Research Report

Leiden Model United Nations 2016
~ fresh ideas, new solutions ~

Forum: *Economic and Social Council*
Issue: *The position of youth on the employment market*

Position: *Deputy Chair*

Introduction

Finding a job is the first step to becoming independent. However, it is very difficult to find a proper job because of the employment market. In 2013 the unemployment rate was at 13.1% meaning 74.5 million young people all over the world were unemployed, which is a very large number. The issue is that the youth the future are of our society, so without income to provide for the basic necessities it is difficult to provide for our future. Young people need income, so to solve this problem they start working in the informal sector, which is not monitored. This means that the employers are in charge and are able to decide everything, without regard for their employees.

Definition of Key Terms

- **The youth:** UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) definition is Youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence and awareness of our interdependence as members of a community. Youth is a more fluid category than a fixed age-group. However, age is the easiest way to define this group, particularly in relation to education and employment.

- **The "Last-in/ First-out" policy:** This means that the person that is hired last will be laid off first when the amount of employees needs to be decreased.

- **Developed countries:** A developed country is a More Economically Developed Country (MEDC), with a highly developed economy and an advanced infrastructure. Often a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is studied when looking at their development.

- **Developing countries:** A developing country is a Less Economically Developed Country (LEDC) with low industrial development and a low HDI (Human Development Index, includes life expectancy, education and income per capita).

- **Informal Sector:** The informal sector or informal economy is not taxed, monitored or registered by any type of government. The income is not included in the Gross National Product (GNP) or Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

General Overview

The world is dependent on the youth in the future, since they will be working and providing in the future. Therefore, it is an important issue that the youth has troubles in the employment market and finding decent jobs. This is worsened by the fact that a large percentage of the youth is engaged in informal employment. This means that the jobs are of poor quality and have a low salary with irregular and insecure arrangements.
Another issue on the employment market for the youth is that they are often the victim of the "Last-in / First-out" policy meaning that because the young people are the ones who were hired lastly they will be the first to be laid off when there are less employees needed. As a result of being fired quicker, young people do not have a proper chance to work their way up the ladder. Furthermore, the supply of young workers is much greater than the supply of jobs for these young workers. This is one of the causes of the high unemployment rate. The employment market needs to be changed in order to fit the needs of young people.

In developing countries there are even more problems, as there is:
- A lack of quality in education.
- Little possibility of part-time jobs during higher education or studies.
- Limited options for internships.
- A lack of opportunities, because the youth do not possess the skills companies and employers are looking for.
- Gender inequality or other types of discrimination.
- Not enough support from the government.

Major Parties Involved

The youth: They are the people who are having trouble finding jobs and so are the victims in this case.

The employers: They decide who is hired or fired and the height of the wages. This group controls the employment market (or at least a large part of it).

The governments: The government of a country decides what they fund or do not fund. They could, for example, invest in a sector of the economy which would create more jobs for the youth in that country.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO): The ILO aims to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues.

Timeline of Events

09.12.15	Adoption of resolution 2250 by the Security Council.
01.02.16	Launch Global Youth Initiative

Previous Attempts to solve the issue

- The issue was discussed at the 2016 ECOSOC youth Forum.
- At the 2016 ECOSOC Youth Forum the Global Youth Initiative was launched.
- The UN Security Council adopted a resolution: Resolution 2250**.**

Possible Solutions

- Write a new resolution.
- Encourage people to improve their work conditions instead of searching for another job.
- Encourage governments to monitor the working conditions in the informal sector.
- Decrease the gender equality or other types of discrimination.

Useful documents

- http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/ch02.pdf
- http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/onlinediscussion/index.html
- http://www.un.org/en/index.html
- http://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm
- http://unyouthswap.org/