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Representing: Athens News Agency

The Standstill of ECOSOC

After a strong start to the conference, the Economic and Social Council has reached a dead zone in debate. With one resolution passed, the Council is struggling on setting the next topic. The topics up for debate include the pressing issue of illegal timber trade in Africa and the Americas, and the question of whether or not milk banks should be placed in developing nations.

The delegates within the council are struggling to decide which one of these important issues to resolve next. Due to this illegal trade, many governments are losing upwards of \$5 million U.S. dollars from revenues from taxes, and the costs that follow the management of illegal timber trade. The trade has harmful economic effects on the global economy as well. The global bank released a statement claiming that the bank loses nearly \$10 million in U.S. dollars a year because of the timber trade, thus making it a huge issue for countries who cannot afford to lose \$5 million a year. This form of illegal trade is a global issue affecting many countries such as Indonesia and Brazil. With this in mind, the delegation of Brazil is relentlessly trying to prioritize this issues in hopes of resolution.

Delegates within the Council seem to believe that there are more pressing issues than the illegal timber trade. The implication of milk banks in developing countries. The majority of the delegates believe this to be a far more pressing issue than the illegal lumber trade due to the fact that many more people are affected. Milk banks take donations of human milk and distribute it to those who either cannot produce sufficient amounts of milk, or who cannot lactate at all.

The Economic Social council is debating whether or not these banks should be placed in developing countries around the world. In many of these developing countries, infections such as HIV and AID's are killing millions of people on a global level. Many of these victims are mothers to young infants. By implanting milk banks in these countries, these young children will still have access to the health benefits of human milk, making it yet another pressing issue the Council feels should be prioritized.

With one resolution passed, the Economic and Social Council is of to a steady start in the conference. With a differences in opinions and a seemingly inability to agree, the Council has moved to a stand still. Hopefully, a topic will be set, and debated in order to resolve another one of these pressing global issues.

http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/deforestation/deforestation_causes/illegal_logging/

<http://www.path.org/projects/milk-banks.php>

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/128/6/1186>