



LASALLECUNMUN

LASALLECUNMUN 2024

ECOSOC

(Economic and Social
Council)

“Economic Downfall in
Ukraine after the Chernobyl
Nuclear Accident and Its
Impact on Europe”

Background Guide





My dearest delegates,

It is more than a pleasure to have you in this committee whilst participating in LASALLECUNMUN2024. My name is Anahí Gabrielle Olague Torres, this year I have the honour to be part of the chair as the president of Economic and Social Council. I have been part of a model before as a delegate, so I get how it feels to be in you guys' place.

As I'm writing this, I am still 15 years old and I'm in third semester. Most specifically in Architectural Drawing since I am pursuing the career of Graphic Design. Since I was a kid, I have always looked forward into the arts. I like the creativity freedom art gives you along with the range of expression and projection it gives you. I also love animals, not to the point of wanting to be a vet, but maybe a farmer. I have two pets, a dog and a rooster, although I want to get chickens as well. I also love debates and anything of that kind, that is one of the reasons I enjoy MUN. I have only attended one model before this one as a delegate, but it was enough to make me want to try it again as a chair member.

I am excited to dive into the history of our topic and committee to not only get you to understand it but to really empathize with the victims. I am looking forward into making a successful answer to the problem presented in the model along with all the opinions and ideas each one of you have. Please, do not hesitate to contact me in case you need any help throughout this whole process.

With love,

Gabrielle Olague

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) e-

sc@prepa.lasallecancun.edu.mx

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), under the overall authority of the General Assembly, coordinates the economic and social work of the United Nations and the UN family of organizations. As the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues and for formulating policy recommendations, the Council plays a key role in fostering international cooperation for development. It also consults with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), thereby maintaining a vital link between the United Nations and civil society. The Council has 54 members, elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms. It meets throughout the year and holds a major session in July, during which a high-level meeting of Ministers discusses major economic, social and humanitarian issues.

Topic: “Economic Downfall in Ukraine after the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident and Its Impact on Europe”

INTRODUCTION.

The Chernobyl accident in 1986 was the result of a faulty reactor design operated with inadequately trained personnel. The resulting steam explosion and fires released at least 5% of the radioactive reactor core into the environment, depositing radioactive materials in many parts of Europe. The Chernobyl accident and the measures taken to deal with its consequences cost the Soviet Union – and later Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine – hundreds of billions of dollars, but other countries, for example in Scandinavia, also suffered economic losses.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

On April 25 and 26, 1986, the worst nuclear accident in history unfolded in what is now northern Ukraine as a reactor at a nuclear power plant exploded and burned. Shrouded in secrecy, the incident was a watershed moment in both the Cold War and the history of nuclear power. More than 30 years on, scientists estimate the zone around the former plant will not be habitable for up to 20,000 years.

The disaster took place near the city of Chernobyl in the former USSR, which invested heavily in nuclear power after World War II. Starting in 1977, Soviet scientists installed four RBMK nuclear reactors at the power plant, which is located just south of what is now Ukraine’s border with Belarus.

On April 25, 1986, routine maintenance was scheduled at V.I. Lenin Nuclear Power Station’s fourth reactor, and workers planned to use the downtime to test whether the reactor could still be cooled if the plant lost power. During the test, however, workers violated safety protocols and power surged inside the plant. Despite attempts to shut down the reactor entirely, another power surge caused a chain reaction of explosions inside. Finally, the nuclear core itself was exposed, spewing radioactive material into the atmosphere.

Firefighters attempted to put out a series of blazes at the plant, and eventually helicopters dumped sand and other materials in an attempt to squelch the fires and contain the contamination. Despite the death of two people in the explosions, the hospitalization of workers and firefighters, and the danger from fallout and fire, no one in the surrounding areas—including the nearby city of Pripyat, which was built in the 1970s to house workers at the plant—was evacuated until about 36 hours after the disaster began.

Publicizing a nuclear accident was considered a significant political risk, but by then it was too late: The meltdown had already spread radiation as far as Sweden, where officials at another nuclear plant began to ask about what was happening in the USSR. After first denying any accident, the Soviets finally made a brief announcement on April 28.

CURRENT SITUATION.

Nearly 20 years after the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (NPP), on the health, environmental, and socio-economic consequences of the accident and better understanding and improved measures to deal with the impacts of the accident, the Chernobyl Forum was established in 2003. The Chernobyl Forum is an initiative of the IAEA, in cooperation with the WHO, UNDP, FAO, UNEP, UN-OCHA, UNSCEAR, the World Bank and the governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The Forum was created as a contribution to the United Nations' ten-year strategy for Chernobyl, launched in 2002 with the publication of Human Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident — A Strategy
Ufor Recovery.

To provide a basis for achieving the goal of the Forum, the IAEA convened an expert working group of scientists to summarize the environmental effects, and the WHO convened an expert group to summarize the health effects and medical care programmes in the three most affected countries. These expert groups reviewed all appropriate accident in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The information presented undertaken by the IAEA, WHO, UNSCEAR and numerous other authoritative bodies. In addition, UNDP has drawn on the work of eminent economists and policy specialists to assess the socio-economic impact of the Chernobyl accident, based largely on the 2002 UN study cited above

COUNTRY BOX.

Federal Republic of Germany
Federative Republic of Brazil
French Republic
Italian Republic
Japan
Kingdom of Spain
Kingdom of Norway
People's Republic of
China
Republic Belarus
Republic of Korea (SouthKorea)
Republic of the Philippines
Republic of Chile
Republic of Poland Russian
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland United
Mexican States
Federation
Ukraine
United States of America
Canada
Portuguese Republic
.

GUIDE QUESTIONS.

1. What elements contributed to Ukraine's economic decline following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster?
2. What were the consequences of Ukraine's economic crisis for Europe and its neighbors?
3. How did the Ukrainian government and international organizations respond to the various issues that arose as a result of the nuclear accident?

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

- Chernobyl's legacy: Health, environmental and socio-economic impacts. (n.d.). <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/chernobyl.pdf>
- IAEA. (n.d.). International Atomic Energy Agency | Atoms for Peace and Development. <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/38302740213.pdf>
- Chernobyl disaster facts and information. (2019, May 17). National Geographic. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/chernobyl-disaster>
- The Chernobyl nuclear accident. (n.d.). Redirection. <https://www.greenfacts.org/en/chernobyl/index.htm#5>
- United Nations. (n.d.). Economic and social council. [https://www.un.org/en/model-
united-nations/economic-and-social-council](https://www.un.org/en/model-
united-nations/economic-and-social-council)
- European Parliament. (2016, April 22). Chernobyl 30 years on: Environmental and health effects | Think Tank | European Parliament. [Www.europarl.europa.eu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu). [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI\(2016\)581972](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI(2016)581972)