Advancing Worldwide
Internet Access and Infrastructure

Committee Guide

Economic and Social Council

Table of Content

1. Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates of the ECOSOC 2016,

My Name is Anna Bartholomäi and me and Yannick are chairing the ECOSOC this year.

I am 16 years old and I am currently attending the 11th grade of the Graf-Anton-Günther Gymnasium in Oldenburg. In my free time, I am playing theatre at the Oldenburger State Theatre Youth Clubs and I am interested in Politics.

I started my MUN career at our local school MUN, the Anton goes UN. In the following years, I took part at several MUNs including the OLMUN and the BERMUN. This OLMUN is my 7th MUN Conference. Last year I first chaired at our school MUN and decided to do it again at the OLMUN and be part of the Inner Circle.

I am looking forward to working with you and have successful debates and good resolutions.

See you in May,
Anna Bartholomäi

Dear Delegates,

My name is Yannick Bargfeldt and I am happy and honoured to welcome you to the ECOSOC of the OLMUN 2017 as one of your Chairs. I am 23 years old and am currently serving in the German armed forces stationed in Delmenhorst. In the rest of my free time I enjoy various kinds of sport, travelling and meeting friends.

My MUN history began in 2011 with my participation at OLMUN 2011 as a Delegate of Malaysia. I was really impressed that a huge event like the OLMUN was organized solely by a group of students. At that time, I was sitting in the crowd looking up at the Chairs and the Secretariat and felt inspired by their enthusiasm and passion for OLMUN. I instantly knew I wanted to be part of the OLMUN again and I also wanted to have a look behind the scenes the next time. This wish resulted in me joining the "Inner Circle" of the OLMUN.

Since then I have organized the OLMUN as part of the Secretariat twice. Even though I left school and didn't start studying straight away, I have been to conferences in Berlin, Hamburg, Istanbul (Turkey) and Tel Aviv (Israel). This year`s OLMUN will be my 13th MUN conference and I am delighted to chair the ECOSOC.

I very much look forward to meeting you all in June and to having interesting debates as well as a great time overall.

Yours sincerely,
Yannick Bargfeldt

2. General Information

2.1 How to use the committee guide

This committee guide provides a basis for this years' topic that will be debated and discussed in the Economic and Social Council. Though, it is only the foundation for the delegates' research on this topic and is not meant to be used as an all-inclusive analysis. Accordingly, this guide serves as a thought provoking impulse to introduce every delegate to the topic. Indeed, the delegates will acquaint themselves with further information to be well prepared for the discussions and for the debates. This can be done by consulting scholarly materials, international news and more detailed proved background knowledge.

2.2 The Economic and Social Committee

The Economic and Social Council is one of the principal organs of the UN and was established in 1946. The Council is the place where such issues as economic, social and environmental challenges are discussed and debated. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the ECOSOC to coordinate those issues and to find solutions for the economically related social problems. The ECOSOC holds one four-week session each year in July. Since 1998, additional meetings are held every April with the highest-ranking officials of the International Monetary Fund as well as the World Bank. Adding to the member states, several NGO's are granted the consultative status in the council.

3. This Year's Topic - Advancing worldwide internet access and infrastructure

Some time ago the internet was a new and unexplored topic. It was independent and was used to exchange information or read messages. Nowadays this has completely changed. The Internet has become a basic infrastructure. It is connecting people all around the world and there are many who cannot live without internet access any more.

Many companies and organizations are using the internet as a new business model to promote and introduce themselves as well as a platform to publish Information.

But the role of the internet in the society is not completely clear: Although there are many who are using the internet and its advantages already, there are people saying that the internet often just shows for example one side of a political issue or that especially children should be more protected.

The internet as a whole is complex and there are many things that still could be improved.

3.1. The internet and the world

Like already mentioned above the internet connects the whole world and is established in nearly every country. The IT has risen about 7 Percent within the last year and in the past 5 years the numbers doubled, but there are still 59 Percent of the world's population or about 4 billion people without any internet access.

Despite the seeming omnipresence of Information and Communications Technology (in the following referred to as ICTs), their benefits are not uniformly experienced by the 7.1 billion people in the world. According to recent estimates, over 4 billion people are not yet connected to the internet (see 'internetlivestats.com'). For the majority of those people who don't have internet access, the ICTs potentially have a great development impact. Communities living in rural and remote areas stand to benefit particularly from greater connectivity to telephones and the internet, in order to be able to receive information and services that can improve their economic and social situation.

3.2. Key barriers to internet adoption

3.2.1. Affordability: The cost of access relative to income

The predominant barrier is the low income of individuals in the offline population. This barrier is exacerbated by the high costs associated with providing access to the Internet for these populations, which are disproportionately rural. The low incomes reflect the poor economic circumstances of large segments of the offline population, often including unemployment and the need for economic development, employment, and income growth opportunities in their regions. At the same time, there is often a lack of adjacent infrastructure (such as roads and electricity), thereby increasing the costs faced by network operators in extending coverage. Several other factors can contribute to high costs of service for device manufacturers and network operators, including taxes and fees, and, in the case of some countries, an unfavourable market structure.

### 3.2.2. Readiness: The capacity to access, including skills, awareness and cultural acceptance

Barriers such as a lack of digital literacy (that is, unfamiliarity with or discomfort in using digital technologies to access and use information) and a lack of language literacy (that is, the inability to read and write). The root cause of such literacy barriers is often an under resourced education system. In Africa for instance the school enrolment rates are very low and in addition, most countries in Africa do not include subjects on basic computer skills in the school curriculum. Generally, it is only a feature of higher education levels, where enrolment rates a relatively low. ICT infrastructure in schools is also limited.
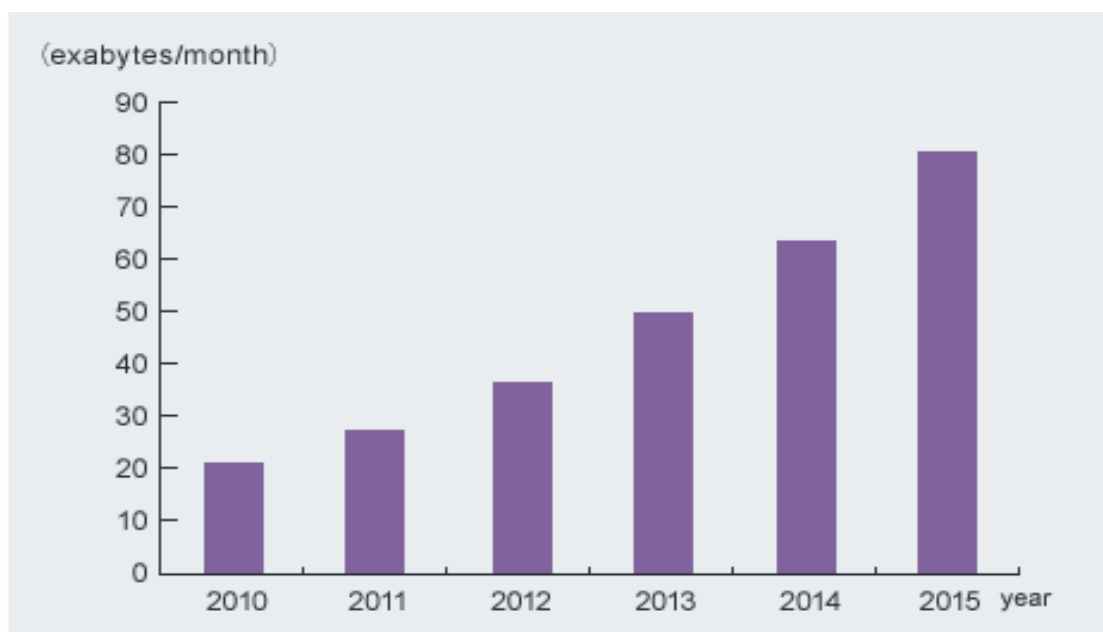
3.2.3 Availability: Proximity of the necessary infrastructure required for access

Barriers in this area include a lack of mobile Internet coverage or network access in addition to a lack of adjacent infrastructure such as grid electricity. The root causes of these consumer barriers include limited access to international bandwidth; an underdeveloped national core network, backhaul, and access to infrastructure; limited spectrum availability; a national information and communications technology (ICT) strategy that doesn't effectively address the issue of broadband access; and nascent infrastructure development.

With Already High Mobile Penetration in More Developed / Affluent Countries... New Users in Less Developed / Affluent Countries Harder to Garner, per McKinsey
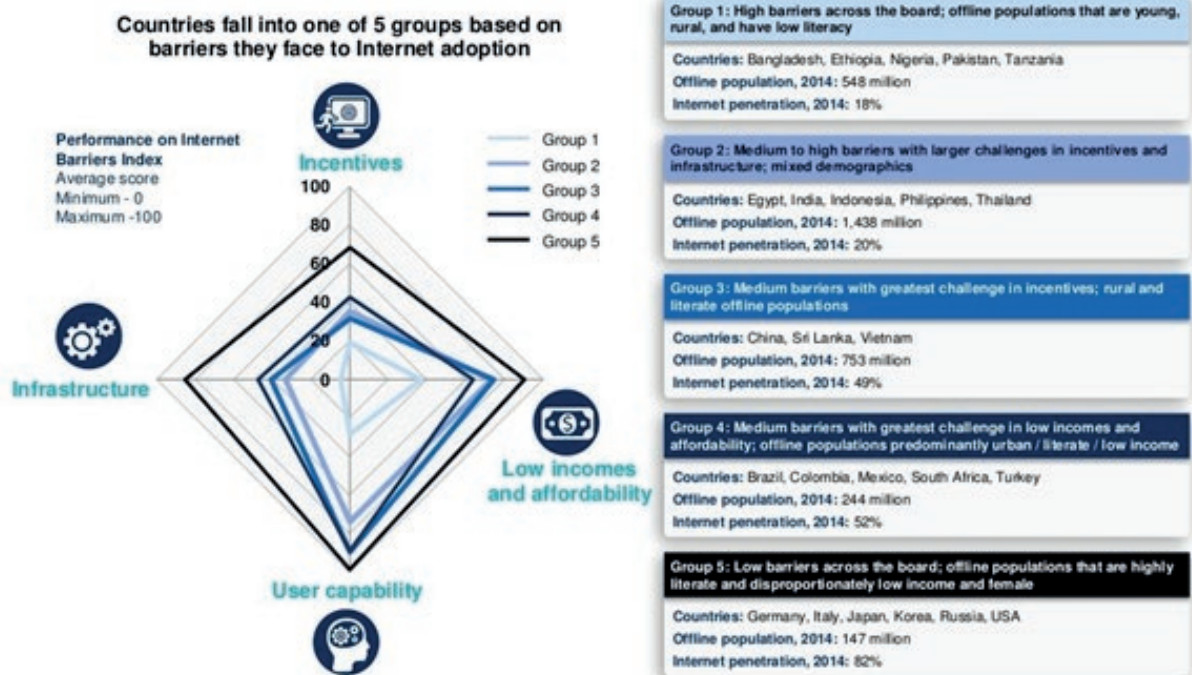
4. Problems and possibilities

Every country has its own issues regarding the improvement of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) penetration. Some have a broad penetration but use outdated technology. Other countries may struggle with the implementation of renewable energy technologies and these might go hand in hand with their ICT development plan. Having named only two of various possible problems, it's also important to know what possibilities governments have. Apart from setting goals, they can for instance support projects financially or work out certain lucrative agreements with other countries, NGOs or private investors.

5. What is next?

Now you have a very brief overview of what our committee's topic is about. To answer your next question - no, that is not enough knowledge for our sessions. If you happen to look at other Committee Guides, you might notice that some contain round about 5 to 6 more pages of explicit know-how. We decided to keep our Committee Guide shorter, on the one hand to enable you to search for more detailed and interesting information by yourself and on the other hand we are sure you wouldn't have been in the mood to read a sixteen pages long barren text. You should now do some research on the country you will be representing. Find out how that country is currently progressing in ICT matters. What goals has your country set? What barriers might your country be facing? Use the websites we listed down below to start with your research.

5. Organizational matters

Every Delegate is expected to write a Policy Statement and a draft Resolution. Send us your draft Resolution by May 22nd. The P5 members will read out their Policy Statement in committee session prior to the lobbying.
Keep in mind that we will of course entertain punishments in certain cases (for all first timers - it is not as bad as it sounds).
As every year, we will have a dress code at OLMUN 2017. If you have never heard of the word "dress code" before, you should have a look at the OLMUN Handbook on our website www.olmun.org. First timers should look through the handbook in any case.

You should receive an email from us a month prior to the OLMUN the latest. If you don't, please contact us as soon as possible! Furthermore, we will establish a Facebook group soon for quick and easy communication.

If you have any kind of questions concerning the topic, OLMUN or what colour your tie should have - don't hesitate to contact us! We are open to any kind of questions via our email address or Facebook.
Our email address is: ecosoc@olmun.org

6. Sources and useful websites

https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/

http://www.internetlivestats.com/internet-users/

https://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/projects/development-and-broadband-internet-access-in-east-africa/

http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.PRM.ENRR

https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/

http://www.mckinsey.com/industries/high-tech/our-insights/offline-and-falling-behind-barriers-to-internet-adoption

https://www.weforum.org/system-initiatives/the-digital-economy-and-society