

RENMUN VIII

The Restoration of Serenity



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Chair Report

**Evaluating the Economic and Social Cost of
Global Sporting Events**

Chair Introduction

Greetings,

We are Cyrus Ng and Zoe Kao from Island School and West Island School, respectively, and we are honored to serve as your chairs for RENMUN VIII!

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the United Nation's six main organs, focusing on sustainably developing nations' economies and social progress. Through discussions and debates, delegates will write and amend recommended policies and resolutions to current world problems. Delegates may also reference groups such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, and other applicable organizations. Remember, this is *the one* committee where you must consider where any type of funding comes from, how it will be attained, and how countries can responsibly use it!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email us through the emails listed below.

Looking forward to a fruitful debate!

Sincerely,
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Topic introduction

Over the past few years, harrowing problems regarding the lasting effects of global sporting events on its economy and people concurrently appear every year, from lack of use of resources after the event, to internal corruption. Global sporting events may be the highlight for worldwide fans of a sport, or provide a great benefit to the host country, but do the myriad of disadvantages speak otherwise.

Key Terms

Term	Definition
Global sporting event	A global competition of a single sport.
FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association)	The governing organization of all football/soccer events. It is notable for organizing the World Cup.
World Cup	International football/soccer event that transpires every four years.
Olympics	An international multi-sporting event that happens every four years.
IMPORTANT: Football/Soccer	is a contentious issue that delegates will address here. If the majority of the delegate's country is sophisticated and uses the term "soccer", then they are obligated to handle the sport as so. If not, then they shall use the word "football."

Background Information

According to FIFA, 3.575 billion people watched the 2018 World Cup. The mere selling of broadcast rights led to FIFA making over 2.8 billion USD, allowing the behemoth to pay around 440 million USD in prize money. Global sporting events such as the World Cup have significant consequences for the host nation and its constituents, which has brought said events both praise and concern.

There is a slew of benefits to global sporting events. It can unite the host country and the world by bolstering national pride and sportsmanship. This unity can be the basis

for both internal and external political discussions, which could lead to the concrete betterment of citizens' lives. On the economic side of the argument, global sporting events lead to massive surges in tourism, which has exceptionally beneficial downstream effects on businesses in retail, entertainment, real estate sectors, etc. For instance, Qatar built 150 more hotels simply to meet the expected 1.5 million tourists coming to watch the 2022 World Cup in person.

On the other hand, global sporting events have harrowing downsides that delegates must address. The social benefit of international sporting events is overridden if a catastrophic event occurs in the host country. For example, West Germany was humiliated during the 1972 Olympics tragedy known as the Munich Massacre, when eight Palestinian terrorists murdered the entire Israeli team due to the gross mishandling of the hostage situation by the local government. The violation of human rights, such as Qatar's allegations before the World Cup, is also an object of concern. Economically speaking, global sporting events could lead to temporary advantages. Still, long-term negatives rear their heads as the infrastructure tailored to said events must be repurposed for less profitable endeavors. Additionally, the host country could quickly lose money from these initiatives. For instance, Qatar spent over 220 billion USD on the World Cup. However, current revenue estimates are at a mere 17 billion USD, which pales compared to the cost.

Potential Clashes

UN Involvement

There are arguments for and against UN involvement in global sporting events. On the one hand, perhaps the UN's role is more on ensuring the security and sound infrastructure of the world than sports. International sporting events should be left to private organizations that understand them best. If these events are to be regulated, it creates an inefficient system, thereby hindering the progress of the profitable sporting market. However, regulations like the Sport and Security Program from the UN Office of Counter-terrorism may also be favorable. Additionally, the environmental burdens of global sporting events can also be controlled by the UN. The areas to regulate, as well as the extent of said regulation, must be seriously considered.

UN Endorsement

There is a notable difference between accepting and endorsing. In the meantime, the UN seems to favor the latter in the discussion of global sporting events. For instance, the UN General Assembly issued a Consensus Resolution welcoming the 2022 Qatar World Cup. However, it is essential to note that the host country may not strictly adhere to the UN's pursuits, such as Qatar's alleged human rights violations,

as expressed by Germany. The UN's endorsement of controversial global sporting events could lead to widespread lament toward the organization, which is meant to act as an international force for justice and objectivity. On the other hand, the UN's endorsement and even funding can bolster these events' economic benefits and scale.

Potential Restrictions

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended lockdowns to nations plagued by the coronavirus. Similarly, the UN could impose a maximum on the number of people allowed to attend global sporting events. The objective of such action would be to resolve public health concerns, which is especially poignant in this situation since the infected tourists can carry diseases back to their respective countries, leading to global catastrophe. Furthermore, the UN could attempt to limit the budget used in global sporting events in order to equalize the power between MEDCs and LEDCs.

Net Benefit or Net Negative?

As discussed in the background information section above, global sporting events have both benefits and drawbacks. For instance, the economic advantages of global sporting events can easily be outweighed by potential social unrest. Although it is in the hands of individual governments whether or not to pursue hosting global sporting events, the UN can act as a forum to advise nations on this controversial topic.

Critical Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Involvement with the Issue
Qatar	Qatar hosted the 2022 World Cup, which has recently passed. The nation spent a large sum of money on the event. Whether or not there was a return on investment is up to the delegation to decide. Furthermore, human rights concerns flooded the Qatari government, so regulation may not be in its best interest.
China	Admittedly, China does not possess a globally positive image following allegations of human rights violations and excessive control of the population. Hence, hosting a global sporting event could potentially mend this negative

	<p>image. China is fully capable of hosting an extravagant event, so UN regulation would be against its interest.</p>
<p>United States of America (USA)</p>	<p>Considering the USA is more focused on national sporting events such as the Superbowl, global sporting events may not work in the country's favor. Although global sporting events could promote world peace, they could also undermine the USA's authority in the global theater. Hence, a regulation-heavy approach may be in the USA's best interest.</p>
<p>Europe/MEDCs (More Economically Developed Countries)</p>	<p>Admittedly, football/soccer is the most prevalent in Europe. Furthermore, MEDCs often have the resources to fund expensive global sporting events. Hence, support for sporting events greatly benefits the continent as a whole.</p>
<p>LEDCs (Less Economically Developed Countries)</p>	<p>Sporting, especially hosting, is often the privilege of MEDCs, which can carry the burden and risk inextricably linked with success in the market. Hence, the growth of sports could lead to further global power imbalances against LEDCs. On the other hand, LEDC's success in sporting events can bring them into the public view and increase the representation of minority populations.</p>
<p>FIFA/Olympics</p>	<p>FIFA is a hugely profitable and profitable organization, and expanding the scale of its events is its primary interest. The Olympics is a global multisport event hosted every four years, and is the gold standard of global sporting events. Hence, limiting UN regulation and increasing UN endorsement is in their best interest.</p>

Possible Solutions

There are two general, opposing solutions to the problem, which delegates can extensively discuss.

The first solution pursues non-interventionism of the UN in global sporting events. This course of action would involve virtually no verbal or financial endorsement from the UN. Regulation will be limited to security concerns and general international laws applicable to all global activities, such as the terms of the Geneva Convention. This solution is predicated on the belief that global sporting events are a net positive.

On the contrary, the second solution involves the UN actively participating in sporting initiatives. For instance, the UN will endorse events such as the World Cup or even go as far as to fund certain aspects of it. Regulation can be either loose or tight. If it is the latter, there may need to be extensive UN volunteer involvement in the organization of large-scale global sporting events to ensure their safety and security. This solution is predicated on the belief that global sporting events have an array of negative impacts that must be addressed with interventionism.

Ideally, the solution is a compromise that involves aspects from both proposed solutions. Considering the topic is “global” sporting events, reaching consensus from all member states is a priority.

Past Actions

The most notable UN involvement in global sporting events is the UN Sport and Security Program, which targets potential terrorist attacks and other safety issues.

ECOSOC has also named sports as crucial for development and peace; such beliefs may change in light of recent events.

Furthermore, the UN has expressed appreciation for most World Cups and Olympic Games.

Last, UNODC (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime) released guidelines for safeguarding sports from corruption and crime, which is relevant to the Qatar World Cup, which was suspected to be rife with corruption.

Guiding Questions

What are the social pros and cons of global sporting events?

What are the economic pros and cons of global sporting events?

And such, do the pros outweigh the cons?

Which is better—interventionism or non-interventionism?

If the UN should regulate global sporting events, how can the UN do so?

What sort of endorsement should the UN provide?

How can the UN resolve issues of unfairness in sporting matters?

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