

# **Research Report**

**Future Council**



***The issue of the increasing income inequality throughout the world***

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## Introduction

Most of the planet has seen an increase in welfare. Unfortunately, while most people are a lot better off now than they may have been 50 years ago, this had an equal opposite reaction causing many people to be worse off than they may have been. While this is most clear in the contrast between wealthy countries and those that are less developed, even within countries themselves there are clear wealth gaps between those with more money than they could ever spend and those that live under hazardous circumstances struggling to survive.

## The committee

This Research Report is part of the Future Council. The Future Council is an ad-hoc council in which we discuss issues that might occur in the (near) future, as the name suggests. This is the second year MUNA is hosting the Future Council and it is not a real council in the United Nations. As everything we will be discussing is hypothetical, the Futuristic Council does not follow the same rules as the other committees. Currently, the world consists of 206 countries. In the Future Council, this number has been brought down to 17. This means that the country you will be representing is a nation that has never existed before. Doing research before MUNA starts is more important for the Future Council than for any of the other committees. You cannot use most of the material that can be found online, so try to use the background information you have of your country as the fundamentals of your stance on certain topics.

## Keywords

Exploitation = The action or fact of treating someone or something unfairly in order to benefit from their work or resources.

Extreme poverty = Not having enough money or resources to live securely, to the point where it consistently affects someone's health and wellbeing.

Ideology = A system of ideas and ideals, especially one which forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy.

Innovation = Make changes in something established, especially by introducing new methods, ideas, or products.

Welfare = The health, happiness, and fortunes of a person or group.

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## Overview

Many of the technological and scientific discoveries over the past few decennia have drastically improved the quality of life for many people, especially those in the western world.

Unfortunately, this improvement also comes at a price. In order to produce as cheap and efficiently as possible, corporations try to save on the costs of raw materials and labour. This often results in hazardous working and living conditions for workers. The effect of this is most noticeable in countries such as the Southern Islands, Saharan District and the Ticoast Empire. A select few powerful people in these states seized the opportunity to produce and export cheaply to richer states. As a consequence, a majority of the population in those countries lives in a state of extreme poverty.

However, the wealthier countries have been struggling too. While powerful western countries such as the British Empire and the North American Union have been a big driving force behind the recent innovations and have thus seen an increase in their wealth, the welfare and wellbeing of a large part of the population has only been declining recently. Originally, the increase in welfare of the country could be seen throughout the entire population. When communism became a larger threat however, these states decided to completely reject any ideas that could be seen as communist or socialist. This removed many regulations for businesses, creating opportunities for the exploitation of less powerful but resource-rich countries mentioned above, but it also removed the governmental support for people who were already struggling. By allowing this to continue for a long time, business owners have managed to accrue a massive amount of wealth, while the less fortunate people in society have been struggling increasingly. At this point in time, nearly 50% of the population of the British Empire is living in extreme poverty. These developments have led to an exponential increase in recorded suicides in these nations, on top of people dying because of their hazardous living conditions.

## Arguments

It is important that this issue will be solved in one way or another. Lives are actively being deteriorated whilst poverty is increasing, not to mention all of the other people that are currently suffering from other causes and issues. On top of this, it is expected that the difference between welfare will only increase exponentially as time progresses.

The ideological battle between capitalism and communism is still going on. Thus, whilst communistic countries will be inclined to push other countries into that direction as well, the large capitalistic countries will not easily be convinced to take measures such as government intervention in the market or providing too much direct support to their citizens. It also needs to be remembered that the system in these countries has greatly advanced in terms of science, technology and just in comparison to the world in general. Therefore, limiting business profits may take away the incentive to innovate even further.

Another thing that needs to be kept in mind while discussing the issue is that while this may seem like a perfect opportunity for the communist countries to push their ideologies, they are not innocent either. The Ticoast Empire has been suffering from poverty under their trade relationships with the Chinese Empire and the Communist Republic. Also, the exploitation of the textile industry in the Southern Islands by the Chinese Empire has had devastating effects on the country's economy. This means that merely communism might not be a good solution for this issue the entire world is facing.

## Resolution

Since the Future Council is an ad-hoc committee, you will not need to write a resolution beforehand. Instead, we will be writing a resolution together as a product of the debate. Therefore, you will have to come up with solutions on the spot. These solutions are expressed in the form of amendments.

Because of the complex nature of this issue, it is very hard to come up with one single solution for this problem. Therefore, it should be solved in little steps.

Try to find solutions that align with the general ideas of the country you are representing. It is a delicate issue where you will want to balance the demands of the rich and powerful people in your country, but also take into account the problems of the working class, as a revolution is only a tiny spark away in many situations. Next to this, you will of course also need to keep the opinions of your allies and trade partners in mind. The last and perhaps most important thing to remember is to take into account your country's moral compass (if they have one). There is nuance in every discussion.

