

Resource dependence

Measures to diminish resource dependence in international supply chains when faced with issues of international security

International supply chains are one of the biggest aspects and benefits to global cooperation, granting resources to a grand majority of Member States across the world, ranging from products such as medical supplies, extremely vital to Less Economically Developed Countries, food, construction supplies, and consumerist goods. Supply chains can lay a foundation for building both global and local economies, providing a source of revenue and promoting international relations.

Corporate Finance Institute (CFI) defines international supply chains as “an entire system of producing and delivering a product or service, from the very beginning stage of sourcing the raw materials to the final delivery of the product or service to end-users. The supply chain lays out all aspects of the production process, including the activities involved at each stage, information that is being communicated, natural resources that are transformed into useful materials, human resources, and other components that go into the finished product or service.”

Delegates should mention the risks that come with monopolizing international supply chains. For example, data protection for chain security is vital to preserving the finance and healthcare sector of supply chains. Another risk is data privacy, and personal privacy or trade secrets can often be exchanged as a result of mandated foreign governmental policy. Third-party risk, fraud insurance, and data governance are all included in the long line that supply chains must be careful to partake in, the consequences can prove to be disastrous. (Haughey)

Along with these risks, an aspect of the debate delegates can include in their resolutions are already made programs and reform plans that can be improved upon or promoted internationally, such as those created by President Joe Biden: Ocean Shipping Reform Act (OSRA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Freight Logistics Optimization Works (FLOW) initiatives (Gonzalez).

While maintaining that international supply chains is extremely important, problems arise when global conflicts begin initiating or the risk of increasing carbon emissions. One more

recent example includes the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Due to a global need for Ukraine's supply of wheat and certain Russian products, economies have now been suffering from a supply shortage. United Nations Secretary General António Guterres has gone far enough to describe the situation as a "triple food, energy and financial crisis."

Relying greatly on energy from Russia, the economies of European countries and other Member States are now at great risk. Natural gas prices have increased by 20% since the start of the war and are now 6 times higher than at the start of 2021 (VOA). With a rise in heating, and the current economic shocks, various countries are now found to be suffering extreme ecological degradation. The Sahel Region of Africa covers 10 countries, 6 of which are classified as ecological hotspots and are suffering from a combination of rapid population growth, food risk and water risk. With the rise in prices, nations are left unable to mitigate these threats. Along with energy costs, food insecurity is a growing problem as well. 2.4 billion people have already been impacted, a number which could rise a further 43% by 2050. (Pandit)

Delegates should focus primarily on how nations can attempt to shift heavy reliance on goods away from international supply chains, while not cutting these off entirely. With this, an attempt can and must be made in hopes of finding solutions to this problem.

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