

The Power House of ECOSOC Takes Control

By: ECOSOC Press Representative

Progress is what all delegates were hungry for in the Economic and Social Committee. After passing a resolution with only two amendments before the day ended yesterday, the committee as a whole is feeling productive. The chairman announced all resolutions intended for the Plenary Session tomorrow had to be passed by their lunch break. Bosnia reacted by stating: "Then it's time to get to work!"

The delegation tackled the next topic on their list, global debt. After short deliberation, they decided to table this topic and give their attention to financing for development; this was a topic they think they could agree on and pass a resolution. The delegate from Turkey jumped right in and proposed they bring resolution ECOSOC/III/5 to attention. The United States started the amending process by proposing they strike operative clause one which stated: "Better mechanisms for addressing countries dealing with a debt crisis be developed and instituted immediately." Many delegates agreed this was unnecessary for the delegation

has an entire separate topic to address the problematic properties of national debt. This amendment eventually passed. After the passing of this resolution, many delegates added themselves to the pro-speaking list, but Mexico was not so sure this resolution was the right way to go.

Mexico found only one "problem" with this resolution. He felt the statement "all products originating from LDCs be tariff free." He felt tariff free implications would harm the economy of the more developed countries. The benefit of tariff free implications for underdeveloped countries was not worth the harm it would bring to developed countries. Quick to protect the resolution, delegates on the pro side proposed a compromise. They said they could declare no tariffs for a temporary amount of time. Under that declaration, underdeveloped countries could rebound, and no substantial harm would come to the economies of the developed countries.

After several pro speeches and a large portion of time, two amendments were brought to the attention of the delegation. One addressed emergency funds. It stated countries set aside an amount of money for emergency usage when "food, shelter, healthcare, or education" becomes to financially difficult to continue offering. The other

amendment addressed micro-loans. The delegates planned to, through careful organization and distribution; distribute micro-loans directly to the people. That way, as the United States put it, "We don't plan to open banks or money utilizing establishments. We would make micro-loans more available to the common person. This will, in turn, encourage expansion in business and steady income creating a healthy lifestyle. In offering micro-loans directly to the people, we could avoid corruption in the loans and further national debt."

After more deliberation, the delegation had not made any progress past having the amendments on the floor, and this could affect what makes it to GA Plen tomorrow. But as the break comes closer, the ECOSOC stays filled with indecision.