

# ECOSOC STUDY GUIDE



**ECOSOC**  
**Protection of Global Economic Prosperity In View**  
**Of Tariffs on International Trade**

## Letter from the Secretary General

Meritorious Participants,

It is with immense pride and excitement that I welcome you all to the very first session of CBKMUN'26. As the Secretary-General of this event, it is both an honor and a profound responsibility to lead this journey that we are beginning together.

CBKMUN'26 marks not only the start of a conference, but the beginning of a tradition. Every established institution once took its first courageous step, and today, we are taking ours. This conference has been built on dedication, long nights of preparation, passionate debates, and a shared belief that young minds have the power to shape tomorrow's world.

Our academic and organizational teams have worked tirelessly to ensure that this first edition of CBKMUN reflects excellence, inclusivity, and intellectual depth. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Academic Team, Organization Team, and every volunteer who contributed to transforming this vision into reality. Without their commitment and resilience, this conference would not have been possible.

Model United Nations is more than formal speeches and draft resolutions. It is a platform where future diplomats, policymakers, and global leaders learn the values of dialogue, compromise, and cooperation. In a world increasingly defined by polarization and uncertainty, diplomacy remains our most powerful tool. At CBKMUN'26, we aim to create an environment where diverse perspectives are respected, critical thinking is encouraged, and meaningful solutions are pursued.

As this is our very first conference, you are not only participants—you are pioneers. The debates you engage in, the friendships you form, and the standards you set will define the spirit and legacy of CBKMUN for years to come. You are shaping the identity of this conference.

I encourage each of you to step beyond your comfort zone, speak with confidence, listen with empathy, and challenge ideas with respect. Let this conference be a place where ambition meets responsibility and where collaboration triumphs over division.

On behalf of the entire Secretariat, I welcome you once again to CBKMUN'26. May this be the first of many remarkable chapters in our story.

Kind Regards

İsmail Sevgen

## **Letter from Head of Academy**

Honorable Secretary General, Fellow Academy and Dear Delegates;

I am Rana Gülerler and wishing you an informative yet exciting three days at our first ever holding of ÇBK MUN. To briefly introduce myself, I am both the Head of Academy and Chair of the UNEP committee. Being a part of this project is an honor to me. Both me and my fellow Academy members, though our backgrounds may be distant, we came together with our shared endeavours and created each Agenda Item.

To vaguely talk about our Agendas; in our Junior committees, delegates will fight for women's and children's rights in conflicted areas. In our UNEP committee, they will discuss the unethical usage of Artificial Intelligence and how it is badly affecting our environment. In our SOCHUM committee, they will acknowledge the current events the Uyghurs are facing within Central Asia. In our ECOSOC committee, delegates will argue about tariffs within international trade, and in our UNHRC committee they will advocate for the protection of journalists and the right to information.

I hereby encourage each delegate of their respective committee to meticulously prepare and act vigilant in our debates in order to secure a flawless ambiance of debate. Your endeavours and hard work will forever be acknowledged diligently.

As the Head of Academy, I once again wish you an experience at our conference which will bring you productivity, valuable experiences, and lasting memories. You can always find me within the premises if you would like to discuss something.

Best Regards,

Rana D. Gülerler

## **ECOSOC Study Guide**

### **Protection of Global Economic Prosperity in View of Tariffs on International Trade**

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## **1. Introduction to ECOSOC**

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. It is responsible for promoting international economic and social cooperation and development. ECOSOC coordinates the work of UN specialized agencies, functional commissions, and regional commissions.

### **Key Functions**

- Promotes higher standards of living and economic progress
  - Encourages international cooperation
  - Facilitates solutions to global economic problems
  - Supports sustainable development
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## **2. Understanding the Agenda Item**

Protection of Global Economic Prosperity in View of Tariffs on International Trade focuses on how tariffs influence global economic stability, growth, and cooperation.

Tariffs are taxes imposed by governments on imported goods. While they are often used to protect domestic industries, excessive or retaliatory tariffs can disrupt global markets and economic prosperity.

### **Why This Matters**

- Global trade drives economic growth
  - Tariff wars can cause recessions
  - Developing nations are especially vulnerable
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### **3. Key Definitions and Concepts**

Tariff: A tax imposed on imported goods.

Protectionism: Government policies that restrict international trade to protect local industries.

Free Trade: Trade between countries without tariffs or restrictions.

Trade War: A situation where countries impose retaliatory tariffs against each other.

Subsidies: Financial support provided by governments to domestic industries.

Global Economic Prosperity: Sustained economic growth and stability across nations.

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### **4. Background and Historical Context**

Tariffs have been used for centuries as tools for economic policy. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, many countries relied heavily on tariffs for revenue. However, after World War II, nations recognized that high tariffs contributed to economic instability.

#### **Post-WWII Developments**

- Creation of international trade systems
  - Reduction of tariffs through trade agreements
- Growth of globalization

The late 20th and early 21st centuries saw increased free trade agreements, but recent years have shown a return to protectionist policies in some countries.

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### **5. How Tariffs Affect the Global Economy**

#### **Positive Effects**

- Protects infant industries
- Encourages domestic production
- Generates government revenue

## **Negative Effects**

- Higher consumer prices
- Reduced international trade
- Supply chain disruptions
- Retaliatory tariffs

Tariffs can slow global economic growth by reducing trade volumes and increasing costs.

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## **6. Impacts on Developed vs. Developing Countries**

### **Developed Countries**

- May use tariffs to protect strategic industries
- Consumers face higher prices
- Businesses may relocate production

### **Developing Countries**

- Depend heavily on exports
- Tariffs limit market access
- Economic growth may slow

Developing nations are often disproportionately affected by tariff barriers imposed by wealthier countries.

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## **7. Case Studies**

### **US–China Trade Dispute**

The imposition of tariffs between the United States and China led to increased costs for manufacturers, disrupted global supply chains, and uncertainty in international markets.

### **EU Trade Policies**

The European Union uses tariffs strategically while promoting free trade agreements. It balances protection of local industries with global economic cooperation.

### **Tariffs and Emerging Economies**

Countries such as India and Brazil use tariffs to protect growing industries but face criticism for limiting trade openness.

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## **8. Role of International Organizations**

International organizations help regulate trade and reduce tariff conflicts.

### **Key Roles**

- Mediation of trade disputes
- Promotion of fair trade practices
- Monitoring global trade policies

These organizations aim to maintain stability in international markets.

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## **9. Current Challenges and Trends**

- Rise in protectionist policies
- Supply chain disruptions
- Economic nationalism
- Digital trade and new tariff debates

Globalization is evolving, and new economic challenges are reshaping trade policies.

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## **10. Possible Solutions and Policy Options**

Delegates may consider:

### **Policy Approaches**

- Reducing tariffs through multilateral agreements
- Supporting developing countries
- Promoting fair trade standards
- Strengthening dispute resolution mechanisms
- Encouraging regional trade cooperation

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## **11. Questions a Resolution Should Address**

- How can tariff disputes be prevented?
- What protections should exist for developing economies?
- How can global supply chains remain stable?
- What role should international organizations play?
- How can fair competition be ensured?

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## **12. Bloc Positions**

### **Free Trade Advocates**

- Support reduced tariffs
- Promote globalization

### **Protectionist States**

- Prioritize domestic industries
- Support strategic tariffs

## **Developing Nations**

- Seek fair market access
  - Advocate special trade protections
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## **13. Research Tips for Delegates**

- Study your country's trade policies
  - Analyze recent tariff actions
  - Understand your country's key exports and imports
  - Review regional trade agreements
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## **14. Conclusion**

Tariffs are powerful economic tools that can protect domestic industries but also threaten global economic prosperity when misused. ECOSOC plays a vital role in fostering dialogue and cooperation to ensure that trade policies promote sustainable and inclusive growth.

Delegates must balance national interests with global stability to create effective and equitable solutions.

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## **15. Bibliography & Suggested Sources**

- United Nations ECOSOC reports

- World Trade Organization resources
  - World Bank trade data
  - International Monetary Fund publications
  - Academic journals on international trade
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## **16. Economic Theories Behind Tariffs**

Understanding tariffs requires knowledge of basic economic theories that shape national policies.

### **Comparative Advantage**

Proposed by David Ricardo, this theory states that countries should specialize in producing goods they can make most efficiently and trade for others. Tariffs disrupt comparative advantage by artificially favoring domestic production.

### **Infant Industry Argument**

Developing countries often justify tariffs by claiming new industries need temporary protection until they become competitive globally.

### **Strategic Trade Theory**

Some governments use tariffs to protect industries considered vital for national security or technological leadership, such as steel, semiconductors, and agriculture.

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## **17. Regional Perspectives**

Tariff policies vary significantly by region due to economic priorities and political goals.

### **North America**

Countries emphasize trade agreements such as regional free trade zones while occasionally imposing tariffs to protect strategic sectors.

### **European Union**

The EU operates a common external tariff and promotes internal free trade among member states, balancing protection with openness.

### **Asia-Pacific**

Rapidly growing economies rely heavily on exports. Tariffs can significantly impact manufacturing hubs and global supply chains.

### **Africa**

Many African nations depend on commodity exports. Tariffs in developed markets can reduce their competitiveness and slow development.

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## **18. Impact on Supply Chains and Consumers**

### **Supply Chains**

Modern production relies on global supply chains. Tariffs increase costs for raw materials and components, forcing companies to:

- Relocate production
- Increase prices
- Reduce workforce

### **Consumers**

Tariffs often lead to higher retail prices, reducing purchasing power and disproportionately affecting low-income households.

### **Small Businesses**

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are particularly vulnerable because they lack the resources to absorb increased costs.

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## **19. Negotiation and Diplomacy Tips for MUN Delegates**

To succeed in ECOSOC simulations, delegates should focus on diplomacy and coalition-building.

### **Strategies**

- Form blocs with countries sharing similar trade interests
- Use data and statistics to support arguments
- Balance national interest with global prosperity
- Propose realistic and implementable solutions

### **Common Mistakes to Avoid**

- Ignoring developing countries' needs
- Proposing overly idealistic policies
- Overusing punitive measures instead of cooperative approaches

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## **20. Sample Resolution Framework**

Below is a simplified framework to help delegates draft resolutions.

### **Preambulatory Clauses**

- Recognizing the importance of international trade for economic growth,
- Concerned about rising protectionist policies,

- Acknowledging the vulnerability of developing economies,

### **Operative Clauses**

1. Encourages member states to reduce excessive tariffs through multilateral negotiations;
2. Recommends technical assistance programs for developing countries;
3. Calls for strengthening dispute resolution mechanisms;
4. Supports sustainable and fair trade practices;
5. Requests further ECOSOC monitoring of global tariff trends.

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### **Discussion / Research Questions**

1. How do tariffs disrupt global economic prosperity and international market stability?
2. Why are developing countries more vulnerable to tariff barriers imposed by developed economies?
3. What role should the World Trade Organization play in resolving tariff disputes between member states?
4. To what extent does the theory of comparative advantage support reducing tariffs in global trade?
5. When can protectionist tariff policies be justified for safeguarding national industries?
6. What lessons can be learned from recent trade disputes regarding the risks of retaliatory tariffs?

7. How do tariffs on raw materials affect global supply chains and multinational companies?
8. In what ways do tariffs influence consumer prices and income inequality within countries?
9. What multilateral strategies can ECOSOC promote to balance fair trade with national economic security?
10. How might digital trade and e-commerce challenge traditional tariff systems in the future?

### **Expanded Bibliography & Suggested Sources**

- United Nations ECOSOC official reports and policy briefs
  - World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement records
  - World Bank World Development Indicators
  - International Monetary Fund (IMF) trade outlook reports
  - UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) publications
  - OECD trade policy papers
  - Academic journals such as World Economy and Journal of International Trade
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## **Suggested Websites for Delegate Research**

- [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)
- [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)
- [www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)
- [unctad.org](http://unctad.org)
- [data.un.org](http://data.un.org)
- [ec.europa.eu/trade](http://ec.europa.eu/trade)

## **End of Study Guide**