue to climb. As of 2017, it is estimated that 25.7% of Argentina is below the poverty line. More than two-thirds of all homes in Buenos Aires are rented, and almost one-fifth of all Argentines live in substandard housing. These homes lack indoor plumbing and proper flooring, and almost half are shack houses like those in Villa 31. To combat these issues, Argentina is working towards solutions that can improve living conditions without being costly or needing large amounts of urbanized land, and are capable of causing visible change quickly.

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#### **Argentina's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

Argentina does not have a lack of water, as the country is resource rich. It does struggle, however, with the distribution of clean, safe drinking water to poorer areas. These issues have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and droughts in Central and South America. Because of recent industrialization in many areas, environmental changes like deforestation have become more common. These changes may be the cause of the worsened droughts in the country. The government has been handing out bottled water to areas affected by the drought, but storage and management issues have made it difficult to fully aid these people. Hydroelectric dams that used to provide many of these people with power are also compromised. In 2015, UN-GLAAS reported that 100% of Argentines had access to at least one clean water source, both in urban and rural areas. But the rapid economic changes and environmental damage in the country have had their consequences, leaving many without proper hydration. To combat these issues, Argentina wants to find ways to distribute water quickly over large distances to many people, without waste or mismanagement.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Armenia

**Delegates:** Ben Wombacher, Allan Jeandron

**School:** Jesuit High School

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#### **Armenia's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

Armenia is will to work with other nations to fix problems involving the ethical production of goods. However, any attempt to stifle the economic growth and development of Armenia will not be tolerated we believe that all nations should have an equal shot at economic development and other powerful nations should not try and limit it.

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#### **Armenia's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

Armenia suffers from large amount of poverty and poor housing. With about 32% of the population living below the poverty line and poor energy and heat efficiency in low income housing. Almost half of the Armenian population lives in apartment buildings that are deteriorating with every passing year. Furthermore, Armenia does not have an effective system to deal with homelessness with the country only having one government run homeless shelter. Armenia would be willing to work with other nations to come up with a solution to the crisis; however, we will not let foreign powers use this as a chance to influence Armenia.

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#### **Armenia's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

Armenia has had problems with clean water. Citizen in the Capital can only expect running water for 21 hours of the day, and while this is an improvement from what it used to be there are still problems. The current water network is in need of serious repair with about 50% of piped water being lost. Armenia has worked with foreign parties in the past to help remedy our water problems and is still willing to work with the rest of the globe to fix water problems.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Canada

**Delegates:** Kaylen Davis, Adrienne DeVille

**School:** Archbishop Hannan High School

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#### **Canada's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

Between the years 2003 and 2008, citizens' participation in ethical consumption increased. In addition to that, Canada's government has been actively striving towards educating their country about how to obtain and produce goods in an ethical manner. They have put into place recycling programs, produced reusable bags, and spread information about environmental consciousness— in addition to the government signing into the Paris Agreement. In Canada, there is a fair-trade banner, which indicates that the products produced were done in conditions fair to both the workers and the environment. Outside of government involvement, citizens have taken an active role in ethical production by boycotting businesses that are not up to par with Canadian values and standards.

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#### **Canada's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

Over 25,000 people face homelessness every night in Canada and another 7,000 are placed in transitional housing. Because of this increasing issue in pandemic times, Canada has adjusted their approach to combating the housing crisis. Through the government program, the following occurs: outreach programs, information assistance for families and individuals, increasing education about homelessness in the community, addressing homelessness in Indigenous and rural areas, and they are constantly working to expand the program. Toronto city officials even leased out two apartment buildings to decrease the crowding in shelters and the number of people sleeping on the streets during the pandemic

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#### **Canada's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

Especially for the Indigenous communities of Canada, it can be extremely difficult to access clean water, more than 100 of these communities do not have access at the moment. Outside of threats to the First Nations, other providences in Canada are now at risk as well. Recently the government set aside \$739 million to stop the water crisis in Indigenous communities, which they plan will be completed in 2021. Despite the plan being announced, little has been actually implemented to quickly stop this crisis in its tracks.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### China

**Delegates:** Connor Ettinger,  
**School:** Lakeshore High School

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#### China's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods

The People's Republic of China does not suffer from any sort of Unethical Production of Goods. China does not rely on unethical trade, despite being one of the biggest producers world wide. The People's Republic of China, as the name suggests, has our citizens' quality of life as our highest priority and therefore makes sure to keep the presence of fair trade and ethical practices in all facets of the economy. One way China aims to do this is with the 'Made in China 2025' strategy, which aims to turn China from "the world's factory" into a more technology-intensive powerhouse, as well as put a larger emphasis on Green Energy and green vehicles. A labor researcher at the Hong Kong-based China Labor Bulletin said that "Working conditions in Chinese factories have been on an upward trajectory." The constitution of The People's Republic of China officially states, 'The state protects and improves the living environment and the ecological environment, and prevents and remedies pollution and other public hazards.'

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#### China's Stance on Global Housing Crisis

Unfortunately, the People's Republic of China does have a very minor housing problem, though not as bad as some would make it out to be. Sources that have stated that there are over 200 million homeless in China are both more than a decade old, and were wrong even when they were published. Less than 1% of The People's Republic of China's population is homeless, and the Ministry of Civil Affairs is currently working to reduce that number to 0. In fact, according to the Ministry of Civil Affairs, China has approximately 2,000 shelters and 20,000 social workers to aid approximately 3 million homeless people. In 2020, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs announced several actions of the Central Committee in response to homelessness, including increasing support services and reuniting homeless people with their families.

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#### China's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis

The People's Republic of China is setting an example for sustainable water use worldwide. China's main water resources include around 2,813 cubic kilometers of annual renewable water sources, with 2500 cubic kilometers of mean annual run-off in its rivers and 828.8 cubic kilometers of groundwater recharge. While we do admit that in a few parts of China, there have been some water shortages, we have been working hard to fix these problems and find new, sustainable solutions. In fact, 95% of The People's Republic of China's population has access to water, and, in the last 30 years, 37% of the population gained access to sanitized water sources, bringing the amount of Chinese citizens with sanitized water to over 1,064,000,000 people.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Democratic People's Republic of Korea

**Delegates:** Ethan Bunney, Isaac Kim

**School:** Lafayette High School

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#### **Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

The state owns all production of goods, and the country is self reliant; our country is free of greedy corporate corruption. Our country embraces the ideals of communism in that we have equality and fairness in our system of industry. Despite our reliance on heavy industry with support by our light industry and agricultural sectors, our special economic development districts see no injustice or hazards. This is due to our unified and detailed planning granted by the Grand Marshall, as the Marshall puts the glorious people first and foremost, leading to a fair 7 hour workday, with the harder workers being given rewards based upon the quality of labor. As for our environment, the only concern is the deforestation that has occurred due to Western control of fuel for our fires; Our people have had no choice but to turn towards our beautiful homeland for food and fuel. Our industries have been cleaned as much as humanly possible, with no harm done to the people of our glorious nation.

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#### **Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

Our nation itself owns all real estate and every person has the right to occupy a house or apartment, the cost of living in Joseon is practically zero. As the state owns all land there is always housing available for our people when they need it. Our people are afforded a house based on the job that they do for our society and the more that they do the nicer that their homes are because of their sacrifice for the great leader. We are able to provide the people of our nation with homes for the foreseeable future due to our ever growing industry.

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#### **Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

The glorious country has a massive system of water that was installed in the 1980s. This water system is properly maintained and provides clean water for all the people of the fatherland. Our country relies on our rivers for the source of our clean water, where it is made available for public use with the proper procedures. The only threat to our efficient water system is natural disaster, which is taken care of adequately and safely. The Grand Marshall has discouraged the export of our clean water to the countries who have rejected our fatherland.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Ethiopia

**Delegates:** Benjamin Hunn, David Webster

**School:** Jesuit High School

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#### **Ethiopia's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

It is illegal for anybody under 14 to work, and a minor cannot engage in heavy work. There have been drafts for a minimum wage; however, none have been approved. Normal hours of work shall not exceed 8 hours a day or 48 hours a week. 20% of underaged children are employed illegally, and there is weak enforcement of environmental protection laws.

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#### **Ethiopia's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

Ethiopia is building condominium housing-complexes in its cities with its Integrated Housing Development Program, paid for by Ethiopia's treasury and bonds in the World Bank, to house those in poverty. The government has introduced a 10 year development masterplan to build 4.4 million houses. Sanitation is a serious problem, so Ethiopia subsidizes improvements of sanitation for slums.

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#### **Ethiopia's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

Access to clean water and sanitation in Ethiopia is a serious problem; however, it is getting better. Ethiopia aims to increase access to safe water to 98 percent in rural areas and 100 percent in urban areas with its One WASH National Program. This \$2.9 billion dollar focuses on constructing new water points, rehabilitating existing ones, and improving sanitation facilities for health centers and schools in rural and urban areas.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### France

**Delegates:** Maria Hargrave, Grace Dube

**School:** Saint Joseph's Academy

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#### France's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods

France places an emphasis on importing and exporting things ethically and has many regulations in place for issues such as child labor and criminal bribery. We believe it to be extremely important to keep the economy healthy and free from morally inappropriate practices. Unfortunately, France's immigrants, especially students, are at an economic disadvantage. We believe that fixing this should be a priority.

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#### France's Stance on Global Housing Crisis

Though France reflects UN standards with a 9.01 on the Human Development index, France has over 200,000 men and women without homes. We believe this issue is of the utmost importance. President Emmanuel Macron stated in 2017 that, "[housing] is a question of dignity, a question of humanity and efficiency." The number of homeless people in France increased by 169% from 2011-2018. Immigrants are feeling the brunt of lack of housing more severely than other citizens, and with 90,000 immigrants entering France each year, we feel that it is imperative that significant efforts are made to allow for housing for all. France currently has a lack of temporary housing. Additionally, we feel like the pollution caused by urbanization should be addressed as quickly as possible.

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#### France's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis

Most of the population in France has no issue with clean water, with 98% of the population having regular access from ethical sources. Over half of the water source for France comes from four rivers: Loire, Seine, Garonne, and Rhone. As access to safe water dramatically affects death rates and quality of life around the world, France prioritizes the protection of the right to clean water and sanitation for all. France prides herself on actively contributing toward the fight for clean water for all. Due to France's effort, 2.5 million people receive improved access to potable water each year.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Germany

**Delegates:** Real Nero, Madison Leishman

**School:** Haynes Academy

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#### **Germany's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

Germany actively supports ethical consumption and is a part of several eco conscious organizations such as the European Fair Trade Association, the Ecodesign Directive, and Karmaconsum. A strong issue of unethical consumption is a lack of awareness on worker and consumer exploitation. Germany promotes several magazine companies and awards writers for promoting conscious consumption and exposing unethical modes of production: The Oko-Test Magazine, RankaBrand, Verbbraucher Initiative, Utopia, Karmakonsum, Enorm Magazine, and Wegreen are just some. Despite Germany's efforts, university's students and teenagers are a large portion of fast fashion consumers. This is due to the fact that the cost of the sustainable fashion industries are higher priced, have exclusive sizing, and lack newer trends. Germany has also worked towards promoting ethical production for daily necessities, such as power. The German government expected a share of 38% renewable power by 2020 to transform the energy industry to systems based entirely on renewable energies. Germany also recognizes that poorly waged labor is a byproduct of unethical consumption, and has raised their minimum wage in the last year. Residents were expected to see income growth of 12% by 2020. Germany supports any efforts or resolutions that promote conscious consumption, support labor unions, better working conditions, and transparency for workers, corporations, and consumers.

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#### **Germany's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

Germany is experiencing a shortage of affordable housing and space for as many as 600,000 citizens. Approval rates are extremely slow and there is limited space to build sustainable housing. Many right leaning German citizens are protesting on land where it is feasible to build; claiming it would "affect their quality of life". Construction costs are continuing to rise and there is a shortage of skilled workers. Housing in rural Germany tends to be a different story. "Over 50% more apartments than actually needed were built in 69 of Germany's 401 independent countries and districts these past two years." This results in a large amount of vacant properties. Germany wants to look for an increase in work, education, and resources to be available locally in rural areas, as only 15% of Germany's population lives there. Germany believes providing these would combat the rapid urban growth, as appeal and necessity can be found elsewhere in rural areas. Although Germany has a problem with housing, many people still choose to live there because of their high rankings in education, healthcare, and steady economies. Germany's standard of living is ranked highly against other countries in the UN. German chancellor Angela Merkle, and social democrats have been making affordable housing a top priority. The German government planned to build 1.5 new flats by 2021 and set aside 5 billion Euros for social housing in which they planned to build 100 new flats. Big cities such as Berlin have introduced a rent freeze due to the pandemic. These are great steps in the right direction, but Germany still has a long way to go to combat this problem as a whole.

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#### **Germany's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

Germany does provide clean water for all of its citizens. However there is a water shortage due to dry climates and droughts. In 2018-2019, Germany experienced two years of extreme drought and heat which saw significant crop losses, powerplant curtoluments, and loss of forest land. Water levels in major rivers plummeted severely. The National Water Dialogue has bought together a team of over 200 scientists to research this water shortage . There will be a demand for additional irrigation if rainfall continues to fail. There is a large need for a long- distance water network, protection of natural rivers, and revising outdated rules.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Germany

**Delegates:** Real Nero, Madison Leishman

**School:** Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

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Germany actively supports ethical consumption and is a part of several eco-conscious organizations such as the European Fair Trade Association, the Ecodesign Directive, and Karmaconsum. A strong issue of unethical consumption is a lack of awareness of worker and consumer exploitation. Germany promotes several magazine companies and awards writers for promoting conscious consumption and exposing unethical modes of production: The Oko-Test Magazine, RankaBrand, Verbbraucher Initiative, Utopia, Karmakonsum, Enorm Magazine, and Wegreen are just some. Despite Germany's efforts, university students and teenagers are a large portion of fast-fashion consumers. This is due to the fact that the cost of the sustainable fashion industry is higher-priced, has exclusive sizing, and lacks newer trends. Germany has also worked towards promoting ethical production for daily necessities, such as power. The German government expected a share of 38% renewable power by 2020 to transform the energy industry into systems based entirely on renewable energies. Germany also recognizes that poorly waged labor is a byproduct of unethical consumption, and has raised its minimum wage in the last year. Residents were expected to see income growth of 12% by 2020. Germany supports any efforts or resolutions that promote conscious consumption, support labor unions, better working conditions, and transparency for workers, corporations, and consumers.

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#### **Germany's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

Germany is experiencing a shortage of affordable housing and space for as many as 600,000 citizens. Approval rates are extremely slow and there is limited space to build sustainable housing. Many right-leaning German citizens are protesting on land where it is feasible to build; claiming it would "affect their quality of life". Construction costs are continuing to rise and there is a shortage of skilled workers. Housing in rural Germany tends to be a different story. "Over 50% more apartments than actually needed were built in 69 of Germany's 401 independent countries and districts these past two years." This results in a large number of vacant properties. Germany wants to look for an increase in work, education, and resources to be available locally in rural areas, as only 15% of Germany's population lives there. Germany believes providing these would combat the rapid urban growth, as appeal and necessity can be found elsewhere in rural areas. Although Germany has a problem with housing, many people still choose to live there because of their high rankings in education, healthcare, and steady economies. Germany's standard of living is ranked highly against other countries in the UN. German Chancellor Angela Merkle and social democrats have been making affordable housing a top priority. The German government planned to build 1.5 new flats by 2021 and set aside 5 billion Euros for social housing in which they planned to build 100 new flats. Big cities such as Berlin have introduced a rent freeze due to the pandemic. These are great steps in the right direction, but Germany still has a long way to go to combat this problem as a whole.

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#### **Germany's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

What is your country's stance on the Clean Water Crisis?

Germany does provide clean water for all of its citizens. However, there is a water shortage due to dry climates and droughts. In 2018-2019, Germany experienced two years of extreme drought and heat which saw significant crop losses, powerplant issues, and loss of forest land. Water levels in major rivers plummeted severely. The National Water Dialogue has bought together a team of over 200 scientists to research this water shortage. There will be a demand for additional irrigation if rainfall continues to fail. There is a large need for a long-distance water network, protection of natural rivers, and revising outdated rules.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### India

**Delegates:** Daniela Garcia, Rachel Guan

**School:** Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

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#### **India's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

India suffers from severe cases of unethical processes, both in the workforce and in the production of goods. About 3 million kids aged 5-14 are currently employed in India. Although there are laws in place to prevent child labor, India has been insufficient in enforcing them. Police officers have limited access to training opportunities on such laws, and access to training varies from state to state. Laws such as ILO Convention 182 and Convention 138, and the Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labor implement the National Child Labor Program. However, current laws are insufficient to deter employers from hiring children because imprisonment is rare and maximum fines are infrequently levied.

India became the first country to legally mandate corporate social responsibility. Since 2014, large companies are required to spend at least 2 percent of their profits every year on education, poverty, gender equality, and hunger as part of any CSR compliance. However, the bill only applies to companies with an average net profit of at least 50 million rupees (approximately \$816,000 USD) over a period of three years. Additionally, such qualifying corporations can opt to give nothing, as long as they explain why. Therefore, the law is ineffective without a strong enforcement mechanism or meaningful repercussions for companies that do not comply.

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#### **India's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

More recently, the Government of India has launched a massive campaign of providing housing to all its citizens by the year 2022. In the urban context, this campaign has notably taken the shape of public-private partnerships for the construction of middle and high rise buildings (particularly in metropolitan cities). The central government has already taken steps in this direction by drafting plans to develop three crore rural houses with an investment of about USD55 to 60 billion through 2022. For urban affordable housing, the central and state governments have taken several initiatives in partnership with the private sector, yielding positive results. Several requisite policies and regulations promoting better coordination between housing stakeholders; delegation of power to urban local bodies; rationalization of fees and taxes; a relook at development norms; and steps to help reduce project cost and schedule overruns need to be introduced.

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#### **India's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

Less than 50% of the population in India has access to safely managed drinking water. Chemical contamination of water, mainly through fluoride and arsenic, is present in 1.96 million dwellings. Moreover, two-thirds of India's 718 districts are affected by extreme water depletion, and the current lack of planning for water safety and security is a major concern. One of the challenges is the fast rate of groundwater depletion in India, which is known as the world's highest user of this source due to the proliferation of drilling over the past few decades. School attendance in India decreases when children are required to spend hours collecting water. A 22% increase in school dropout rates has been reported in drought-affected states. Close to 54% of rural women – as well as some adolescent girls – spend an estimated 35 minutes getting water every day, equivalent to the loss of 27 days' wages over a year. This Swajal and the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) program has helped in prioritizing integrated water safety planning, behavior change and community participation in most deprived aspirational districts, and Water Quality Monitoring (WQM). This contributed to achieving 18.6 million people gaining access to safe drinking water.

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## Ireland

**Delegates:** Caroline Wilcox, Ria Mehrotra

**School:** Episcopal High School

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### **Ireland's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

Ireland is doing well with ensuring ethical production. There is the IFTN (Irish Fair Trade Network) which is a big part of Ireland and ensuring an increase of ethical production in Ireland. We are not in a position to freely help other countries yet, but we are working to get to that point.

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### **Ireland's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

Ireland had long prided itself with its housing market. For years there were enough places for people to live and homelessness was to a minimum. In the last 8 years, this has changed. Dublin (home to  $\frac{2}{5}$  of our country's population) has been a "ground zero" for a housing crisis.

The lack of shelter for people has skyrocketed the average Dublin house to be upwards of 330,000 euros which amount to ~400,000 dollars. In fact, as a first-time homebuyer, someone in Dublin would have to have a yearly income of at least 111,935 euros (\$136,000). This compares to the 45,268 euros (\$55,000) a typical person would make in a year in Dublin. This explains why over 1,200 families are homeless in Dublin, which includes 4,400 individuals. This is compared to 2014 when only 331 homeless families were counted in Dublin. Between 2012 and 2019, house costs in Dublin have skyrocketed 93.8 percent.

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### **Ireland's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

Ireland has a plentiful supply of fresh water but the quality of this water resource can be an issue. The most widespread threat to water quality is pollution from municipal sewage and agricultural activities. In Ireland, fluoridation of drinking water supplied by public water supplies is compulsory and required by the Health (Fluoridation of Waters Supplies) Act 1960 (the "1960 Act") and also the Fluoridation of Water Supplies Regulations (the "2007 Fluoridation Regulations").

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Japan

**Delegates:** Patrick Dowd, Jackson Junius

**School:** Jesuit High School

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#### **Japan's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

Recently, Japan has been trying to reach more sustainable means of production through the implementation of UN's sustainable development goals that hope to improve ethical production of goods as well as other issues such as poverty. Japan instituted a new Cabinet body called the "SDGs Promotion Headquarters" that coordinates with other government agencies to properly implement the sustainable development goals. Therefore, Japan is driven to improve the ethical production of goods and to ensure that the other sustainable development goals are achieved.

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#### **Japan's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

What is your country's stance on the global housing crisis?

With an ever shrinking population, the housing situation in Japan is only getting better. The average cost of housing staying at what it was at the turn of the century. This is due in part through the large number of federally supported building projects. However, there is major overcrowding in Tokyo and the city's infrastructure is struggling to keep on pace with the still growing city. Therefore, Japan is not largely affected by the housing crisis but is open to resolutions looking to solve overcrowding.

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#### **Japan's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

Japan has created many initiatives to help other countries that are struggling to maintain access to clean water. Through projects such as the West Africa Water Initiative and the Clean Water Investment Guaranties, Japan has been provided clean drinking sources to over 40 million people around the globe. Japan is focused on securing safe drinking water for the people of the world who don't have access to this vital resource.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Kenya

**Delegates:** Alessandra Purnell, Maisie Jones

**School:** Saint Joseph's Academy

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#### **Kenya's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

The Nation of Kenya fully supports the ethical production of goods. Kenya's leading exports are tea, coffee, and produce are significant goods in Kenya. Unfortunately, child labor is not uncommon in production. The Kenyan police have made advancements in the fight against child labor.

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#### **Kenya's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

The Nation of Kenya full supports affordable housing. Affordable housing is a top priority within the Kenyan government. Lower-income families are struggling to afford to buy or build a home. Because families are without formal settlements, they are more susceptible to infectious diseases. Kenya identifies this key issue and promises 500,000 affordable homes within the next five years.

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#### **Kenya's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

The Nation of Kenya fully and completely supports any efforts to make water safe and widely accessible. Kenya struggles with this, as we don't have ample funds to support a piping system that gives all our citizens access to clean water. Over a dozen countries share a basin with Kenya, and there is nothing that manages these joint water sources.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Luxembourg

**Delegates:** Abigail Kukura, Emily Alley

**School:** Saint Joseph's Academy

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#### **Luxembourg's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

Luxembourg supports efforts to ensure that products are ethically produced. We are welcoming of ideas to decrease child labor and other unethical practices of producing goods.

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#### **Luxembourg's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

Luxembourg embraces efforts that plan to decrease poverty levels. We especially support those displaced by disasters emulating the "Leaving no one behind" principle. We to be responsive. Luxembourg plans to allocate 15% of ODA to humanitarian assistance.

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#### **Luxembourg's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

Luxembourg will continue to endorse efforts to increase cleaner water in areas where access to clean and safe water is scarce. We deeply believe that these initiatives will help stop the spread of violent diseases in impoverished countries.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Mexico

**Delegates:** Emily Marionneaux, Sara Manning Miller

**School:** St. Joseph's Academy

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#### **Mexico's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

The country of Mexico has notoriously struggled with ethically producing recreational drugs. Not only are these substances illegal to consume in most places, but they're dangerous to produce as well. The vast majority of Mexican produced drugs end up in the United States. In other words, substances - such as methamphetamine, marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and other illicit drugs - are cheaply and unethically produced and shipped illegally across the northern border into the United States. Methamphetamine, for example, requires the obtainment of hazardous substances such as acetone, anhydrous ammonia (fertilizer), ether, red phosphorus, and lithium. Such methods of production, manufacturing, and transportation are dangerous to the individuals working to produce the narcotics.

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#### **Mexico's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

Mexico is amidst an ongoing housing crisis. Over 53.3 million people who reside in Mexico don't have the financial means to provide adequate housing for themselves and their families. Many individuals are forced to leave their established homes due to threats of violence from gangs, poverty, and environmental disasters. This homelessness can also be tied to the high rates of domestic violence in Mexico. Gangs and drug cartels exploit women for prostitution and human trafficking. This has caused women to be more prone and vulnerable to homelessness.

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#### **Mexico's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

It's an understood precedent to avoid consuming tap water in the country of Mexico. The condition known as "Montezuma's Revenge" is the term for an illness inflicted by contaminated water, perhaps due to poor sewage disposal. In Mexico, where there is a total population of 129 million people, 904 thousand lack proper access to safe water. Many Mexican households are somewhat appalled by the idea of utilizing unfiltered tap water; many buy gallon tanks of water. In fact, many Mexicans have adapted to refraining from swallowing or rinsing with water when brushing their teeth. The issue seems to lie mostly in the outdated distribution system.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Norway

**Delegates:** Preston Kyle, Davis Eglin

**School:** Episcopal Baton Rouge

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#### **Norway's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

Norway has always promoted the ethical production of goods. To meet these goals, Norway has passed a few transparency acts, requiring businesses to disclose where they source their resources and products. Norway does not face any issues with ethical production domestically. Norway's focus on ethics has helped make it the highest ranking nation by the Human Development Index.

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#### **Norway's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

Norway has been one of the nations hit the worst by the global housing crisis. 83% of Norway's population live in Urban areas. After World War Two, Norway completely reworked its housing model. Norway placed much of its emphasis on co-operative housing. It provides loans to individuals and groups looking to buy a house. Initially, Norway had fierce regulation of housing prices. These regulations changed in the 80s when Norway shifted from a state-interventionist approach to a more free market approach. Money for loans began to trickle away and pricing control was abolished. This has led to housing prices skyrocketing. Norway now sees a shortage of public housing and social inequities in the housing market.

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#### **Norway's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

Norway relies heavily on lakes and rivers for drinking water. Thankfully, Norway has an abundance of fresh water. It is estimated that 100% of Norway's population has access to fresh drinking water. Norway's high quality water is due to its strong environmental legislation. Norway has always promoted itself as a great negotiator in environmental policy. Norway has some of the best environmental legislation despite the majority of its exports coming from the oil and gas industry.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Romania

**Delegates:** Ella King, Emma Stone

**School:** University Lab School

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#### **Romania's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

Romania is involved in trade between numerous countries and a multitude of different products, however, the most relevant one is military equipment and machinery. While this creates a large revenue for Romania and works to improve the economy, it creates a large carbon footprint on the environment. Many countries look over the harm of manufacturing equipment and machinery as it is justifiable for them, however, this is not sustainable and is negatively affecting the earth rapidly. In 2007, Romania sourced 3-4% of the world's military equipment, performing as one of the top manufacturing countries in the world. This creates extreme amounts of pollution and takes up land that could be used in a more sustainable manner.

Manufacturing such large amounts of military equipment causes damage to the environment through CO2 emissions, excessive land and sea use, and divert money and resources away from helping to sustain the environment. In 2017, countries producing military equipment collectively produced about 59 million tons in CO2 emissions. This worsens climate change and adds on to the greenhouse effect being seen on the planet. Romania also diverts much of their land to be used for manufacturing. This encroaches on wildlife habitats and adds to the ongoing problem of deforestation, subsequently aiding the growth of global warming and severe climate change. In 2019 Romania spent over \$9.4 billion on their military budget. While this budget covers things besides manufacturing, it still eats up billions of dollars. This money could be budgeted differently in order to install environmentally friendly regulations and reduce Romania's carbon footprint. Many countries, including Romania, look past the damage done to the environment when it is by the military as they prioritize that over the current climate crisis, however a lot can be done to help fix this.

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#### **Romania's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

Romania offers benefits of a universal healthcare system. The state finances primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare. Citizens of the European Union, along with Romanian citizens without paid insurance have the right to free emergency medical assistance. Romania is open to changes, but is not willing to uproot current systems that are already working. Romanian residents benefit from free, universal healthcare. Unfortunately, though, poverty rates in Romania are of the highest in the EU. This is an issue that has been prominent for centuries. In February of this year, the Government passed a comprehensive anti-poverty package of 47 measures to combat poverty in the country through 2020. ... Once this law is approved, it will have a major impact on bringing around four million Romanians, or one million families, out of poverty and exclusion. This being said, Romania is open to using resources to assist the impoverished.

In general, Romania is open to the idea of implementing new programs revolving around poverty and homelessness. Romania is interested in implementing new legislation.

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#### **Romania's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

The "Clean Water Crisis" is a permanent concern in Romania. The water in Romania is harmful due to high levels of nitrates and nitrites that are found in much of the country. Majority of the residents in Romania avoid tap water, and only drink bottled water. This is an endless cycle because the water bottles are then thrown out and further the issue of pollution, thus worsening the quality of the water. While access to water is not an issue, the health of the citizens is. This tap water spreads water borne diseases and can host a number of illnesses inside. Drinking this tap water does not make a resident immediately sick, but can have some long term effects. The water is not safe for foreigners to consume, and will make them immediately sick.

Romania is currently hosting events and raising money to address this concern, but only so much can be done with minimal donations. On March 22, 2008, the date which the United Nations has dubbed "World Water Day," The government came together to organize conferences and discussion sessions and launched a campaign of social responsibility aimed at making clean water, which the UN names as a "fundamental human right," available for all Romanians. While this was effective on raising awareness, it failed to make much progress, and 23% of Romanians are still left without a sound source of water. The country's factories,

chemical plants, and electric power plants depend heavily on burning fossil fuels, a process that emits high levels of carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide - a key component of acid rain. The industrial centers of central Romania, and Giurgiu, in the south, have severe air pollution problems. Bucharest, the capital, also has serious air pollution. Much of the nation's industrial runoff ends up in the Danube river system, making water unsafe for drinking and threatening the diverse ecosystems of the Danube delta. Romania has already started investing in clean energy, such as solar, wind and hydro energy sources. Also, several projects on using geothermal energy have already been implemented in the country. Romania is part of and has ratified various bilateral, regional and international conventions and treaties on environmental matters, including the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its 1997 Kyoto Protocol, the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and its 1978 Protocol, etc. Secondary legislation was further enacted, usually in the form of ministerial orders issued by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (or its predecessors). That all being said, Romania is open to change and making forward progress on the stance of water pollution.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Russia

**Delegates:** Waverly Wood, Corbin Nguyen

**School:** Baton Rouge High School

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#### **Russia's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

Russia is notorious for its dedication to labor rights, which are extensively protected in its constitution, and has sought to improve them even more in recent years. It recognizes that the production of goods is necessary for any country and that limiting production because of too many ethics only hurts production and the economy as a whole. Human efficiency does not bow to the environment around it. No one has gone anywhere without harming the environment in some way. Concerns surrounding production's environmental impact are a result of silly ideologies from the West.

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#### **Russia's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

It is the duty of the government to provide shelter for those who lack it. Russia supports government efforts to relieve those that need housing. Efforts such as communal living, called kommunalka, have been used here and work to relieve some of the burdens of homelessness. Some would call these kommunalkas "slums" but they are ungrateful and ignore the great living conditions provided at low cost. We started using these kommunalkas in 1917, which has led us to have lower rates of homelessness.

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#### **Russia's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

Water as a human right needs to be made more accessible globally and nationally. 40% of Russians consume water not meeting sanitary standards, and 22% of the population does not have access to the centralized water supply. As the demand for this resource grows, the Russian government will be spending millions through the "Clean Water of Moscow" program and specifically through the "Ecology" project, aimed from 2019 to 2024, in support of new technologies that could solve this problem.

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## Saudi Arabia

**Delegates:** Ada McClure, Faris Khattak

**School:** Lafayette High School

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### **Saudi Arabia's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

With oil and gas as the main economic focus of Saudi Arabia, the topic of ethical production is difficult. First of all, the lack of free speech prevents whistleblowers from exposing the practices of major corporations. Also, environmentally sustainable options are overlooked in favor of higher grossing forms of oil production and distribution. At the current consumption levels, the oil resources will run out in about 221 years. Recently, Saudi power and water sectors have installed up to 50 gigawatts of renewable and nuclear energy. "In the Vision 2030, the Kingdom targets low air, sound, water, and soil pollution in the domains of strategic objectives of national industrial development" (Government of Saudi Arabia, 2019). This Vision 2030 plan also plans to diversify the economy, relying less on oil and natural gas.

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### **Saudi Arabia's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

The Global Housing Crisis is not only affecting the Saudi Arabian economy, but the wellbeing of our citizens. With the country's focus on making futuristic, high end city centers, many lower income citizens are left unable to afford housing. The private sector has focused primarily on luxury properties for the upper middle class to the elites, ignoring low-income housing. Also, due to the Saudi Arabian Economy's reliance on the oil industry, COVID-19 has led to a rise in unemployment rates. The current mortgage system is making it nearly impossible for anyone middle class or below to take out mortgage loans. Currently, over 500,000 people are on the waiting list for interest free loans. While home ownership is a main focus of the Crown Prince's Vision 2030 reform program, the pandemic has caused budget cuts to this program.

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### **Saudi Arabia's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

Currently 97% of Saudi Arabia's population has access to potable water. However, our country has a scarcity of water due to the harsh desert environment. High levels of consumption and lack of reliable water sources have exponentially increased the importance of water scarcity. We are currently using 4 times more water than we can renew on average. In order to solve this issue, the government launched a national program called "Qatrah" in 2019; its goal is to cut water consumption considerably and redirect water usage from the agricultural sector to the urban area. As of right now, there have been positive results from Qatrah's efforts, especially since the government continues to back the cause.

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## Somalia

**Delegates:** Jakob Wismar,

**School:** Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

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### **Somalia's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

As Somalia's private sector has grown considerably in the past few years, child labor violations have become increasingly common throughout the country. Somali children often engage in the worst forms of labor, such as armed conflict and dangerous street work. While the government has established child labor regulations, legal ambiguity has prevented existing laws from effectively protecting children, allowing dire forms of child labor, such as child trafficking for labor, commercial sexual exploitation, and the recruitment of children by non-state armed groups. Somalia lacks a functional inspectorate for enforcing labor laws and would appreciate any assistance in acquiring adequate funding, human resources, and training for personnel to secure safer working conditions.

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### **Somalia's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

In recent years, Somalia has taken steps to make housing more accessible for its citizens, prioritizing housing and urban development in many regions. Methods for achieving accessible housing include tax incentives to the market for affordable, quality housing for the poor; an increase in land tenure security; the establishment of an accessible financing system that helps the less well-off buy their homes; efforts to recruit and improve skills in the construction sector skills; stronger building standards; and support of urban planning and infrastructure development. According to a 2020 survey, the average household size is 6.2 persons, 65% of households have access to improved or drinkable water sources, 56% of households have access to improved yet basic sanitation facilities, and 44% of households have access to electricity. This is a milestone for Somalia, but the country's sheltering situation is still lacking, and any further effort to globally secure accessible housing is welcomed.

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### **Somalia's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

Somalia struggles to secure access to clean water for its citizens. Only 52 percent of the population in Somalia has access to a basic water supply, mainly coming from expensive, private water suppliers. The rest of the population is forced to fetch water from public wells, and, while recent efforts have been made to dig and repair over 700 public wells in Somalia, most are still far apart and unsanitized. The long hikes to fetch water from these distant wells is a chore given to Somali women and children, which creates heavy stress and interferes with education and other activities. Furthermore, without access to clean water, toilets and good hygiene practices, the risk of contracting easily preventable diseases, such as cholera and respiratory infections, is incredibly high. Since 2017, over 900 people in Somalia have died from cholera, the majority being children under the age of five. In addition, women are often forced to give birth in these poor conditions, putting the lives of mothers and babies at stake. Somalia welcomes any international assistance in securing clean, safe water access for its citizens, such as through the sponsoring of wells.

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## The Republic of Korea

**Delegates:** Laurel Bourg, Catherine Shaw

**School:** University Lab School

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### **The Republic of Korea's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

After the financial crisis in 1997, the Republic of Korea recognized the importance of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and ethical business practices. Since then, the government has changed its relationship with chaebols, large family-owned business conglomerates, by taking steps against corruption. Chaebols were a major factor in the financial crisis, so the government has passed legislation to restrict their actions. In 2000, the Presidential National Commission on Sustainable Development was established to develop strategies for sustainability in different areas (gender, energy, water, land, climate change, social welfare, transportation, conflict management and ODA). As well, their economy relies heavily on the export of manufactured goods. This means CSR is not only crucial for their businesses, but also for their economy. Trade makes up 76.7% of the GDP, they are the 7th largest exporter and 9th largest importer. Ethical business practices are vital inside and outside of the country. To prevent external influences from harming their vulnerable economy, the Republic of Korea joined the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which is a free-trade agreement between 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. This allows Korea to easily trade with many of its main customers, especially China which gets 25.1% (as of 2019) of the exports. As well, the Republic of Korea has some of the strongest labor unions in the world, which put pressure on businesses to implicate CSR elements. With the creation of the Domestic Labor Party, labor unions now have a voice in the government, which allows them to influence the discussion of CSR and ethical business practices.

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### **The Republic of Korea's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

The Republic of Korea is proud to say that ever since the sudden surge in economic growth in the 1960s, a housing shortage no longer is a prevalent issue. In the early 2000s, the Republic of Korea finally reached a 100% ratio between housing supply to households. There were obstacles throughout the process as this development was unprecedented, but as of 2017 only 0.02% of South Korea's population is homeless. Although that percentage is amazingly low, that is still roughly 11,000 people without a place to call home, and a vast majority of those without a job or source of income. The Republic of Korea is not one to hide the vast amount of progress and variety of programs that have been put in place or are in development at the moment in terms of the Housing Crisis. For instance, the efforts of the Health Industry Bureau at the Welfare Ministry are determined to give better medical care for those living on the streets and to target assisting those most vulnerable such as youths and women. Roughly three quarters of the Republic of Korea's homeless population take advantage of the public housing and programs. President Moon Jae-in is very adamant about solving this problem, and as shown by the steadily decreasing population, is succeeding.

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### **The Republic of Korea's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

Roughly 98% of the population of South Korea has access to affordable clean water, but the cost of clean water in most rural areas is too high. Another issue is the old water infrastructure that only allows for a small percentage of the water to be used as drinking water. As well, there are steps being taken to increase water-use efficiency and sustainable withdrawals across all sectors. The annual rainfall has been higher than the world average. However, there is an issue of regional and seasonal water scarcity. Some steps have been taken to address these issues. The main improvements that are needed is an updated water infrastructure that can store water for year-round use, improve accessibility and quality of water, and improve transportation of water. There have been plans for international cooperation in 2030 to help other countries have access to clean and affordable water. Unfortunately, the country is still struggling with the access to clean water, so they cannot be of much help currently.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Ukraine

**Delegates:** Meghan Drane, MacKenzie Harless

**School:** Mandeville High School

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#### Ukraine's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods

Ukraine recently raised their minimum wage in order to make an effort to treat our workers with more dignity, even though the new 5,000 hryvnias (\$181.40) a month is not enough for a single bedroom apartment. We have some regulations in place, like the National Program of Domestic Production, that help to regulate unethical production, specifically environmentally. However, as a country we do not always have the funds or means to adequately support these programs. We also do not have laws protecting small businesses against unfair competition with larger trading partners. Finally, there is a forced labor and human trafficking problem in Ukraine that we are trying to combat. About 90% of the victims helped by the International Organization for Migration in Ukraine are victims of forced labor or human trafficking. From January to June 2019 alone, IOM identified 600 victims.

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#### Ukraine's Stance on Global Housing Crisis

Because homeless Ukrainians are only addressed when they qualify for government assistance, the true degree of our housing crisis is unknown. Most aid is left to non-governmental organizations such as the Ukrainian Charity Fund Social Partnership. Even then, these organizations have extremely low capacity (Only 30 people receive housing from their center in Kiev). In addition to a relative lack of funding and attention from the government, Kiev was named the second least affordable housing city in the world in 2017.

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#### Ukraine's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis

Open conflict on eastern borders and state control of many of our water sources lead to a severe lack of clean water in Ukraine. Supply systems are increasingly inefficient. They are frequently subject to damage and corrosion, which taints the water supply. Ceasefire violations in two eastern oblasts led to the disbandment of water services and clean water of over 3 million people. Further hindering the access to clean water is the dependence on it for electricity and heating. Clean tap water is rare- in 2018 over 100 people were hospitalized from bacteria and other substances in the tap water.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### United States of America

**Delegates:** Paresh Kolluru, Roma Kolluru

**School:** Lafayette High School

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#### **United States of America's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

In the United States, there are several local, regional, and national laws set in place that regulate the production of goods and how the workers that make the goods are treated. The Environment Protection Agency, under the United States Federal Government, sets rigorous standards for businesses to meet, including reports on their cleanliness and sustainability. The USA has several Information Disclosure Programs designed to influence businesses to introduce more information on ethical production processes, labor standards, and pollution levels, to government agencies, or the public. The goal of these programs is to influence a business to adopt more ethical processes and standards to gain consumer trust and approval. The United States is committed to ensuring the best working conditions for its citizens and providing worthwhile employment. The United States is also committed to using its manufacturing output and advanced machinery to improve the state of businesses around the country. All consumers and workers will benefit from the US's state-of-the-art technology, which we are willing to put out into the global market to create a more ethical production of goods around the world.

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#### **United States of America's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

The United States is committed to ensuring that no person, in or outside of its borders, ever has to live without a roof over their heads. We believe that our federal government has a social contract to provide adequate housing for our population; however, as a result of the Global Pandemic, the number of people without a home has risen to over 500,000 people in our country. Currently, several homeless shelters are being operated across the country but in a search for a more long term solution, our government, specifically the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, is working with our contractors to extirpate our housing shortage, and recent estimates have put that number at about 7.2 million housing units. Habitat for Humanity has stated that for housing to be affordable, rent or mortgage must be below 30 percent of the Household income. Therefore, we believe that the main issue of the housing crisis is not the availability of homes as much as it is poverty. The best way to combat this is by adding more jobs to the workforce so that people can have a steady income and be able to afford housing. As a member of the United Nations, we are committed to ensuring that not only our citizens but those from all countries have the resources and shelter necessary. That is why we have allocated roughly 40 Billion dollars in foreign aid for several years now and are looking to increase that number to build sustainable partnerships for many years to come. With the incoming administration, President Joe Biden and his team are committed to foreign aid with newly appointed Secretary of State Antony Blinken calling for aid to be the "center of our foreign policy." Admittedly, the United States does have an internal housing problem, but the new administration is making it a top priority to make sure that all Americans have a roof over their heads, and we are exploring ways to do the same in all countries.

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#### **United States of America's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

According to the Environment Protection Agency, in 2019 more than 30 million people were living in areas where water sanitation rules were being dismissed. This public health crisis in the United States has burdened far more than the residents in Flint, Michigan during their infamous water crisis in April of 2014. Under United Nations declarations and international law, access to clean water is a right, and it is far from being equitable. Lead contaminants in drinking water are by far the leading cause of sickness from water consumption in the United States. Although the United States has a continuous focus on its own citizens' well-being, we have also taken numerous steps to achieve global water sanitation. The National Integrated Drought Information System that was reauthorized in 2019 in the United States makes contributions to water management strategies in shared basins. We hope that this type of program can be implemented among all member countries. The United States will focus its technological advancements and resources on countries that need it the most and are underserved through national security. By focusing on unity between countries, the United States believes that as a United Nations we can effectively pursue this ongoing issue at impactful speeds.

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## Economic and Social Council Position Statement

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### Yemen

**Delegates:** Madison Williams, Sahil Akbar

**School:** Alexandria Senior High

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#### **Yemen's Stance on Ethical Production of Goods**

Yemen does not produce many goods because it is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. Yemen does have oil reserves, which the economy greatly depends, making it a contributor to global warming. Fishing is one of Yemen's greatest revenue sources, after oil, and the production of fish in the last two decades has greatly increased due to government subsidy programmes. Destructive fishing practices and the rising number of illegal fishing vessels are depleting resources. Agriculture makes up a large part of Yemen's economy with 70 percent of the population living in rural areas. Because so little of the land is arable Yemen has to import much of its food, even with that food scarcity is still prevalent. Almost 90 percent of the water is used for water but the number is so high because of the use of inefficient irrigation techniques. Yemen has some factories but the factories have very few restrictions and regulations on the factories, most likely due to poor infrastructure. While child labor has been prohibited since 1999 it still remains widespread. Overall Yemen really does not have the money or infrastructure to produce goods ethically.

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#### **Yemen's Stance on Global Housing Crisis**

Over 22 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, the country is on the brink of famine, and a million people have suffered from the worst cholera outbreak in modern history. Since 2015, Yemen has been in the grip of a brutal civil war. After rebel groups overtook the government, the Saudi- and Emirati-led coalition has been attempting to regain control by launching thousands of airstrikes, many of which have hit homes and public areas such as schools, health facilities and markets. Disease, war, and natural disasters have all lead to Yemen having a high number of homeless people.

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#### **Yemen's Stance on the Clean Water Crisis**

In Yemen, water is a finite resource that needs urgent attention, with groundwater sources rapidly depleting. Yemen already has one of the lowest rates of water per capita in the world, with only one third of Yemen's population connected to a piped water network. With the rapid depletion of water resources, agricultural production has been strained and the depletion of water has caused chronic water shortages. In response to this, the UK's Department for International Development has been funding water harvesting projects in Sa'adah. The hand-pump and precipitation tanks that they provided have brought the province a reliable source of water.

With the urgent need of water comes the need for clean and safe drinking water. Safe and clean drinking water is crucial for the good health and survival of the people of Yemen. The threat of cholera and Acute Watery Diarrhoea is still prevalent after Yemen recovers from one of the world's worst outbreaks in 2017. In 2019, there was a upsurge of Acute Watery Diarrhoea and cholera cases and since then it continues to rise, and this poses a great threat with the fast spreading at an unprecedented scale. The situation has worsened due to prolonged conflict affecting the WASH and health system.

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