



## **Background Paper**

Committee: ECOSOC

Topic A: Proposals to change the economic global system in order to prevent mass pollution and contamination.

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Economic growth means an increase in real output (real GDP). Therefore, with increased output and consumption we are likely to see costs imposed on the environment. The environmental impact of economic growth includes the increased consumption of non-renewable resources, higher levels of pollution and potential loss of environmental habitats.

Economic growth is the only objective that countries, societies, regions, companies or people have. The main consequence of continued economic growth is the generation of a mass production of goods and services. A nation's economic growth can contribute to several different kinds of pollution, affecting health and motivating policy making decisions. Air pollution takes its toll on the economy in several ways: it costs human lives, it reduces people's ability to work, it affects vital products like food, it damages cultural and historical monuments, it reduces the ability of ecosystems to perform functions societies need, and it costs money in remediation or restoration.

We have to develop the consciousness that the earth will not be able to give us oil or minerals all our lives. It is clear that, as the system is currently designed, nobody is currently considering stopping this dangerous growth. Development has been continuous for centuries and must carry on into the future, because this has brought us progress and well-being. Human activities are concerned with promoting economic development, and this transforms the environment.

The passage of time has shown that the current economic model is characterized by an excessive exploitation of natural resources, and by generating high levels of pollution in the environment. The result is that man transforms the environment in a negative way.

In conclusion, pollution and the economy seem to have been inextricably linked since the industrial age. Yet the relationship between environmental harm and economic development is complex, and its understanding has been fragmented by disciplinary biases. However, economists and environmental

scientists have diverged on the urgency of abatement mechanisms, and the marginal returns on investment in control technologies and social adaptations.

The earth and the lives that inhabit it demand change, ECOSOC must work to take actions that ensure a change in the economic global system which can prevent mass pollution and contamination to protect the people and all their nations.

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