

*Establishing a global strategy  
against youth unemployment*

## **Committee Guide**

*Fourth Committee of the General Assembly*





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## Personal Introduction

Hello, my name is Luca Anneken Freels.

I had my first MUN experience as staff during the OLMUN 2013. I got very enthusiastic about the OLMUN because I loved the atmosphere and the people. That's why I participated the following years as a delegate at the OLMUN - first as the delegate of Lesotho then as the delegate of Russia. In 2015 I also participated at the BIMUN in the beautiful city Budapest. This year I will be chairing the GA4 which is the committee where I've been delegate for the first time. Since it will be my first time chairing I am really excited.

In my freetime I love dancing, reading, hanging out with friends and travelling. I can't wait to see you at this year's OLMUN!

Hey guys,

I am Tunc. I have not been a lot of MUNs lately because of stuff, although I am now the Secretary General of our school's conference. I am sure it'll be a fantastic experience to chair this committee. I cannot wait to see Oldenburg and take part in OLMUN 2016. I really do believe we will be a great team and awesome committee.

My sincerest regards from Istanbul,  
Tunç Öztemir

Hello everyone,

Let me introduce myself. My name is Lili Stajer. I am from Hungary and I am currently 16 years old. A very important thing you have to know about me in advance, my utmost love and admiration towards good coffee.

As for my other interests: I am also very keen on music (I know, I am quite a cliché), mostly alternative and indie rock. I love sciences, precisely my favorites are Biology and Physics. Thus when I grow up I would like to be a genetic engineer and create my very own clone army.

I am obviously an MUN-enthusiast and, as everyone else, I am looking really forward to BIMUN 2016!

So may the force be with you all and best wishes,  
Lili

## 1. Introduction of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly

The United Nations Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly (also known as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee) is one of six committees of the United Nations. As it is a General Assembly committee, each of the 194 countries shall have representatives in the committee.

deals with a variety of subjects which include those related to decolonization, Palestinian refugees and human rights, peacekeeping, mine action, outer space, public information, atomic radiation and University for Peace, of which mine related topics are debated biennially, University of Peace triennially and every other topic annually. But the GA 4<sup>th</sup> does not only discuss a broad diversity of topics, it also helps the Security Council in matters where the contribution of the whole international community is necessary.



## 2. Introduction of the topic

### 2.1 Youth

Various organizations and countries use the term youth to refer to different age groups. Generally, youth means people between the ages of 15-24. Nonetheless, in practice different countries, cultures and education systems have a huge impact on the definition. In more developed nations the minimum age is generally the minimum school leaving age. This study guide will also use the aforementioned definition even though the problems faced by teenagers (16-20) and young adults (20-24) are substantially different. For example, Germany, a country in which unemployment rates are almost the same between young people and adults as a result of their dual apprenticeship system, the unemployment rates between teenagers (16-20) and young adults (20-24) are troublingly different. This suggests that even though young people do get apprenticeships at first, they fail to get a new job afterwards.

## 2.2 A Global Concern

More and more young people are having trouble finding a job as youth unemployment reaches serious levels in most of the countries. In comparison, youth unemployment rates are much higher, three times more in fact, than that of adults and there are at least 60 million young people who are looking for a job yet cannot get one all around the globe. Although data collection mechanisms in developing countries are not accurate or sufficient enough, estimates suggest that the problem is only worse compared to industrialized nations and the gender gap tends to deepen. In developing countries, open youth unemployment combined with considerable levels of underemployment and bad quality jobs indicates that the problem is even worse than it first appears to be. This same pattern is also true for many transition economies.

## 2.3 Key Actors

Since people realized the great threat posed to our economy by the huge extent of youth unemployment, numerous actions have been taken, both on governmental and non-governmental levels. Obviously none of them has been entirely successful, considering the fact that it is still a crucial problem, but we must mention several organizations and movements which aim to make significant difference.

- The first one to note is probably the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the United Nations. As the name suggests it does not only focus on the issue of unemployment but it is one of its prime points. It aims to enhance awareness of the situation of the youth, to increase the rights of the juvenile and to strengthen the participation of youth in decision-making processes.
- The International Labor Organization (ILO), established in 1919 as a sequel of WWI, then in 1946 it became the first specialized body of the UN. The ILO accomplishes its work through three main bodies (The International Labor Conference, the Governing body and the Office) which comprise governments', employers' and workers' representatives. Its main agenda is to promote equal working standards and decent work for all men and women, including the youth. The ILO's programme on youth employment operates through a global network of technical teams at its headquarters in Geneva and in more than 60 offices around the world. It provides assistance to countries in developing coherent and coordinated interventions on youth employment.

- Another relevant NGO is the (also) Geneva based International Organization of Employers (IOE) which collects employers' organizations and aims to create an international forum for them where these associations are able to communicate, share information and experience, provide support and advise. The other main goal of IOE is to create safe environment to free enterprise and a stable market economy.
- It is also important to mention Peace Child International. Their motto is 'empowering young people'. The charity organization focuses on promoting and implementing entrepreneurship, providing loans and mentorship to undergraduates and improving the employability of young people worldwide. PCI hosts an annual World Youth Conference where the world's young leaders are able to express their thoughts and engage on debates.
- The World Bank takes part of the integration of youth in the global labor market since the beginning of the 2000s. It provides mentorship programs and monetary support for young people.
- The International Confederation of Free Trade Union is helping workers since 2006, when it was merged with the World Confederation of Labor. It consists of 157 million members in 225 affiliated organizations in 148 countries and territories. The ITFCU's main goal is to defend workers' rights on an international scale and to support workers' associations.
- Naturally we must not forget the role of governmental decisions and actions as it is every country's primary goal to ensure the future by providing jobs for millions of young citizens.



## 2.4 Measures taken

The United Nations has long recognized that young people are vital to the development of the societies in which they live. The UN acknowledged this in 1965 with the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples. 1985 was the International Youth Year: Participation, Development and Peace.

The UN Program on Youth is the division handling the issue of youth within the United Nations. It aims to build an awareness of the global situation of young people, as well as promote their rights and aspirations. The UN program on Youth is part of the Social Integration Branch, which falls within the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in the United Nations Secretariat. In 1995, on the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year, the United Nations strengthened its commitment to young people by adopting an international strategy the World Program of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY), which includes the problem of employment as well and serves as the primary principle and guideline to UN Program on Youth. The UN Program on Youth is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the WPAY.


The UN Program on Youth prepares and publishes the World Youth Report, a global report on the situation of youth.

The General Assembly of the UN adopted August 12 as International Youth Day. The Assembly recommended that public information activities be organized to support the day as a way to promote better awareness of the World Program of Action for Youth. It has different themes annually and in 2015 the theme was Youth Civic Engagement which strongly connects to our topic.

We must not forget that the UN brought the issue forward within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals as well with Goal 8, which is to Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. The targets also include the youth and the Solutions for Youth Employment (S4YE) coalition founded, in partnership, International Labor Organization (ILO), International Youth Foundation (IYF), Plan International, the World Bank, and other private, public and civil actors, provides support for young people to engage in the labor market.



The Work4Youth Project is a five-year partnership between the ILO and The MasterCard Foundation that aims to promote decent work opportunities for young men and women through knowledge and action.



Their main aims are:

- Creating reports on youth employment, unemployment and under employment;
- Analyzing the effectiveness of country policies and programmes on youth employment;
- Giving advice to strengthen in-country labor market policies and programmes for youth employment;
- Helping with formulating and implementing national youth employment programmes that focus on employment- intensive investment, skills development, youth entrepreneurship, access to finance and other targeted active labor market measures;
- Advocacy and awareness-raising activities to promote decent work for youth with a focus on employability, employment and workers' rights;
- Advisory services through the Youth Employment Network (YEN) partnership, including evaluation clinics and support to YEN lead countries.

## 2.5 Conclusion

The young generation of our time is often being referred to as the “lost generation”. This phrase, despite its frivolous sounding, describes the situation quite well. Youngsters who have just finished school are often not employed due to the lack of experience and capital. However, by this mechanism we are actually hindering the youth from getting any type of experience. They stuck into a spiral which is very hard to escape and soon we will find them as still unemployed adults. This brings the threat of homelessness, stress and stress related illnesses, higher crime rates and so on. It is the interests of neither the individuals nor nations to maintain such high numbers regarding unemployment and risk the possibility of losing a whole generation. But to avoid this we must act now and we must act together!



### 3. Possible solutions

- Encouraging entrepreneurship is widely seen as one of the solutions to the problem. But what is exactly entrepreneurship? Well it is the act or rather the process of creating a new business or launching a new idea, innovation which offers a product or service. Obviously this is not as easy as it first sounds, it requires a huge amount of work, devotion and, let's not forget, money. And this is the part where governments can help. There are plenty of ways to support startup companies and innovations. For instance, mentorship programmes and financial education or simpler and more encouraging tax conditions and attractive loans or even funding. Although the UN cannot interfere into national sovereignty and cannot change taxing inside a country, it can surely give a good example and promote the support of young companies.
- The improvement of education can also help in combatting the issue. Most of the freshly graduated students lack daily life skills. In most countries basic economic studies are not part of the curriculum. However, without these skills youngsters are unable to successfully search for a job, thus it is very hard for them to become a functioning member of the society. It is also important to improve the situation of vocational education, since it could ease the problem by teaching foundational skills in a relatively short time and for lower costs. Additionally, research shows that countries where vocational education is quite developed not only employers' productivity is higher, but so are the wages.
- Providing assistance for young people. It is not hard to imagine that in such tender ages people tend to be undetermined whether what or how to do. This is why proper support and assistance is needed to provide pathways and opportunities.



## 4. Advice on preparation

### 4.1 How to use the Committee Guide?

As you might see this committee guide gives you all some basic information regarding the issue however we must emphasize that it is simply a summary of the topic, it is non-exhaustive and it may not contain every idea, let alone possible solution. And due to that we would like to encourage you all to use it as a base but do not rely on it entirely and do some proper research on your own.

### 4.2 Where to start?

Probably the first thought that has crossed your minds is Wikipedia. Wikipedia is a great starting point; it can give you a decent overview. However, do not get stuck at the top of the page, because the most useful part is usually at the bottom -the links of references. The links will lead you to the sites, that are the original sources of the information and they are probably much more detailed. Other than that, hopefully all of you knows how to use search engines (Google, Bing, Yahoo or whatever you may find suitable), but we strongly recommend you to use data that you have found on official sites of for example organizations or the UN itself.

### 4.3 What should you, as a delegate do?

The first thing we require of you is research. The second is research and guess what, the third is also research. As a delegate knowing your country's policy regarding this issue is not enough. You should also be aware of the problem on a worldwide level, the most important information of the given country, possible allies and foes. If you looked deeper into the foreign relations of your country, then your job will instantly be easier.

We would also like to ask for a position paper of all delegates. A position paper is basically a statement about the attitude of your state towards the topic, it summarizes your thoughts and your research. It is a great basis for a resolution too, which is a formal letter which should contain the information you have acquired through research on how to tackle the problem.

## 4.4 Sources

We would also like to provide you with some of the sources we used, it might be helpful. But then again remember that you should use your own ideas as well!

- <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/>
- <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/youth-employment/lang--en/index.htm>
- <http://www.ioe-emp.org/policy-areas/youth-employment/>
- <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/wpay2010.pdf>
- <http://peacechild.org/>